

Temple Beth Or

bulletin

August 2008 ~ Tammuz/Av 5768



A VIEW FROM THE PULPIT

JUSTICE, JUSTICE, WILL YOU PURSUE

The institutions of Reform Judaism – local congregations and our great national bodies alike – have long and justly taken pride in our involvement in the areas of social action, economic and social justice, and the pursuit of peace. Our emphasis on justice and peace issues has been one of the hallmarks of the Reform Movement; indeed, the Movement's Religious Action Center in Washington – the RAC (where the 1964 Civil Rights Act was drafted) – is unmatched in its influence and the quality and depth of its programming. Go the RAC's website at rac.org for just a few moments, and be overwhelmed by what a Movement or a congregation or you as an individual can accomplish. The RAC's analyses of issues now on our social and legislative agenda are must reading for those who want a well-presented and factual background on issues crucial to our future, including background for evaluating candidates for political office. Reform Judaism's strength in this area derives from our reading (and heeding!) the many injunctions in Torah, in the prophets and in rabbinic literature to care for this in need; not stand idly by, to pursue justice and seek peace. "The one who saves a life, it is as if he saved the entire world."

Yet there are those, including some in our own community, who feel strongly that such issues, especially those on our political agenda (as all of them are), have no place in the synagogue. We should focus on "religious" matters, and not get involved in "politics." Instead of speaking truth to power or participating in improving our damaged world, we should be silent. We should be ethical in our personal behavior, but not activist.

I am one of those who feel we should be activist. I would like our congregation to be known as one that is active in matters of social justice, and eager to be helpful to those in need. Just as Judaism has been called "a light unto the nations," our congregation can become a model of environmental responsibility, and we can continue our proud tradition of supporting both Jewish and non-Jewish causes in our own community and far beyond it.

Many of us are already involved through our donations to programs and services that we support. Under the leadership of Louisa Weinrib, our Social Concerns chair, we will also identify agencies for support during a High Holy Day giving opportunity, just as the temple's Rabbi's Discretionary Fund is used for wide-ranging support. Louisa and the Social Concerns Committee will also review and bring to our attention hands-on volunteer opportunities, so that our giving goes beyond just sending checks, important as that is.

Please join us. We would like to create a cadre of interested members – from post-Confirmation on up – who can meet, set our priorities, identify programs and organize our work. Louisa and I have shared some good ideas, but creating a group effort will be so much more effective. Please convey your interest to me, Louisa (262-6155) and/or Gina Friday, so that our work may begin.

Elliot L. Stevens

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES TO RESUME SEPTEMBER 6

Our month Shabbat morning service and study program will resume on Saturday morning, September 6. These informal services, which use the new Reform prayer book *Mishkan T'filah*, take about an hour and include Torah reading. Following the service a light brunch will be served, and we'll engage in some congenial Torah study while we nosh. With the service beginning at 9:30, we should conclude between 11:00 - 11:15. Please join us.



Celebrating Our 157th Year

ELLIOT L. STEVENS, RABBI

Temple Beth Or Officers

Morris Capouya *President*
 Jenny Ives *Vice-President Programs*
 Jamie Loeb *Vice-President: Finance*
 Russell Levy *Treasurer*
 Gracie Hanchrow *Secretary*
 Alan Weil, Jr. *Immediate Past President*

Board of Trustees

Gay Winter *Adult Education*
 Lynne Ginsburg *Arts, Decorations & Archives*
 Sharon McDaniel *Attendance & Hospitality*
 Charles Strasburger *Cemetery*
 Steve Wallace *Grounds*
 Richard Hanan *House*
 Karen Goldstein *Membership*
 Kent Long *Men's Club President*
 Sharon Berry *Religion School & Library*
 Lisa Weil *Sisterhood President*
 Louisa Weinrib *Social Concerns/L'Chaim League*
 Joy Kaplan *Youth & Scholarship*

Temple Beth Or Staff

Gina Friday *Temple Administrator*
 Sharon Berry *Religion School Director*
 Linda Smith *L'Chaim League*
 Walter Osborne *Maintenance Manager*
 Elizabeth French *Organist & Choir Director*

Office Hours

Monday	CLOSED
Tues., Wed. & Thurs.	9-5
Fridays	9-2

Temple Beth Or / Kahl Montgomery
2246 Narrow Lane Road
Montgomery, Alabama 36106

(334) 262-3314 Tel ☆ (334) 263-5183 Fax

Office: bethor@templebethor.net
 Rabbi: rabbiels@templebethor.net
 www.templebethor.net

Please call Gina Friday at 262-3314 to report any corrections or inaccuracies in the bulletin.

