

# Temple Beth Or Bulletin

A VIEW FROM THE BIMAH

June/July 2014 ~ Sivan/Av 5774



## RABBI'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014

I would like to open my report this year with a very particular and personal thanks – to Jamie Loeb, whose support, good sense and good

humor have made him a joy to work with. Jamie has been a true hands-on president, sometimes in our temple building three and four times in a week – overseeing the many important but mostly invisible aspects of temple life: the functioning of the physical plant, which has been strongly challenged this year; the clarity and management of temple finances; the restructuring of investment policies; the organization of committees and the way we welcome new members. He's done all of this with great integrity and a good heart, and I'm glad to know that Jamie will continue as an active voice and presence after his presidency ends late next month.

I believe that Jamie's most important contribution, however, is in his emphasis on relationships. If you've read Jamie's presidential articles in the *Bulletin* these last two years, you have seen that a number of his pieces have been about the need to foster good relationships, and some of the ways we might begin to do so.

Clearly, there is a strong correlation between the success of our congregation and how successful we are in making good relationships. It doesn't matter how terrific the worship is, or how beautiful the choir, or how thoughtful and engaging the sermon; without good relationships – and I mean between us and among us and throughout our community – we will not succeed.

Let me give you a specific example. After a service on Friday night, various groups go out for dinner together. What makes this custom special is when someone new comes to our community, either to join or to visit, and they are immediately invited to join one or another group for dinner. Then relationships are built, and the guest is more likely to return, and in due course join.

I have heard that, until not too many years ago, we were a fairly closed congregation; old Board minutes record comments about how unwelcome guests or other newcomers sometimes felt. We have moved far beyond that; now I see strangers join us for worship, and almost immediately someone will motion them over to sit with them, show them the place in the prayer book, and chat with them after the service. It is especially gratifying when we announce adult-education or other programs, and a fair number of participants are members of Agudath Israel, or people in the community who want to learn with us. It's all about relationships.

But of course there's always more to be done. Committees, for example, have a habit of only having members who have known each other a long time. We need to invent more social occasions, aside from worship and study programs, when we can be together and socialize and build relationships. Such occasions need not be confined to the Temple building. Please watch the bulletin for these opportunities that your leadership will plan for the coming year; even better, take some initiative and propose programs and social occasions that we can enjoy. Who would like to organize our next progressive dinner?

An annual meeting provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the year just

past. Let me share with you a few highlights from mine.

Our worship has continued to feature our professional choir and soloists; this year, our member Turia Stark Williams sang as cantorial soloist here on the bimah at several services, and I look forward to her continued involvement and leadership in the years to come. Her recital of Sephardi music was an outstanding event, with an audience of about 175, and her singing during the Holocaust memorial service was emotionally moving. She is a joy to work with. And I loved working with our young people on two youth-led services, especially the one that we followed with a Shabbat dinner.

Our educational programs continue; I love to teach, and though classes are small – usually under a dozen – they're a lot of fun, especially the side discussions that sometimes take us far afield from our original topic. Though I'm a biased witness, I do believe that those of you who don't attend our programs are really missing out on a wonderful opportunity to deepen your involvement with Judaism and with our community. Don't feel intimidated! Classes stand alone, so you don't have to feel committed to an entire sequence, and there are no pre-requisites.

This year we continued the intense outreach program known as "Taste of Judaism"; I led a complete, authentic Passover Seder at First United Methodist Church; spoke at numerous church and civic groups; continued my participation on the Board of Montgomery Chorale; again chaired the Selection Committee of the River Region Ethics and Business Awards, and served on the Steering Committee of Samaritan Center. We hosted

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**Celebrating Our  
162nd 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*  
Adam Finkelstein.....*Vice-President: Finance*  
Morris Capouya.....*Treasurer*  
Susan Finklestein.....*Secretary*  
Jenny Ives.....*Immediate Past President*

**Board of Trustees**

Frances Capouya.....*Adult Education*  
Micki Beth Stiller.....*Cemetery*  
Steve Clein.....*Co-Membership*  
Bob Weisberg.....*Co-Membership*  
Bob Goldberg.....*Facilities*  
Marlene Beringer.....*Long Range Planning*  
Andy Weil.....*Member at Large*  
Jarred Kaplan.....*Religion School*  
John Ives.....*Ritual*  
Bruce Lieberman.....*Youth & Scholarship*

**SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT**

Susan Bernstein

**MEN'S CLUB CO-PRESIDENTS**

Philip Bernstein/Pete Ginsburg

**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.** 9-4  
**Friday** 9-2

2246 Narrow Lane Road • Montgomery, AL 36106

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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.



