

Temple Beth Or Bulletin

June 2012 ~ Sivan/Tamuz 5772



RABBI'S ANNUAL REPORT May 20, 2012

Good Afternoon,

I look around this sanctuary, as I have so many times over the last five years, and my heart is full.

It really is hard to believe that I will soon be entering my sixth year as your rabbi.

In some ways, in the context of families who have been here in some cases for many generations, I still see myself as a neophyte, yet with an ever growing sense that I and my family have always been here, and here we will remain.

You have extended to me the privilege of entering your lives, often at harrowing moments or moments of crisis, as well as in times of joy, and every one of these times is an opportunity for blessing, providing a chance for us to become closer on a more personal level.

I love to teach and assemble quality programs, and very much appreciate the opportunity to become more involved in our community with each passing year, including my teaching at Huntingdon College, but it is really in the personal interactions with you, the members of Temple Beth Or, that I find the most satisfaction. Just thinking about some of this year's programs – our 160th anniversary celebration, our Passover Seder, Sisterhood Shabbat, the work of the L'Chaim League, the achievements of our religion school, and so many more –

makes me proud of what we've been able to accomplish without the cast of thousands enjoyed by some congregations.

I am grateful that the Rothschild-Blachschleger Fund has enabled us to bring in some outstanding speakers; this program, having earned great respect in our community, will continue during the coming year, enhanced by our recent arrangement to be a site for the top-level programming of the 92nd Street Y in New York. Our first event in this new series was this past Wednesday evening, when about 45 of us, equally representing both congregations as well as from the larger community, sat in on a master class taught by Elie Wiesel. Our Lecture Fund has also been redefined to support cultural programs, as we did with the Dan Nichols concert last Sukkot; my goal is to host at least one event of Jewish culture each year, just as we've had past programs with jazz, klezmer and other forms of Jewish music.

My own teaching will of course continue. This year my class on Talmud had only 3-5 students, but we learned a lot and it turned out to be a lot of fun, and my talks about the background of the Middle East conflict and on the platforms of Reform Judaism seem to have been well received. My next series, in the fall, will be a multi-part "course" on women in the Hebrew Bible, from the perspective of commentaries and midrash. I am also hopeful that we can sponsor, under the overall auspices of the Outreach Department of the Union for Reform Judaism, their "Taste of Judaism" program that provides for an introduction to non-affiliated interested persons in the larger community.

My work with the interfaith community remains important, and productive. Interfaith Mont-

gomery, which I co-led for a couple of years, brings together religious leaders from about ten different religious expressions, a number of whom have become close colleagues and friends. This coming year, for the first time, I am hoping that we can broaden our Joint Interfaith Thanksgiving service to include the Church of the Ascension, with whom we've had a good relationship for many years. I have also been asked, for the third time, to chair the selection committee of the River Region Ethics in Business Awards.

I continue to hold a vision of our community as one whose members participate, volunteer, learn together, and bombard me and our leadership with new and creative ideas for growth and member engagement. For those who have not yet attended an adult education program, here is my annual plea to dip in that toe, broaden your horizons and join in the learning and fun. And if you have a suggestion for a new area of interest, let me know.

My vision is of a welcoming community – not just new members, but new ideas. Some organizations greet new ideas or suggestions with the negative response of full plate, or not enough volunteers, or otherwise respond with all the reasons why something won't work. I prefer to approach a new proposal by seeing if we can make it work.

My vision of a welcoming community extends to our new and younger members. You might not realize that our membership has actually grown this past year, even with the losses of those we sorely miss. We have a wealth of new talent and enthusiasm, but must never become one of those "old guard" congregations where newcomers find it hard to break into our ranks.

My vision is also more personal. I welcome calls and notes from those of you who feel that I can help address a need,

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Saturday, June 1
Shabbat Morning
Service

Saturday morning,
June 1, Rabbi

Stevens will lead a Shabbat morning service. Service will run from 9:30 – 11:15 a.m. and include Torah study and a light brunch.

