

Temple Beth Or Bulletin

June 2013 ~ Sivan/Tamuz 5773



RABBI'S ANNUAL REPORT 2013

May 19, 2013

We get many visitors here at Temple Beth Or – except, of course, during this annual meeting.

Some of our guests are local: students at local colleges and universities taking a world religion class, or members of area churches whose curiosity leads them to take one of our adult education classes. We have also hosted Jewish high school students and adults visiting on civil rights tours from Reform temples around the country – eight this past year alone, including three in a row just in April – whose worship with us on Friday evening is a high point for them and for us. Some newcomers – more than a dozen this past year – move to town, find us on the Internet through our great website, and wind up joining us as new members.

And virtually all of them express appreciation, even amazement, at how such a relatively small congregation can offer such a wealth of programming, and display a vitality that would make congregations several times our size proud. I'm told by visiting rabbis who serve far larger congregations that they can't imagine how we do it, with a support staff of essentially one person – the amazing Gina Friday – backed up by one maintenance person, Marlon Cotton.

An annual report provides us with an opportunity to review the past year, and look toward the future. So here's just a partial review of what's been going on around here these last months, in no particular order:

Our monthly Tot Shabbat services, now completing their second year, have introduced our 2-3 year old set to Shabbat and community – and to each other – and listening to them is nothing short of inspiring. The new 92nd Street Y program has brought us such luminaries as Ed Koch, Paul Volker, Elie Wiesel, Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren, Justice Sonia Sotomayor and others; we've also had two splendid visiting authors, the renowned story-teller Peninnah Schram and, more recently Mirabai Starr. I've continued my teaching with extended courses on "Amazing Women in the Jewish Bible," "The Great Conflicts of Judaism," and my annual 10-week series on Basic Judaism and Basic Hebrew, along with special topics such as "Who Is A Jew." Last year's multi-part Summer Sermon Series, on great but largely unknown heroes of Judaism, was well received, and will be followed this summer by a special series on the great ideas of Judaism.

This year we expanded our joint Thanksgiving Service to include the Church of the Ascension; co-sponsored the annual Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Service; received over 100 students on Huntingdon

College Night, and saw the creation of a new social network for our young families and young adults, thanks to initiatives taken by the Bernsteins, by our shaliach Ori Tal and

others.

Ori Tal, by the way, has been absolutely outstanding as our shaliach these last two years and will be sorely missed.

I continued my outreach into the community this year. The highlight has to be the "Taste of Judaism" program last fall – three intensive two-hour sessions that attracted a wonderful class of 30, several of whom wound up joining our membership and strengthening our community. Thanks to Katie Wetherbee, one of our newer members, for chairing that program, that will continue this fall.

I also led two full Passover Seders in area churches, one at Church of the Ascension and one at Aldersgate, with a combined attendance over more than 250 who appreciated an opportunity to see an authentic Seder and learn to sing "Dayeinu"! I've been very active this year in Leadership Montgomery, helped plan the Unity Breakfast a few weeks ago, and I'm now in my fourth year chairing the Selection Committee of the River Region Ethics in Business Award, aside from accepting, as time permits, invitations to speak in churches or in community forums.

Two I accepted this year include teaching about 160 6th and 7th graders about the Holocaust at the Carr Middle School, and leading a session on how our temple library is organized at the recent convention of the Alabama Library Association.

My top priority, as always, is our own membership, and serving Temple Beth Or is also my top joy. I thoroughly enjoy it when one of you comes in just to chat, or makes an appointment to discuss some issue or concern, and I consider it a special privilege when I

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Saturday, June 8
Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday morning, June 8, 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. Baylinson, 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*

Board of Trustees

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Micki Beth Stiller.....*Cemetery*
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Jarred Kaplan.....*Religion School*
Marlene Beringer.....*Ritual*
Susan Bernstein.....*Sisterhood President*
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

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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.

**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.

**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.

doing this for years to teach other members how the food was prepared. I want to thank all the members who have been heading cooking committees for many years. Also, thank you to the members who have stepped up to take over.

