

Temple Beth Or

bulletin

June 2010 ~ Sivan/Tamuz 5770

RABBI'S REPORT TO THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 23, 2010



Good afternoon!

With each passing year, time seems to pass faster and faster, the calendar whirring around so quickly that we can hardly catch our breath before we turn to another holiday, another dinner, another class, another annual meeting. Can it be a year already since we last met for our annual review?

The annual meeting provides us with an opportunity to pause, if just for a bit, and to take some stock of how the past year has gone, and what might be in store for us in the year to come. In sharing with you my perspective, I encourage each of you who is here this afternoon also to give some thought as to how you respond to the programs and worship and classes that have taken place; to the relationships we all try to foster, and to how Temple Beth Or can better meet the needs of you, our members.

This year has brought some important changes to our congregation, changes that began early last summer as we evaluated – first on a committee level, then at meetings of the Board, and through extensive congregational experience – whether and how to introduce the new Reform prayer book, *Mishkan T'filah*. Discussions through the summer led to a Board vote that was unanimous but one, and a plan to introduce *Mishkan T'filah* gradually over a six-month period that has now concluded. I am pleased that, with a very few exceptions, the response has been as clear and positive as it has been, and I am particularly gratified that the availability of transliteration for the first time has enabled a far higher proportion of us to participate together in reading our prayers. At the same time, I continue to be committed to using the *Union Prayer Book* at least quarterly, noting that our next *UPB* service is set for June 4. We always use those occasions to bring back some of the magnificent choral music that has long been part of our Reform tradition.

This year, I believe for the first time in Temple Beth Or's history, we also introduced, with unanimous support from the Board, a student cantor. Andrea Rae Markowicz has turned out to have had a phenomenal impact on our worship. Although a few expressed some misgivings at the outset – before they heard her, for the most part – over the last six months and more I can report that reactions have been overwhelmingly enthusiastic; indeed, when I announced during a service a few weeks ago that Andrea

would be returning for the coming year, for the first time during my rabbinate here in Montgomery I heard sustained applause during a service.

The joint religious school, named “Kol Ami,” has now hit its stride. With Sharon Berry at its helm as principal, working with Lani Ashner on behalf of the Synagogue, our community school enables more Jewish kids to learn together and learn from each other in ways that weren't possible heretofore. As co-teacher of the Confirmation Class with Rabbi Kramer, I can report that our kids have benefited from hearing different authentic perspectives in terms of our approach to Judaism. I look forward to working with Terri Finkelstein and Sandy Cauthen as co-principals during this coming year.

For this year's adult education programming we have tried to offer a balance of authors and other guest speakers, cultural events, and classes that I have led in Hebrew, biblical studies, Jewish history and philosophy. Our guest speakers have included Rabbi Walter Homolka, founder and chancellor of the new Reform rabbinic seminary in Germany; Charles Bronfman, the renowned philanthropist and founder of Birthright Israel, several authors through the Jewish Book Network and, most recently, Rabbis Jeffrey Salkin and Gary Zola, who so brilliantly helped us celebrate the 200th anniversary of Reform Judaism. Many thanks are due to Gay Winter, our Adult Education chair, for her guidance in shaping our program. What I found most intriguing, by the way, was the popularity of my 5-part series on Jewish Mysticism, which attracted double the audience compared with any of my other offerings this year – it even outdrew my series on Jewish sexual ethics! – and it turned out to be so popular that those who attended asked me to extend for two additional sessions, which I was happy to do, and even that didn't seem quite enough.

This year, as before, I continued to be active on the interfaith scene, speaking to our non-Jewish neighbors on a regular basis. I am now co-convenor of Interfaith Montgomery, which had sponsored last year's very successful “Blessing of the Sun” event; the Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Service we held here at Temple six weeks ago was moving and inspiring, and will become an annual event. I recently proposed that Interfaith Montgomery launch, together with Huntingdon College, an annual interfaith symposium giving religious response to an important

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Celebrating Our 158th Year

ELLIOT L. STEVENS, D. D., RABBI
Andrea Rae Markowicz, *Student Cantor*
David A. Baylinson, D.D., *Rabbi Emeritus*

Temple Beth Or Officers

Morris Capouya *President*
Jenny Ives *Vice-President: Programs*
Jamie Loeb *Vice-President: Finance*
Steve Wallace *Treasurer*
Corinne C. Capilouto *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*
Rusty Levy *Grounds*
Ricky Loeb *House*
Karen Goldstein *Membership*
Philip Bernstein/Pete Ginsburg ... *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*
Andrea Rae Markowicz *Student Cantor*
Sharon Berry *Religion School Director*
Linda Smith *L'Chaim League*
Marlon Cotton *Maintenance Manager*
Elizabeth French *Organist & Choir Director*

Office Hours

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

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



Sisterhood Closing Luncheon on May 18th-Installation of Officers

L-R: Rabbi Elliot Stevens, Lisa Weil, Susan Bernstein, Marlene Beringer and Jamie Loeb.

NEW MUSIC TO DEBUT ON JULY 16!

New service composed by Rabbi Michael Stevens to be introduced.

On Friday evening, July 16, we will welcome as our guests Rabbi Stevens's brother and his wife, Rabbi Michael Stevens and Judy Stevens from Schererville, Indiana. Rabbi Stevens serves Temple Beth-El in Muncie.

