

Temple Beth Or Bulletin

A VIEW FROM THE BIMAH

December 2011 ~ Kislev/Tevet 5772



An old midrash describes God's debate with the ministering angels, during the first days of Creation, on whether to create

humans and, if so, what their nature should be. Some angels urged that humans be created with a strong sense of justice; others, with a strong sense of mercy. Eventually, we are taught, God endowed humans with equal measures of justice and mercy, except that in cases where the scale might be evenly balanced or the judgment in doubt, the scales should tip in the direction of mercy.

The balance between justice and mercy certainly applies to our immigration laws and discussions, on both a state and national level, as we seek to come up with a balance between hospitality and hostility; between the desire to welcome new immigrants vs. a perceived need to limit immigration to protect the interests of those already here. In seeking a viable and just balance, we can learn from our Jewish tradition which teaches a clear and (I believe) compelling perspective.

Torah has at least 36 injunctions along these lines: "When strangers sojourn with you in your land, you shall not do them wrong. The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt [Lev. 19:33-34]."

Expanding on this theme, Torah and later Jewish tradition emphasize the themes of mercy, kindness and hospitality, developing them into a significant body of Jewish law pertaining to the redemption of captives and provisions of safe havens for refugees. Of course Jewish law provides for justice and the rule of law, but the overall tenor of the law is unequivocal. We Jews can also learn much from our recent history:

the benefits of a more open and humane immigration policy benefited us in unprecedented ways until the doors began to shut in the 1920's; and we suffered in unprecedented ways when America's closed-mindedness during the Hitler period led directly to the slaughter of so many.

In balancing justice and mercy, I stand with the Reform Movement in favoring comprehensive immigration reform. For only by comprehensive national legislation can we begin to deal with 12 million undocumented individuals and the years-long backlog facing nearly 5 million people in such areas as family based immigration. Comprehensive reform would have to provide not just targeted, effective enforcement of realistic policies, but also a path to legal residency and, eventually citizenship. Legal channels must also be created so needed workers can fill available jobs, while avoiding the exploitation and abuses of guest worker programs that are often deeply flawed. Comprehensive reform must also restore the rule of law and enhance security, which can only work if laws are realistic and enforceable. Neither I nor the positions advocated by the Reform Movement advocate an open border policy or less rigorous security. But a hodge-podge of disparate state laws is ultimately non-viable. This should not be an issue about states' rights.

My own view is that the U.S. Congress is the only valid locus for these discussions to take place. States all over the country are adopting laws that are often in sharp conflict with each other and, I believe, often in conflict with national laws or the U.S. Constitution. Even such potentially useful a program as E-Verify is subject to widespread, well-documented errors – in some categories exceeding error rates of 50%. When naturalized citizens, for example, are 30 times more likely than native born

to receive an error from E-Verify, it makes no sense for individual states to administer such a flawed program, each in its own haphazard way.

In 2005, we celebrated the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the first Jewish community in North America – the group of 23 terrified and starving Jews who arrived in New Amsterdam [New York] seeking a safe haven from the Inquisition in Recife, Brazil. At first they were refused admission by local authorities, who feared the newcomers' impact on the local economy. But wiser heads back in Amsterdam prevailed, and the Jews were authorized to settle.

On the 350th anniversary, many of the nation's premier national Jewish organizations endorsed "A Jewish Vision for the Future of American Immigration and Refugee Policy." Signatories include national synagogue bodies from Reform through Orthodoxy; B'nai B'rith, the ADL, American Jewish Committee, National Council of Jewish Women, HIAS and literally scores of other national and regional Jewish bodies around the country, including the United Jewish Communities, that is, the whole apparatus of Jewish Federations around the country. It is a splendid, balanced, just, humane and beautifully-written document. You may access it at <http://www.hias.org/en/pages/a-jewish-vision-for-the-future-of-american-immigration-and-refugee-policy>, or through any of the other listed organizations. A full analysis of the legal and constitutional issues is available at www.rac.org, Reform Judaism's Religious Action Center in Washington. I urge us to inform ourselves on these issues with an open mind, and to learn from our tradition values that can help us shape our response.

Elliot L. Stevens

**Celebrating Our
160th Year**



ELLIOT L. STEVENS, D. D., RABBI
David A. Baylinson, D.D., *Rabbi Emeritus*

Temple Beth Or Officers

Jenny Ives *President*
Jamie Loeb *Vice-President: Programs*
Diane Weil *Vice-President: Finance*
Morris Capouya *Treasurer*
Charlotte Mussafer *Secretary*
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Gina Friday *Temple Administrator*
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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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Rabbi: rabbieis@templebethor.net
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Please call Gina Friday at 262-3314 to report any corrections or inaccuracies in the bulletin.



*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.*

TBO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

It was a delight to see so many people attending the Joint Thanksgiving Service with First United Methodist Church. This long tradition is meaningful to me as it sets the tone for the Thanksgiving Holidays.

I'm pleased to inform you that at our last meeting, the Board unanimously approved an updated version of a Facility Use Guideline for the Temple and Social Hall beginning immediately. This new guideline details the rules, regulations, cost and staffing requirements associated with the use of the Temple and Social Hall for weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, or any other event. You may review this guideline on our website or feel free to stop by the office for a copy. I appreciate the hard work and hours dedicated to this task by Marlene Beringer and her committee.

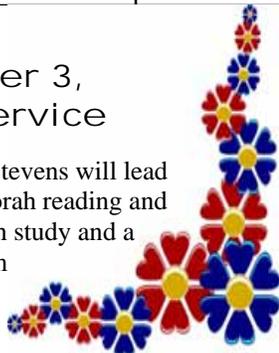
Please continue to watch your bulletin calendar as well as the weekly email updates for programs and events including February 3rd and 4th. Our Student Cantor, Andrea Markowicz will return for her last visit for Sisterhood Shabbat on February 3rd and there will be a Cabaret Benefit on February 4th featuring Andrea. It's going to be a wonderful event and I look forward to seeing you there.

