

**March 2021**

**Adar 17, 5781 – Nissan 18, 5781**

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**RABBI JUDY’S MESSAGE**

Believe it or not, it is almost time for Pesach (Passover). Pesach, like all the Jewish holidays this year, comes early on our American calendar. The first Seder is Saturday, March 27. Our congregation will be offering a virtual Zoom Seder on Saturday, March 27 for all who wish to attend.

On Pesach, we remember being slaves in Egypt where we were restricted and had no freedoms. After 10 horrible plagues, Pharaoh finally allowed us to leave and journey to a place of promise and hope. The Talmud states, "In every generation we are obligated to view ourselves as though we (personally) came out of Egypt.” On this Pesach, perhaps more than any other Pesach in our lifetime, we know first-hand what it must have felt like for our ancestors to have restrictions and then have the faith and hope to journey to freedom and a better life.

The restrictive nature of the times in which are living are a daily reminder of this Passover story. We are isolated, longing for community. We are fearful of what lies ahead. But, we go forward with faith and hope that there will be better days ahead.

It is not enough just to remember this Exodus story. This is one of the reasons we have a Passover Seder each year. The Seder allows us to re-tell the story. When we read the Haggadah and go through the various rituals of the Seder, we are doing much more than just remembering something that happened long ago. We are re-living the story of our ancestors. We are re-enacting our story of how we became a Jewish people – a Jewish community.

**Rabbi Judy’s Message Continued**

Sometimes we have to experience restriction and then redemption in order to be grateful and not take anything in life for granted. Our world has been dark. But, I think we are truly beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel. COVID case numbers are decreasing, more people are getting vaccinated. If we continue on this positive path, we will surely be able to gather safely again in the not too distant future. We can all look forward to that bright day.

In the words of the brilliant scholar, Art Green: “Pleasure is greatest when raised up out of darkness.” May we all embrace the Passover story and move ahead into the light that is the hope and joy to come.

Rabbi Judy

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**SERVICE SCHEDULE**

March 5th Bob Eisenstadt (via Zoom)

March 12th  Bob Eisenstadt (via Zoom)

March 19th Deb Roa

March 26th Rabbi Judy (via Zoom)

Services will be held in person at the Temple, as well as live streamed through our website, [www.bayoujews.org](http://www.bayoujews.org), unless otherwise noted.

Safety protocols will be in place for in person services.

Lay leaders are subject to change.

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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

I hope everyone survived the recent snow/ice storms with little inconvenience or damage. If you need any assistance, please contact the Temple at let us know of your needs.

Our Purim Shpiel was great fun. Everyone involved did a great job. I hope you enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed presenting it to you.

Rabbi Judy will be holding a virtual Seder on March 27th. I hope you can join us on Zoom to celebrate Passover.

Alan Barth, President

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Ron & Sara Israel March 17th 36 years

Alice & Leonard Baize March 31st 27 years

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Joseph Dante – March 14th Jeanne Marcovitz – March 14th Heather Dickinson – March 17th Louis Moore – March 27th

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I see **Janet Russell**, our former soloist, on a regular basis. Several members have asked me how she is doing. She is house-bound and so doesn’t get to see or talk to people very often. She talks about the people at the Temple as her friends and that she misses everyone. She would love a phone call from you. If you would like to call her, her phone number is 318-537-3297. If she doesn’t immediately answer, call right back. It may take her 3-4 calls for her to reach her phone. She does not know how to access her voicemail, so there is no need to leave her a message.

