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**CONGREGATION SHA'ARAI SHOMAYIM  
SPRINGHILL AVENUE TEMPLE**

**FOUNDED 1844**

**THE TEMPLE BULLETIN**

[springhillavenuetemple.com](http://springhillavenuetemple.com)

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We are coming together as a caring, inclusive community united in a common commitment to Judaism and to furthering our spiritual growth. We desire to do this recognizing that worship of God, study of Torah, caring for the Jewish people and our community, are central to our being as a Reform Jewish congregation. With these principles as our foundation and guided by a historic past, we anticipate our future, one of continual lifelong self-renewal.

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

Friday, April 2	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Barry Silverman will conduct service & Passover Yizkor Service will be conducted by Rabbi John Kaplan from Decatur
Friday, April 9	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Rabbi Natan Trief will conduct service from Atlanta
Friday, April 16	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service from our sanctuary
Friday, April 23	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service from our sanctuary
Friday, April 30	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Roy Hoffman will conduct service

**PLEASE NOTE: The meeting ID and password for attending all Temple services and events has changed effective April 1.** An email was recently sent out to our membership with these new Zoom sign-in instructions. If you have misplaced this information or for some reason did not receive it, you can contact the Temple Office (251-478-0415), Howard Silverman (251-605-8832), or Nate Ginsberg (251-463-4845).

ALL SHABBAT SERVICES ARE CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES.  
PLEASE JOIN US IN WORSHIP



**TORAH SELECTION:**  
Torah: Leviticus 9:1-11:47  
Haftarah: II Samuel 6:1 - 7:17

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR RABBI

### “Season of Our Remembrances”



This year, according to the Jewish calendar, the month of April is filled with four very important occasions for us to remember. Each event provides us with the opportunity to do more than just

recall. To recall engages the mind for what is often just a momentary glimpse of an event from the past. Quite often there are no actions associated with this passing event. To remember focuses our mind more clearly upon that event and quite often causes us to act. To remember means more than just “don’t forget.” ReformJudaism.org states that “remembrance is not only about bringing loved ones to mind, but it calls us to do things to honor their memory and the impact they have had upon us.” And so, we remember by doing.

On the eve of April 7, Jewish communities will remember the tragic events surrounding the Holocaust at an event called *Yom HaShoah*. This observance will take place online within our Jewish community. The details for this event will be sent out to everyone in our Jewish community shortly. Please do more than just “recall.” Please remember and attend.

Our next moment will be the two observances that are tied to the State of Israel. The first,

*Yom haZikaron* on the eve of April 13, commemoration is in honor of Israel’s fallen soldiers and victims of terror. One night later, at sundown on April 14, we observe *Yom haAtzma-ut* - Israeli Independence Day. This day commemorates the declaration of independence of Israel in 1948.

And finally, at sundown on April 30, we share in the observance of *Lag BaOmer* which in the Hebrew calendar falls on the 18th of *Iyar*. *Lag BaOmer* is the 33rd day of the counting of the *Omer*. In our more traditional communities, from the second day of Passover until *Lag BaOmer*, it is considered a period of semi-mourning. Many events are not scheduled during this time, including celebrations and wedding ceremonies. Although initially observed in memory of the passing of a Mishnaic sage from the 2nd century, today it represents the resumption of celebrations and wedding ceremonies, including outdoor events in Israel involving the lighting of bonfires.

So, the month of April brings us many opportunities to do more than just recall – we can also remember by observing these important moments in the life of our people. We are all about life, after all!

*Am Yisrael Chai* –  
We, the people of Israel live!

***Rabbi Cantor John M. Kaplan***

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### SPRINGHILL AVENUE TEMPLE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INTERIM RABBI: John M. Kaplan  
PRESIDENT: Gilbert B. Laden  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Maure Sternberg  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Ben Bloom  
SECRETARY: Amy Friedlander  
TREASURER: Carol Eberlein

#### TRUSTEES

Linda Blassingame	Josh Briskman
Norma Conrad	Jonathan Fratkin
Priscilla Gold-Darby	Nathan Handmacher
Michael Holberg	Richard Rose
Barry Silverman	Melville Sternberg

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Randy Fry  
COUNSEL: Ralph G. Holberg, III

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Since the historic election of Rabbi Edward Boraz as our full-time, permanent rabbi, I have had many exchanges with him via email, text, phone, and Zoom. He wants to hit the ground running so as to be ready to serve us from Day One,

which will be July 1, 2021. I am continually impressed by how thoughtful and wise he is. It has been gratifying to hear the positive feedback from so many of you about Rabbi Boraz, as well. Like you, I am excited about this new era.

