

# Temple Beth Or Bulletin

A VIEW FROM THE BIMAH

January 2015 ~ Tevet/Sh'vat 5775



When I first arrived in Montgomery, now more than seven and a half years ago, I almost immediately began to hear about the “elephant in the room” – speculation that one day our Jewish community would need to consolidate into a single congregation. While everyone who raised the subject, usually quietly and privately, had a different vision as to how this might take place, it had already become self-evident that *something* had to change, given the financial and demographic realities of recent years.

The elephant is now no longer confined to a room, but is now out and about in the guise of committees and task forces engaged in very practical discussions as to what our community might look like and changes we might need to make to ensure our viability and vitality for many years to come.

While awaiting the recommendations that at some point will emerge from this process, I continue to hear widely divergent speculation as to where this process is headed. Some say that the entire project is doomed to failure, given who we are; our differing perceived needs and levels of comfort, and a long history that has not always been optimal in terms of our relationships. Others predict that we'll be surprised at how quickly and efficiently a full merger will take place, once all the recommendations fall into line, partly because of our current generation of superb leadership in our community, and partly because not merging is simply not a viable option. Still others predict a range of consolidation options short of a full merger – agreeing that something needs to be done but not so much as to compromise each congregation's sense of who we are.

I share the above in the context of a

book review program I led at a L'chaim League luncheon a few weeks ago, in which I presented on a new book by my colleague Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, *I'm God You're Not: Observations on Organized Religion and other Disguises of the Ego*. In this, Kushner's 20<sup>th</sup> book or so, he summarizes a lifetime of congregational leadership and teaching, including gems of wisdom – some humorous, most serious, and all thought-provoking – on how congregations function; on leadership roles; on rabbinic-congregational relations and on the rabbinate generally. I was struck, reading some of his insights, how absolutely germane his comments are to our community's merger discussion, in terms of imagining how a successful community works, especially the mindset that enables a community to function well.

At the risk of some duplication for those who attended the session – about an equal number from both congregations – I excerpt here (in no particular order) a few of Rabbi Kushner's insights, and commend these to our committees and Boards – and to all of us – for discussion and consideration:

- Members of a congregation ought to selfishly and routinely demand that the congregation provide them with the instruments (teachers, classes, books, colloquia, services, programs, etc.) they need in order to grow as Jews.
- The amount of creativity within a congregation stands in inverse ratio to the number of people, groups, or levels in the institutional hierarchy empowered to prohibit anything. With the exceptions of spending a congregation's money or using its name, the members of a congregation should not need anyone's permission to initiate anything – be it a letter in the bulletin or an alternate religious

service.

- The price of congregational vitality is the frequent appearance of confusion and even anarchy. The communal tolerance for such creative unpredictability is a learned skill. There can never be too many people trying too many things.
- Since no one can be sure of what someone else must do to serve the Holy One, anyone who thinks he has a new idea or an old idea must be given a chance. This includes the rabbi.
- The amount, quality and intensity of adult study, perhaps more than other modes of congregational activity, will liberate its members to make wise decisions for themselves.
- Rabbis should treat Jews more like rabbis. Jews should treat rabbis more like Jews.
- People must always feel free to establish mechanisms for telling one another the truth about their congregation. Boring worship, irrelevant classes or cowardly social action programs can change only if members can share their evaluations. The bulletin ought to be a forum for real and open debate. Arguments are a necessary part of vitality.
- With any proposal, the choice invariably comes down to judging others or helping them. Whenever you judge, you stifle spontaneity, enthusiasm and participation. Whenever you help, you risk novelty and anarchy.
- What you want and need the rabbi to do cannot be written in a job description. Even if it could, you couldn't pay someone to do it. What you want from them is their enthusiasm, their heart, their soul, and those, of course, cannot be

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**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*
- Susan Bernstein.....*Secretary*
- Jamie Loeb.....*Immediate Past President*

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- Frances Capouya.....*Adult Education*
- Andy Weil.....*Cemetery*
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- Bob Weisberg.....*Co-Membership*
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**SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT**

Karen Goldstein

**MEN'S CLUB PRESIDENT**

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**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*
- Temple Singers.....*Michelle Lott, Shane Nishibun*
- Tiffany Nishibun, David Peden, Bill Taylor, Linda Webb*
- Turia Stark Williams*