Warm regards,

Jenny Ives
President

**Saturday, December 3,
Shabbat Morning Service**

Saturday morning, December 3, Rabbi Stevens will lead a Shabbat morning service, including Torah reading and Torah study. Service including Torah study and a light brunch will run from 9:30 – 11:15 a.m.



Recent Death

Marion C. Breyer ז"ל
October 19, 2011



Former Member

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.

CONTINGENCY FUND

In Memory of

Flora Jackson Hanchrow

Alan and Diane Weil

In Honor of

Ralph Capouya's 85th Birthday

Alan and Diane Weil

ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of my beloved husband,

Joseph E. Capilouto

Corinne F. Capilouto

In Memory of my dear Sister-in-Law,

Phyllis Franco

Corinne F. Capilouto

In Honor of

Ralph Capouya's 85th Birthday

Corinne and Larry Capilouto

FLORAL FUND

In Honor of

Ralph Capouya's 85th Birthday

Richard and Jeanette Hanan

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Phyllis Franco

Anne and Herman Franco

In Honor of

Ralph Capouya's 85th Birthday

Marlene and Rick Beringer

Leon and Sylvia Capouano & Family

Terri E. Capouya

Anne and Herman Franco

Rubin A. Franco

LUCIEN LOEB

L'CHAIM LEAGUE

In Memory of

Marilyn Rosen

Gay and Irving Winter

In Honor of

Ralph Capouya's 85th Birthday

Pearl C. Hasson

Lila Franco

Joan Loeb

Gay and Irving Winter

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of

Ralph Capouya's 85th Birthday

Joan Hanan

In Honor of Temple Beth Or

Anonymous

SELMA MARCUS FUND

In Memory of

Sanford Marcus

Selma Marcus

Deborah Marcus

Barbara Marcus

Sidney Marcus

Mr. Marks Marcus

In Memory of

Barbara Marcus

Debbie Marcus

Mr. Marks Marcus

YOUTH AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Honor of

Sarah Claire Loeb's Bat Mitzvah

Myrna and Alan Rothfeder & Family

BIRTHDAYS

3.....Esther Scheuer

4.....Carol Hart

4.....Robin Kromis

4.....Marks Marcus

8.....Jan Hoffman

9.....Kenny Capouya

10.....Jamie Loeb

10.....Barbara Shinpaugh

10.....Ken Wool

13.....Rubin Franco

16.....Seymour Cohn

19.....Sharon Berry

21.....Shirley Beringer

24.....Ward Newcomb

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings on December 2nd.

ANNIVERSARIES

10 Celia & Ken Wool

20 Sherry & Russell Levy

27 Alvin & Sharon Benn

29 Peggy & Maurice Mussafer

YAHARZEITS

To be read 12/2/2011

William Greene

Beatrice Feinberg Levy

Lucien S. Loeb

Marcelle Sabel Moers

Peggy Simon

Leonel Weil

To be read 12/9/2011

Nellie Beringer

Mose Brownstein

Eli R. Capouya

Babs Landau Klein

Julian S. Leet

Deborah Marcus

Charles McDaniel

Edna Rosen

Evalyn Rosenberg

Amelia Strauss Schloss

Charles Max Stiller

Florence M. Wolfson

To be read 12/16/2011

Arthur Beringer, Sr.

Berneice Blachschleger

Harold Jay Coleman, Sr.

Dr. James Glassner

Lillie O. Hart

Phyllis Simon

Carol Weil

Adolph Weil, Jr.

To be read 12/23/2011

Frances Mandell

Thelma B. Monsky

Myron J. Rothschild

Jerry Tillinger

To be read 12/30/2011

Hannah Roswald Abraham

Sylvan Robert Cohn

Anna Caroline Coleman

Martha Drum

Sylvan Ives

Bernice Loeb Levy

Barbara Marcus

Joseph Neuman

Adler Rothschild

L'CHAIM LEAGUE

Our Annual Chanukah Luncheon will be held this year on Tuesday, December 13th at Michael's Table. A very special lunch is planned, and Michael is going all out to serve us a very special menu. The cost is \$20.00 per person. **YOUR RESERVATION CHECK IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8th.**

Our special Chanukah Project this year is to provide salon services for the residents at the B'nai Brith Home in Memphis, Tennessee. We will be able to provide: Shampoo and Set - \$20.00; Haircut - \$20; Permanent wave - \$60.00; Tints - \$50; Manicure, including polish - \$17.00. You can either set a certain amount to purchase any special service, or you may give an amount that will be pooled and we will purchase what we can. Either way - this is a win-win for the residents that are least likely to be able to afford these services. You may mail a check to: 2246 Narrow Lane Rd - 36106 or bring it with you to the luncheon. This is a wonderful way to help someone else feel good about them self.

Watch for new exciting programs coming in the New Year. In February, we are fortunate to have Peggy Mussafer make a presentation about the arts in Montgomery. This is an event you won't want to miss. Wishing you all a Happy Chanukah.

Linda R. Smith

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KOL AMI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

This semester has flown by! I think we have had a wonderful fall at Kol Ami. We give many thanks to Gina, Marlon and Temple Beth Or for housing us for these last two semesters. We will be reconvening on **January 8th** at Agudath Israel*Etz Ahayem.