Reflective of his devotion to his rabbinical duties and commitment to us, Rabbi John Kaplan has served us extraordinarily well. I was struck by his many talents on a Friday night when he did a question-and-answer session with the confirmation class at the First United Methodist Church of Gulfport. They were enthralled. I was, too. They stayed for the Zoom service. Afterward, their director texted me as they had yet another list of questions for Rabbi Kaplan. I must add that I have been the beneficiary of his wisdom and honor during our Zoom chats. Thank you, Rabbi Kaplan. I am also grateful to Rabbi Kaplan for his willingness to meet with Rabbi Boraz to help him with a seamless transition.

At the same service, I heard Mollie do a lovely rendition of *What a Wonderful World*. I checked out Louis Armstrong's version in a 1967 YouTube clip. (Thanks to Diane Frank for alerting me.) I looked up Louis Armstrong and found this interesting tidbit in Wikipedia regarding his association with a family of Lithuanian Jews in New Orleans:

The Karnoffskys took him in and treated him like family. Knowing he lived without a father, they fed and nurtured him. In his memoir *Louis Armstrong + the Jewish Family in New Orleans, La., the Year of 1907*, he described his discovery

that this family was also subject to discrimination by "other white folks" who felt that they were better than Jews: "I was only seven years old but I could easily see the ungodly treatment that the white folks were handing the poor Jewish family whom I worked for." He wore a Star of David pendant for the rest of his life and wrote about what he learned from them: "how to live — real life and determination." His first musical performance may have been at the side of the Karnoffskys' junk wagon. To distinguish them from other hawkers, he tried playing a tin horn to attract customers. Morris Karnoffsky gave Armstrong an advance toward the purchase of a cornet from a pawn shop.

Rabbi Natan Trief brought his special gifts to us beginning with hurricane-delayed High Holy Day services and periodic Shabbat services. I look forward to another spiritual connection, as he seems to be able to evoke, on April 9. Rabbi Trief, too, has expressed his heartfelt congratulations on Rabbi Boraz's election. Both of them were connected at Dartmouth: Rabbi Boraz as the leader of Hillel, Rabbi Trief as a student, and then several years later, when Rabbi Trief contacted Rabbi Boraz for guidance in charting his own rabbinical path.

The lay leadership is tirelessly working, too. Richard Frank, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, is already laboring on that all-important work to make sure we provide all that Congregation Sha'arai Shomayim does on a sound financial footing. Nathan Handmacher has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee in its effort to select the best possible leaders to help us move forward. The COVID Committee is working on its plan to transition toward reopening but in a way that is based on sound information for the protection of us all. That will be a sweet day when we can, well, congregate. Indeed.

Enjoy the spring and may we be blessed with delightful weather.

***Gil Laden***  
***Temple President***

## CONTRIBUTIONS

*A speedy recovery for Robin Mayer* – David Rose

*In memory of Rose Saks* – Iris Klein

*In memory of Lawrence Fetterman* – Iris Klein

*In memory of Randy Kogon* – Larry Kogon, Julie Kogon, Jessica Kogon, Joseph Kogon, and Matthew Kogon

