

Temple Beth Or Bulletin

A VIEW FROM THE BIMAH

October 2013 ~ Tishrei/Cheshvan 5774



In a recent column, I described how different congregations welcome guests – or not – and my perception that we now present a much more welcoming face to visitors than was the case just a few years ago. Our goal, I

felt, should be to build bridges and reach out, including to our newer members, and work to overcome the sense of distance that can undermine the strength of a community.

I would like now to raise a related issue, also having to do with distance, but in a slightly different context. In doing so, as always, I welcome your comments privately or in a future issue of this bulletin. I am referring to the way our worship space and the choreography of our services affect our prayers, our relationship with God or the sense of transcendence that worship is designed to foster.

Think about what makes for a successful worship experience. I know that we would all answer that in different ways, but I think we would agree that many elements are in play: the architecture of the space; the way we arrange our seating; the lighting and other physical characteristics, as well as the music, the text, the look and feel of our books, and the presentation by those

who lead the service. If any one or more of these factors does not contribute to successful worship – however we define that – then the overall experience will distance us from the possibility of being spiritually touched, or having a sense of the divine.

Admittedly, some elements of our worship are fixed, or only subject to change upon great expenditure – if we wanted to change them at all. Think of the sanctuary itself: It is beautiful, of classic design, framed in warm wood tones, with fine acoustics and reasonably comfortable seating. It has met our needs admirably. On the other hand, the high bimah means that those in the first seven rows have to crane their necks, so no one sits there unless they have to. That part of our architecture creates distance, which is why I lead Shabbat morning worship from a music stand in front of the bimah. With everyone in immovable pews facing front, the possibilities of creating community – removing distance – are very reduced, compared with a space designed with a lower platform-like bimah, or a “thrust” stage, or even movable seating to create arcs or “theater in the round.” Archaic language can be lofty and exalted, but more contemporary language might speak to us more personally. Magnificent music sung by an outstanding choir can be uplifting and

impressive, but some might find that not being able to sing along creates distance; perhaps more contemporary settings with different instrumentation might make for more meaningful worship. Clergy wearing robes creates a sense of otherness – distance – that can be comforting to some, off-putting to others. We choreograph our services meticulously; this is a point of pride for some – the dependability itself being a comfort – while others wish we were more spontaneous – even if we’re not ready to dance in the aisles as some congregations do!

I am hoping that we can begin a conversation, even looking at the sequence and structure of the service itself. Let’s also look at what happens as we enter our temple and sanctuary, and how we do *Kiddush* and *Motzi* afterwards. Should more people read (from the bimah or from their seats)? Is the formality of an opening processional helpful? What are some of your greatest spiritual memories? How might we redesign what we do to attract more of our younger members – young adults, and children? Where does your imagination lead you, no holds barred?

We have a fine Long Range Planning Committee (chaired by Marlene Beringer) and a fine Ritual Committee (chaired by John Ives). Let’s imagine together where a “best practices” approach might lead us. If we agree that “distance” is a challenge rather than a desideratum – by no means self-evident – what comments or recommendations or changes would you find helpful?

Elliot L. Stevens



Saturday, October 11
Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday morning, October 11, Rabbi Stevens will lead a Shabbat morning service and a baby naming service for Emme Kaplan. Service will run from 9:30 – 11:15 a.m. and include Torah study and a brunch to follow.

**Celebrating Our
162nd Year**



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

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

Office Hours

Monday	CLOSED
Tues., Wed. & Thurs.	9-4
Friday	9-2

2246 Narrow Lane Road • Montgomery, AL 36106

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

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

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

**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.

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.

TBO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that we have finished celebrating Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah. I am amazed at the order of these holidays. We celebrate the New Year and begin the Days of Awe. We end the Days of Awe by giving and asking forgiveness at the same time. We celebrate the harvest and enjoy the fruit from the earth, and then we celebrate as we come to the end of the Torah and start over again. Most importantly we celebrate these holidays of renewal together as a congregation at the Temple.

For the past year, I have talked about renewing your relationship with the Temple by attending services, programs and volunteering on a committee. These are some of the best ways to help the Temple. Unfortunately the first step in helping the Temple is to pledge as much as you can. We always talk about Tzedakah and helping others. Our annual pledge to the Temple is one of the biggest and most important mitzvahs we can perform because we are helping to provide a place of worship for Jews, no matter what they can afford to give.

We sometimes treat our pledges like club dues. That is, we base our pledges on how much we use the Temple. Some of us use the Temple less than others because most of our family has grown and moved away. Others feel they do not use the Temple as much because they are single, or they have become a household of one. Our pledges are much more than dues to a club. Our pledges are a lifeline for the Temple. Your pledge helps provide a house of worship for Jews here in Montgomery. Could you imagine your Jewish life with out Temple Beth Or?