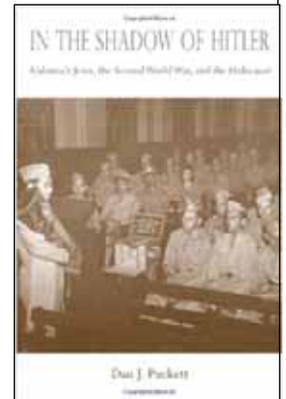
When scheduling calendar events involving the Temple it is

important that you check dates with the Federation and the Temple for potential conflicts within the Jewish community. Their number is 277-5820 and you can view the community calendar at [www.jewishmontgomery.org](http://www.jewishmontgomery.org).

The reports from the May 18th Annual Meeting will begin with the Rabbi's report on the cover and continue on page 6. The President's message will return to this space with the next issue.

L'Chaim League Luncheon with author,  
Dr. Dan J. Puckett **Tuesday • July 8 • Noon**

L'Chaim League is planning a luncheon with Dr. Dan Puckett, Associate Professor of History at Troy University and author of *In the Shadow of Hitler*. Dan will present *The Resettlement of Jewish Refugees in Alabama, 1938-1941*, and explore how Alabama's Jewish community responded to the influx of persecuted European Jews.



If you would like to pre-order Dan Puckett's book, "In the Shadow of Hitler," please submit your payment in the amount of \$35 in advance of this event. Lunch will begin at 12 noon prior to the presentation. Cost is \$8 for lunch and checks may be mailed to the Temple.

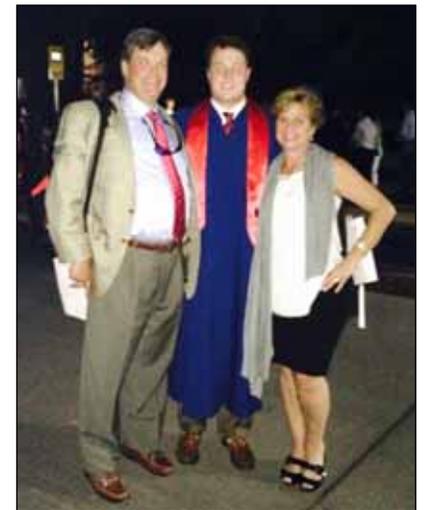
All are welcome. Membership not necessary.



Sarah Lieberman

Sarah graduated May 10 from AUM School of Nursing will be working at UAB on the spinal rehab floor.

Sarah's parents are Karen and Bruce Lieberman and grandparents are Lorraine and Robert Lieberman.



Dustin Weil

On May 17th, Dustin graduated from the Meadows School of Arts at Southern Methodist University with a Bachelor's degree in Advertising and a minor in History. After traveling to Europe for a couple of weeks with some of his college friends and SAE pledge brothers; He is planning to return to Dallas where he will be following up on some job possibilities. Dustin's parents are Lisa and Andy Weil and his grandfather is Harold Blach from Birmingham and the late Joan Baim Blach and the late Jean Kaufman Weil and Adolph 'Bucks' Weil.

