



The Menorah

June 2019

Temple Emanuel ~ 600 Lake Hollingsworth Dr.
Lakeland FL 33803 ~ 863-682-8616



Rabbi's Message

Rabbi David Goldstein



President's Message

Allen Shane, President

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mah Jongg

Most Mondays @ 1 pm

Book Club

6/25 11 am

Trivia Fun

6/30 4 pm

Summer Films

7/7, 7/14, 7/21, 7/28

4 pm

Visit our [website calendar](#)
& our [Facebook page](#) for
details on all events!



SUMMER FILM SERIES 2019

4:00 P.M. ON SUNDAY

Jews and Baseball: An American Love Story

Players, managers, sports writers and fans discuss the contributions of Jewish ballplayers and their impact on American Jews.

JULY 7

(2011) Sports Documentary
Not Rated

Numbered

Guided by Auschwitz survivors' testimonies, this documentary explores the significance and history of the numbers tattooed onto their bodies.

JULY 14

(2012) Documentary
English subtitles, Rated PG

Seders & Cigars: A History of Jews in Tampa

A series of interviews with the descendants of the founding Jewish families of Tampa, as well as with other members of the community.

JULY 21

(2016) Documentary
Not Rated

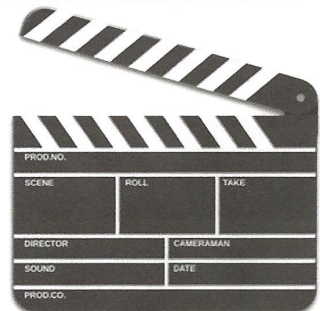
A Serious Man

With every aspect of his life unraveling, a Jewish physics professor seeks out three rabbis for spiritual guidance.

JULY 28

(2009) Comedy
Rated R for language

\$5.00 PER PERSON DONATION
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



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YOUR YEAR TO VOLUNTEER

Connect ... Engage ... Make a Difference

Join us to make Temple Emanuel the best it can be. With your time, talent and skills, we can provide fun, fellowship, events and activities. There is something for everyone!

Won't you help us? Please send your response by email to: office@templeemanuellakeland.com

Committees:

- ☐ **Ways and Means** - oversee and coordinate fundraising activities; solicit special donations when needed; explore possibilities for increasing income.
- ☐ **Marketing** – help publicize events and programs at Temple Emanuel. Work on our website and Facebook page. Create items for the weekly update and publish the quarterly Menorah newsletter.
- ☐ **Membership** - identify and recruit new congregants; welcome newcomers and non-affiliated members of the community and acquaint them with various aspects of the synagogue.
- ☐ **Planning – Socials and Events** - help plan, publicize and execute various programs and events for the congregation.
- ☐ **Sunshine / Visitation** - reach out to our congregants during stressful times in the hospital or at home.
- ☐ **House & Grounds** - help monitor and assist with synagogue maintenance and upkeep; make recommendations for improvements/repairs and identify long-range capital needs.
- ☐ **Telephone** - coordinate the phone tree for special events to call and recruit participation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FROM Lori Dougherty and all the School teachers

Sunday school is all wrapped up. We have had a fun and successful year. We will be working on the calendar and next years events over the summer.



Patterson Street: Creating the “Miniature Temple”

About the Archives by Cat. Eskin

Given our current circumstances—the state of our Temple’s sanctuary since Hurricane Irma in 2017—I think it only fitting that I devote this month’s About the Archives to our first synagogue on Patterson and New York Streets in Dixieland. I spoke in my last col-



umn about the history of the Jewish community; this month, I will discuss a few more details about that early, physical home.

In spite of the dire economic circumstances in the United States in 1932, sixteen founding Jewish residents in Lakeland purchased a building in the Dixieland neighbor-

hood for \$1,000 from the Seventh Day Adventist Church (image at left, 2011). After years of holding religious services in the basement of the American Legion Hall, in spaces above the Wolfson’s Famous Department Store and community members’ parlors, the “undersigned residents of the Jewish Faith . . . associated . . . together for the purpose of maintaining and conducting a Religious, Social and Welfare Organization” which they named the Jewish Alliance of Lakeland (“Constitution and Articles”). From its inception, the Jewish Alliance was something of a compromise designed to band together a thoroughly disparate population of Jews. While no clergy were employed during its first years of existence, the synagogue identified itself as “modern conservative” in its religious practice—a compromise between the more *halakhically* observant members of the community and those with less ritual devotion (“Constitution and Articles” Article 3).

