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# June 2018



# The Menorah

#### Greetings from Rabbi Goldstein....

When Moses descended from Mount Sinai , we are told that rays of light emanated from his head, and that he was not aware of this. Like Moses, many human beings do not realize the light that shines from them, the influence they have on those around them. Every person, regardless of knowledge, wealth or stature in life exerts influence on others, illuminating in someway the lives of others. Each of us makes an impact wherever we stand. Each Individual leaves an enduring mark on those with whom we come in contact.

Even those who occupy positions of prominence make impressions on those around them in ways not anticipated. How many times can we think back to a book, or maybe just a quote in a book, that had a changing effect on our lives? A teacher in school may say something that they consider quite ordinary, and yet that remark may live with us for years.

It does not take much for anyone to make an impression. As Leo Buscaglia said, "we cannot underestimate the power of a single glance or encouraging word. A smile can make someone's day, and one small expression of caring has the potential to turn a life around. " A listening ear or a sincere compliment can be a gift of confidence and strength to someone, an act of Kindness to restore a person's faith and life. The most powerful impressions are generally those which were not planned.

Psychologist tell us that the most important influences exerted on children by their parents are those that are subtle and implicit. Contrary to what many parents hope, lasting influence is not generated by a parent who calls a child aside and has a heart to heart talk, or by parents who openly and deliberately tells the children what to do. The deepest influence is made not by specific lectures or preachings, but from the actions which comprise our daily lives and in words that are spoken almost unconsciously...the table talk, the way we speak to people over the telephone, the people we invite into our homes.

The same is true of the people we interact with on a daily basis. We will be judged more by actions than words. By consciously striving to become the sort of person we most admire we can help shape the spirits and minds of our community and our neighborhoods.

We need to remember that what was true in the case of Moses is true for each of us. Just as Moses did not know that beams of light came from his radiant face, we ordinary human beings do not recognize just how much light and influence radiates from each of us. All of us have an impact on those closest to us and the community of which we are a part.

If you wish Judaism to be a part of your family's future, you must make it a priority within your schedule. I invite you to join me for the programs, the services, and the classes which are being offered by Temple Emanuel. I hope that you become a more visible part of the temple community and help us grow toward the future.

B'Shalom Rabbi David Goldstein

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

Mah Jongg

Most Mondays 1 pm

Judaism Class

Wednesdays 7 pm

Eternal Light Rededication 6/20/2018

Shabbat Dinner

6/22/2018

Summer Jewish Film Festival

7/8,15,29, & 8/5

**Book Club** 

7/24/2018

Installation & Awards

7/27/2018

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Visit our website calendar & our Facebook page for

details on all events!

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

## from Lori Dougherty

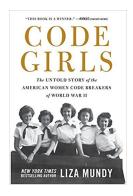
The school year has been successful. The children have learned as well as had a good time. We celebrated our last day and Mother's Day picking blueberries at Shady Oak farm. We are working on the calendar for next year and hopefully will start up again August 19th.



# **BOOK CLUB** from Jane Renz

Temple Emanuel's next Book Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 24 at 11 a.m. in the Education Building's Media Center, followed by an optional lunch out.

The book is available on Amazon in kindle, hardcover and paperback. Use this link to order: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0915228



Recruited by the U.S. Army and Navy from small towns and elite colleges, more than ten thousand women served as codebreakers during World War II. While their brothers and boyfriends took up arms, these women moved to Washington and learned the meticulous work of codebreaking. Their efforts shortened the war, saved countless lives, and gave them access to careers previously denied to them. A strict vow of secrecy nearly erased their efforts from history; now, through dazzling research and interviews with surviving code girls, bestselling author Liza Mundy brings to life this riveting and vital story of American courage, service, and scientific accomplishment.

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# TEMPLE EMANUEL PROUDLY PRESENTS... A SUMMER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