Members of this Temple have left their mark on Montgomery by helping to make this a better place to live. There are so many wonderful organizations and charities that our members have started for the citizens of Montgomery. However, these members first made sure that Temple Beth Or was here to provide Jews a place to worship. It is now time for us to continue the tradition of Tzedakah to the Temple and Jews of Montgomery.

Jamie Loeb

Recent Death

Eleanor Schlesinger ז"ל

August 15, 2013



Sister-in-Law of Shirley
Beringer

Contributions to Funds

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

ARCHIVES FUND

*In Memory of Hermine Herzfeld
Delight Dodyk
Joe and Bari Levin*

BLACHSCHLEGER LIBRARY

*In Memory of Cecilia Field
Norman and Harriette Dorosin*

BLANCHE WINTER FUND

*In Honor of Irving
Winter's 86th Birthday
The Deutsch Family*

FLORAL FUND

*On the Yahrzeit of
Pat Simon
Ed Simon*

*In Memory of
Cecilia Field*

*Gracie and Jack Hanchrow
Lisa and Andy Weil*

*In Memory of
Hermine Herzfeld
Lisa and Andy Weil*

*On the Yahrzeit of
Pryor Hurt*

Susan and Joe Finklestein

GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

*In Memory of
Ike May
Rebecca L. May*

GENERAL FUND

*In Memory of
Randolph Lurie &
Frances Holberg Lurie
D. H. Lurie*

*In Memory of
Isaac May*

Marlene and Rick Beringer

*In Memory of
Eleanor Beringer Schlesinger
Marlene and Rick Beringer*

*In Memory of
Cecilia Field*

*Milton Fleishman, Hope Fleishman,
Holly Goldberg*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*On the Yahrzeit of
Morris Goldberg*

Betty, Bob and Erik Goldberg

*In Memory of
Hermine Herzfeld*

Dr. and Mrs. Werner Knurr

*In honor of the wedding of
Amy Dunkley and Alexis Vaughn
The Ceitlins and the Kaufmans*

*Happy Birthday
Irving Winter*

The Hechts

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

*In honor of
Shirley Beringer*

Leigh Anne and David Nomberg

In honor of

*Rick and Marlene Beringer
Leigh Anne and David Nomberg*

**YOUTH AND SCHOLARSHIP
FUND**

*In Memory of
Hermine Herzfeld*

Bette Sue and Charlie Strasburger

OCT BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Lorraine Lieberman
- 5 Herb Scheuer
- 9 Betty Goldberg
- 10 Karen Nyman
- 14 Carol Roberts
- 16 Rochelle Kohn
- 17 Robert Kohn Jr.
- 18 Erin Sommer
- 28 Tricia Wool
- 29 David Weinrib
- 29 Bruce Lieberman
- 29 Bob Herzfeld
- 30 Bill Goolsby
- 30 Pat Dees

OCT ANNIVERSARIES

- 3Andy & Lisa Weil
- 8Joseph & Susan Finklestein
- 8Bob & Linda Herzfeld
- 12Jim & Mary Lynne Levy
- 13Elliot & Mae Cohen
- 14Charles & Monica Kohn
- 21David & Rebecca Joyner
- 27Alan & Akiko Bloom
- 30Stephen & Lynne Weinrib

YAHRZEITS

To be read 10/4/2013

- Jerome Levy
- Marie Ullman Levy
- Jennie B. Monsky
- Celia Diskin Neuman
- Sonia Schedrow
- Ella Klein Shwarts
- Esther Ostrov Sklar
- Virginia Loeb Weil
- Dr. Jack Wool

To be read 10/11/2013

- Dorothy Jacobson
- Morris Lichtman
- Helene A. Sabel
- Ethel Sandler
- Caroline Moog Strassburger

To be read 10/18/2013

- Kevin Michael Goolsby
- Harold Gubin
- Abe S. Monsky
- Sydelle Strickler
- Helen Jane Uhlman
- Bert Weil

To be read 10/25/2013

- Frances Eisenberg
- Saul Ginsburg
- Herman "Dick" Loeb, Jr.
- Dr. Bernard Mount
- Julius Rice
- Dr. Melvin Rosenthal
- Rae Kreisman Selber

WILL FLORAL FUND FAIL TO FLOWER?

The Temple Beth Or Floral Fund – providing flowers for display during worship in the Sanctuary and on special occasions – is nearing a zero balance. Lisa Weil, chair of the temple’s Art and Decorating Committee, advises that without new donations, our long tradition of floral displays during worship will come to an end. **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.** Thank you.

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings on October 11th

SISTERHOOD

The Sisterhood is off to a very busy start. Our members have been preparing for our events. Bette Sue Strasburger and Corinne Capilouto chaired a beautiful reception for Rosh Hashanah. Many of our members assisted with set-up, arranging flowers, and preparing the delicious food. The congregation enjoyed greeting each other and spreading wishes for a Happy New Year over the lovely tables.

