

Temple Beth Or Bulletin

A VIEW FROM THE BIMAH

March 2015 ~ Adar/Nisan 5775



PREJUDICE TO PROMISE: REIMAGINING THE BLACK-JEWISH COALITION

This past month, as part of this year's commemorative events on the 50th anniversary of the march from Selma, I co-led a program at AUM on the history of the Black-Jewish "coalition" during the Civil Rights Era. My co-presenter was Father Manuel Williams of Resurrection Catholic Missions, and the program at AUM was sponsored by their Department of Cultural Affairs. The program was well received, and I've decided to share some excerpts below:

The notion of a Black-Jewish coalition derives from our perceptions of a shared historical experience. Both Blacks and Jews, it has been said, have known Egypt. We have both known slavery, humiliation, exclusion, vilification, the demeaning status of being social pariahs, and murder. We Jews celebrate May Chanukah as a joyous holiday, our Festival of Lights; but at its origin Chanukah derived from an invader's attempt, more than 2,000 years ago, to wipe our community out, both politically and religiously, with unimaginable brutality the likes of which were repeated for century upon century of our history, right through the Crusades and the Holocaust. Yes, both Jews and Blacks have known Egypt, and making common cause today makes a lot of sense. One rabbi, an historian named Arthur Hertzberg, described our peoples as sharing the "comradship of excluded peoples."

And it is true, over the years, that many Jews did naturally empathize with the plight of blacks.

Jewish newspapers in the early 20th century compared the Black movement out of the South to the exodus from Egypt. Jewish newspapers ran articles noting that blacks and Jews had lived in ghettos. When Leo Frank, a Jew, was lynched in Georgia in 1915 by a mob of southerners after he was convicted of rape and murder – probably falsely – his case became an infamous symbol of attitudes that were deeply anti-Semitic; but his lynching – being similar to lynchings of blacks by southern racists – led to a sense of common cause among Blacks and Jews.

Throughout the early 20th century, Jewish publications and organizations expended time, influence and economic resources for black endeavors – civil rights, philanthropy, social services and organizing. Julius Rosenwald was a Jewish philanthropist who donated a large part of his fortune to supporting education of blacks in the south. A number of the schools he founded, including here in Montgomery, continue on today as community centers. Jews played a major role in founding the NAACP in 1909, and a number of early leaders, including the NAACP's first chairman, were Jewish.

Here in Montgomery, many Jews lived or had businesses in black areas of the city, notably around Monroe Street where there were black theaters and restaurants, and in West Montgomery as well. Blacks found that they were treated with respect in the "Jew stores" and had no problems doing business in stores owned by Jews.

Blacks in turn drew upon the Jewish experience. They sang spirituals such as "Go Down Moses." Look at how many black churches use the name "Zion" in their names.

The real "Golden Age" was after WW II. Nationally, Black and Jewish leaders joined in an effective

movement for racial equality; Jews supported and led many national civil rights organizations. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was written in the conference room of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, American premier Jewish institution working for social justice.

A disproportionate number of white civil rights activists were Jewish, moved by core Jewish values of helping those in need to achieve social and economic justice. Jewish agencies engaged with their African American counterparts in a more sustained and fundamental way than did other white groups largely because their understanding of Jewish values and Jewish self-interest pushed them in that direction.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of the 20th century's great rabbis and Jewish philosophers, marched with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the Selma civil rights march. Sixteen Jewish leaders were arrested while heeding a call from King in St. Augustine, Florida in June, 1964, where the largest mass arrest of rabbis in American history took place at the Monson Motor Lodge. Northern Jews often supported integration in their communities and schools, even at the risk of diluting their close-knit Jewish communities.

In the summer of 1964, "Freedom Summer," many northern Jews traveled south to participate in voter registration efforts. Two, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner and James Chaney, a black activist, were murdered by the Ku Klux Klan near Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Yet if we're going to take an honest look at our history, we must ask this question: Was the "Golden Age" real, or has it become just a romantic

continued on page 10

**Celebrating Our
162nd Year**



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

Temple Beth Or Officers

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

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In 2004 we tried something new – the Jewish Food Festival and Treasure Market – and a tradition was born. That year the entire thing was housed in the social hall with the Treasure Market on the stage – it was very cozy. We were novices, but it was a BIG success. Since then it has been tweaked and evolved into a major event for Temple Beth Or. I continue to be amazed by two things: the Food Festival brings our Temple family together on the last Sunday in February like nothing else during the year and there has been overwhelming support from the Montgomery community for **twelve** years. Our Food Festival gives us the opportunity for truly wonderful community outreach and it is such a pleasure to have several hundred neighbors come by for lunch.

As always, our Temple family answers the call. You show up on Food Festival day in amazing numbers and warmly welcome our guests. It is a truly enjoyable day. Before the actual day there is a small dedicated core of volunteers that give countless hours of their time to arrange donated items, bake, cook, set up and much more. After all these years, the Food Festival runs like a well oiled machine, but there would not be a Food Festival without these incredible people who are so committed to Temple Beth Or. Some have been doing the same job from the very beginning, others have done different big jobs and we have some new people this year who have been fabulous! You know who you are and I am not listing names because I would unintentionally leave someone out, but I sincerely thank you. I do want to thank Jenny Ives who has chaired the Food Festival for multiple years. This is a labor of love for her and we are the beneficiaries. Three other people are critical to the success of the event and it simply would not happen without Rabbi Stevens, Gina Friday and Marlon Cotton. THANK YOU!

This year we fretted over the weather report and prepared as best we could with additional seating elsewhere in the building. It was really stressful, especially since there was no Plan B, but we have been incredibly fortunate with our weather (except 2006 when it was tornado weather!) and today turned out just fine. It rained a little, but we had people eating brisket plates at 9:15 and it continued from there. Makes me think we are doing something right J.