**Office Hours**

|                                 |               |            |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| <b>Monday</b>                   | <b>CLOSED</b> |            |
| <b>Tues., Wed. &amp; Thurs.</b> |               | <b>9-4</b> |
| <b>Friday</b>                   |               | <b>9-2</b> |

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



One of the many tables of guests at TBO's Chanukah dinner on December 19th.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

On December 7<sup>th</sup> I attended a president/temple leadership meeting in Atlanta – the Shalom Y'All network. Congregations represented varied in size from about 75 to 1500 member families, so there was quite a bit of diversity in programming, staff, resources and challenges. Still, there were certain commonalities and it was nice to hear what is going on in other cities and to get input. The URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) is working hard to improve itself and to offer more, better services that are easier to access. Our URJ president, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, is truly impressive – a visionary who is passionate, enthusiastic and dedicated to Reform Judaism. We had a conference call with URJ board chair Steve Sacks. Much of that discussion was about the restructuring of MUM (Maintenance of Union Membership) dues. Many of you have served on the Temple board and are familiar with the current system, which, as some say, makes the IRS code look simple. At any rate, it is being changed to be simpler and more fair. Another decision that has been made is to stop publishing the quarterly magazine *Reform Judaism*. It is felt that this excellent publication is no longer topical in today's world and URJ is working to have more effective communication with its more than 850 congregations in North America. It was stressed that URJ, like Montgomery, is a community. It is a community of 850+ congregations, but it actually does many other things like: representing Israel, rallies to support others in times of crisis and tragedy, provides student rabbis who serve many communities and provides Jewish camping opportunities (the number of camp is growing).

I have heard several times from URJ the term “audacious hospitality,” i.e. excessively wonderful. This applies to how we interact with each other and any guest who chooses to come to any service, program or event at Temple Beth Or. Our hospitality may connect with someone who is searching, comfort someone who is in need or inspire someone who is unengaged. It is the responsibility of EACH of us to be ambassadors. As probably all of you know dues, especially in large cities, may be a barrier to membership. The concept of needing a ticket for a High Holiday service is something totally foreign to us. I ask you to help with hospitality and recruitment because we in Montgomery are a family and dues will never be a barrier to someone who wants to be a part of our family. Anyone who would like to attend services once (just High Holiday) or often is welcome. It is true that so much can be found on the Internet, but what cannot be found there is warmth, caring, belonging and support. That is what Temple Beth Or proudly offers.

We are really getting close to the completion of installation of the new HVAC system. It has been an ordeal, but the people from AMCO have been fabulous! They are professional, extremely respectful and very thorough. Some things still have to be tweaked, but we can already tell a positive difference in the building. I must thank two special people who have gone above and beyond during this process. Jamie Loeb has followed this project through from beginning to end and has been constantly available and worked closely with AMCO and the engineer for many months. Jamie has

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**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.

**CARING COMMITTEE**

**In Honor of Alan Weil, Sr.**

Bette Sue and Charles Strasburger

**In Memory of Beatrice Yellin**

Aimee and Scott Harris

Bette Sue and Charles Strasburger

Shirley Beringer

**In Memory of Betty Bloom**

Bette Sue and Charles Strasburger

**CAROL HART**

**EDUCATIONAL FUND**

**Mazel Tov to Carol Hart**

**on the Big Birthday!**

Peggy Cohn

**In Memory of Beatrice Yellin**

**In Memory of Seymour Gitenstein**

Carol L. Hart

**FLORAL FUND**

**In Memory of Beatrice Yellin**

Frances and Ralph Capouya

Joan Hanan

**In Memory of Rose Newhouse**

Felice Cohen

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**In Memory of Beatrice Yellin**

Hanna Berger

Lisa, Ward and Nora Newcomb

Peggy Cohn

Robin and Jeff Blitz

Sandi and Allen Stern

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Or

With heartfelt appreciation for the blessings to Norman during his two years with our Temple Beth Or family