We welcomed Lauren Fredman from the Institute of Southern Jewish Life. Lauren participated in services at Temple Beth Or on Friday evening, and

enjoyed a dinner out with some lovely members of TBO. She was with Agudath Israel on Saturday morning and attended Zoo Boo Saturday evening with Rabbi Kramer. Sunday morning she taught our Confirmation Class and 7th grade students about the roles Jews played in the Civil Rights movement. We will welcome her back for Purim in March.

We are down to just two more days at Temple Beth Or for the rest of the year, December 4th and December 11th.

December 11th, we will have **TORAH TOTS** and we will all celebrate Chanukah with doughnuts, games and activities.

PLEASE NOTE: we will only meet from 9:30-11 AM on December 11th.

We will close at 11 AM and we encourage everyone to go support the Hanukkah Hoopla fundraiser at Agudath Israel*Etz Ahayem.

We are excitedly preparing for our second semester, and we hope that you all enjoy your holidays and vacation!

Please contact us if you need any information. Email Terri at adamnterri@yahoo.com or call 462-9461 or Sandy at sandy.cauthen@yahoo.com or call 320-0371. We look forward to seeing you at Kol Ami!

Terri Finkelstein and Sandy Cauthen
Co-principals

* * *

SISTERHOOD

A big thanks to all of you who contributed to our Carnegie Deli Cheesecake Sale. We raised almost \$6,000, about 38% more than last year, for Sisterhood; thanks to your generosity and the wide support of our friends in the community. A special thanks to Lisa Weil for such a great job this year again. Thanks also to Ricky Loeb and Steve Schloss for overseeing the cheesecakes from the freight truck to our freezers and to all of you who recruited sales from your friends and associates. Thanks also to all of those who helped in the distribution.

Thanks to Lisa Weil and to Pat Dees for the beautiful reception following our Joint Thanksgiving Service with First United Methodist Church.

Tammy Saperstein is planning a fun educational evening for the Chanukah event at Old Alabama Town on December 12th.

Please make plans to join us for our Chanukah dinner at Temple on the first night of Chanukah, Tuesday December 20th. Please remember to make your reservations.

Marlene Beringer

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FROM THE LIBRARY

For this month's column, we're highlighting a selection of Hanukkah and related holiday titles in the library collection.

Jewish Holiday Style, by Rita Milos Brownstein.

Fast & Festive Meals for the Jewish Holidays: Complete Menus, Rituals, and Party-Planning Ideas for Every Holiday of the Year by Marlene Sorosky.

Jewish Holiday Treats: Recipes and Treats for the Whole Family, by Joan Zoloth. A nice title particularly suited to enjoying holiday preparations with children.

It's Hanukkah Time! by Latifa Berry Kropf. Photographs and easy to read text portray children in a Jewish preschool as they prepare for and participate in a Hanukkah party.

Hanukkah at Valley Forge, by Stephen Krensky, illustrated by Greg Harlin. Based on a true story, Krensky weaves the tale of a Polish Revolutionary War soldier who tells General George Washington the story of the Maccabees and the miracle of Hanukkah. For grades 2-4.

The Gift, by Aliana Brodmann, illustrated by Anthony Carnabuci. It is post-war Germany and a young girl searches the shops of her town to find the perfect way to spend the Hanukkah money her father has given her. But her search yields a possibility she had not

anticipated, and in the end, she receives the greatest gift of all. For ages 5-8.

One Yellow Daffodil: A Hanukkah Story, by David A. Adler, illustrated by Lloyd Bloom. From *Booklist*, "Holocaust survivor Morris Kaplan spends his days tending his flower shop and trying to ignore his emotional emptiness. Two of his youngest customers, Jonathan and Ilana, visit every Friday to buy flowers for their family's Sabbath. He is surprised when the children arrive on a Tuesday, until they explain that this bouquet is for the first night of Hanukkah. After Mr. Kaplan admits that he no longer observes holiday traditions, the children invite him to join their family festivities the following evening. Although the celebration brings forth painful memories--including one of a single daffodil growing in the mud at Auschwitz--the experience helps Morris begin reconnecting with humanity." For ages 5-8.

Hanukkah Fun: Crafts and Games by Andrea R. Weiss and Mary F. Rhinelander.

Lighting the Way for Freedom: Treasured Hanukkah Menorahs of Early Israel, by Aaron Ha'Tell and Yaniv Ben Or. "The hundreds of menorahs illustrated in this book are artistic gems that span the four decades surrounding the 1948 birth of Israel, from the late 1920s through the early 1970s. They represent the Golden Age of Hanukkiyot (Menorahs) produced by the craftsmen of a bygone age. The images found on these works of art go beyond the story of the Maccabees and Hanukkah. They reflect the world as seen through the eyes of Jews who experienced, first hand, the rigors of war and the pangs of birth in the land of their people." (from Amazon.com)

How to Spell Chanukah and Other Holiday Dilemmas: 18 Writers Celebrate 8 Nights of Lights, edited by Emily Franklin. From *Publishers Weekly*, "Despite a cheery title, the writers in this odd little holiday book tackle their subject-and its attendant traditions of family, guilt and, well, tradition-with ambivalence, a real sense

of soul-searching and a bit of self-pity. Trying to make peace with their Chanukah memories, most of these writers are quick to point out its relative unimportance in the Jewish roster of holidays, inflated by its proximity to Christmas; still, their stories are clearly vivifying. There's a great deal of kvetching over the influence and excess of Christmas, and not just its consumerism."

