mitzvah goreret mitzvah
KINDNESS GROWS
TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER
Registration for the 2020-2021 school year is open! We will be following all relevant guidelines so that we can open with a safe space to learn, play and grow for our children, our families, and our teachers.

If you and your family are not yet part of our school or community, we invite you to visit, spend some time and see why our 5 Star Early Childhood Center is the place for your child to learn, play and grow (serving children 2yrs of age-kindergarten)

Contact:
Dale Sides Cooperman, M.A., ED.SPEC.
at ecc@ congregationalbert.org
or at (505) 883-1818
Shalom.

By the time you read this, July will be over. It has been a very eventful month.

• Our new Board met for the first time.
• Our High Holy Days planning is well under way.
• We have purchased a new visual Mishkan HaNefesh Visual T’filah for use in our services and High Holy Days.
• We had successful though small ECC Virtual Camps in June and July and are well into planning for the new ECC school year.
• Our Congregation Albert School of Jewish Studies (CASJS) has developed multiple options for the religious school reopening. To support these options, we have purchased a new curriculum from Shalom Learning which supports virtual learning.
• Our Administrative and Custodial staff have done a great job of getting the entire building touched up, deep cleaned, disinfected, and ready for all of us when we can finally return.
• Our fire alarm system has been brought up to code and is fully tested and functional throughout all parts of the building. The new system communicates directly with our alarm company (The Alarm Store [TAS]) and the first responders and should stand us in good stead to more than pass the annual fire alarm inspections for the ECC licensing each year.
• We have new LED lights being installed in the parking lots that will give us lower electricity usage while also providing substantially more light throughout our walkways and parking lots.
• We are in the process of removing the old shed and bushes at the cemetery where the homeless have been camping. This will also provide us with a set of new burial plots in the old section that will become available for purchase.
• We are also making some other security changes near term and longer term that will help keep our cemetery beautiful and welcoming to us while hopefully not being so welcoming and comfortable for the homeless.
• Our Rabbi Search Committee and their Advisory Committee have taken inputs from many meetings and surveys and are now working on finalizing the Rabbi job posting which will be posted by the end of August.
• Our Summary Judgment Hearing against Crystal was finally held. If you are like me, you thought we would get a judgment one way or the other at the hearing. But that is not the case. The Judge will give us her judgment soon based on the arguments provided at the hearing.

August will continue to be busy as the Rabbi Search Committee prepares to post our job for the new Rabbi and the clergy and staff prepare for the High Holy Days. In late August, we will enter the month of Elul. Annually we are exhorted to seek forgiveness from those we have wronged, and to forgive those who have wronged us. We have many changes that are coming to us as a community due to the Rabbi’s retirement, our finding a new Rabbi, the pandemic, and our ongoing recovery from the embezzlement and fraud.

In this time of significant change, I hope you will forgive me, my officers and Boards, all of my predecessors, the staff both current and past, our current clergy and education professionals as well as their predecessors, and each other. We must join together to support each other and the new future for Congregation Albert. We are 123 years old this year and we are focused on achieving new heights for all of us.

I hope you all stay safe and stay well.

Shalom.
Psalm 24 tells us that the earth and its fullness belongs to the Eternal; the world and all inhabitants. In other words God owns the land but we are the keepers. This time last year I was writing about the beauty of nature and the wonders I had seen on my summer vacation. This year has provided a very different summer experience. What remains is a grateful appreciation for the wonders of nature, especially those in my very own back yard.

We feel a need to understand the world around us, and we appreciate the mystery of creation. A sense of wonder is necessary to know we are part of something much larger than ourselves, something we may never fully be able to understand. Those mysteries make us keenly aware of the wonders, and yes, nature’s challenges that surround us today. We don’t need to have all the answers and yet instinctively we want all the answers.

The Hebrew month of Elul, the month preceding the High Holy Days, begins this year on August 21. We have an entire month to direct our attention to Cheshbon Hanefesh, reassessing our relationships with each other, with our world and with God. Actions make memories and this is when we set time apart and we set ourselves apart through personal reflection and action. We are mindful of this opportunity, to make choices about our relationship to the world, how we take action in a time of “distancing,” and what we do to create and share the benefits of spiritual growth.

Dr. Naomi Paget, an FBI Chaplain and Crisis Interventionist, part of the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress states “Spiritual care will provide emotional support during a time of great distress. Spirituality and religion may assist in making difficult decisions, maintaining a hopeful attitude during difficult circumstances, and providing a “safe” way to ventilate anger, despair, or sorrow. People facing challenging times seek meaning in chaos and comfort through spirituality and religion.”

As you reflect during Elul and throughout the Holy Days, allow yourself the opportunity for wonder along with your questions. Wonder in nature, wonder in people, wonder in yourself. Remember to share that wonder with others in whatever way may be provided.

