

From: Judy Levin <judy@judylevin.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 4:58 PM

To: Michelle Crocker <mcrocker@leelanau.gov>

Subject: Hi Michelle, I would appreciate your making sure my letter is sent to ALL the Board of Commissioners of Leelanau County. Many Thanks Judy Levin

Dear Board of Commissioners;

As a proud 5th generation American citizen, my country, my vote and my flag mean everything to me. I am very disappointed and hurt that you would not include my prayers from the list of approved chaplains because my temple is in Traverse City and not Leelanau County. Gratefully, I have been here 28 years and know there are Hindu's, Muslims, Buddhists, Unitarians, Jews and Greek Orthodox living here with us, without a physical building in the County.

I have not lived here as long as many, but my cousins, Julius and Miriam Sweetwine Steinberg moved to Traverse City in 1868. Julius came first to build a home, then brought Miriam and son Jacob in 1871. He established Steinberg's Mercantile Store on Front Street and he was a founding father of Congregation Bel El which I am a member. It is still the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the State of Michigan. They established Steinberg's Grand Opera house on Front Street where The State Theatre now resides. You should realize my roots have been here a long time. Looking through the Leelanau County records I found that the Steinberg's bought a 40 acre parcel on the Southeast corner of M-204 and County Road 641. The Steinberg's had seven living children and we found a gravestone for a young child nearby.

My family taught me to honor all faiths and I maintain that and continue to pray to God every day thanking him for my blessings which include being a Leelanau County resident. I dreamed about living here since I was an Opera Student at the National Music Camp at Interlochen. Whether any faith has a physical building in Leelanau is not the issue. We should all be represented and included at different times for the purpose of prayer before every Board of Commissioner meeting OR to continue a time for silent prayer or meditation. Thank you for reading my letter.

Respectfully,

Judy Levin
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