

Temple Beth Or Bulletin

A VIEW FROM THE BIMAH

January 2013 ~ Tevet/Sh'vat 5773



I've been having a lot of fun in recent weeks with the Basic Judaism class I've been teaching. We're now in the middle of this 11-week program; attendance has been great, we've had some great discussions, and everyone from newcomers to members who have been active in our community for years has learned something new, myself included.

One question, however, has troubled me, because it has no ready answer – and yet, that question is crucial, and I hear it almost every time I speak in some church or other public forum. The question is: What, exactly, is Judaism? Are we able to define who we are? How can we describe Judaism in a way that makes sense without coming up with an encyclopedic entry?

There are, of course, many choices. Judaism is a religion; Judaism is a people – or a nation, or a folk, or a heritage, or a culture, or maybe even a race, though we'll probably want to stay away from that one, as "race" is the term Hitler used. Or maybe we're a combination: Judaism is the religion of the Jewish people, but that begs the question, because we still don't have a definition.

Take into account that Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist and Orthodox Judaism might answer that question in very different ways, not to

mention Jewish humanism, polydoxy, Jewish renewal and the various streams of Hasidism, and we're tempted just to give up before we even start.

One way of looking at this would be to start with our tradition. Tradition, at least, seems clear: We began with God's command to Abraham to leave his homeland and go to a new land. God would point the way, and in the new land Abraham's descendants would become a great nation that would be a blessing to all humanity. The Torah describes how Abraham's descendants made their way to Egypt, and by the time they emerged from Egypt to return to the land of Israel, Torah in hand, they had already become a people – a great and mighty nation under the leadership of Moses and Moses's successors. Our tradition, in other words, starts with religion – Abraham's monotheistic belief – and the concept of nation only comes much later.

Archaeologists paint a very different picture. Their consensus is that Israel emerged as a sub-group from within Canaanite culture, starting around the 9th century BCE; by the 7th or 8th century BCE Israel had taken on its own national characteristics, from within which, over several centuries, a monotheistic religion developed that only much later can be called Judaism.

The chicken and the egg: We began with Abraham's religious insight and later became a nation; or we began as a nation that developed its own unique religious perspective. The former view regards Torah as history, the latter view regards Torah as largely myth – a myth, to be sure, that most likely incorporates certain ancient oral traditions, but a myth all the same.

“What difference does it

make?” one might ask. Either way, can't we just say that we have elements of both, and not worry about it?

I don't think it's so easy, because whether nation or religion predominates has implications today, in terms of how we relate to Judaism as a community and in our personal lives. If we see Judaism as primarily as religion, then the folkways and customs and traditions and practices and even the use of Hebrew become much less important. If we see Judaism primarily as a religion, then what becomes of our connection to Israel? Is it just a nice place to visit, or is it still truly the homeland of the Jewish people? But if we are primarily a nation, what happens to our religious teachings, and our relationship to God? In Israel today, for all you hear about the Orthodox political parties and the power of the Orthodox rabbinate, the overwhelming majority of Israelis describe themselves as secular, and most Israelis step foot into a Jewish house of worship essentially never. Yet if we are part of the Jewish people, we care deeply about what happens in Israel, because these are our people. They are family, no matter what else they might be, especially when air raid sirens are going off in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Beersheba and all over the south.

And look what's happened to Reform Judaism. We emerged out of the Enlightenment in Germany about 200 years ago, in a rare period of European liberalism, and we quickly concluded that in order to become part of the modern world, we had to give up most of the outer manifestations of what it meant to be Jewish. We embraced social ethics, taught the prophetic messages of justice, and gave up the observance of just about everything, including the use of Hebrew. Jewish civil law and Jewish criminal law –

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Saturday, January 12
Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday morning, January 12, 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
161st Year**



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

Temple Beth Or Officers

Jamie Loeb.....*President*
Diane Weil.....*Vice-President: Programs*
Gracie Hanchrow.....*Vice-President: Finance*
Morris Capouya.....*Treasurer*
Susan Finklestein.....*Secretary*
Jenny Ives.....*Immediate Past President*

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Jarred Kaplan.....*Religion School*
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Adam Finkelstein.....*Youth & Scholarship*

Temple Beth Or Staff

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

Office Hours

Monday	CLOSED
Tues., Wed. & Thurs.	11-4
Friday	11-2

2246 Narrow Lane Road • Montgomery, AL 36106

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

Office: bethor@templebethor.net
Rabbi: rabbie1s@templebethor.net
www.templebethor.net

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

**The Jewish Federation
of Central Alabama**



*When scheduling
calendar events
involving the Temple*

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

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.

**TBO PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

As President of the Temple I have signed on to a Listserv for Reform Temple Presidents. As I receive postings and replies daily, I am

amazed how our Temple has already handled a lot of these issues. I am also thankful that we do not have the issues that some of our fellow congregations have. There are temples of 400 to 600 families that are just now starting to look at their long range planning without any clue of how or where to start. After replying to a post, I received an overwhelming number of requests to see the questionnaire that we used in 2010. I cannot tell you how fortunate we have been to have past presidents looking forward for the long term good of the Temple.