Again this year Susan Finklestein prepared a delicious and beautiful Break Fast following Yom Kippur services. This was a lovely way to end our High Holy Days celebrations. Alison Williamson and others helped with this event.

Carol Loeb and Susan Bernstein planned a lovely Sukkot reception in our Court Yard with mums, flowers, and delicious food to celebrate the harvest. This was closely followed by Simchat Torah hosted by Betty Lynn Goldberg. We enjoyed the delicious food and dancing with the Torah.

A special thanks to all those who attended our Opening Meeting at the home of Jenny Ives. Jenny prepared a lovely social occasion for our members and prospective members. If you missed the meeting it is not too late for you to join us and get involved. Send your dues (\$35.00) to Mae Cohen c/o Temple Beth Or. We are hoping for 100% participation in Sisterhood.

Our annual Carnegie Deli Cheesecake Fundraiser is underway. These cakes make delicious desserts for family and friends as well as wonderful gifts. Order forms are available at the Temple or can be printed from the TBO website (templebethor.net). The cakes will be delivered to the Temple before

Thanksgiving. If you have any questions call Marlene Beringer or Lisa Weil. These ladies always make this a successful fundraiser.

Remember that Chanukkah comes very early this year. Our annual Sisterhood Latke Dinner will be on Wednesday, December 4 following our Chanukkah service. Randi Herring will chair this event this year. Please give her a call and offer your help. Reservations are due no later than Friday, November 29. I know this is early so don't forget.

Susan Bernstein
Sisterhood President

* * *

L'CHAIM LEAGUE

On Tuesday, October 8th at 12 noon in TBO's Baylinson Social Hall, the L'Chaim League will show the award winning film, "Life in Stills" by Tamar Tal. We are pleased to announce that Max Hyman will be our guest narrator for this film. This film has been shown at Jewish Film Festivals all over the world. For additional information please visit: <http://lifeinstillsfilm.com/synopsis.html>.

A traditional deli lunch will be served. Cost is \$8 per person. Please RSVP by Oct. 4th.

Sharon Berry, L'Chaim Director
(334)262-3314 ext. 223
lchaimleague2246@yahoo.com

* * *

FROM THE LIBRARY

Recipes Remembered: A Celebration of Survival by June Feiss Hersh (699.736 HER 2012)

Helga's Diary: A Young Girl's Account of Life in a Concentration Camp by Helga Weiss, Neil Bermel and Francine Prose (738.309 WEI 2013)

The Last Train: A Holocaust Story by Rona Arato (YA 738.33 ARA 2013)

Crossing the Borders of Time: A True Story of War, Exile, and Love Reclaimed by Leslie Maitland (798.2 MAI 2012)

The Paternity Test: A Novel by Michael Lowenthal (560 LOW 2012)

The Salt God's Daughter: A Novel by Ilie Ruby (560 RUB 2012)

The Missing File: A Novel by D. A. Mishani (560 STE 2013)

MASA: Stories of a Lone Soldier by Ilan Benjamin (560 BEN 2012)

The Mothers by Jennifer Gilmore (560 GIL 2013)

Next month: We'll revisit some of the cooking and entertainment books in the collection.

Eric A. Kidwell, MLS

Mazel Tov!

To Carol Hart on the birth of her great-grandson

Sawyer Hillman Klehr

Chanukah Shabbat with Family and Friends



**Wednesday,
December 4**

There will be a special Chanukah worship service and candle lighting, which will begin at 5:30 PM.

Please bring your favorite Chanukah Menorah and candles.

Following the service will be our annual Sisterhood Latke Dinner.

\$10 for Adults; \$6 for Children ages 10 to 5. Children 4 and under, are free

Your check is your reservation must be received by Friday, November 29th.

Please mail check to Sharon McDaniel at 2632 Old Orchard Lane, Montgomery, AL, 36117-2410

BEDTIME BUNDLES



For the 6th year we will be collecting bedtime items for Child Protect during November and December. Please put your purchases which must be new and unused in the playpen in the Temple lobby beginning in early November.

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

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

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

Louisa Weinrib
262-6155



Rabbi Stevens and "his flock" after the Yom Kippur Children's Service. Photo by Al Benn.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

These are the actions voted on by the Board of Directors during August's Board meeting. Board meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:45 in the Archives Room.

- Approved our new members, Mason and Julia Stewart
- Accepted the resignation of Rachael Altman, who moved for a new job.
- Approved the Archives Mission Statement
- Approved up to \$3,000 to be spent on sanctuary dehumidification.
- Approved John Ives to be chair of Ritual Committee
- Discussed that Sisterhood, Men's Club and L'Chaim League must report their finances annually to the Board.

TEMPLE BETH OR ADULT EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH MYSTICISM

The Jewish mystical tradition, assumed by many modern Jews to have been only peripheral to mainstream Judaism, has in fact been central to our tradition since biblical times. Jewish mysticism has influenced Jewish philosophy, practice, liturgy and worship, and offers a vast literature. The literature of Jewish mysticism includes biblical texts, commentaries, parables, prayers and mystical testimonies, extending well into modern times. Jewish mysticism continues to influence all streams of Judaism into our own day.