Rabbi [Michael] Stevens is a composer who has written settings for a complete Shabbat service. Many of these selections were composed for and first used during his 20th anniversary service at Beth-El two years ago. We will have our own opportunity to hear these new settings during this special service. Please join us at 5:30 p.m. for a wine-and-cheese reception, and for service as usual at 6:00 p.m.



Recent Death

Irma Gore ז"ל

May 11, 2010



Mother of Sharon McDaniel

Visit us on the Web!

www.templebethor.net

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

*Many Thanks TBO
The Lewy Family*

BAYLINSON ART FUND

*Happy Birthday
Janice Baylinson
Peggy Cohn*

GASTON AND FAYE

GREIL FUND

*In Memory of
Arthur Barnett
Steven and Gail Greil*

*In Memory of
Arthur Barnett
Steven and Gail Greil*

GENERAL FUND

*In Memory of
Harry Popkin
Bern, Butler, Capilouto and Massey*

*Shabbat Shalom!
Anonymous*

GITENSTEIN FOUNDATION

*200th Anniversary
of Reform Judaism
Ann & Seymour Gitenstein Foundation*

*In Memory of
Aaron & Alice Adler
Ann & Seymour Gitenstein Foundation*

*Speedy Recovery
William Dollarhide
Ann & Seymour Gitenstein Foundation*

*In Remembrance of
Anna G. Gitenstein's 90th Birthday
Ann & Seymour Gitenstein Foundation*

*In Remembrance of
Milton P. Gitenstein's
May 13th Birthday
Ann & Seymour Gitenstein Foundation*

LUCIEN LOEB MEMORIAL

*In Memory of
James Lucien Loeb
Mary L. Wiener*

*Speedy Recovery and Continued
Good Health*

*Lucille Goldsmith
Peggy Cohn*

*Speedy Recovery and Continued
Good Health*

*Anne Levin
Peggy Cohn*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*In Honor of
Rabbi Stevens
Milton Norris*

**YOUTH AND SCHOLARSHIP
FUND**

*In Memory of
Irma Gore
Peggy Cohn
Alison and Greg Williamson*

BIRTHDAYS

- 4.....Michael Weinrib
- 8.....Joan Hanan
- 8.....David Lipton
- 11.....Rosalind Markstein
- 19.....Milt Livingston
- 20.....Jim Levy
- 20.....Carol Loeb
- 21.....Ed Simon
- 21.....Joyce Strassburger
- 23.....Jay Van Cleeff
- 23.....Stephen Weinrib
- 23.....Greg Williamson
- 26.....Charlotte Mussafer
- 27.....Karen Lieberman
- 28.....June Cohn
- 28.....Erik Goldberg
- 28.....Craig Goldstein

**Birthday and Anniversary
Blessings
on June 4th.**

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5.Joy and Jarred Kaplan
- 8.Suzanne & Steve Coleman
- 10.....Steve and LeAnne Wallace
- 12.....Lucille & Alan Goldsmith
- 12.....Lauda & Bill Heilpern
- 12.....Charlotte & Joe Mussafer
- 15.....Jean & Gene Harris
- 16.....Beverly & Hugh Bolen
- 18.....Janice & David Baylinson
- 18.....Liza & Sam Kaufman
- 19.....Joanne & Ronald Shum
- 20.....Louisa & Mike Weinrib
- 22.....Karen & Dan Weinrib
- 25.....Joyce & Sonny Strassburger

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YAHARZEITS

To be read 6/4/2010
Joseph H. Abraham
Frieda Kahn Berger
Mose Feinman
Sumner David Goldberg
Lloyd Vernon Julian
Julian H. Kohn
Alma Hertz Lobman
Samuel Moscovitz
Dr. Herbert Rosenberg

To be read 6/11/2010
Carrie Abraham
Jack H. Abraham
Evelyn Burger
Leon Burger
Eli Capilouto
Jean Capouya
Jeannette D. Capouya
Albert Freehling
Denise K. Hanan
Sol Hersberg
Carrie Pollock Lobman
Emanuel Rosenbluth

To be read 6/18/2010
Jack Bloom
Elinor Carlton
Carol Loeb Hagedorn
Nell Hagedorn
Nellie Loeb
Estelle Popkin
Rosalie Rosenberg
Isidore Rosenbluth
Jack L. Toney
Charles H. Wampold, Sr.
Maurice Kahn Weil

To be read 6/25/2010
Rachel H. Capp
Bernard Hanan
Helen L. Levi
Genevieve L. Roberts
Roy Shinpaugh
Kalman Shwartz

President's Report

Morris Capouya

Before I launch into my report, I want to recognize the Past Presidents of Temple Beth Or that are in attendance at the meeting today. I ask that they each stand. I want to thank each of you on behalf of the entire congregation for your all your support, commitment and for being here today.

My report will focus on an overview of some of the past year's achievements and accomplishments, then take a brief look into the future.

During the past year, we were introduced to two primary changes in our worship routine. The first of those was the adoption of a new prayerbook. We carefully studied and piloted the book, then adopted it for everyday use in services. Even though some of you may still have some concerns about the new book, I along with the members of the special committee that endorsed its use, still believe that it is was a necessary change for us to make in order for us to address the worship needs relevant to today's progressive congregations. The second major change was the introduction of a cantor into our worship methodology. I will admit that I was very concerned at the outset of this idea that was proposed by Rabbi Stevens. However, we took some risk and were rewarded handsomely by the impact that Andrea has had in our programming. She also was moved by the relationship that our congregation built and she has agreed to spend another year with us.