**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**

*Honoring Gay Winter's Birthday and Mother's Day  
The Deutsch Family*

**CAROL L. HART EDUCATION FUND**

*Speedy Recovery Carol L. Hart  
Shirley Beringer*

**FLORAL FUND**

*For Birthday Blessings.  
Joan Hanan*

*In Honor of Janice Baylinson's Birthday  
Peggy Cohn*

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

*In Memory of Leon "Goat" Golinsky  
Corinne F. Capilouto*

*In Memory of Reita Franco  
Gaby Capp*

*On the Yahrzeit of Victor E. Hanan  
Gaby Capp*

**GENERAL FUND**

*In Memory of Herbert F. "Jim" Levy  
Philip and Susan Bernstein*

*In Memory of Leon "Goat" Golinsky  
Rubin A. Franco*

*In Memory of Mrs. Reita Franco  
Rubin A. Franco*

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

*In Memory of my parents David B. and Thelma B. Monsky  
Eve Duncan*

*In Memory of Roslyn H. Schulwolf  
Robin and Jeff Blitz*

*In Honor of Lynne Ginsburg's*

**Big Birthday**

*Micki Beth Stiller*

**Celebrating Rabbi's sense of humor**

*Milt Livingston*

**In Memory of my aunt "Tootsie" Beal**

*Micki Beth Stiller*

**In Memory of Lillian Brownstein**

*Betty, Bob and Erik Goldberg*

**On the Yahrzeit of Milton Schnitt**

*Randi S. Herring*

**On the Yahrzeit of Sumner David Goldberg**

*Betty, Bob and Erik Goldberg*

**YOUTH AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**Voluntary Contribution**

*Azriel and Nora Gorski*

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

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

**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

- 7 .....Michael Goldner
- 10 .....Rebecca Joyner
- 11 .....Gene Harris
- 12 .....Mae Cohen
- 14 .....Josh Lev
- 17 .....David Joyner
- 20 .....Jeff Blitz
- 22 .....Angela Abraham
- 23 .....Celeste Sabel
- 24 .....Felice Cohen
- 25 .....Matilde Scheuer
- 28 .....Kent Roberts
- 30 .....Susan King
- 30 .....Suzanne Soloff
- 31 .....Steve Clein
- 31 .....David Berry

**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

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

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2..... Jamie & Carol Loeb
- 6..... Bob Weisberg & Clare Weil
- 10.... Adam & Dawn Schloss
- 11.... Greg & Alison Williamson
- 14.... Edward & Angela Abraham
- 17.... Kent & Carol Roberts
- 28.... Rick & Marlene Beringer
- 29.... Ronald A. & Barbara Leet
- 30.... John & Jenny Ives

**Birthday and Anniversary Blessings on July 11.**

## JUNE YAHRZEITS

### To be read 6/6/2014

Joseph H. Abraham  
Frieda Kahn Berger  
Jean Capouya  
Jeannette D. Capouya  
Mose Feinman  
Denise K. Hanan  
Sol Hersberg  
Julian H. Kohn  
Alma Hertz Lobman  
Samuel Moscovitz

### To be read 6/13/2014

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 6/20/2014

Jack Bloom  
Rachel H. Capp  
Elinor Carlton  
Carol Loeb Hagedorn  
Bernard Hanan  
Estelle Popkin  
Rosalie Rosenberg  
Julien M. "Sonny" Strassburger  
Jack L. Toney

### To be read 6/27/2014

Olga Franco  
Hermine Herzfeld  
Hermine L. Herzfeld  
Helen L. Levi  
Genevieve L. Roberts  
Roy Shinpaugh  
Kalman Shwartz

## JULY YAHRZEITS

### To be read 7/4/2014

Robert L. Cooper, Jr.  
Faye Stamm Greil  
Alex Marion  
Diana Kahn Weil  
Sigmund Weil

### To be read 7/11/2014

Tommie Moses Coleman  
Ethel E. Hallman  
Olivia Rose Shwartz Jacobson  
Joseph J. Levin, Sr.  
Ann Marks  
Nathan Popkin  
Gilbert Ross  
Harold Straus  
Mary Jane Schiffman Wallace

### To be read 7/18/2014

Anna Stiller Anshel  
Rebecca Sherman Blotner  
Margaret Cohn Bonfield  
Michael Deutsch  
Cecelia Field  
Louise Finklestein  
Joseph Golomb  
Carolyn Endel Printz  
Charles H. Wampold, Jr.

### To be read 7/25/2014

David R. Baylinson  
Joan Baim Blach  
Babs Klein Heilpern  
Norma L. Hobbie  
Nellie Weil

## ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

This year's Annual Meeting was held May 18. The following actions were approved. The members present

- Voted to approve the budget for FYE 6/30/15 as presented
- Voted to elect officers and trustees as nominated (see below)
- Approved proposed changes to the Constitution as circulated.
- Approved spending up to \$250,000 from the Cemetery Fund for replacing and upgrading air conditioning equipment in the Temple building.

As of July 1, Temple officers will be: Diane Weil (President); John Ives (VP, Programs); Morris Capouya (VP, Finance); Rubin Franco (Treasurer); Susan Bernstein (Secretary) and James L. Loeb, Jr. (Past President). Lynne Ginsburg was elected as Trustee; Marlene Beringer, Steve Clein, Jarred Kaplan and Andy Weil were elected to new terms as Trustees.

An updated copy of the Temple's Constitution is available on request from the Temple office.



From the May 18th Annual Meeting. L-R: Morris Capouya, Diane Weil, Rabbi Elliot Stevens, Jamie Loeb. Photo by Al Benn.

**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.**

*Annual Meeting Reports Continued.*

*Rabbi Stevens's Annual Report, continued from cover*

several guest authors, and a number of groups – Jewish and non—who visited Montgomery on Civil Rights tours. Temple Beth Or is a busy place to be.