TBO President's Message

I hope this month's newsletter finds each of you enjoying a relaxing summer or perhaps looking for an innovative way to beat the heat. The pace at Temple Beth Or has eased a bit as it typically does over the summer months but let me assure you that the planning process has not slowed down as Rabbi Stevens, Gina, and lay leaders continue to plan projects, programming, and events well into 2009.

Two projects that I would like to bring to your attention are a new Temple Beth Or website and a Community Israel Experience. A new congregational website has been a priority of Rabbi Stevens since before he took office last July and one of my goals for some time. To that end we have formed a two person committee to spearhead the development of the new website with the assistance of some committed individuals within our congregation and the Union for Reform Judaism's Department of Marketing and Communications. The goal of this effort is to enhance communication and fellowship within the Temple Beth Or community. Be on the lookout for our new site in the fall of 2008.

The Community Israel Experience is a unique opportunity to visit Israel in June 2009 with fellow congregants and both of our community Rabbis. The trip is being planned and organized jointly by Temple Beth Or, Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem, and the Jewish Federation of Central Alabama. I want to thank Diane Weil, who chairs the organizing committee, along with Rabbi Stevens and Rabbi Kramer for their efforts in planning what promises to be a memorable journey to our Jewish Homeland. More information will be forthcoming!

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Best Regards,

Morris E. Capouya

Welcome!

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Did you know that weekly emails are sent out updating members of upcoming events at Temple Beth Or? Please share your email address so we can keep you current on activities happening at temple.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please be sure to review your family's listing in the yellow "2008 Interim Membership Directory" for any changes or corrections. Call or email Gina (bethor@templebethor.net) as soon as possible with any adjustments you'd like to your listing.

RETURNING MEMBER

Kathleen Roberts
 355 S. Kelly Street PMB 200
 Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-5982
 328-7466 cell

Contributions to Funds

We greatly appreciate the people who support Temple Beth Or by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. Those that are received **after the 20th of the month** will be in the next bulletin.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY FUND

In Memory

Irvin Gassenheimer, Jr.
Leo J. Drum, Jr.

BAYLINSON ART FUND

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary

Rabbi David and Janice Baylinson
Barbara and Robert Shinpaugh

CAROL LOBMAN HART EDUCATIONAL FUND

In Memory

Irvin Gassenheimer, Jr.
Mrs. Carol Hart

GENERAL/ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory

Irvin Gassenheimer, Jr.
*Kathie and Raymond Cohen
Rubin A. Franco
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Kohn*

*In Memory of
Olga C. Franco
Rubin A. Franco*

*The Memory of
Joan Baim Blach
Maurice E. Kreisman
Charles J. Schulwolf
Mr. Mandel Selber, Jr.*

L'CHAIM LEAGUE

*In Honor of the Marriage of
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cohen
Babette and Charles Wampold*

LUCIAN LOEB FUND

*In Honor of the Marriage of
Raymond Cohen & Katherine Williams
Joan and Jim Loeb*

TREE OF LIFE

Don't forget the Tree of Life for graduations, birthdays, Bar/Bat Mitzvah's and other special times in your life. Large leaves are \$350 and small ones, \$250. Contact Carol Hart or the Temple regarding purchase.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1.....Jack Abraham
- 2.....Jack Hanchrow
- 2.....Bari Levin
- 5.....Robert Heilpern
- 5.....Beverly Lipton
- 6.....Karen Weinrib
- 8.....Lynda Wool
- 9.....Jean Schloss
- 11.....Josephine Baum
- 12.....Lauda Heilpern
- 12.....Daniel Weinrib
- 13.....Corinne Capilouto
- 14.....Sam Kaufman
- 14.....Jim Sabel
- 14.....Louisa Weinrib
- 18.....Todd Aaron
- 18.....Alan Goldsmith
- 25.....Anne Bloom
- 25.....Dorothy Van Cleeff
- 25.....Lynne Weinrib
- 26.....Seymour Gitenstein
- 27.....Jenny Ives
- 28.....Dawn Schloss
- 29.....Micki Beth Stiller