The future of our spiritual leadership was also solidified in the past year when the officers and trustees entered into a five year contract extension with Rabbi Stevens. Some of you have heard the great admiration and respect that his peers award to him when they speak to our congregation, but those who work closely with or study under Rabbi Stevens can also attest to the vast knowledge he possesses on so many levels of Temple and Jewish life. I want to personally thank Rabbi Stevens for

his service to date and look forward to the years ahead of us.

Our second year of operating a combined Religion School with Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem was just completed last week. From the feedback that I receive and what I see personally, this effort is crucial to our existence. It is extremely important for the all of the Jewish youth of Montgomery to spend a morning a week together to learn about their faith and each other!! I would like to recognize Sharon Berry for her leadership and service to the school as our director for the past few years and welcome back Terri Finkelstein to the Religion School directorship.

Now I want to switch gears and look into the future a bit. I briefly mentioned at last year's annual meeting that Temple leadership was going to launch into long-range planning so that we could develop better procedures for operating and administering the Temple's affairs. After much discussion and a few delays, we have finally embarked on this process. The board has hired a consultant to facilitate our development and we had our first organizational meeting just four weeks ago. The initial discussion was lengthy, but brought into focus the factors that we must address and develop plans to better manage our organization. Why hire someone to facilitate discussion and help the board plan? We approaching the point at which some very critical decisions will have to be made in the operation of the Temple and we need an expert to consult with Temple leadership so that we carefully consider every aspect of Temple life before making those decisions. The two most imposing factors we are dealing with currently are:

- We are facing the dynamics of an aging Temple membership whereby we are not be able to continue to raise the dues of the existing membership to replace the loss of pledge revenue from deceased members. The board adopted a plan to increase dues for the upcoming year to offset some of the pledge revenue losses realized in

the past two years, but significant increases in dues year after year are not sustainable.

- The current economic environment is continuing to pin down the yield on safe, fixed income investment options. In other words, our investments are not earning at a reasonable level.

We are not alone as congregations all over the U.S. are experiencing some of these very same problems. However, I do want you to be assured that these issues are top of mind on a daily basis with your Temple officers and trustees and I am confident that Temple leadership will continue to make the appropriate decisions.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for their support and kind words over the past two years of my presidency. I am also grateful for the efforts of my fellow Temple officers and trustees. However, there are a few of you that I do want to recognize and express my gratitude publicly so here goes:

- Gina Friday for attending to all her duties as Temple Administrator and the unique demands of being the point person for our operation.
- Marlon Cotton for re-establishing a sense of consistency and reliability in maintaining our facility.
- Sandy Lynn Stevens for keeping our presence on the world wide web a current source of information for our members and those interested in our congregation.
- Jenny Ives for managing a most successful Food Festival this past year, being a trusted go-to person when I needed help and a worthy consultant.
- John Ives for chairing the Special Prayer Book Committee and managing that effort on behalf of the Board.
- Alan Weil, Larry Capilouto, and Sam Kaufman for their advice and assistance with the Rabbi's new contract.

- Gracie Hanchrow for chairing the Cantorial Search Committee and assisting in the coordination of the Cantor Markowicz's hospitality.
- Rabbi Stevens for his good judgment, vast knowledge, and being patient with me when addressing key issues this past year.
- And finally to my wife and kids for supporting me through all the meetings and scheduling conflicts that come with the position.

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Vice President – Programs

Jenny Ives

It has been a truly gratifying experience to serve as one of the Vice Presidents of Temple Beth Or with such a committed president, board and rabbi. It is difficult to summarize every event and activity held at the Temple but I'd like to highlight a few.

Karen Goldstein guided our membership efforts this year. Would the following people please stand and be recognized as new members? **Diane Abraham, Edward and Angela Abraham, Lorraine and Robert Lieberman, Georgina and Mike Rodzman, Tammy Saperstein, Beth and Mike Thomas, and Sherry Virgen.**

The care and administration of our cemetery has been carefully supervised by **Charlie Strasburger**. Charlie, along with Leo Drum, has been a great steward in maintaining the dignity of our passed members.

Unfortunately, we have suffered some losses to our Temple family during this year with the passing of **Sylvia Levy, Regina Capilouto, Dr. Morris Capouya, Jimmy Loeb, and Eliot Capouya**. I would like to ask everyone for a moment of silence in remembrance of those that passed before us.

Gay Winter was chair of adult education. She and the rabbi planned an assortment of programs and classes which were enjoyed by many members.

Louisa Weinrib led the efforts of the Social Concerns and L'Chaim League Committee. The Social Concerns Committee has been quite busy from organizing funds for the Montgomery Food Bank, Montgomery Aids Outreach and Jewish Children's Regional Services to cooking frozen meals for MACOA. In addition, Bedtime Bundles were collected for Child Protect.

We want to thank **Linda Smith** for the excellent job she does in directing the activities of the L'Chaim League, which included planning monthly events with speakers along with trips to art galleries and other fun places in various cities. Linda also organized visits to our shut-in elderly, and delivered Hanukkah, Rosh Hashanah, and Passover gifts.

Thank you to **Sharon McDaniel** and her Attendance and Hospitality Committee for planning and hosting the many receptions and delicious dinners, which were so graciously and beautifully prepared.

The Arts and Decoration Committee, along with the Archives Committee, was led by **Lynne Ginsberg**. Members of this committee designed the beautiful floral arrangements each week and during holidays. We are grateful for a donation made to the Temple for the new carpet. Special thanks go to Peggy Mussafer and Maxine Goldner for their invaluable assistance throughout the year to this committee.