**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

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

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 Rabbi: rabbis@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.*

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

If you plan to donate marketable securities to Temple Beth Or for payment of your annual dues or to make a donation, please contact Gina Friday at 262-3314 or via email at bethor@templebethor.net to provide you with the transfer information for you to provide to your financial institution.

President's Report from the Annual Meeting - May 20

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the president of Temple Beth Or during these past two years and to work with such a dedicated Board of Trustees.

I appreciate the guidance and support from the Executive Committee - Jamie Loeb, Diane Weil, Charlotte Mussafer and Morris Capouya. I could probably stand up here and thank them all day long and it would still never be adequate in demonstrating my sincere gratitude for all they have done in making my term as president as positive and rewarding as possible. I've been extremely fortunate to follow Morris Capouya as president and to have Jamie Loeb follow me as the president. I know I am leaving this office in good hands!

Listening to the various reports today is a testament to the hard work and dedication of each board member. As the terms of Charlotte Mussafer, Ricky Loeb, Sharon McDaniel and Joy Kaplan, I want to thank them for the work they've done during their terms.

Words are not adequate in thanking Rabbi Stevens for helping to make my term as president a meaningful experience. As our spiritual leader, he continues to provide us with excellent sermons on a weekly basis and he's so thorough in handling so much more than just the religious aspect of the Temple. I've witnessed his sensitivity toward Temple members in their time of need. It has been so meaningful to hear a congregant thank him for visiting their elderly parent or hear of his visits to those who are ill. I can't tell you how proud I feel when members of the general community tell me how much they admire and respect Rabbi Stevens. He is known throughout the Montgomery clergy as an expert on the Bible and they told me that they use his information for their weekly Sunday sermons! He is a great listener and he offers great advice that is needed when you're the president. And, he is a very calming force!

While most Temple presidents thank the rabbi's wife for being just that--the rabbi's wife --I want to tell you how fortunate we are to have Sandy Lynn! She is responsible for the Temple website and works diligently in making this tool beautiful, updated and informative. In addition to this awesome task, this year, Sandy Lynn contributed countless hours as the Publicity and Marketing chair of our Food Festival and she has agreed to serve in that same capacity next year. I knew from the beginning that Sandy Lynn was not just a double name! She works double duty! Thank you, Sandy Lynn. We appreciate all you do.

Now ending its 5th year and led by Terri Finklestein and her counterpart from Agudath Israel, Sandy Cauthen, Kol Ami had 37 children enrolled with 28 from TBO and 9 from AIEA. I'd like to thank our dedicated teachers, the parents who helped in the classrooms, and both rabbis. Having good attendance is a constant struggle, and it saddens me to hear that after our teachers prepare each week for their class, many times only a few children attend. These children are our future. We need more Temple involvement and we hope to plan some programs that can be enjoyed on a Sunday morning for adults as well as the children.

Thank you, Marlene, for serving as the President of the Sisterhood for the past two years and she has chaired the Ritual Committee. She's worked hard in helping to update our Facilities Guidelines from 1997! Under her leadership, Sisterhood has done a remarkable job in serving the Temple. Thank you, Marlene and the other Sisterhood officers and members. And,

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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.

GENERAL FUND

Happy Birthday Janice Baylinson
Peggy Cohn

In Honor of
Susan Bernstein's 65th Birthday
Alan and Diane Weil

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Congratulations to Alexandra Levy for her graduation from University of Michigan (daughter of Sandy Lynn and Elliot Stevens)

Robin and Andy Kromis

Happy Anniversary
Elizabeth and Jacob Dubin
Celia and Charlie Dubin

In Memory of Lillian Brownstein
Betty, Bob and Erik Goldberg

In Appreciation of Rabbi Elliot Stevens
Robert and Carmen Blau

In Appreciation of Rabbi Elliot Stevens
Randi S. Herring

SELMA MARCUS FUND
In Memory of Victor Haber
Sandy and Dave Abrams

In Memory of Victor Haber
Phyllis Applefield

In Memory of Marks "Bubba" Marcus
Mark and Patty Franco

ANNIVERSARIES

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

BIRTHDAYS

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

Birthdays and Anniversary Blessings on June 1.

