

# Temple Beth Or Bulletin

A VIEW FROM THE BIMAH

September 2014 ~ Elul/Tishrei 5774/5775



As I write this, the Jewish calendar has just made the turn from Av to Elul – the month when, traditionally, Jews around the world begin thinking about their own spiritual journey that we know as the High Holy

Days. Tishri, the first month of the new year, falls on September 25; in Hebrew, the first ten days of Tishri – Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur – are called *Yamim Nora'im*, the “Terrible Days.” For aside from sitting through services that sometimes seem interminable, these are the days – if we take them seriously – when we re-examine everything we stand for, the relationships we nurture or hurt, and the very ground on which we base our ethics and moral behavior. And we do all this in relationship to God, notwithstanding that for some of us that relationship is the most difficult one of all. I can’t tell you how often someone says to me, “Rabbi, I try to be a good and ethical person, but I just don’t believe in God.”

Judaism has a long tradition of being concerned with what we do and how we behave – much more than what we believe. Since Judaism does not define belief or even require it, the questions we raise during these Holy Days are very personal, especially in the context of how we perceive of or experience God’s presence in our lives. Those who follow other religions that have clearly defined credal statements are often puzzled to know that Judaism simply doesn’t have just one image of God.

In the Bible, God is often a stern

Father, even a warrior, and a taskmaster who tells the Israelites exactly what to do. Later, the God of Isaiah and Zecharia is an invisible, pure spirit or energy. The mystics have the Ein Sof – it means “endless” though we could translate “Infinite One,” an utterly unapproachable enigma; we have the intensively personal God of the Hassidim: Recall how Tevye in “Fiddler on the Roof” has very personal discussions with God. Then there is God of the philosophers – the “God idea.” Spinoza writes of finding God in nature – the spark within us, so to speak. One Jewish philosopher uses the term “the intimacy of the divine infinity,” combining God’s nearness with the Ein Sof, the Divine Nothing, as it were. With such an array of views, all of them authentically Jewish, by the way, it’s not surprising that we have doubts. God might be in hiding from us – but with all these views, how will we even know when God is present?

You know, it’s not a bad thing to have doubts. A Hassidic story discusses doubt, in its report of a disciple saying to his rebbe: “I am troubled with uncertainty about God, and there are times when my faith in Him is weak.” “Don’t worry so much,” counseled the rabbi, “and return home in peace. For so long as you are worried about your faith, all is well. The time to be concerned is when you no longer have feelings of doubt.” In other words, doubt is not the enemy of faith.

This sense that God is in hiding, or that we find it difficult to feel close to God, is not new. There’s a clear

trend even in Torah: In the beginning, God is ever-present to Adam and Eve, has conversations with Noah, and tells Abraham to go to a new land. Later he’s not so apparent: He calls out to Abraham, but mostly uses messengers – angels – to let Abraham, Isaac and Jacob know what he wants. He speaks to Moses through a burning bush, or the clouds atop Mt. Sinai; by the end of the Torah, in Deuteronomy, a verse quotes God as saying, “And I will hide my face from them.” And by the end of the Bible, even prophecy has come to an end. So it’s not surprising that we sometimes feel like we’re playing hide ‘n’ seek with God, or have doubts that we can ever find God.

John Ciardi, the poet and literary critic, once wrote that it is important to have the courage of conviction... and that it is equally important to have the courage of our confusion. He said, “Show me a person who is not confused and I will show you one who is not thinking.”

Frankly, I am afraid of those – in any religion – who *know* all truth, who have unqualified faith, who have the answers to all questions before they are even asked. A college professor, telling a student that there is no excuse for his poor spelling, said, “You should consult a dictionary whenever you are in doubt.” The student responded, “But sir,” he replied, “I’m never in doubt.”

What makes the challenge even more difficult is that, in Judaism, there is no creed – not one thing we must believe in order to be Jewish,

*continued on page 6*

**Celebrating Our  
162nd Year**



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

**Temple Beth Or Officers**

Diane Weil.....*President*  
John Ives.....*Vice-President: Programs*  
Morris Capouya.....*Vice-President: Finance*  
Rubin Franco.....*Treasurer*  
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Gina Friday.....*Temple Administrator*  
Terri Finkelstein.....*Religion School Director*  
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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.



*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).*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Recently, I was doing a Google search for something related to Rosh Hashanah and came across the site aish.com. I would like to share a portion of an article with you and I hope you find it as interesting and meaningful as I did:

**Jews Don't Say Happy New Year by Rabbi Benjamin Blech**

Ever notice that Jews don't traditionally wish each other "happy new year"?

Instead we say the Hebrew phrase "*shannah tovah*" which – in spite of the mistaken translation that appears on almost all greeting cards – has no connection at all to the expression "have a happy new year."

*Shannah tovah* conveys the hope for a *good* year rather than a *happy* one. And the reason for that distinction contains great significance.