A reminder; among the Jewish tradition’s most cherished values is the sanctity of human life. Saving one life is regarded as the equivalent of saving an entire world. Jewish tradition expresses its commitment to the importance of human life through laws related to the preservation and protection of life. This class of commandments is known as shmirat ha-nefesh; literally, protecting life. It comes from Deuteronomy 4:9 which teaches, “Be cautious with yourself and seriously guard your life.” I share this blessing for you to say whenever you put on a mask, which I hope you do anytime you leave your home. A blessing that reminds us of the sanctity of not only our own lives, but every life.

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheim, melech ha-olam, asher keed’shanu b’meeetzvotav, v’zeevanu al sh’meerat ha-nefesh.
Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has sanctified us with mitzvot and has commanded us about protecting life.

David joins me in wishing everyone a healthy, safe, sweet, and blessed New Year, and a Festival Season filled with joy.

B’shirah, (in song)
Cantor Barbara R. Finn, R.J.E.
The Green Team invites you to send us one of your favorite nature pictures. It can be a picture you took in your yard, in the neighborhood or on a hike. We will display them in the September issue of Ma Yesh as a kick-off to a storytelling project.

**Send your photos to Paula Donahue at stevedonahue@q.com.**

We continue to research efficient equipment for the synagogue for our eventual return and are still looking for interested congregants to help us broaden our mission to serve the larger community.

**If you are interested in joining the team, just call Paula Donahue at 266-3954 or Judy Smith at 249-3855.**

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**SHABBAT MORNING MEDITATION**

Since the pandemic we have been meeting via Zoom for Meditation Shabbat services. We send invitations with a Zoom link to people who are on our regular meditation list and include a copy of the service as an attachment. We now have a better Zoom account so we can visit before and after meditation and not run out of time. If you are interested, just send an email to stevedonahue@q.com so we can add you to the list.

We meet from 10:30 a.m. to approximately 11:10 a.m. once a month. The group meditates at the same time as Shabbat services, but ends before the Torah reading so that meditators may join with other worshippers for the 2nd half of traditional services if they wish. If you have questions call co-leaders Paula Schwartz and Paula Donahue.

**Here is the new schedule through August 2021:**

- 8/15 – Re’eh
- 9/28 – Yom Kippur
- 10/17 – B’reishit
- 11/21 – Toldot
- 12/19 – Miketz
- 1/16 – Va’eurah
- 2/20 -Trumah
- 3/20 – Vayikrah
- 4/17 – Tazria-Metzorah
- 5/22 – Naso
- 6/19 – Chukat
- 7/17 – Devarim/Hazon
- 8/21 – Ki Teitzei
Feeling Creative?

we are looking for arts or crafts that are suitable to be hung in our outdoor Sukkah!

If you can make something, we would appreciate it! Just call the office (505) 883-1818 to arrange to drop off your creations by the synagogue before September 25th.

Thanks- We can’t wait to see your creativity!

Congregation Albert School of Jewish Studies
Creating a kehillah kedoshah (spiritual learning community) for students and their families

Join us!
2020-2021/5781
www.congregationalbert.org

Classes Begin August 30
Welcoming students in preschool-10th grade

Congregation Albert will be following state & CDC guidelines to maintain a safe and secure learning environment either online or in-person

Values • Hebrew • Liturgy • Torah • Celebrations

For more information contact Education Director Rachel White Sternheim, M.A.Ed.
rachel@congregationalbert.org or call 505-883-1818
Thank you to all who attended the Bordertown Racism discussion with Ms. Gloria Grant. It was wonderful to see familiar faces from our congregation and to see other people that I did not know from our community. Also, a big thank you to Gordon Bronitsky for reaching out to our guest speaker to put her on the calendar. Ms. Grant gave an inspiring and insightful presentation on the racism that she has faced and witnessed in many of the “Border Towns”. Hearing about her experiences living in some of these places such as Window Rock, Farmington or Gallup, was very eye-opening. She also provided actionable steps that we, the Jewish community, could take to become better allies for our indigenous brethren. We were told to vote for candidates who championed equity for Native Americans, patronize businesses who treated all customers with dignity and respect and to educate ourselves on what the Native American experience is in the southwest.

Here is a list of the suggested reading regarding Bordertown Racism:

- Laughing Boy, Oliver La Farge 1930
- Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee, Dee Brown 1970
- In The Spirit of Crazy Horse, Peter Matthiessen 1983
- Where White Men Fear To Tread, Russell Means 1995
- The Killing of the Flower Moon, David Grann 2017
- Fools Crow, Thomas E. Mails 1990
- Cry, Sacred Ground, Anita Parlow 1988
- The Broken Circle, Rodney Barker 1992

There are some other guest speakers in the works as well as a possible, virtual Mitzvah Day. We would love to have your ideas and contributions. Please email us at SocialJusticeAtCA@groups.io for more information and for the August meeting date.