Kol Ami is a fun place to be too – our combined religion school that alternates between here and Agudath Israel. Rabbi Kramer and I – we like to think of ourselves as the Rabbinic Association of Greater Montgomery – alternate teaching Confirmation class, and between times visit the other classes. Some of these classes have “rabbi” jars, where the students write down questions. I love going into a classroom and hearing “the rabbi’s here – let’s see what questions we have this week!” Kol Ami has just completed its sixth 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 right through every week to ensure the high level of our educational program.

Yet with all that’s going on, 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 am asked to be with a family in time of need. Nothing else I or we do is as important as the mutual support we give to each other in times of need.

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’ve already spoken about Jamie’s role as president. Each and every one of our officers and Board members 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. With Diane Weil as incoming president, I think we can look forward to a very productive, even exciting year ahead.

Our Sisterhood, this year again under Susan Bernstein’s leadership, continued 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.

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; Bob Goldberg, who oversees our physical plant; Louisa Weinrib, who chairs a long-term project to strengthen our temple archives; and Sharon McDaniel, who as hospitality chair enhanced temple functions throughout the year, including the special oneg she organizes for every one of those visiting Civil Rights tours. And of course we must thank Jenny Ives, who as Food Festival chair forged a team who collectively spent hundreds upon hundreds of hours to make this year’s the best yet. 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.

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

Worship; study; religious school; Food Festival; guest speakers; our Shaliach from Israel (a program so ably led by Lisa Newcomb and now Anna Bern as Federation’s new Executive Director) – the usual programs and services will continue. I do expect that we’ll see more social events and relationship-building opportunities. We will be hosting a three-way Interfaith Thanksgiving service this year for the first time, and there’s been some talk about trying again to organize a congregational trip to Israel. Mostly, I am looking forward to making even closer ties with as many of you as I can. Please come in to chat, or give a call, with anything on your mind. I’d love to hear from you.

May we go from strength to strength, year upon year, and strengthen one another.

### President’s Message Jamie Loeb

Before I give my report, I first want to thank certain people for all their help over these past two years. I do not know how many of you have used the Temple’s website. I want to thank Sandy Lynn Stevens for designing, keeping the site current and then believe it or not redesigning the website all over again. All of her hard work has not gone without notice and is much appreciated by the Temple.

Gina and Marlon are wonderful to have working in our Temple every day. The office and the Temple are in good hands. I can tell you that Gina is very happy to have an incoming President who will get her articles turned in on time and probably early.

Working with Rabbi Stevens has been a joy. It is truly wonderful to work with a person with so much knowledge and compassion. My family and I have been lucky to have Elliot as our Rabbi and I know the congregation feels the same. I have enjoyed working with

him as Temple President and I hope to continue our lunches, which will not be filled with Temple business.

I could not have functioned as President without the help of The Executive Board - Jenny Ives, Diane Weil, Morris Capouya, Adam Finkelstein and Susan Finklestein. You have been wonderful to work with and I do not know how I could have functioned as President without your counsel and help. I know some of you and your spouses will be happy that they will not see my name on the caller id.

I know that Carol is excited that she will not have to edit any more articles the day they need to be emailed to Gina. I do not like writing articles and I am a bad procrastinator. Thank you for your patience, great editing and especially for being an amazing mother and wife. I love you.

Temple Beth Or is in good shape but we do have some areas that need extra care. We do have some problems with our air conditioning caused by design flaws and age. I know that when we replace the system the Temple will be much more comfortable than when we first installed this older system. While our deficit is less than last year, thanks to the earnings we use from the Endowment Fund, we cannot continue to run deficit budgets.

I think we have two areas at Temple Beth Or that need attending to and they go hand in hand with our budget deficits. First, like most congregations, one of our main problems is growth in congregants' pledges. Our congregation is aging. Instead of moving back to Montgomery our children are moving to larger cities like Birmingham and Atlanta. Younger members are not able to pledge as much as our older members. Other members treat their pledges like country club dues. That is, they are willing to pledge based on how much they use the congregation or they reduce their pledge when there is a change in their family. Our pledges are the greatest tzedakah we can give. By

pledging as much as you can, you are providing a Jewish house of worship for all Jews in Montgomery, not just yourselves. Temple Beth Or has a strong history and Montgomery is a much better place to live because we are here. Can you imagine Montgomery without a Jewish house of worship? Can you pledge more than you are pledging now to ensure that Temple Beth Or will continue to thrive?