This past January, the *Atlantic Monthly* had a fascinating article titled *There's More to Life than Being Happy*. The author, Emily Esfahani Smith, points out how researchers are beginning to caution against the pursuit of mere happiness. They found that a meaningful life and a happy life overlap in certain ways, but are ultimately very different. Leading a happy life, the psychologists found, is associated with being a "taker" while leading a meaningful life corresponds with being a "giver."

"Happiness without meaning characterizes a relatively shallow, self-absorbed or even selfish life, in which things go well, needs and desires are easily satisfied and difficult or taxing entanglements are avoided," the author writes.

She quotes Kathleen Vohs, one of the authors of a new study to be published this year in *The Journal of Positive Psychology*: "Happy people get joy from receiving benefits from others while people leading meaningful lives get a lot of joy from giving to others." In other words, meaning transcends the self while happiness is all about giving the self what it wants.

According to Roy Baumeister, the lead researcher of the study, "What sets human beings apart from animals is not the pursuit of happiness, which occurs all across the natural world, but the pursuit of meaning, which is unique to humans."

Long before all of these studies, Jews somehow understood this intuitively. Happy is good, but good is better.

To hope for a happy new year is to give primacy to the ideal of a hedonistic culture whose greatest goal is "to have a good time." To seek a *good* year however is to recognize the superiority of meaning over the joy of the moment.

The word "good" has special meaning in the Torah. The first time we find it used is in the series of sentences where God, after each day of creation, views his handiwork and proclaims it "good." More, when God completed his work he saw all that he had done "and behold it was very good."

**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.

**BUILDING FUND**

*In Honor of our years at Temple Beth Or  
Bob and Linda Herzfeld*

**CONTINGENCY FUND**

*In appreciation of the warm welcome we have felt at Temple Beth Or  
Pete and Pam Hitchcock*

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

*Good Health Myrna Rothfeder  
Kathie and Raymond Cohen*

*In Honor of Rabbi Elliot Stevens  
David and Beverly Lipton*

**SELMA MARCUS FUND AND  
CAROL L. HART EDUCATION  
FUND**

*In Honor of all my old crowd.  
Sara Matile Schwarz*



**Recent Death**

**Sol Kaplan ז"ל**

**August 14, 2014**



Grandfather of Jarred Kaplan

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 ..... Hal Bloom Jr.
- 2 ..... Ilene Baylinson
- 4 ..... David Baylinson
- 5 ..... Susan Finklestein
- 6 ..... Liza Kaufman
- 7 ..... Lew Nyman
- 9 ..... Norma Michelson
- 9 ..... Scott Harris
- 11 ..... Joe Mussafer
- 13 ..... Russell Levy
- 16 ..... Keith Sabel
- 18 ..... Bobby Kohn
- 18 ..... Irving Winter
- 23 ..... Charles Strasburger
- 23 ..... Terry Toney
- 24 ..... Bert Loeb
- 24 ..... Betty Bloom
- 24 ..... Susan Kohn
- 26 ..... Joy Kaplan
- 26 ..... Jeanette Hanan
- 30 ..... Kathleen Roberts

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

- 4 ..... Ralph & Frances Capouya
- 5 ..... Alan & Diane Weil
- 8 ..... Bill & Julie Goolsby
- 14 ..... Leonard & Norma Michelson
- 19 ..... Robert & Rochelle Kohn
- 24 ..... Michael & Maxine Goldner

**AUGUST YAHRZEITS**

**To be read 9/5/2014**

- Arthur S. Hertz
- Pryor Hurt
- Isaac May
- Norman Pirofsky
- Elise Salama
- Joseph Salama
- Hilda Shinpaugh
- Julia Wise

**To be read 9/12/2014**

- Manny Applebaum
- Clare C. Hertz
- Jennye Nussbaum
- Ben Tillinger
- William Aaron Wallace

**To be read 9/19/2014**

- Rhoda Dreyfus Abraham
- Gusta Barth Baim
- Carol Loeb Dresner
- Rebekah Katz
- Joseph B. Loeb
- Claudia Richard Manley
- Sam Nusbaum
- Herbert M. Scheuer, Sr.
- Quenby Sameth Schulman
- Pat Simon
- Edith P. Stiller
- Dr. Peter D. Weinrib

**To be read 9/26/2014**

- Hal W. Bloom, Sr.
- Dr. Morris N. Capouya
- Max Dorosin
- Andy Kromis
- Mae Wilzin Landau

**Birthday and  
Anniversary Blessings  
on September 5th.**

## SISTERHOOD

September is here and we are off to a busy start. Our year will begin September 9th with an Opening Super Moon Dinner. Lisa Weil is graciously hosting an evening that promises to be lovely and entertaining! You should have received your invitation by now. Please remember to RSVP so we know that you are attending.

High Holy Days begin September 24. Remember to check your Temple calendar for all events that Rabbi Stevens has planned to make this a special time for all of us. We not only celebrate the New Year, but also take the time for personal reflection and commitment. We will share in our Rosh Hashanah Eve reception as well as eat apples and honey together on September 25.

