

**June 2021**

**Sivan 21, 5781 – Tammuz 20, 5781**

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**RABBI JUDY’S MESSAGE**

It was so nice to see so many of you in May at my first Shabbat back in Monroe in over a year. Thanks so much to Bill Levinson and Sandra Blate for the lovely and safe *oneg.* I will be with you again the weekend of June 18-19. We will hold services in the Sanctuary at 6 pm on June 18th and Torah Study in the Social Hall on June 19th at 10:30 am.

We have decided (since we have very few tots and the children in our congregation are getting older now), to rename “Tot” Shabbat - Shabbat *Mishpocha*, which means Family Shabbat. Every Saturday that I am in town, we will host a *Shabbat Mishpocha* at 9 am. This will include a Family Shabbat Service, a fun activity and an oneg. *Shabbat Mishpocha* is open to all families with children under B’Mitzvah age. We will be using new Family Prayer books that were donated by the Sisterhood. Our children will grow up learning about the worship service so that by the time they may choose to have a B’Mitzvah, they will have lots of knowledge of Hebrew, prayers and customs. Of course, anyone else in the congregation is welcome to join us for this Saturday morning family service.

I will be offering another Introduction to Judaism class on Zoom Saturday, June 12 at 1 pm. Several people are interested in conversion and I always recommend they take this class before making a final decision. This will the last opportunity to take this class this year before we begin our next conversion class. So, if you know someone who wants to know more about Judaism, please have them pre-register for the class with Shirley so she can send them the Zoom link to attend.

**Rabbi Judy’s Message Continued**

I also want to let you know about two wonderful “museum” events in our state that you should not miss. At our very own Biedenharn Museum there is an incredible Chagall exhibit. It features approximately 40 lithographs by Chagall that depict Bible stories beginning with creation, Adam and Eve and including Jeremiah, Daniel, Abraham, Ruth and even Esther. The exhibit will be there through this year and I am trying to set up a special tour/reception for us in the Fall where I will give commentary on many of the works of art as they relate to our Jewish heritage.

And, if you are in New Orleans, do not miss the newly opened Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience. It is near the WWII Museum and houses more than 4,000 Judaic artifacts in its collection. I was thrilled to be able to take a virtual tour of this Museum a few months ago. I invite you to visit their website at <https://msje.org/> for more information. They are open six days a week from 10 am – 5 pm and closed on Tuesdays. Perhaps, we could try to schedule a field trip there in the future. Anybody want to help me put this together??

We continue to pray for peace in our world, particularly in Israel. May we all remember to treat others as we want to be treated and may we continue to show kindness and compassion to our neighbors and our community.

I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks. Everyone stay well. If you would like to schedule an appointment with me, please be in touch before I arrive so I can set aside time for us to talk. As always feel free to contact me as needed by phone, email or text.

Rabbi Judy

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**UPDATING THE TEMPLE DIRECTORY**

I am working on updating the Temple Directory. **Please review your current directory and let me know if there are any changes or corrections.**

Shirley

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**SERVICE SCHEDULE**

June 4th Bob Eisenstadt (via Zoom)

June 11th  Deb Roa

June 18th Rabbi Judy

June 25th Mike Rhymes

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.

Lay leaders are subject to change.

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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

I am honored to be your new Board President and look forward to working with the Board members and the Congregation. I want to thank our outgoing President, Alan Barth, for all the hard work he has done over the last several years.

The latest CDC and Louisiana Department of Health recommendations are that fully vaccinated people may gather indoors without masks or social distancing. Those not fully vaccinated should still wear a mask and social distance. We have adopted these recommendations for those entering the Temple. For fully vaccinated people wearing a mask is optional. If you are not fully vaccinate, please respect others and wear a mask.

Our Annual Meeting was well attended. Despite the pandemic, we were able to maintain and make improvements at the Temple and cemetery.

We have so much to offer our community. Let’s look at ideas that expose them to our history and Jewish faith. You are welcome to call me at any time with question or recommendations about anything regarding the Temple or the cemetery.

 Gay Nell Barth, President 

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**NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees and officers elected at the Annual Meeting are:

Gay Nell Barth, President Michal Hakim, Member

Chris Colbert, Vice President Ron Israel, Member

Kelsey Laudenheimer, Treasurer Mike Rhymes, Member

Alan Barth, Men’s Club President

Betsy Laudenheimer, Sisterhood President

Thank you Bill Levinson for you years of dedicated service on the Board of Trustees.

