



MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Mailing Address: PO Box 504, Franklin, NC 28744

Email: MountainSynagogue@gmail.com

Website: www.MountainSynagogueWNC.com

Phone: (828) 634-1312

MAY 2021

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NEXT SERVICES: Saturday, May 8th at 10:00AM

Friday, May 21st at 7:00PM

A link will be sent to all members in advance, and we hope to see you there.

IS THIS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER??

Our newsletter is considered as one of the benefits of membership. It not only contains great information regarding Mountain Synagogue, but articles, events, happenings and things that affect all members of the Jewish community.

Everyone has received dues notices and multiple follow-ups since January. Unless we are contacted concerning a financial hardship we will be removing the names, contact information and email addresses for non-members, from all future mailings on May 15th, 2021. This isn't something we like to do, but our members who pay dues are bearing all of our costs and everyone needs to contribute their fair share. Returning former members are always welcome.

CAN NON-MEMBERS JOIN OUR ZOOM SERVICES?

Members may forward our link to family and friends who have never been members, so they may be able to experience our services and religious efforts. If your friends would like to affiliate with us and become part of our family, please have them contact: Donna Sinrich at the below Email:

MountainSynagogue@gmail.com



Rabbi Emeritus Barry Altman

Our Rabbi and spiritual leader

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. Have some news to share with our members?
We want it all! Contact Harvey at:
harvey@probate.com or call: (828) 631-0000
2. All Friday evening services will commence at 7:00pm henceforth, and all Saturday morning services will commence at 10:00am.
3. **Mishaberah – (Prayers for those who are ill)**
Maxine Goldstein
Michael Serra
David Bryant
Rhoda Haber
Hal Lunsik
Lesley Hughes
Vickie Sanders
4. **Yahrzeit Donations**
Mike and Bobbi Serra for Anna & Robert Whittemore
Marilyn Oaken for Marvin Oaken
Harvey Morse for his mother, Rita Morse

General Donations

Arlene Greenberg

5. May Birthdays

Roberta Rosenfield
David Snyder – May 19th
Doug Friedman – May 21st

6. Yahrzeits / Memorial Plaques

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

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 the engraved remembrance.

7. IMPORTANT SECURITY PROGRAM

For those who were unable to attend the April 11th and April 18th security programs, Harvey is going to obtain a copy of a recording for each, and will set up a zoom

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – JOEL EDELSON

Shalom, y'all!

I heard today that Macon County is leading the way in Western North Carolina in the percentage (over 36%) of our population that has gotten their Covid vaccinations! Congratulations to us! While we still have a long way to go to get to the 80+% needed for herd immunity, it is a good beginning and hopefully will continue to climb.

The first amendment to the United States constitution begins, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ..."Fast forward almost 250 years and religious freedom is one of the most pressing issues in American culture today. Diversity and the freedom to question is the foundation of our Jewish faith.

I am not going to open up the "to vaccinate or not to vaccinate" debate. I suppose we will all adjust to our new normal, our new way of life, and we will have to accept the fact that while we live in a free country, the choices we make can affect more than just ourselves.

It reminds me of the story of a major flood after a hurricane. A man climbed to his roof, and each time a raft, a boat and a helicopter, came by to rescue him, the man declined and said "god will save me." The water continued to rise, and the man drowned.

Upon reaching heaven, the man asked "why am I here? I prayed and knew god would save me. God said, "didn't you see the raft, the boat and the helicopter I sent?"

God helps those that help themselves. We all know this phrase, this affirmation. We take steps to better protect our homes with locks, security systems and safety measures, and with an ounce of prevention we feel more secure. We implement safety training measures and take precautions to better

meeting to share this very important information with our members, that affects each and every one of us.

8. Grave Sites

As of this newsletter, there are only two grave sites available and these will be the last two. If you have any interest, please contact Vickie Sanders. walknnature186@yahoo.com

Honors, Thanks and Appreciation To Phyllis Cardoza !!

Mountain Synagogue is blessed with many people who volunteer to handle the tasks at hand. One such person is Phyllis Cardoza who has been our Recording Secretary for untold years. She attends and records the minutes of all official synagogue meetings. (Monthly Board meetings, Safety, By-Laws, Special Meetings, and so forth). It's a tough time-consuming job which then necessitates setting apart the irrelevant from the important, recording the passed motions, then accurately reporting and preserving what matters for our history. Phyllis has decided to step aside and take a well deserved break but promises she will remain as an active Board member and remain on our Safety Team Committee.

President Joel Edelson has appointed Bobbi Serra to the position of Recording Secretary which was ratified by the Board, and we sincerely thank her for stepping up to this very important position. Once more, MS is so fortunate to have such a qualified member ready, willing and able to assume this role! Our thanks and appreciation to Bobbi!

secure our congregants and members as we start the process of meeting together, in person, and resuming the togetherness we are all missing. Please feel good in knowing that Mountain Synagogue and the Board of Directors will continue to do what we can to provide the safest and most enjoyable worship environment that we can.

So my message this month is simple: Let's take a moment to try to walk in the other person's shoes, especially if they walk in a different direction! Let's try to understand why they feel the way they do, why they choose the things they believe, but know that respecting each other's choices makes us ultimately, stronger.

B'shalom,
Joel Edelson
President

Joel

**WWW.MOUNTAINSYNAGOGUEWNC.COM | CALL: 828-634-1312 |
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