A Taste of Chanukah: A Celebration of the Joys and Music of the Holiday (DVD) "A Taste of Chanukah is a joyous celebration of Chanukah that the whole family can enjoy. Hosted by Theodore Bikel and led by Artistic Director Hankus Netsky, the program serves up a festive hour-long concert. The program features over 150 musicians from the different ensembles recorded live at the New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall in Boston. Listeners will delight in humorist Chasia Segal, who demonstrates how to cook perfect potato latkes." (Editorial Review)

The Art of Hanukkah, by Nancy M. Berman. "The Art of Hanukkah, through its selection of forty-eight masterpieces of holiday ceremonial and fine art, tells the story of the desecration of the holy Temple, its subsequent reclaiming and rededication, and the miracle of the single, tiny cruse of oil that miraculously provided light for eight days. This volume visually documents the ways this holiday has been celebrated over the centuries." (from Barnes&Noble.com)

The Hanukkah Anthology, by Philip Goodman. This classic anthology covers the religious, culinary, artistic, dramatic, and musical ingredients, the traditional and the offbeat, of Hanukkah.

* * *

SHALIACH NEWS

HUMAN RIGHTS

In the next few weeks, the Israeli parliament will debate on a controversial law proposal that will affect Israel and the way it is presented around the world.

For a number of years, human rights organizations which operated in Israel presented Israel as a state that threatens the Palestinian people, and reported a dark Israeli regime similar to apartheid in South Africa.

For a person who has never spent time in the area, and has never had the chance to see the reality with his own eyes, these organizations portray the picture as the ultimate truth, backed up with facts. Any opposing statements are automatically discounted and attacked when heard.

The problem is, when these organizations give a distorted picture, public debate and peoples' opinions are not based on the difficulties from which the Israeli-Palestinian conflict truly suffers. By distorting their portrayal of Israel, these organizations are actually betraying their right cause and goals. They need to be stopped, or changed, especially when so many resources are involved and so much money being spent making and fighting negative propaganda.

In any democratic country, these kinds of organizations are important and needed in society, in order to prevent undemocratic acts by the government. They need to be privately funded in order for them to act freely and to express themselves without being afraid to protest when things are wrong.

When private people donate to an organization, they are promoting their agenda through it, with their names written and published.

But when the "deep pockets" are friendly countries that don't want their names involved into the debate, these organizations are dragged into a political mess.

The new bill the Israeli Parliament is

continued on next page

promoting attempts to block the second kind of funding. The reason is that if different friendly countries have a problem with the way Israel operates, these countries need to comment and remark through the proper channels, directly but not through the use of a middle man. The law will put a limit on the amount of money an organization can receive from another country and by doing so, will prevent this bad influence.

This law raises a lot of questions. One of the most important questions is what will happen to these organizations that use the money to accomplish great things. For example, the "Peres Institute for Peace" is an organization which tries to promote dialog between Israelis and Palestinians, or "Doctors Without Limits" which operates in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, saving lives and improving peoples' health.

Another important question that's being raised is what will happen when human rights organizations are unable to work in Israel and move their offices to areas under the control of the Palestinian authorities. Then, the organizations won't have to follow any rules and regulations as they are asked to do in Israel. Perhaps their reports will become even more distorted when being pushed exclusively by the Palestinians. The bottom line is I prefer left wing Israelis running the business rather than unknown, biased Palestinians.

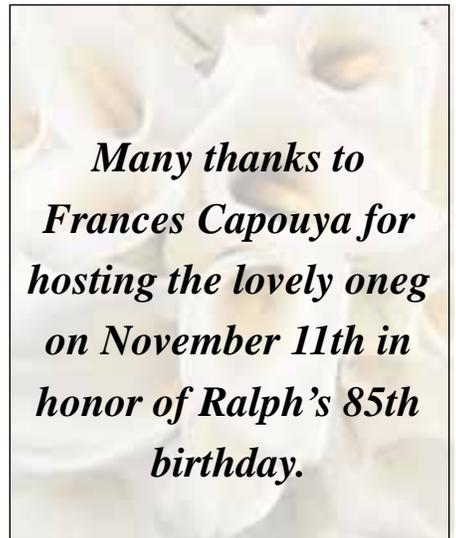
As I see this difficult situation, trying to stop the funding to the human rights organizations is wrong. The right wing majority in Israel can't use its power for this reason, but I still believe a change is needed.

The Israeli court system can be used in order to make the organizations to tell the unprejudiced truth by requiring official documents backing up the numbers, pictures and testimonies of their findings. If these documents can't be found, then the Israeli prosecution can file lawsuits to stop the organizations from publishing half truths and sometimes, full lies.

That's a way for Israel to keep its democratic status and still fight the people who try to embarrass Israel in

public, under the rules that are already written in the Israeli law book.

To sum it up, I think that the way Israel will handle this crisis will show the world if we are willing to be open for criticism. Israel is doing more than we need in order to keep the Palestinians basic rights, even in battle situations, or do we want to continue doing that with no supervision and a lot of bad publicity.



*Many thanks to
Frances Capouya for
hosting the lovely oneg
on November 11th in
honor of Ralph's 85th
birthday.*

Chanukah Shabbat with Family and Friends



A POT-LUCK DINNER

Tuesday, December 20

There will be a special Chanukah worship service and candle lighting, which will begin at 6 PM.

Please bring your favorite Chanukah Menorah and candles.

Following the service will be our annual Sisterhood Latke Dinner. Sisterhood is supplying chicken and latkes and asks everyone to bring either a vegetable, salad or dessert.

**\$5 for adults & children
10 & up,
free for children
under 10.**

Mail your check by December 16th as your reservation to Sharon McDaniel (277-3376) at 2632 Old Orchard Lane, Montgomery, AL 36117-2410.

Welcome to our newest members!