Sharon Berry is not here tonight but she chaired the Religion School committee and the Library committee. She also was the co principal for the Religion School. Under her leadership, we successfully completed our second year as a merged religious school -- Temple Beth Or had 27 students enrolled in this year's school along with 4 confirmation students. This was Sharon's last year as the co-principal and we so very much appreciate the job she's done in making our Sunday school successful.

Our Sunday school teachers were Danielle Berry, Audrey Crowe, Ron Crowe, Terri Finkelstein, and Jeff Herring.

We're pleased to inform you that **Terri Finkelstein** will assume the position as Kol Ami co-principal next year.

Eric Kidwell continues to do a great job as our librarian. Sixty eight new books were added to the library and we were reaffirmed with our accreditation by the Association of Jewish Libraries.

Joy Kaplan chaired the Youth Group. This group of 14 had a year full of many activities and, frankly, they accomplished as much as an army from volunteering with for Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together, working for our food festival and raising almost \$2,700 for Camp Jenny. They also did a little traveling! They participated in an overnight lock-in with BIRTY in Birmingham, and attended the NIFTY conventions in Georgia and Florida.

We thank **Rusty Levy** for chairing the grounds committee and making sure that everything outside the building was in order.

Ricky Loeb chaired the house committee and we thank him for keeping the inside of the building in order.

Our Temple's Food Festival continues to be one of the most important events on our calendar. I'd like to thank the many people that served on this committee as well as the volunteers to make this year's festival a huge success.

Jamie Loeb will chair the Food Festival committee next year. I encourage everyone to support him in this endeavor.

Thank you.

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Financial Statement Report
(Morris delivered on behalf of Treasurer Steve Wallace)

There are no material changes to note on the balance sheet other than the change in total assets from \$3mil to \$2.89mil. The primary reason for the decline in Total Assets is due to the material decline in revenues due to the following:

Continued on next page

- Decline in voluntary contributions of \$63k from 2008 to 2009
- Loss in value of certain investments of \$68k in 2009
- Decline in interest earnings of \$20k
- Decline in pledge revenue of \$19k

The board has done a good job in expense containment noted by the reduction in total expenses of from \$553k in 2008 to \$518k in 2009 after removing \$47k in expenses in 2008 compared to 2007. You will note on page 6 the expense detail that makes up total expenses for the past two years. The balance of the statement consists of accountants' notes and supporting schedules for you to review.

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SISTERHOOD REPORT

As I stand before you today as your Sisterhood President I realize how fortunate I am and have been for this past year; really for the past two years. We, the sisterhood of Temple Beth Or are so lucky to have one another and to be able to accomplish, with great style and grace, all that we do for our temple. So if you will, I would like to take this the opportunity to reflect on a year full of fun, hard work and true dedication to that which is so important to each of us.

Our year began as it ended, at the museum with our opening luncheon on the 10th of September. Even though I could not be here, I heard Café M was the perfect setting and that the luncheon went very smoothly thanks to Charlotte Mussafer's arrangements and Marlene Beringer stepping in for me.

Our next event, Rosh Hashanah Oneg was hosted by Corrine Capilouto on the 18th of September and it was lovely! Break Fast reception was chaired by Susan Finklestein with the help of Alison Williamson and Joy Kaplan and they, as always did a beautiful job! For both of these annual events there is lots of time and energy, baking, flower arranging, setting up, etc., that has to be coordinated and it all takes place without a hitch.

In September and October we had our

cheesecake fundraiser which raised around \$5,000. We, the executive board voted to put that money and some of the reserve toward tables for the social hall. So no more snags on your pretty clothes, ladies. Our thanks to Brendle Rentals since we did not end up spending all of that money. It is possible now that we can purchase something else that the temple may need.

Then there is always Sukkot, which this year was in the capable hands of Lisa Newcomb, Karen Lieberman and Suzanne Coleman. It was a lovely evening that was truly enjoyed by those who attended.

Simchat Torah came right after that and Betty Goldberg you did a great job. It was such a fun evening.

Carol Loeb and Jamie Loeb co-chaired the Thanksgiving reception with First United Methodist Church this past year and it was a beautiful evening. Even though we host this event every other year, I always find it to be a very special evening.

Tammy Saperstein and I went down to Old Alabama Town participate in their living history event and it was so much fun that we have decided to make it an annual event. Once again, Marlene Beringer made it a special event. She sat on the floor for hours, a couple anyway, playing dreidle with close to a hundred children throughout the evening.

Our Chanukah dinner was chaired by Jamie and I have to add. Ricky Loeb was great. Even though they were not with us that evening they made sure everything was just right! I was touched to see everyone enjoying the food, lighting menorahs and it was special watching all the children having such a good time!

Sisterhood Sabbath took place the last weekend in January with help from our wonderful rabbi and our very special student cantor Andrea Markowicz. We, the executive board made up our minds we were going to have a candle light service and somehow we pulled it off. It was a beautiful and moving service

and so meaningful. It would not have been that way if it were not for my special board of directors. That being said, I would like to take a moment to say my thank yous.

Even though she is not here, Carol Hart you are a true treasure and we so enjoyed the time we were able to spend with you as our recording secretary. We thank you Jamie Loeb for stepping into that spot in January.

Treasurer, Sharon McDaniel, you do a wonderful job of keeping us on track, me especially and I thank you for that.

