

Congregation Ahavas Chesed

705 Regents Way • Mobile, AL 36609

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 850804 • Mobile, AL 36685

www.ahavaschesed.com

Telephone: 251/343-6010 • Fax: 251/343-6449

Steven L. Silberman, Rabbi Dr. Michael Cohen, President

July 2010 Tammuz & Av 5770 Vol. 32 #11

JULY 2010 CALENDAR OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Friday, July 2 – Services at 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 3 – Services at 9:30 a.m. with Family Shabbat at 11:30 p.m. followed by the July birthday dairy potluck luncheon. Bring your favorite dairy dish to share.

Sunday, July 4 – Happy 4th of July!

Monday, July 5 – NO Torah Study

The shul office is closed

Tuesday, July 6 – NO Discussion at 5:30 p.m. but there WILL be Minyan at 6:15 p.m.

Friday, July 9 – Services at 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 10 – Services at 9:30 a.m. followed by Kiddush luncheon. We finish the Book of Numbers! This only happens once in 3 years!

Monday, July 12 – NO Torah Study at noon in the shul library.

Tuesday, July 13 – NO Discussion, but there will be Minyan at 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, July 15 – Book discussion of Dan Senor's book, Start Up Nation, at noon in the shul library.

Friday, July 16 – Services at 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 17 – Services at 9:30 a.m. followed by Kiddush luncheon.

Monday, July 19 – Torah Study at noon in the shul library.

Tisha B'Av study session at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 20 – Special Tisha B'Av Mincha Service at 5:30 p.m. We will read Torah and we need you to make a Minyan.

Thursday, July 22 – Trialogue will be meeting at Byrne Memorial Hall on Springhill campus. We will meet at 7 p.m.

Friday, July 23 – Services at 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 24 – Services at 9:30 a.m. followed by Kiddush luncheon.

Monday, July 26 – Torah Study at noon in the shul library.

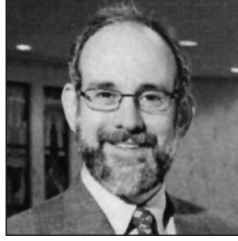
Tuesday, July 27 – Discussion at 5:30 p.m. followed by Minyan at 6:15 p.m.

Friday, July 30 – Services at 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 31 – Services at 9:30 a.m. followed by Kiddush luncheon.

FROM THE RABBI

Who would have thought going into Sam's Club would be a religious experience? I am not speaking of hefting a six pound bag of M & M's (although it was fun). While pushing the cart up and down the aisles a man came up to me and asked if I was Jewish. Replying "Yes," he rolled up his shirt-sleeve revealing a four inch long Star of David framed with the words "Defend Israel." I was speechless. He turned to me and said, "We are with you. We are with the Jews and we are with Israel." He happened to have very short hair and was muscular and so after I regained my composure I asked if he was in the Navy or Marines. It turns out that he is a flight instructor for Marine officers training to be helicopter pilots.



Rabbi Silberman

He repeatedly mentioned his Catholic upbringing and emphasized his parents' support of Israel. While attending the University of San Diego and later going on to join the Marines, he continued to express and maintain support of Israel and the Jewish People in spite of catching some guff. I thanked him and we parted ways. It was a religious experience! How often does somebody come up to you in the grocery store and express commitment of and support for the international Jewish community? In these times of war, terrorism and scandal we nearly never hear of strangers demonstrating commitment to something as esoteric as support of Israel. It almost sounds Biblical.

To be blunt, it is Biblical. In the book of Genesis as we are introduced to Abraham (who is known by the name of Abram) we are told by God that the nations of the world will be blessed through us. Long before Jeremiah becomes a bullfrog, he is a Jewish prophet. He, too, asserts loudly that the nations of the world will be blessed because of us.

It seems strange. We often hear criticism of Israel in the world press. Nearly daily, we hear criticism and rebuke of Israel within the hallowed halls of the United Nations. How are we Jews to understand these Biblical pronouncements which seem to be out of step with our reality?

