

# Temple Beth Or Bulletin

A VIEW FROM THE BIMAH

February 2012 ~ Sh'vat/Adar 5772



In last month's bulletin, Ori Tal wrote a very fine article on growing tensions within different parts of the social sphere that make up modern Israel. He drew a very apt analogy between the story of Rosa Parks' refusal to move to the back of the bus during the Civil Rights era and the situation now emerging in Israel where ultra-Orthodox rabbinic leaders are now forcing their religious views onto general society, as they seek to move the traditional separation of men and women in synagogues into many other areas of public life.

I believe that Ori is right in highlighting this issue, as it presents a challenge – maybe a threat would be the better term – to the very soul and character of Israel. Ideologues and pragmatists have long debated the question of what it means to have a “Jewish” state, or whether Israel as a democratic state is compatible with being a “Jewish” state, or what “Zionism” might mean, for example, to those of us who support Israel but don't consider ourselves to be in exile by choosing to live in Alabama. But when a small minority – in Israel's case, no more than 10% of the population is ultra-Orthodox in the context of a largely secular society – manipulates a political process to force their views on the larger polity, we may truly worry about what this bodes for Israel's future. When we think about the challenges Israel faces, we usually think in terms of Iran's nuclear ambitions or the role of the Moslem Brotherhood in Egypt or what will happen if the Palestinians are able to secure statehood; but the internal threat is not less important, or less troubling.

We learn, for example, the story of Israeli pediatrics professor, Channa Maayan, who was awarded a prize by the Israeli Health Ministry. Though she

wore a long-sleeve top and long skirt to the awards ceremony, she wasn't permitted to sit with her husband, and a male colleague had to accept the award on her behalf because Orthodox authorities prohibited her from coming up to the stage. According to a recent article in *The New York Times*, women are increasingly barred from speaking at conferences; ultra-Orthodox men spit on an 8-year-old girl whom they deemed immodestly dressed, and Orthodox protestors depicted the Jerusalem police commander as Hitler on posters because he instructed public bus lines with mixed-sex seating to drive through ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods; vandals routinely black out women's faces on Jerusalem billboards, yet a woman presides over the Israeli Supreme Court, while religious authorities accuse liberal groups of waging a war of hatred against those who are pious.

Meanwhile, the very religious Jews are the only group in Israel with a higher birth rate than thirty years ago -- and these kids are raised in an exclusive yeshiva world that seeks to exclude every aspect of modern life.

There are, to be sure, powerful forces and agencies in Israel that speak for full equality in civil rights, and social and economic justice. The term “Jewish state” does not *necessarily* have to mean what the ultra-Orthodox establishment would have us believe it means. The Reform Movement's Israel Religious Action Center has very much been in the public eye in arguing for religious equality, and we can be justly proud in the IRAC's role over the years in bringing case after case before the Israel Supreme Court, and in the court of public opinion. The Reform Movement has been growing in numbers, public perception and power over the years, and has worked closely with its Conservative counterpart there – since they are natural allies in the eyes of

those who lump together all non-Orthodox as fundamentally illegitimate.

I highlight this issue in part because I have begun to hear questions as to whether non-Orthodox American Jews should pull back from supporting Israel or, especially, making donations.

I submit that in such a time of internal tension, this is precisely the time not to withhold our support.

First, when we donate through the Jewish Federation, our donations fund social service needs that have nothing to do with the above challenges. United Jewish Communities (umbrella organization of the Federation world) works closely with the Jewish Agency in Israel to channel donations toward the hungry, the elderly, orphans, needy immigrants and those with special needs, regardless of their religious preferences.

Second, our Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism, part of the worldwide World Union for Progressive Judaism, has a very strong voice thanks to the strength of American Reform – and the voice of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, which I urge you to join and support. All of these organizations are worthy of our support and donations; you can explore further by following the links on our temple website.

Finally, we need to recognize that the Jewish community in Israel is now the largest in the world – surpassing even America's. Precisely because American Reform Judaism is the largest liberal religious expression in America, we have an obligation to retain a strong stake in Israel's future – not just in terms of Israel's security, but in the way we involve ourselves and concern ourselves with the future of Israel's soul.