Temple Beth Or is much more than a house of worship. It is the center of our Jewish community and I feel lucky to have this community in my family's life. Members of our Temple are there to help and comfort each other when we are sick, recovering from surgery or grieving a loss of a loved one. We are there to laugh and cry with each other. If there is a need within the community that we are not meeting, please let the Rabbi or me know.

We had over 100 people attend this year's Chanukah Dinner. Every year the attendance for this dinner keeps growing. The Rabbi and I have discussed having a covered dish dinner following a Shabbat service in the winter and spring. Keep an eye on future bulletins for details.

At the Chanukah Dinner a family raised their annual pledge. They said that when they realized how much they were getting from Temple they knew they were pledging too little. The Temple is the best investment of time we have. At the Temple, one receives back a lot more than they put in. Whether you are involved with Sisterhood, The Men's Club, helping to cook for the Food Festival, or attending services, you will find that our community is a loving and caring place to call home.

As we begin 2013, please look at what you can do for the Temple. Can you increase your annual pledge? If so, please do. Can you become more active? I promise that you will receive a lot more than you give. On February 24th, we are hosting our 10th Annual Food Festival. We need your help cooking, preparing for, and assisting on the day of the Food Festival. I enjoyed cooking latkes for this year's Chanukah Dinner with fellow members. Please look in the bulletin for dates and time to help in the kitchen. I promise you will be surprised as how much fun we have together in the kitchen.

Have a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

James L. "Jamie" Loeb

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.

FLORAL FUND

*In Honor of
Shirley Beringer's 90th Birthday
Dr. Laurie J. Weil and
Dr. Tommy Wool*

GENERAL FUND

*In Memory of
Arthur Beringer, Jr.
Marlene and Rick Beringer*

*On the Yahrzeit of
Charles Max Stiller
Micki Beth Stiller*

*On the Yahrzeit of
Eli R. Capouya
Frances and Ralph Capouya*

*In Memory of
Elsa Herzfeld
Bern, Butler, Capilouto, and Massey*

*In Memory of
Elsa Herzfeld
Bella and Jerome Smith*

*In Memory of
Elsa Herzfeld
Howard and Hanna Adler*

*In Honor of
Shirley Beringer's 90th Birthday
Marlene and Rick Beringer*

PRAYERBOOK FUND

*In Memory of
Arthur Beringer, Sr.
Mose Brownstein
Nellie Beringer
Bob, Betty and Erik Goldberg*

*In Honor of
Shirley Beringer's 90th Birthday
Bob, Betty and Erik Goldberg*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*On the Yahrzeit of
Bucks Weil
Dr. Laurie J. Weil and Dr. Tommy
Wool*

*On the Yahrzeit of
Ginny Dorosin
Norman and Harriette Dorosin*

*In Memory of
Jeannette Nyman
Karen and Lew Nyman*

**SAMUEL SCHLOSS
COMMUNITY FUND**

*In Memory of
David Byck
Burke Schloss*

**YOUTH AND SCHOLARSHIP
FUND**

*In Memory of
Elsa Herzfeld
Bette Sue and Charlie Strasburger*

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Linda Herzfeld
- 4 Joseph Levin, Jr.
- 6 Peggy Mussafer
- 7 Ruth Rosenthal
- 8 Alison Schorr
- 10 Phillip Golomb
- 10 Bette Sue Strasburger
- 12 Elizabeth Wahls
- 13 Nikki Rothschild
- 14 Richard Hanan
- 18 Elise Toney
- 22 Monica Kohn
- 22 Carolyn Rothschild
- 23 Rita Sabel
- 26 Herman Franco
- 27 Jane Rothschild
- 27 Deanna Sumner
- 28 Mario Castura
- 28 Diane Weil
- 30 Maxine Goldner

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Jane Rothschild & Mario
Castura
- 16 Robin & Jeff Blitz
- 17 Corinne & Larry Capilouto

Birthday and Anniversary
Blessings on January 4th.

YAHRZEITS

To be read 1/4/2013
Arthur B. Beringer, Jr.
Gilson Capilouto
Sylvan Robert Cohn
Sylvan Ives
Bernice Loeb Levy
Morris Levy
Myron C. Lobman, Jr.
Carol W. Rothschild
Elise F. Shwarts
Adolph Weil, Sr.

To be read 1/11/2013
Hermann Berger
Sophie Oppenheimer Hertz
Clara G. Mussafer

To be read 1/18/2013
Bertha S. Abraham
Eli Cohen
Simon Hertz
Dr. Aviva Hoffman
Eva Marco
Bertha Model
Ben Neuman
Bert C. Weil, Sr.
Christopher Paul Wetherbee

To be read 1/25/2013
Albert Abraham
Henry L. Abraham
Rabbi Eugene Blachschleger
Albert Capp
Betty Coleman
Jake Feinman
David R. Franco
Eli Hanan
Joseph Hanchrow
Irma Levy
Myrtle Kaufman Loeb
Faye Levinson Shum

SISTERHOOD

A big thank you to all who helped make our Chanukah celebration fabulous. From those who helped decorate to frying latkes, we appreciate your hard work. A special thanks to Carol Loeb and Julie Goolsby for chairing this fun family event. We always look forward to Chanukah and these ladies made it an outstanding night. Peninnah Schram added so much to the excitement with her wonderful stories. We are glad we had such a big turnout for this annual event.