Financial Secretary. Corrie long we so appreciate you getting the dues notices out and helping to make our organization grow this year.

To my two vice presidents, Marlene Beringer and Carol Loeb what can I say? Words really aren't enough as you were the ones who actually ran this well oiled machine!

And to you Susan Bernstein, our immediate past president, nominating chair, and house committee chair, I thank you for all the direction, support and love that you have given to me over these past couple of years, actually for a lifetime!!!

There are others who need to be thanked at this time and they are:

Peggy Cohn who for many, many years has tirelessly run our gift shop and made a profit every year. Karen Lieberman always made sure there was a candle lighter on Friday evenings and Sandy Lynn Stevens, you took on what I believe is our toughest task, Passover Seder, and you did an outstanding job. It was a lovely and fun evening.

Joy Kaplan took care of Huntingdon college night and it was such a treat to see so many young people enjoying themselves during the Oneg. We are so lucky to have such great cooks in our congregation!

We are also fortunate to have those of you who are always asked to donate. Whether it is wine, food, flowers or your precious time, you name it, we couldn't do what we do, without you.

May was a really busy month for us as we had our first joint sisterhood event with Agudath Israel Yetz Ahayem at Marengo Plantation. Chef Leslie Bailey gave us a cooking demonstration and then we toured the home. It was a gorgeous day and I look forward to more joint ventures.

On Thursday evening, the 13th of May, Sisterhood along with the Men's Club hosted a lovely celebratory dinner for the 200th Anniversary of Reform Judaism. Between the commendation from our governor, Bob Riley, and our two enlightening guest speakers, Rabbis Gary Zola and Jeffrey Salkin, we can all ponder what will be for the next 200 years.

Karen Goldstein, you always do a great job at whatever you do and being our membership chair was no exception. It's not easy getting new members, but you succeeded.

Lynne Ginsburg took care of our closing luncheon out at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts and we had a wonderful lunch and a great program. I hope everyone has enjoyed their flower arrangements as much as my family has enjoyed ours.

There are so many other ladies who have yet to be thanked and who have been an instrumental part of our sisterhood year. You all deserve a big pat on the back for all that you do.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our tireless and special rabbi who reminds me of the Energizer Bunny! In fact, could you share some of that energy with me? You have always been there whenever I needed you and I thank you, as does Sisterhood from the bottom of our hearts for all that you do. We are most appreciative and grateful. Please Rabbi, give Marlene a little transition time before you super-charge

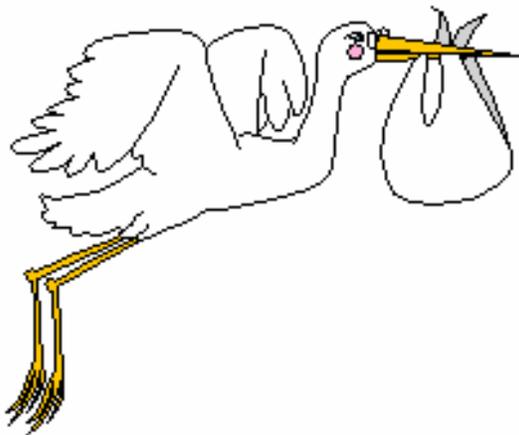
your battery!

I cannot close without saying thank you to three very important people. Gina Friday you are my hero! You are so organized, so smart and so talented; and you are always willing to help. You are such a wonderful person and we are so lucky to have you as part of our temple family.

Marlon Cotton, it is such a treat for me and all the other sisterhood members to work with you. Your willingness to help and your warm smile make our days at the temple a pleasure. We couldn't do all that we do if not for you. And Morris, you young man have done a wonderful job of running our temple and we are all so appreciative.

Thank you to all of you for stepping up and giving of yourself. It has been a pleasure to serve as your sisterhood president.

Newest Arrivals



Mazel Tov!

To Pat & Allen Dees on the birth of their granddaughter on May 9th, 2010.

Amelia Lee Glenn Speigner, weighed 6 lbs and 7 ounces.



Alyssa Rose Kaplan was born May 23. She weighed 7 lb. 7 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long. Parents are Joy and Jarred Kaplan. Grandparents are Alison and Greg Williamson and Linda and Lenny Kaplan.



Congratulations to Dr. David and Loren Franco on the birth of Andrew Philip Franco born May 3rd, 2010 at 5:54 pm. Weight 7 lbs 15 oz, 20 inches long.

issue of the day; our first should be about a year from now, offering a religious perspective on issues raised by the Civil War, on the 150th anniversary. I also continue to enjoy teaching at Huntingdon, where I offer one class per year; this year's was Introduction to Jewish Mysticism, and a year from now I'll be teaching a class on the Holocaust.

All of the above having been said, I have to say that the most meaningful and satisfying part of serving as your rabbi is the opportunity to become closer to so many wonderful people in our community. In times of joy and celebration, but also, all too often, in times of great need, many of you have let me in to your lives, and have shared with me precious insights into yourselves, your families and your relationships. Being able to speak about Judaism before an audience or in a class is great, but doesn't come close to the feelings of making personal connections, as I stand before the ark to say a prayer beside someone facing surgery, or hold the hand of someone in intensive care, where only loved ones are permitted to visit, or touching a piece of cotton gauze with a dab of sweet Manischewitz to the lips of a baby during a baby-naming while the whole family looks proudly on. These feelings are deepening over time, the more I am here, and the more you are comfortable in sharing these moments with me. I also speak for Sandy Lynn in expressing how very pleased we both are to be in Montgomery, where we have begun to establish some real roots.

