

Chailights

June-July 2020

Rabbi Joseph H. Rosen



Friends,

As we enter the summer, I am excited to announce three exciting initiatives.

Parlor Meetings: When I first arrived in Jackson, I had the opportunity to meet many of you in smaller groups. Aside from my first worship services, these meetings served as my first opportunity to hear your thoughts and concerns on where we were as a congregation. Now, a year later, we will be conducting these meetings again to reflect on the past year, and look forward towards the future. An additional announcement detailing the sign-up process will be sent to the congregation in the first week of June, with meetings beginning in July.

Youth Education Review: With the religious school year coming to an end, I have begun to take a critical look at what improvements I can make to ensure that our children will have the tools they need to feel knowledgeable and responsible for their heritage. And as I begin to explore what questions will lead me to these improvements, I need your feedback as well. Religious School families will be invited to take part in family meetings with me starting mid-June, culminating in an all-school meeting that will take place in July.

Even if your family is not currently engaged in our religious school, there are still opportunities to contribute towards our students' education. If you are interested in helping out with programming in the future, please reach out. More opportunities for involvement will be announced as the process moves forward.

Civic Engagement Campaign: Last year, our congregation signed a covenant with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) to pledge to elevate our level of community engagement through social action. In May, the RAC held a virtual town hall to kick off a civic engagement campaign aimed at increased voting. Democracy remains strong when everyone has the ability to participate. This campaign spearheaded by the RAC will be focused on voting access for those who find it challenging as well as increasing voter turnout ahead of the 2020 election. In Brakhot 55a in the Talmud, we are taught that a ruler is not to be appointed unless the community is first consulted. This campaign is a nonpartisan effort to strengthen democracy by encouraging everyone to participate in the 2020 election, ensuring that Jewish values will be represented in the public square. If you are interested, follow the RAC page for information, and reach out to me or the Tikkun Olam Committee.

These initiatives are all grounded on the Jewish concept of Chevruta, friendship that facilitates sacred conversation. Chevruta relies on the ability for people's ideas and feelings to be shared, challenged, and debated. Your participation in these initiatives can provide meaningful conversation about how we can evolve and improve as a community. Proverbs teaches, just as iron sharpens iron, so too does the wit of a friend.

From Our President

Dear Congregants:

In this time of uncertainty and isolation we turn to one another and we turn to prayer to help us cope. We miss being together in our sanctuary on Old Canton Road even as our own homes have become “houses of prayer.” As the current period of uncertainty persists Beth Israel is committed to adapting our spiritual offerings to meet the needs of our members.

Although there are signs of re-opening all around us in Mississippi and some political leaders have called for houses of worship to resume normal operations, our tradition insists that *pikuah nefesh* – the preservation of life – take precedence over even our most sacred mitzvot.

We know that for some members of our community this has come as a great adjustment. I firmly believe that there is a halakhic justification for Zoom worship services during this unprecedented time in which we are unable to meet in person.

Rabbi Rosen and I, together with the Beth Israel Board of Trustees, feel that physical distancing remains the most prudent course of action for at least the next 30 days, for the safety of our own members as well as for the greater good of the whole community. We are monitoring public health guidance and intend to return to in-person worship once it is recommended it is safe to do so. Until then, it is our hope that Zoom services will continue to offer our members and the general community spiritual and communal engagement through these difficult times.

The discussions around online services for the High Holiday’s has developed rapidly in the past few weeks. My thinking on these questions has evolved as our understanding of the situation has developed, and I am deeply grateful to Rabbi Rosen, our Board, and our entire staff for their honest feedback throughout the process of exploring future services.

On June 14th the board will start having planning meetings on what the summer months and High Holidays will look like with regards to in person worship. We will have a final decision announced to the congregation on June 28th.

Rabbi Rosen and I encourage anyone with personal questions about online services to contact us for further discussion.

Finally, I will take this opportunity to share my deep gratitude for the privilege of serving a community so devoted to caring for one another. Nearly every phone call or Zoom meeting I have had over the past two months has included someone sharing a story of another Beth Israel member looking out for them in some way – a phone call, a grocery pickup, wave from across the street. Thank you for sharing your lives with one another and with me.