*In memory of Dr. Milton Leigh* – Enid & Gil Laden, Robin & Bob Cardinale

*In memory of Max Zell* – Barbara & Mitch Lawley

*In memory of Roland Fry, Sr.* – Mimi & Steve Johnson

*In memory of Leonard Metzger, Jr.* – Lee & Belinda Metzger

*In memory of Dr. Henry (Hank) Teller, Jr.* – Phyllis Feibelman

*In memory of Cyrus Neuman* – Jill Gottlieb

*In memory of Joseph Passero* – Fran Passero, Mike & Karen Passero

*In memory of Ludwig Berman* – Paul Bergman

*In memory of Johana Larson* – Paul Bergman

*In memory of Cecile “Sister” Mishkin* – Linda & Eddie Blassingame

*In memory of Mary A. Brucato* – Debbi Clolinger

*In memory of Fannie Salmon Whitehead* – Mark Gilberstadt

*In memory of Arthur Prince* – Joy & Jonathan Gardberg

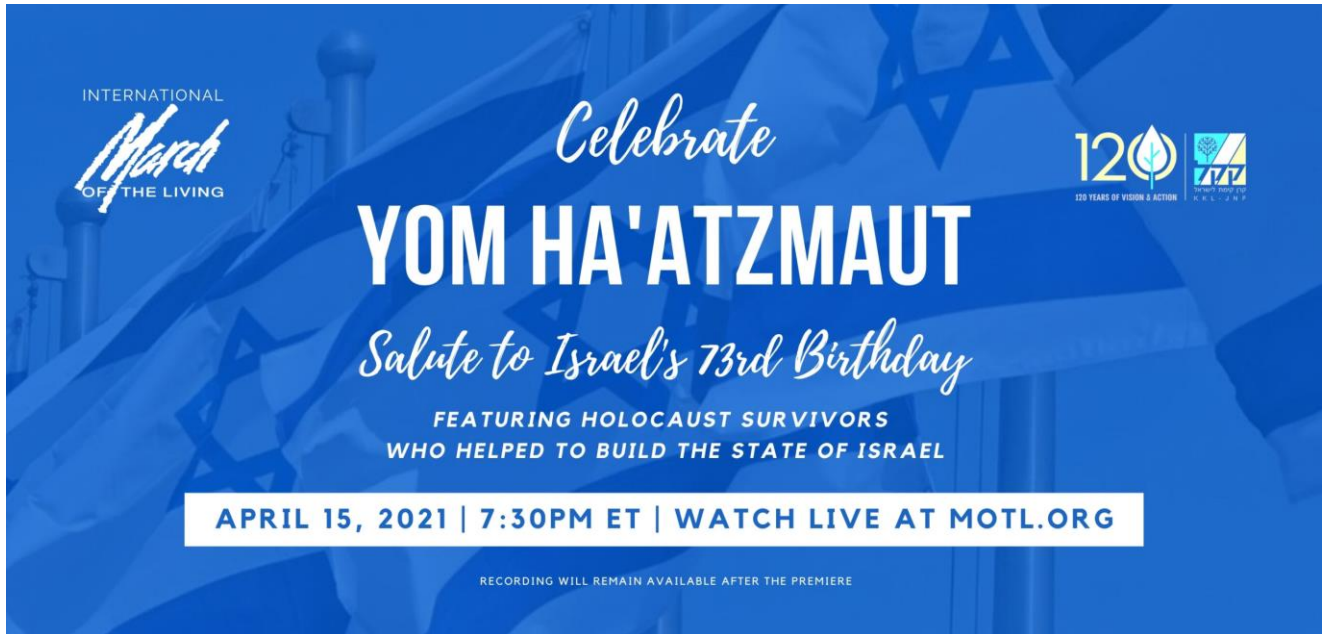
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## Baseball Trivia

With Spring upon us, America's pastime is about to start. Max Fried, ace pitcher for the Atlanta Braves, will be the starting pitcher on Opening Day for the Braves, the latest Jewish pitcher to have the coveted honor. Do you know the first? Don't peek!

*Courtesy of Gil Laden, lifelong baseball fan*

Answer on page 7.



## SALUTE TO ISRAEL'S 73RD BIRTHDAY

Join the International March of the Living as we celebrate Israel's 73rd birthday in a grand global celebration!

**THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021, 7:30 PM ET**

The program will feature:

- Intimate conversations with Holocaust survivors and their contributions to the State of Israel.
- Greetings from March of the Living alumni from over 25 countries around the world.
- Songs and celebrations with the National Israel Army (IDF) Choir, featuring Chief Cantor Shai Abramson.
- Special commemorative tree planting with March of the Living representatives from around the globe.
- Panoramic views of Israel's natural beauty.