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*  
Morris Capouya..... *Immediate Past President*

**Board of Trustees**

Micki Beth Stiller..... *Cemetery*  
Bob Goldberg ..... *Facilities*  
Diane Weil ..... *Finance*  
Charlotte Mussafer..... *Fund Development*  
Sharon McDaniel ..... *Hospitality*  
Sam Kaufman..... *Long Range Planning*  
Susan Finklestein ..... *Membership & Attendance*  
Philip Bernstein/Pete Ginsburg. *Men's Club President*  
Ricky Loeb ..... *Religion School*  
Marlene Beringer ..... *Ritual/Sisterhood President*

**Temple Beth Or Staff**

Gina Friday..... *Temple Administrator*  
Terri Finkelstein ..... *Religion School Director*  
Linda Smith..... *L'Chaim League*  
Marlon Cotton ..... *Maintenance Manager*  
Elizabeth French..... *Organist & Choir Director*

**Office Hours**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Tues., Wed. &amp; Thurs.</b>	<b>9-5</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9-2</b>

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Rabbi: rabbieis@templebethor.net  
www.templebethor.net

*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](http://www.jewishmontgomery.org).*

**TBO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Congregants,

During the month of January, we lost two very important members that have made a significant impact on Temple Beth Or during my presidency.

It was a little over a year ago when Rabbi Stevens called and told me that Bubba Marcus had come to tell him that he wanted to be the Food Festival Chairman for 2012. I remember saying, "G—bless him" because who could ever tell Bubba Marcus that they couldn't participate! Bubba worked tirelessly on the Food Festival until the day he passed away. His cheerful and willing attitude will no doubt carry our Food Festival to a new high level of success. Bubba will not see his success and he will be sorely missed.

It was about six months ago when I learned that Leo Drum had an idea to sell some excess land at the Eternal Rest Cemetery to the City. In return, the hope was to get perpetual care for the years to come. Richard Hanan, Sam Kaufman and Jamie Loeb began to work toward this goal. This past Sunday, the congregation unanimously approved the sale. Now all we need is City Council approval. Leo Drum worked behind the scenes on Temple history and on behalf of the cemetery for so many years. Leo had a vision for the cemetery that will benefit the Temple for the future! Leo will also be sorely missed.

How blessed were we that these wonderful men were members of Temple Beth Or! My life has been touched by both of them and I shall miss them.

Sincerely,

President

**Recent Deaths**

Leo J. Drum, Jr. ז"ל

March 7, 1915 to  
January 6, 2012



Marks "Bubba" Marcus ז"ל

December 4, 1924 to  
January 7, 2012



Saturday, February 4 ▪ Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday morning, February 4th, Rabbi Stevens will lead a Shabbat morning service along with Student Cantor Markowicz. Service will run from 9:30 – 11:15 a.m. and include Torah study and a light brunch.



**Contributions to Funds**

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

**ARCHIVES AND HISTORY FUND**

*In Memory of Leo J. Drum, Jr.  
Gina and Jack Friday*

**BAYLINSON ART MEMORIAL**

*In Memory of Marks "Bubba" Marcus  
Barbara and Robert Shinpaugh*

**ETZ AHAYEM MEMORIAL**

*In Memory of David R. Franco  
Corinne F. Capilouto*

**FLORAL FUND**

*In Memory of  
Flora Jackson Hanchrow  
Marilyn Rosen  
Lisa and Andy Weil*

*In Honor of  
Jeanette Hanan's 80th Birthday  
Lisa and Andy Weil*

*In Appreciation of Marlene Beringer  
Lisa Weil*

*In Honor of  
Ralph Capouya's 85th Birthday  
Pat and Allen Dees  
Lisa and Andy Weil*

*In Honor of  
Raymond Cohen's 80th Birthday  
Lisa and Andy Weil*

*In Honor of  
Richard and Jeanette Hanan  
Pat and Allen Dees*

*In Memory of Stanley Lapidus  
Lisa and Andy Weil*

**FOOD FESTIVAL**

*In Memory of Marks "Bubba" Marcus  
Marlene and Rick Beringer  
Alan and Diane Weil*

**GENERAL FUND**

*In Honor of the 90th Birthday of  
Charlotte Ives  
Robin and Jeff Blitz*

*In Memory of Harold Gubin  
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Gubin*