The tendency towards expediency, which the Alliance followed in both its founding and its ritual observance carried over to its aesthetic choices. Architecturally, Lakeland is filled primarily with bungalows in the Arts and Crafts style; many of its homes were built during the Florida housing booms of the 1920s and 1940s. The neighborhood where the group purchased its first house of worship was in close proximity to downtown businesses (about 10 blocks) and the Jewish residents’ homes. Many of the new synagogue’s members lived within walking distance of the building. (The Rabins and Levitts lived only blocks away on Pennsylvania and the Wolfsons lived on Success.)

Strangely, when the group advertised their desire to form a “Jewish Sunday School” in 1933, the *Ledger* refers to the building as a “clubhouse” (“To Be Formed”) rather than a house of worship. Joseph Wolf, arriving from NJ in 1938, refers to the building as “a little Club House where the Jewish people congregated every now and then” (Joseph Wolf 3). The synagogue, purchased in 1932 and clearly in use by 1933, is not actually listed in the Lakeland City Directory until 1938, when it appears under “Churches, Hebrew.” In fact, the directories list the address as “vacant” in both 1934 and 1936. The obscurity of the group in relation to its physical address may just be related to city bureaucracy:

Directory employees often knocked on doors to confirm residents, so without a telephone (which seems to have been the case for the Temple up until the 1940s) or someone living in or near the building, the employees might have concluded that the building was vacant. We should also note that during the Depression, Dixieland was an unfinished sub-division.

Developers advertised the neighborhood in 1915 as a “fashionable suburb,” the “surest, safest investment in Florida.” In 1932, new construction in the neighborhood was slow or non-existent. One of the cross-streets for the Temple was still unpaved as late as 1947 (at left, Sunday School class poses with unpaved street at right). Certainly not a shameful address, neither was the synagogue located on prime real estate.



The building was unadorned, a low, wooden structure with 8 double-hung windows along its east side and an open, portico-style porch on its north end. A kitchen and classrooms were added onto the rear of the building (it is unclear if the kitchen addition was already in place at the time of the purchase). The rear additions created space for Sunday School classes and meeting rooms, though nothing large enough for a full-scale reception. And, having originally been built to house a church, the built-in pews and raised platform had the congregation facing south rather than east towards Jerusalem. The founding members made their choices based on economic and practical concerns. That the building already contained pews was convenient enough to squelch any desire to change their configuration. On the outside, too, little was done to distinguish the building as a synagogue. During the 17 years Temple Emanuel occupied the space, a sign identifying it as a Jewish house of worship never graced its lawn or front entrance.

The Jewish Alliance clearly laid claim to the space: the raised platform on the south end was the *bi-mah* and community members stepped forward to supply the ritual objects necessary for a regular *minyan*. Meyer Cohen supplied the first torah and a member actually crafted the first ark (at right, services during WWII, c.1944) for the *schul*. So many of the early records of the synagogue have been lost—due to time, moves, and a fire in the late 1960s—that we don’t know all of the individuals’ names and their contributions. The Patterson Street Schul was “more than just a meeting hall” (Leonard Wolf in an interview from 12/29/2009) to the Jewish community who worshipped there.



Monthly Profile: Have you ever thought about doing a bicycle trip through Viet Nam? Read about Barry Friedman and Sharon Hodges experience doing just that!

Read more member profiles at: <https://templemanuellakeland.com/member-profiles/>

[Bicycle Tour Gives a Close-Up View of Vietnam](#)

There's no place in Florida to adequately train for a bicycle ride up a long mountain trail like the spectacular climb to the [Hai Van Pass](#) in Vietnam. The ride takes you up 1,627 feet from nearly sea level, through a lush forest, to a windy overlook with photo-inspiring views of the South China Sea. The abandoned bunkers at the pass are sober reminders that French and then American soldiers fought there in the mid 20th Century.

The winding, six-mile Hai Van Pass road was the most serious challenge during a two-week cycling tour of Vietnam that my wife and I took in late December. Bicycle touring, we discovered, lets you experience a country up close. You see how people live, smell the cooking, and hear children call "Hallo" as they rush to the road to try for a side-arm high five.

John, a 44-year-old Australian graphic designer who spends most weekends on a mountain bike, was first in our six-person tour to make it to the top of Hai Van Pass. It took him 38 minutes of pedaling, and he would have been close to the reputed record of 35 minutes if not for a chain malfunction.