Sincerely,

Greg Pollack
President, Beth Israel Congregation

Bazaar Take-Home/Frozen Food Sale

IT'S THE FOOD SALE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR AND HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Due to the pandemic your safety is paramount.
Please read the pickup and important information sections below.

The sale is open now and ends Friday, June 5th at 11:00 AM

ORDERING: BIC-Bazaar Online Store:
<https://my-site-105543-104240.square.site/>

ORDER PICKUP INFORMATION

When: Sunday, June 7, 2020 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Where: Temple Kitchen Back Door (in the alleyway)

How: Text **(601) 946-5677** upon arrival.

Provide the name on the order as well as the car color/style
(ex: Erlich-black/SUV). The order will be brought out to your car

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

-Orders can **only** be made by going to the online store.

-Orders are filled on a first come basis.

-Orders are to be paid by credit card or paypal at the time the
order is placed (no exceptions).

-Orders (once placed) cannot be cancelled via the online store.

The deadline to cancel an order is Friday, June 5 at 10:30 AM.

In the event an order must be canceled, please email the
Temple Office at **office@bethisraelms.org** for further information.

-Orders that are not picked up on Sunday, June 7th between 11:00am
and 2:00pm will be donated (no exceptions).

-No one can enter the Temple for any reason.

Contacting the Office

As part of our effort to take care of our congregation and community, we have decided that the best way to practice Social Distancing is to expect it of our office staff as well. To this end we have decided to minimize our own presence in the Temple.

This does not mean that you can't contact the office. Our Administrative Assistant has agreed to have all Temple calls during normal business hours forwarded to her personal phone. Thus you can still call the office at the **(601) 956-6215** number. She's also reachable by e-mailing the office.

To speak to Rabbi Rosen you can call or text his work cell phone at **(601) 351-5238** or email him at rabbijrosen@bethisraelms.org. Calling the office will have Michaela get a message to the Rabbi but for direct contact, please call him or send an e-mail.

To speak to Kim in Bookkeeping please either reach out to her e-mail address, or call the Temple Office number above. Michaela will take a message and contact Kim. We are still processing all donations, pledge payments and checks while the office is closed, and Kim can still

Beth Israel Board — 2020

Greg Pollack — President
Abram Orlansky — 1st Vice President
Sheila Hailey — 2nd Vice President
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Cheryl Katz — Trustee
Dave Mandel — Trustee
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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4	Robert Briggs	8	Suzanne Freedman
	Anna Herman	9	Richard Gavant
	Nadav Herman		Joan Burwell
	Robert Kahn		Diann Hesdorffer
	Noah Parshall		Lisa Pence
6	Gino Giammarco	10	Greg Thomas
	Mark Johnson	12	Kay Metz
	Art Salomon		Ellen Hart
	Aaron Trubman		Sylvia Kassoff
8	Erica Abeles	13	Susan Rockoff
9	Howard Roffwarg	14	Sanford Dreffin
	Elizabeth Springer		Stacey Mitchell
10	Casey Smith	17	Robert Shemper
12	Gail Moskowitz	20	Carey Emmich
16	Roger Rosenfield	21	Julia Levingston
17	Sophia Elizabeth	22	Michel Rivlin
	Pandolfo		Alexander Goldstein
18	Jesse Pandolfo	28	Judy Wiener
21	Lynne Rosenfield		Joann Eisenstatt
	Sarah Printz Thomas	29	Brandon Schlakman
22	Ian Paul		Edward Erlich
23	Jo Ann Gordon	30	Steve Orlansky
			Stephen Rozman
			Tammy Rubinsky
			Robert Smith
			Theodore Abeles
			Nafie Sollek

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7	Sally Cohen	31	
	Jonathan Sledge		