***In Memory of Leo J. Drum, Jr.***

*Stephen Coleman  
Marlene and Rick Beringer*

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

*In Memory of  
Arthur B. Beringer, Jr.  
Betty, Bob and Erik Goldberg*

*In Memory of  
Marks "Bubba" Marcus  
Robin and Andy Kromis*

**SELMA MARCUS MEMORIAL**

*In Memory of  
Marks "Bubba" Marcus  
Phyllis Applefield  
Owen and Loree Aronov  
Robin and Jeff Blitz  
Sharon L. and John Chambless  
Isaac and Felice Cohen  
Stephen Coleman  
Fred and Susan Feinberg  
Susan and Joe Finklestein  
Rubin A. Franco  
Juliet H. Greenberg  
Richard and Jeanette Hanan  
Joan Hanan  
Barbara and Paul Handmacher  
Pearl C. Hasson  
Leigh Hurt  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Pease Langley  
Becky May  
Charlotte and Joe Mussafer  
Myrna and Alan Rothfeder, Anne and  
David Mitchell, and  
Andrew and Sara Rothfeder  
Burke Schloss  
Roz Caplan and Ed Simon  
Pauline C. Witt*

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**BIRTHDAYS**

- 3.....Mark Franco
- 3.....Alan Weil, Jr.
- 5.....Gilson Capilouto
- 5.....Daniel Markstein
- 7.....Allen Dees
- 9.....Tony Piel
- 12.....Hugh Bolen
- 13.....Lisa Weil
- 13.....Mike Winter
- 19.....Hanna Berger
- 19.....Adam Finkelstein
- 21.....Andrew Kromis
- 21.....Barbara Leet
- 25.....Elsa Herzfeld

**Birthday and Anniversary Blessings  
on February 3rd.**

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**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3.....Lorraine and Robert  
Lieberman
- 10.....Gracie & Jack Hanchrow
- 21.....Steve & LaNette Clein
- 28.....Susan & Robert Kohn

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**YAHARZEITS**

**To be read 2/3/2012**

- Abraham Feinman
- Dr. John Herzfeld
- Sol Katz
- James L. (Jimmy) Loeb, Sr.
- Irma Endel Spitzer
- Dr. Joseph Weinrib

**To be read 2/10/2012**

- Goldie Lieberman
- Edith Scheuer Weil

**To be read 2/17/2012**

- Matilde Alhadef
- Bernard Bolen
- Eliot Capouya
- Simanto Franco
- Mathilde "Teal" L. Kohn
- Carol R. Loeb
- Carolyn Abraham May
- Edward A. Posner
- Gloria Haas Shwarts
- Larry Toney
- Rossie Weil
- Edwin S. Wise, Jr.
- Cecily Wool
- Harold Yellin

**To be read 2/24/2012**

- Dorothy Applebaum
- Beulah "Bollie" Avzaradel
- Herman Blotner
- Dr. Morris Capilouto
- Edith Kahn Himan
- Morris Reznikoff
- Gail Straus

## SISTERHOOD

We hope all will join us as we celebrate Sisterhood Shabbat on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. We welcome Student Cantor Andrea Rae Markowicz back to our bimah. She will share her beautiful voice with us once again as she leads our music and chants the traditional Torah portion, the song of Miriam to the tune of Mi Chamocha. Please plan to attend our **Wine and Cheese reception prior to services at 5:30**. Kelly Capouya and Karen Lieberman are planning something special.

Sisterhood would like to thank Anita Reznikoff for her generous donation of silver trays to the Temple. Sisterhood uses our silver trays for our receptions many times throughout the year so we are always in need of additional serving pieces. If you would like to donate silver items to the Temple, we would be happy to add them to our collection, polish them and use them.

Food Festival is fast approaching. I encourage all to join your fellow congregants in helping with the preparation. Many of the ladies of the Temple work together diligently, especially in the kitchen, for the benefit of the Congregation. Please do your part to help.

Marlene Beringer

\* \* \*

## L'CHAIM LEAGUE

Join us, **Tuesday February 7th**, at 11:00 am, at The Egg and I. Peggy Mussafer will be speaking about the history of art in Montgomery. This is a very interesting and historical topic, and one I am sure everyone will enjoy. The cost of lunch is \$15.00 per person, which includes entree, gratuity, and tax. I will need your **reservation by Feb. 3rd**, in order to confirm seating in the private dining room.