[This article was [published in Polk Life magazine](#) April 25, 2018.]

The rest of us took up to an hour and a half to reach the summit. Some pedaled constantly; others took short walking breaks. My strategy: Start slowly and stay in the highest gears, the ones you don't use in Polk County. Your feet spin quickly, and you go slowly, but it worked. I got to the top without getting off the bike — except when our tour leader rode up behind and noticed my rear tire was going flat. He phoned the truck that was trailing us, and the driver stopped for an emergency repair.

Riders who don't feel up to the challenge of the long uphill climb could hop on the bus that ferried us between rides, but nobody in our group chose to do that.

We were four men and two women ranging in age from 33 to 64: two Lakelanders, the Aussie I mentioned, a Danish-Canadian dual citizen and two Brits.



Sharon Hodges of Lakeland gets a high five from Andrew Goh of Birmingham, England, after she completed the six-mile bike ride up to the Hai Van Pass. Above them are bunkers that gave French and American soldiers a commanding view of the coast and a key roadway connecting Hue and Da Nang.

[Intrepid Travel](#), the Australian company that organized [the tour](#), is careful to vary the intensity of the rides. The ride preceding our intense mountain climb was a post-lunch, leisurely 9-mile circle around a placid lagoon. (Our 37-mile ride before lunch started slowly through villages and farmland and shifted to moderate speeds when we hit largely open roads.). We didn't even get on our bikes the next day, letting our tired leg muscles recover as we strolled, shopped and dined through the old city of Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Left: The old town area of Hoi An is known for its colorful lanterns. Right: Chef Hao Le discusses fruits found in a marketplace in Hoi An in preparation for an evening cooking class.

A typical day on the bicycle tour starts with breakfast at the hotel at 6 a.m. All of the hotels we stayed in were comfortable, though the quality varied from spartan to semi-luxury. (Our guide described one of the nicer lodgings as a three-star hotel built to look like five stars.) Buffet breakfasts typically offer familiar Western dishes (omelets, pancakes, cereal, breads) and Asian meats, noodles, rice, veggies and fruits.

By 7, we were either on our bikes or on the bus. On lighter days, we might bike 20 miles. Toward the end, when we had all built capacity, there were several 50+-mile days.

Our group was accompanied at all times by a local tour guide and a mechanic. We stopped every dozen miles or so for snacks of fresh fruit, sweets, nuts, and limeade.

We also stopped for cultural tours most days. In Hue, for example, we visited both the abandoned French and American bunkers on a strategic hill overlooking the Perfume River and the ancient walled city.

Lunches were uniformly excellent. Most were at non-touristy restaurants that we probably would have passed by without a guide who knew where to get tasty food reflecting regional cuisines.

All of the restaurants and hotels that Intrepid uses are locally owned. The company emphasizes low-impact travel and local economic sustainability. All Intrepid employees in Vietnam are locals, according to our guide, and I presume that is true of the other 120 or so countries where Intrepid offers tours.

Vietnam is a long, narrow country, and the temperatures varied greatly from north to south, but everywhere we went we saw trees and flowers familiar to Floridians. (We had a Polk County moment when we biked past an orange grove on our third day.) Continued on Page 8



The Imperial City of Hue



It's 1,082 miles from Hanoi, where we started our trip, to the end point in Ho Chi Minh City. (That's the official name; we were surprised that many locals still call it Saigon.) No, we didn't bike that far. A significant distance was covered in an overnight train ride as well as bus journeys through mountainous areas and locations where the main route was a superhighway.

Mostly, we biked on country roads, although we did get to compete with ever-present motorbikes and honking cars through some harried city riding. The mountain bikes issued by Intrepid carried us over just about every kind of surface: asphalt, concrete, dirt, gravel, pebbles, potholes, grated bridges, rain-flooded pavement, even a slender creekside path.

The Vietnamese people we encountered were warm and hospitable. If there is any resentment over American fighting in the 1960s and 70s, we didn't detect it among the people we met. However, the official line of foreign aggression is abundantly clear when visiting museums about the conflicts the Vietnamese call the Resistance War Against France and the Resistance War Against America.

You sense that people are grateful for both the tourism and industrial investment that resulted as relations between the U.S. and Vietnam eased over the last two decades. In cities, particularly in the south, you now see Western luxury brands, and in markets you can get deals on clothing made in Vietnam for American and European companies such as North Face and Adidas.