Harriette Dorosin

**In Loving Memory of Max Dorosin and Virginia Dorosin, Norman's Parents**

Parents

Harriette Dorosin

**In Memory of Stephen Tamor, Brother of my Friend Lucille Goldsmith**

Goldsmith

Harriette Dorosin

**GENERAL FUND**

**On the Yahrzeit of**

**Adolph Bucks Weil, Jr.**

Dr. Laurie J. Weil and

Dr. Tommy Wool

**In Memory of Arthur Beringer, Jr., Nellie Beringer and Mose Brownstein**

Betty, Bob and Erik Goldberg

**In Memory of Beatrice Yellin**

Alison and Greg Williamson

Dr. Laurie J. Weil and

Dr. Tommy Wool

Gene and Jean Harris

Kathie and Raymond Cohen

Lucille and Alan Goldsmith

Marlene and Rick Beringer

Mrs. Joyce Strassburger

**In Memory of Betty Bloom**

Adrienne Brendle

Betty Jo Goldstein

David, Michael and Raymond Cohen

Harriette Dorosin

Linda Horwitz

Marlene and Rick Beringer

Martha Tyson

Mary Lynne Levy

Mike and Maxine Goldner

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Holtsford, Jr.

Owen and Loree Aronov

Robin and Jeff Blitz

Tim and Debbie McInnis

**On the Yahrzeit of Louis**

**Charles Neumann**

Susan and Joe Finklestein

**Happy Hanukah and a Happy, Healthy New Year Mr. and Mrs.**

**Richard Hanan**

Sandra and Alan Berman

**SOCIAL CONCERNS**

**For the beautiful spirit and grace of Eileen Knott**

Harriette Dorosin

**YOUTH AND SCHOLARSHIP**

**In memory of Beatrice Yellin**

Harriette Dorosin

JAN BIRTHDAYS

- 3 ..... Jim Sumner
- 4 ..... Joe Levin
- 5 ..... Lois Weissman
- 6 ..... Peggy Mussafer
- 7 ..... Ruth Rosenthal
- 7 ..... Sheryl Rosen
- 9 ..... Cynthia Graham
- 10 ..... Phillip Golomb M.D.
- 10 ..... Bette Sue Strasburger
- 12 ..... Elizabeth Weinrib
- 13 ..... Nikki Rothschild
- 14 ..... Richard Hanan
- 17 ..... Gabriele Darch
- 18 ..... Elise Toney
- 20 ..... Pam Weil
- 22 ..... Monica Kohn
- 22 ..... Carolyn Rothschild
- 23 ..... Rita Sabel
- 24 ..... Lila Franco
- 26 ..... Herman Franco
- 27 ..... Deanna Sumner
- 28 ..... Diane Weil
- 30 ..... Maxine Goldner

JAN ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 .....Jeff & Robin Blitz
- 17 .....Larry & Corinne Capilouto



**FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICES**  
especially for babies, toddlers, kids, moms, dads and grandparents too!

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

- December 12
- January 9
- February 13
- March 20
- May 15

**Birthday and Anniversary Blessings on January 9th.**

## YAHREZEITS

### To be read 1/2/2015

Sylvan Robert Cohn  
Sylvan Ives  
Bernice Loeb Levy  
Elise F. Shwartz

### To be read 1/9/2015

Diane Dreyfus Abraham  
Hermann Berger  
Arthur B. Beringer, Jr.  
Gilson Capilouto  
Hobbie Freehling  
Sophie Oppenheimer Hertz  
Morris Levy  
Myron C. Lobman, Jr.  
Carol W. Rothschild  
Adolph Weil, Sr.

### To be read 1/16/2015

Bertha S. Abraham  
Simon Hertz  
Dr. Aviva Hoffman  
Clara G. Mussafer  
Ben Neuman  
Bert C. Weil, Sr.

### To be read 1/23/2015

Albert Capp  
Eli Cohen  
Jake Feinman  
David R. Franco  
Eli Hanan  
Joseph Hanchrow  
Irma Levy  
Myrtle Kaufman Loeb  
Faye Levinson Shum

### To be read 1/30/2015

Albert Abraham  
Henry L. Abraham  
Rabbi Eugene Blachschleger  
Isaac Cohen  
Betty Coleman  
Irma Endel Spitzer

## SISTERHOOD

What a wonderful Chanukah service and dinner we had with over 80 people attending. Susan Finklestein, Jean Schloss, Mandy Kaufman, and Karen Lieberman decorated our festive tables and Celia Dubin entertained the children with Chanukah crafts to eat and take home. Susan Bernstein and company made sure that the latkes were plentiful and of course delicious. Many thanks to Rabbi Stevens for teaching and sharing the Chanukah story and leading us in song.