In ending I want to thank my family. I know that the many meetings and phone calls have interrupted a lot of dinners. I want to thank Carol for editing monthly articles. You have been a wonderful support.

Thank you again and I look forward to next year.

TBO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Serving as President of Temple Beth Or has been an honor and, thanks to the help of many people a pleasure as well. I first want to thank Gina Friday for always reminding me about the deadline for the monthly bulletin and being very patient when I am late. She does a fantastic job of managing the Temple. A big thank you goes out to Marlon Cotton for always making sure the Temple is open, welcoming and clean. I am always impressed at how many activities, lectures and learning series Rabbi plans every year. I have enjoyed working with the Rabbi and getting to know him better. I cannot thank Jenny Ives, Diane Weil, Morris Capouya and Susan Finklestein enough for all their help. Working with all of you has been a pleasure and you make my job much easier.

Every year, including this one, we vote to appoint members to the Board. This board works hard to oversee the Temple and its many committees. I want to thank every Board member for their time, their hard work and for making this job enjoyable.

Many temples, much larger than ours, do not have near the number of activities we do. If you have been reading the monthly bulletin, you have seen all we do at the Temple. We have visiting lecturers, the 92nd Street Y Series and many learning series, led by the Rabbi. I do not know where he gets all his energy. Like many of you, I am not able to attend as much as I would like. There are times when there are few attendees. Let us work together next year to attend more of the many lectures and learning series.

There has been a lot going on behind the scenes that you have not seen. Over the past year, we have been busy getting ready to transition to a Temple management system call Chaverware. At the present time we are using multiple databases and files to handle mailings and billings. This program will allow us to merge all these databases into one centralized database, which will streamline some of Gina's work. We hope to have this up and running by the end of the summer. The Investment Committee headed by Morris Capouya will spend the summer talking with managers to transition our funds into a more stable process and, hopefully, this will allow the Temple to increase returns without increasing risk. You have already heard from the Sisterhood and Men's club today. I want to thank the Men's Club for movie nights and baseball nights they plan. I want to thank the Sisterhood for all that they do. This group of ladies is always busy working hard to make the Temple a better place. Without them, the Temple simply could not thrive.

There is a group of people that I want to thank for all their hard and tireless work. There are a lot to name and if I started I know that I would leave someone out. These people are working on committees, planning lunches, onegs or last minute receptions. Others are helping in the office and around the Temple. Thank you again for all your tireless work and help.

This past year's Food Festival was a big success. Can you believe that this was our tenth year? Everything went smoothly and we could tell that the congregants enjoyed baking and working. I know I enjoyed overseeing the cooking of the latkes. By the way, I have been told I was fired and I have been moved back to fry cook next year. All our hard work ended at 1 o'clock when the last of the food was sold. This year we had members take over cooking committees for their first time. This allowed those who have been

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.

BLANCHE WINTER FUND

*In Honor of
Gordie Baylinson's Bar Mitzvah
Gay and Irving Winter*

*In Honor of the 105th birthday of
Hermine Herzfeld
Gay and Irving Winter*

BUILDING FUND

*In Honor of Temple Beth Or
Alison and Matthew Schorr*

CARING FUND

*In Memory of
Andy Kromis
Philip and Cheryl Kromis*

FLORAL FUND

*On the Yahrzeit of
Jules Adler
Lucille and Alan Goldsmith*

On the Yahrzeit of

*Isaac Alhadeff
Louna Capouya
Frances and Ralph Capouya*

In Memory of

*Susie Dickinson Hudson
Harriette & Norman Dorosin*

In Memory of

*S.J. Ripps
Norma and Leonard Michelson*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*In Honor of Temple Beth Or
Alison and Matthew Schorr*

In Memory of

*Lillian Brownstein
Betty, Bob and Erik Goldberg*

In Memory of

*Verna L. Wool
Tricia Wool and Ed Munson*

**Birthdays and
Anniversary
Blessings on June 7th.**

BIRTHDAYS

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

ANNIVERSARIES

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

YAHARZEITS

To be read 6/7/2013
Joseph H. Abraham
Denise K. Hanan
Sol Hersberg
Julian H. Kohn
Alma Hertz Lobman