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 14.....Esther & Herbert Scheuer
- 17.....Susan & Philip Bernstein
- 17.....Myrna & Alan Rothfeder
- 18Barbara & Robert
Shinpaugh
- 19.....Karen & Craig Goldstein
- 20.....Sharon & David Berry
- 22Dorothy & Jay
Van Cleeff
- 24.....Kelly & Morris Capouya
- 28Karen & Bruce
Lieberman
- 29.....Pat & Allen Dees
- 31Elizabeth Wahls &
David Weinrib

Birthday and Anniversary
Blessings
on August 1st.

⚔ YAHRZEITS ⚔

To be read 8/1/2008
Philip W. Bernstein, Sr.
Rebecca Sherman Blotner
Lillian Rosenbluth Miller
Mose Moscovitz
Gertrude S. Weinrib

To be read 8/8/2008

Edward Abraham
Albert Endel
Jacob Koch
Emily Rosenbluth Kohl
Maurice Earl Kreisman
Joseph S. Levi
David Adler Loeb
Emilie E. Strasburger

To be read 8/15/2008

Myrtle Endel
Muriel Finkelstein
Morris Goldberg
Frank Happ
Carl Hertz
David Mussafer
Pauline Reznikoff
Harold Rothman
Charles J. Schulwolf
Sol Schulwolf
Eugenia Snetman

To be read 8/22/2008

Max C. Baylinson
Philip Eisenberg
Jane Lobman Katz
Blanche Landau Winter

To be read 8/29/2008

Nissim and Esther Capouya
Constance Cohen
Sidney R. Davis
Florence Goldstein
Selig Horowitz
Louis J. Shapiro
Kimberly Strassburger

Recently Deceased

Irvin Gassenheimer, Jr.

י"ל



July 13, 2008

TEEN SEMINARS IN WASHINGTON

Calling all High School students: The Bernard and Audre Rapoport *L'Taken* Social Justice Seminar is an intensive four-day study kallah in Washington, DC, focusing on Jewish values and social justice and sponsored by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC). Every year more than 100 congregations from across the country bring their high school students to participate in this exciting event. This unique Washington opportunity enables students to hear from experts both inside and outside the Jewish community. Every *L'Taken* seminar covers several different issue areas in a variety of interactive formats. Each seminar includes an opportunity for students to tour the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and participate in Havdalah on the National Mall. Students also sample the vibrancy of Georgetown and other exciting areas of Washington, DC. In an effort to be more environmentally and fiscally responsible, the RAC is making all registration materials available at www.rac.org/ltaken. Seminar dates are December 5-8, December 12-15, January 9-12, January 23-26, January 30 - February 2, and February 27 - March 2. Temple Beth Or makes available funding support; contact Rabbi Stevens for additional information.

FOOD FESTIVAL

Believe it or not, the Food Festival committee is already busy at work planning for next year. The committee has chosen Sunday, February 22, 2009 for our next festival. Put this date on your calendar and get ready to work. We will soon be ready to start cooking. Check the bulletin for cooking dates and plan to join us. Start cleaning out your closets and bring your items for the Treasure Market. Alan and Charlie will be arranging and getting ready for another great sale day. We are counting on everyone to work. It is really a great deal of fun so don't miss out.

Susan Bernstein
Food Festival Chairperson

SAVE THE DATE

Sisterhood Opening Luncheon

Noon ♦ September 16, 2008

La Jolla Restaurant

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

I would like to thank Terri Finkelstein for all her years of dedication to our Religious School. She remains a constant advisor and supporter of our merger with Agudath Israel-Etz Ahayem.

I am very honored to be able to join Lani Ashner as co-principal of Kol Ami Religious School. We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning. Our first day of religious school will begin on August 17th from 9:30 am - 12:00 noon at AIEA.

Children ages 2 and up are welcome to enroll. Confirmation class for grades 9th-10th will be conducted by Rabbi Stevens and Rabbi Kramer. Classes will begin on August 17th from 9:30 am-11:15 am at AIEA.

AIEA. Enrollment packets will be mailed out by August 8th. If you have any questions, you may email me at daberry40@netscape.net or call (334) 290-0445.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at religious school.