This course will be led by Rabbi Stevens, and will consist of five classes:

- October 2: Mysticism in the Bible
- October 16: The Origins of Kabbalah
- October 30: Lurianic Kabbalah
- November 13: Hasidism
- December 4: Mysticism Meets Modernity

All classes will convene at the temple on Wednesdays at 11 AM, and all classes are free and open to the public. Bring a friend!

FUNDING OPTIONS – CONTINUED

Last month, we described the Youth and Scholarship Fund, one of more than a dozen temple funds that support our members and community through generous donations. These funds operate outside of the temple's operating budget. Each month, we will highlight one fund that we hope you will find worthy of consideration as you plan your donations through the year. This month we highlight the Prayerbook Fund.

The Prayerbook Fund's name seems self evident, but it provides for the purchase of far more than just those books of worship we use in the Sanctuary. We also provide a special prayer booklet for use when a family in mourning arranges services at home, and another that the rabbi provides, where appropriate, to members in hospital or at home who are ill or just in need of spiritual support. A wonderful new children's prayer book has been published for Reform congregations that will be considered for our religion school and at children's services. But even with our regular prayer books, replacements have to be funded as books wear out. The temple has beautiful bookplates that can be affixed in honor or memorial in recognition of dedicated gifts.

Please support your temple funds! Donations will be acknowledged in the bulletin, and are much appreciated.

TIMELY TOPICS – LEARNING AND SHARING ON EVENTS OF THE DAY

From Rabbi Stevens:

As I go about my work at Temple, I am often stopped by members or guests who ask this question: "Rabbi, what do you think about _____?" There seems to be no end to the topics up for discussion – from events in the daily news to topics on our country's agenda to the situation in Israel and vis-à-vis her neighbors, to religious questions having to do with Jewish tradition and practice.

I'd like to see if we can set some times when we can have these conversations and invite others to join us. I can always bring in some topics, but I'd rather they come from you (though I'll be happy to hear what's on your mind in advance so that maybe I can bring in some materials from a Jewish perspective).

I propose that we hold TIMELY TOPICS sessions on occasional Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m., either in my office or in the Blachschleger Library: **on October 9, November 6 and December 11** (for starters). We'll take about an hour; you're welcome to bring some food, and feel free to bring some friends as well.



FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICES

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

5:00 - 5:30 PM in the Library

September 6
October 4
December 6
January 10, 2014
February 7
March 7
May 2
June 6

PRESENTING BOB ALPER – AN EVENING OF COMEDY AT TBO

There's a reason why XM and Sirius satellite radio play Rabbi Bob Alper's bits several times daily, often sandwiched between Bob Newhart and Bill Cosby: Bob's unique background. As an ordained rabbi who served congregations for fourteen years and holds a doctorate from Princeton Theological Seminary he was well prepared for a twenty-year comedy career with wonderfully unique material presented in a way that's intelligent, sophisticated, and 100% clean.

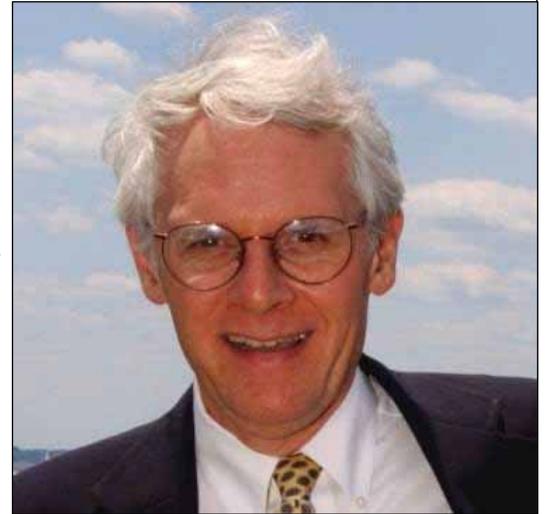
Audiences adore him, from an SRO crowd at the prestigious Montreal Comedy Festival to a standing ovation before 2,700 people at New York's famed Chautauqua Institution. He's even appeared at The Hollywood IMPROV.

Bob performs all across North America and England, at corporate events, theatres, non-profits, conventions, private parties, churches, and, naturally, synagogues. His 90-minute stand-up act is fast-paced, with impeccable timing and material that's definitely sharp yet gentle.

Bob is also the author of a warm, poignant book, *Life Doesn't Get Any Better Than This*, which The Detroit Free Press awarded four stars and called "a volume of spiritual gems." Copies will be available for sale and signing.

Bob (and please call him "Bob" or "Rabbi Alper;" anything other than "Rabbi Bob," which, he says, is "too nauseatingly cute") earned a BA, rabbinic ordination, as well as a doctoral degree, and served congregations for fourteen years. All of this, naturally, prepared him for a successful career as a stand-up comic.

