

**February 2019**

**Shevat 26, 5779 – Adar-I 23, 5779**

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**RABBI JUDY’S MESSAGE**

**Educating and Building Community**

Last week, our congregation held its third annual Taste of Judaism class at the Temple. Twenty-six people attended. There is much interest from our neighbors in learning more about what we believe and how we celebrate. I gave them an overview of Jewish beliefs, history, culture, holidays, life cycle and Israel. Many thanks to Sandra Blate who was there to show-off our Museum and Archives. She also made yummy challah for all to enjoy. And, Mike Rhymes made a delicious gingerbread. Thanks, Mike! Also, thanks are due to D’vorah Palmer who told the group about our beautiful aron hakodesh (holy ark) and Board Member, Deb Roa. And, Shirley…thank you. You always go above and beyond. You are very much appreciated.

The class was enjoyed by all. There were many questions and I do feel we have cultivated some new friends who will return to the Temple for future events.

As a result of the Taste of Judaism classes we offer, there are a number of people in the community who want to learn more leading to their conversion to Judaism. I am beginning a formal conversion class which will last about a year where students will study with me in person and online to learn more about being Jewish, what we believe, how to observe holidays and customs, more about our history and culture and how they can be embraced by our warm community here in Monroe. We currently have 8 people in the class!

We are doing much in our community at large to educate. And, we also offer ways to build community within our own congregation. One of those ways is with our annual Kallah – congregational retreat. I think everyone who attended last year

**Rabbi Judy’s Message con’t**

will agree that it was a fun time where we got to know each other better and we were able to truly feel the warmth and beauty of Shabbat peace and rest.

This year, our Kallah is the weekend of April 5-7 at the Wesley Center in Woodworth, LA. This is a beautiful retreat center where we can relax, enjoy nature and bond as a Jewish community over Shabbat. The weekend begins in the late afternoon Friday with Shabbat services and dinner, followed by a discussion with the Rabbi. Saturday, we have breakfast and morning Shabbat services followed by a Kiddush lunch. The afternoon will be filled with a choice of activities including zip-line, making tie dye prayer cloths (which will also be our Tikkun Olam project for the weekend), chair yoga, mandala meditation, labyrinth experience, study sessions, fun activities especially for the families or you can just rest or walk the beautiful trails at the Wesley Center. We will also enjoy team building mixers and games to get to know each other better, and celebrate our 150th year as a congregation. Saturday night, we say goodbye to the Sabbath with a Havdalah service followed by a bonfire with s’mores and campfire songs. Sunday morning, after breakfast, we will gather for a group picture and a final activity before saying goodbye.

I do hope that everyone who is able will join us for this very special weekend. Registration forms are at the Temple or you can register online at [www.123formbuilder.com/form-3083642/event-registration-form](http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-3083642/event-registration-form). You do need to register by the beginning of March at the latest.

If you are unable to attend, perhaps you would consider making a donation to the Kallah fund so that we can offer scholarships to congregants who need help in order to attend. You can drop donations off at the Temple office. If you need scholarship help to attend, please get in touch with me.

This year, we are happy to have Jill Epstein as our advisor for the Kallah. Jill lives in Maryland and worked closely with Rabbi Barb on the Kallah Project. GayNell, Susan Marx and I have really enjoyed working with her. This Kallah is going to have something for everyone and will certainly bring our congregation closer together in this our 150th year.

I will see you in Monroe on the weekend of February 15-16.

Rabbi Judy

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**SERVICE SCHEDULE**

February 1st Kash Schriefer

February 8th Bob Eisenstadt

February 15th Rabbi Judy

February 22nd Bill Levinson

 Lay leaders are subject to change.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Thank you to Rabbi Judy for another successful Taste of Judaism class. We had great attendance (26), hard-working help, and wonderful feedback.

The annual meeting is a ways off (tentatively Sunday May 12th) but we are looking for Temple members interested in being on the Temple Board. Bill Levinson is the nominating committee chair. Please contact him at levinsonbill@aol.com or 322-7823 with your suggestions.

We are also looking for a new Ritual and Worship chair as Gay Nell and I will be out of town a lot next year. If you would like to volunteer or have a suggestion please contact me at abarthla@gmail.com or 547-4319.

Don’t forget the registration deadline for the Kallah is coming up. Don’t miss out on this fun and educational weekend.