English skills are seen as a key to advancement. In a lakeside park frequented by tourists in Hanoi, we were approached repeatedly by children who wanted to practice their English skills with us.

Sharon Hodges of Lakeland answers questions from a student who is practicing her English in a park by Hoan Kiem Lake in Hanoi.

Continued on Page 9



And did I mention the food? Our meals were excellent and inexpensive. After two weeks, I thought I had refined my chopsticks technique — until one night when we had dinner with the family of a young Vietnamese friend from Tampa who was home visiting her folks. Her amiable mom watched me picking up spotted snails and rice with chopsticks, and wondered aloud whether I'd be more comfortable with a fork. I smiled and pressed on with my chopsticks.



Left: Bicycle tour participants had lots of opportunities to stop and take photos. As guide Son Nguyen, foreground, said, “After all, you’re on holiday.” Right: A limestone karst overshadows a Buddhist temple north of Ninh Binh. A large majority of Vietnamese people consider themselves culturally Buddhist, though few practice the religion, according to tour guide Son Nguyen.

IF YOU GO:

Tour host: Intrepid Travel specializes in small-group travel emphasizing low environmental impact and local economic sustainability. <https://www.intrepidtravel.com>, 800-970-7299

Cost: 15-day Vietnam bicycle trips start at \$1,743, including hotels, bike use, 13 breakfasts, 11 lunches and two dinners.

Visa: U.S. citizens must arrange in advance for a tourist visa. You can avoid sending your passport to the Vietnamese embassy in Washington by arranging for a “visa on arrival” through one of several agencies recognized by the Vietnamese government. We used [Vietnam Visa Center](#). Cost for a one-month, single-entry visa is \$20 and an extra \$50 cash when you pick up the visa at the arrival airport.

Weather: Vietnam is hot and humid, not unlike Florida. If you go in the winter, though, be prepared for temperatures in the 40s and 50s in the north.

Training: Those who bicycle long distances regularly won’t need special preparation, although hill work is recommended; nearby places include Lake Hollingsworth neighborhoods, the Ridge and the hills north of Clermont. My wife and I gradually built to longer distance riding of up to 60 miles in the months before the trip and were happy we did.

Shoes: Shoes with thick soles are recommended. I opted for 5 Ten mountain biking shoes with a grippy sole. They were comfortable both on the bike and during walking tours. (Those who brought clip-in shoes and their own pedals had to change shoes often when we hopped off the bikes for tours.)

Saddles: Intrepid allows riders to bring their own bike seats. I did and was glad to change into it after I tried the one that came on the bike the first few days and ended up sore. My wife brought a noseless seat and was the only person on our tour who did not feel the need to wear padded shorts.

Apps: Because you’ll have a little time explore some of the cities, it helps to download an offline map and a country guide to your mobile; I found the [Maps.me](#) and [Tripoko Vietnam](#) apps helpful.



A vendor walks her flower-laden bicycle through a busy market street in the “old quarter” of Hanoi.

Southern Jewish History: The NEH Seminar and the Writing Class

By Cat. Eskin

Over the years, I have developed courses for my undergraduate students at Florida Southern (FSC) that have helped the Temple Emanuel Archives (TEA) develop in depth and impact. As an academic, I have generally stayed within my training: Early Modern English Literature. My published articles have been about Shakespeare's Henry

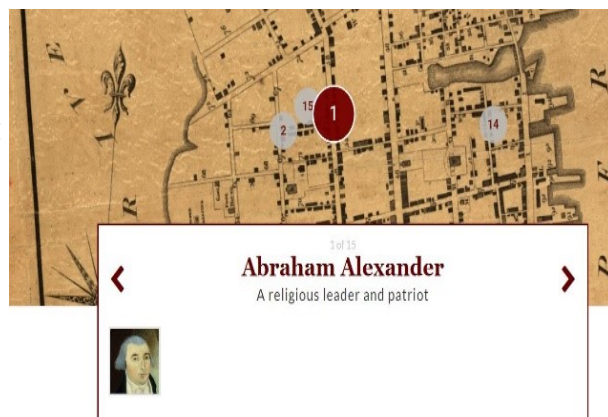


plays and Milton. Since 2015, I have begun to devote more of my intellectual study to Southern Jewish history in order to locate our synagogue and community's history. Toward that end, I was invited by some colleagues to apply for an NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities) Summer Institute entitled "[Privilege and Prejudice](#): Jewish History in the American South" (May 26- June 7, 2019). The application process was competitive and I was so honored when I was accepted to the program. The two weeks of seminars, performances, lectures, films, field trips and research opportunities took place at the College

of Charleston in South Carolina. The faculty and speakers were experts in their fields and I was humbled by the breadth of an academic and cultural field that I had really only skimmed. (The [Schedule](#) is available on-line, and I have the readings if anyone is interested.) I plan to write more about the experience and what I learned in About the Archives in the near future.