Bob lives in rural Vermont with his wife, Sherri, a psychotherapist.



Date/Time: Thursday evening, October 24, 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00 (includes reception and program), payable to Temple Beth Or

Your check is your reservation, and is due by Wednesday, October 16.

Sponsored by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture and Culture Fund.

Note: This program is most suitable for ages 12 and up.

IT'S A BIRD...IT'S A PLANE...!

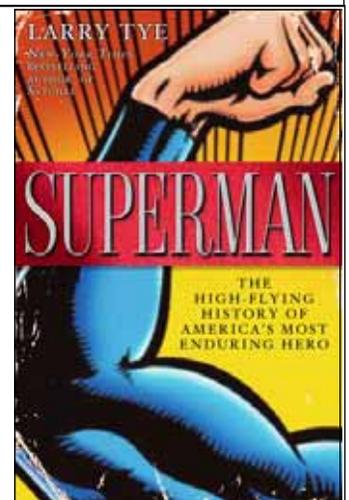
SUPERMAN TO VISIT TEMPLE BETH OR!

Superman the superhero is highly exaggerated, and so is the above headline. But Larry Tye, author of *Superman: The High-Flying History of America's Most Enduring Hero* will speak at Temple Beth Or on **Thursday evening, November 7.**

Seventy-five years after he came to life, Superman remains one of America's most adored and enduring heroes. Tye, the prize-winning journalist and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Satchel*, has written the first full-fledged history not just of the Man of Steel but of the creators, designers, owners, and performers who made him the icon he is today.

But behind the high-flying legend lies a true-to-life saga every bit as compelling, one that begins not in the far reaches of outer space but in the middle of America's heartland. During the depths of the Great Depression, Jerry Siegel was a shy, awkward teenager in Cleveland. Raised on adventure tales and robbed of his father at a young age, Jerry dreamed of a hero for a boy and a world that desperately needed one. Together with neighborhood chum and kindred spirit Joe Shuster, young Siegel conjured a human-sized god who was everything his creators yearned to be: handsome, stalwart, and brave, able to protect the innocent, punish the wicked, save the day, and win the girl.

The program, sponsored by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture Series, starts at 7:00 p.m. Books will be available for purchase and signing, courtesy of Capital Book and News. All are welcome, at no charge.



**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 4:30 to 5:30 PM.

- October 9**..... Overview of Judaism.
- October 16**..... A Whirlwind Tour of Jewish History.
- October 23**..... The Basic Texts of Judaism.
- October 30**..... Modern Judaism; Denominations; Israel.
- November 6**..... Lifecycle: Birth through Bar Mitzvah.
- November 13**..... Lifecycle: Marriage and Divorce.
- November 27**..... Lifecycle: Illness, death, mourning.
- December 4**..... Holidays: Shabbat and Festivals.
- December 11**..... Holidays: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
- December 18**..... Holidays: Minor holidays (Chanukah, Purim, etc.).
- January 8**..... Issues and Values: Selections from the Responsa Literature.

Hebrew bonus session: For those who want to learn to read Hebrew, now's your chance. You CAN learn to read in just eleven sessions, from 5:30 - 6 PM following the class in Basic Judaism.

Hosted by JFCA's
Shaliach,
Tzliil Bandy



All events are at 7 PM

- October 29 Temple Beth Or.
Topic: Women in the IDF,
details on page 10
- November 19 Agudath Israel*Etz Ahayem
- December 17..... Temple Beth Or

**HIGH HOLY HOLIDAYS -
SOCIAL CONCERNS**

The Social Concerns function of Temple is funded by donations, and not by a line in the budget. As our activities have increased, we need to replenish the resources available.

This year many of you made generous donations through the envelopes distributed during the High Holy days, but much more is needed. If you have not yet returned your envelope, donations by the end of October would be especially appreciated.

The Social Concerns Committee carries out the following: collecting "bedtime bundles" for Child Protect, cooking and freezing meals for MACOA, outreach to homebound members in the congregation, and *ad hoc* responses to community emergencies.

Please be generous! Thank you. For questions, call Susan Bernstein at 281-4340.

**DAN NICHOLS CONCERT / FILM SET
FOR DOTHAN**

Dan Nichols is one of the top two or three song leaders and performers on the Jewish scene today. Many of his songs have entered our liturgy or become modern favorites, and his concerts are amazing.