To be read 6/14/2013
Carrie Abraham
Jack H. Abraham
Evelyn Burger
Leon Burger
Eli Capilouto
Albert Freehling
Nell Hagedorn
Carrie Pollock Lobman
Nellie Loeb
Emanuel Rosenbluth
Isidore Rosenbluth

To be read 6/21/2013
Jack Bloom
Jean Capouya
Jeannette D. Capouya
Rachel H. Capp
Elinor Carlton
Carol Loeb Hagedorn
Bernard Hanan
Estelle Popkin
Rosalie Rosenberg
Kalman Shwarts
Julien M. "Sonny" Strassburger
Jack L. Toney

To be read 6/28/2013
Olga Franco
Helen L. Levi
Genevieve L. Roberts
Roy Shinpaugh

2014 Food Festival and Treasure Market

Please mark Sunday, February 23, 2014 on your calendar for the 2014 Food Festival!

Moving? Spring Cleaning? Redecorating?

In preparation of next year's event, we are pleased to inform you that we are accepting the following donated items now!

- Professionally Cleaned Ladies Evening and Cocktail Dresses/Suits
- Ladies' Accessories Costume Jewelry
- Hats – Scarves - Evening Bags - Purses
- Toys - Lamps - Paintings – Pictures
- Furniture - in good condition

Note: Please make sure all items are clean and in working condition. Please donate large TV's to your favorite charity.

SISTERHOOD ANNUAL REPORT

As another year comes to an end we look back on a very busy year. All of our years are busy with our members being so active in preparing for our many events. Each one is carried out to perfection from beautiful flowers to lovely table arrangements and always delicious food.

We started our year with our opening meeting at the home of Aimee Harris and assisted by Jamie Loeb. We went over our plans for the year to be sure we were ready. We celebrated Rosh Hashanah with a beautiful reception hosted by Bette Sue Strasburger and Corinne Capilouto and assisted by many of our members. And again Susan Finklestein provided a delicious and welcome Break Fast. Susan has hosted this event for several years and always does such a good job.

Closely following our New Year celebration we welcomed the harvest with Sukkot and a lovely reception hosted by Lisa Newcomb. We celebrated under the Sukkah decorated by the Men's Club. Simchat Torah followed Sukkot with delicious fruit, nuts, and pastries provided by Betty Goldberg.

In December Carol Loeb and Julie Goolsby planned a fun and delicious Chanukah celebration. We were delighted to have Penninah Schram as our guest to tell her wonderful stories. Penninah made this a very special evening.

Sisterhood Shabbat was exceptionally meaningful this year. Kelly Capouya prepared a lovely Wine and Cheese reception prior to the service. The beautiful music by Becky Taylor and Turia Stark added so much to this special service celebrating the women of this

congregation.

Sharon Berry, Sharon McDaniel, and Teri Finkelstein amazed everyone in attendance for Second Night Seder with a fabulous meal that these ladies prepared themselves. With the assistance of Danielle Berry everything was beautiful and perfect.

We always look forward to greeting the students from Huntingdon College. Lynne Ginsburg and Alison Williamson made these guests very happy with an array of treats. Many took goodies back to the dorm for late night studies.

Again this year our Carnegie Deli Cheesecake fundraiser was extremely successful with Lisa Weil and Marlene Beringer leading the way. Be sure to get your order ready for this year. We will start our sale soon after the New Year. Our money from the fundraiser was used to purchase a new washer and dryer and to have the sketches of the three Temple buildings framed.

Please visit our gift shop to see the beautiful items for sale. We really appreciate Peggy Cohn's hard work to keep it stocked and arranged. These items make wonderful gifts for all special occasions.

We have welcomed several new members this year who have brought a lot of energy to our membership. Mae Cohen has done a great job with membership. She will be sending your dues information soon. Our goal is to have every woman as an active member.