YAHRZEITS

To be read 6/1/2012
Frieda Kahn Berger
Mose Feinman
Sumner David Goldberg
Lloyd Vernon Julian
Julian H. Kohn
Samuel Moscovitz
Dr. Herbert Rosenberg
C. Clarence Strasburger, Sr.

To be read 6/8/2012
Joseph H. Abraham
Evelyn Burger
Leon Burger
Jeannette D. Capouya
Denise K. Hanan
Sol Hersberg
Alma Hertz Lobman

To be read 6/15/2012
Carrie Abraham
Jack H. Abraham
Eli Capilouto
Jean Capouya
Albert Freehling
Nell Hagedorn
Carrie Pollock Lobman
Nellie Loeb
Emanuel Rosenbluth
Isidore Rosenbluth

To be read 6/22/2012
Jack Bloom
Rachel H. Capp
Elinor Carlton
Carol Loeb Hagedorn
Bernard Hanan
Helen L. Levi
Estelle Popkin
Rosalie Rosenberg
Kalman Shwarts
Julien M. "Sonny" Strassburger
Jack L. Toney

To be read 6/29/2012
Olga Franco
Genevieve L. Roberts
Roy Shinpaugh

Recent Deaths

Estelle Schafer ז"ל
May 13, 2012
☆

Dr. Verna Wool ז"ל
May 20, 2012
☆
*Mother of Tom,
Rosemary, Laura, Ken
and Tricia*

Congratulations to Allison Lloveras for being awarded the Alvin Steinhart scholarship.

SISTERHOOD REPORT
TEMPLE BETH OR
ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 20, 2012

It has been such an honor serving as President of Temple Beth Or's Sisterhood for the last two years. I have had a wonderfully supportive executive board and committed members chairing our events that add so much to the life of our temple.

We have accomplished a lot. Last year we voted to disassociate from the national sisterhood organization, Women of Reform Judaism. I hope none of you have noticed a difference in our Sisterhood. The main difference is that we are able to redirect funds to be kept within our organization and use for the benefit of the Temple.

This year, we spent about \$5,000 on Temple improvements that most of you would never notice...unless you remember what they looked like before. We replaced the interior stage curtains so that now we and our guests will not be able to see the storage shelves and tables that are on our stage. We also replaced the rotted curtain lining on the social hall windows as well as donating to the Rabbi's Discretionary fund.

One of the highlights of the past year was welcoming our student cantor, Andrea Rae Markowicz, back to Temple Beth Or in celebration of Sisterhood Shabbat.

Thanks to Lisa Weil and all of the ladies who sold Carnegie Deli Cheesecakes we raised over \$6,000 for our treasury. We have found this to be an excellent fundraiser that our customers look for year after year. Please continue supporting us so that we can provide the services we offer in support of the temple.

We have tried to have programs which appeal to the varied members of our Sisterhood so we opened with our Fall meeting at the home of Aimee Harris for specialty cocktails and had our traditional closing luncheon at the Temple with an interactive cooking demonstration which was chaired by

Carol and Joan Loeb.

Throughout the year our ladies organized many of the receptions and dinners in the beautifully way we have become accustomed to. I want to thank Corinne Capilouto, Susan Finklestein, Laura Llovaras, Suzanne Soloff, Betty Goldberg, Pat Dees, Lisa Weil, Jamie Loeb, Karen Lieberman, Kelly Capouya, Joy Kaplan, Jamie Loeb, and Jean Schloss for chairing these events.

Our long-term chairs of house, gift shop and candle-lighters have truly been dedicated and our thanks goes to Susan Bernstein, Peggy Cohn, and Mae Cohen.

As we support the many areas of Temple life, we could not do what we do without the ever-present support and guidance of Rabbi Stevens, Gina Friday, and Marlon Cotton. Each of them have their own special positive attitudes and they are always ready to help in so many ways. We thank them.