Mark your calendars, to attend the book review by Rabbi Stevens on ***"In the Garden of Beasts"*** by Erik Larson on Tuesday, March 27th at 2:00 pm at

Temple Beth Or. Tea and desserts will be served. There is no charge for this event.

Upcoming events include: a visit to the historic village of Westville, Georgia which is near Columbus, Ga. It was written up in Architectural Digest and has been the home to a Disney Movie. We are also planning a visit to the Aldridge Botanical Gardens in Birmingham. Both of these tours should be really entertaining and a site to see. If you have any questions about any of the events, please call: 262-3314. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Linda R. Smith

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## LAST MINUTE NOTICE

2012 Weil Fellow Induction Ceremony and Keynote Address, January 29, 2012, 7:30 p.m., 109 Goodwyn Hall at Auburn University at Montgomery

**Mr. Jon Meacham**, Author, Executive Vice President and Executive Editor, Random House Publishing

*About the Weil Fellowship:* Established in 1995 in honor of Adolph Weil, the Weil Fellow in the Arts and Humanities is awarded to persons of distinguished achievement in the arts and humanities: writers, artists or renowned scholars in one or more of the liberal arts disciplines.

### *About Jon Meacham*

Jon Meacham is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *American Lion* and *Franklin and Winston*, former editor of *Newsweek*, and executive V-P and executive editor at Random House Publishing.



Arriving at *Newsweek* as a writer in 1995, he became the national affairs editor that year, was named managing editor in 1998 and served as editor from 2006 until September 2010. Meacham served as co-anchor of PBS' *Need To*

*Know*, a weekly primetime news and public affairs program from 2010 to 2011.

As executive vice president and executive editor at the Random House Publishing Group, Meacham focuses on acquiring works of history, religion and biography and advising on a broad array of publishing opportunities, including digital initiatives. He is currently editing a book by former vice president Al Gore and a series of e-books published by Politico on the 2012 presidential campaign, as well as working on two new books of his own. His book *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House* was published by Random House. It debuted at #2 on *The New York Times* bestseller list and became a Times Notable Book. In 2009, *American Lion* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for biography.

Meacham is also the author of two other New York Times bestsellers—*American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers* (2006), and *the Making of a Nation and Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship* (2003), about the wartime relationship between Roosevelt and Churchill. He has written for *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Washington Post*, *Slate*, and *The Los Angeles Times Book Review*. In 2001, he edited *Voices in Our Blood: America's Best on the Civil Rights Movement* (Random House).

Born in Chattanooga in 1969, Meacham holds a B.A. in English Literature from The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. He is a "Global Leader for Tomorrow" of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. In 2005, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University and holds three other honorary doctorates.

Meacham and his wife, Margaret, the former director of development at Harlem Day Charter School, live in New York City with their three children.

Wine and Cheese Reception

Friday, February 3 ◆ 5:30 PM

Please join us for a Wine and Cheese reception preceding service on February 3rd in honor of

Sisterhood  
Shabbat



**Kol Ami  
Religious School**

**AIEA**

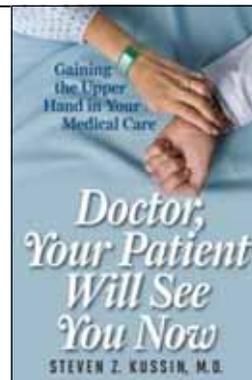
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- 5/6
- 5/13
- 5/20



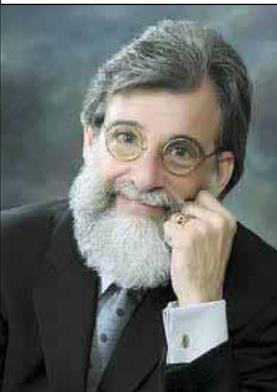
**AUTHOR PROGRAM WITH  
STEVE KUSSIN, M. D.**

Author of *Doctor, Your Patient Will See You Now: Gaining the Upper Hand in Your Medical Care*

Thursday, March 1, 2012 ■ 7 PM



Patients increasingly and correctly feel that they are on their own in an impersonal and dangerous medical system. Offering an insider's perspective, Kussin's book



teaches readers how to be better patients in order to get better care, offers access to industrial-strength resources, and promotes an attitude that will prevent alienation and manipulation. The guidance offered in this book will empower the healthy and prevent error and misadventures in the ill. Doctor, Your Patient Will See You Now enables patients to arrive at their own valid and authentic opinions and act on them in partnership with their clinicians or, if necessary, independently.