We want to thank Gina Friday and Marlon Cotton for all their help and support. We could not do all the things we do without them. A special thanks to Rabbi Stevens for his continued support. He is a very busy man and keeps us on our toes. Thank your Rabbi for all you do.

Another thank you to our officers who have worked tirelessly this year: Vice-Presidents - Carol Loeb, Julie Goolsby, Jamie Loeb, and Joy Kaplan; Secretary - Karen Goldstein; Treasurer - Sharon McDaniel; Membership - Mae Cohen; Past President - Marlene Beringer.

Thank you so much ladies for making my job easier.

Susan Bernstein
Sisterhood President

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L'CHAIM LEAGUE

The L'Chaim League will visit Petals from the Past in Jemison, AL for a short garden tour and high tea on Tuesday, June 18th. We will depart from the temple at 9:00 a.m. and return at approximately 1:00 p.m. Advanced reservations are required by Friday, June 7th. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Your check (made out to Temple Beth Or) is your reservation. We will be carpooling, so please call the temple if you would like to drive or need a reserved seat.

Sharon Berry
L'Chaim League Director
lchaimleague2246@yahoo.com

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SHALIACH NEWS

Hello again, and for the last time. I wanted to share, for the ones who missed it; the talk I gave on my last Shabbat service. Hope you will enjoy it and will have the same bittersweet feeling of an end of a phase with excitement about the next.

There is an old Jewish saying - עולם
- כמנוח נודח - what has been, will be again. It's a famous saying, that talks about the continuity of the world, and that it doesn't matter

what will happen in our lives, the world keeps on spinning. But I think that in our narrow perspective we're seeing this wrong. Yes, sure, you will get a new Shaliach next year, (and of course he won't be as cool and great as I am, but we will give him a try right?) and I will go back to school right after the summer, like these 2 years never happened.

But at least for my part, I can tell without a single doubt: these 2 years changed me, affected me in every aspect. I had to mature and become independent, first by doing my own laundry, cooking food and cleaning after myself for the first time in my life. Those were the basics, but I still remember shaking on my first D'var Torah on Yom Kippur, how scared I was.

I've learned a lot about my Jewish identity - something that was always in the back of my mind but never a major part of my life - from the religious school and the adult education classes. I've learned a lot about my country, the state of Israel, from reviewing things from a different perspective and by research I had to do for my different lectures and programs.

And I hope that I had that kind of effect on this community as well. That I taught y'all a thing or two in my short stay. That I made a difference. That something is now different than it was before my arrival.

I want to tell you all a bit about where I'm going and why it's time for me to go home. As you know, in Israel we don't go straight to college when we finish high-school. Most of us don't even have a summer vacation after their senior year, like myself. We go straight to the bakum - the entrance hall of the Israeli Defense Forces, the IDF, and put on the olive-green uniform we will

wear for the next 2 or 3 years depending on your gender.

After that, we have the option to finally go and receive higher education. But after such a long service, lots of Israelis, me included, need a little break before going to school. So we work a little, take all of our savings and fly as far as we can, to see a different world and to gain this different perspective I was talking about before.

I traveled to South America for about 6 months. When I came back, I decided I want to come here, to North America and work with a community. One step later, after a Skype conversation with the people of the Federation, I knew that this is the place I want to go to. And that's how I found myself in the age of 25 eager to go back to school. To get the education I wanted so bad from an early age and somehow I've managed to push back for so long.

I'm leaving here in the beginning of June and will move to Jerusalem to get ready for the school year in the Hebrew University. I will start my journey for a degree in Economics and International studies. Why? If you had asked me what I want to do with my life 15 years ago, I would answer to play in the NBA. If you had asked me 10 years ago, I wanted to be an engineer. 5 years ago I wanted to be a journalist.

Now? Now I want to keep on doing what I did here. After really seeing the importance of my actions, the importance of keeping the connection between the Jewish communities here in America and the one in Israel. I don't know yet if it will be in the Jewish Agency or at the foreign affairs office, or maybe even in the political world. But keeping Jewish people connected is my new goal in life.