Our annual Carnegie Deli Cheesecake Fundraiser starts September 10 and continues through October 31. Lisa Weil and Marlene Beringer continue to do an outstanding job selling LOTS of cheesecakes. I hope this year will exceed all years. Everyone loves these cheesecakes for themselves and they make excellent gifts. Start compiling your list now and telling all of your friends.

Just a friendly reminder to mail your annual dues to Harriette Dorosin if you have not done so already. Thank you for supporting Sisterhood so that we can continue all that we do for our Temple.

May this New Year bring you good health, happiness and peace.

Karen Goldstein  
Sisterhood President

\* \* \*

## L'CHAIM LEAGUE

On Tuesday, Sept. 23rd, the L'Chaim League will deliver Rosh Hashanah gift bags to our home-bound members. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sharon Berry. Visitation times will be announced to volunteers.

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

\* \* \*

## FROM THE LIBRARY

We continue to highlight books from the Jewish Book Council purchase. These titles, and others, are temporarily located on the windowsill or desk (children's books located on the standing children's bookcase):

*Rise and Decline of Civilizations: Lesson for the Jewish People* by Shalom Salomon Wald with a forward by Shimon Peres (702 WAL 2014)

*Menachem Begin: The Battle for Israel's Soul* by Daniel Gordis (799.8 BEG 2014)

*The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century* by David Laskin (798.2 LAS 2013)

*Kick and Run: Memoir with a Soccer Ball* by Jonathan Wilson (799.77 WIL 2013)

*Testimony: The Legacy of Schindler's List and The USC Shoah Foundation: A Twentieth Anniversary Commemoration* with an introduction by Steven Spielberg (738.52 USC 2014)

*The Anatomy Lesson: A Novel* by Nina Siegal (568 SIE 2014)

*Schools of Hope: How Julius Rosenwald Helped Change African American Education* by Norman H. Finkelstein (children's book -- JUV 561.7 FIN 2014)

*Goldie Takes a Stand!: Golda Meir's First Crusade* by Barbara Krasner with illustrations by Kelsey Garrity-Riley (children's book -- JUV 799.8 KRA 2014)

Eric A. Kidwell, MLS

## Please note - Last minute notification!

RESCHEDULED - NEW DATE!

Thursday • August 28 • 7 PM

GUEST SPEAKER **RALPH LEWINSOHN** joins us from Kibbutz Kfar Azza in Israel. Kfar Azza literally shares a border with the Gaza Strip, giving its residents a unique perspective on the current conflict. Aside from being active in the Israel Defense Forces, Ralph Lewinsohn is a licensed Israel tour guide who has worked with Israel's main tour operators and many groups from abroad. He will share with us his perceptions of life in Israel during the crisis.

From Wikipedia: Kfar Aza (Hebrew: Gaza Village) is a kibbutz in southern Israel. Located between Netivot and Sderot around five kilometres east of Gaza, it falls under the jurisdiction of Sha'ar HaNegev Regional Council. In 2013 it had a population of 650.

The village was established in August 1951 by immigrants from Egypt and the Moroccan city of Tangiers who had received training in Ein Harod, Ayelet HaShahar and later Afikim.



# SUKKAH DECORATING PARTY

OPEN TO ALL IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

On Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> @ 12 noon, Temple Beth Or will host an afternoon of music, fun, games, pumpkin decorating, and a fabulous lunch as we begin our celebration of Sukkot by decorating Temple Beth Or's Sukkah. Come out and meet the new members of our community as well as young adult members and college students. This is a great time to reunite with friends and establish new friendships. RSVP's are appreciated, please contact Sharon Berry @ 262-3314 ext. 223, or email [daberry40@netscape.net](mailto:daberry40@netscape.net). \*There is no charge for this event. Membership affiliation with TBO or AIEA is not a requirement to participate.



A I & A kiko B loom  
invite you to share their joy as  
**Hanah Mari Bloom**  
is called to the Torah for her Bat Mitzvah



Temple Beth Or  
2246 Narrow Lane Road  
Montgomery, Al 36106

September 20, 2014  
Saturday – 10 am

Luncheon – Immediately following

Kol Ami  
Religious School

AI\*EA

8/17 Teacher Set Up  
8/24 First Day of School  
9/7  
9/14  
9/21  
9/28  
10/5 Decorate Sukkah  
10/19



SHABBAT FAMILY  
WORSHIP AND  
DINNER

Friday night, September 5,  
join us for worship at 6 PM and a pot luck dinner after  
services. Please bring the following dish if your last  
name begins with:

**A-G: Meat dish (beef or chicken)**  
**H-O: Salad/Vegetables**  
**P-W: Desserts**



**FAMILY FRIENDLY  
SERVICES**

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

**5:00 - 5:30 PM in  
the Library**

September 12  
October 17  
December 12  
January 9  
February 13  
March 20  
May 15

or to be considered good Jews. Not having any creed is also one of the beauties of Judaism, I think, because we are taught that no one has a monopoly on truth, and that there are many paths to God and to our place in the world to come, whatever that might mean.