**Food Festival Cooking Schedule**

*Cooking time begins at 9 AM unless otherwise noted. Time and dates are subject to change so please call the Temple to confirm times.*

- February 1 .....Cabbage..... Karen Lieberman
- February 5 .....Hamantashen.... Joy Kaplan
- February 6 ..... 10 AM .....Praline Matzah. Diane Weil
- February 8 .....Curabies ..... Lynne Ginsburg
- February 10 .....Curabies ..... Lynne Ginsburg
- February 11..... 1 PM .....Challah Prep..... Marlene Beringer
- February 12 .....Challah ..... Marlene Beringer
- February 18 ... 1 PM .....Challah Prep..... Marlene Beringer
- February 19 .....Challah ..... Marlene Beringer
- February 26.....Latkes ..... Susan Bernstein

(Confirm dates and times by checking the Temple's website at [www.templebethor.net](http://www.templebethor.net) or by calling the Temple office at 262-3314)

**BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

**Sponsored by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture and Culture Fund of Temple Beth Or**

**MAGAZINE PROJECT**

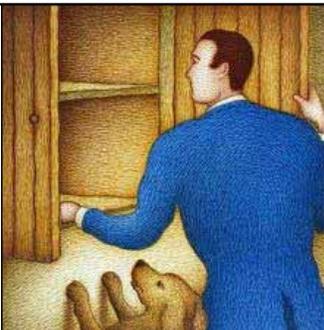
Bette Sue Strasburger and her grandchildren, Meagan and Nathan Ashner, are collecting magazines for local organizations. Some of the organizations that have benefited are: Easter Seals, Wesley Gardens, AHEPA house, Family Guidance (Parkview Adult), Sunshine Center, The Cedars, Cara Vita and the V.A. 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.

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.



## Mazel Tov!

To **Julie and Bill Goolsby** on the birth of their first grandchild on January 10, 2012

**Jane Frances Waits**

Parents are Gibian and Josh Waits from Birmingham

We Need Your Help to ensure another successful Food Festival this year!!! Please mail your volunteer form to me or take it to the Temple. You may call me:265-1145 or e-mail at [kackaboo@gmail.com](mailto:kackaboo@gmail.com) to let me know. If you would like to work in the same area you did last year, that's great. Just let me know ASAP. March 11 is fast approaching!!

Thanks for your help!!

Karen Goldstein  
(2026 Myrtlewood Dr. 36111)

## Mazel Tov to Temple Member Al Benn!

Alabama Press Association President Alan Davis announced today the recipients of the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award. Honorees are Alvin Benn, veteran reporter at the Montgomery Advertiser, and Tom Wright, retired executive editor of The Decatur Daily.

Benn, a Pennsylvania native, began his newspaper career working for the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. He served as managing editor for the Natchez Democrat (Miss) and The Selma Times-Journal before going to work at the Montgomery Advertiser. He retired in 2003, but returned the next year on a part time basis. Today, he works as a freelance correspondent providing regular articles as well as his long-standing column "Al Benn's Alabama."

The honorees will be recognized at a banquet during the APA Journalism Summit on Feb. 17 at the Hotel Capstone in Tuscaloosa.

Veteran journalist Al Benn will bring the experience and anecdotes of nearly a half-century in journalism, when he visits Auburn University as the 2012 speaker for the Neal and Henrietta Davis Lecture Series.

Benn will speak on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 6 p.m. in the Dixon Auditorium of the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center.

Since his "retirement" from the Montgomery Advertiser in 2003, Benn has remained an active journalist through his popular "Al Benn's Alabama" feature, as well as other projects.

His 32 years with the Advertiser resulted in thousands of stories and photographs – not only about breaking news events, but also relating the stories of hundreds of everyday Alabamians.

The Davis Lecture Series was established in 1996 to honor the late Neil O. and Henrietta W. Davis and encourage excellence in journalism. The series features distinguished journalists who can inspire students to follow the spirit and the principles embodied in the couple's life and work.

### IT TAKES ALL OF US! JEWISH FOOD FESTIVAL March 11, 2012

We will have our wonderful baked goods, hot plates and treasured items.

What we need is a crowd to make a success.