# OPTIONAL DINNER AT A LOCAL EATERY AFTER THE FILM

# ADMISSION = \$5 AT THE DOOR

~~~SUNDAYS AT 4 PM~~~

JULY 8: "BERNSTEIN-LARGER THAN LIFE"

JULY 15: "DOUGH"

JULY 29: "G.I. JEWS: Jewish Americans in World

War II"

**AUGUST 5: "SNOW IN AUGUST"** 

Details on our Facebook Page and Website

www.facebook.com/TempleEmanuelLakeland

## "Graduation"

#### About the Archives by Cat. Eskin

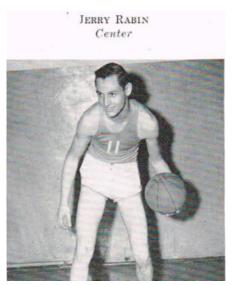
I know that part of my interest in this topic is selfish (see Nachos Notes), but I also know that we have had many proud graduation moments here in Lakeland. I cannot hope to mention all of our illustrious graduates, but I will try to mention a few to remind us of our past, our present, and, of course, our future.



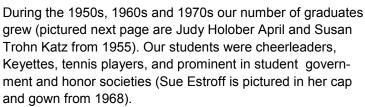
Our first Lakeland High School graduate may surprise you; she isn't a Wolfson! Sarah Schneider Safer, class of 1926, moved to Florida with her family when she was in 5th grade, living first in Bowling Green, then in Mulberry, and in the fall of 1923, Lakeland. Her family were merchants and she and her brothers (Nat, Bernard and Morris Schneider) were all students at Lakeland (Morris graduated in 1930). According to her typescript memoir, Sarah "brought a near perfect record to Lakeland High School. They (officials) decided to lower my grades on the permanent record card. They couldn't believe that I deserved them. When I was named

the valedictorian of the 1926 class—the principal told me and then they changed my grades" (at left you can see her yearbook photo). Sarah was a lifetime educator, retiring from Dade County Schools in 1975.

All four of the Wolfson children (Jack, Herbert, Wilfred & Irene) graduated from Lakeland High (1931, 1932, 1934, and 1943, respectively). Unable to join the social fraternities because they were "restricted," the boys joined the Classical and Science clubs. All of the kids graduated with distinction, though the boys—Jack, Herb and Willy—alternated their attendance at UF because of the Depression. Herb gave up his spot at UF in 1934 so that his younger brother Willy could attend and become a pharmacist. Herb was never able to resume his studies. Irene, breaking with tradition, attended the University of Texas at Austin (she is pictured in the driveway of her home on Success Avenue).



Gerald "Jerry" Rabin graduated mid-year in 1947; a star basketball player (see yearbook photo), he continued his enthusiasm for sports at UF. His younger brother, Leonard (shown on right), was featured in the "superlatives" of the yearbook three years later (1950).







# "Graduation" Continued....

About the Archives by Cat. Eskin



As the city of Lakeland has grown, many of our students were among the first graduating classes at George Jenkins High School (Amy Wlodawski Morris) and early graduates at charter and magnate schools (Lauren Miller Rogen graduated from Harrison).

According to a 2012 study, teens who are religiously affiliated are 40% more likely to graduate

from high school and 70% more likely to attend college than their non-affiliated counterparts. Jewish (and Mormon) students are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college period. We should also note, since so many of our Temple kids attend the University of Florida, that UF is consistently the public university with the largest number of Jewish students in the nation (almost 20% of the student body is Jewish). And we can be proud of how our graduates excel in their studies, graduating with honors and going on to graduate programs, professional schools (like law and medicine), and distinguished careers.





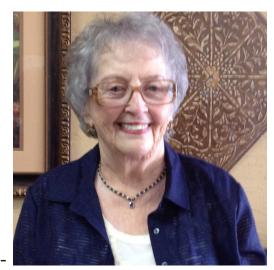
As with many smaller communities in the South, Temple Emanuel often watches its progeny leave town after high school graduation and ultimately settle elsewhere in the world. Our job, as parents, is to make ourselves obsolete, to make our children independent and successful. By any measure, Temple Emanuel can be proud of our ability to deliver on our responsibilities. We can also be proud of both the intellectual and spiritual achievements of our graduates, of their commitment to the traditions of education and Judaism. (Tilly Barickman, about 6 months, dreaming of her college career.)

Please join us for <u>The Rededication of our Sanctuary Eternal Light</u> by Marilyn Signer, Robert McCann and Mona Signer.

Wednesday, June 20, 2018 @ 7:30 p.m. in the Signer Board Room, Temple Emanuel

Reception to follow in Berkovitz Hall

Kindly RSVP by June 18th so we can have an accurate number of people to plan for: http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-3798694/Event-Registration-Form



As always, contact the office with any questions at 863-682-8616 or by email: office@templeemauellakeland.com

\*\*\*\*\* This month we introduce a new feature to help us all learn more about each other. We will be asking you to participate in the months and years to come so feel free to let us know who you would like to read about. Maybe you would like to be interviewed or perhaps conduct an interview of someone else. We have questions to help guide the conversation and we are happy to write it up for you! This month we are fortunate to hear from Floyd Stern. We will tease you here with just the beginning of his story. To read the rest, you will need to follow the link to our website! \*\*\*\*\*\*

# Getting to Know Floyd Stern....

# Tell us about your family:

I was born in Chicago, IL, but I grew up in Miami Beach, FL. My family moved to Florida when I was entering seventh grade. We moved on the recommendation of my Dad's cardiologist. Dad had rheumatic valvular heart disease, a complication of acute rheumatic fever from his early childhood. I at-