The executive committee has been exceptional in their commitment and dedication and it has been such a pleasure to work with them. I thank Vice Presidents, Carol Loeb and Jamie Loeb, Treasurer, Sharon McDaniel, Financial Secretary, Susan Bernstein, Recording Secretary, Sharon Berry, and Past-President Lisa Weil.

I step down from this position of Sisterhood President, but, of course, I won't go far. Sisterhood will be in good, experienced hands as Susan Bernstein becomes President working with Co-Vice-Presidents, Carol Loeb, Julie Goolsby, Jamie Loeb and Joy Kaplan. Our capable Treasurer, Sharon McDaniel, will continue and Mae Cohen will be our Financial Secretary and Karen Goldstein our Recording Secretary.

Our Sisterhood is a vital auxiliary of Temple and, as you are aware, our congregation is ever-shrinking which leaves more responsibility for each of us, especially in leadership positions. Please say "yes" when called upon, or better yet, contact our new president, Susan Bernstein, to volunteer. We want to keep our Sisterhood as strong

and active as ever, but it takes everyone working together. Please do what you can to keep it strong and vital. Sisterhood and Temple will benefit and you will too.

Thank you,

Marlene Beringer
Sisterhood President 2010-2012

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L'CHAIM LEAGUE

The lake home of Carol and Jamie Loeb will be the setting for our next outing on **Tuesday, June 19th**. We will caravan from the TBO parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. This should be a great time to have a lovely day at the lake. I will need for you to **make your reservations by June 14th**, to insure we have enough drivers. There is no charge for this event.

On, **Tuesday, July 17th at 11:30 a.m.** at AI*EA, we will be shown a documentary about Samuel Ullman, who was Babette Wampold's great-grandfather. He lived in Birmingham, Al., and became legendary in the Japanese culture. Lunch will be served.

We end the summer with a program at the home of Micki Beth Stiller on **Tuesday, August 21st** at 10:00 a.m., where she will enlighten us with her artwork around her home. After the program, we will have lunch at a nearby restaurant. Hopefully, you will be able to join us at any or all of these events. We would love to have you come along and share the fun! Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Linda R. Smith

* * *

SHALIACH NEWS

I find It hard to believe I'm already summarizing my first year here as the Shaliach. As a kid, every year looked really long to me. I guess I can blame school on that. But today I'm standing here and find it hard to sum up a year that seemed to go by so quickly.

I want to start from the middle of the

story and only then tell it chronologically. When my parents were visiting I told them that in the end of this year I will go home for good and end a long period of traveling around the world, but when I called to tell them I have decided to stay for another year they started laughing. I was a bit surprised by their reaction. When I asked them why are they laughing, they told me it was clear for them since their visit. They knew that from the way I talked about the community, about the things I learned and did and about the way it makes me feel. When I first arrived in Montgomery I wondered if I made the right choice. The decision to go on this program wasn't an easy one for me and doubts were all around me in my first few weeks.

There were days during this year I wanted to go home, to run away back to my simple reality in Israel, where everything is clear and familiar to me even if it looks for the innocent bystander like a complicated reality.

There were days during this year I wanted to go home, just because I missed my family and friends. If it's on family events, holidays or other special days in Israel – like Yom Ha'atzmaot, the Memorial Day that is a special and strong experience and even in my birthday – that I never before spent away of my loved ones.

When we started talking about a second year I was thinking, “There is no way.” I have a lot of goals I want to achieve and didn't want to postpone them another year. But after lots of hours of thinking, I understood what I knew all along. I want to stay for another year.

When I look back on the time I spent here the tough moments and the longings are dwarfed by the importance of the job and the great feeling it gives me. The people I met, the conversations I had and more.

This year was a social experience for me. I had to find myself a new group of friends, something I haven't done since I was a little kid in Ganey Tikva when I met the friends that accompany me ever since. If at the beginning- I was on Skype 24/7 joining every gathering my

friends had from the other side of the world – now they need to call my American phone to remind me to get online and talk to them from time to time and give them enough time to catch up.