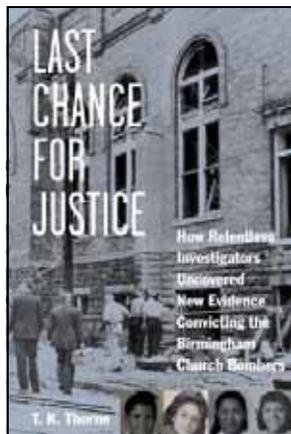
Two years ago, Dan performed at Temple Beth Or on Sukkot – including some very moving Sukkot prayers in our sukkah – and performed with a local gospel choir, Tribe of Judah. Some might recall that a filmmaker was also on hand, doing a documentary on Dan's tour. That film is now ready, and will be shown in Dothan – one of the concert sites two years ago – on Sunday late afternoon, October 13. Dan Nichols will also be performing in solo concert after the screening. Given Dan's stature, and that some of our members (and kids who were in the sukkah that evening two years ago) will likely be in the film, members of TBO might be interested in attending this program in Dothan. Contact Rabbi Stevens for further information.

The author, T.K. Thorne
&
investigators of the last 1963 Birmingham church bombing case

Invite you to a book signing for

**LAST CHANCE FOR JUSTICE:
How Relentless Investigators Uncovered
New Evidence Convicting the
Birmingham Church Bombers**

by T.K. Thorne
NewSouth Bookstore
105 S Court St
Montgomery, AL 36104
October 20, 2013 * 2-4 pm



Was he, or wasn't he? Azriel Gorski

Editor's Note: The TBO bulletin may from time to time publish members' submissions, and invites comments to be published in a future issue.

As I study Torah, every once in awhile, I come across a text that gives me pause. I look at a phrase or a word or two, and I get the feeling that there is something here that is more than the phrase or word. When something gives me pause like that; well I am a researcher, I research. For those of you who interested in sources, you can check the citations. For the others, please just read over them.

One of those moments occurred to me as I read the story of the twelve spies B'midbar (Numbers) Chapters 13 and 14. As you may recall, about two years after leaving Egypt (B'midbar 9:1) Moses sent twelve men to explore the land of Canaan, the future home of the Israelites. Each was a prince from one of the tribes. These men were also described as "heads of the children of Israel." They were to spend forty days in Canaan, and then returned to report.

When they returned ten of the twelve told lies and reported that they could not possibly conquer the land. Two, Joshua and Caleb, returned with a report that the land was exceedingly good and with G-d's aid they could prevail. The people hearing the ten bad reports turned against Moses and Aaron. G-d was angry at the people and decided that they had to wander in the desert for forty years (B'midbar 14:33.) Until those that provoked Him "ten times over" would have perished (B'midbar 14:23). Caleb and Joshua were exceptions. They would enter the land.

Ruach Acheret (different spirit) (B'midbar 14:24) are the words that gave me pause. They are used by G-d when praising Caleb for his report.

A derived English meaning of Caleb from the Hebrew is *all or whole heart*. This heart spirit connection is not limited to his name. It comes up again when Caleb, in talking to the people of Israel before they enter the land of Canaan after forty years of wandering. When he talks about his report, he states (Joshua 14:7) "and I brought him (Moses) back word as was in my heart (*lev*). There was something about the spirit and heart combination that got me wondering. Who was Caleb?

There seems to be two Calebs in the Bible.

Caleb the son of Hezron. Grandson of Pharez (Perez or Peretz in Hebrew) and great grandson of Judah, (1 Chronicles 2:18.) Pharez's sons were *Hezron* and *Hamul* (1 Chronicles 2:5.) The Talmud

purports that this is the same Caleb as Caleb the spy. (Sotah 11b. *Babylonian Talmud*.)

Caleb the Son of Jephunneh – the name appearing in B'midbar 13:7 as a prince of the tribe of Judah.

While Caleb ben Jephunneh is of the tribe of Judah, he is the son of Jephunneh not Hezron. Jephunneh is a Kenizzite (B'midbar 32:12). So it is unlikely that the Caleb of the twelve "spies" is the same as the grandson of Pharez.

The Kenizzites are listed (B'resheet [Genesis]15:19) as one of the nations who lived in the land of Canaan, at the time that God covenanted to Abram (Abraham) to give that land to his descendants forever (B'resheet 17:8). The Kenizzites are not decedents of Abraham. Furthermore, a search of Caleb's ancestry in 1 Chronicles 4, does not list his line of descent as coming from Judah. Jephunneh, his father, is not listed at all.

Caleb may have been a "true Israelite" by birth. He is listed as a "prince" of the tribe (B'midbar 13:2) and "head" of the Israelites (B'midbar 13:3). I do not feel that those titles would be given to a stranger sojourning in the tribe. But he was a Kenizzite by lineage, and not of the blood lineage of Abraham.

Now, I come back to my question – "Who was Caleb?" but now it is more – "What was Caleb?" I was not looking to simply define him. I was trying to find out what drove him. I sensed that deeper there was some character trait responsible for his actions. As stated above, he was about "heart" and of a "different spirit." He was strong in his belief. He certainly did not go along with the crowd. When the gathered people were complaining to Moses due to the spies report (B'midbar 13:30), in order to still the people he spoke up and said that the other 10 were wrong in their report. Speaking against the gathered masses is never easy. I believe that Caleb's very strong faith sprang from a deep spiritual and heart felt connection with G-d.

