



MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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JANUARY 2021

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



The Officers and Board of Directors are extremely pleased and honored to welcome **Rabbi Emeritus Barry Altman** and his lovely wife, Nancy to our congregation!

Rabbi Altman will be leading our services at various times throughout 2021 with the exception of the High Holidays, due to a long-standing previous commitment.

Rabbi has been with Temple Beth-El in Ormond Beach, Florida for 38 years until his fairly recent retirement, and he continues as a professor at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida where he has taught religion for over 20 years. Additionally, he has served on a multitude of civic, religious, community organizations and Boards throughout Florida and other locations.

Rabbi Altman brings us many years of Judaic experience, knowledge and understanding of Judaism.

We are truly blessed to have this warm, compassionate and wonderful Rabbi affiliated with us, and we hope it will be for many, many years.

WELCOME, RABBI ALTMAN & NANCY

Please watch your email for notices regarding services, which will be conducted temporarily via Zoom, due to the Pandemic, and the Governor's Orders restricting the size of gatherings

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. If you have any Jewish prayer books, tallises, mezuzah's. etc. that need to be buried, please contact us at: mountainsynagogue@gmail.com, as we will be bringing books and items for burial to an Asheville Jewish cemetery.
2. The Officers and Board welcome Bobbi and Michael Serra to our Board of Directors!
3. Recent Donations
Mike and Bobbi Serra
Barbara Shrut (Rabbi Altman's Sister-in-law)
4. If you have any historical papers, documents, or articles regarding Mountain Synagogue that you believe should be maintained in the office, please let us know!
5. Invoices for 2021 annual dues will be mailed on January 3rd together with an information sheet to update our membership records primarily for our annual directory. Please remember to return this sheet together with your dues check. There has been **NO INCREASE** in dues for 2021.
6. Send us news regarding any special events, celebrations, graduations or happenings in your family, so that we may share it with the Mountain Synagogue family!!

Jews and the Covid Vaccine:

Mikael Dolsten, Chief Scientific Officer at Pfizer, is Jewish. He grew up in Halmstad, Sweden, the son of a Jewish father with prewar roots in Sweden and a Jewish mother who escaped Austria in the early days of WWII. He visited Israel several times as a youngster and did a year of his doctoral work at the Weizmann Institute. There he learned cutting edge immunology which led him to pharmaceutical science. Dolsten has referred in interviews to rising anti-Semitism in Sweden.

Pfizer CEO Albert Borla is a Sephardic Jew from Thessalonika, Greece, a city whose Jewish population was almost completely wiped-out during WWII. The Borla family's history in Thessalonika goes back 5 centuries, and Borla visits his remaining family members there yearly. He now lives in New York City.

The Chief Medical Officer for Moderna, a Cambridge, Mass.- based company, is an Israeli immigrant named Tal Zaks. Previously, he served as head of Global Oncology at Sanofi Pharmaceuticals. Zaks received his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees at Ben Gurion University and conducted post-doc research at the NIH.

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