Please help in getting the word out by:

- ◆Placing signs on your lawn·
- ◆Asking local stores to display our flyers
- ◆Telling everyone you know to come.

Please volunteer for these activities by contacting Sandy Lynn Stevens at [Sanlynn36@gmail.com](mailto:Sanlynn36@gmail.com) or 334-202-9822

*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.*

Thursday • Feb 16 • 7 PM

JFCA's Shaliach's Café Israel at AIEA hosted by Ori Tal. Topic to be announced.



Sunday • February 26 • 3 PM

JFCA's Shaliach, Ori Tal, shows a movie (to be announced) at Agudath Israel\*Etz Ahayem

Friday • February 24 • 6 PM

**Men's Club Shabbat.**

Guest Speaker, Lecia Brooks from the Southern Poverty Law Center.

A reception will follow service.



Sunday • February 12 • 3 PM

JFCA Annual Business Meeting & Installation of 2012 Board at Temple Beth Or.

**SINGLES GROUP**

**Attention All Jewish Singles \* 50 & up**

Jewish Singles 50 & Up meets at Wintzell's in downtown Montgomery on February 11th at 5:30 PM. If you are interested in attending contact: Carol Ronning at 279-0140.



**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, March 9th**, at the usual start time of 6:00 p.m. Remaining dates are: April 20, May 18, June 15

Thank you for contributing to the Bedtime Bundles during November and December for Child Protect. The personnel there were thrilled to receive your donation. Here is the collection tally:

20 sets of pajamas	2 coloring books
3 sweat shirts	2 toothbrushes with paste
5 fleece throws	2 drawing tablets
24 underpants	4 sets of coloring markers/pens
41 pairs of socks	1 set barrettes
1 tee shirt	9 story books
1 stuffed dinosaur	

Child Protect needs items such as these year-round, as well as snacks to keep on hand for their young clients. Anyone interested can donate these directly to Child Protect at 935 So. Perry St., or give them to Linda Smith or Louisa Weinrib



**FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICES**  
especially for babies, toddlers, kids, moms, dads and grandparents too!  
**5:00 - 5:30 PM in the Library**

February 3  
March 2  
April 13  
May 4  
June 1

## ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS TAKING SHAPE FOR 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

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. (More information on page 8.)

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.

### 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 at 262-3314.**

Remaining date and topic:

Feb. 2 ..... Modern Judaism: Israel; Denominations.

**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.



### AI\*EA ADULT EDUCATION

#### SATURDAYS

9:00 AM -  
**Coffee and Conversation**  
February 4, 11, 18, 25

30 minutes after kiddush - **Brunch and Learn** on  
January February 4, 11, 18, 25

*(Shabbat Service will begin at 9:30 AM)*

### 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. Class schedule: February 2, 9, 16, 23; March 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5, 19.

### THE ESSENCE OF REFORM, “CLASSICAL” AND OTHERWISE – AN OPEN FORUM

Adult Ed Discussion/Program Set for Thurs., Feb. 23, 7:00 PM

Ever wonder what “Classical” Reform Judaism really means? Why the early Reformers were anti-Zionist? Have you been curious as to where Reform is headed in the future and, equally important, why?

On February 23, Rabbi Stevens will briefly review the origins and history of Reform, then present the platforms of Reform Judaism – adopted by conferences of Reform rabbis in 1885, 1937, 1976 and 1999. These platforms trace the lineage of mainstream Reform in its approach to God, Jewish worship and practice, Israel and other issues. Rabbi Stevens will show that Classical Reform stands for much more than simply doing less, and that contemporary Reform is not “going Orthodox” in its approach to Jewish ritual and practice.

### Adult education program at Agudath Israel

**Introduction to Judaism - February 6, 13, 20, 27**

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.

# JFCA presents an afternoon movie

## *A Matter of Size*

A group of overweight people from the Israeli city of Ramla are fed up with the sanctity of diets and the 'Dictatorship of the Thinness' of the diet workshop they participate in. Herzl an obese guy, starts to work as a dish washer in a Japanese restaurant in Israel, where he is exposed to the world of Sumo through Kitano, the restaurant manager and former Sumo coach in Japan. Herzl falls in love with the Sumo world and wants Kitano to be the Sumo coach of his obese friends. Herzl and his friends leave the diet group, and enter the world of sumo, where fat people like them are honored and appreciated. Through sumo they are connecting to themselves and to their fat body, each one in his own way.