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Chris & Susan Colbert June 6th 29 years

Annie & Peter Richardson June 7th 36 years

Morris & Melinda Mintz June 12th 44 years

Heather & Christopher Dickinson June 12th 17 years

Deb & John Roa June 14th 35 years

Don & Pam Laudenheimer June 25th 44 years

Karen & Doug Walters June 30th 38 years

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Deb Roa – June 10th Jay Marx – June 13th

Grant Goza – June 16th Lily Dickinson – June 22nd (10 years)

 

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**YAHRZEIT**

**JUNE 4TH**

Louis Marcovitz Leslie Leibowitz 5-5

Hyman Levine Joe Rosenberg 5-21

Carol Tolchinsky

**JUNE 11TH**

Rose Cohen 4-16 Sydney Erlanger

Mack Kittay Jacob Gerson

**JUNE 18TH**

Simeon K. Heninger 3-22 Harold Renaud

Bernard Schwelling Patricia Kaplan Sugar

M. Leiber Kahn Zelina Lilian Moss

Louis Blotner Ralph Raphael 1-19

Courtney Kenney Shirley Stein

**JUNE 25TH**

Elmer Marshall Polly Shlosman 3-24

Evelyn Lerner 4-10 Dr. David Weinstein

Joan King 5-8 Carl Rosenthal

Ethel Fried Lois Saber 3-8

Novie Kern

**JUNE 30TH**

Sam Botko David Marx

Sidonie Haas

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 was great to see Rabbi Judy at the Temple in May. We appreciate her inspiring message. Thank you goes to Bill Levinson for hosting the Oneg after the service. I hope everyone had a chance to visit with the Rabbi while she was here. She will continue to have her monthly visits to Monroe.

All of our Shabbat services will now be in person at the Temple and simultaneously live streamed. There will be an exception for when Bob Eisenstadt graciously agrees to conduct the service from South Carolina when we don’t have lay leaders available in Monroe. Those services will be on Zoom.

We are continuing to work with the new lay leaders and are looking forward to them conducting services by themselves. I appreciate Deb Roa for leading services at the Temple and working with our new lay leaders as they start to participate more in our services. We are excited to have Massie Willett provide the music for services. It is great to have some of our newest members becoming active in our services.

Mike Rhymes, Chair

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**INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM CLASS ENCORE**

Several people were not able to attend the recent Introduction to Judaism class we offered and so we will offer it once again for those who are interested. It will be on Zoom on **Saturday, June 12 at 1 pm CST** and will last at least two hours with time for questions at the end. If you, or someone you know are interested in attending, please be in touch with Shirley for the link. You MUST register in advance for this class with Shirley.

This will be the last class offered before we start our next Conversion Class. Please let Rabbi Judy know if you are interested in the Conversion Classes by emailing her at [judy@rabbijudymusic.com](mailto:judy@rabbijudymusic.com). It is recommended that you attend the Introduction to Judaism class before enrolling in Conversion classes.

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**TORAH STUDY CONTINUES IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY**

Our Chai Mitzvah Torah Study will continue through the summer both in person at the Temple on Saturdays at 10:30 am when Rabbi Judy is in town and also online for those who are not in Monroe who are joining us regularly. Our online group will meet on **Saturday, June 12 at 11 am** CST. Our in person group will meet on **Saturday, June 19 at 10:30 am** at the Temple.

Our topic for June is Judaism and the Environment. We study biblical and modern texts on the topic and have lots of lively discussion. All are welcome to join us. If you want to join online, please contact Shirley to get the link which will change each time we meet.

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**TOT SHABBAT BECOMES SHABBAT MISHPOCHA**

Since many of our “tots” are older now, we will be hosting *Shabbat Mishpocha* each Saturday morning when Rabbi Judy is in town. In Hebrew, *mishpocha* means “family.” This will give our families a chance to engage in a Shabbat service experience together that is age-appropriate and will include their participation. We will even be using a special prayer book that was donated by our Sisterhood. Each *Shabbat Mishpocha* will begin with a brief service in the sanctuary followed by a fun activity and an *oneg*. Children will be asked to participate as they are able so that by the time they reach B’Mitzvah age, they will have a good knowledge of Jewish worship, Hebrew and customs. All families in our Temple are welcome to attend as are any other congregants who prefer to attend a daytime Shabbat service. Our first *Shabbat* *Mishpocha* will be **Saturday, June 19 at 9 am** in the sanctuary. Please email Rabbi Judy at [judy@rabbijudymusic.com](mailto:judy@rabbijudymusic.com) to let her know if you will attend.

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**ARCHIVES/MUSEUM NEWS**

There is a saying,"It's a small Jewish world".  That saying came full circle for me when I attended a zoom program sponsored by the Southern Jewish Historical Society, Jewish Gen and the Bremen Museum of Atlanta. The gentleman from Atlanta showed an example of their online material. The example he gave was that of Rabbi Cohen who was the father of Ned Cohen.  Rabbi Cohen and his wife visited Monroe on several occasions.  The other familiar name was Dan Seligman of Shaw, MS. If anyone in our congregation knows anything about Dan Seligman, you can contact the historian at ISJL in Jackson or Jewish Gen.  Also on the program was Anna from ISJL museum in New Orleans.  Karen Franklin who spoke here years ago was on the program

Fill your life with sunshine,joy and laughter!

Happy Memorial Day!

Sandra Blate

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**NORTH LOUISIANA JEWISH FEDERATION**

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