Join us January 30th for Sisterhood Shabbat. Our guest speaker will be Susan Watson, the Executive Director of the ACLU of Alabama. Sisterhood members will participate in the service. Turia Stark Williams will be on the Bimah and I know you don't want to miss the opportunity to hear Turia sing. A wine and cheese reception will precede the service at 5:15 p.m. Sisterhood Shabbat is a time to recognize the women who continually work to make sure it all gets done.

I encourage those who want to be involved to do so. We have lots of fun and new friendships have evolved. Please let me know your interest. I look forward to seeing you and wish you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2015.

Karen Goldstein  
Sisterhood President

## FROM THE LIBRARY

It has been a while since we highlighted the magazine and newspaper subscriptions the temple library carries. Here's a list of what you can find:

*Forward*: Founded in the late 1800s originally as a Yiddish newspaper (today it is published both in Yiddish and English), *Forward* is considered a publication with a more liberal leaning in its commentary and analysis. Its companion web site at <http://www.forward.com>, provides access to both English and

Yiddish editions. National and international coverage of issues is provided.

*Tikkun*: The title provides the reader good insight into the scope of this magazine. Tikkun = to mend, repair, and transform the world. (<http://www.tikkun.org>)

*Reform Judaism*: Is a quarterly publication of the Union for Reform Judaism and strives to convey the creativity, diversity, and dynamism of Reform Judaism. The magazine "... covers developments within (the Reform) movement while interpreting world events and Jewish tradition from a Reform perspective." *Reform Judaism's* web site can be found at <http://www.reformjudaismmag.org>.

*Southern Jewish Life*: The magazine focuses on Jewish life in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and northwest Florida. <http://www.sjlmag.com/>

*Biblical Archaeology Review*: This is the magazine of the Biblical Archaeology Society, which was founded in 1974 as a nondenominational, non-profit organization dedicated to education on archaeological sites in the "Bible lands." [www.biblicalarchaeology.org](http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org)

*Intelligence Report*: The magazine of the Southern Poverty Law Center. <http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-report>

*River Region Living* (formerly *Montgomery Living*). <http://www.riverregion.net/>

Eric A. Kidwell, MLS

guided and watched over this project and we are all grateful to him. Gina and Marlon have also been critical and have been so helpful, but Gina has been incredible – here on her days off, opening the building very early, staying as needed and doing whatever necessary so the guys could work and get the job done. This was especially true getting ready for the joint Thanksgiving service. Gina and Jamie – your dedication to Temple Beth Or is greatly appreciated.

It is absolutely my great pleasure to inform you that the board offered and Rabbi Elliot Stevens has accepted a new contract for three years. Elliot is a tremendous asset to Temple Beth Or and to Montgomery. He is a pleasure to work with and I am personally thrilled! What a great start to the New Year.

Wishing you a very happy, healthy and wonderful 2015



Agudath Israel  
☆  
Etz Ahayem  
Adult Education



**Introduction to Judaism \* 6 PM**

- January 8 – Ancient Jewish history & literature
- January 15 – Rabbinic literature in its historical context
- January 29 – The Jewish calendar

Friday • January 30 • 6 PM

Sisterhood Shabbat

A wine and cheese precedes the service at 5:15 PM. Service will include guest speaker, Susan Watson, the Executive Director of the ACLU of Alabama and soloist, Turia Stark Williams



L'Chaim League Event Open to All

On Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Or, the L'Chaim League will host our Shaliach, Barak Levy as he entertains us with a singing performance of both English and Hebrew songs.

If you haven't had the pleasure of hearing Barak sing, now is your chance to enjoy an amazing afternoon of entertainment. Bring your friends, there is no charge for this event, and it is open to the Jewish Community.