As you have already heard our Carnegie Deli cheesecake fundraiser was very successful. We sold a huge number of cakes to our congregation and community. We will meet soon to discuss projects that this money can fund.

Please join us on January 25th for our annual Sisterhood Shabbat which will be preceded by a wine and cheese reception. This is a time that we honor the women of our congregation and express our thanks for a lot of hard work.

Susan Bernstein

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L'CHAIM LEAGUE

In December, the L'Chaim League enjoyed a wonderfully prepared Chanukah lunch at Mr. G's Restaurant. We were also able to bring a bit of Chanukah joy to some of our home-bound seniors. Thank you to Rabbi Stevens, Rabbi Kramer and all of our participants for making our December events memorable ones.

On Wednesday, January 2nd, the L'Chaim League will visit the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. We will meet at the museum at 10:00 a.m. There is no charge for this event.

Sharon Berry

FROM THE LIBRARY

The Defiant Muse: Hebrew Feminist Poems from Antiquity to the Present: A Bilingual Anthology, edited by Shirley Kaufman, Galit Hasan-Rokem, and Tamar S.Hess (561 KAU 1999)

Holocaust Poetry, compiled and introduced by Hilda Schiff (561.736 SCH 1995)

The Missing Jew: New and Selected Poems, by Rodger Kamenetz (561 KAM 1992)

My Little Sister and Selected Poems, 1965-1985, by Abba Kovner (561.736 KOV 1986)

Love Poems from the Hebrew, edited by David C. Gross, with illustrations by Shraga Weil (561 GRO 1976)

Songs of Exile by Hebrew Poets, edited by Nina Salaman (561 DAV 1901)

Eric A. Kidwell, MLS

* * *

SHALIACH NEWS

We just finished celebrating Chanukah, a holiday that marks the rebellion of the Maccabees and the miracle of the oil that lasted for 8 days. But its meaning is also about the tough time our nation underwent under the foreign empire that ruled the area. Days when the new ruler of the land, decided to cancel the autonomy of the Jewish People and tried to make them a part of the melting pot of the Greek empire. The rulers changed the structure of society, the ways of practicing religion and almost every prospect of life. The Jewish People had to conceal their faith and learn Torah in caves, hiding it under the smoke screen of the Dreidel game. When the people couldn't handle it anymore, they decided to rebel against the empire and try to turn life to the way they wanted it, the way they had it

for hundreds of years. The rebellion wasn't only against a conqueror or around taxes; it was about their way of living and faith.

That's the value that I'm taking from Chanukah, that there are things worth fighting about, that's if you are sure in your way, you can't let others tell you how to act.

Just recently something happened in modern day Israel that reminded me of the story of Chanukah. It's not exactly the same, but again a powerful being tried to force Israel to do things against its will.

The United Nations voted on accepting Palestine into the family of nations, under some restrictions, but still to accept them as a country. Israel was once again being pushed to go against its way and beliefs.

This vote was a distortion of history. The vote to accept Palestine was on November 29th, exactly 65 years after the original vote which divided the whole land into two and led to Israel's independence. The Arab nations didn't agree with that vote, turned against the UN's decision – and started an attack on the Jewish people in the area to try to wipe them off the map. Israel won that war and became a state, another miracle in the chain of miracles surrounding the Jewish people - from the crossing of the Red sea, through the miracle of the oil.

Since that war Israel offered the Palestinian people to create their own state – side by side with a Jewish one. But that was never their goal and they kept fighting, trying to send us away.

Which brings us to today; even after the Oslo agreements, the Palestinian covenant still says that we have no right to live next to them, that all the land should be theirs by right and there is no place for Jews between the Jordan River and the

Mediterranean.

Upon voting to accept the Palestinian State, the UN didn't take the facts into consideration and added another sentence to the history books, but in real life nothing changed.

This decision won't make a difference in the field of play. Palestine is not yet a country, and they can't really maintain one. Their economy is too weak, they depend on money, water and electricity and such coming from Israel. They don't have a governing system that really works or a way of controlling and leading their people. The PLO doesn't have any power in the Gaza Strip and if there will be elections tomorrow in the West Bank - they will probably lose there as well.

Israel will have to fight this decision. Not through rebellion, but a diplomatic fight in order to maintain its way and our right to decide for ourselves. Israel Must explain to the world that it can't put us in danger without our consent and that peace and statehood will be reached only through negotiation, when both sides get to an agreement.