Alan Barth, President

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Edward and Penny Hakim February 14th 34 years

Carl and Donna Aron February 18th 51 years

Dominic and Jo Agbasi February 22nd 49 years

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Jonathan Allen (7 yrs) – February 1st Rebecca Allen (7yrs) – February 1st

Abraham Hakim – February 3rd Kelsey Laudenheimer – February 3rd

Yvonne Stephan – February 4th Jimmie Laudenheimer – February 5th

Dvorah Palmer – February 11th Betsy Laudenheimer – February 12th

Jeffrey Laudenheimer – February 22nd Sondra Pratt – February 22nd

Annie Richardson – February 22nd Janet Brueck – February 24th

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**Sisterhood Valentine Luncheon**

Tuesday, February 5th at 11:30 a.m.

Bayou DeSiard Country Club/ Fireside Room

Please email blaudenheimer@comcast.net or call Betsy at 325-8358 by noon on Thursday, January 31stfor reservations.

\*If you are not a member of the country club, you must pay by credit card. Neither cash nor checks are accepted.

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**YAHRZEIT**

**FEBRUARY 8TH**

 Beatrice Gorn Bella S. Davidson

 Cele Marcovitz Edgar May Norman Fleisher M. L. Gill 2-9

 Hyman Boxerbaum Jane Seligman Meyer

 Saul Adler Flora Miriam Bernheim

 Eli Dante 1-25 Henry A. Heller

 Carlie Rose Marcus Stanley Marcus

 Freida Wilenzick

**FEBRUARY 15TH**

 Lilo Brueck 5-17 Herman Strauss

 Johanna Strauss Joseph Berkelhamer

 Rose Carlie Esther Snyder 4-19

 Joe Marx

**FEBRUARY 22ND**

Charles Chernow Betty Marshall

Abraham S. Hakim 6-1 Elsye Heninger 3-23

Louis Lowentritt, Jr. 3-6 Louis Tolchinsky

Faye Weinberg Abe Blotner

Arthur William Rose, Jr. Fred Strauss

Lillie Gerson Florence Renaud

**FEBRUARY 28TH**

 Herman Blotner Bertie Liner May

 Leo Lowentritt 3-11 Annie Perlstein 2-15

 Shirley Haas Snyder Lee W. Strauss

 Marie Sugar Stewart Doernberg

The numbers following a name is the location of their plaque on the Memorial Board in the Foyer. The first number represents the column. The second number represents the position in the column. The lights on both sides of the plaque are light during the week of their Yahrzeit. If you would like to have your loved one remembered with a bronze plaque on the memorial board, order forms are available at the Temple.

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**MEN’S CLUB**

The Men’s Club has planned a Kosher Hot Dog Sale for later this year. Stay tuned for all the details.

**Next meeting is Sunday, March 10th, at 10 am.**

Alan Barth, President

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**NEW ART AT THE TEMPLE**

We hope you have had an opportunity to enjoy the new art piece in front of the Temple. It was designed by Doyle Jeter, Artist-in-Residence at ULM, with the fabrication donated by Sol’s Pipe and Steel, for our 150th Anniversary. It is beautiful at night, when it is lit. Just take a look. Since this picture was taken, a new brighter light has been installed.



**Happy 150th Anniversary – Temple B’Nai Israel**

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**DONATIONS**

**Archives/Museum Fund**

 John Gilcrease

**Music Fund**

**In honor of Janet Russell**

John Gilcrease

**Library Fund**

Cooley House Foundation

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**KALLAH UPDATE**

We have new and different activities for all ages planned for the April Kallah. Anyone who would like to join in designing this Kallah, please feel free to contact the Rabbi. All are welcome!

We hope you will pick up the registration forms at the Temple. You may also register online or call Shirley for details. Here is the link to register on line:

 [www.123formbuilder.com/form-3083642/event-registration-form](http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-3083642/event-registration-form)

If you would like to attend and need financial assistance, please contact Rabbi Judy.

If anyone would again like to donate (even if you don’t attend) to help pay for scholarships and activities, it would greatly be appreciated. You can send a check to the office marked “Kallah donation” or you can make your donation online using a credit card on our website. The donate button is on the bottom left on the home page.

Looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the Kallah!!!

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**RITUAL AND WORSHIP**

I want to thank everyone who helped make the Taste of Judaism class a success, including Sandra Blate and Mike Rhymes for provided refreshments, Dvorah Palmer for helping with tour of the sanctuary and serving food, Mark Albritton for helping with registration and clean-up, and Rachel Allen and Deb Roa for helping with security. We had 26 participants, with lots of positive feedback after the class. Many are eagerly awaiting future upcoming events and attending a weekly service.