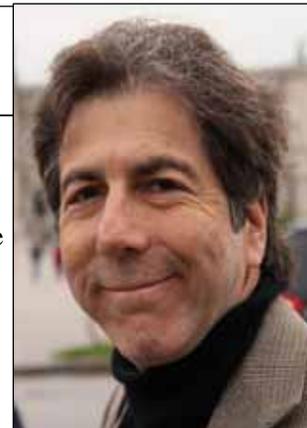
Refreshments will be served.  
RSVP's appreciated :

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



Rabbi Elliot Stevens and wife Sandy Lynn were in Selma on Dec. 14 at a reception honoring Seymour Cohn on his 100th birthday on Dec. 16. Other Beth Or members drove over from Montgomery to salute Seymour, a World War II veteran and community volunteer in Selma. He and June have been Beth Or members for many years.

AUTHOR STEVEN PRESSMAN TO SPEAK AT TBO  
 Program set for Thursday evening, January 15 • 7 PM



**An Amazon Best Book of the Month, May 2014:** If you missed the highly praised HBO documentary *50 Children*, you can get the whole story from this chronicle by journalist Steven Pressman, who also wrote, directed, and produced the film. Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus were typical members of an affluent, educated Jewish community in Philadelphia in the 1930s; Gilbert was a lawyer, and Eleanor a bit of a shopaholic. Worried about what they were hearing from Europe by 1939, the Krauses set out to travel to Austria

and Germany to save Jewish children from the advancing Nazis; they were not particularly religious or political and this was not an easy task in an era plagued by anti-Semitism and isolationism. But through careful readings of the law, loopholes in the visa-granting system, and plain old bravery, the Krauses managed to bring more than 4 dozen children to safety in the United States. Pressman, the Krauses' grandson-in-law, used Eleanor Kraus's unpublished diaries as well as photographs, documents, and interviews

to recreate a historical moment and a heroic act. Like Oskar Schindler and his list, the Krauses and their 50 children will now never be forgotten. The program is sponsored by the Temple's Rothschild-Blachschleger Lecture and Culture Fund.

*Rabbi Stevens's View from the Pulpit, continued from cover*

offered at any price.

- The more you rehearse anything, the more deadly it becomes. Besides, people make just as many gaffes anyway.
- A gimmick is a way to get someone to attend services that has nothing to do with the service. It is hardly surprising therefore that people who have come to watch some officers be installed or someone get honored or birthday blessed or a third grade class perform or whatever will spend most of the rest of the time during the service sleeping or looking like he or she is sucking lemons.
- There are three reasons why you should never conduct a congregational survey about anything: First, the people you're surveying don't know what they want (if they did, you'd already know it, too). Second, if you ask them what they want, you'll only get stuck having to do what they say. And finally, even if you give them what they say they want, they won't come anyway.
- Worry about your own religious problems. If someone is trying to do something religious you don't like, assume he or she has some secret, holy reason unbeknownst to you.
- Our tolerance for forms of religious expression we disagree with is a precise barometer of our own spiritual security.
- And now the good news: You cannot wreck the congregation. No one can wreck a congregation. If you fired the staff, torched the building and sold all its assets, next Rosh Hashanah most of the congregation would show up in the field – and most of them would have a pretty good *Yontif*. Even if there were no rabbi, about half would like his or her sermon and half would think it was drivel; half would love the music and half would wish it were more like what they grew up with.



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US  
 AS OUR DAUGHTER

וְתַאֲחֻצָּה

IS CALLED TO THE TORAH AS A BAT MITZVAH

SATURDAY, THE 24th OF JANUARY,  
 TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN AT TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

TEMPLE BETH OR, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA  
 LUNCHEON FOLLOWING SERVICES

] תְּאִיָּהּ תְּחַו וְתִעָּהּ עֲשֵׂה

- You must protect people who have no social clout because the health of a congregation is measured by its ability to tolerate dweebs.
- Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups.
- Make up a good lie about the congregation and tell it to anyone who will listen. Tell it in sermons, in classes, at meetings, in the bulletin, at social gatherings, during chance encounters. I don't mean the kind of fluff that winds up on a mission statement. I mean a noble prevarication: We are a congregation of spiritual anarchists; our members understand that quality costs more money; our congregation caters to intellectual Jews. Of course it's all balderdash and bunkum, but after a few years people will try to live up to it anyway. This is called leadership.
- A spiritually mature community is one that helps its members learn how to give and receive love.