For some, especially in Reform Judaism, this has come down to no belief at all, just an emphasis on ethics. And certainly our whole tradition is deeply concerned with ethical behavior. But if I am an ethical person, one could argue, who do I need Judaism? For many their answer to this question has led them or their children and grandchildren down the road to assimilation, in many cases never to return.

In struggling with these questions, my response is this: If we are to have an ethics that can challenge and judge, contain and redirect the amoral and immoral powers in us and in our social system, it must come from a source beyond our society and ourselves. Since we are the problem, we cannot be the

solution. Ethics can only arise from some transcendent moral ground. For me, that moral ground starts with Judaism; there is simply no group whose record of continuing devotion to ethical excellence, whose moral persistence in the face of inhuman treatment and whose stamina in pursuit of the humane, is greater than that of the Jews. We choose Judaism because we know that our Judaism, with all of its folkways, family and communal values, is the most effective way our deeply-held values can be transmitted to the next generation.

And once we find that we can affirm Judaism as our basis of moral value, and that moral values are important to us, we find that we can no longer say, "I believe in nothing." American Jews have begun to realize, in reaffirming our connections to our people and our heritage, that there are some things we do stand for, that we do believe in. Moral commitments ultimately arise not from self or society but from a transcendent, commanding

source. Our moral commitments arise from God.

Somehow, we know this, even today. Without anyone having to remind us, against the reality of what we ourselves had experienced of what it might mean to be a Jew, we rose up out of our concentration camps to refuse Hitler his final victory. We insisted on continuing as Jews. It makes no sense. But it happened. So, again, Jewish history goes on, literally incredible, yet another chapter in the record of God and humanity shaping history together.

We will number this new year as 5775. As we make our way towards Tishri, may we resolve to so direct our hearts and our attitudes in new directions that the year indeed becomes one of growth, fulfillment and much satisfaction.

From my family to you and yours, may it be a year of blessing and peace.

Elliot L. Stevens

President's Message continued from page 2.

What does that mean? In what way was the world good? Surely it was not in any moral sense that it was being praised. The commentators offer a profound insight. The word good indicates that every part of creation fulfilled God's purpose: it was good because it was what it was meant to be.

That is the deepest meaning of the word good when it is applied to us and to our lives. We are good when we achieve our purpose; our lives are good when they fulfill what they are meant to be.

We know many people of whom it can be said that they had good lives in spite of their having had to endure great unhappiness. Indeed, the truly great chose lives of sacrifice over pleasure and left a legacy of inspiration and achievement that they never could have accomplished had they been solely concerned with personal gratification.

A *shanah tovah*, a good year, from a spiritual perspective, is far more blessed than simply a happy

one.

A *shanah tovah* may not emphasize happiness, yet it is the most certain way to ultimately *achieve* happiness.

Because another powerful idea discovered by contemporary psychologists is that happiness most often is the byproduct of a meaningful life. It's precisely when we don't go looking for it and are willing to set it aside in the interest of a loftier goal that we find it unexpectedly landing on us with a force that we never considered possible.....

.....So *shanah tovah*, may you have a year filled with meaning and purpose. And happiness that will surely follow.

L'shalom,



*L'Chaim Leagues lunches at Egg & I and then on to Archives and History on August 12, 2014.*



# HIGH HOLY DAY INFORMATION

## 2014/5775 High Holy Day Service Times

### Wednesday, September 24

Rosh Hashanah Eve ..... 7:30 PM  
*Followed by our Annual Reception*

### Thursday, September 25

Rosh Hashanah Morning ..... 10:00 AM  
 Children's Service in Library ..... 10:30 AM  
 Tashlich at Montgomery Museum Pond ..... 1:00 PM  
*(Bring your own bread!)*

### Friday, September 26

Shabbat Shuvah ..... 6:00 PM

### Sunday, September 28

Cemetery Memorial Services  
 Eternal Rest Cemetery ..... 9:30 AM  
 Etz Ahayem Cemetery (new section) ..... 10:30 AM  
 Etz Ahayem Cemetery (old section) ..... 11:00 AM

### Friday, October 3

Kol Nidrei Eve ..... 7:30 PM

### Saturday, October 4

Yom Kippur Morning ..... 10:00 AM  
 Rabbi's Discussion ..... 12:00 PM  
 Children's Service ..... 2:30 PM  
 Afternoon Service ..... 3:30 PM  
 Healing service, co-led with  
 Turia Stark Williams ..... 4:15 PM  
 Memorial Service ..... 5:00 PM  
 Concluding Service ..... 5:30 PM  
 Break Fast sponsored by Sisterhood ..... 6:15 PM

### Wednesday, October 8

Sukkot service ..... 6 PM

### Wednesday, October 15

Simchat Torah Service ..... 6 PM

## TASHLICH - AT THE POND ON ROSH HASHAHAN

Join us for Tashlich ["casting off"] on Rosh Hashanah afternoon as we symbolically cast off our sins into the waters at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts – accompanied by a blast of the great shofar. Tashlich, a brief ceremony, is based on Micah 7:18-20: "You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." Bring your own bread of any kind [multigrain for complex sins; waffles for sins of indecision; pumpnickel for dark sins, sourdough for ill-temperedness, etc.].



