

Dear Friends:

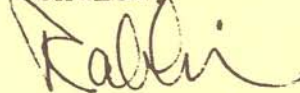
Rare is the occasion which finds a Jewish congregation presented with the unique opportunity to honor members of the Christian community. We, the members of the Springhill Avenue Temple/Congregation Sha'arai Shomayim, are indeed fortunate that we will have such an opportunity this Friday Evening, January 13th, during the course of our Worship Service. Under the auspices of both our Sisterhood and our Men's Club, Mary and Paul Filben, members of Holy Family Catholic Church, involved representatives of the Ecumenical Commission of the Diocese of Mobile, and active participants in our Jewish-Christian Dialogue these past three plus years, will become Honorary Members of these two vitally-important arms of our Temple Family. In their honor, we have invited the members of the Dialogue to join us for Worship and for the Oneg Shabbat-Reception immediately following the Service.

(An invitation from me to our own membership is unnecessary. I know as many members of our Congregation will want to be with us as we build another bridge and further cement the relationship between our two faith-communities.)

Those of us who have had the opportunity to know Mary and Paul, both dialogically and personally, have found them to be a sincere, caring, warm couple, committed to and vitally concerned with the future of Jewish-Christian relationships both in this country and elsewhere. Time and again, they have demonstrated this concern by travelling to workshops in other parts of the country as well as helping in innumerable ways other dialogue groups in other locales become realities.

Truly, in honoring Mary and Paul Filben this Friday Evening, January 13th, we do honor to ourselves, to our Congregation, and to our Community which we both call Home.

Shalom



Rabbi Jacobs