The second problem is that younger Jews do not want to join congregations until they need them and when they join, they want a different experience than what we are accustomed to having and giving. There are a good number of young Jews (some here temporarily and others who plan to stay for many years) that have not joined either congregation in Montgomery. There are a number of reasons why. Ironically, one reason is that there are not a lot of young people in the congregations. But most importantly they are looking for something different in their congregational life - Relationships. That is relationships with other congregants and a relationship with their rabbi. They do not want the Temple to provide just services and learning programs. They want more "social based" programs where not only can they learn about their Judaism but they can also socialize and connect with their fellow Jews. We need to look inward and see how we can adapt and offer more of these programs not only to attract non-affiliated Jews but also mainly to get all congregants to connect with each other and allow each of us to have that community connection with in the Temple.

Believe it or not, the time to renew Rabbi Stevens' contract is fast approaching. The Board has given notice to Rabbi Stevens that we want and plan to talk to him about renewing his contract for a third time. Luckily for us, Rabbi Stevens has told us that he would like to renew his contract as well. The Board has approved a committee composed of Morris

Capouya, Diane Weil, John Ives, Jamie Loeb and Larry Capilouto to work with the Rabbi on his new contract. I know Diane, as President, is looking forward to presenting a new contract to the congregation and the Rabbi this fall.

As I end this report, I am reminded that the two happiest days of a Temple President are the day they take office and the day they become known as Past President. I am amazed how the Past Presidents stay involved in Temple life long after they serve and some continue to serve on the Board today. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President and to serve the congregation that my family and I have called home for many years.

On an additional note, two members have voluntarily raised their annual pledges after the Annual meeting. If you can raise your annual pledge, please contact Morris Capouya, Diane Weil or me.

#### Incoming President's Message - Diane Weil

I am truly honored to serve as the next president of Temple Beth Or, but I must be honest and admit that this job was not on my bucket list. I attended religious school here, Alan and I were married here and we raised our three daughters here. Temple Beth Or is an integral part of my life and is very important to me, so it is my turn and I am committed to doing my best.

Of course, there will be the usual tasks for the Board in the running of the Temple, but there will be challenges (there always are) and there will be opportunities. We will take care of the challenges and be excited by the opportunities. I look forward to working with the wonderful Board we have and can assure you they are dedicated to Temple and work diligently on your behalf.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> as part of our Shavuot celebration, there was a service to bury our old, no longer used prayer books. It was a very meaningful service that was

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truly special to all those who attended (age range 6-90). No one there had ever experienced it before and everyone who wanted to participate in the actual burial was able to do so. A tree was planted at the site in remembrance.

The Board will start the year with board training on June 29<sup>th</sup>. The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) will provide a trained facilitator and it will be a very informative, motivating and valuable experience. I anticipate that we will be asked to think of new, creative ideas to engage and interest our members. I ask you to let me know if YOU have ideas, suggestions or concerns.

It is my hope that all members will participate in something or many things at Temple Beth Or – we need your individual talents - and I encourage you to join us for Shabbat services on Friday evenings. There is a core group that attends regularly, but it is always nice to have more people to share the experience. There is something special about community prayer and sharing a Shabbat oneg.

I want to thank Jenny Ives for her years of service on the Board; she now gets to take a break, but she is not going anywhere and will once again chair our annual Jewish Food Festival. I also thank Jamie Loeb for his leadership and will count on his advice as immediate past president. Micki Beth Stiller is rotating off the Board. She chaired the Cemetery committee and has been attentive and proactive in her duties. Susan Finklestein, Secretary, and Adam Finkelstein, V.P. Finance, have finished terms and we are grateful for the valuable contribution they have made on the Executive Committee and in their important positions.

Please be aware that Board meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month and are open, so you are welcome to join us. Any business to be brought before the Board must be approved in advance.

Our small, but incredible staff cannot be thanked enough. We are so fortunate to have Rabbi Elliot Stevens

as our religious leader and I look forward to working with him over the next two years. Gina Friday and Marlon Cotton are our entire support staff and they do an amazing job. Clearly, this is more than just a job to them.

Recently, you received a member profile and pledge renewal form. If you have not already, please fill it out and return it at your earliest convenience. We need the information requested. I sincerely want to know if you have suggestions or concerns, so please feel free to contact me 279-6211 (home), 324-7550 (cell) or dianeweil@me.com and I will be in touch as soon as possible.

Have a wonderful, safe Fourth of July and see you at Temple!

Incoming President  
Diane H. Weil

### Sisterhood Annual Meeting Report

Every year for Temple Beth Or Sisterhood is a busy year. We take great pride in preparing and presenting our many events. So many of our members have been actively involved this year. We always strive for perfection.

Our officers deserve a huge thank you for working hard these past two years. Julie Goolsby, Jamie Loeb, and Carol Loeb served as Vice Presidents. Sharon McDaniel has been our treasurer and Karen Goldstein our secretary. Mae Cohen served as Financial Secretary and Marlene Beringer was our Past President. Thank you ladies for a job well done.