*Join the Jewish Federation of Central Alabama and Ori, our Shaliach, for Movie Afternoon at Temple Beth Or on Sunday, January 29 at 3:00 p.m. for a showing of this award-winning movie.*

MOVIE REVIEW A MATTER OF SIZE By Daniel M. Kimmel. Israeli cinema is not known for its broad comedies, but that may have to change after *A Matter of Size*, which is both very broad and very funny. Herzl (Itzik Cohen) weighs over 300 pounds and is the shame of his weight loss class as he keeps gaining weight even as he supposedly diets. He's so big, he says, that kids used to mock him as Mt. Herzl. When he's demoted as salad bar chef to a spot out of the public eye, he quits and ends up with a job at a Japanese restaurant. There he discovers sumo wrestling which feature oversize grapplers who are treated in Japan with great respect. (Daniel M. Kimmel, a Boston-based film critic and author, reviews Jewish films for the Advocate. He lectures widely on a variety of film-related topics and can be reached at [daniel.kimmel@rcn.com](mailto:daniel.kimmel@rcn.com).)



*Photos from L'Chaim League's visit to the State Archives building on January 17th.*



## Beyond February!

**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!

**Thursday, March 8, 5 PM,** Adult Ed: Rabbi's class on Talmud. An ongoing, weekly 1-hour class for beginners

**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.

**Thursday, March 15, 5 PM,** Adult Ed: Rabbi's class on Talmud. An ongoing,

weekly 1-hour class for beginners

**Thursday, March 22, 5 PM,** Adult Ed: Rabbi's class on Talmud. An ongoing, weekly 1-hour class for beginners

**Tuesday, March 27, 2 PM,** L'Chaim League Book Review at TBO. Rabbi Stevens reviews the book "In the Garden of Beasts." No charge. Coffee and desserts will be served.

**Thursday, March 29, 5 PM,** Adult Ed: Rabbi's class on Talmud. An ongoing, weekly 1-hour class for beginners

**Friday, March 30, 6 PM,** Shabbat Service. Huntingdon College Night. Reception follows.

**Thursday, April 5, 5 PM,** Adult Ed: Rabbi's class on Talmud. An ongoing, weekly 1-hour class for beginners

**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. A wine and cheese reception will precede the service.

**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.

**Sunday, April 15, 2 PM,** Community Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Service at TBO.

**Thursday, April 19, 5 PM,** Adult Ed: Rabbi's class on Talmud. An ongoing, weekly 1-hour class for beginners

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

**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.

### SHALIACH NEWS

Aliyah,

This January I attended a Jewish Agency conference in Florida. It was a meeting of all the *Shlichim* from the Southeast region – from all different communities, including Hillel houses, youth movements and *Aliyah* (Jewish immigration to Israel). We talked about Israel education, advocacy, how to bring Israel to the communities and we learned a bit more about the South and its uniqueness.

As I mentioned before, one of the topics we discussed was *Aliyah*. That was an interesting session, but it felt like we were

talking about a topic that is far from us and we didn't really get into details. I think it's because this is one of those things that if you never had to work with the issue, you will never understand.

You can wake me up in the middle of the night and I will be able to tell you who can do *Aliyah*, what you will need to do and what will you get, but only in terms of bureaucracy. More than that? Not really.

Aliyah is a complicated thing; it's not another relocation we do for school, a job or a different lifestyle. It's a deep change and the acceptance of the idea to tie your future with the future of

the little state of Israel, which is constantly battling for its existence. A country that is still growing and changing constantly.

More than 50 years ago, my father's family decided to leave Romania and to go to Israel. Romania had become a hard place to live, and they understood that their new home would be in the land of milk and honey. It was a long journey to get there, and when they arrived to the gates of Israel the hardest part began - to rebuild their life as Israelis.

The decision to go to Israel was obvious, but that was the only part that wasn't really hard.

They had to learn a new language, to find a new job, a new place to live and more.

But that's not the story I want to share now. Back in Florida when the conference was over, I went to visit my friend Ben who lives in Miami. Ben, a son of Israeli parents that moved to America before he was born, decided when he reached the age of 19 that he wants to quit the university and to move to Israel.

