



MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Mailing Address: PO Box 504, Franklin, NC 28744
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MAY 2023



Our Tree of Life

Leaves are now available at \$54 each (three times Chai) and large stones (only 11 available) that will be mounted at the base are \$500 each, engraving included. Contact us for details:

mountainsynagogue@gmail.com

NEXT SHABBAT SERVICE

Saturday, May 20th at 10:00am

Services are held on the third Saturday of each month both in-person and on Zoom.

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



Yosi Knight
Our Spiritual Leader

Please watch your email and our website for notices regarding dates and times of services, which will be conducted both in-person and live online via Zoom.

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

2. **Mi Shebeirach – (Prayers for the ill)**

David Lieberman
Ann Ferman
Wendy Newman
Jim Fierberg
Tom Geirhart
Barbara Dardick
Richie Aaron
Edith Finegold
Alan Eskovitz

3. **Yahrzeit Donations** (Received by the 15th of the previous month):

Bobbi + Mike Serra for Bobbi's Father, Robert Whittemore

4. **General Donations**

William D. Smith
Bonnie Posner
Gary + Donna Sinrich in memory of
Lesley Hughes and Marshall Greenman
Norma Schulman in memory of
Leo Katz and Marshall Greenman

5. **Member Celebrations This Month**

Birthdays:

Mark Rabinowitz
Terri Baer
John Rall
Ann Marie Kantor

Anniversaries:

None

6. **Tree Of Life Leaf Purchases**

Leaves are \$54, and Stones are \$500 each.
[Our Tree of Life is for celebrations, family or personal events of note, not memorials].

Joel + Laurie Edelson purchased two leaves, in honor of their Granddaughters Leah Schott & Hannah Schott

7. **Memorial Plaques**

Memorial plaques which placed in our social hall are \$50 per name for an engraved, permanent remembrance.

Joan and George Berman for Marshall Greenman

8. **New Members**

None

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joel Edelson
President

Shalom, y'all, and Shalom, Spring!

Our small Mountain Synagogue community has been busy, and I believe, feeling very connected. Connected for those that have joined us in worship and fellowship, and hopefully, via Zoom.

We had a wonderful Passover Seder, led by Yosi Knight, followed by an interesting Shabbat service the following Saturday morning. All that attended found it meaningful and though provoking.

In preparing for our upcoming Board meeting, I read a D'var Torah by Cantor David Fair on Reimagining Reform Kashrut and other Jewish laws. In other words, how we interpret some, and not others in quite the same way. As a small congregation here in the mountains, people ask us from time to time to explain about the different denominations within Judaism, and how we interpret the laws of the bible. For example, "Do Reform Jews keep kosher?"

We know the Torah is a historical document, and we base our lives on the values, messages and stories outlined in our sacred history, but we don't use it as a how-to guide for every day. Laws that worked thousands of years ago don't always apply to the modern world. We have to be able to say "This law, in its literal form, does not apply to our modern lives. This other law does." We learn to adapt.

So, we have to learn to discern "What is God trying to tell us here?" The concept of interpreting God's law is nothing new. The Talmud is full of stories of the Rabbi's arguing over every law in the Torah. It's part of what makes Judaism so unique as a religion.

So, as we, as a congregation interpret and evolve, we learn and hopefully grow, together. So it is that our Shabbat schedule will continue to be once a month on the third Saturday of the month, unless we need to adapt.

I pray we continue to connect and enjoy the times we do come together, both at worship services as well as our social gathering at dinners and other community events.

B'shalom

Joel Edelson
President
Mountain Synagogue

WITH PROFOUND SADNESS

Our condolences and prayers of sympathy go forth for the Cardozza family and friends, as we have learned that our former Board member, Phyllis Cardozza has passed after suffering from a long illness.

Shabbat and High Holiday Prayer Books

As we continue to have services in-person and on Zoom, having your own prayer books at home is important to follow along. **Our Mishkan t'Filah prayer books are available for \$40 each. Our new High Holiday Mahzor's are available for \$40 each.** These are very important to have, if you attend services online.

Shipping is \$15.00 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. Contact Bobbi Serra at ms.treasurer79@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR ASSISTANT

We are looking for a member who would like to assist with our monthly newsletter preparation. Please contact Harvey Morse at harvey@probate.com for details.

SAFETY TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

We are continually seeking additional members to join our synagogue Safety Team. Approved members will receive appropriate training and will be covered by our insurance policy. If you are interested in serving, please contact our Safety Director at: harvey@probate.com

OUR SYNAGOGUE WEBSITE

www.MountainSynagogueWNC.com

SPECIAL PROGRAM

ANTISEMITISM: WHAT IS IT? HOW IS IT CHANGING? WHAT CAN YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY DO?

WEDNESDAY MAY 10TH AND WEDNESDAY MAY 24TH STARTING AT 7:00PM ON ZOOM

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED VIA THIS LINK:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctd--trj8iGdL_PuzKMq2Xq-Nrmj9PennC#/registration

ATTENTION MEMBERS FROM THE HIGHLANDS!

We are discussing a special Torah event to be held in your area. Please let us know if you would be interested in attending as we can only do this with a nice turnout. Email Norma Schulman: normaschulman5@gmail.com

OUR PASSOVER SEDER

We had a wonderful turnout! Services were led by Yosi, our Spiritual Leader. A special thanks to Norma Schulman for always doing such a wonderful job managing and preparing our food events!

SUCCESSFUL CPR EVENT

We are proud to announce that we currently have seven members who have successfully completed the CPR, AED and Stop the Bleed Training. We urge everyone who may have an interest to take this lifesaving course when it is next offered.

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