Akiko and Alan Bloom
2208 Hampstead Mew
Montgomery, AL 36117
Akiko: akikobloom@hotmail.com
Alan: navylifer3@hotmail.com
Home: (334) 375-7447

Elizabeth and Jacob Dubin
1148 South Lawrence Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
296-5666

Mr. Sandor (Sandy) L. Ginsburg
2041 Woodley Road
Montgomery, AL 36111
slg228@cornell.edu

SINGLES GROUP

Attention All Jewish
Singles * 50 & up

Jewish Singles 50 & Up
meets at LongHorn In
Montgomery on
December 10th at 5:30 PM. If you are
interested in attending contact: Carol
Ronning at 279-0140.



Ori Tal stands in front of a B-52 bomber at Maxwell Air Force Base during a base tour with Lew Nyman.



FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICES

especially for babies,
toddlers, kids, moms,
dads and grandparents
too!

**5:00 - 5:30 PM in
the Library**

December 2
January 6
February 3
March 2
April 13
May 4
June 1

The Food Festival is a project for the entire congregation, so we need your help. Call Susan Finklestein if you want to volunteer for baking. Call Karen Goldstein for other volunteer opportunities.

Are you downsizing or cleaning out your home? Please remember the Temple and our Collectable and Treasure Market. We would love any of your pre-loved items. Just call Pat Dees at 399-1212 for collectibles and she will pick up your items. Call Alan Weil, Sr. (281-1737) or Charlie Strasburger (279-7059) for Treasure Market item donations.

IT'S SHABBAT – TIME TO READ TORAH

Reading and studying Torah on Shabbat has been a core Jewish activity and value since antiquity. This year, responding to suggestions from some TBO members, Rabbi Stevens will periodically read from the Torah and share some teaching during Friday night Shabbat services.

For those who long to hear words of Torah and enjoy Torah services, the next in this occasional series will be on **Friday, December 9th**, at the usual start time of 6:00 p.m. Remaining dates are: January 13, February 10, March 9, April 20, May 18, June 15



BEDTIME BUNDLES



For the 4th year we will be collecting bedtime items for Child Protect during November and December. Please put your purchases which must be new and unused in the playpen in the Temple lobby beginning in early November.

After coming to Child Protect because they were abused or molested, these boys and girls go into foster care, often with nothing to call their own, according to Director Jannah Bailey. Please be generous for these unfortunate children, who are mostly ages 6-12.

Items wanted are pajamas, pillow cases, socks, underwear, bedtime stories, journals and writing implements, sketchbooks and coloring pencils or crayons, toothpaste and toothbrushes, washcloths, fleece throws, slippers, dolls and toys, combs/brushes/hair ornaments, and anything else you can think of.

If you don't want to shop or are unable to do so, please send a check to the temple office earmarked "for bedtime bundles" and we will be glad to shop for you! Thank you!

Louisa Weinrib
2626155

AUTHOR PROGRAM WITH RABBI MICHAEL COOK

Author of *Modern Jews Engage the New Testament*



Thursday, December 8, 2011
7:30 p.m. in Ligon Chapel, Flowers Hall, at Huntington College

Reception follows.

"The Jewish Bible in Famous Christian Art: Why It's There & What It Means"

(featuring visuals by Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and Jan van Eyck, among others)

Rabbi Michael Cook, one of the nation's foremost specialists on early Christianity in the context of Second Temple Judaism, uses some of the most famous works of Christian Renaissance art to explore the Jewish roots of Christianity. We will learn how some of the great themes of Christianity – annunciation; nativities; adorations, the Magi, etc. – are drawn from biblical episodes including Adam and Eve (and the serpent); Moses; King David; Daniel and others. Don't miss this fascinating illustrated talk! Books will be available for signing and purchase.

Rabbi Michael J. Cook, Ph.D. is Sol & Arlene Bronstein Professor of Judeo-Christian Studies and Professor of Intertestamental & Early Christian Literatures at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Co-sponsored by Huntington College and the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture and Culture Fund of Temple Beth Or



CONGRATULATIONS

Peggy Mussafer, Winner of the Wynton M. Blount Arts Leadership Award of the Montgomery Area Business Committee for the Arts.

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Kol Ami Religious School

Meets at TBO

12/4

12/11

In January school starts at AIEA

1/8

SAVE THE DATE!

Student Cantor Markowicz to Return February 3-5

Andrea Rae Markowicz, who served as TBO Student Cantor 2009 – 2011, returns for a special weekend next February 3-5, featuring a Dinner and Cabaret Benefit on Saturday evening, February 4.



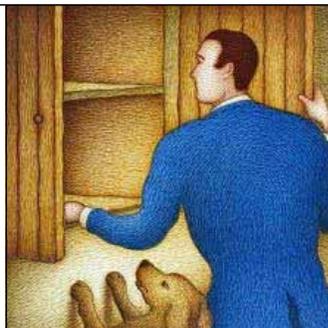
Watch for Details!

Cupboards are bare. Let's fill up the Treasure Market

URGENT: Items needed.

Money donations are also needed to defray expenses - advertising, baking and signs.

We thank all members who give.



The Chanukah Story



Chanukah Fun Stuff

POCKET SIZE RULES FOR PLAYING DREIDEL

(Don't leave home during Chanukah without them!)

Dreidel is a derivative of a German word meaning "top," and is an adaptation of an old German gambling game. Chanukah was one of the few times of the year when the rabbis would allow games of chance. The dreidel game thus was adopted as Chanukah entertainment. A dreidel is a spinning top with four sides. There are four letters: NUN ~ GIMMEL ~ HEY ~ SHIN ~ on each of the four sides. The four letters represent the words "A great miracle happened there". To play dreidel, each player should begin with an equal number of candies, raisins, nuts or pennies. Each player puts one candy in the center. The players then take turns spinning the dreidel.

If the dreidel lands on the NUN, the player gets nothing.

If the dreidel lands on the SHIN, the player puts one candy in the center.

If the dreidel lands on the HEY, the player wins half the candies in the center.