He left the university and without too many preparations and without giving it a lot of thought, he went to Israel. First he worked in a kibbutz and then

*continued on back page*

**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](http://www.templebethor.net).**

***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.

# February 2012

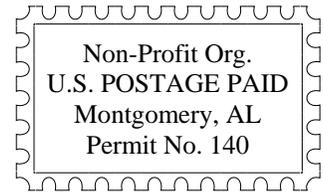
Want an updated look at what's going on at Temple? Go to [www.templebethor.net](http://www.templebethor.net).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 8:30 AM, Basic Judaism. 9:30 AM Basic Hebrew	3 5 PM, Family Chavurah Shabbat service in the Library 5:30 PM Wine and Cheese 6 PM Sisterhood Shabbat Service	4 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Stevens and Student Cantor Andrea Rae Markowicz. 7 PM Dinner 8 PM Cabaret Event
5 9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School at AIEA	6	7 11:30 AM, L'Chaim League luncheon. Guest Speaker is Peggy Mussafer. At the Egg and I restaurant.	8	9 5 PM, Adult Ed: DIP A TOE IN THE SEA OF TALMUD.	10 6 PM Shabbat Service with guest leader.	11
12 9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School at AIEA  3 PM, JFCA Annual Business Meeting at TBO	13	14	15	16 5 PM, Adult Ed: DIP A TOE IN THE SEA OF TALMUD.	17 6 PM Shabbat Service	18
19	20	21	22	23 5 PM, Adult Ed: DIP A TOE IN THE SEA OF TALMUD.  7 PM Adult Ed: The Essence of Reform, "Classical" and ...	24 6 PM Men's Club Shabbat Service	25
26 9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School at AIEA	27	28	29			

# Kahl Montgomery—Temple Beth Or

2246 Narrow Lane Road  
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*Shaliach News - continued from page 10*

joined the Military and was recognized as a “**lone soldier**” – the IDF definition of a soldier that was there by himself. It’s a technical term that gave him some financial aid, but it’s also a precursor for the challenges ahead.

Ben was stationed in my unit, the IDF Weekly Magazine “*Bamahane*,” as a graphic artist and he was happy as he had ever been. But soon after he arrived, they realized that his Hebrew was just not good enough. So they moved him to another job at the office, and made him a clerk. And that’s maybe when he started to question his decisions. Frustration and disappointment are a vital part of life, but combined with loneliness and when no family for mental support, it can be devastating.

After a year at his new job Ben came to the conclusion that he made a mistake. He reapplied for school in Miami and told the IDF that he couldn’t keep on doing what he was doing and that he wanted to go home.

It’s hard for me to admit to that, but I never saw him happier than he was in Miami. He was never like that in Israel.

Why? Not because *Aliyah* is an awful

thing, but it’s because you need to do it when you are sure that it’s really what you want to, to be complete with your decision. Ben didn’t have that. He just acted without really thinking about the hard part.

Ben is not angry at Israel; he admits that when we talk. He just wasn’t aware of the hard parts; he didn’t really put a lot of effort into trying to fit in and to blend in the society.

But when I hear him take the blame, it hurts me. I understand what he says, but it’s not only his fault. I’m mad at myself, at my friends at the magazine, that we used to go home at the end of the work day, or at the end of the week and forget about him, we had our own friends at home, but his home is on the other side of the world on a different continent. We forgot he was a “lone soldier.”

There is a saying in Israel that we like *Aliyah*, but we don’t like *Olim* (we like immigration but not immigrants). The idea is great but when we need to help and give something from ourselves, we like it less.

I don’t know if it’s correct to say that, maybe it’s too extreme. But we do need to look for the problems people are having af-

ter doing an *Aliyah* and help them. I’m not sure if we could have changed Ben’s decision and made him stay, but we sure didn’t help enough.

I’m also not sure what I feel about seeing him here in America. I believe in *Aliyah* but understand Ben’s decision. And if one day, maybe when he will be in a different place in his life, he will come again but this time he will stay.

I hope that my time here in Montgomery where I also faced some of the challenges of starting fresh in a new place will make me more aware of my surroundings and to the pain of others. Not only to immigrants, also when I will have someone new at my workplace, my neighborhood or school I will do my best.

And maybe one day, I will meet in Israel someone that immigrated to Israel, maybe even someone from Montgomery, and I will be able to complete the circle my father started as an immigrant, and to be the one that will receive them with a smile and a reaching hand.

Ori Tal