For more information, go to [www.motl.org](http://www.motl.org)

## **EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2021**

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### **FROM OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

*by Patricia Silverman, Th.M., Religious School Director*

Here is a picture of our Confirmation Class with Glen Mutchnick on Sunday, March 14. Our confirmands, Meagan Furman, Ben Holberg, Wills Briskman and Gabe Sternberg, have been working hard and doing great in their studies. The Confirmation Service will be Friday, May 28, 2021.



*L-R 1st row: Patricia Silverman, Ofir Rozenberg, Glen Mutchnick - 2nd Row: Gabe Sternberg, Meagan Furman, Wills Briskman – 3rd Row: Ben Holberg and Connor Furman*

Sunday, March 21, Religious School celebrated Passover Seder with Rabbi John Kaplan. Our students learned about the meaning and story of this special holiday by actively participating by reading out loud and singing along with Rabbi Kaplan, who played the guitar. In advance of the Sunday session, each student received a bag containing the traditional Passover plate items and they learned what each item represents and symbolizes during the actual class.

We all had a great time and may we celebrate next Passover all gathered at the Temple (and maybe even in Jerusalem). As said in Hebrew, L'Shana Haba'ah Be'Yerushalayim!

Despite the many obstacles due to the pandemic, Religious School is alive and well.

## New Video for Your Viewing Pleasure

On Sunday, March 14, the Springhill Avenue Temple membership elected Rabbi Edward Boraz as our new rabbi for an initial three-year term. After the meeting, Gil Laden made a brief statement and Barry Silverman introduced a surprise musical presentation sung by Mollie Adams, accompanied by Christopher Powell, and filmed by Andy Palileo welcoming Rabbi Boraz and his wife, Maggie, to our congregation; both were amazed and surprised at the warm gesture. To view the video you can click on [this link](#) or go to our Springhill Avenue Temple YouTube channel.

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### FROM OUR ARCHIVES

*By Susan Thomas, Archivist*

One of the earliest known Jewish settlers who established a business in Mobile was Dr. Solomon Mordecai, who arrived in Mobile in 1823 at age 27, fresh out of medical school. Mordecai was from a prominent Jewish family in North Carolina and had received his medical training at the University of Pennsylvania. He quickly established a successful practice in Mobile, originally working from a two-room building on Royal Street, in which he maintained his office in the front room and lived in the rear.

Mordecai became a community leader in his adopted city, serving at various times as the resident physician of the Mobile Hospital, as secretary of the county Board of Health, and as a member of the Medical Board that examined future physicians. He was also a member of the Mobile County School Commission and was active in the founding of Barton Academy, the first public school in Alabama.

Interestingly, despite his civic activities, Mordecai was evidently not actively involved with the early Jewish congregants in Mobile. His name is not mentioned in records of the founding of Sha'arai Shomayim or in any other records associated with the Temple, with the exception of one notation. In

1854, he was listed as one of the donors who contributed money to the rebuilding of the synagogue following a fire.

In 1824, Mordecai married Caroline Waller, a Methodist from Claiborne, Alabama. They had eleven children, eight of whom lived to adulthood. All the children were raised in the Methodist Church. According to family letters, Mordecai eventually converted to Methodism late in life, while a blind semi-invalid. He evidently kept his conversion a secret from some of his Jewish relatives out of fear of offending them.

Mordecai died at home in 1869 of "old age." He is buried in Magnolia Cemetery. The house where he lived for many years and where he eventually died was located just west of town on Springhill Avenue in an area then known as Summerville. Many years later the home was demolished and the land on which it was located became the site of an upscale condominium development currently known as Cannongate.

(Information for this article was compiled from Betram Korn's *The Jews of Alabama, 1763-1841*; a 1981 research paper by Harriet Amos; and a *Mobile Bay* article by Tom McGehee.)

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**Baseball Trivia Answer from page 4:** Barney Peltz, known as the Yiddish Curver, pitched on Opening Day on April 8, 1908, for the St. Louis Browns (who later became the Baltimore Orioles). The Browns won 2-1 over the Cleveland Naps.