If the dreidel lands on the GIMMEL, the player wins all the candies in the center.

After landing on Gimmel, each player antes up again.

The game will end after a certain amount of gimmels, or until one player has won all the candies, or it can last indefinitely!

In 168 B.C.E., the Syrian tyrant, Antiochus Epiphanes, sent his soldiers to Jerusalem where they desecrated the Temple and Antiochus declared that Judaism be abolished. He offered the Jews two options: conversion or death. Altars and idols were set up throughout Judea; the observance of Shabbat and festivals and the practice of circumcision were outlawed. On the 25th of Kislev in that year, the Temple was renamed for the Greek god Zeus; pigs were sacrificed and the Torah splattered with their blood and then burned. Thousands of Jews chose to die rather than commit idolatry.

Slowly, a resistance movement developed, led by the Hasmoneans, a priestly family. The family head, Mattathias, and his five sons left Jerusalem and took up residence in Modi'in, a small town north of the city. When Syrian soldiers appeared and commanded the inhabitants to offer sacrifices to Zeus, Mattathias and his sons refused. Mattathias killed one Jew who had begun to sacrifice to Zeus. His sons then turned on the Syrians and vanquished them.

This was the turning point in the struggle. The Maccabees became instant heroes. They fled to the hills with their followers and began a campaign of guerrilla warfare against the Syrians. Mattathias' son, Judah, known as "The Hammer", became their military leader. Furious, Antiochus sent an army to destroy the Jews. Though outnumbered, Judah and his soldiers won two major battles, routing the Syrians decisively.

By 165 B.C.E., the terror of Antiochus had ended. The Jewish people had regained their freedom and retained their faith. The idols were torn down and, on the 25th day of Kislev, in 165 B.C.E., three years to the day after its original defilement, the Temple was re-consecrated. In celebration, the people marked their deliverance with an eight day festival, Feast of Lights, the Feast of Dedication, or simply, CHANUKAH.



WHY EIGHT DAYS? According to a Talmudic legend, when the Maccabees went to rededicate the Temple, they found only one bottle of purified oil for the Ner Tamid, the Eternal Light, enough for just one day. Miraculously, it burned for eight. The rabbis, therefore, attributed the eight days of CHANUKAH to the miracle of the oil. The books of the Maccabees, however, makes no mention of the legend of the oil and it is believed the eight day holiday was originally meant to parallel the eight days of Sukkot which the Maccabees could not observe while in hiding in the Judean hills.

Portions from "The Jewish Home: A Guide for Jewish Living,"
by Rabbi Daniel B. Syme.

Lighting The Chanukah Candles

The lighting of the Menorah (Chanukiah) is the central Chanukah ritual. Candles are arranged in the menorah from right to left; we begin with one candle plus the Shamash on the first night, then add an additional candle each successive night, ending with eight. Candles are lit, however, from left to right, the newest one first. The Shamash, which occupies a higher place than the other candles, is lit first and used to light the rest. On Friday night, the Chanukah candles are lit before the Shabbat candles. It is customary to place the lighted menorah in a window so passers-by can see the lights from the street, thus fulfilling the mitzvah of proclaiming the light.

This year, we light the first candle Wednesday evening, December 1, and recite the following two blessings:

Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-o-lam a-sher kid-sha-nu b-mitz-vo-tav v-tzi-va-nu l-had-lik ner shel Cha-nu-kah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who makes us holy with mitzvot, and who commands us to kindle the lights of Chanukah.

Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-o-lam she-a-sa nis-sim la-a-vo-tei-nu ba-ya-min ha-hey-m ba-z'-man ha-zeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in day of old, at this season.

On the first night ONLY, the following prayer is added:

Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-o-lam she-he-che-ya-nu v'-ki-y'-ma-nu v'-hi-gi-ya-nu la-z'-man ha-zeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai, our God, ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us and for enabling us to celebrate this joyous season.



*On Friday night,
the Chanukah
candles are
lit before the
Shabbat candles.*

Did You Know?

Chanukah is the only significant Jewish holiday not mentioned in the Bible. It is recorded in the First and Second Book of the Maccabees which are part of the Apocrypha, books written by Jews, but not part of the biblical canon. Chanukah was first celebrated as a military victory. The legend of the oil came later. In Israel, today, the emphasis, once more, is on victory and national courage and not the miracle of the oil.

The word, "Dreidel," is a derivative of the German word "top" and the game an adaptation of an old German gambling game. Chanukah was one of the few times of the year when rabbis permitted games of chance.

Why we eat latkes on Chanukah...A common explanation is because they are cooked in oil, reminding us of the miracle of the single cruse. The eating of latkes may have grown out of a custom of eating dairy foods on Chanukah, possibly because the main potato crop became available at that time of year.

In Israel, sufganiyot (jelly donuts) are the treats associated with Chanukah. These, too, are cooked in oil.

The root of the word education, chinuch, is related to the word Chanukah, which means re-dedication. Thus, Chanukah is an appropriate time to give to Jewish educational charities. Many families dedicate one night of Chanukah to giving monetary gifts of tzedakah and doing acts of g'milut chasadim in lieu of receiving gifts.

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS TAKING SHAPE FOR 2011 – 2012

Get ready for an outstanding calendar of offerings, featuring guest speakers, cultural programs and Rabbi Stevens, who is preparing several new classes for the spring season.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday, December 8, 7 PM, **Guest Speaker:** Rabbi Michael Cook, author of MODERN JEWS ENGAGE THE NEW TESTAMENT: Enhancing Jewish Well-Being in a Christian Environment. Sponsored by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture Series. Location: Ligon Chapel, Flower Hall at Huntingdon College.

Saturday, February 4, 7 PM, **Dinner and Cabaret Benefit** with Andrea Rae Markowicz. Advance reservations required.