## THE PRAYERS THAT MOVE US AND TOUCH THE SOUL SERMONS FOR THE DAYS OF AWE

As Jews around the world gather in September to usher in the New Year 5775, we will once again join in reciting the ancient prayers that have moved us through the ages to repent, to forgive, to thank and to commit ourselves to living by a new moral compass. The beautiful and sometimes haunting melodies of "Kol Nidrei," "Avinu Malkeinu," "Al Cheit" and "Un'taneh Tokef" will inspire us and (hopefully) resonate within us through the year ahead.

This year, Rabbi Stevens will devote his sermons to exploring the grand themes of our Holy Day liturgy – not so much on their history, but on what moves us and the spiritual insights that sustain us as they have sustained Jews for so many years.

Under the general heading "The Prayers that Move Us and Touch the Soul," the sermon topics will be:

- Rosh Hashanah evening: "The Core Teachings of High Holy Days"
- Rosh Hashanah morning: "Avinu Malkinu"
- Shabbat Shuvah: "Un'taneh Tokef"
- Yom Kippur evening: "Kol Nidrei"
- Yom Kippur morning: "Al Cheit"
- Yom Kippur Memorial Service: "Yizkor"

## 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 you will find an envelope in your High Holy Days prayerbook, and we are asking you to return it with a generous donation to the office by the end of October.

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!



Shabbat Service on Friday, September 19th to include changing of the Torah covers for the High Holy Day services



## Rosh HaShanah

Rosh HaShanah (literally, "Head of the Year") is the Jewish New Year, which marks the beginning of a 10-day period of prayer, self-examination and repentance. This period, known as the *Yamim Noraim* (Days of Awe or High Holy Days), is widely observed by Jews throughout the world, many with prayer and reflection in a synagogue. There also are several holiday rituals observed at home.

Rosh HaShanah is celebrated on the first day of the Hebrew month of *Tishrei*, which—because of differences in the solar and lunar calendar—corresponds to September or October on the secular calendar. Customs associated with the holiday include sounding the shofar, eating a round challah, and tasting apples and honey to represent a sweet New Year.

## A SERVICE FOR HEALING ON YOM KIPPUR

For the first time, this year's services on Yom Kippur will include a Healing Service, on Yom Kippur, Saturday afternoon, October 4. The service will be co-led by Rabbi Stevens and Turia Stark Williams.

*Healing*

Healing services are not magic. In Judaism, healing services can provide solace, comfort, a sense of direction, spiritual growth and inner peace. Healing services are informal and personal, often involving guided meditation, chant, silences, soul searching and spiritually uplifting prayers and readings, including meditative music. It is an experience unlike any other, and without the choreography that typifies a more traditional-type service.



This year's Yom Kippur healing service will follow the Afternoon Service on October 4, in the Blachschleger Library.



## Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur means "Day of Atonement" and refers to the annual Jewish observance of fasting, prayer and repentance. Part of the High Holidays, which also includes Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur is considered the holiest day on the Jewish calendar. In three separate passages in the Torah, the Jewish people are told, "the tenth day of the seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be a sacred occasion for you: You shall practice self-denial." (Leviticus 23:27). Fasting is seen as fulfilling this biblical commandment. The Yom Kippur fast also enables us to put aside our physical desires to concentrate on our spiritual needs through prayer, repentance and self-improvement.

Yom Kippur is the moment in Jewish time when we dedicate our mind, body, and soul to reconciliation with God, our fellow human beings, and ourselves. We are commanded to turn to those whom we have wronged first, acknowledging our sins and the pain we might have caused. At the same time, we must be willing to forgive and to let go of certain offenses and the feelings of resentment they provoked in us. On this journey we are both seekers and givers of pardon. Only then can we turn to God and ask for forgiveness: "And for all these, God of forgiveness, forgive us, pardon us, and grant us atonement."

RABBI'S ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM, 2014 - 2015

Rabbi Stevens has selected four major themes for this year's Adult Education programs – each on a Tuesday during the lunch hour – beginning at the end of August and continuing into May.

The four themes are: THE JEWISH VIEWS OF GOD; INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM; SURVEY OF JEWISH MYSYICISM, and JEWISH SEXUAL VALUES.

In addition, Rabbi Stevens invites us to DIP OUR TOES INTO THE SEA OF TALMUD with a nine-session class on Thursday mornings [8:00 a.m.], running late August into mid-February.