June Anniversaries

12	Julie and Ian Paul
13	Suzanne and James Freedman
15	Melissa and Ralph Daniel, III
16	Erica Weil and Matthew Dreffin
17	Kay and Philip Pollack
19	Judy and Joshua Wiener
21	Cheryl and Howard Katz
	Eugenia and Marcelo Ruvinsky
22	Marla Harbor and Erik Hearon
24	Deborah and Clay Crystal
29	Sherrie and George Glass

July Anniversaries

4	Debra and Joel Jacobs
6	Robyn and Greg Pollack
7	Tammy and Bert Rubinsky
14	Lynda and Eric Balfour
19	Jill and Bob Lazarus
27	Judy and Richard Stamm

Happy Anniversary

ARTICLE DEADLINES:

BIC BLAST

12:00 P.M. Tuesday
(For publication in the following week's blast.)

CHAILIGHTS

Noon on the 15th of the month

FRIDAY NIGHT PAMPHLET

1:30 P.M. Thursday

Please e-mail all submissions to office@bethisraelms.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday

CLOSED

Tuesday

10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Thursday

10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Friday

10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Closed daily for lunch

12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

WE APPRECIATE THE THOUGHTFULNESS OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT BETH ISRAEL BY REMEMBERING AND HONORING THEIR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES THROUGH THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.

Donations may be applied to the following funds:

BITY

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

CARING FUND (SISTERHOOD)

CEMETERY FUND

CHEVRA KADISHA FUND

CHOIR FUND

ENDOWMENT FUND

GENERAL FUND

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL FUND

JEWISH CINEMA MISSISSIPPI

LIBRARY/PRAYER BOOK FUND

MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

MITZVAH FUND (SISTERHOOD)

ONEG FUND

PROGRAM FUND

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

SATURDAY MORNING FUND

TIKKUN OLAM FUND

WEBSITE FUND

NOTICE

Donations received after May 15th will be published in the next Chailights. Please email office@bethisraelms.org if your contribution was not listed.

CAPITAL FUND

In Memory of Anne Sawyer, Sandra Fischer, and Bobby Jolley

— Amy and Arthur Finkelberg

In Memory of A.J. Orkin, Sr. — Donna and Ted Orkin

In Memory of Bobby Jolley, Lou Humphrey, and Sydney Geiger Sr.

— Mindy and Clay Humphrey

CEMETERY FUND

In Memory of Anne Sawyer — Aaron Trubman

In Memory of Reva Hart, Sandra Fischer, and Bobby Jolley

— Andrea and Buddy Fish

In Memory of Anne Sawyer — Betsy and Joey Samuels

In Memory of Gerald Crystal and Sandra Fischer — Betty Crystal

In Memory of T. Stanley Orkin — Donna and Ted Orkin

In Memory of Jack Davidson and Lena Levy Pritikin

— Janice and Bernard Blumenthal

In Memory of Sandra Fischer — Lee and Arlene Cohen Kahn

In Memory of Milton Stiebel — Sheila Rubin

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Anne Sawyer — Abbe Young and Family