I want to say a special thanks to our members who chaired our events this year. Jenny Ives started our year off with a beautiful opening meeting in her home. We had a chance to complete our plans for the year. Bette Sue Strasburger and Corrine Capilouto prepared another lovely Rosh Hashanah reception following our service to help us celebrate a New Year. Again this year Susan

Finklestein presented an amazing Break Fast reception. This is always so well attended. Sukkot is so meaningful with our service on the terrace and again this year Betty Goldberg prepared delicious foods to celebrate the harvest. Julie Goolsby and Randi Herring did a wonderful job helping us celebrate Chanukah with our yearly Latke Dinner. This is always such a fun service and party. This year's delicious Hamentaschen were prepared by Diane Weil. They certainly helped us celebrate Purim. Lynne Ginsburg and Alison Williamson helped us welcome our friends from Huntingdon College for our annual visit. And Second Night Seder was beautiful with delicious food all planned by Mae Cohen. We ended our year with the Closing Meeting at the home of Carol Loeb with a Wine and Cheese reception prepared by the Sisterhood officers. Marlene Beringer and Lisa Weil did another amazing joy with our Carnegie Deli Cheesecake fundraiser and a special thanks to Peggy Cohn for the work she does in our gift shop.

We want to thank Gina Friday and Marlon Cotton for all they do for Sisterhood. We could not do all of our many activities without their help. A special thanks to Rabbi Stevens for his support and help. We appreciate all you do for us.

With this year coming to an end we welcome new officers.

President - Karen Goldstein  
Vice Presidents - Susan Finkelstein  
Joy Kaplan  
Treasurer - Sharon McDaniel  
Secretary - Mae Cohen  
Financial Secretary - Harriet Dorosin

We appreciate these ladies agreeing to be leaders. I know everyone will work with them for another successful year.

I have enjoyed my time as president. It has brought me a lot of joy to work with our members. Thank you for this honor.

Susan Bernstein  
Out-going Sisterhood President

## SISTERHOOD'S JULY REPORT

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer! Take time to rest, visit family and friends and be ready to jump on board this fall. Sisterhood ended our year with a wonderful get together at the home of Carol Loeb. Lots of visiting and food and saying thank you to the wonderful women of Temple Beth Or Sisterhood who have led us for the past 2 years. I am honored to be your new Sisterhood President along with Joy Kaplan and Susan Finklestein as your Vice Presidents.

Please join us as we begin our busy year. Sisterhood is a vital part of our Temple and we want each and every member to share in all that we do. It is easy to say YES when asked to help. It doesn't matter whether you have have been a member for a long time or you are new. You will enjoy being a part of all that we do. If there is anything in particular that interests you, please let me know. There is always a place for you!

I look forward to seeing you at Temple and working alongside with you as we continue our tradition as the "The Ladies of Temple Beth Or"!

Karen Goldstein  
Incoming Sisterhood President

UPCOMING  
MEN'S  
CLUB  
EVENT



The next Men's Club event will be the Biscuits vs. Chatanooga baseball game on **Sunday, August 10th** at 5:30 PM.

We'll be watching the game from the Aronov box at the Biscuit's stadium. Tickets are \$15 per person and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. You must be a current, paid member to attend and may invite one guest. Appetizers, hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages will be served.

Call the Temple at 262-3314 to reserve your ticket or a sign-up sheet is available outside the sanctuary.

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GUEST SPEAKER – A FIRST-HAND  
LOOK AT THE KIBBUTZ EXPERIENCE

Thursday • August 7 • 7 PM

Join us Thursday evening, August 7 for guest speaker Ralph Lewinsohn, who will be visiting us from Kibbutz Kfar Azza, on the border of Gaza in Israel. Ralph, a licensed tour guide since 1998, and the son of German Holocaust refugees, will share with us his perceptions of life in Israel, and how the modern kibbutz has changed from the early years of the Zionist pioneers, when kibbutz life was one of the world's unique "experiments."



TURIA TO SOLO FOR JULY 18!

Mark your calendars! Turia Stark Williams, our member and occasional cantorial soloist, will co-lead our July 18 service, accompanied by keyboardist Joel Gregory. The service will be in a contemporary mode. Past services with Turia have been beautiful and spiritually uplifting; we hope you can join us for this one!



WHO OR WHAT ARE PSEUDEPIGRAPHA?  
A SUMMER SERMON SERIES

The Jewish Bible contains 39 books – a vast literature, compiled over many hundreds of years, of law, lore, prophecies and prayers, chronicles and wisdom.