This year was a Jewish experience for me. I saw you can do things differently. You can be Jewish as a minority in the middle of the Bible belt, I learned you can worship in a combination of Hebrew and English, and do it in different ways than the orthodox way we know In Israel. After two summers in the Reform summer camp Greene family camp I thought I'm already an expert but camp is an illusion. A Jewish oasis.

Here, I really learned about the difficulties and challenges of being Jewish in America.

But I also learned a lot about being Jewish in general, and I hope to take all of that with me to Israel and maybe do some things differently, to take the openness and verity of ways of worshiping and expressing your believes.

This year was a cultural experience for me too. I learned a lot about the south and about Alabama. I'm still getting funny responses when I say I'm in Alabama, but I learned that the stigma is far from being real. I met warm, honest and hardworking people that live in a special tempo that allow them to enjoy the way while achieving their goals. Something people forgot in many places I have been to.

To sum up, this year was really important for me and I will be back here in September for another year of programming, teaching and learning. And above all to strengthen the bond between the Jewish people here and the ones in Israel.

I'm leaving next week to go to Texas for my third summer there. To continue the process I started two years ago with the younger generation. A generation that doesn't have Israel in their life as their parents had. A generation that grows up in times that Israel is accused of every wrong in the Middle East.

After those 2 months I will go home for a few weeks to recharge my batteries. To be with my family and friends that I miss so much, but less than I thought I will.

When I booked my flight back home I was doing all in my ability to be there on the Election Day. But after all that effort they were postponed to next year. The reason for that is giving me a lot of hope.

The biggest party in the Knesset – “Kadima” – joined the coalition of the “Likud” and created an interesting opportunity when the coalition is big enough and that limited the power of the sectarian parties. Now we will need to see if the people in charge will take advantage of this opportunity and start changing the important topics of equal service, involving the ultra-orthodox in the labor market and more.

Things we couldn't do with the small coalitions we had in the past.

I want to quote Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who said - “Do not accept existing consensus, not in society and not in other disciplines. Society must know how to change. A society or a country that does not change – will degenerate.”

Reality today is not what it used to be fifty years ago. If there is one thing that needs to distinguish us – it is defying consensus. Not defying for the sake of defiance, but to defy for change. Maintain what is worth maintaining, Change the things that deserve change, and lots of things deserve change.”

That's why as I hope that things will change back home I also don't want next year to be all the same again. I want some things to stay and some to change.

Ori Tal

or just want to chat, or pass along some feedback or suggestions. Yet there are also those who might be ill or feeling alone who just don't make that call, for whatever reason, and I miss that opportunity to be there with you in a time of need.

I cannot end without some words of thanks. Gina Friday is a rock – of good sense, stability and consummate skill, all wrapped up in the perfect personality for her kind of position. Marlon Cotton is incapable of sitting for more than a few moments before jumping in, enthusiastically, to keep this place in top shape, and going well beyond what he is asked to do. Jenny has been an extraordinary partner, always available even if we wind up having a dozen conversations or email exchanges in a day, which is not an exaggeration, and all of our leadership have gone “above and beyond” with a passion that, more than anything else, continues to secure our future with their good stewardship. I know whereof I speak in saying that there is no finer congregation, and I am so fortunate in being able to serve as your rabbi.

Rabbi Elliot Stevens

Mazel Tov!

Congratulations to Colin Schloss who graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business in May 2012. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Operations and Information Management and a minor from the School of Engineering in Computer and Information Science. He is the son of Jean and Steve Schloss and the grandson of Burke Schloss.

Thursday, May 24 Confirmation Service at TBO

TEMPLE BETH OR AND
AGUDATH ISRAEL ☆ ETZ AHAYEM SYNAGOGUE CONGRATULATE
OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2012:



Front Row: Abigail Greenberg, Meagan Ashner, Nora Newcomb
Back: Jack Loeb, Anna Stevens, Blake Cohen

Rabbi Scott Kramer (AIEA) and Rabbi Elliot Stevens (TBO)



FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICES

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

5:00 - 5:30 PM in the Library

June 1

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 remaining date in this occasional series will be on **Friday, June 15th**, at the usual start time of 6:00 p.m.