tended Junior and Senior High School in Miami Beach, the city I call my hometown. It was a great place to be and live in the late 1950's. I have many wonderful friends from that period of my life.

My parents were Maxine Kaplan Stern and Danny Stern. I believe I "won the parent lottery." They were nurturing, supportive, and open-minded people who gave their children the belief that they could achieve everything in life that they set their mind to. They made many sacrifices for their children.

My mother was a woman who had great people skills and was the life of the party. She could swear "like a sailor," but most people thought she had developed it

to an art form. She was open-minded about everything...sex, racial relations, etc. There wasn't a prejudiced bone in her body.

My father was quieter and more intellectual, widely read. Friends and business associates would frequently solicit his views on varying subjects, personal problems, business problems, etc.

I have one brother George, 6 1/2 years younger than me. George was the resident genius of the family, learned to read, self-taught by the age of 3, and learned bridge when he was 11 years old, by watching people play. As a child, he believed adults (including teachers) were just larger people. This caused him a lot of problems, and my parents, particularly my mother, a lot of aggravation.

I liked my grandparents but they didn't have a profound effect on me. My maternal grandfather George Kaplan was an artist, a painter, and actually supported his family that way. His wife, Jeanette Vision, was a classical bubba, superstitious, and a beauty queen, but I don't know much about her, really. My paternal grandparents were Max and Dora. Max was the son the son of a Moscow butcher who immigrated to the US at age 3. He became a businessman, manufacturing novelty art, mostly Christian art that my father built and took to a new level. His wife Dora, was from Lithuania. I don't know much about her, really. Initially, they didn't approve of my mother, but she straightened them out, fast.

# Floyd's Story Con't....

Maybe the most impressive of my extended family was my Dad's older brother Eddie. He was a very successful bookmaker who owned a boat and a home in Palm Island, Miami Beach before the age of 30. He had no children of his own, but he lavished me with gifts, including a dog. He loved dogs and children.

I had a very happy childhood, but I had a problem...I was a terrible stutterer. This problem dominated my life until maybe the middle of high school. But I was an excellent student and a good athlete, so these things compensated.

My years in Miami Beach were wonderful. I went to Nautilus Junior High and Miami Beach Senior High. Although it was a public high school, it was perhaps like what a good IB School is now. The demographic was unusual, 95% of the students were Jewish. 95% of the graduating class went to college at a time when 35% nationally attended college. The kids were clamoring to get into extracurricular activities to build up their college resumes. In spite of the fact that there was a lot of competition, most of the kids got along really well. I made some great friends in high school that I am friendly with and involved with to this very day.

A story: When I went to college, I met many other guys, mainly from the South. They were talking about hunting and fishing. They quickly realized that I knew nothing about hunting and just a little about fishing. When they asked, "What did the guys in Miami Beach do for fun," I replied, "When we got to be 16, we got fake matching ID, took Cha Cha and Mambo lessons, and went to the clubs." It was hunting, just a different type.

We had high school fraternities and sororities that were "off campus", but "Beach High" administration approved them. The local YMHA sponsored these clubs. My fraternity was called Keystone. Several of my best friends, to this day, were in Keystone. We raised money one year to go for a "house party" in Havana. Imagine a group of high school boys in Havana. You will have to use your imagination, because I won't tell you anything that happened. CONTINUE reading at: <a href="https://templeemanuellakeland.com/member-profiles/">https://templeemanuellakeland.com/member-profiles/</a>

Here are a few pictures of what we collected on our recent Food Drive.

Thank you to all who participated! Food was donated to VISTE.





#### **NACHOS NOTES**



Mazel tov to Tilly Barickman, daughter of Cat Eskin and Michael Barickman and to Susan Alvarez, daughter of Sam Alvarez and granddaughter of Arthur and Susan Alvarez on their graduation from Harrison School of the Arts...Tilly in Technical Theatre and Susan in Visual Arts.

They are off to college in the fall. Tilly will be attending Bard College in upstate New York and Susan the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore.

The Eskin-Barickman clan would like to thank our Temple family for the warm wishes and generous gifts to Tilly (Theophila Mathilda) on her graduation. We are so very grateful for all of your support and love over the years. Tilly will miss her role as teacher in our Religious School.

Tilly just after receiving a Silver Garland Award in English Literature at the ceremony in May.





Presenting a portion of our proceeds from Live Artfully....Spain to Ellen Katzman, the Executive Director of the PACE Center for Girls Polk are Richard Weiss, Jodie Snyder, and Lyle Philipson. Good going everyone!

Two Shabbat Dinners are being planned for 6/22 and 7/27. The July one will also be our Installation and Awards Night. Cost of dinner: \$12 adults/ \$6 children 3-12 years. Please make your reservations:

6/22: https://templeemanuellakeland.com/events/friday-night-shabbat-dinner/

7/27: https://templeemanuellakeland.com/events/installation-awards-shabbat-dinner/

Deadline for the next Menorah is August 31, 2018.

Please send info to irmacole26@gmail.com