Shirley

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**YAHRZEIT**

**MARCH 5TH**

 Florence Renaud Doris Goettinger

 Pauline B. Schendle Abe Fishman

 Caroline Wiener Smith

**MARCH 12TH**

Carrie Flexmin 2-12 Annie Perlstein 2-15

Marie Sugar 5-7 Yetta Boxerbaum

Rita Fleisher Louis Greenberg 1-16

Roslyn Perlstein Haas 4-6 Irmgard Cahn Fisher 6-7

Dr. Mortimer Raphael 4-14 Ida Adler Rosenberg 2-10

**MARCH 19TH**

 Scherck Bogan 4-5 Ferdinand Krauss

 Rose Lowe Richard Raphael

 Bernie Wilenzick Sadie Masterson

 Gladys Dante James Stephan

 Carol Raphael 4-13 Johnice Hirsch Weinstein

 Adolph Baer

**MARCH 26TH**

 Jack Masur Jake Carlie

 Bernard Freiberg Beatrice Masur

 Selma Tolchinsky Sophie Kaplan

 Thelma Renaud Mary Ann (Mimi) Cahn 6-10

 Daniel Leibowitz Jennie Struass

 Fannie Berkelhamer 3-25 Hans Kern 5-22

 Isaac Sackman Marx Carrie Baer

**Yahrzeit continued**

**MARCH 31ST**

 Morris Barton Alan Sugar

 William Weinberg Alvin Bodan

 Ann S. Cohn Eugene Haas

 Sidney David Aron Jack Rubin

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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**RITUAL AND WORSHIP**

It is exciting to have some of our newest members participate in our services. Chris Colbert and Allison Dalton joined me in leading the service in February and Massie Willett sang the Mi Shebeirach for us. As they become comfortable with the services, they will become full lay leaders.

Massie will continue to sing the Mi Shebeirach at our services. As she learns other music, she will start including them.

I would also like the thank Bob Eisenstadt, who has been doing a great job leading services on Zoom from South Carolina and Marleen Norman from California for singing at Bob’s Zoom services. Marleen is a native of Alexandria and a friend of Rabbi Judy and Bill Levinson. It was great to have people from the East Coast, the West Coast, and Massie in Louisiana all predicating in the same service.

Thank you to Deb Roa for leading services and adjusting to a last minute change from live service to service on Zoom due to our ice storms. You did a great job.

Rabbi Judy put together a special Purim speil. I want thank everyone who participated for hard work.

 Mike Rhymes, Chair

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**KEEPING THE RABBI INFORMED**

Due to HIPPA and other privacy policies, it is difficult for me, as your Rabbi, to know if you are ill or in need of support or prayers. Many people in our congregation are on the Mi Sheberach list – our list of people who are in need of healing. But, there are others who have been ill or are currently ill and I know nothing about it.

I am a Rabbi and not a psychic. I want to be there for you if you need prayers or support. I also know that some people want to keep things to themselves. Please know that anything you share with me is always kept in the strictest confidence.

I would appreciate hearing from you if you are not well. Let me know if the information is for me alone or if you want your name or your loved ones name on our Mi Sheberach list. By the same token, if you have placed your name or someone else’s name on the Mi Sheberach list, let us know when to take that name off the list.

We are also going to be updating and purging the current Mi Sheberach list. **Please call Shirley at the Temple or email her if you want to be on the list at this time or have another name to place on the list.** Even if you are already on the list, call or email to let Shirley know you wish for your name to stay there. We appreciate your help with this “housekeeping” item.

If you need me, I am here for you. You can contact me by email: judy@rabbijudymusic.com, or by phone (318) 442-8863 or text (318) 792-6416. Stay safe and well.

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**VIRTUAL PASSOVER SEDER**

Passover begins this year on Saturday, March 27 with the first Seder. Our congregational Board has selected to have a virtual 1st Seder via Zoom on this first night beginning at 6 pm. Rabbi Judy will lead the Seder and families are encouraged to put together a Seder plate and Seder meal and join as a virtual community. You must pre-register for the Seder so that we can send you a link to join. If you have relatives or friends who wish to join us, please let Shirley know and she will register them to attend.