Sharon Berry

RETURNING TO THE TRADITION OF WORSHIP WITH UPB

The *Union Prayer Book*, beloved by many of us reared in the tradition of Classical Reform Judaism, will be next used in worship on Friday evening, August 1st.

L'CHAIM LEAGUE

A date you will long remember: **Tuesday, August 5th**, we will depart from TBO parking lot at 8:00 am for a tour of **The Blue Bell Ice Cream Plant** in Sylacauga. There is no charge for the tour, and we will stop for lunch afterwards. This outing will be one everyone will enjoy.

September 23rd is the date for our opening luncheon. Clare Weil and her ensemble will provide music for our program. On **October 23rd**, Susan Willis from ASF, will conduct our luncheon program. With all we have to offer, I hope everyone will find a program that they would like to attend.

Linda R Smith

HEBREW INSTRUCTION

Private Hebrew Instruction is being offered for ages 5 years and up.

Please contact

Dalia Morgenstern at daliamorgenstern@yahoo.com

SEPHARDIC SERVICE SET FOR SEPTEMBER

Mark your calendars for a very special Sephardic experience September 11-12.

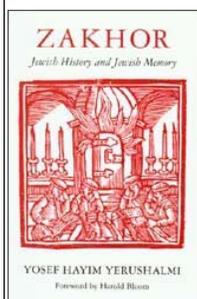
On Thursday evening, September 11, Dr. Mark Kligman will speak on Sephardic Music and Culture. Dr. Kligman is Professor of Jewish Musicology at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, where he teaches in the School of Sacred Music.



Dr. Kligman specializes in the liturgical traditions of Middle Eastern Jewish communities and has published several articles on the liturgy of Syrian Jews. His work also extends to historical trends in the liturgical music of Ashkenazic and Sephardic traditions.

Then, on Friday evening, in what might be the first such experience at Temple Beth Or, we will worship in the Sephardic mode, with a selection of authentic Sephardic music for which the choir has already begun to rehearse. It promises to be a beautiful service, and will be followed by a very special reception of traditional Sephardic pastries. Don't miss it!

I have come across a splendid little book that explores the possibly irreconcilable split between Jewish memory and Jewish historiography – the tension between our remembered and sacred traditions and what we learn from scientific research into our past. *Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory* by Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, one of our most important historians, has become a classic, and is required reading throughout the country in university courses on Judaism. Winner of the National Jewish Book Award for History, I recommend it as a brief and brilliant introduction to seeing Judaism from a very different perspective than we might be used to. I shall be using this book in my seminar on Jewish history at Huntingdon this fall.



Let's read *Zakhor* together. I propose that we meet in the TBO library on Thursday, August 21 at noon (bring a bag lunch, if you wish; we'll provide the drinks) to have some discussion.

Zakhor – which means “remember” – is easily available in softcover from Amazon and other vendors.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Bring a friend!

September 9th - 7 PM

Hal Bloom speaks on How a Bill Becomes a Law.

RABBI STEVENS OFFERS CLASS IN BASIC JUDAISM

Starting on Wednesday evening, October 15 and continuing (with a few exceptions) through January 7, 2009, Rabbi Stevens will be offering a weekly class in Basic Judaism. This class, open to members and non-members alike, will cover the basic themes and practices of Judaism, including an overview of history; life-cycle, holy days and festivals, Jewish approaches to God, the concept of *mitzvah*, and Judaism's sacred literature.

This would be a good class for those contemplating conversion, although there are no pre-conditions or requirements for those who register, other than a desire to deepen one's knowledge and experience. But if you know of potential candidates for conversion or others in the community who might find this class of interest, please extend an invitation to join us.

Registration (without fee) should be made with Gina Friday at the office, 262-3314. Questions may be addressed to Rabbi Stevens.

The Jewish Federation
of Central Alabama



When scheduling calendar events involving the Temple it is important that you check dates with the Federation and the Temple for potential conflicts within the Jewish community. Their number is 277-5820 and you can view the community calendar at www.jewishmontgomery.org.

YOUTH GROUP "BOOTY"



The Youth Group **annual kick-off meeting** and ice cream social will be held on **Sunday, August 10th at 6 p.m. at the Temple**. If you would like to participate in "BOOTY", we welcome 5th - 12th graders. Sign-ups for NFTY & BOOTY events will take place for the upcoming year. If you are a Teen and will be in the 9th - 12th grade, please consider participating in your Youth Group. Elections for officers will be held in March.