What makes my confusion even greater is that frequently I receive phone calls, letters and emails from well-intentioned Christians who share with me their prayers for Israel. Occasionally, somebody even comes to the shul with the sole purpose

of entering the building to explain that he or she is supporting Israel (like my Marine flight instructor of Sam's Club).

To many Jews it is shocking that well-intentioned Christians pray for us. Some Jews find it incomprehensible that nations of the world will bless us or will "profess" to be blessed by us. Perhaps it is our long history. As a result of far too much antagonism and hostility to remember, we may be resigned to not being blessed by the nations of the world until we actually see it. After all, seeing is believing. Or perhaps, we become too jaded by war, terrorism and international diplomatic incidents and discount these Biblical promises as being utopian.

It is time for a new perspective. Do not wait for nations of the world to stand up, wave flags and whole-heartedly endorse you, me and every Jew throughout the world. Instead, think of your neighbors, your friends, your colleagues, and your co-workers who respect you and are concerned with you and your well-being. Let the people whom you know testify on your behalf! Furthermore, introduce yourself to other people who want to become acquainted with and understand Jewish people.

Time and again, I hear from people, "You are the first Jewish person I have ever met." It is a huge responsibility and also a privilege to introduce our People to potential friends in our world. (And we need all the friends we can get.)

On July 22, our next Triologue will be meeting at Byrne Memorial Hall on Springhill campus. We will meet at 7 p.m. The topic is "A Personal View of God" and I have been asked to speak on behalf of the Jewish voice. I am not saying that every non-Jew, non-Christian, non-Muslim will always be friendly with every Jew, Christian or Muslim. My recent newspaper article took a different tack. I am saying that we need to work together and become more proactive at making friends and understanding each other, even as we must be vigilant concerning Islamic fundamentalism and other genuine threats in our world. We also need to be open-eared to voices that are potentially friendly. I ask you to attend this meeting. I look forward to seeing you there. Who knows? There may come a time that when people say, "God bless you" it will not merely be as a response to hearing you and me sneeze.

L'Shalom,
Rabbi Steven Silberman

Monday, July 19, 7 p.m. Tisha B'Av Services

Our Temple has been destroyed. There shall never be another Temple like it. Our history may be over. I invite you to pray, reflect and study with me as we grapple with one of the strangest and most gripping days in our calendar.

We fast on Tisha B'Av – from Monday evening until Tuesday evening (sundown to sundown). On Tuesday, July 20 we have a special Mincha Service from 5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. We read Torah and need YOU for a Minyan!

Come and join us for the haunting melody of the Biblical scroll of **LAMENTATIONS**.

Yearbook Membership Form

If you have not yet returned your Sisterhood Membership Form and your check, please do so immediately. Sisterhood wants to have the new Yearbooks in your hands at the High Holidays. If you need a replacement or additional forms please contact Rita Whitlock at 665-1225.

July 8, 2010 is the absolute cut off date to return the form along with your check!!!!!!

Condolences to

Yetta Leigh and S. J. Ripps

On the loss of their sister,

Sarah Ripps Cooper

*May Her Memory
Be For A Blessing*

We want to thank everyone who made contributions to the shul in memory of Ryan. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and your generosity.

Helen and Stanley Small

AOL, MSN, Yahoo, Bellsouth, ATT, gmail – the list goes on and on!

I'm trying to be sure to have all of member's email addresses in the computer to make mass communications about shul or community happenings easier. If you have not received an email from me in the past but have an email address, please let me know at jamie@ahavaschesed.com.

Thanks for your help!

Jamie

From the MAJF's Shlichah, Gila Hashkes I came to teach but ended up learning...