I decided that if I was going to dive into the academic study of Southern Jewish History, I might as well teach a class about it: Writing About Southern Jewish History. I plan to make it a service-learning course, having the students comb old directories, census data and maps to locate the homes and businesses of Jewish residents of Lakeland and record the shifts in Jewish geographical settlement. Using ArcGIS (a software for mapping geographical data), students will create on-line exhibits which will feature the groupings of homes and businesses, linking those locations with pictures and documents that will help illustrate ties to Lakeland and Polk County. (A similar project has been completed called "[Mapping Jewish Charleston](#).") I will be working with FSC faculty from Biology (the Marine Biology program has the program and the hardware necessary to work it) and Sociology (to help us talk about the data we collect).

Students will be working directly with the TEA collections and will likely be spending some time at the Temple building. I am looking forward to announcing at least one event for information gathering (and possibly having long-time members help field questions) and a culminating presentation that could include the students' finished products. Unlike the biography courses, these students will be freshmen—new to the College and probably new to Lakeland.



Finally, I wanted to announce that plans are progressing to bring the TEA collection to the Neuman Library at Temple Emanuel. In order to ensure the safety of the collection, the space will be locked when not in use, no TEA items will circulate (you cannot check anything out or remove it from the room), and only certain—clearly marked—items can be perused without me present. I am officially calling for members who may be interested in volunteering their time and training to work with the TEA. Please contact me at ceskin@flsouthern.edu.



BOOK SALE

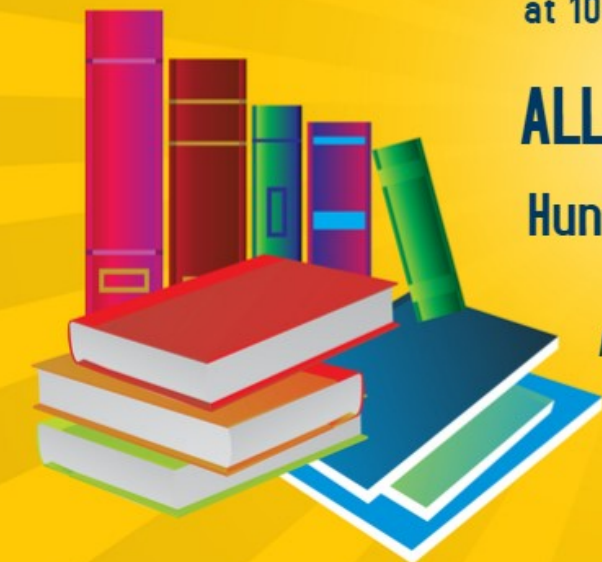
This 1 day only event will launch Sunday, September
8th
at 10 am in Temple Emanuel's Berkovitz Hall

ALL BOOKS PRICED TO SELL!
Hundreds of books to choose from!

All proceeds raised will directly benefit Temple Emanuel

Terms & Conditions

Payments by cash, checks, credit cards



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BOOK SALE INFORMATION:

- ◇ The Library has been cleaned out and we have lots of books to sell!
- ◇ You can help by bringing your clean books to add to our sale. We can use Hebrew books, magazines, kids books, cookbooks, fiction, non-fiction, etc.,
- ◇ We will accept donations August 25th—September 4th only as we really are limited on storage space.
- ◇ The sale will be one day only, on September 8th in Berkovitz Hall. Starting at 10 am.
- ◇ We will be sending flyers to temples, churches, newspapers, etc. letting people know we are liquidating our library.
- ◇ Can you help sort books, set up, make sales? Please join us as we try to raise some funds and have some fun too!
- ◇ Contact the office, Irma, Allen, or Jane

HIGH HOLIDAY PREVIEW

BY Amy Blocher

The Ritual Committee is working hard to prepare for the High Holidays. Selichot services begin our High Holidays at 9:30 PM on Saturday, September 21st. Join us as we change the colorful Torah covers and Reading table covers to the majestic white covers for the High Holidays. Erev Rosh Hashanah services begin at 7:00 PM on Sunday, September 29th, with a reception following the services.

