



MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Mailing Address: PO Box 504, Franklin, NC 28744
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Website: www.MountainSynagogueWNC.com
Phone: (828) 634-1312

SEPTEMBER 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Shabbat Services in-person and on Zoom
Friday, September 2nd, 7:00pm & Saturday, September 17th
10:00am

HIGH HOLIDAYS

Rosh Hashanah – September 25th, 7:00pm
September 26th, 10:00am
Kol Nidre October 4th 7:00pm
Yom Kippur October 5th, 10:00am
Break-The-Fast October 5th, about 5:30pm

RSVP by September 26th to normaschulman5@gmail.com

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



OUR TREE OF LIFE

A place to honor and celebrate life's great events!
(This is not for memorials)

Contact Bobbi Serra for details at: ms.treasurer79@gmail.com



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 (828) 631-0000
2. All Friday evening services will begin at 7:00pm and all Saturday morning services will start at 10:00am.
3. If anyone is interested in joining a discussion group regarding Judaism or the world that Jewish people live in today, please contact Mike Serra at: serrafamily73@comcast.net
4. **Mi Shebeirach – (Prayers for the ill)**
(Send additions or deletions to harvey@probate.com)

Rhoda Haber
Howard Fuhrman
Phyllis Cardoza
Wendy Newman
Cathy Kelly
Mike and Deb Arnold

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. walknnature186@yahoo.com
6. **Recent Yahrzeit Donations**
Deb Arnold for Aunt, Ester Sperling
Deb Arnold for Father, Milton Slavkin
Harvey Morse for Grandmother, Anna Altshuler
Norma Schulman for Stepfather, Samuel Epstein
Norma Schulman for Mother-in-law, Lillian Schulman
7. **General Donations**
David Newman for prayers for his wife, Wendy Shayna Sinrich
William Smith
Rothkopf Greenberg Family Trust
Helene Prokesch in honor of Vickie Sanders
8. **August Member Celebrations**
Birthdays:
Joan Berman, Dan Strohl, Maury Burstein
Barbara Meltzer, and Dylan Lunsik
Anniversaries:
Charles and Lorna Beck
Mike and Bobbi Serra
9. **Tree Of Life Leaf - Celebrations**
None this month

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. [Our Tree of Life is reserved for celebrations, family or personal events of note, but not for memorials].

Joel Edelson, President

You Don't Attend Synagogue, You Are the Synagogue

The main reason I gather at the synagogue is *because I am* the synagogue. You don't *attend* synagogue. You *are* the synagogue. It takes a verb, a little action "to be".

Merely attending synagogue doesn't make you much of a synagogue because sitting in the back row "consuming" synagogue doesn't make you very good at "being" the synagogue.

I think being the synagogue has something to do with living your life in an intentional manner. A spiritual manner, by reading and learning torah, serving others, performing tzedakah, and associating and praying with fellow Jews. That's very different than consuming synagogue in a back row, which you can just as easily do on your back deck, or via Zoom.

The reason you would go to become the synagogue today is that you've moved from being a "consumer" to a "contributor". You don't just go to "be served", you go "to serve". Our members that are most engaged get the most out of their synagogue because they are "doing" for our synagogue. There's something deeply spiritual about that. (Go ahead, check it out.)

And before many might say that they can do whatever they need to do as a Jew in the world without other Jews or, without the synagogue - here are a couple of reasons I would disagree.

First, gathering together was God's idea, not ours. The Lord made an everlasting covenant with Abraham that was renewed with Isaac and with Jacob and his children. God promised that the Israelites would be His covenant people *as long* as they would obey His commandments. The Lord promised that His covenant people would someday be gathered: "I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries whither I have driven them."

Second, if we wait until we need the synagogue to attend, it may not be there when we most need it. Think about that. ("Sorry, you will have to go to Asheville.")

So, you are the synagogue. Remember that, please. And the synagogue is at its best, when we engage together, and with each other.

But that also means we live in an age where attending synagogue for attendance's sake is dying. Fast.

And maybe that's what we see happening around us. People who aren't attending, aren't engaging in the synagogue, and are leaving.

And while that's sad, you can't build the future of the synagogue on passionless, disengaged people. Nor can you build it on consumers, on disengaged members attending only via Zoom. We build it on people who *are* the synagogue.

Karen Katz purchased a plaque for Samuel Sami

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 \$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). Contact ms.treasurer79@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

We are asking **ALL MEMBERS** to provide us with their address, emails, month of birth and anniversary and phones for our upcoming printed directory. Please notify Norma Schulman at normaschulman5@gmail.com

We will also be selling ads, Holiday Greetings, Memorials Messages, Thank you's, Family Notices, Business ads, announcements and so forth, for the publication, which is printed every two years.

Business card size is \$50, a half-page is \$100 and a full page is \$200. Our directories are printed every two years, so your ads and messages will be available for all to see.

HIGH HOLIDAY FOOD DONATIONS

Please consider bringing a paper bag with non-perishable food (no glass) such as pasta, fruits and veggies, soups, peanut butter, baby food, diapers, household and personal items to synagogue by Yom Kippur. Thank you for your help with this Mitzvah!

OUR SYNAGOGUE WEBSITE

www.MountainSynagogueWNC.com

The future will be built on our fellow Jews who want to learn, want to serve, want to share, and want to engage with each other, in the shared vision that Moses brought down all those years ago. At you, the synagogue. Or, not.

If we do not start increasing attendance in-person and online, the next service you may be attending might not be in Macon County! Are you with us??

B'shalom,

Joel Edelson
President

CEMETERY PLOTS

Mountain Synagogue has sold the last of the cemetery plots which it has held for years. The good news is that we have been informed that there is another section that is available to us, adjacent to the current plots. For us to secure those lots, we must make a substantial investment of funds, as they cannot be held without our purchasing them. We are of course very willing to make the purchase, but only if there is an interest from our members or the Jewish community.

If you think that you might have a need to have access to a plot in the Jewish section, please let us know as quickly as you can, before they are taken by a non-Jewish entity, by contacting Vickie Sanders. walknature186@yahoo.com

SAFETY TEAM

We have an urgent need for some additional members for our synagogue safety team, especially as the High Holidays are approaching. Approved members are covered under our synagogue's insurance policy. If you are interested in serving which includes training such as sher/Greeters, AED, CPR, Stop the Bleed, use of pepperspray and possibly concealed carry, please contact Harvey Morse, our Safety Director at: harvey@probate.com or (828) 631-0000

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS JEWISH AND IS IN NEED OF EDUCATIONAL FUNDING?

Contact

Jewish Educational Loan Fund
6065 Roswell Rd, Ste. 740
Sandy Springs, GA 30328
770-396-3080 | application@jelf.org