I hope the world will understand that, and will try to help getting to a solution if by offering ideas and by mediation between the parties but not by one-sided moves and votes. It hurts the UN's status as an important organization when it makes decisions that can't be put into effect.

This decision also created more

hatred between the sides and pushed them away from the negotiating table. When the Palestinians see that one-sided moves and pushing Israel against the wall is working - they have no need to go back to negotiations. Israel on the other hand, sees that no one in the world seriously tries to achieve peace in the area, leading it to turn away from a solution.

With the UN vote the Oslo agreements that were supposed to lead us to peace are officially voided, and took us even further away from peace than before. Once again, the UN was played as a tool in the hands of extremists who wish to prevent peace in the Middle East.

Ori Tal



SHABBAT FAMILY WORSHIP AND DINNER

Friday night, February 1, join us for worship at 6 PM and a pot luck dinner after services. Please bring the following dish if your last name begins with:

- A-F Meat dish (beef or chicken)**
- G-R Salad/Vegetables**
- S-W Desserts**

THE AGENCIES WE SUPPORT

As I write this, I am about halfway through my year-long experience with Leadership Montgomery, now in its 30th year. This year's class – about 45 in number selected from nearly twice that number of nominees, are all community leaders in various fields – in law, education, business, government, religion, communal agencies and foundations – including one rabbi! Through our exposure to the inner workings of our community in such areas as health care, law enforcement, business development and education, we learn to appreciate the wonderful and often unsung accomplishments that together are working to improve our lives. I have also been participating in a sub-group working closely with the Higher Education Task Force and the Student Leadership Forum on a project I'll

describe in a separate article.

One recent day was devoted to the quality of life in the River Region, particularly for those who have special needs in a whole host of areas. We learned about some wonderful agencies doing important and worthy work, most of which, I admit, were completely unknown to me before these presentations. Hence this article: Many of our temple members are very generous in supporting agencies with donations, endowments and volunteer hours; here are some I recommend for your consideration, in planning your tzedakah over the coming year.

Nellie Burge Community Center and Mary Ellen's Hearth, recently highlighted in a major article in the *Advertiser*, providing a unique program to address domestic violence in our community; Aid to Inmate Mothers, a program that provides services to Alabama's incarcerated women by emphasizing personal growth and life skills to support a successful transition back into the community; Easter Seals' Dogs on Call; K-9s for Heroes and K-is for Kids, using highly trained dogs to impact the quality of life for hospitalized individuals, disabled adults and disabled children; the Brantwood Children's Home, a facility that assists children who have been abused and neglected; Friendship Mission, a program that enhances the quality of life for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and Common Ground Ministries, a unique program focusing on providing a "safe haven" of love, structure and discipline to urban youth, a group most vulnerable to the destructive influence of our streets.

Each presentation was moving, often emotional, and eliciting strong expressions of support and commitment. Spend a few minutes on the Internet and Google, and you'll be blown away by the impressive work being done here in Montgomery on behalf of those in need.

Elliot Stevens

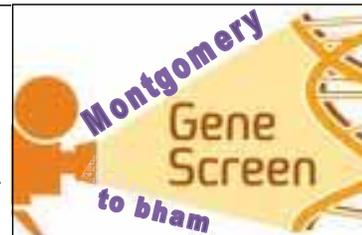
L'Chaim League
Chanukah Visits the
week of December 10th



L'Chaim League sorts
magazines for worthwhile
organizations.



TAY SACHS – AND EIGHTEEN OTHERS
Jewish Genetic Screening Program Set for January 13



On January 13, 2013 the Birmingham Jewish Federation, in partnership with UAB and the Victor Centers, is providing a service that could be crucially important to you and your family: a mass genetic screening for 19 different genetic diseases that are known to be of high incidence in the Jewish population. The event, heavily subsidized, will have a maximum out-of-pocket cost of \$25, and will take place that Sunday at the Levite Jewish Community Center, 3960 Montclair Road, Birmingham, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Even if a person's only biological connection to Judaism is having one Jewish grandparent, that person should receive this screening. One in four Jews is a carrier for at least one of these 19 preventable genetic diseases.

Transportation from Montgomery is being arranged by Agudath Israel * Etz Ahayem Synagogue, via bus or van. To sign up, send an email with your name and contact information to: transportationtobirmingham@gmail.com. The bus/van will leave from Montgomery at approximately 12:00 noon, return time to be determined.



Mazel Tov!

Congratulations to Great-Grandmother
Babette Wampold on the birth of
Charles Gallagher Lippman
Born Nov, 27, 2012 at 2:51 p.m.
8 pounds, 12 ounces, 21 inches
at Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York City
to Sarah and Spencer Lippman



Mazel Tov!

Congratulations to Grandparents
Elliot and Sandy Lynn Stevens
on the birth of
Aiden Todd Stevens
Born December 4, 2012
7 lbs. 11ozs.
20 inches.

Mark the date: Sunday, February 24, 2013
 10th Annual Jewish Food Festival and Treasure Market.