**Helen Suzman Exhibit & panel discussion
The Rosa Parks Museum**

**Thursdays, June 7 and 28 (July date to be announced)
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

Helen Suzman, the iconic South African leader who devoted her life to the fight against apartheid, is the focus of a graphic panel exhibition **HELEN SUZMAN: Fighter for Human Rights**. She visited Nelson Mandela numerous times in prison, and was at his side when he signed the new constitution in 1996.



Noted for her strong criticism of the governing National Party's policies of apartheid at a time when this was almost unknown amongst whites, she found herself even more of an outsider by virtue of being an English-speaking Jewish woman in a Parliament dominated by Calvinist Afrikaner men. She spent a total of 36 years in Parliament in which she defended the right to freedom of expression for all South Africans.

Suzman was a member of the South African Parliament for 36 years, from 1953-1989. She was the sole opposition voice condemning apartheid during the 13-year period (1961-1974) when she was the governing body's only member of the Progressive Party. The exhibition explores nearly four decades of Suzman's life and vision through photographs, personal letters, quotations from speeches and news articles.

Suzman was nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her contribution to the pursuit of justice in South Africa. She received the United Nations Award of the International League for Human Rights in 1978. In 1989, Queen Elizabeth conferred on her an Honorary Dame Commander (Civil Division) of the Order of the British Empire. Suzman died on January 1, 2009, at the age of 91. Flags across South Africa were flown at half-mast while tributes poured in from around the world.

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Central Alabama and the Rosa Parks Museum.

Susan, it will be an honor to be on the Temple Board with you!

We are also lucky to have such committed leaders in the Men's Club. Thank you, Pete Ginsberg and Philip Bernstein, for serving as co-presidents. You have contributed so much in bringing the Temple men together.

The L'Chaim League continues to be an active part of Temple life bringing us "seniors" together for various trips and programs. Thank you to Linda Smith for leading and planning these events.

Many thanks to Gina Friday and Marlon Cotton for everything they do for the Temple. They always go the extra mile to do more! And, we are so fortunate to have Elizabeth French as our Choir Director and organist. She is multi-talented she which adds so much to our religious services.

For the past two years, Diane Weil has served as the Vice President of Finance. She has been very "hands on" and involved in the financial responsibility of the Temple. I am proud of what we accomplished this year in meeting the Endowment Fund challenge. I want to thank the Endowment Committee which was led by Diane for meeting this challenge from the Loeb family. I'm glad that Diane used her influence with Alan and Alan, Sr. to co-chair this year's successful campaign. Thanks also to Gracie Hanchrow, Michael Weinrib, Sam Kaufman, Micki Beth Stiller, Charlotte Mussafer and Morris Capouya for serving on this committee. My sincere gratitude goes to the Loeb family for their continued generosity and to Irving Winter for spurring this on.

In addition to the other duties, Diane has been an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee. Morris Capouya served as the chair with rotating members: Larry Capilouto, Alan Weil, Jr., Alan Rothfeder, Pee Wee Kohn and Steve Schloss. With the changing of economic times from day to day, this is

a challenging committee and I appreciate the commitment from these members.

Jamie Loeb set the tone for his "quick to action" leadership style by stepping in to co-chair the Food Festival when our dear Bubba Marcus passed way.

Jamie also worked diligently with Richard Hanan, Sam Kaufman and Leo Drum to secure the future care of our Cemetery.

As you can see by the budget presented today, Temple Beth Or continues to face some challenging financial times. Our boards have taken positive measures to help ensure the Temple's future but the help of the entire congregation is necessary to have the financial security we need. I am asking that you consider how you can contribute as this was not just a one-year venture. The goal of the Endowment Committee is that we have 100% participation of Temple members contributing to this Fund.