Over the coming year and, one hopes, years, I hope to continue to deepen our individual relationships, and hope that, as some already have, more of you will want just to come in to have a conversation, or do lunch, or otherwise find ways to get to know each other better. Do let me hear from you.

I opened by saying that an annual review ought not just be an exercise for a rabbi and the officers; it is something we must each do, if we take our Judaism and our membership in the temple seriously, and build relationships with each other

and you with your rabbi. On a very practical level, this afternoon's reports included a review of our finances, and how the Board has embarked upon a detailed review of how the temple operates, which will inevitably lead toward the kind of long-range planning that we haven't done here in some years. The demographics and finances are sobering, as we all know. The involvement of each and every member therefore becomes all the more precious – in terms of our own participation in programs, on committees and in positions of leadership. A temple should not be a place where a few serve the many.

Finally, an annual meeting is surely a time to give thanks. The extraordinary success of our holiday programs and dinners and films and so much else attests to the devotion of so many. This congregation is truly blessed with its leadership and with the many who might not hold leadership titles but who nonetheless toil away, often unthanked, behind the scenes. I dare not try to name names, lest I leave someone out, but mustn't let this moment go by without thanking Gina Friday, who keeps this place going far beyond any job description. She and Marlon are both treasures, and treasure them we do. Many folks here do lots of great work, but without Gina, especially, and Marlon, we couldn't do nearly so much, nor so well. It has also been a joy to work with Morris Capouya and the rest of the Executive Committee, and I look forward to a strong partnership with Jenny Ives as she takes the president's seat.

Serving as your rabbi has been and continues to be a great joy, and gives me challenge, satisfaction and pride. I hope to be here for many years to come. Please never hesitate to be in touch with your comments, suggestions and constructive criticism, and your ideas on how we can together make Temple Beth Or the best possible congregation for every one of our members.

Thank you.

Rabbi Elliot Stevens

The Gee's Bend Experience and How You Can Help

What a feel-good day 26 of us had, enjoying Alabama treasures in Wilcox County. From a range of viewing hand-made items by regional Alabama artists, to dining in an old antebellum home where we enjoyed great food, history, and all the wonders of the Gaines Ridge Dinner Club, a fun ride on the ferry over to Gees Bend, and ending with the Quilters of Gees Bend. We saw them quilt. They told us wonderful stories and sang for us. We were truly inspired by their drive and hard working ethic. I would like for us to spearhead a drive to **collect scrap materials (bolt cloth) and quilting thread (not regular sewing thread). If you have saved up anything and would like to donate it**, please drop it off at Temple Beth Or, or call me and I will be glad to pick it up from you. It will be sent to the Quilters as an appreciative gesture for their warm hospitality. This is one worthwhile project that will prompt you to pull all those unwanted materials and threads from your boxes or closets. Call me at 262-3314 with any questions. Linda R Smith, L'Chaim League (see page 13 for more photos)



Hello everybody!

May 23, 2010

After 10 months of living in Montgomery and working for

the Jewish Federation of Central Alabama, I'll be taking a flight tomorrow to St. Louis where I'm going to begin a new journey. For any of you who don't know - I'm going to be a songleader in a Jewish summer camp in that area and then go down to Dallas, rent a car with a friend and do a road trip all the way west to Las Vegas. I'll be leaving the States and heading back to Israel on August 11th.

I want to thank all of you for

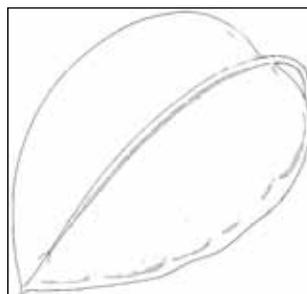


making this year such a wonderful experience for me. From the day I was chosen to be the local Shaliach, I could tell this is a warm and kind community. The evidence for that were all the moving emails I got once my name was published in the Federation's bulletin. Ever since, I always felt that this community has embraced me close to its heart. I want to take this opportunity to thank every one who had a part, no matter how big or small, in accomplishing all that was done in this wonderful and fruitful year. I attach to this email my "Dv'ar Torah" (Sermon) that I have given this last Friday which talks about this exact same subject.

Now, after I've spent so much time here, I expect to see each and every one of you coming to visit me in Israel! You have my email, and I would love to be your tour guide.

I'll see y'all in Jerusalem then! (you see? I've learned some southern!)