Thursday, March 1, 7 PM, **Guest Speaker:** Steve Kussin: DOCTOR, YOUR PATIENT WILL SEE YOU NOW: Gaining the Upper Hand in Your Medical Care. Sponsored by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture Series.

Thursday, May 3, 7 PM, **Guest Speaker:** Jim Axelrod: IN THE LONG RUN: A Father, a Son, and Unintentional Lessons in Happiness. Sponsored by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture Series.

DIP A TOE IN THE SEA OF TALMUD!

The Talmud, that vast compilation of Jewish law, commentary and midrash, has often been called a sea. The Babylonian Talmud, completed around 500 C.E., is the primary compilation of Jewish law and tradition, and became the basis for later legal codes that have governed traditional Jewish life ever since. The term “sea” is apt, as one can easily get lost in the byways of rabbinic discussion. One recent edition, published by Art Scroll, comes to 73 thick volumes.

Rabbi Stevens is preparing a class for beginners in Talmud. We will explore together selected texts – in English! – and together learn to follow Talmudic argument.

Our first class will be on Thursday, January 26, from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., and continuing on most Thursdays at that hour. Classes will continue as long as there is interest; no prior swimming experience is necessary. Watch for details!



The Newest Leaf
on our
Tree of Life!

In Honor of the
Bat Mitzvah of
Sarah Claire Loeb
November 5, 2011

more to protect themselves? Why was the Pope silent, and was his silence justified? Should the Allies have bombed Auschwitz? How ethical were the Judenrate [Jewish Councils within the ghettos]?

This class will be in three parts:

- Session I: The Origins and History of Anti-Semitism [November 3]
- Session II: The Rise of Nazism through Krystallnacht [November 17]
- Session III: The War Against the Jews and the World’s Response [Dec. 1]

All sessions will be led by Rabbi Stevens and are open to all at no charge in the Social Hall at Temple Beth Or. Thursday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES WITH RABBI STEVENS

JUDAISM BASICS & BASIC HEBREW

This basic survey of Judaism runs for 11 sessions, starting October 27. Take a whirlwind tour of Jewish history, learn about Jewish traditions on life cycle events and the Jewish calendar, study the main religious themes of Jewish tradition, and ask as many questions as you wish.

Sessions run from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. **By Advance Registration: Please register with Gina Friday at the TBO office.**

Remaining dates and topics are:

- Dec. 1..... Lifecycle: Birth through Bar Mitzvah.
- Dec. 8..... Lifecycle: Marriage and Divorce.
- Jan. 5..... Lifecycle: Illness, death, mourning.
- Jan. 12..... Holidays: Shabbat and Festivals.
- Jan. 19..... Holidays: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
- Jan. 26..... Holidays: Minor holidays (Chanukah, Purim, etc.).

Hebrew bonus session: For those who want to learn to read Hebrew, now’s your chance. You CAN learn to read in just ten sessions, from 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. following the class in Basic Judaism.

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES ON THE HOLOCAUST

The Holocaust [*Shoah* in Hebrew, “conflagration”] was the single most destructive event in Jewish history and, as the only example where the entire apparatus of a state was explicitly directed toward the world-wide extirpation of an entire people, unique in human experience.

The study of the Holocaust must address disturbing and difficult questions raised by that experience. What can we learn from the long history of anti-Semitism? Who made the decision for the “final solution”? Could the Jews have done



AI☆EA ADULT EDUCATION

SATURDAYS

9:00 AM -

Coffee and Conversation

December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

30 minutes after kiddush - **Brunch and Learn** on Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26

Adult education program at Agudath Israel

Introduction to Judaism - December 5, 12, 19

Join Rabbi Kramer on Monday evenings from 7 PM to 8:30 PM for an "Introduction to Judaism" class. Open to all members of the Montgomery Jewish community and to those that are thinking of joining the Jewish community.



At Agudath Israel ☆ Etz Ahayem on the Sixth Day of Hanukkah - Sunday, December 25th Concert and Chinese Dinner. Call 281-7394 for details.

Photos from L'Chaim League's Thanksgiving Luncheon at Capitol Heights Place on November 15, 2011.



Batsheva

Singer, Songwriter, Musician, Comedy Writer

-Batsheva sings in Ladino, Yiddish, Hebrew and English. She is an award winning songwriter and has performed in Israel, Canada, Australia, and the United States.

-Her "Song of Remembrance" is part of the official archives of Yad Va-Shem.

-She is a classically trained musician, studying piano and cello at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. She accompanies herself on guitar. Batsheva holds a degree in Theatre from York University in Toronto.



"i, Batsheva, SINGER is a concert for the fringes and the masses. A cross (you should pardon the expression) between Theodore Bikel and Tom Lehrer, but from a distinctly feminine voice."



JFCA presents an afternoon movie

A Green Chariot

Twenty two year-old Sasha`s greatest wish is to become an Israeli. He has become religious, changed his name to Yair and speaks only in Hebrew -- even when he is addressed in Russian. He has completely cut himself off from his Russian past, including his father and his Russian friends. Now, Yair is about to marry his Israeli girlfriend. But when Yair receives a package from his aunt in the Ukraine, his world is shaken. Something inside challenges everything Yair believes about himself and the person he`s tried to become. The revelation forces him to confront his religious beliefs and journey back to the Russian identity he has fought to suppress.

*Join the Jewish Federation of Central Alabama and Ori, our Shaliach, for Movie Afternoon at Agudath Israel on **December 18, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.** for a showing of this award-winning movie .*



Simchat Torah Celebration

October 19, 2011



Beyond December!

Thursday, January 5, 8:30 AM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 8:30 AM. Class seven: Lifecycle: Illness, death, mourning. A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 9:30 AM.