Ten months ago I started this amazing journey, leaving back in Israel all I referred to as home, to come to Mobile, Alabama, with the pretentious aspiration to teach you a thing or two about Israel... Who knew?! Ten months later I'd be the one packing a sea of knowledge learned by each of you! Thanks to you, I've exceeded my original goals by far!

You should know, we Shlichim naturally discuss our communities with one another, what made me even further appreciate what an amazing community Mobile is! Energetic, warm and welcoming to anyone!

Observing your commitment to our community and to our Jewish traditions, inspired me greatly. I've been absorbing all your love for Israel; this made my love grow even stronger.

I want to thank each of you personally for being part of this great journey in my life, and for supporting MAJF that made this possible.

Hopefully this is not a Good bye but more of a L'hitraot- see you later!
Next year in Jerusalem!

X
Gila Hashkes

Excerpted from AIPAC's Middle East Spotlight Hizballah's Syrian Support

Since coming into office, the Obama administration has consistently shown that it is willing to engage with the regime in Damascus. Syrian President Bashar Assad has responded by strengthening his country's ties with Iran. "We need to further reinforce relations (with Iran) if the true objective is stability," Assad said as he welcomed Ahmadinejad to Damascus. "We do not want others to give us lessons on our region, our history."

Top American officials have also been increasingly outspoken about the role that Syria and Iran play in arming Hizballah. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recently noted that Hizballah "has far more rockets and missiles than most governments in the world."

President Obama has recognized the negative influence that Syria has in the Middle East. In May, Obama announced that he was renewing sanctions against Damascus. Syria's "continuing support for terrorist organizations and pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and missile programs, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy and economy of the United States," Obama said in a statement to Congress.

With Syria strengthening Hizballah along Israel's northern border, the people of Israel are sure to remain vigilant against Hizballah attacks for the foreseeable future. This problem is not going away. It's important that the United State continues to press Damascus to change its destructive behavior.

Contributions from thoughtful people...

Rabbi Tzedakah Fund

In Honor of Rabbi Silberman's 20th anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. Max Mutchnick, Drs. Barry and Lori Ripps, Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Ganoung

In Memory of Ryan Small by Mr. Michael Behr and Ms. Julie Trice

Ida Carol Maisel Garden Fund

In Honor of Rabbi Silberman's 20th anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. William Kahn

In Memory of grandmother, Anna Kramer by Mr. and Mrs. Les Kramer

In Memory of Leah Handwerger by Mrs. Yetta Leigh

Cemetery Fund

In Memory of Rosanne Ripps by Drs. Barry and Lori Ripps

In Memory of Bootsie Siegel by Mrs. Sandy Gurwitch

General Fund

In Honor of Cecily Brown's scholarship and acceptance at American Hebrew Academy by Drs. Barry and Lori Ripps

In loving Memory of mother, Doris Linnick by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Linnick, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Linnick and Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Linnick

Gan Shalom Preschool Fund

In Memory of Brian Malkove by Mrs. Freida Maisel

In Memory of Ryan Small by Mrs. Freida Maisel

In Memory of Murry Maisel by Mrs. Freida Maisel

Speedy Recovery to Harriette Sheridan by Mrs. Freida Maisel

We're Back!!!

Welcome to Sisterhood 2010! After a brief hiatus, the Sisterhood of Ahavas Chesed is back stronger than ever and ready to share some wonderful experiences with you!

First, we need to welcome all new Synagogue members and invite you to join our Sisterhood. Look in next month's bulletin for news of meetings and upcoming events. Hope to see you soon! Have a great summer!

Toshja Brown and Randi Sherman
Co-Presidents

Our friend, Gerry Darring, has published a book on the Holocaust. It is entitled **Christians, Jews and the Holocaust**, and is available at Amazon.com for \$13.95 or at Barnes&Nobel.com for \$12.95. Blessing of strength to Gerry for this sacred work.



Book Discussion

Dan Senor's **Start Up Nation** has been a part of Mobile life for the past couple of months. I hope you've read it. Come share your thoughts, Thursday, July 15 at noon in the shul library. See y'all there!