Cooking and baking for the Food Festival has begun! Cooking dates are posted below. Please contact the chair person to cook, bake or clean.

January 7	Rugelach	Sharon Berry, 290-0445/daberry40@netscape.net
January 15	Rugelach	Sharon Berry, 290-0445/daberry40@netscape.net
January 22*	Rugelach	Sharon Berry, 290-0445/daberry40@netscape.net
January 23	Challah	Marlene Beringer, 272-6688/grammyberinger@gmail.com
January 24	Challah	Marlene Beringer, 272-6688/grammyberinger@gmail.com
January 30	Challah	Marlene Beringer, 272-6688/grammyberinger@gmail.com
January 31	Challah	Marlene Beringer, 272-6688/grammyberinger@gmail.com
February 3	Latkes.....	Jamie (Mr.) Loeb, 263-7269/jloeb@loebandco.com

Please contact Karen Goldstein (kackaboo@gmail.com or 265-1145) to volunteer for the week and day of the Food Festival. We especially need volunteers daily from February 19th-February 22nd. If you can help on those dates, please notify Karen immediately so we might plan accordingly.

If you are too busy to help with the baking and cooking, we'd gladly accept your donation. Please make the check payable to Temple Beth Or and note that the check is a donation for the Food Festival. Remember – TBO Food Festival is our only Temple Fund Raising Event!

The following items are on our wish list for the Treasure Market and we are gladly accepting these items now!

Note: Please donate large box television sets to another charity of your choice. We cannot sell these items and have difficulty removing the TV's from the Temple. Please be sure all items are clean and in good condition.

Furniture - in good condition
 Sterling silver jewelry - Costume jewelry
Professionally Cleaned Ladies Evening and
 Cocktail Dresses/Suits
 Ladies' Accessories Hats, Scarves, Evening Bags

Lamps - Paintings - Pictures
 Wall Hangings - Picture Frames
 China, Glasses, Crystal, Dishes, Flatware
 (not chipped), (sets of four or more)
 Appliances in good working order and clean
 Books

Thank you! Jenny Ives, Chair

THE BOOKS WE CHERISH

Those of you who missed Peninnah Schram's visit during Chanukah missed a real treat. Story-telling is one of the core traditions of Judaism, going all the way back to the Torah, and Peninnah's stories were heart and soul part of that grand tradition.

During her visit, Peninnah asked this question (actually, two questions): If you had the privilege of preserving just one book to pass down to the next generation, what would it be? The related question is: What *Jewish* book would you

consider the most important you have read, or that has influenced you in some way [not counting the Bible or prayer book]?

I pass these questions along in the hope that many of you will respond. Let's compile a community list of the general and Jewish books we consider worth preserving, and we'll share the list in a future bulletin. Send in your selections to me at rabbis@templebethor.net, or through Gina Friday. Added bonus: If our Library lacks Jewish titles on the list, we can acquire them to share throughout our community.
 Elliot Stevens



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.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



STUDY OPPORTUNITIES WITH RABBI STEVENS

JUDAISM BASICS & BASIC HEBREW

This basic survey of Judaism runs for eleven sessions, starting October 9. 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 4:15 - 5:15 PM.

- October 9** Overview of Judaism.
- October 16** A Whirlwind Tour of Jewish History.
- October 23** The Basic Texts of Judaism.
- October 30** The Basic Texts of Judaism.
- November 6** Lifecycle: Birth through Bar Mitzvah.
- November 13** Lifecycle: Marriage and Divorce.
- November 27** Lifecycle: Illness, death, mourning.
- December 11** Holidays: Shabbat and Festivals.
- December 18** Holidays: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
- January 8** Holidays: Minor holidays (Chanukah, Purim, etc.).
- January 15** Issues and Values: Selections from the Responsa Literature.

AMAZING WOMEN IN THE JEWISH BIBLE – A NEW ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

Starting on Thursday evening, October 25, Rabbi Stevens will be offering a five-part series on biblical women – as seen through the eyes of rabbinic commentaries and midrash. The early rabbis knew how to “spin” a story to enhance – or destroy! – a reputation, or to create a good yarn on sometimes sparse material. We will discover, as we read these commentaries, the “back stories” of these women, and learn from their personalities that were all too human. The five sessions which will start at **7 PM** are:

- REBECCA.....October 25
- DINAHNovember 15
- DEBORAH and YAEL.....December 13
- NEXT: BATHSHEBA****January 3**
- RUTH**.....**January 24**

All programs are offered without charge.
Bring your friends!



Agudath Israel ✧ Etz Ahayem
Adult Education



Coffee and Conversation
Saturday 9:00am
January 5, 12, 19, 26

**Torah Study
after Kiddush**
January 5, 12, 19, 26

Beginning Hebrew
Sunday 12:00pm
January 6, 13, 20, 27

Introduction to Judaism
Sunday 12:30pm
January 6, 13, 20, 27

How to Read the Bible
Tuesday 6:30pm
January 8, 15, 22, 29

Mishnah
Tuesday 7:30pm
January 8, 15, 22, 29

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.

