



# MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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**JUNE 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](mailto:mountainsynagogue@gmail.com)

## **NEXT SHABBAT SERVICE**

**Saturday, June 17th 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](mailto: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 Escovitz

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

Harvey Morse for his mother, Rita Morse  
Louis Oaken for his father, Marvin Oaken  
Andrea & Howard Slutsky for mother, Fran Slutsky  
Dr. David Snyder for his father, Abraham Snyder  
Harvey Morse for sister, Vivian Morse

4. **General Donations**

Deb & Mike Arnold in memory of Leo Katz  
Lee Berger in memory of Phyllis Cardoza  
Harvey Morse in memory of Phyllis Cardoza  
Joel & Laurie Edelson in memory of Leo Katz and Marshall Greenman  
Gary & Donna Sinrich in memory of Marshall Greenman  
Karen Katz for the love of her husband, Leo Katz  
Ronald Shnider in honor of Bar Mitzvah of grandson Asher Van Beber

5. **Member Celebrations This Month**

**Birthdays:**

Zev Haselkorn, Donna Sinrich, Norma Schulman, Nancy Altman, Barry Altman, Marilyn Mower, Phyllis Lunsik, Steven Kantor, Andrea Slutsky

**Anniversaries:**

Stuart and Sandra Weston

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].

7. **Memorial Plaques**

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

Dr. David & Marcia Snyder purchased 4 plaques, one for each of their parents: Walter Green, C. Linda (Spishakoff), Abraham Snyder, and Sylvia (Berger) Snyder

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joel Edelson  
President

June 2023

Shalom y'all, I hope summer has arrived on your doorstep with warmth and health as we turn our attention to our own surroundings, and we can see that the events of our community, country and economy are looming not too well (can you say Debt Ceiling?), one needs to also turn our thoughts to Israel.

Now if you know me, I am probably the least political person you will find, but that does not mean we should not pay attention to what is happening, both here and abroad. One should follow and pay attention, to the best of our abilities, especially to the political turmoil going on inside Israel. I say "turmoil", as that is the title of the article written by Ron Kampeas, and I will share parts of it with you now, from the Jewish Telegraph Agency ( JTA). The article is dated March 28th, 2023. I hope you find this of interest and please do look up the entire article to take in the full context of its message. The title of the article is "A chaotic response to Israel's turmoil reveals a fraught new dilemma for Jewish legacy organizations".

Washington (JTA) - Major Jewish organizations that hoped to send a unified message about the turmoil in Israel yesterday instead found themselves tussling, partly in the public eye, about what exactly they wanted to say.

Should they praise the massive anti-government protests that have taken shape in recent months? Should they criticize Israel's sitting government? What, if anything, should they endorse as a next step in the ongoing crisis?

Five large Jewish organizations - all known for their vocal pro-Israel advocacy - began Monday afternoon trying to answer those questions in a unified voice that sent a positive message: praise for a decision to pause the government's divisive judicial overhaul.

Instead, in a somewhat messy process that unfolded over the course of the afternoon, they ended up sending out a number of different statements that contrasted the subtle yet telling ways. The scramble to publish a statement reflecting consensus - and the resulting impression that consensus was lacking - was a reflection of how Israel's politics have created a rift in the US Jewish establishment.

For decades, large American Jewish groups have publicly supported Israel's foreign policy, and mostly stayed quiet on its domestic conflicts. Now, a domestic policy issue threatens to tear apart Israel has compelled at least some of them to do two unusual things: opine on Israel's internal affairs, and publicly chide the government that, in their view, is responsible for the crisis.

"For a long time, any criticism of Israel, even criticism of very difficult policies, was thought to be disloyal and couldn't be spoken out of love," said rabbi Rick Jacobs, the president of the Union for Reform Judaism, which was not a signatory to the statement but is a constituent of the group that organized it. "I think we now understand that there's plenty of legitimate criticism and activism that comes from that very place."

## 8. New Members This Month

None

### Shabbat and High Holiday Prayer Books and for those who attend services with us online

As we continue to have services in-person and online via 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.**

Shipping is \$15.00 for either one or two books. If interested, please send your name, address and which book(s) you want, together with payment to Mountain Synagogue, PO Box 504, Franklin, NC 28744. Contact Bobbi Serra at [ms.treasurer79@gmail.com](mailto:ms.treasurer79@gmail.com)

### HAVE A COMPUTER? DO YOU ENJOY WRITING? USE MICROSOFT WORD?

We are looking for a member who would like to assist with our monthly newsletter. Please contact Harvey Morse at [harvey@probate.com](mailto: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](mailto:harvey@probate.com)

### OUR SYNAGOGUE WEBSITE

[www.MountainSynagogueWNC.com](http://www.MountainSynagogueWNC.com)

### JUNE SOCIAL EVENT! GOTTA EAT!!

Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm there will be a MS member's dinner at:  
Asian King Chinese Buffet & Sushi  
109 Commons Drive, Franklin  
(It is in the Walmart Shopping Center next to the Dollar Store)

[George Berman, Social Committee]

The five groups that began composing the statement together were the Jewish Federations of North America, the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. All have historically been seen as a centrist, pro-Israel and representative of the American Jewish establishment, speaking for American Jews in international forums and in meetings with elected officials. All have annual budgets in the 10s of millions of dollars, if not more.

Any vocal criticism from those groups has largely been limited to Israel's treatment of non-Orthodox Jews. Because most American Jews are themselves not Orthodox, American Jewish groups have felt more comfortable advocating for policies that, they believed, will allow more of their constituents to feel welcome in the Jewish state.

But events this year have prompted the groups to speak out on another Israeli domestic issue: the judicial overhaul being pushed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which aim to sap the Israeli Supreme Court of much of its power and independence. The court has, in the past, defended the rights of vulnerable populations in Israel such as women, the non-Orthodox, Arabs and the LGBTQ community.

"The recognition that what happens in Israel, the policies of the Israeli government and the broader range of issues in this particular case - on judicial reform, the perception of Israel as a vibrant democracy for all of its citizens - that perception has a significant impact on American Jewish life and American Jewish engagement", said Gil Preuss, CEO of Washington, DC's Jewish Federation.

The article continues eloquently pointing out the differences between the major Jewish organizations that were there trying to craft a unified message, but it was a very daunting task indeed. The article is well worth the read and does a good job of bringing to light the difficult task of leadership in general, from an organizational as well as a political perspective.

I hope you take the time to read the full article.

B'shalom  
Joel

### 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 turnout commensurate with the effort. Email Norma Schulman: [normaschulman5@gmail.com](mailto:normaschulman5@gmail.com)

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