Friday, January 6, 5 PM, Family Chavurah Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.

Saturday, January 7, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served.

Thursday, January 12, 8:30 AM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 8:30 AM. Class eight: Holidays: Shabbat and Festivals. A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 9:30 AM.

Friday, January 13, 6 PM, Shabbat Service. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH followed by a pot luck dinner at 7 PM.

Thursday, January 19, 8:30 AM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 8:30 AM. Class nine: Holidays: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 9:30 AM.

Friday, January 20, 6 PM, Classical Service with Union Prayer Book.

Thursday, January 26, 8:30 AM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 8:30 AM. Class ten: Holidays: Minor holidays (Chanukah, Purim, etc.). A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 9:30 AM.

Thursday, February 2, 8:30 AM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 8:30 AM. Class ten: Modern Judaism: Israel;

Denominations. A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 9:30 AM.

Friday, February 3, 5 PM, Family Chavurah Shabbat service in the

Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.

Saturday, February 4, 7 PM, Dinner and Cabaret Benefit with Andrea Rae Markowicz. Advance reservations required.

Saturday, February 4, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens and Student Cantor Andrea Rae Markowicz. Light brunch served.

Tuesday, February 7, 11:30 AM, L'Chaim League luncheon. Guest Speaker is Peggy Mussafer. At Agudath Israel*Etz Ahayem.

Friday, February 10, 6 PM, Shabbat Service. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH.

Thursday, March 1, 7 PM, Guest Speaker: Steve Kussin: DOCTOR, YOUR PATIENT WILL SEE YOU NOW: Gaining the Upper Hand in Your Medical Care. Sponsored by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture Series.

Friday, March 2, 5 PM, Family Chavurah Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.

Saturday, March 3, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served.

Wednesday, March 7, TBA, Purim Service - Costumes (adults, too!), Purim Pranks, the famous Megillah and Hamentaschen!

Friday, March 9, 6 PM, Shabbat Service. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH.

Sunday, March 11, 9 AM - 3 PM, Temple Beth Or's Annual Jewish Food Festival.

Friday, April 6, 6 PM, First Seder. Seating will begin at 5:30 PM, with the service to begin promptly at 6:00.

Friday, April 13, 5 PM, Family

Chavurah Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.

Friday, April 13, 6 PM, 160th Anniversary Service with Union Prayer Book. Service preceded by wine and cheese reception at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, April 13, All Day, TBO Office closed for 7th day of Passover.

Saturday, April 14, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served.

Friday, April 20, 6 PM, Shabbat Service. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH.

Sunday, April 22, 4 PM, Community Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Service at TBO.

Thursday, May 3, 7 PM, Guest Speaker: Jim Axelrod: IN THE LONG RUN: A Father, a Son, and Unintentional Lessons in Happiness. Sponsored by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture Series.

Friday, May 4, 5 PM, Family Chavurah Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.

Saturday, May 5, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served.

Friday, May 18, 6 PM, Shabbat Service. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH.

Thursday, May 24, 7 PM, Confirmation Service at Temple Beth Or.

Friday, June 1, 5 PM, Family Chavurah Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.

Saturday, June 2, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served.

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.

NEED HELP GETTING AROUND DURING SERVICES?

A wheelchair and walker are stored in the coat closet and available to members and guests during Temple events.

December 2011

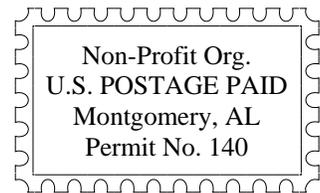
Want an updated look at what's going on at Temple? Go to www.templebethor.net.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<p>1 8:30 AM, Basic Judaism 9:30 AM Basic Hebrew</p> <p>7 PM, Adult Ed: Study of the Holocaust. Session III.</p>	<p>2 5 PM, Family Chavurah Shabbat service in the Library</p> <p>6 PM Shabbat Service</p>	<p>3 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens.</p>
<p>4 9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School at TBO</p>	5	6	7	<p>8 8:30 AM, Basic Judaism 9:30 AM Basic Hebrew</p> <p>7:30 PM, Guest Speaker: Rabbi Michael Cook at Ligon Hall, Huntingdon</p>	<p>9 6 PM Shabbat Service</p>	10
<p>11 9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School at TBO</p>	12	<p>13 11:30 AM, L'Chaim League's Chanukah Luncheon at Michael's Table.</p>	14	15	<p>16 6 PM Shabbat Service</p>	17
18	19	<p>20 6 PM, Annual Chanukah Service & Dinner.</p>	21	22	<p>23 6 PM Shabbat Service</p>	24
25	26	27	28	29	<p>30 6 PM Shabbat Service</p>	31
<p>Temple hours will be 9 AM - 12, Tuesday - Friday. Temple will open at 5 PM for Shabbat service.</p>						

Kahl Montgomery—Temple Beth Or

2246 Narrow Lane Road
Montgomery, AL 36106

DECEMBER 11 Bulletin



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.templebethor.net

Gina Friday will be on vacation from December 26th - December 30th. Office hours from Tuesday - Friday of that week will be 9 AM - noon. All efforts will be made to keep the office open and the phones staffed during her absence.



MAGAZINE PROJECT

Bette Sue Strasburger and her grandchildren, Meagan and Nathan Ashner, are collecting magazines for local organizations. Some of the organizations that have benefited are: Easter Seals, Wesley Gardens, AHEPA house, Family Guidance (Parkview Adult), Sunshine Center, The Cedars, Cara Vita and the V.A. Hospital. Please continue to help these residents enjoy recent copies of magazines by dropping yours off at the Temple. Magazines should be no more than 6 months old and in very good condition.