JOIN US for the joy of learning and fellowship. No prior experience necessary! (See the August bulletin for the complete listings.)

CLASS I: FINDING GOD: A NEW ADULT EDUCATION SERIES ON THE JEWISH VIEWS OF GOD

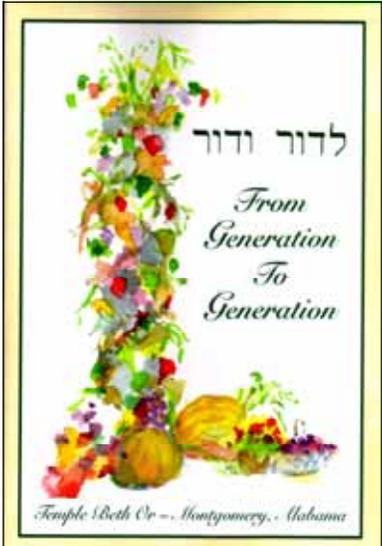
Judaism has never developed a creed that defines Jewish belief. Focusing instead on how we live our lives, Judaism has always left matters of belief up to the individual. As a result, through the ages Jewish philosophers and theologians have offered many schools of thought. In their diversity of approaches no one theology "defines" Judaism, yet each has its followers, and many of us who search for meaning and a belief we can call our own find that one or more of our great philosophers speaks to us in profound ways.

This class will cover six approaches, each on a Tuesday at 12:00 noon, starting August 26. Feel free to bring some lunch – we'll provide the iced tea!

Tuesday, 8/26.....	Noon .....	God I, in the Bible
Thursday 8/28 .....	8:00 a.m. ....	Talmud
Tuesday 9/9.....	Noon .....	God II, Maimonides
Thursday 9/18 .....	8:00 a.m. ....	Talmud
Tuesday 9/23.....	Noon .....	God III, Spinoza, Humanism
Tuesday 10/7.....	Noon .....	God IV, Kabbalah, Hassidism
Thursday 10/9 .....	8:00 a.m. ....	Talmud
Tuesday 10/21.....	Noon .....	God V, Existentialism



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



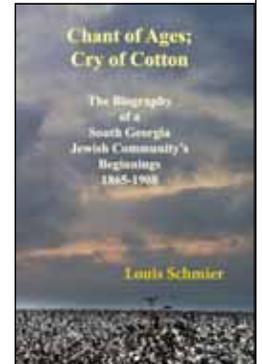


# LOUIS SCHMIER, author of Chant of Ages; Cry of Cotton

The Jewish community in Valdosta, Georgia, has been praying in a synagogue since 1920; formally organized as a congregation in 1908; and has celebrated religious services continually since 1894. All that began at Valdosta's "Sim Smith's Corner" in 1866 with the arrival of a Confederate veteran, Abraham Ehrlich. His family, along with the Engels and Marks families who followed, were the hitherto "three lost Jewish families." Their untold story challenges the image of the persecuted Jew in the South. Relying heavily both on their own words and those of their Gentile neighbors, an intricate, warm, intimate, and human saga unfolds. You'll peek over their shoulders at work, play, and prayer as they become respected and revered prominent members of the town's society and contributors to its post-Civil War recovery and growth. In these pages, you'll see a more humane, kinder, more receptive, more accepting, more hospitable, and gentler Georgia than is usually supposed. And as such, reading this tale is more of an experience than just a casual read.

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

**Books are available for purchase now for \$ 17.00. Contact Gina Friday at 262-3314 if you would like to purchase an advance copy.**



## 2014 EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

**JFCA**  
The Jewish Federation  
of Central Alabama

**334.277.5820**  
P.O. Box 20058 | Montgomery, AL | 36120

---

I hereby pledge to pay the 2014 Emergency Campaign the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contributor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT AND BILLING INFORMATION**

Check enclosed

Credit Card (Please complete info at right)

**CREDIT CARD INFORMATION**

Please charge my credit card account:

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Visa       MasterCard       Amex

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Three digit code \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Account Number

\_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Signature

**SEND A MESSAGE  
OF SUPPORT. GIVE.**

# Temple Beth Or's 2014 Book of Remembrance Form

Jews throughout the world traditionally take time to remember their departed loved ones during the High Holy Days. To personalize and enrich our remembrance, we publish a Yom Kippur Memorial Book of Remembrance. The book is distributed in the Sanctuary before the Yom Kippur Memorial Service. Extra copies are available after Yom Kippur. Names submitted will be listed together under the donor's name. Thus, you will have your loved ones' names together in your own listing. Cost of the listings follow:

**\$180 - full-page listing (21 max)**

**\$100 - half-page listing (12 max)**

**\$10 - Individual listings**

To include the names of your departed loved ones in Temple Beth Or's Book of Remembrance, please complete the form below and return it to the Temple office by the deadline of **September 5, 2014**. List each name to be included in legible form. Please send a check made out to Temple Beth Or. You will be billed if you do not include a check. Your donation will be of comfort to you and a heart-felt tribute to those we dearly miss.