And I want to thank y'all for making

it clear to me that that's what I want to do with my life. Thanks for taking a major part in my journey.

I also want to extend what I said before about my Jewish Identity which I have learned much about. Shavuot just passed by, and while learning and preparing for that holiday I learned about the importance of the desert in the process of God giving us the Torah. The Israelites got the Torah in the Sinai desert for a few reasons, one of them was that while you are in an ownerless land and God is the one providing for you, you can really focus yourself on learning and understanding the Torah, and not only be thinking about the day to day stuff like your job and mortgage.

The 40 years passing through the desert also symbolizes the journey the Israelites went through. Together as a people, and each individually. It was something they must have passed. A process. One needed to shed the person he was once, before he could get to the real deal - his home, his purpose, his destiny.

It's not a perfect comparison, but in the story of my life, I'm about to step in the Promised Land, returning to where I belong. And in order to get there I guess I needed to be out of my home, out of my land, to pass the desert and make the change for a long life-changing time.

The desert treasures many beauties and gems, spiritually and physically, and I had to pass that test, in order to stop thinking on day to day life and find my belief. understand, even if still not fully, what does it makes me feel being part of the Jewish people, and as I said before - to know what I want to do for the rest of my life, in the place I'm meant to be.

But a man makes plans, and God

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laughs. Maybe I will change my mind again, and maybe my next phase will teach me other things and I will reach different understandings, but I know the past two years here, in Montgomery Alabama, would never be forgotten and were a major part in the person I am destined to be.

So maybe *למנהגו נוהג*, but there are things, some of them are small and insignificant in a first glance, but those are the things that will stay with me for the rest of my life and changed my course for ever.

Thanks and may the next time I will see each one of you will be in my home, in Israel, I would love to have you all there for at least a Shabbat Dinner.

Ori Tal

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FROM THE LIBRARY

These titles can currently be found on the windowsill in the library.

New Films:

Memory of the Camps (PBS, Frontline) (AV 692.7361 MEM 2005)

Beyond the Barbed Wire: An Artist's View of the Holocaust (AV 692.73695 BEY 2010)

Hand in Hand (AV 692 HAN 2010)

Blessed Is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh (AV 799.76 BLE 2010)

New Books:

God of Love: A Guide to the Heart of Judaism, Christianity and Islam by Mirabai Starr (290 STA 2012)

Our Religious Brains: What Cognitive Science Reveals about Belief, Morality, Community and Our Relationship with God by Ralph D. Mecklenburger (486.9 MEC 2012)

Broken Tablets: Restoring the Ten Commandments and Ourselves edited by Rachel S. Mikva; Introduction by Lawrence Kushner; Afterword by Arnold Jacob Wolf (021.22 MIK 1999)

The Ethiopian Jews of Israel: Personal Stories of Life in the Promised Land by Len Lyons; Photographs by Ilan Ossendryver; Forward by Alan M. Dershowitz (790.1 LYO 2007)

Rabbi Harvey vs. the Wisdom Kid: A Graphic Novel of Dueling Jewish Folktales in the Wild West by Steve Sheinkin (YA 185 SHE 2010)

Eric A. Kidwell, MLS

RABBI ANNOUNCES SUMMER SERMON SERIES

“WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
THE BASIC IDEAS OF JUDAISM

Did you ever wonder where some of our core religious ideas come from – or what their significance might be for us in our day?

Last summer Rabbi Stevens’s summer sermon series, “The Heroes of Judaism,” highlighted significant but largely unknown figures in Jewish history. This year’s series will explore some of Judaism’s key concepts, many of which were taken over and transformed by Christianity. This series will cover:

- July 12, “The Surprising Origins of Monotheism”
- July 19, “Heaven and Hell”
- August 2, “Angels and Demons”
- August 9, “The Jewish Concept of Messiah”
- August 16, “Law and Lore”

Don’t miss this exciting opportunity to deepen our knowledge of Judaism!

Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem

Saturday, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29,

July 6

Torah Study – after Kiddush

Sunday, June 30, July 7 & 28

12:00 PM, Beginning Hebrew

12:30 PM, Introduction to Judaism

Tuesday, June 11, 18

July 2, 30

6:30 PM, How to read the Bible

7:30 PM, Mishnah



Apologies

In the below notice which appeared in the May bulletin, we failed to mention that Jason Coleman's father is Steve Coleman and grandparents are Irving and Gay Winter.

Our apologies for this oversight.

Mazel Tov!

Jason Coleman is engaged to Miriam Claire Bernstein. Both Claire and Jason reside in Nashville. Claire's parents are the late Jenna Bernstein and Michelle and Eugene Bernstein, all of Memphis, TN. Jason is the son of Mae Cohen and Steve Coleman. Grandparents are Irving and Gay Winter. Great-grandfather was Temple Beth Or's Rabbi Blachschleger.



NEWEST ARRIVALS

Tobias Albert Hart, February 2, 2013
Parents, Micah and Joanne Hart

Arren Raviv Butcher, April 26, 2013
Parents, Carlyn (Hart) and Steve Butcher

Grandparents, Julian and Gail Hart
Great-grandmother, Carol Hart

TBO Book Review



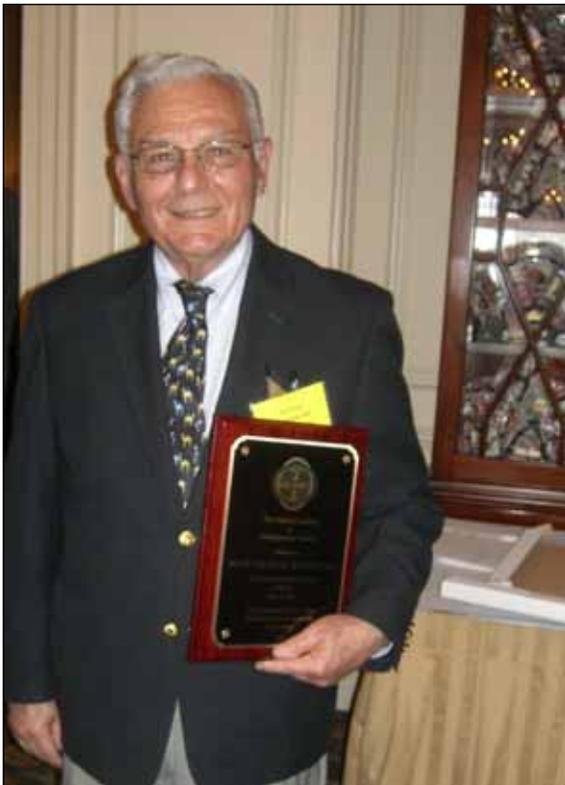
THE LEMON TREE
BY SANDY TOLAN
AN ARAB, A JEW, AND
THE HEART OF THE
MIDDLE EAST

I have found the library table outside the social hall to be a good place to find books that are enjoyable, as well as of great interest. "The Lemon Tree" is such a book.

The history of the middle east is presented by Mr. Tolan through the eyes of an Arab man and a Jewish woman. "In Bashir's childhood home, in the lemon tree his father planted in the backyard, he sees dispossession and occupation: Dalia, who arrived as an infant in 1948 with her family from Bulgaria, sees hope for a people devastated by the Holocaust." Their encounters are the backdrop used to present more than half a century of Israeli-Palestinian history.

Although the information presented regarding why many Palestinians left their homes after Israel received its mandate may differ from one's previous information, the book becomes riveting as one delves deeper into it. I found "The Lemon Tree" to be well worth the read.

Charlotte Mussafer



Congratulations to Dr. Michael Weinrib, who received the Outstanding Physician Award from the Medical Society of Montgomery County on May 6, 2013 "for exemplary service to the medical profession and to the community." He was nominated for this award by Dr. Alan Berlin.