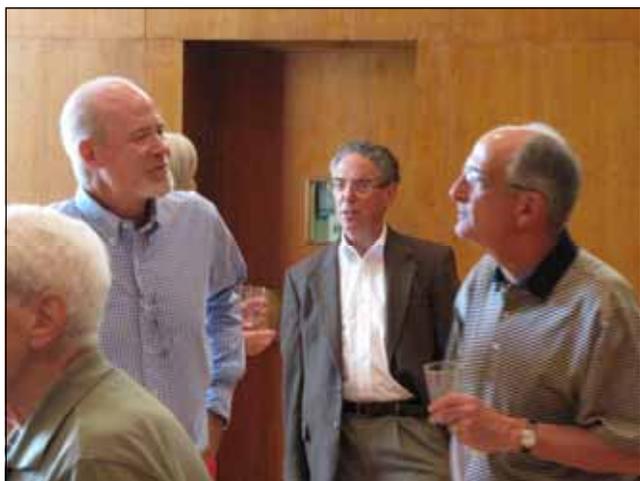
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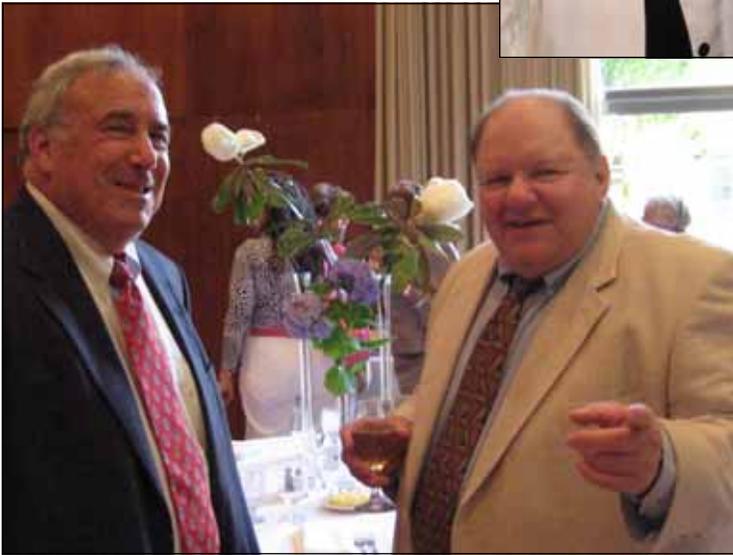
The Newest Leaf on our Tree of Life!

In Honor of the Bar Mitzvah of James Lucien Loeb III "Jack" March 6, 2010

Photos from the Congregational Annual Meeting on May 23, 2010



URJ 200th Anniversary Celebratory Dinner - May 13th



L'CHAIM LEAGUE

Join us, **Tuesday, June 22nd at 10:30** when we will meet at the **Child Protect Office** at 935 S Perry St for a presentation by the director, Jannah Bailey. This organization is located in **Dr. Weinrib's** old office and has been magnificently refurbished. After the presentation, we will have lunch at Corsino's on Court Street (one block over). Lunch will be your responsibility. **Make your reservation by Friday, June 18th.**

On **Tuesday, July 13th**, we are going to repeat a successful **lunch & bingo** at the AHEPA House at 12:00. **Volunteers are needed!** We will need people to prepare the meal in the Temple kitchen that Monday, serve the meal at the facility as well as set up and clean up, and provide Bingo prizes. We also need contributions that will be used to purchase bingo prizes and paper goods. There were about 35 people that enjoyed the lunch and bingo last summer. They are very excited about our return. Let me know if you would like to participate in this Outreach Project.

More interesting activities are planned. I look forward to seeing you at any of our events.

Linda R Smith

* * *

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

As the second year of our merged religious school comes to a close, we reflect with happiness and great pride on the many successes of the past nine months.

We welcomed Yuval Katz, our Shaliach from Israel, to our community. He brought knowledge, excitement, laughter and loads of musical entertainment to our school all year! Many, many thanks to the Jewish Federation of Central Alabama, and our two congregations, for giving us such a special gift through this program.

We also welcomed several military families who joined our community for the year. We will miss their smiling

faces as they move on this summer!

A very special thanks goes to our teachers. We have been so fortunate this year to have a group of teachers who exude passion and enthusiasm for Jewish Education in our community. Their dedication and commitment has reached outside the school walls - to other congregants who are lining up to join Kol Ami. There is no better compliment!

As we bid farewell to our positions, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to Rabbi Stevens and Rabbi Kramer, the school parents, and most of all our incredible school of children! Their smiles, giggles and participation filled each Sunday with such joy.

We were honored to serve as co-principals for our community and for our children.

Have a safe summer,

Sharon Berry & Lani Ashner
Co-Principals

* * *

YOUTH GROUP

We conducted our closing meeting for the school year on May 22nd at TBO. Thanks to all of the youth group members and parents for your participation in our activities this school year.

Have a fun and safe summer,

Sharon Berry

* * *

from the Library

A final column highlighting some of the titles from our latest order to arrive:

And God Said: How Translations Conceal the Bible's Original Meaning by Dr. Joel M. Hoffman. Joel Hoffman is a linguist and translator, and in *And God Said* he uses this background to "... correct some of the common errors in translating the language of the Bible from Hebrew into English." Rabbi Harold Kushner has stated that "Hoffman is wise and gentle as he exhibits the issue of distortion by way

of translation. Short of all readers learning Hebrew, Hoffman's work is the best gift for a careful reader of a text that defies easy contemporary rendering."

In the Beginning: a Short History of the Hebrew Language by Joel M. Hoffman. Another of Dr. Hoffman's titles meant to enlighten the reader on the complexities of the Hebrew language. Reviewers have called *In the Beginning* "A fascinating account of the evolution of Hebrew as a language" and stated that it is "...energetic ... with a commitment to exploring the evolution of Hebrew from ancient times to the present in ways that a broad audience can comprehend."

Guardian Angel House by Kathy Clark. This title is part of the Holocaust Remembrance Series for Young Readers. Clark wrote *Guardian Angel House* after watching a documentary film about the nuns of the Sisters of Charity convent in Budapest, Hungary. Both Clark's mother and aunt survived the Holocaust as children, and it was after watching the film that Clark realized it was these nuns who had rescued them. Unlike other cases where Jews were made to believe that conversion was their only hope for survival, none of the children taken in by the nuns converted to Catholicism. Clark sees this as a demonstration of the respect the nuns had for the beliefs of the children in their care.