Last year we began a dialogue with the leaders of Agudath Israel/Etz Ahayem toward working collaboratively for the goal of strengthening our overall Jewish community. We met several times during the year and had some meaningful discussions. The last meeting was in January and it was agreed that these meetings should continue. There is no doubt that in the years to come, we should begin some sort of a sharing plan with each other. But, we will need to take baby steps, work together and include congregational input. This is the commitment we share for future generations of Jews in Montgomery.

Thank you, once again, for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president. I look forward to becoming a member of the Past Presidents' Club!

Jenny Ives

Facilities Use Guidelines

The Board of Trustees approved a new Facilities Use Guidelines, which replaces the previous guideline dated 1997, regarding the use of the Temple & Social Hall during the April 24, 2012 Board Meeting.

Copies of the Guidelines are available from the office or can be emailed to you.

We'll be updating the Temple Beth Or membership directory soon. Be on the lookout for information detailing this in your mailbox.

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.



**AI☆EA
ADULT EDUCATION**

SATURDAYS

9:00 AM
Coffee and Conversation
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

30 minutes after kiddush -
Brunch and Learn

(Shabbat Service will begin at 9:30 AM)

**Adult education program at
Agudath Israel**

Introduction to Judaism - June 11 and 18

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.

Classical Reform Service with the
Union Prayer Book.

June 29, 2012



Members of the L'Chaim League visit Aldridge Gardens in Birmingham on May 15th.

Leaves for Life Cycle
Events on our
Tree of Life

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



Hannah Soloff and Juliet Lloveras during the last day of Religion School on May 20, 2012.

Beyond June!

Thursday, July 12, 6 - 7:30 PM, Community Interest: Helen Suzman Exhibit & panel discussion at the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. Helen Suzman, the iconic South African leader who devoted her life to the fight against apartheid, is the focus of a graphic panel exhibition HELEN SUZMAN: Fighter for Human Rights. She visited Nelson Mandela numerous times in prison, and was at his side when he signed the new constitution in 1996.

Tuesday, July 17, 11:30 AM, L'Chaim League movie and lunch at Agudath Israel*Etz Ahayem.

Sunday, August 12, 6:05 PM, For Men's Club Members. Biscuits Day at the Ballpark. Reservations Required. Sign-up sheet outside sanctuary.

Tuesday, August 21, 10 AM, L'Chaim League visits the home of Micki Beth Stiller. Lunch to follow at Sinclair's.

Wednesday, September 26, All Day, TBO Office closed for Yom Kippur.

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.

FROM THE LIBRARY

For this month's library column we'll highlight a few of the film titles in the collection.

Defiance. Starring Daniel Craig (most recently of James Bond and *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* fame), this film is based on the true story of the Bielski brothers (also starring Liev Schreiber and Jamie Bell) who together lead a group of refugees, which eventually numbers over a thousand, against the Nazis. If you want to learn more about the Bielski brothers, you might want to read our library's copy of *The Bielski Brothers: The True Story of Three Men Who Defied the Nazis, Built a Village in the Forest, and Saved 1,200 Jews* by Peter Duffy (736.2 DUF 2003).

Yana's Friends. The setting is Israel in 1991, during the Gulf War and with the looming threat of Iraq's poison gas missiles. Yana is a young (and pregnant) Russian immigrant whose husband has abandoned her. She shares an apartment with Eli, an Israeli wedding photographer. As the repeated missile threats force Yana and Eli into sealed quarters, they begin to share their stories, and perhaps not unexpectedly, things take a romantic turn.

Night and Fog. "Ten years after the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps, filmmaker Alain Resnais documented the abandoned grounds of Auschwitz. One of the first cinematic reflections on the horrors of the Holocaust, NIGHT AND FOG (Nuit et brouillard) contrasts the stillness of the abandoned camps' quiet, empty buildings with haunting wartime footage. With NIGHT AND FOG, Resnais investigates the cyclical nature of man's violence toward man and presents the unsettling suggestion that such horrors could come again. Francois Truffaut once called NIGHT AND FOG 'the greatest film ever made'."