Elliot L. Stevens

## Wave of Terror - Barak Levy, Shaliach



The state of Israel is 67 years old this upcoming April. In state years, we are talking about a baby country that just started

walking. Israel has 8,238,300 citizens according to the records of 2014. It is a small country, that makes so much noise in the world's media – a small country who didn't find out yet what kind of country she wants to be.

We are standing before new elections in Israel, set for next March. This election will define the character of the state, for good - or worse. Israel has been struggling with defining herself and therefore every parliament ("Knesset") in Israel won't survive for long, but now, for this election I believe that Israel will finally understand what kind of country she will become.

Until now Israel has defined herself as a "Jewish and Democratic state." Anyone will agree that this definition is too hard to accomplish. How can Israel be Jewish and still being democratic to all her citizens at the same time? The question which arises is: If Israel will be only

Jewish the democracy will get hurt. All the rights of the citizens who aren't Jewish will get hurt from that act. On the other hand, if Israel will stop being Jewish, what is the point of having Israel as the Jewish land? We can let go of the Jewish value of our beloved Israel.

Until now the Constitution of Israel is the "Israeli Declaration of Independence," a form that continues the declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel. In that form, Israel considers itself as a democratic state, and has taken on herself to give all her citizens the same rights – no matter who are you or where you can from, what's your color and with who you choose to share your life with, man or a woman. Israel tries to be pluralistic enough to let every citizen live his life in his way through the strong Jewish values that Israel has.

I wonder what will happen if Israel will stop being a Jewish state. Let's not forget that Israel is not only the home for the Israeli citizens within her, Israel is the official home for Jews all over the world. We cannot let such a terrible thing happen. Israel needs to stay Jewish no matter what. We worked and fought too hard for having this place in the world, and we need to make sure that

our future is sealed in Israel.

But what can we do with the Palestinians that ask recognition as a state? What should we do with the minorities within Israel that aren't Jewish? How can they feel part of a country that is going to be Jewish and leave them outside of the society, without keeping their full rights? What would the world media say about such an act?

It looks like the 2015 election is going to decide the future of Israel. It seems like after the terrible things that happened last summer in Israel (The kidnapping of the three Jewish kids, the "Protective Edge" operation) most of the people in Israel have the feeling that they are too tired to fight back and be always caring about the world media. And there are some people who just want to live their lives safely without being in a constant fear so they don't mind giving up in order to bring peace. I believe the right wing will get even stronger this election, but right now we can only wait and see. Israel is not only my home, but the home of us all. We should keep supporting Israel and be strong, because together we have the power to remain one.

### *Cafe Israel*

Tuesday, January 13, 7:00 p.m.

Temple Beth Or

### **Israeli Music**

Israeli music has developed and changed a great deal since 1948. From the hora to "Oriental Israeli," to rock music to opera at the new Opera House in Tel Aviv, Israel has changed her musical skin many times. Please join me for an evening of exploration as we examine some of the main songs and artists that have symbolized Israel throughout her history.

Yours,  
*Barak Levy, Shaliach*

**Susan Bernstein-Latke Queen**



## 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 MYSTICISM, and JEWISH SEXUAL VALUES.

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

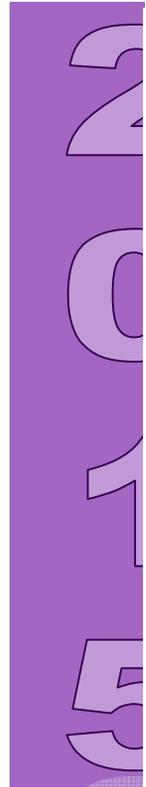
### CLASS III: INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH MYSTICISM

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.

#### Upcoming classes:

|                    |            |                                  |
|--------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Tuesday 1/6.....   | Noon ..... | Mysticism I, Biblical            |
| Tuesday 1/20.....  | Noon ..... | Mysticism II, Early Kabbalah     |
| Tuesday, 2/3.....  | Noon ..... | Mysticism III, Lurianic Kabbalah |
| Tuesday, 2/17..... | Noon ..... | Mysticism IV, Zohar              |
| Tuesday, 3/3.....  | Noon ..... | Mysticism V, Hassidism           |
| Tuesday, 3/17..... | Noon ..... | Mysticism VI, Modern Mysticism   |

Happy!