But the Bible contains only a small portion of ancient Jewish writings. Though these 39 books are considered sacred writ (including the first five that we know as "Torah"), dozens of other books and other Jewish writings survive from ancient times, including some texts that are fairly well known and others only newly discovered or translated.

"Pseudepigrapha" are mostly Jewish writings that were hidden or deemed heretical after the destruction of the Second Temple [70 CE] by the Jewish leaders responsible for the survival of Judaism. Much of this literature dates from the first century or so before Jesus came on the scene – and therefore reflects ideas and religious speculation that eventually became part of early Christianity.

This year's Summer Sermon Series will explore the teachings of some of these "hidden" works, during these Shabbat services:

- July 11, the Book of Jubilees
- July 18, the Book of Enoch
- July 25, the Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs
- August 8, the Sibylline Oracles
- August 15, the Epistle of Aristeeas

NEW SHALIACH NAMED FOR  
MONTGOMERY



Barak Levy has accepted our Federation's invitation to be our Shaliach from Israel for the coming year. He succeeds Tzlil Bandy, who returned to Israel last week after a most successful year in representing Israel and building bridges throughout our community.

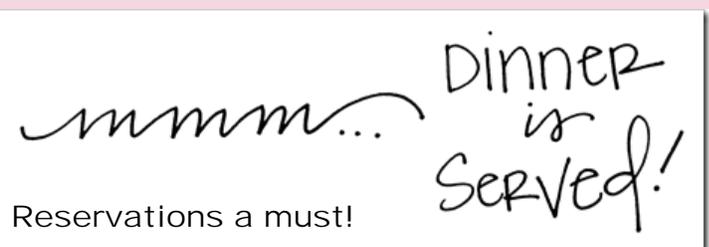
Barak has had broad experience in youth, community and group work, including youth training and other educational programs. His special skill, however, is singing – during his time in the Israeli military, Barak sang with the military band, a highly prestigious position in the Israeli military, and he also freelances in the music industry in Israel and Europe.

The *sh'lichim* who represent Israel throughout North America are dedicated volunteers who receive a small stipend for their work abroad, under the auspices of the Jewish Agency. We look forward to welcoming Barak when he arrives here early this fall.

SHABBAT FAMILY WORSHIP AND DINNER

On Friday night, **June 27**, we will be hosting an **NFTY Mitzvah Corps** group for Shabbat services. The group, about 24 high school students, is arranging a dinner in our Baylinson Social Hall after the service.

If you would like to join this dinner (catered by Zoe's) and welcome our guests, **please RSVP by Tuesday, June 24**. Cost is \$13 per person; reservations are a must and will not be taken after this date.



Dear community,



I arrived here in Montgomery 8 months ago to represent the Jewish Agency of Israel as an Israeli emissary in Central Alabama. I made it all the way to Montgomery to share my love of Israel and to tell the complex of the Israeli story through my point of view and experience.

This year was one of the most meaningful in my life: I have learned so many new things about myself and about Judaism, while having the pleasure of hearing the many different life stories of community members. I was very moved by the fact that y'all opened your homes to me, welcoming me here as a part of the big Jewish family in Central AL.

Thank you for being the best community I could choose to be a Shlichah in! I love you so much, and I will miss you when I'm gone. Please note that this is not goodbye. I am just saying see you later :)



*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.*

# June and July 2014 & beyond

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

The regular style calendar should return with the August issue.  
**Shabbat services are each Friday night at 6 PM.**

**Tuesday, June 24, 5:45 PM,** Temple Beth Or Board Meeting.

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

**Friday, June 27, 6 PM,** High School members from NFTY Mitzvah Corps will attend service and join us for a casual dinner following service.

**Tuesday, July 8, Noon,** L'Chaim League luncheon with Dr. Dan Puckett, Associate Professor of History at Troy University and author of *In the Shadow of Hitler*. Dan will present the Resettlement of Jewish Refugees in Alabama, 1938-1941, and explore how Alabama's Jewish community responded to the influx of persecuted European Jews.