We wish you and yours a healthy and fulfilling upcoming New Year. May God bless you and your dear ones.

*Please fill out the below form if you wish to participate. Return to the Temple at the below address.*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Remembered by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(how you would like it listed in book)*

## **Names of deceased loved ones to be remembered (*please print clearly*):**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Mail form to: Temple Beth Or, 2246 Narrow Lane Road, Montgomery AL 36106**

*Detach at the crease to mail.*

# Mark the date!

**TBO 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Food Festival & Treasure Market  
Sunday, February 22, 2015**

Volunteering for helping with the Annual Food Festival is the best way for congregants to get involved in Temple life! Work for preparation occurs on just about every day of the week at various times of the year. We urge you to get involved and be a part of this energized group of Temple members! Please contact Karen Goldstein ([kackaboo@gmail.com](mailto:kackaboo@gmail.com) or 265-1145) or Jenny Ives ([jjives@charter.net](mailto:jjives@charter.net) or 263-4984) for volunteering opportunities.



Beginning August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, we will be accepting items for the 2015 Collectible/Treasure Market. The following items are on our wish list for the 2015 and may be brought to the Temple Tuesday – Friday of any week. Please call the Temple office for assistance. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have a pick-up service this year.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Furniture - in good condition</li><li>• Sterling silver jewelry</li><li>• Costume jewelry</li><li>• Ladies' Accessories Hats, Scarves, Evening Bags</li><li>• Lamps</li><li>• Paintings &amp; pictures</li><li>• Wall Hangings</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Picture Frames</li><li>• China, Glasses, Crystal, Dishes, Flatware (not chipped), (sets of four or more)</li><li>• Appliances</li><li>• Electronics</li><li>• Books</li><li>• Buttons &amp; fabric</li></ul> |
|--|--|

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

Thank you!

Jenny Ives,  
2015 Food Festival Chair

***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.***

## 2014 Food Festival Sponsors

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## Future Events

**Thursday, October 2, 8 AM, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on readings in Talmud.

**Friday, October 3, 7:30 PM, Kol Nidrei Eve.** Sermon topic: "Kol Nidrei."

**Saturday, October 4, 10 AM, Yom Kippur Morning.** Sermon topic: "Al Cheit."

**Saturday, October 4, 12 PM, Rabbi's Discussion.**

**Saturday, October 4, 2:30 PM, Yom Kippur Children's Service**

**Saturday, October 4, 3:30 PM, Yom Kippur Afternoon Service**

**Saturday, October 4, 4:15 PM, Healing Service.**

**Saturday, October 4, 5 PM, Yizkor [Memorial] Service.** Sermon topic: "Yizkor."

**Saturday, October 4, 5:30 PM, N'ilah [Concluding]**

**Saturday, October 4, 6:15 PM, Congregational Break Fast;** sponsored by Sisterhood

**Sunday, October 5, Noon, Hosted by Temple Beth Or.** The Jewish community is invited. Decorating of the Sukkah, games, lunch, music, and other fun activities. We are hoping to have many of the young adults attend this event. No RSVP is needed. Contact Sharon Berry at 262-3314 for more information.

**Tuesday, October 7, 12 PM, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on "Kabbalah, Hassidism."

**Wednesday, October 8, 6 PM, Sukkot service.** This service will be held outdoors at our TBO sukkah; join us as we celebrate together with worship and a symbolic meal inside our sukkah.

**Thursday, October 9, All Day, TBO Office closed for Sukkot.**

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

**Wednesday, October 15, 6 PM, Simchat Torah Celebration.**

**Thursday, October 16, All Day, TBO Office closed for Simchat Torah.**

**Friday, October 17, 5 PM, Family Chavurah "Tot" Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.**

**Friday, October 17, 6 PM, Shabbat service.** Turia Stark Williams and TBO member Pete Hitchcock will sing from the bimah.

**Tuesday, October 21, 12 PM, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on "Jewish Existentialism."

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

**Tuesday, October 28, 5:45 PM, Temple Beth Or Board Meeting.**

**Tuesday, October 28, Noon, L'Chaim League's Opening Luncheon at Temple Beth Or with guest speaker Susan Willis of Alabama Shakespeare Festival.**

**Thursday, October 30, 8 AM, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on readings in Talmud.

**Tuesday, November 4, 12 PM, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on "God in Modern Jewish Thought."

**Thursday, November 13, 7 PM, Blachschleger Library Annual Lecture Series' guest speaker is Rod Frazer, author of SEND THE ALABAMIANS.** Come and hear about the Temple connection in the book. Light refreshments.