It came to mind that there are others among us who have that same strong spiritual connection with G-d. They too are different and many times speak out and stand out. They stand out so much, that Jewish humor many times portrays them, in a humorous way, as being much more observant than the their spouse and fellow congregants. They have come to us because of a compelling need felt in the depths of their hearts. They are Jews by choice.

So I found myself asking myself - was he or wasn't he? I have my opinion. But I will leave the question to each of you to answer for yourselves in your own hearts.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE HEBREW NAMING CEREMONY
OF OUR DAUGHTER

EMME LOUISE

AT SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2013 AT 9:30 AM

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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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RSVP BY OCTOBER 7 TO JOY KAPLAN AT 334.538.1627
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The Jewish Federation of Central Alabama
invites you to:

Café Israel – Women in the IDF

October 29th at 7:00 PM

Temple Beth Or
2246 Narrow Lane Road, Montgomery Al

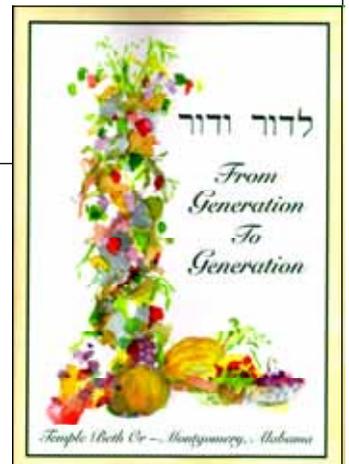


Since 1995 women were accepted in the IDF as combat soldiers. Our Shlichah, Tzlil Bandy, will speak about the combat rules that women can obtain in the IDF and share her personal experience as a soldier in the N-B-C battalion.

Join us to hear about integration of women in the Israeli Army, and about the process of creating equality between men and women in the IDF.

For more information please contact our Shlichah, Tzlil Bandy:
334-224-4220 or via mail tzlil.jfca@gmail.com

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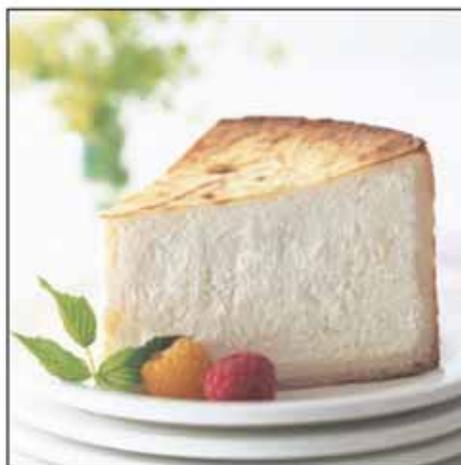
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L'Chaim League luncheon and movie event at Temple Beth Or on August 13th.





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Contact Lisa or
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for 2014 pricing.

And Beyond!

Tuesday, November 5, 4:30 PM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 4:30 PM. Class four: The Basic Texts of Judaism. A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 5:30 PM.

Wednesday, November 6, 11 AM, Join Rabbi Stevens for an informal hour-long discussion on timely topics - LEARNING AND SHARING ON EVENTS OF THE DAY.

Thursday, November 7, 7 PM, Guest Speaker: Larry Tye, author of SUPERMAN: THE HIGH-FLYING HISTORY OF AMERICA'S MOST ENDURING HERO. Sponsored by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture Series.

Saturday, November 9, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. We will be dedicating our new Torah stand during our Shabbat morning service on November 9. Bob Cohan, the craftsman who made our new stand and donated it to Temple Beth Or, will be with us, and will participate in the service. Light brunch served.

Tuesday, November 12, 4:30 PM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 4:30 PM. Class five: Lifecycle: Birth through Bar Mitzvah. A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 5:30 PM.

Wednesday, November 13, 11 AM, Adult Ed: Introduction to Jewish Mysticism: Class 4 of 5: Hasidism.

Thursday, November 14, 6 PM, Shabbat service led by Temple Beth Or youth (grades 4-9).

Friday, November 15, 6 PM, Youth led Shabbat service and consecration of new students beginning their religious education at Kol Ami.

Tuesday, November 19, 4:30 PM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 4:30 PM. Class six: Lifecycle: Marriage and Divorce. A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 5:30 PM.

Tuesday, November 19, 5:30 PM, Temple Beth Or Board Meeting.

Tuesday, November 19, 7 PM, JFCA's Shaliach's Café Israel at Agudath Israel*Etz Ahayem hosted by Tzlil Bandy. Topic: To be announced.

Thursday, November 21, 7 PM, Adult Ed offered by Rabbi Stevens: "The Traditions of Chanukah."

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

Tuesday, December 3, 4:30 PM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 4:30 PM. Class seven: Lifecycle: Illness, death, mourning. A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 5:30 PM.