**Friday, July 11, 6 PM,** RABBI'S SUMMER SERMON SERIES -- the Book of Jubilees.

**Friday, July 18, 6 PM,** RABBI'S SUMMER SERMON SERIES -- the Book of Enoch.

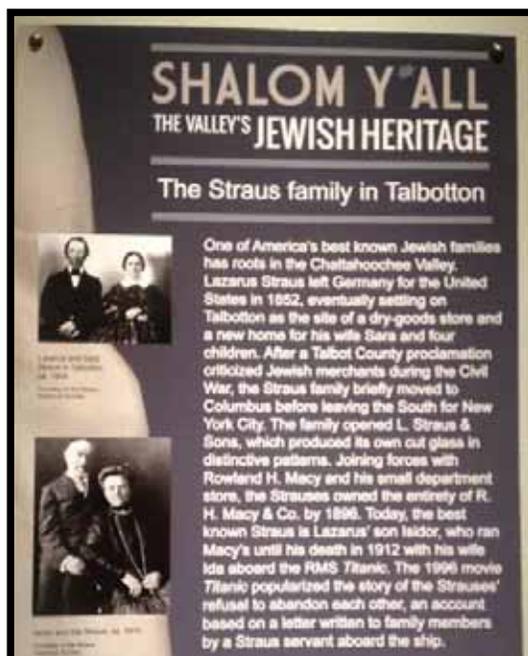
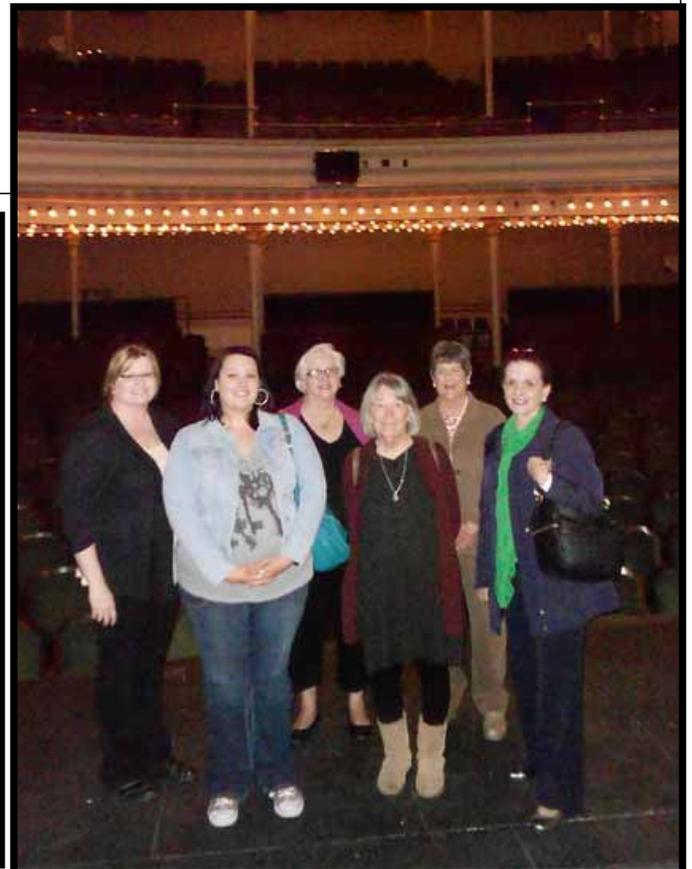
**Friday, July 18, 6 PM,** Turia Stark Williams, our member and occasional cantorial soloist, will co-lead our July 18 service, accompanied by keyboardist Joel Gregory.

**Friday, July 25, 6 PM,** RABBI'S SUMMER SERMON SERIES -- the Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs.

**Thursday, August 7, 7 PM,** Ralph Lewinsohn, a licensed Israeli tour guide since 1998 will be visiting us from Kibbutz Kfar Azza and will share with us his perceptions of life in Israel.

**Friday, August 8, 6 PM,** RABBI'S SUMMER SERMON SERIES -- the Sibylline Oracles.

**Sunday, August 10, 5:30 PM,** For Men's Club Members. Biscuits Day at the Ballpark. \$15 per person. Reservations Required.

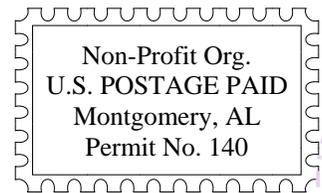


Members of the L'Chaim League visit the Shalom Y'all exhibit in Columbus, Georgia and the Springer Opera House.

# Kahl Montgomery—Temple Beth Or

2246 Narrow Lane Road  
Montgomery, AL 36106

JUNE/JULY 2014 Bulletin



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www.templebethor.net

See page 9 for information on a June 27th Shabbat dinner. Reservations required!

Agudath Israel  
☆  
Etz Ahayem  
Adult Education



**SUNDAY**  
10 AM—12 PM  
June 8, 15, 22

**TUESDAY**  
7 PM  
June 10, 17

**TUESDAY**  
6 PM  
June 10

**THURSDAY**  
12 PM  
June 12



A temple member inadvertently went home with a black leather coat that was not hers (pictured above). Could you have picked up her smaller black leather coat? She'd love to swap with you.