# Celebrate

## April Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Happy Birthday to ...

1 Jennifer Aronson	16 Lisa Van Beuren
4 Jordan Holberg	16 Jan Yellin
4 Cece Spain	19 Gary Rich
4 Jennifer Sundberg	20 Evan Maisel
5 Tom Kessler	20 Bettina Prager
5 Sherry Mutchnick	20 Daniel Tolpin
6 Robert Holberg	20 Elizabeth Zimmerman
7 Rose Brunson	24 Shari Green
7 Warren Koffler	25 Jack Friedlander
9 Ronald Altman	25 Robin Mishkin
9 Paul Frenkel	25 Odette Sternberg
10 Cyndee Mayer	27 Jennifer Bishop
10 Mel Sternberg	27 JoAnne Fusco
11 Barry Silverman	28 Alexis Goldberg
13 Meryl Harris	28 Shirley Silverman
13 Anna Elizabeth Seay	29 Steve Johnson
13 Steve Zimmerman	29 Brian Mishkin
15 Susan Friedman	

### Happy Anniversary to ...

17 Ellie & Cole Appelman
20 Ellen & Maury Zivitz
22 Claris & Sam Feibelman
24 Sheridan & Josh Briskman
29 Pauline & Mike Brown



happy anniversary



# Congratulations!

## May Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Happy Birthday to ...

1 Donald Friedlander	16 Todd Lewis
1 Ralph Holberg III	17 Ira Frederic Cherniak
1 Robert Zimmerman	17 Rachel Vorwaller
2 Carrie Waldrop	19 Christine Norris
2 Kimberly Zelnicker	21 John Webster
3 Alain Gamble	22 Mark Brown
10 Nicole Appelman	22 Debbie Clolinger
10 Dana Handmacher	22 Ethan Kunstadt
10 Elsa Simon	24 Donald Kunstadt
10 Dana Susman	25 Alan Lewis
12 David Rose	27 Maure Sternberg
12 Richard Rose	28 Irving Koffler
12 Ryan Sophie Small	27 Richard Zimmerman
14 Stephen Conrad	30 Shirley Boyd
14 Joseph Fetterman	30 Gladys Cherniak
15 Josh Briskman	30 Allen Ross
15 Heidi Kinsella	31 Elizabeth Prager

### Happy Anniversary to ...

- 4 Christine Norris & Daryn Glassbrook
- 10 Aimee Walsh & Michael Holberg
- 15 Ada & Sam Small
- 20 Patti & Donald Kunstadt
- 20 Anna Elizabeth Seay & Evan Maisel



## Morris and Rose Michtom The Inventors of the Teddy Bear

Source: <https://www.inventions-handbook.com/jewish-inventors.html>



Rose and Morris Michtom, Jewish Russian immigrants to the United States, are known for inventing the first ever Teddy Bear. Michtom arrived in New York in 1887 and lived in Brooklyn.

He was selling candy and other small items by day in his shop and at night his wife Rose created stuffed animals which they then sold in their store.

In 1902, like many other Americans they were following closely the story of President Teddy Roosevelt and the bear. Roosevelt was out on a 4-day bear hunting expedition, but wasn't able to shoot any bears. To save his reputation in the eyes of the press, a fellow of his found and tied to a tree a small bear cub, so that Roosevelt could kill him.

So far, not a very nice children friendly story...

However, upon seeing the bear, Roosevelt refused to shoot him, claiming he only hunted prey that had a fair chance to defend itself.

The incident was reported in the press and a caricature was published showing Roosevelt turning his back from the tied-up bear. The American nation was in an uproar, with everyone supporting the president and commenting on his self-restraint and compassion.

The Michtoms, who were following the story, together with the rest of the American nation, came up with the idea to create a stuffed bear toy, depicting the famous bear from Roosevelt's story. Rose Michtom created the bear, and they displayed it in their shop the next day with a note saying simply: Teddy's Bear. Before they knew it, the bear became a big success, with requests from customers to get one for themselves, flooding the store. The two Jewish inventors, even sent the original bear toy to the White House and asked if they would be allowed to keep using the name 'Teddy' to sell the bear without insulting the President.