The first day of Rosh Hashanah is the next morning, with services beginning at 8:30, and the Torah Service at 9:45. If you require babysitting, you need to call the Temple office by mid-September. Tashlich services will be held that same night at 6:15 at Lake Hollingsworth with services following at 7:00. The second day of Rosh Hashanah, October 1, services also begin at 8:30 AM and the Torah service is at 9:45.

Kol Nidre services begin Yom Kippur on Tuesday, October 8th, at 6:30 PM with the beautiful rendition of the ancient Kol Nidre prayer. Services the next morning begin at 9:00 AM, and the Torah Service will be at 10:00. Yizkor will follow the Torah Service. Again, call ahead for babysitting. The last services, Mincha and Neilah, will begin at 5:15 and end at approximately 7:45, and the annual Break the Fast will follow.

You will be receiving calls about putting names in the Book of Remembrance. If you do not receive a call and want to memorialize your family names for this coming year, please call Amy Blocher, 863-409-7219. You will also be asked about purchasing Aliyahs, English readings, Ark openings, and more for the High Holiday services. Doing this is a way to help our Temple either by doing the Aliyah, readings, or Ark openings yourself or gifting them to others. Thank you in advance.

Shortly after the High Holidays, we will be celebrating Sukkot, with Pizza in the Hut on Sunday evening, October 13th at 6:00 PM. Details will be sent out later. At 9:30 AM the next morning, there will be our annual Breakfast with the Rabbi followed at 10:00 Sukkot services. On October 20th, Sunday evening, at 6:00 PM, there will be Shemini Atzeret services, including Yizkor services. The next night, Monday, the 21st, is Simchas Torah, and we will have services at 6:00 PM, followed by an ice cream social. Be sure to bring your kids to have a blast at this service!

We have much to look forward to in the coming months at Temple Emanuel. Please be sure to read the weekly "Message" to keep up with all that is happening. If you want to get more involved, call the Temple office and someone will respond to your call and help make that happen!!

===JOIN



FOR===

BOOK CLUB



TUESDAY JUNE 25TH

11 AM TO 12 PM

Optional lunch out afterwards

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CAN YOU HELP?

Do you have a few hours to spare once in a while? Temple Emanuel can use your help with small projects like:

1. Delivering collected food donations to VISTE.
2. Stuffing Envelopes.
3. Setting up Tables and Chairs for Events.
4. Power Washing.
5. Odd Jobs and Maintenance.
6. Being a Greeter at Services.

Let us know when you are available. Contact office@templeemanuellakeland.com



MAZEL TOV To Marilyn Signer, on the birth of her great grandson, Noah James Robert McCann, May 6th to Dr. Kathryn Howell and Scott McCann.

And to Joan Greenbaum: granddaughter, Taylor Oliver, graduated cum laude at University of Florida in May and accepted at U of F law school. She will be attending in August. Granddaughter Madison Oliver graduated Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School with High Honors with Distinction and grandson Joey Dougherty graduated 5th grade with A-B honor roll all year, Exemplary Citizenship and reading awards. All this happened in May. Son, Jason Dougherty, was selected to attend Fire Service Executive Institute. Only 20 people are chosen nationally.

Find and follow us on Facebook to keep up with the latest news and events.

<https://www.facebook.com/>

Also check out our Website Calendar, Photo Gallery, Member Profiles, Videos, Archives, and more!!

www.templemanuelakeland.com

A Message from the Marketing Committee

We would like to share our High Holiday issue with the many members and friends who come to services by having that issue printed in color. As you can imagine, there is a cost to that.

Our plan to cover this expense is to invite members and friends to pay for business card size ads that will appear in the High Holiday printed issue, as well as the next 3 online issues and on our website. The cost will be \$100 for all 4 issues.

The contact person for this project is Bonnie Odro. Please let her know of your interest. You can reach her at: bonnie.odro@gmail.com

Deadline for submissions for the High Holiday Menorah issue will be August 31st. Questions or business cards can be sent to irmacole26@gmail.com

Deadline for the next Menorah is August 31, 2019.

Please send info to irmacole26@gmail.com