On July 10 we finish the book of Numbers! This only happens once every three years! Please join us on Shabbat morning and help us celebrate our concluding a volume of the Torah reading. We will all be strengthened by your attending this Service.

Torah Tidbits and Haftorah Highlights

by Rabbi Steven Silberman

(all page numbers refer to Etz Hayim)

July 3 – Pinchas – page 932-936

Which holiday is described on page 933 in Chapter 29, verse 1? How and why is this holiday observed in the 7th month?

Haftorah – page 968-971

Have you ever imagined God would speak directly to you? How would you feel? On page 969 Jeremiah encounters God. What is his response?

July 10 – Matot – Masei – page 957-967

This Torah reading has four related themes: entering the Promised Land and defining its border, land allocation for tribes and cities for Levy, laws against murder and laws of transfer of real estate. Do you see a pattern?

We finish Numbers! Yiiippppeee! Come to shul!

Haftorah – page 973-977

Can you imagine the nations of the world blessing themselves as a result of blessing us? What is Jeremiah saying?

July 17 – Devarim – page 995-998

On page 997, verse 12, Moses assigns land on the Jordanian side of the Jordan River to half of Manasse, and the tribes of Reuben and Gad. Why did they dwell outside of the Promised Land?

Haftorah – page 1000-1004

Isaiah opens his book by comparing the People of Israel to the people who lived in Sodom and Gamorrah (during the days of Abraham). What is the basis for this condemnation?

July 24 – Va'ethanan – page 1015-1031

THE TEN STATEMENTS! THE SH'MA! This Parsha is the source for these two major Jewish texts which changed the world and established our vitality! Come and hear the actual words!

Haftorah – page 1033-1036

This Haftorah speaks of the need for each one of us to comfort the other in times of loss and crisis.

July 31 – Ekev – page 1049-1054

What is the fundamental difference between Egypt and Israel? (Hint: page 1051 verse 10)

Haftorah – page 1056-1060

Have you ever felt that God has forgotten you? Perhaps Isaiah heard that worry from his own people. Is that one of the reasons for this Haftorah message?

Congratulations!!!

Mazel Tov to those celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in the month of July...

Birthdays

- 1 Michael Berson
Peter Susman
Mrs. Natalie Lichtenfeld
- 2 Joshua Friedman
- 3 Rebecca Maisel
- 4 Brenner Fishman
Mrs. Kim Olensky
Simcha Antar
- 6 Dr. Jay Bishko
- 7 Scott Friedman
Dr. Laurence Cibley
- 8 Ms. Connie Ferney
- 9 Mr. Sam Siegel
Mrs. Marjory Slavin
- 10 Louis Maisel
Jill Rubinger
Mr. Bert Baker
- 11 Mrs. Rita Whitlock
Mr. Barry Bukstein
Ashton Silverstein
- 12 Mr. Murray Golomb
Dr. Katy Webster
- 13 Dr. Ethan Fishman
Dr. Barry Ripps
- 15 Mrs. Miriam Tobin
- 16 Mr. Leslie Kramer
- 19 Mrs. Kim Mulholland
- 23 Michael Hill
- 25 Adam Weber
- 26 Dr. Adam Handwerker
- 27 Mr. Steven Sheridan
Dr. Jonathan Siegel
Mr. Robert Mulholland
- 29 Ms. Sande White
Mrs. Leslie Miller
- 30 Mrs. Norma Golomb
Mrs. Frances Silver
Mrs. Melinda Wertheim
Eve Wertheim
Mrs. Michelle Dobson Mallamud



Anniversaries

- 22 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Heagle

Yahrzeit

(* Denotes Memorial Plaque)