In Memory of Adelia Thames and Adeline Fish — Andrea and Buddy Fish

In Memory of Anne Sawyer — Barbara and Michael Sawyer

In Memory of Anne Sawyer — Beth and Steven Orlansky

In Memory of Anne Sawyer — Anne and Dr. Laurence Miller

In Memory of Sandra Fischer — Sue Allen and Granville Tate

In Memory of Bryan Flourney — Jackson Stitchery Guild

In Memory of Anne Sawyer — Judy and Joshua Wiener

In Memory of Sandra Fischer and David Grishman — Ronna Bloom

In Honor of Refuge Meditation — Andrea and Buddy Fish

In Honor of Morgan Pollack's Bat Mitzvah — Kelly Haber

In Honor of Rabbi Joseph Rosen — Michele and Ken Schipper

In Memory of Anne Sawyer — Laurie Tucker and Seth Kamen

Dianne Kersh

MITZVAH FUND

In Memory of Reva Hart and Sandra Fischer — Melissa and Ralph Daniel, III

In Honor of Bea Gavant's 90th Birthday — Melissa and Ralph Daniel, III

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FUND

In Honor of Sam Emry Shemper — Amy and Arthur Finkelberg

In Honor of Sam Emry Shemper — Andrea and Buddy Fish

In Honor of Sam Emry Shemper — David Shemper

TIKKUN OLAM FUND

In Memory of Peter Thames — Andrea and Buddy Fish

In Memory of Irving Harry Welfeld and Brent Lee Farley — Wendy Farley

SPECIAL DONATIONS

For the purchase and donation of the Beth Israel Bazaar Food to Stewpot

— Cheryl and Dr. Howard Katz and the Elaine & Emanuel Crystal Fund of the Community Foundation for Mississippi



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We Remember — Yahrzeits for June and July

6/1/2020-6/6/2020

Friedel Nash
*D. H. Orkin
Elizabeth Taffet
Sandra Zalowitz
Harry Ades
Ike Grundfest
Charles Hendrix
Harry Praver
Barbara Sandler
*Alan Fields
*Bernard Finkelberg
Michael Lasky
Samuel Roffwarg
Edith Stone
*Raymond Oppenheim
Florence Wiener

6/7/2020-6/13/2020

Sarah Beckerman
Herbert Grief
*Bernard Weiss
Joe Goldstein
*David Gordon
Mitchell Pollack
Ruth Schwartz
Michael LeBlanc
Rosalie Rotwein
*Myer A. Segal
Minnie Wolff

*Julia Hart
Frances Kahn
*Ida Muskin
William Rosenblatt
Hillel Sloan
Leo Sonnabend
Peter Ziman
Paul Silberman
*Isaac Simon Ascher
Terri Dobel
*Stanley Orkin
Gertrude Schwartz
*Charlotte Crystal
Charles Miller

6/14/2020-6/20/2020

Nathaniel Bloom
Jonathon Sonkin
Joseph Elfassy
Bill Krock
Morris Neveleff
Steve Braver
Homer Benson
Irving Rosen
Esther Draft
James Gibb
Minnie Hart Dreyfus
Alfred Jefferson
Helen Lasky

6/21/2020-6/27/2020

Alex Sacher
Ella Goodman
Bessie Balkin
Chalom Charles Elfassy
Bob Emmich
Natalie Goldberg
Eldora Judlin
George Bloom
Lena Kahn
Isadore Beckerman
*Walter Berman
Sumner Levine

6/28/2020-7/4/2020

*Edwin Ascher
Davera Goldstein
Gussie Roffwarg
Carla Willenzik
Stuart Altshool
Tillie Friedman
Celia Rozman
Leo Mermelstein

7/5/2020-7/11/2020

*Celia Falk
Joan Daniel
*Rose Rosenzweig
*Bertha S. Rubinsky
Joseph Berg

*Lona Cohen
Hermine Sacher
Marilyn Spielman
Gerald Alpern
*Marvin Cohen
Victor Gorelik
Harold Rosenzweig
*Fay Lewis Berman
Henrietta Goldberg
*Vladimir Ivshin

7/12/2020-7/18/2020

*Laurence Gavant
*Ernest Workman
Paul Mandel
Irene Liverman
Sarah Teeman Bloom
Jeanette Ettinger
Jeanette Smith
Louise Stamm
*Simon Waisbrod
Frances Davidson
Betty Hyde

7/19/2020-7/25/2020

*Joseph Emile Berman
Vera Marsden
Lucile Rosenbaum
Ruby Stern
Sol Blumenthal

Peter Brannan
Freda Lewis
Elvyn Spencer
Eric Stessmann
Christopher Dimattia
Jacob Elfassy
George J. Gordon
*Maxine Harris
*Allan Mitchell
Reuben Gavant
Lewis Plotkin
William Sklar
Martin Chamow
Norman Kaminsky
Anita Sherr

7/26/2020-7/31/2020

*Flo Berman
Ron Black
*Bennett Freedman
*Myer A. Lewis
Michele Krock
*Harriet Trubman
*John Simon
Anne Fishman
James Lawson
Lee Shornick
Lois Steiner

**Memorial Alcove*