Eric A. Kidwell, MLS

SINGLES GROUP

**Attention All Jewish Singles
50 & up**

For more information contact:
Carol Ronning at 279-0140.



2010 Joint Confirmation Service held on May 16, 2010.

L-R: Rabbi Scott Kramer, Branden Greenberg, Allison Lloveras, Abi Capouya, Chelsea Cauthen, Sam Lieberman, Student Cantor Andrea Rae Markowicz and Rabbi Elliot Stevens.



L-R: Rabbis Elliot Stevens, Lynne Goldsmith (Dothan), Gary Zola and Jeffrey Salkin. Rabbis Zola and Salkin were guest speakers on May 13th during the dinner celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Reform Judaism.

Agudath Israel ☆ Etz Ahayem
3525 Cloverdale Road • 281-7394

Beginning Hebrew with Rabbi Kramer on Mondays at 6 PM

Torah Study with Rabbi Kramer on Mondays at 7 PM

Monday, June 7
Monday, June 14
Monday, June 21

To see other AI☆EA events go to www.agudathmontgomery.com and click on *calendar*.

L'Chaim League visits Gee's Bend (Quilters) in Wilcox County on May 25, 2010.





Leaves for Life Cycle Events on our Tree of Life

Our Temple is proud to possess our "Tree of Life." This original sculpture is permanently displayed in the Temple Beth Or lobby. The branches of the tree contain leaves which can be inscribed to highlight or commemorate such joyous events as births, weddings, anniversaries, bar and bat mitzvahs, graduations or simply to honor parents, family or friends. Share your happy occasions by inscribing your family "Simchas" on our temple's "Tree of Life." This will be a permanent dedication to the meaningful and happy events that touch our lives. The price per leaf is \$250.00 for small leaves and \$350.00 for large leaves. Contact Sharon McDaniel or the Temple regarding purchase.

Beyond June!

Tuesday, July 13, 12 PM, L'Chaim League's 2nd annual Lunch and Bingo at the AHEPA House.
New service composed by Rabbi Michael Stevens to be introduced.

Saturday, August 28, 7 PM, For Men's Club Members. Biscuits Day at the Ballpark. Reservations Required.

Wednesday, September 8, 7:30 PM, Rosh Hashanah Eve Service - followed by Annual Reception

Thursday, September 9, 10 AM, Rosh Hashanah Morning Service

Thursday, September 9, 10:30 AM, Children's Service in Library

Friday, September 10, 6 PM, Shabbat Shuvah.

Sunday, September 12, 9:30 AM, Cemetery Memorial Service: Eternal Rest Cemetery

Sunday, September 12, 10:30 AM, Cemetery Memorial Service: Etz Ahayem Cemetery (new section)

Sunday, September 12, 11 AM, Cemetery Memorial Service: Etz Ahayem Cemetery (old section)

Friday, September 17, 7:30 PM, Kol Nidrei Eve

Saturday, September 18, 10 AM, Yom Kippur Morning

Saturday, September 18, 12 PM, Rabbi's Discussion

Saturday, September 18, 2:30 PM, Children's Service

Saturday, September 18, 3:30 PM, Memorial Service

Saturday, September 18, 4 PM, Afternoon & Concluding Services followed by Break Fast.

Be sure to check upcoming bulletins for possible date changes and more information. You may also consult the TBO website for additional information at www.templebethor.net.

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.

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.

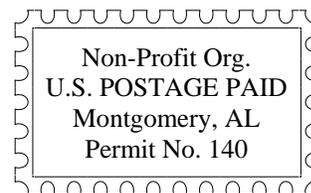
June 2010

Want an updated look at what's going on at Temple? Go to www.templebethor.net.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 6 PM Shabbat Service with Union Prayer Book	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 6 PM Shabbat Service	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 6 PM Shabbat Service	19
20	21	22 10:30 AM L'Chaim League visits Child Protect	23	24	25 6 PM Shabbat Service	26
27	28	29	30			

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

June 10 Bulletin



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2010 High Holy Day Service Times

Wednesday, September 8

Rosh Hashanah Eve 7:30 PM
Followed by our Annual Reception

Thursday, September 9

Rosh Hashanah Morning 10:00 AM
Children’s Service in Library 10:30 AM

Friday, September 10

Shabbat Shuvah 6:00 PM

Sunday, September 12

Cemetery Memorial Services
Eternal Rest Cemetery 9:30 AM
Etz Ahayem Cemetery (new section) .10:30 AM
Etz Ahayem Cemetery (old section)... 11:00 AM

Friday, September 17

Kol Nidrei Eve 7:30 PM

Saturday, September 18

Yom Kippur Morning 10:00 AM
Rabbi’s Discussion 12:00 PM
Children’s Service 2:30 PM
Memorial Service 3:30 PM
Afternoon & Concluding Services 4:00 PM
Followed by Break the Fast Dinner

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Did you know that weekly emails are sent out updating members of upcoming events at Temple Beth Or? We can also email the monthly bulletin to you. Please share your email address with us at bethor@templebethor.net so we can keep you current on activities happening at temple.



SEPHARDIC COOKBOOK

The Food Fest is planning to add a section devoted to Sephardic recipes to our very successful cookbook, “L’Dor V’Dor, From Generation to Generation.”

This is absolutely the last request for recipes if we are to have a Sephardic section! “This means you.”

Please send your recipes to Louisa Weinrib or to the Temple office. For questions call 262-6155. Thank you!