L'Chaim League members tour the Vizzini Winery in Calera, on May 7th.

am asked to be with a family in time of need. All too often, however, I learn third-hand that someone has been in the hospital or has faced some other challenge well after the fact, or I hear assumptions that I must have heard the news from someone else; please know that I welcome hearing from you directly, and the last thing I want to hear is that you thought I was too busy. Nothing else I or we do is as important as the mutual support we give to each other in times of need.

This year we were saddened by the loss of members, either through death or departure from the community. With each passing year, as relationships deepen, these losses are not just communal, or within families, but increasingly personal. We have also been blessed by the arrival of new members – more than a dozen this year alone – who have potential to be future pillars of the congregation; many have already made a positive impact with their contributions and volunteerism. Personally, I am optimistic about the future of our community and its potential for stability and growth; just look at our religion school, where almost every youngster is a child of TBO members, and a bumper crop in the lowest grades.

I could easily devote an entire report just to the giving of thanks. And even if there is some duplication among this afternoon's reports, they deserve it.

I have to start with our temple leadership, starting with our president Jamie Loeb, and our officers and Board members. Each and every one cares so deeply about our temple and our community; we are truly blessed to be in such good hands, and working with our leadership team is truly a pleasure.

Our Sisterhood, this year under Susan Bernstein's leadership, continues to be one of the very central pillars of our congregation. With all they do throughout the year I wouldn't want even to begin to think about what our temple would be like without them. The Men's Club, jointly led by Phil

Bernstein, Pete Ginsburg, Lew Nyman and Steve Clein, provides behind-the-scenes support as well as gifts that improve our programming.

Sharon Berry was an inspired choice to lead the L'Chaim League; their program, which reaches across our entire Jewish community, has been outstanding. Our joint religion school, Kol Ami, has just completed its fifth year, successfully providing a full K-10 program in a way that many thought impossible when I first arrived here. You might think that leading our school is a part-time job, but I know and you should know that our co-principal, Terri Finkelstein, devotes countless hours every week to ensure the high level of our educational program.

I apologize in advance for leaving off names of many volunteers who love our temple and contribute to it, but I have to single out Bette Sue Strasburger, who chairs our new library committee; Louisa Weinrib, who has begun a long-term project to strengthen our temple archives; Sharon McDaniel, who as hospitality chair enhances temple functions throughout the year, including the special oneg she organizes for every one of those visiting Civil Rights tours, and also the anonymous donor whose support of our library and our lecture and cultural programs has been crucial to their success. Did you know that we are probably the smallest congregation in the country to have a library that's fully accredited by the Jewish Libraries Association?

And of course we must thank Jenny Ives, who took the chair of our Food Festival when many were ready to give up – and through her wonderful people skills and leadership she forged a team who collectively spent hundreds upon hundreds of hours to make it happen. Thanks to Jenny and thanks to the scores of you, our members, who volunteered. Truly, whether your families have been here for nine generations or you were new to town just this year, we are one community.

Gina Friday is a treasure. To keep our temple going the way we do we need a full-time staff of at least four, and we have that in Gina Friday; hers is billed as a part-time position, but she's at it most days from 7 am on, or even earlier, and the skills she has, skills that are usually spread over several people, are only matched by her personal caring and warmth. With Marlon Cotton, who keeps everything here shipshape by going far beyond what is asked of him, we are fortunate indeed.

Our webmaster, Sandy Lynn Stevens, has donated literally thousands of hours to creating and maintaining our website. Well over half of our new members first encountered Temple Beth Or on the website, demonstrating its direct value to our community. Those of you who haven't seen it should take a look.

I've gone on long enough, so let me just say a brief word about next year.

I do believe, hopefully without being naïve or Pollyannaish, that we are mostly getting it right here, and that our community will continue to thrive. If there is one thing I would hope for this coming year, it would be even more volunteerism and membership involvement. We offer such a wealth and variety of programming, I think you are really missing something when you miss these opportunities to deepen your relationship with Judaism.

Providing financial support, important though it be, isn't enough; we need to be here. Join a committee!