## Future Events

**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.

**Friday, February 20, 6 PM, Shabbat service.** Turia Stark Williams will sing from the bimah. Congregational Shabbat Dinner following Service.

**Saturday, February 21, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with**

Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served.

**Sunday, February 22, 9 AM - 3 PM, 2015: Temple Beth Or's 12th Annual Food Festival.**

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

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

**Tuesday, March 3, Noon, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on "Hassidic Mysticism."

**Wednesday, March 4, 6 PM, Purim Service - Costumes (adults, too!), Purim Pranks, the famous Megillah and Hamentaschen! In the TBO Library.**

**Friday, March 13, 6 PM, Huntingdon College Night Shabbat Service and reception.**

**Tuesday, March 17, Noon, ADULT EDUCATION:** Rabbi's class on "Contemporary Jewish Mysticism."

**Thursday, March 19, 6:30 PM, JFCA's Shaliach, Barak Levy shows a movie at Temple Beth Or. "The Band" is an Israeli comedic musical, first shown in April 1978, about an army singing group in 1968.**

**Friday, March 20, 5 PM, Family Chavurah "Tot" Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.**

**Saturday, March 21, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served.**

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

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

**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.**

Mark the date!

**TBO 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Food Festival & Treasure Market**  
**Sunday, February 22, 2015**  
**9:00 AM until 2:00 PM**

We are requesting that each Temple member contact Karen to participate or volunteer to work on the day of the Festival if you have not already done so. To volunteer, you may complete the form on the reverse side and leave at the office or contact **Karen Goldstein:** [kackaboo@gmail.com](mailto:kackaboo@gmail.com) or 265-1145. We urge you to get involved and be a part of this energized group of Temple members!



The Treasure/Collectible Market is still accepting the following items for the 2015 event. **The deadline for donating items is Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.** Remember, all donations are tax deductible. Forms are available at the TBO office.

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

Please make sure each item is clean, in working order and that the cords, parts, etc. parts are attached. Please donate large television boxes to another charity of your choice. Pick up service is not available.

We sincerely appreciate everyone that has already volunteered and been working on this event! If you are unable to participate, we welcome your donation. Please make your check payable to Temple Beth Or and note Food Festival on the check.

Thank you,

Jenny Ives  
2015 Food Festival Chair

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

# 2014 Food Festival Sponsors

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# Volunteer Now for Temple Beth Or's Twelfth Annual Jewish Food Festival and Treasure Market

Please select the items which interest you and which shift you prefer:

**Starting now and during the next few months:**

- Putting up signs
- Being a guest on radio/television shows



**Week of:**

- Helping in kitchen on Tuesday
- Helping in kitchen on Wednesday
- Helping in kitchen on Thursday
- Helping in kitchen on Friday
- Helping package bakery on Saturday

|                             |                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>First Shift</b>          | <b>Second Shift</b>         | <b>All</b>        |
| <b><u>8:30 to 12:00</u></b> | <b><u>11:45 to 3:00</u></b> | <b><u>Day</u></b> |

**Day of:**

- |   |       |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selling tickets at table       | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selling tickets-walking around | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selling cookbooks              | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selling in the bakery          | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving lunch                  | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping in the Treasure Market | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean-up                       | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with anything needed      | _____ | _____ | _____ |

We need your items for the Treasure Market and the Collectible Market. Please deliver to the Temple, Tuesday thru Friday and specify if for Treasure Market or Collectible room.

Contact Pat Dees at 399-1212 if you have any questions.

**Please mail or drop this form off at the Temple office as soon as possible.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**All proceeds benefit the Temple General Fund.**

2246 Narrow Lane Road § Montgomery, Alabama 36106 § (334) 262-3314

**Sunday, February 22, 2015**

**9 AM - 3 PM**

Detach at the crease to mail. Fold, seal and stamp and it's ready to go.