I nominate
There are businesses who carry the torch for good. We ask you to bring them to light.

LEAD SPONSORS
Auburn University Montgomery
B&M Management
Balch and Bingham
Business Council of Alabama
Copperwing
Merrill Lynch
Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce
The Samaritan Counseling Center

Nominations Open from December 01, 2012 through February 10, 2013
The annual River Region Ethics in Business Awards recognize finalists and recipients in five different categories for their commitment to the highest ethical principles in the workplace.

The awards are presented by The Samaritan Counseling Center, Inc. in collaboration with Auburn University Montgomery's Schools of Business and Sciences. To nominate a deserving business or individual visit www.riverregionethics.com.

2012 recipients included Seay, Seay and Litchfield, Up and Running, GEN Aerospace, Family Sunshine Center, and Siau Tang Wood. For more information, contact Alton Williams at 262-7787, ext. 200.

 www.riverregionethics.com  **River Region Ethics**
IN BUSINESS & PUBLIC SERVICE

Jewish Federation of Central Alabama Events!

January 8th, 7pm @AIEA

Shaliach event:

Café Israel – Elections are in the air.



The American elections just ended. Now it's the time for the Israeli elections. Come and hear about the new players, different parties and the interesting dynamics that lead us to interesting elections. Learn about the "sit swap," in the Center, the big bang in the right and the changes on the left. Hear about the different aspects that will be on the headlines from security to economics to social justice. Engage in the process to understand how it really works with so many parties and views on how to run the small country.

January 27th

Save the date. A fun Tu B'shvat celebration is being planned for the Kol Ami religious school students and for anyone else in our community who would like to have fun. More details to come.



February 3rd

Save the date. Kol Ami religious school and the community teenagers are gathering for a Mitzvah project. Join us in the making of blankets that we will send to Sandy's victims that lost their homes and belongings. The project will be followed by a pizza party for the teenagers from 11:30 to 12:30, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Central Alabama.

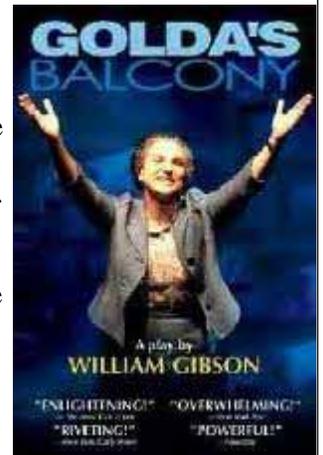
April 14th

Save the date. Join us for an Israeli independence celebration with a Klezmer band, Israeli food and more. More details to come.

January 31st - 7 PM - Capri Theatre

Join the Jewish Federation of Central Alabama and the Capri theatre for a special screening of the movie "Golda's Balcony." The movie is the filming of the hit Broadway show by the same name. Valerie Harper plays Golda. The New York Times called it "Compelling." Hadassah Magazine calls it a "Tour de force."

"Wonderful," is how Jeffry Lyons the NBC critic refers to this movie. It was also an Official Honoree in the Eilat International Film Festival of Israel. In a visually dynamic way it tells the story of Meyer, a Russian immigrant who grew up in the United States immigrated to Israel and in time became Israel's 4th Prime Minister.



The movie will be followed by a Q&A with a senior representative of the Israeli Consulate from Atlanta, and leaders of our community.

The ticket price is \$15. There will be a discounted price of \$12 for advanced purchase for groups of 10 or more. To purchase tickets a head of time make checks out to the Jewish Federation of Central AL and mail them to 2820 Fairlane DR. Suite A-3 Montgomery AL 36116.

Transportation assistance is available. For more details please contact our Shaliach Ori Tal or Susan McGuire on 334-277-5820 or by email: mail.jfca@gmail.com.

The money collected will be used to support Israelis under fire in the southern region of Israel and as a relief to Sandy victims in the middle Atlantic region of the United States. Please come and help us raise money for those great causes!

Important Date!

**Temple Beth Or's
Jewish Food Festival
February 24, 2013**

Religion School
Schedule



TBO
1/6, First day at TBO
1/13
1/27, Ori's Family Trip Tu
B'Shvat
2/3
2/10

COMING TO THE TBO BIG SCREEN:

**Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor
Thane Rosenbaum, moderator**



LIVE FROM THE 92ND STREET Y

Tuesday, February 5 - 7:00 p.m. in the Baylinson Social Hall

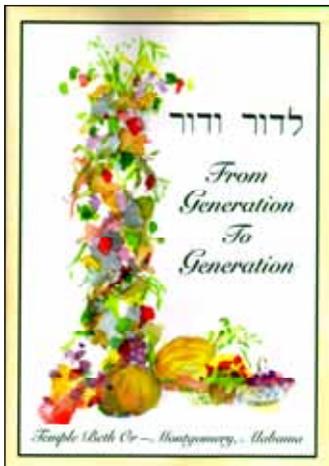
The appointment of Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court electrified the nation. The first Hispanic Justice on the high court, and a Latina with a compelling life story—raised in a Bronx housing project, educated at Princeton and Yale, worked as a Manhattan prosecutor and then a federal judge—she already possessed a sterling legal career before becoming perhaps the most recognizable face on the Supreme Court. And now she is the author of a memoir, *My Beloved World*, a revealing book about the personal values and important influences that propelled this fascinating American success story.