L’Shalom,

Lindsey Silverman

Thank you to everyone who participated in our focus group meetings over the past two months. We received fantastic input and suggestions, which will assist us in developing an accurate job description for what we are looking for in our next Rabbi. A special thank you to all the Advisory Group Leaders who lead most of these discussions and provided great feedback.

The next step in the process will be for the Rabbi Search Committee to develop the job posting and have it submitted prior to Labor Day. Most national rabbi searches get underway following the High Holidays, so we are on track with our initial timeline. Our plan is to conduct first round interviews in late Fall.

You will not hear much from us over the next few months, but please know we are working hard.

The Congregation Albert Cemetery is a green peaceful oasis for our beloved dead. Unfortunately, our cemetery and the surrounding Fairview Memorial Park has also been a haven for the homeless for a long time. Some homeless people took up residence in the block shed which houses the controls for the cemetery’s watering system. These people have used drugs and piled up garbage in the cemetery.

Members of the Cemetery Committee, along with Dale Atkinson, CA President, Joell Ackerman, CA Administrator, and Gila Yaniv on the Security Committee, met with Maggie Castillo, security consultant, at the cemetery on July 9. This is what the interior of the shed looked like that day, after two homeless people were asked to leave.

On July 23, contractors removed the shed and the concrete pad that it sat upon. In addition, aging junipers next to the shed, behind which garbage built up, were also removed. The area is being re-covered with sod and gravel. This area may be opened up for additional burial plots and a memorial stone holder sculpture.
KADDISH LIST

July 26 – August 1
5 Av—11 Av
Edward R. Appel
Margaret Arner
Maurice (Mosey) Banen
Irene Blum
Morris Braverman
Lawrence Deaktor
Sanford Fink
Max Goldenberg
Robert Gray
Yehiel Hayon
Anna Herre
Aaron Hershfield
Sanford Irving
"Sandy" Kahnfather
Paula Pesch
Karmiel*
Pauline Kaufmen
Seymour J. Lewison
Dan Masters
Jerry Masters
Morris Metz
Norman Reich
Ellen Sue Robbins
Samuel L. Rosen
Joseph Israel Shor
Rachel Simon
Gerald M. "Jerry"
Slavin
Samuel Spitz
Herman Steinberg
Victor Volaski
Freddie Walker

Robert Weil
Ella Wortzman
Lee Kalsman
Anne Levine
Natalie Lipman
Harriet Z. Miller
Norman Mugleston
George Pauk
Leon Potok
Evelyn Resler
Hugh H. Robison
Everardo Rodriguez
Sandy Shuster
Mildred Greenbaum
Taylor
Bruce Thompson
Leon Tilles
Rose Volaski
Roslyn Volaski
Rose Wechter
Carl David Weiner

August 2 – August 8
12 Av—18 Av
Charles Blumberg
Rose Bronstone
William Citrin
Jay Sidney Druxman
Samuel Friedland
Esther Galanter
Helen Galanter
Robert Gruen
Lynn Ackerman
Hirsch
Gordon Hootner
Louis Horowitz
Leonard Aaron
Jacobowitz
Florence Judd
Hilda Kaplan
Donald Kaufman
Sam Kesner
Martin I. Mondlick
Abe Naturus
Max Pomerantz
Howard Sander
Nathan Solkowitz
Charlotte Strauss
Stanley Sussman

Rosalia Myers
Feinstein
Phyllis Fliegel
Dena Friedman
Olga Ginsburg
Alvin Hartz
Purita Jabimiao
Jean Lafer
Ruth Kreiswirth
Lavin
Ethel Lehman
Irving Levine
Irving Lipman
Goldie Miller

Berman
Alburt Nathanson
Shirley Phillips
Cowan
Harry Pittleman
Harry Rosenmeyer
Rose Sarimento
Milton S. Seligman
Walter Singer
Fannie Solkowitz
Birdie Sternfeld
Marjorie A. Tingey
Avraham Volkin
Bettie Wartell
Barbara Yarmack

Yahrzeits, Tributes & Donations

In memory of David Rosen
In memory of Harry Schechter
In memory of Herman Steinberg
Sidney Steinberg
In memory of Jackie Maisel
Terry Haas
In memory of Marcia Lafer Cohen
Marilyn Lafer
In memory of Melvin Berg
Barbara Reich
In memory of Norman Reich
Barbara Reich
In memory of Samuel Friedland
Susanne Friedland
In memory of William Jansen
Sara C. Jensen
In memory of Barry Edward Lev
Robin Spalding
In memory of Anne & Sam Kesner
Byron Kesner

Cantor's Discretionary Fund
Brian Stewart
Interfaith General Fund
David & Cheri Wheelock
Goffe Memorial Garden Fund
In memory of Al Fedorovics
Alan & Elaine Weisman
In memory of Zelda Wasserman
Alan & Elaine Weisman

Security Fund
Ken & Kate Goldblum
Noel Pugach
For indoor cameras
Daniele C. Williams
Stuart & Rosalie Simon
Edie Blaurgund
Marilyn Lafer