# January 2015

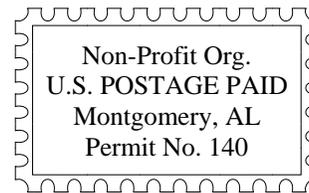
Want an updated look at what's going on at Temple? Go to [www.templebethor.net](http://www.templebethor.net).

| Sun  | Mon | Tue  | Wed | Thu   | Fri   | Sat   |
|--|-----|--|-----|---|---|---|
|  |     |  |     | 1<br><br>CLOSED FOR<br>NEW YEARS  | 2   | 3   |
| 4<br><br><i>No School - Winter<br/>Break</i>                               | 5   | 6<br><br><i>Noon, ADULT<br/>EDUCATION:<br/>Rabbi's class on<br/>"Mysticism in the<br/>Bible."</i>  | 7   | 8   | 9<br><br><i>5 PM, Tot Shabbat<br/>service in the<br/>Blachschleger<br/>Library</i><br><br><i>6 PM, Shabbat<br/>service.</i>                         | 10  |
| 11<br><br><i>9:30 AM, Kol Ami<br/>Religious School,<br/>Temple Beth Or</i> | 12  | 13<br><br><i>7 PM, JFCA's<br/>Sh'lichah's Café<br/>Israel at TBO<br/>hosted by Barak<br/>Levy. Topic: Israeli<br/>Music.</i>   | 14  | 15<br><br><i>7 PM, Guest<br/>Speaker: Steven<br/>Pressman, author<br/>RESCUE<br/>MISSION INTO<br/>THE HEART OF<br/>NAZI GERMANY.<br/>Sponsored by the<br/>Rothschild-<br/>Blachschleger</i> | 16  | 17  |
| 18<br><br><i>No School - MLK<br/>Holiday Weekend,</i>                      | 19  | 20<br><br><i>Noon, ADULT<br/>EDUCATION:<br/>Rabbi's class on<br/>"Early Kabbalah."<br/><br/>2 PM, L'Chaim<br/>League event with<br/>Shaliach, Barak<br/>Levy at TBO.</i> | 21  | 22<br><br><i>6:30 PM, Israeli<br/>movie night at<br/>Agudath<br/>Israel*Etz<br/>Ahayem, hosted by<br/>JFCA Schaliach,<br/>Barak Levy.</i>   | 23  | 24<br><br><i>10 AM, Catherine<br/>Loeb's Bat<br/>Mitzvah.</i> |
| 25<br><br><i>9:30 AM, Kol Ami<br/>Religious School,<br/>Temple Beth Or</i> | 26  | 27<br><br><i>5:45 PM, Temple<br/>Beth Or Board<br/>Meeting.</i>  | 28  | 29  | 30<br><br><i>5:15, Wine and<br/>Cheese Reception</i><br><br><i>6 PM, Sisterhood<br/>Shabbat. reception<br/>will precede<br/>service at 5:15 PM.</i> | 31  |

# Kahl Montgomery—Temple Beth Or

2246 Narrow Lane Road  
Montgomery, AL 36106

January 2015 Bulletin



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.templebethor.net

## 2015 Food Festival Cooking Schedule

Cooking time begins at 9 AM unless otherwise noted. Time and dates are subject to change so please call the Temple to confirm times.

\* - denotes that date is reserved on an "if needed" basis.

|                 |                      |   |
|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| January 3.....  | Rugelach set-up..... | Sharon Berry, 290-0445/daberry40@netscape.net |
| January 4.....  | Rugelach .....       | Sharon Berry, 290-0445/daberry40@netscape.net |
| January 10..... | Rugelach set-up..... | Sharon Berry, 290-0445/daberry40@netscape.net |
| January 11..... | Rugelach .....       | Sharon Berry, 290-0445/daberry40@netscape.net |
| February 2..... | Praline Matzah ..... | Diane Weil, 324-7550/dianeweil@me.com         |

Kol Ami  
Religious School

Temple Beth Or

1/11  
1/25  
2/1 Tu B'Shevat  
2/8  
3/1  
3/8  
3/15 Model Seder

## Holiday Hours and Information

Gina Friday will be on vacation from December 25 and will return to work on Tuesday, January 6th. All efforts will be made to keep the office open and the phones staffed during her absence.

Temple will be closed on Thursday January 1st for New Year's Day.