



MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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NOVEMBER 2021

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Read our President's Article...



Our New Tree of Life

NEXT SERVICES – In- Person and on Zoom

November 20 - Saturday
December 11 – Saturday
(Services start at 10:00am)

**For those members who might prefer to attend via
Zoom, please watch your email for the link!**



Yosi Knight
Our Spiritual Leader

Please watch your email for notices regarding services, which will be conducted both in-person and via Zoom, due to the Covid outbreak.

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Have some news to share with our members? We want it all! Contact our newsletter editor, Harvey Morse at: harvey@probate.com or call: (828) 631-0000
2. All Friday evening services will begin at 7:00pm and all Saturday morning services will start at 10:00am.
3. We are in need of a laptop computer for our Zoom services. If you have one to donate or wish to purchase one for the synagogue, please contact Harvey at: (828) 631-0000
4. **Mishaberah – (Prayers for those who are ill)**
Jim Fierburg
Rhoda Haber
Hal Lunsik
Libby Katzenson
Howard Fuhrman
Phyllis Cardoza
Richie Aaron
Mike Arnold
Maxine Goldstein
Terry Erbesfield
5. **Yahrzeit Information**
We are updating our list of member's family Yahrzeits. Please send the names, your relationship to the deceased and the dates of death to Vickie Sanders. Her email is: walknature186@yahoo.com
6. **Yahrzeit Donations**
Phyllis Cardoza – For her Mother, Florence Kline
Harvey Morse – For his Grandfather, Louis Altshuler
Estelle Schwarz – For her Mother, Sylvia Krasnow
David & Marsha Synder – For: Sylvia Snyder
David & Marsha Synder – For: Abraham Snyder
David & Marsha Synder – For: Linda Green
David & Marsha Synder – For: Walter Green
7. **DONATIONS**
Harvey Morse
Bill & Joan Bernstein
Michele Pacher
Maury Burstein
Shayna Sinrich
Jerry & Carol Bogage
8. **November Birthdays**
Marsha Snyder
Barbara Dardick
Judy Myers
Cathy Freidman
Nanette Henson
Hal Halpern
Barb Dornbush
Lynne Halpern
Mike Henson
Jay Sanders & Vickie Sanders
9. **Anniversaries**
Jay & Vickie Sanders
Allan & Terri Baer

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Tree of Life

The tree of life appears in both the opening and closing chapters of the Bible (Genesis 2-3 and Revelation 22). In the book of Genesis, God places the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the Garden of Eden, where the tree of life stands as a symbol of God's life-giving presence and the fullness of eternal life available in God.

For many synagogues, a Tree of Life is used to honor or remember a celebration or happy occasion, to recognize a wonderful achievement or simcha! How fortunate we are to now have a Tree of Life of our own!

It all started about a year ago when Norma Schulman, board member here at Mountain Synagogue, asked if we might look into finding a Tree that we could place in our sanctuary (the Social Hall at All Saints/St Cyprians), and many discussions followed.

The leadership of All Saints agreed to allow us to utilize the space where they currently had a bulletin board, so all we needed was to find, order or have made, our Tree!

After many searches and inquiries, it appeared that to have one made to fit our specific available dimensions, would be quite expensive. It seemed that our efforts were turning up nothing feasible. We spoke with several members in our congregation who are accomplished woodworkers about creating our own design, but it seemed to be a very large task. Maury Burstein graciously offered a large donation towards the purchase of a Tree, if we found the right one.

Donna Sinrich found, online, a message from Temple B'nai Abraham - a synagogue in Decatur, IL, that was unfortunately closing its doors, and was looking for suitable prospects to give new life and meaning to their 2 pieces of cherished wall art – a 7' wooden inlaid piece of their namesake, Abraham, and, a Tree of Life!

We exchanged several emails indicating our potential interest and hoped that something could be figured out to complete this wonderful opportunity. Several months passed, with no further communication, and we thought that another decision was made, and we were not meant to be the new home for their Tree.