Schedule for 21-27 Tammuz

*To be commemorated on Friday and Saturday
July 2 & 3, 2010*

*Annie Buchman Stein	*Louis D. Friedland
Rose Stein	Louis Cohen
Hyman Rudnick	*Anna Gup
*Arthur Miller	*Myer Mitchell
*Hannah Grodsky	Lottie Perloff
George Topper	Paul Kravitz
Max Goldreich	*Tillie Redisch
*Harry Bernstein	Mollie Cohen
*Hyman Berger	

Schedule for 28 Tammuz – 5 Av

*To be commemorated on Friday and Saturday
July 9 & 10, 2010*

Malvern Cooper	*Isabell Brook
*Louis Kohn	*Ida G. Mutchnick
*Morris Sheridan	*Nathan Sobel
Ben Lubel	*Flora Gerhardt
*Annie O. Prince	Irving Reigrod

Schedule for 6-12 Av

*To be commemorated on Friday and Saturday
July 16 & 17, 2010*

Albert Jaet	*Robert Podolsky
*Zelda Perlman	*Alan Donald Ripp
Irwin Marcus	*Israel Goldberg
Morris Berkowitz	Max Rosner
Sidell Lichtenfeld	Helen Edelbaum
*Dr. William Gurwitch	Beatrice Kahn
*Bert Gurwitch	Harold Lampert
*Leo Berman	Rachel Cohen
*Sidney Rosner	Arnold Goldstein
*Moses A. Bear	

Schedule for 13-19 Av

*To be commemorated on Friday and Saturday
July 23 & 24, 2010*

*Sam Maisel	*Evelyn Jacoby
*Rose Gurwitch	Lawrence Siff
*Mendel Wallman	*Morris Laden
Florence Cohen	*Rebecca Loeb
*Jay Max Maisel	*Rose Kramer
Albert Reiner	Elizabeth Parker
*Kela Zarembo	

Schedule 20-26 Av

*To be commemorated on Friday and Saturday
July 30 & 31, 2010*

Benny Sternthal	*Paul Aaron Liebeskind
*Harry Homonoff	Janice Barr
*Noah Lipkin	Dora L. Stark
Henry Gutlow	*Marvin Olensky
*Adolph Rosner	Reni Bloch
*David Reiner	*Sarah Liebeskind
Phillip Caplan	*Belle W. Strensky
*Leila Simon	*Aaron Fishler
Jacob Novoselsky	*Harry Zarembo
*Anna Golomb	

(* Denotes Memorial Plaque)

We received the following letter from American Jewish World Service:

Dear Congregation Ahavas Chesed,

Thank you for your gift of \$500 to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund. I am moved that you decided to contribute your money to us, and inspired by your desire to make the world a better place.

As you may know, the Hebrew word commonly translated as “charity” – *tzedakah* – actually has a much deeper meaning. The word *tzedakah* comes from the word *tzedek*, which means justice and reflects the Jewish tradition’s view of right and wrong, fairness, and social responsibility. With your help, AJWS is acting on these views by helping people around the world. Thank you again for caring and for your generosity.

With warm wishes,
Ruth W. Messinger, President

Congregation Ahavas Chesed

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Bulletin Announcements

If you have a family lifecycle event (birth, engagement, wedding, graduation, etc.), an unveiling, hosting a Shabbat lunch, etc. that you would like to announce to the Congregation or invite them to attend, place an announcement in the Bulletin. Please contact Jamie no later than the 12th of the month in order for it to appear in the following month's Bulletin. You may phone her at 343-6010 or email her at jamie@ahavaschesed.com.

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Synagogue's New Mailing Address

As part of the reorganization of the shul office a post office box has been secured. Please note that the new mailing address for the shul is **P. O. Box 850804, Mobile, AL 36685**. This new address is for any mail directed to the shul, Rabbi Silberman, Gan Shalom Preschool or any other mail that would ordinarily be sent to the street address.

VISIT OUR SYNGOGUE WEBSITE

www.ahavaschesed.com

For the E-Bulletin, Announcements, Photos of recent events.