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**DONATIONS**

**IN MEMORY OF PAUL ARON**

**General Fund**

Carol Super Gold Phillip Roby

Edgar & Barbara Newstadt Jean Mintz

Morris & Melinda Mintz

**Archives Fund**

Ron & Sandra Blate

**Endowment Fund**

Don & Pam Laudenheimer

**Cemetery Fund**

Doug & Karen Walters

**IN MEMORY OF MRS. KAY FRANCES HANCOCK, MOTHER OF SHARON HAKIM**

**Archives Fund**

Ron & Sandra Blate

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**STAN SHLOSMAN COLLECTION**

Because Stan Shlosman was a member of Temple B’nai Israel, the Ouachita Public Library contacted me so I could let our congregants know that the ***Stan Shlosman Reveille Seven Collection*** is now available on the Louisiana Digital Library. The collection includes clippings, letters, photographs, and photocopies that belonged to Stanley Donald Shlosman, one of the Reveille Seven, who were expelled from Louisiana State University over censorship of the student newspaper by Huey Long. If you are interested in viewing this collection you can access it using this link: <https://louisianadigitallibrary.org/islandora/object/oplib-sds%3Acollection>.

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**TORAH STUDY**

Because Passover begins Saturday, March 27 and we will be doing an online Seder that evening at 6 pm, Rabbi Judy is moving the date and time of her monthly Torah Study to **Sunday, March 28 at 1 pm** on Zoom.  Anyone is welcome to attend.  You must pre-register so that we can send you the Zoom link ahead of time.  The topic for March will be **Adding New Insights and Meaning to the Passover Seder**.  Through Torah and other Jewish writings, we will learn more about the holiday of Pesach.



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**INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM CLASS**

Rabbi Judy will be offering an online **Introduction to Judaism** Class on **Saturday, April 17** from **1-4 pm**. This will be an overview of Jewish history, Torah, Holidays, Life Cycle Events, Worship, Customs, etc. The class will end with a Question and Answer session. This class is **free and open to all**. You must register in advance in order to receive the Zoom link and the class handout (which will be sent prior to the class). You can register by emailing 1868temple@gmail.com or calling Shirley at the Temple at (318) 387-0730.

If you know anyone who is curious about Judaism, in an interfaith relationship or maybe thinking about converting to Judaism, this class is for them. Please feel free to share this information with friends and others you know. Because it is online, they do not have to be local to participate.

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**LIMMUDFEST 2021**

Tickets - $36

LimmundFest is a celebration of Jewish life and learning in all its forms.

LimmundFest NOLA 2021 will be held virtually on Sunday March 14th with opening ceremonies at 11:30 am and sessions running from 12 – 4:30 pm. We are turning the spotlight this year on the uniqueness of Jewish life, tradition, and expression in New Orleans, greater Louisiana, and throughout the Gulf Coast.

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**NORTH LOUISIANA JEWISH FEDERATION**

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| **THU, MAR 4, 2021 - "This is Hunger" with Mazon** |
| FREE |
| **"This is Hunger" is a powerful, immersive digital video experience that explores who struggles with hunger in America and why.**"Until we recognize the profound prevalence of hunger here at home, we will never rally the political will to end it. From that core belief, 'This Is Hunger' was born." (Mazon)Join us as we learn what hunger and food insecurity actually looks like in America, in Louisiana, and in Shreveport. We'll discuss what we can do right here to help our community fight this tragic reality.**\*Registration is Required**This program is Free, and all donations made through the registration form will go directly to the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana. |
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| [**Register Today**](https://jewishnla.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=58f8fcb6abdbfcb93ee316827&id=3f895e3ec4&e=84ef8d8dfa) |

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**MUSEUM/ARCHIVES**

The paper mill and all of the subsidary industries are gone, but the town of Bastrop still holds a fascination for a recent history graduate from ULM.  His main interest is Bastrop of the 19th century.  He will shortly come to the archives to learn about that era of the city.  Like Monroe the Jewish community contributed much to the success and growth of the town.  This is just another example of the importance of our Precious Legacy Archives/Museum.

The Museum Directors of Monroe will soon return to opening our building to at least some form of touring.

Work on the baseball display is progressing, as is our video tour of the temple.  Music representing each holiday and section is being added.  Rabbi Judy is providing the music that will be used in the video.

Challenge yourself to a new exciting experience!

Happy Purim

Sandra Blate 318-322-1149 sblate@att.net

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