This program, is offered without charge by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture Fund. Bring your friends and neighbors!

Save the date for these future screenings:

March 4, 2013, Jeffrey Sachs and Claudia Dreifus, “Global Issues,” 7:15 p.m. CT

May 16, 2013, “OneVoice with Jason Alexander and Daniel Lubetzky,” 7 p.m. CT , sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Central Alabama.



From Generation
to Generation
cookbooks are
available for
\$22.00.

*If you have accumulated
unused Temple Beth Or
donation envelopes please
feel free to drop them off at
the Temple office so they may
be reused.*

indeed Jewish communal autonomy – disappeared, as we placed ourselves under the laws of modern European states. When the Enlightenment was replaced with a reactionary anti-Semitism later in the 19th century, Western European Reform Jews brought their attitudes over to America – we are a *religion*, just like Protestants and Catholics – while the Eastern European Jews who had never known the Enlightenment brought to America their folkways and traditions and culture, laying the foundation for Conservative Judaism and Modern Orthodoxy.

Think of what happened with the rise of nationalism, another 19th century phenomenon. Europeans took great pride in their national identity and national history, leading Germany to view their ancient nation as a race. Jewish awareness of a national identity also resurfaced, and became known as Zionism, a concept adamantly rejected by early Reform Judaism. In the Arab world the traditional division of the world into areas under Islam and areas “not yet” under Islam still influences, which is why Palestinians – who are themselves a totally new concept on the world scene – cannot abide the thought that Israel might have some legitimacy on “their” territory.

As I said, how we define who we are has a huge bearing upon how we live as Jews.

No definition can ever be all-inclusive. If we are a religion, then what happens to Jews who are atheist, such as David Ben Gurion, Israel’s first Prime Minister? If we are a nation, then what happens to our national identity as Americans? Do we really see ourselves as bi-nationals? Do we really want hyphens, as in African-American or Japanese-American? Are we in exile because we’re not living in Israel? I think not.

Of all the Jewish philosophers and theologians who have written about this question, I like Mordecai Kaplan’s approach. His great work, *Judaism as a Civilization*, was published in 1934. His was the first attempt to redefine Judaism in a way that took into account the interests of all Jews. Rather than looking at Judaism from the narrow perspective of theology, or denominations, or Palestine over other places where Jews lived, he envisioned Judaism as the civilization of the living and evolving Jewish people. He was the one, I believe, who first wrote that we are a unique combination of folk and faith. Judaism is more than just a creed, or even a culture – it is the full expression of the inner life of the Jewish people.

Mordecai Kaplan called his emphasis on Judaism as a civilization “Reconstructionism.” Reconstructionism was a radical idea back in the 1930’s, when traditional

Jews focused so much on observance, and Reform Jews were emphasizing ethics and social justice. At a time when Hitler was killing European Jews because of their blood line, and American Jews were rapidly assimilating, talk of Judaism as a civilization was the last thing most American Jews wanted to hear. Yet by the end of his life Kaplan’s ideas had been taken over so completely by Reform and Conservative Judaism alike, that he was given membership in both national rabbinic bodies; I believe that, aside from some lingering cultural differences, today’s Reform and Conservative Judaism are more similar than you might think.

Kaplan wrote that Judaism’s task is to attend to the following six needs: To reaffirm Jewish peoplehood; to revitalize Jewish religion; to form a network of organic communities; to strengthen the State of Israel; to further Jewish cultural creativity, and finally, to cooperate with the general community in all endeavors on behalf of freedom, justice and peace.

I happened to ask one of our members recently, “How would you define Judaism?” The answer came back without hesitation: Judaism is a way of life. I cannot think of a finer restatement than that.

Rabbi Elliot Stevens



And Beyond!

Friday, February 1, 6 PM, Shabbat Service. An abbreviated service followed by a family pot luck dinner. If your last name begins with A - F, bring a beef or chicken dish; G - R bring a salad or vegetable; S - W bring a dessert.

Sunday, February 3, TBA, Save the date. Kol Ami religious school and the community teenagers are gathering for a Mitzvah project. Join us in the making of blankets that we will send to Sandy's victims that lost their homes and belongings. The project will be followed by a pizza party for the teenagers from 11:30 to 12:30, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Central Alabama. More information to follow.

Tuesday, February 5, 7 PM, 92nd Street Y Program: SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SONIA SOTOMAYOR on TBO's big screen - in the Baylinson Social Hall. Sponsored by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture Series. Bring your family and friends.

Friday, February 8, 5 PM, Family Chavurah Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.