Wednesday, December 4, 11 AM, Adult Ed: Introduction to Jewish Mysticism: Class 5 of 5: Mysticism Meets Modernity.

Wednesday, December 4, 5:30 PM, Family Chanukah Dinner and Celebration. \$10 for Adults; \$6 for Children ages 10 to 5. Children 4 and under, are free.

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

Tuesday, December 10, 12 Noon, Guest speaker and author, T.K. (Teresa) Thorne speaks on her book, "Noah's Wife." Lunch will

begin at noon followed by the program. Sponsored by the Lucien Loeb L'Chaim League. More information to follow.

Tuesday, December 10, 4:30 PM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 4:30 PM. Class eight: Holidays: Shabbat and Festivals. A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 5:30 PM.

Wednesday, December 11, 11 AM, Join Rabbi Stevens for an informal hour-long discussion on timely topics - LEARNING AND SHARING ON EVENTS OF THE DAY.

Friday, December 13, 6 PM, Service in the Classical Style to feature the music of Salamone De' Rossi, the first Jewish composer to set an entire Shabbat service to music, and one of the first of his era to be accepted into mainstream society.

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

Tuesday, December 17, 4:30 PM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 4:30 PM. Class nine: Holidays: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 5:30 PM.

Tuesday, December 17, 5:30 PM, Temple Beth Or Board Meeting.

Tuesday, December 17, 7 PM, JFCA's Shaliach's Café Israel at TBO hosted by Tzlil Bandy. Topic: To be announced.

Friday, December 27, 6 PM, Shabbat Service. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH.

Tuesday, January 7, 4:30 PM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 4:30 PM. Class ten: Holidays: Minor holidays (Chanukah, Purim, etc.). A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 5:30 PM.

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

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

Tuesday, January 14, 4:30 PM, Study with Rabbi Stevens. Basic Judaism begins at 4:30 PM. Class eleven: Modern Judaism: Israel; Denominations. A 30-minute Basic Hebrew class follows at 5:30 PM.

Thursday, January 16, 7 PM, Guest Speaker: Phyllis Chesler, author of AN AMERICAN BRIDE IN KABUL: A MEMOIR. Sponsored by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture Series.

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

Tuesday, January 28, 5:30 PM, Temple Beth Or Board Meeting.

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

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

Friday, February 21, 6 PM, Shabbat Service. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH.

Sunday, February 23, 9 AM - 3 PM, Temple Beth Or's 11th Annual Food Festival.

Tuesday, February 25, 5:30 PM, Temple Beth Or Board Meeting.

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

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.

October 2013

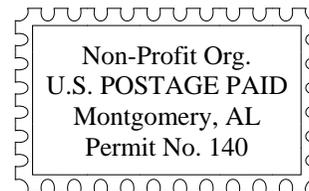
Want an updated look at what's going on at Temple? Go to www.templebethor.net.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 11 AM, Adult Ed: Introduction to Jewish Mysticism: Class 1 of 5: Mystical Experiences in the Bible.	3	4 5 PM, Family Chavurah "Tot" Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library 6 PM Shabbat Shuvah Service	5
6 9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School at TBO	7	8 12 noon, L'Chaim League's classic movie showing in TBO's Rothschild Blachschleger Library. Movie: "Life in Stills."	9 11 AM, Join Rabbi Stevens for an informal hour-long discussion on timely topics - LEARNING AND SHARING ON EVENTS OF THE DAY.	10	11 6 PM Shabbat Service	12 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Stevens including a BABY NAMING for Emme Louise Kaplan.
13	14	15 4:30 PM Basic Judaism 5:30 Basic Hebrew	16 11 AM, Adult Ed: Introduction to Jewish Mysticism: Class 2 of 5: The Origins of Kabbalah.	17	18 6 PM Shabbat Service	19
20 9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School at TBO	21	22 4:30 PM Basic Judaism 5:30 Basic Hebrew 5:30 PM, Temple Beth Or Board Meeting	23	24 7 PM, Bob Alper performs. A Rabbi AND a Full-time Stand-Up Comic?!	25 6 PM Shabbat Service and D'var Torah	26
27 9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School at TBO	28	29 4:30 PM Basic Judaism 5:30 Basic Hebrew 7 PM, JFCA's Shaliach's Café Israel at TBO hosted by Tzlil Bandy.	30 11 AM, Adult Ed: Introduction to Jewish Mysticism: Class 3 of 5: Lurianic Kabbalah.	31		

Kahl Montgomery—Temple Beth Or

2246 Narrow Lane Road
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OCTOBER 2013 Bulletin



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Treasure Market

Moving? Spring Cleaning? Redecorating?

We are now accepting the following items for the 2014 Treasure Market!

- 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
- Electronic Equipment

* Please make sure all items are clean and in working condition.

* Please donate large box TV's to your favorite charity.

Religion School Schedule



TBO
9/29
10/6
10/20
10/27
11/3
11/17
12/8
12/15