**Friday, November 14, 6 PM, Shabbat service led by Temple Beth Or youth (grades 4-10). Family dinner to follow service.**

**Saturday, November 15, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens.** Light brunch served.

**Tuesday, November 18, 11:45 AM, L'Chaim League's Annual Community Outreach Thanksgiving Luncheon & Bingo at Capital Heights Place Senior Home.**

**Tuesday, November 18, 12 PM, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on Islam, Part I.

**Thursday, November 20, 8 AM, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on readings in Talmud.

**Tuesday, November 25, 7 PM, Joint Thanksgiving Service with First United Methodist Church and Church of the Ascension.** Held at Temple Beth Or. Reception follows.

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

**Tuesday, December 2, 12 PM, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on Islam, Part II.

**Tuesday, December 2, 5:45 PM, Temple Beth Or Board Meeting.**

**Tuesday, December 9, Noon, L'Chaim League luncheon and book review by Rabbi Stevens of "I'm God; You're Not" by Lawrence Kushner.**

**Thursday, December 11, 8 AM, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on readings in Talmud.

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

**Tuesday, December 16, Noon, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on Islam, Part III.

**Friday, December 19, 6 PM, Chanukah family service and dinner with Rabbi Stevens.** Service will begin in Sanctoray then follow with dinner in Social Hall. Reservations will be needed for dinner portion. More information to follow.

**Saturday, December 20, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens.** Light brunch served.

**Tuesday, December 23, 5:45 PM, Temple Beth Or Board Meeting.**

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

**Tuesday, January 6, Noon, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on "Mysticism in the Bible."

**Thursday, January 8, 8 AM, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on readings in Talmud.

**Friday, January 9, 5 PM, Family Chavurah "Tot" Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.**

**Tuesday, January 20, Noon, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on "Early Kabbalah."

**Saturday, January 24, 10 AM, Catherine Loeb's Bat Mitzvah.**

**Tuesday, January 27, 5:45 PM, Temple Beth Or Board Meeting.**

**Thursday, January 29, 8 AM, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on readings in Talmud.

**Friday, January 30, 6 PM, Sisterhood Shabbat.** Soloist Turia Stark Williams. A reception will precede service at 5:15 PM.

**Tuesday, February 3, Noon, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on "Lurianic Kabbalah."

**Friday, February 13, 5 PM, Family Chavurah "Tot" Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.**

**Tuesday, February 17, Noon, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on "Mysticism in the Zohar."

**Thursday, February 19, 8 AM, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on readings in Talmud.

# September 2014

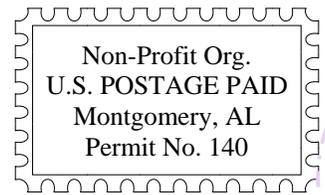
Want an updated look at what's going on at Temple? Go to [www.templebethor.net](http://www.templebethor.net).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 6 PM, Congregational Shabbat Dinner following Service	6
7 9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School at AIEA	8	9 12 PM, ADULT EDUCATION: Rabbi's class on "The God of Maimonides."	10	11	12 5 PM, "Tot" Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library  6 PM Shabbat Service.	13
14 9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School at AIEA	15	16	17	18 8 AM, ADULT EDUCATION: Rabbi's class on readings in Talmud.	19 5:15 PM, There will be a wine and cheese reception preceding Shabbat service in honor of Hanah Bloom's Bat Mitzvah.  6 PM Shabbat Service	20 10 AM, Hanah Bloom's Bat Mitzvah.
21 9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School at AIEA	22	23 12 PM, ADULT EDUCATION: Rabbi's class on "Spinoza's God and Jewish Humanism."	24 7:30 PM, Rosh Hashanah Eve Service - followed by Annual Reception	25 (office closed all day) 10 AM, Rosh Hashanah Morning Service.  10:30 AM, Children's Service in Library  1 PM, Tashlich at Museum of Fine	26 6 PM, Shabbat Shuvah. Sermon topic: "Un'taneh Tokef."	27
28 9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School at AIEA  <u>Cemetery Services</u> 9:30 AM Eternal Rest 10:30 AM Etz Ahayem Cemetery (new section) 11 AM Etz Ahayem (old section)	29	30 5:45 PM, Temple Beth Or Board Meeting.				

**Kahl Montgomery—Temple Beth Or**

2246 Narrow Lane Road  
Montgomery, AL 36106

September 2014 Bulletin



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.templebethor.net

**BOOK OF  
REMEMBRANCE  
FORM INSIDE**

**The Temple office will closed on the below days in observance of the following Jewish holidays.**  
Thursday September 25th (Rosh Hashanah)  
Thursday, October 9th (Sukkot)  
Thursday, October 16th (Simchat Torah)

Babysitting for the High Holy Day Services  
It's time to think about your babysitting needs for the High Holy Days: Rosh Hashanah evening and morning, Kol Nidre & Yom Kippur morning. Please call the Temple at 262-3314 or email [bethor@templebethor.net](mailto:bethor@templebethor.net) if you'll need to use this service.

*Please return the member forms that were mailed to you in June if you have not already done so.*