Speaking of upcoming events, Rabbi Judy won’t be with us in March, but we will have a visiting Rabbi from the ISJL. The Rabbi visit coincides with Purim. Details are still being confirmed. Look for more information in the March newsletter. And don’t forget the Kallah coming up in April. We are planning a wonderful event with activities for everyone. Come join in the worship, fun and relaxation in a beautiful outdoor setting. Get re-acquainted with old friends and make some new friends. Registration ends March 1st, so get your registration in. Registration forms are available at the office or you can register online at [www.123formbuilder.com/form-3083642/event-registration-form](http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-3083642/event-registration-form).

I appreciate Mike Rhymes, Bob Eisenstadt, and Deb Roa for leading services in January.

Gay Nell Barth, Chair

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**BRONZE PLAQUES AVAILABLE FOR SALE**

There is space available for bronze plaques on the Yahrzeit Board in the front foyer. The plaques include the name of your loved one and their Yahrzeit date in both the Gregorian date and the Jewish date. The lights on both sides of their plaque are turned on the week of the Yahrzeit. This is a wonderful way to remember your loved ones. The cost of each plaque is $250.00. Contact the office for more information and to place your order.

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**MUSEUM/ARCHIVES NEWS**

An educational experience, yummy treats and interactions with the attendees describes “The Taste of Judaism” class. If you like gingerbread cake, you missed enjoying Mike Rhymes’ tasty treat. Thank you to the Men’s Club for providing drinks, to Dvorah Palmer and Deb Roa for acting as docents and to Mark Albritton for his help. I had the opportunity to interact with a gentleman from Columbia who worked at Seligman’s with Mr. Hans Kern, one of our congregants who passed away many years ago. Not only did the two gentlemen work together, they also enjoyed many fishing adventures. When he spoke of Mr. Kern, it was as though he was rekindling both memories and kinship.

Several other participants recently discovered their Jewish past revealed by DNA tests. One of Judaism’s new challenges is meeting this group’s needs. Many DNA tests are showing that some of our ancestors passed through the Iberian Peninsula before settling in other parts of Europe. I have located a website, SephardicGen.com, which covers all the countries where Sephardic Jews have resided.

Have you ever wanted to write an article and have it published? Here is your opportunity. The Southern Jewish Historical Society publishes four newsletters a year entitled The Rambler. If you are interested in writing an article for The Rambler, we would like to submit articles, including pictures, involving the museum displays that were funded by 2 grants received from them. The first articles will be 200 words. Polish up your writing skills and get published. For more information, contact Sandra Blate at sblate@att.net or 322-1149.

Planning a trip to New York City? The Museum of Jewish Heritage has a new Holocaust exhibit, ***Auschwitz***. ***Not long ago. Not far away.*** For more information, check their website at info@mjhnyc.org.

The Holocaust Essay and Poetry Contest 2019 will soon be here. In order to combat hatred, people must be exposed to what they don’t know or understand. Our liturgy tells us that we are obligated to be “a light unto the nations”. This project fulfills that command. Children from the local schools will be submitting entries in both the essay and the poetry categories related to the Holocaust and competing for prizes. Their entries will judged by local Monroe scholars. The awards will be presented at Rabbi Judy’s May 10th service. The winning entries will be read as part of the service.  **To complete this project, we are in need of $1,000 in funds**. Your monetary support would be greatly appreciated.

**Museum/Archives News con’t**

If you would like to read a wonderful article about a two state country in Israel, check out Rabbi Ric Jacobs article on the reformjudaism.org website. Interesting!

Sandra Blate, Administrative Coordinator

Precious Legacy Archives/Museum

**Tidbit of the Month –** What do Monroe and Northeast Louisiana have in common with the Springhill Temple in Mobile? Their Temple is 175 years old and our first permanent settlement of Jews in Monroe is 175 years old.

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**MOVIE NIGHT**

Mike Rhymes has offered to organize a Jewish movie afternoon or night during the fall and winter. It would be a fun way to get together and enjoy an activity together. If you are interested, please contact Mike or Shirley at the office so we can get started. Let us know your preferred day of the week; whether you want food and drink; do you want to do it at Temple, etc.

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**COMMUNITY SEDER**

Mark your calendars! The Community Seder is on April 19th. Chef Pat Nolan will once again be catering the Seder. The menu choices are brisket, chicken or vegetarian. The prices will be set shortly and will be announced in the weekly emails and at Friday services. Please let your friends and family know about the Seder. It is open to everyone- Jew and non-Jew. Reservations are required because this is a catered event. You and your friends can start making your reservations now.

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