Triumph of the Spirit. Starring Willem Dafoe, Edward James Olmos and Robert Loggia, this is another "based on a real story" film that is set in Auschwitz. Dafoe plays boxer

Salamo Arouch who is forced to fight his fellow campmates – and the loser is sent to the gas showers.

Cast a Giant Shadow. Made in 1966 and starring such Hollywood legends as Kirk Douglas, John Wayne, Frank Sinatra, Angie Dickinson, and Yul Brynner, *Cast a Giant Shadow* is based on Ted Berkman's biography of Col. Mickey Marcus (Douglas), an American soldier "who served as an advisor in the fight to establish the state of Israel in 1948." Noteworthy for its use of actual Middle Eastern locations during filming, the film isn't without its controversy, particularly by some standards of today, as Arab characters receive one-dimensional treatment which some critics have stated renders them as being "barely depicted as human throughout the film."

Monsieur Ibrahim. Starring Omar Sharif. Winner of multiple international awards, *Monsieur Ibrahim* is set in Paris in the 1960s. Sharif plays an elderly, widowed Muslim grocer who befriends a young Jewish boy named Moise (Momo) who frequents his store to purchase groceries for himself and his troubled father. After being abandoned by his father, Momo is taken in by Ibrahim and together they "begin a journey that will change their lives forever."

Munich. The recipient of five Academy Award nominations including Best Picture, this film, directed by Steven Spielberg, is based on the book *Vengeance: The True Story of an Israeli Counter-Terrorist Team* by George Jonas, which tells the story of the secret Israeli team that was given the assignment of tracking down the eleven Palestinians who were believed to have planned the killing of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics. The film focuses on the team leader (played by Eric Bana) and the emotional toll that the mission – and revenge - takes on him and his team.

Eric A. Kidwell, MLS

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June 2012

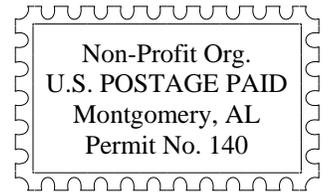
Want an updated look at what's going on at Temple? Go to www.templebethor.net.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<p>1</p> <p>5 PM, Family Chavurah Shabbat service in the library.</p> <p>6 PM Shabbat Service</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served.</p>
3	4	5	6	<p>7</p> <p>7 - 8:30 PM, Community Interest: Helen Suzman Exhibit & panel discussion at the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6 PM Shabbat Service</p>	9
10	11	12	13	14	<p>15</p> <p>6 PM Shabbat Service. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH.</p>	16
17	18	<p>19</p> <p>10 AM, L'Chaim League BBQ event at Carol and Jamie Loeb's home on Lake Martin.</p>	20	21	<p>22</p> <p>6 PM Shabbat Service</p>	23
24	25	26	27	<p>28</p> <p>7 - 8:30 PM, Community Interest: Helen Suzman Exhibit & panel discussion at the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6 PM Shabbat Classical Reform Service</p>	30

Kahl Montgomery—Temple Beth Or

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JUNE 2012 Bulletin



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

We are both sad and pleased to inform you that we have handed down the magazine donation project to the Student Y club based out of the YMCA at Saint James School. We still very much appreciate your magazine donations and we will continue to bring them to the school, but we personally will not be delivering them. The students at STJ are very excited about taking on the project, but they still need your support. We have also gotten several emails and letters explaining how much the magazines are enjoyed by the residents of the homes as well as the visitors. So please continue donating!! Thank you.

**Bette Sue Strasburger
Meagan and Nathan Ashner**



HAS YOUR ORCHID FINISHED BLOOMING?

Don't discard your spent orchids. Once your orchid has finished flowering please consider donating it to the Temple. Our current stock of orchids could use some refreshing. Feel free to drop your orchids off at any time. If we're closed just leave them at the side or back door.