I am looking forward to another exciting year with "BOOTY". We welcome Joy Kaplan as our Temple Board Liaison and we thank Alison Williamson for all her support as our past Temple Board Liaison.

Sharon Berry

Congratulations !

Terri, Adam and Ethan
on the birth of the twins on July 21st!

Ella: born 8:08 AM, 6 lb. 2 oz.,
18" long, with very dark hair.

Ryan: born 8:09 AM, 6 lb. 8 oz,
19" long, with very light hair.



**Religious Action Center
Of Reform Judaism**

Consultation On Conscience

April 19 - 21, 2009

Join Jewish Leaders and activists in Washington, DC, to learn from key policy and government leaders about the issues that shape public discourse, to explore the connection between Jewish texts and current events, and to build strong social action and advocacy skills to use in your community.

Previous speakers include: President Bill Clinton
The Dalai Lama

Madeleine Albright
Sen. John McCain

Sen. Russ Feingold
Speaker Nancy Pelosi

For more information :
www.rac.org/consultation

Did you borrow a black umbrella with a silver handle from the coat closet on Friday night, July 11th?

If so, please call the Temple or the owner, Irving Winter so we can reunite umbrella with owner.



Thanks!



**TEMPLE BETH OR
GIFT SHOP**
Montgomery, AL



Union Prayer Book Service

August 1, 2008



Shalom all,

I'm sorry to write under these circumstances, but I have to give you some terrible news: Michal Elboim, the Pensacola Shlichah, was killed Sunday (July 27) afternoon in a boating accident in Pensacola, Florida.

Michal was an amazing person - we all got to know her in Montgomery through the various activities she did with us - the Fab 4 and an amazing Cafe' Israel where she told us of her Israel adventures.

I had a personal connection with Michal - we toured the area and gave speeches and talks of Israel. We even played guitar together and gave performances - she was getting better every day. We headed up programs in Montgomery, Birmingham, Pensacola, Mobile and New Orleans.

We also went on Alabama hikes together and for the first time I saw what else Alabama has to offer. Michal was an adventurer and an amazing person. I will miss her very much.

Shalom, Shimon



Beyond July!

Saturday, September 6, 9:30 AM, Monthly Shabbat Morning Service. Light brunch served.

Tuesday, September 9, 7 PM, Community Forum: Hal Bloom speaks on "How a Bill Becomes a Law." Bring your friends.

Thursday, September 11, 7 PM, Speaker Dr. Mark Kligman speaks on Sephardic Music and Culture.

Friday, September 12, 6 PM, Shabbat service in the Sephardic mode with authentic Sephardic music performed by the TBO choir. Followed by a reception of traditional appetizers and pastries.

Tuesday, September 16, Noon, Sisterhood Opening Luncheon at La Jolla in Eastchase.

Tuesday, September 23, Noon, L'Chaim League Opening Luncheon at TBO. Clare Weil and ensemble perform.

Thursday, October 9, TBA, Break the Fast Dinner.

Monday, October 20, 6:30 PM, Simchat Torah Celebration.

Friday, October 24, 6 PM, 60th anniversary celebration of the Temple Beth Or Sisterhood, with guest speaker Rabbi Sally J. Priesand, the first woman rabbi.

Sunday, February 22, 2009, 9 AM - 3 PM, Jewish Food Festival

Be sure to check upcoming bulletins for possible date changes and more information.

We would like to know.

Please call the temple office when a family member is in the hospital or ailing. Too often we find out about illnesses, crises and hospitalizations long after they occur. This is a missed opportunity for the calls and visits the rabbi would like to share. Please let the temple know if there is a concern in your family or another congregation family (with their permission).

We need your help in order to offer ours.

August 2008

Book of Remembrance form enclosed.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Union Prayer Book Service 6 PM	2
3	4	5 L'Chaim League Tour of Blue Bell Plant	6	7	8	9
10 BOOTY's Kick-Off & Ice Cream Social 6 PM	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Book Discussion Noon-TBO Library	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**See inside for
Book of
Remembrance
Form**

Kahl Montgomery—Temple Beth Or
2246 Narrow Lane Road
Montgomery, AL 36106

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