With the approval granted from the White House, they went on to create and sell many more bears, soon realizing that there was more chance for profits in selling teddy bears, than in keeping up their shop. The toy became so popular that Roosevelt and his party adopted it as a campaign symbol and a teddy bear graced every public White House function before the election of 1904.

The Michtoms ended up setting up their own toy company, The Ideal Toy Company, which sold millions of teddies throughout the world. They were never able to get a patent granted to their toy invention.

Their original Teddy Bear, the one they sent to the White House, is still displayed in the Smithsonian to this day.



The original Roosevelt's teddy bear, held in the Smithsonian Museum.

## Y A H R Z E I T S

It is a true Mitzvah to honor those whose memory we hold dear by attending services on the Shabbat Yahrzeit (year's time), joining your congregation in reciting Kaddish, and the giving of charity in their memory.

**To be read April 2**

28th Jack Carlie  
 30th Gussie Axelrod  
 1st Melvin Bauer  
 2nd Nan Altmayer  
 3rd Louis Raymon

**To be read April 9**

4th Sophie Yassem  
 5th Jacob Fuller  
 7th Ralph Holberg, Jr.  
 8th Pearline Ginsberg  
 Cheri Ann Silverman  
 9th Michael Friedlander  
 10th Stephen Furst

**To be read April 16**

12th Joseph Fetterman  
 Saul Zimmerman  
 13th Bertram Vogel  
 14th A.B. Fleisher  
 Reita Franco  
 Ethel Gold  
 15th Alvin Loeb  
 Frances Holberg Lurie

**To be read April 23**

18th Cecile Mendelson  
 Ruth Vogel  
 Toshia Wagman

**To be read April 23 (cont'd)**

20th J.W. Dittman  
 Betty Levin  
 Herman Schear  
 Mary Elizabeth Schear  
 Raymond Schear  
 Sarah Schear

21st Morris Hoffman  
 Aaron Robinton  
 Carrie Rubel Scharff  
 22nd Miriam Fratkin  
 Ryan Scott Small  
 24th Sam Millstein, Jr.

**To be read April 30**

25th Ralph G. Holberg, Sr.  
 Rosalie Rosner  
 26th Alma Frank  
 David Gardberg  
 28th Elia C. Rotella

**To be read May 7**

2nd Frieda Friedman  
 4th A.E. Fingerhut  
 Minnie Piser Schwarz  
 5th Karin Appelman  
 Mirian Yassem Gandler  
 6th Beatrice Zelnicker  
 7th Gladys Kahn

**To be read May 14**

10th Fran Brown  
 Karen Kopelman  
 Elsa Keller Lewis  
 14th Sylvia Rose  
 Milton F. Rubel  
 15th Jennie Spitzberg

**To be read May 21**

17th Camille Baer  
 18th Edward Gandler  
 20th Richard Tolpin  
 21st Sarah Kopelman  
 22nd Gertrude Kopelman  
 Valdivia Vogel

**To be read May 28**

23rd Irving Gandler  
 Ellen Muhlfelder  
 24th Jerome Goldman  
 Molly Long  
 25th Louis Goldman  
 26th Sarah Pozner Cherniak  
 Samuel Diemar  
 29th Helen Koffler

### Donation Form

Send this form with your check to:  
**Springhill Avenue Temple**  
**1769 Springhill Avenue**  
**Mobile, AL 36607**

Circle One:  
**In memory of / In honor of**

\_\_\_\_\_

(person's name or event)

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Send acknowledgement to:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Music Fund**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Adult Education Fund**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Religious School Fund**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Archives Fund**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Library Fund**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Social Action Fund**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Book Fund**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

## CALENDAR

**Religious School – 10:30 -12:00 Noon - Sunday, April 18 and 25**

**Confirmation Class – 9:30 – 10:15 am – Sunday, April 25 w/Rabbi John Kaplan**

*(No Religious School or Confirmation Class on April 4 and 11)*

**Torah Study with Rabbi John Kaplan – Wednesday, April 21, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom**



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