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

Friday, February 22, 6 PM, Shabbat Service. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH.

Saturday, February 23, 7 PM, Purim Service - Costumes (adults, too!), Purim Pranks, the famous Megillah and Hamentaschen! In the TBO Library.

Sunday, February 24, 9 AM - 3 PM, Temple Beth Or's 10th Annual Jewish Food Festival

Friday, March 1, 6 PM, Classical Service with Union Prayer Book.

Monday, March 4, 7:15 PM, 92nd Street Y Program: JEFFREY SACHS AND CLAUDIA DREIFUS, "GLOBAL ISSUES" on TBO's big screen - in the Baylinson Social Hall. Sponsored by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture Series. Bring your family and friends.

Thursday, March 7, 2 PM, Interfaith Shoah Memorial Service at Agudath Israel*Etz Ahayem.

Friday, March 8, 5 PM, Family Chavurah Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.

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

Friday, March 15, 6 PM, Shabbat Service. Huntingdon College Night. Reception follows.

Thursday, March 21, 7 PM, Guest Speaker: Mirabi Starr, author of GOD OF LOVE; A GUIDE TO THE HEART OF JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM. Sponsored by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture Series.

Tuesday, March 26, 5:30 PM, Second Seder. Seating will begin at 5:00 PM, with the service to begin promptly at 5:30.

Tuesday, March 26, All Day, TBO Office closed for

Passover.

Friday, March 29, 6 PM, Shabbat Service. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH.

Friday, April 12, 5 PM, Family Chavurah Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.

Sunday, April 14, TBA, Save the date. Join the Jewish Federation of Central Alabama for an Israeli independence celebration with a Klezmer band, Israeli food and more. More details to follow.

Thursday, April 18, 2 PM, Guest Speaker, Janice Rothschild will speak on her new book Rabbi Alphabet Browne: Prophet in Time of Priests. Janice Rothschild is the widow of the late Rabbi Jacob Rothschild, who was senior rabbi at The Temple in Atlanta during the Civil Rights Era. Program will be held in the Baylinson Social Hall. Sponsored by the Lucien Loeb L'Chaim League.

Friday, April 26, 6 PM, Shabbat Service. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH.

Friday, May 10, 5 PM, Family Chavurah Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.

Saturday, May 11, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served.

Tuesday, May 14, 7 PM, Erev Shavuot Family Service, including a reading of the Book of Ruth and a light dairy repast.

Wednesday, May 15, All Day, TBO Office closed for Shavuot.

Thursday, May 16, 7 PM, 92nd Street Y Program: "ONEVOICE WITH JASON ALEXANDER AND DANIEL LUBETZKY" on TBO's big screen - in the Baylinson Social Hall. Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Central Alabama (JFCA). Bring your family and friends.

Friday, May 24, 6 PM, Shabbat Service. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH.

Friday, June 7, 5 PM, Family Chavurah Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.

Friday, June 7, 6 PM, Classical Service with Union Prayer Book.

Saturday, June 8, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served.

Friday, June 28, 6 PM, Shabbat Service. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH.

Thursday, September 5, All Day, TBO Office closed for Rosh Hashanah.

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.

January 2013

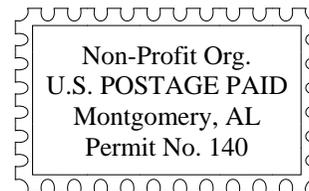
Want an updated look at what's going on at Temple? Go to www.templebethor.net.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Temple Beth Or closed for New Year's Day	2 10 AM, L'Chaim League will visit the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts.	3 7 PM, Rabbi Stevens's five-part series on Women in the Hebrew Bible: Insights from Midrash and Commentaries. Topic: BATHSHEBA.	4 6 PM Shabbat Service	5
6 9:30 AM, First day of Kol Ami Religious School at TBO	7	8 4:15 PM, Basic Judaism with Rabbi Stevens	9	10	11 5 PM, Family Chavurah Shabbat service 6 PM Shabbat Service	12 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served
13 9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School at TBO.	14	15 4:15 PM, Basic Judaism with Rabbi Stevens	16	17	18 6 PM Shabbat Service	19
20	21	22	23	24 7 PM, Rabbi Stevens's five-part series on Women in the Hebrew Bible: Insights from Midrash and Commentaries. Topic: RUTH.	25 6 PM, Sisterhood Shabbat Service accompanied by Turia Stark Williams and Becky Taylor. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH.	26
27 9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School at TBO with a special Tu B'Shvat celebration sponsored by JFCA.	28	29	30	31 7 PM, JFCA sponsors a special screening of the movie "Golda's Balcony" at the Capri Theatre		

Kahl Montgomery—Temple Beth Or

2246 Narrow Lane Road
Montgomery, AL 36106

JANUARY 2013 Bulletin



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.templebethor.net



Quajado bakers needed. Pans and recipe can be picked up from the Temple office. Please be sure to leave your name on the form provided.

Temple Beth Or will be closed on Tuesday, January 1st in honor of New Year's Day.