Committees can really do great work when they have more than one person! We're all busy people with many priorities, but if I were to have a vision for next year at our temple, it would be that more of us – more of you – would put Temple Beth Or on a higher plane of priority. Please let me or our leadership know of your interest, and how we can be helpful to you. Meantime, my best wishes for the summer and the coming year!

Elliot L. Stevens



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Andy Weil at
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And Beyond!

Friday, July 12, 6 PM, RABBI'S SUMMER SERMON SERIES -- covering Judaism's key concepts. Sermon title: "The Surprising Origins of Monotheism."

Friday, July 19, 6 PM, RABBI'S SUMMER SERMON SERIES -- covering Judaism's key concepts. Sermon title: "Heaven and Hell."

Friday, July 26, 6 PM, New musical Shabbat service featuring music by Rabbi Michael Stevens (brother to our Rabbi Stevens); wine and cheese reception with both Rabbis Stevens precedes at 5:30 PM.

Friday, August 2, 6 PM, RABBI'S SUMMER SERMON SERIES -- covering Judaism's key concepts. Sermon title: "Angels and Demons."

Sunday, August 4, 2 PM, For Men's Club Members. Biscuits Day at the Ballpark. \$15 per person. Reservations Required.

Friday, August 9, 6 PM, RABBI'S SUMMER SERMON SERIES -- covering Judaism's key concepts. Sermon title: "The Jewish Concept of Messiah."

Friday, August 16, 6 PM, RABBI'S SUMMER SERMON

SERIES -- covering Judaism's key concepts. Sermon title: "Law and Lore."

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

Thursday, September 19, All Day, TBO Office closed for Sukkot.

Thursday, September 26, All Day, TBO Office closed for Simchat Torah.

Tuesday, October 15, 4:30 PM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 4:30 PM. Class one: Overview of Judaism. A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 5:30 PM.

Tuesday, October 22, 4:30 PM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 4:30 PM. Class two: A Whirlwind Tour of Jewish History. A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 5:30 PM.

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.

1. *Janice Rothschild Blumberg autographs a copy of her book for Irving Winter on April 18.*
2. *Rabbi Stevens, Merce Kennedy, Norman Dorosin during the Shavuot program on May 14th.*
3. *Frances and Ralph Capouya during the Annual Meeting on May 19.*



June 2013

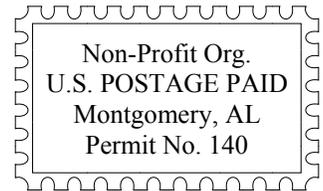
Want an updated look at what's going on at Temple? Go to www.templebethor.net.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 5 PM, Family Chavurah "Tot" Shabbat service 6 PM Classical Service with Union Prayer Book.	8 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served
9	10	11	12	13	14 6 PM Shabbat Service	15
16	17	18 9 AM, L'Chaim League visits Petals in the Past in Jemison for a garden tour and High Tea.	19	20	21 6 PM Shabbat Service	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 6 PM Shabbat Service	29
30						

Kahl Montgomery—Temple Beth Or

2246 Narrow Lane Road
Montgomery, AL 36106

JUNE 2013 Bulletin



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.templebethor.net

Temple Beth Or will be closed on Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 in observation of Independence Day. Temple doors will open shortly before 6 AM for Shabbat service.



The sanctuary flowers for May 24th were given by Harriette and Norman Dorosin in memory of Harriette's mother, Susie Dickinson Hudson, whose birthday is May 24.



The Importance of an RSVP

An RSVP is critical to the planning of a successful event. It gives the host or hostess a number to work with when making arrangements for food, beverages, seating and more.



If you fail to appropriately RSVP or uphold your commitment to the RSVP, you are creating a difficult situation for everyone involved.

If you say you are attending the event and don't show, money was spent anticipating your participation.

If you don't RSVP and decide to show up at the last minute, you are taking resources away from the other guests who did RSVP.

If you make a commitment to attend an event, you should not back out unless there is a personal emergency you have to attend to. If you do have an emergency, you should notify your host or hostess as soon as possible.

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