Well, out of the blue, another email arrived asking if we were still interested! I said yes, and learned they were not looking to sell, but rather donate these items to the right congregation. The only issue to be decided upon was shipping and transporting these large pieces from Decatur to Franklin, NC. Estimates of shipping and crating ran upwards of \$1,200!

Enter Shari and John Rall, members for a while with Shari recently joining the Board. John suggested, to our delight,

10. Memorial Plaques

There is no better way to honor the memory of a deceased loved one than purchasing a memorial plaque which will be placed in our social hall. The cost is only \$50 per name for an engraved, permanent remembrance.

Public Relations Person Needed

We are seeking a volunteer to represent Mountain Synagogue, who will visit or contact newspapers, hospitals, nursing facilities, Realtors, Chambers of Commerce and so forth, to make them aware of our existence and possibly hand out literature for them to distribute. If you are interested or would like to put a committee together to handle this task, please contact our corresponding secretary, Norma Schulman at n.schulman@frontier.com

PRAYER BOOKS

Our Mishkan t'Filah prayer books are available for \$40 each. Our new High Holiday Mahzor's are available for \$40 each.

Shipping is \$5.00 for one or two books. If interested, please send your name, address and which books you want together with payment to Mountain Synagogue, PO Box 504, Franklin, NC 28744. (Books may be picked up in person during services to avoid the shipping costs).

NEW ORLEANS

Visiting New Orleans? The MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHERN JEWISH EXPERIENCE has opened! It explores the many ways that Jews of the American South influenced and were influenced by the distinct cultural heritage of their communities, through exhibits, collections and programs. It's website is: www.msje.org

818 Howard Ave, New Orleans, LA 70113

WEBSITE UPDATE

Our website has now been updated with a link to copies of all 2021 previous newsletters by Harvey Morse, with the assistance of his nephew Ari Morse. www.MountainSynagogueWNC.com

BOOK CLUB

Anyone interested in participating in a Jewish oriented Book Club or Multimedia Literary Society, please contact Michael Serra. These may include weekly Torah Parsha, Mishna or Talmud discussions. Home: 706-782-9210 - serrafamily73@comcast.net

that instead of them heading south returning back to Florida, that they head north to pick up the pieces themselves! We quickly agreed to cover their expenses, and off they went.

Enter George and Joan Berman, long time congregation members, who met John and Shari with the donations, and in a very short time, were able to place and install the Tree in it's new location, here at Mountain Synagogue.

The large Abraham plaque, initially thought of as a potential gift to All Saints (if they liked it), loved the idea, but it was simply too big for the spaces they had available. After several other conversations, we donated the Abraham to The Spiritual Light Center in Franklin, where they were thrilled to receive it and plan to make a beautiful stained glass framework around the piece to add to its beauty.

Then, to add icing to our cake, Maury Burstein sent in a check to cover the expenses incurred in transporting the pieces back home to Franklin!

We are all thrilled and honored to have this beautiful Tree of Life in our synagogue. We will update you soon on how to add leaves and stones of honor to memorialize your celebrations, achievements and simchas of your family and loved ones!

Thanks to everyone who was involved in this great gift. May it always serve as a blessing to our congregation and its members.

B'shalom,
Joel Edelson, President

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Healing Solutions Counseling at Jewish Family Services has expanded our reach! We are now permanently offering telehealth counseling appointments with our licensed clinicians, who specialize in treating depression, anxiety, parenting challenges, grief, trauma, adjustment disorders, relationship problems, stress management, healthy aging, and LGBTQ+ support. Our therapy sessions are safe, private, and confidential. We will always meet you where you are. JFS accepts most Medicare, BCBS, United Healthcare, Cigna, Humana, and Aetna. Please inquire about other insurance. Sliding scale fees are available based on income to those who are uninsured.

Call 828-253-2900 or email info@jfswn.org for more information. You can also get started by downloading client paperwork [here](#).