We are always trying to improve the Food Festival and I welcome your suggestions and comments. Even little changes can make a big difference. Please feel free to email me dianeweil@me.com or call me at 279-6211. If you would like to be more involved next year I would love to hear from you!

I hope by now you have gotten your Temple directory. Marlene Beringer took this project on and did a beautiful job, so many, many thanks to her for making this happen. We appreciate it very much. I would also like to thank our Sisterhood for taking care of all the costs. Once again, Sisterhood was there to support our congregation.

L'shalom

**Birthday and
Anniversary
Blessings on
March 6.**

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.

BLACHSCHLEGER LIBRARY

In Memory of Betty Coleman and Rabbi Blachschleger

Stephen Coleman

In Memory of Carol Hart

In Memory of Felice Cohen

In Memory of Herbert F. Jim Levy

In Memory of Jimmy Loeb

In Memory of Samuel Schloss

Jane F. Rothschild & Mario Castura

BLANCHE WINTER FUND

In Memory of Carol Hart

In Memory of Dan Blitz

Gay and Irving Winter

CAROL L. HART

EDUCATIONAL FUND

In Memory of Betty Bloom

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Or

In Memory of Felice Hanan Cohen

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Or

Speedy Recovery Bob Goldberg

Shirley Beringer

In Memory of Carol Hart

Alan and Diane Weil

Anita and Bob Reznikoff

Anna and Seymour Gitenstein Foundation

April Deal

Bess Bayme Cotton

Bobby Weil

Charlotte and Joe Mussafer

Cohen, Pollock, Merlin & Small

Dr. Laurie J. Weil and

Dr. Tommy Wool

Elaine and Jerry Blumenthal

Eve Duncan

Eve Loeb

Gita and Steve Berman & Family

Jacqueline and Alan Granath

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Kathie and Raymond Cohen

Kathy and Brian Levitt

Lillian C. Renert

Lisa and Andy Weil

Lucille and Alan Goldsmith

Marlene and Rick Beringer

Mary and Harvey Klehr

Mary Lynne Levy

Micki Beth Stiller

Nancy and Marshall Levine

Paula L. Cantor

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Peggy Cohn

Robin and Jeff Blitz

Sally and Alan Pinsker

Alice & Rick Arogeti

Dana and Greg Averbuch

Sally and Phil Kaplan

Sandy and Bob London

Shirley Beringer

Shirley Moser Marshall

Susan and Joe Finklestein

Tobyanne and Arnold Sidman

Vicki and Allen Filstein

In Memory of Dan Blitz

Kathie and Raymond Cohen

In Memory of Felice Cohen

Peggy Cohn

Susan and Joe Finklestein

In Memory of Morris Levy,

Beatrice Feinberg Levy,

Sylvan Robert Cohn

Peggy Cohn

CONTINGENCY FUND

In Memory of Felice Hanan Cohen

Alan and Diane Weil

FLORAL FUND

In Memory of Betty Bloom

Jane F. Rothschild & Mario Castura

In Memory of Carol Hart

Lynne and Pete Ginsburg

In Memory of Dan Blitz

Charlotte and Joe Mussafer

Frances and Ralph Capouya

Lynne and Pete Ginsburg

Happy Birthday Diane Weil

Lisa and Andy Weil

In Memory of Elizabeth Weil Oberdorfer

Charlotte and Joe Mussafer

Jane F. Rothschild & Mario Castura

Lisa and Andy Weil

In Memory of Felice Cohen

Alice B. Diamond

Bobby and Michael Seligman

Charlotte and Joe Mussafer

Dale and Olan Evans

Dorothy B. Shiland

Elaine Witt and Michael Sznajderman

Frances and Ralph Capouya

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Kathie and Raymond Cohen

Lisa and Andy Weil

Lynne and Pete Ginsburg

Michael and Rochelle Koslin

Mrs. Churchill Marks

Myron J. Page

Pauline C. Witt

Pearl C. Hasson

Robin and Jeff Blitz

Tricia Wool and Ed Munson

In Memory of Felice and Isaac Cohen

Betty and Prosper Ziri

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Betty Bloom

Tommy Potts

In Memory of Dan Blitz

John and Pat Moorehouse

PRAYERBOOK FUND

Bookplate: In Memory of Carol Hart

Past Sisterhood President

Temple Beth Or Sisterhood

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of Rabbi Elliot Stevens 40th

Year in the Rabbinate

Charlotte and Joe Mussafer

In Memory of Felice Cohen

Lisa, Ward and Nora Newcomb

Micki Beth Stiller

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of my mother

Roslyn F. Eagle

Judy E. Appel

YOUTH AND

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Honor of Catherine Loeb's

Bat Mitzvah

James H. Levy and Mary Lynne Levy

Recent Death

Carol Lobman Hart ז"ל

February 3, 2015



Mother of Michal, Alice,
Julian and Van

Recent Death

Harold (Bo) Bowman Blach, III ז"ל

February 14, 2015



Brother of Lisa B. Weil

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Kelly Capouya
- 3 Tommy Wool
- 4 Bob Sommer
- 6 Eve Duncan
- 6 Corinne Capilouto
- 6 Anna Bern
- 7 Robin Blitz
- 7 Laurie Weil
- 8 Akiko Bloom
- 10 Betty Loeb
- 15 Karen Goldstein
- 15 Michael Capilouto
- 16 John Crews
- 16 Myrna Rothfeder
- 19 Ira Weil
- 20 Philip Bernstein Jr.
- 22 Sorrelle Golomb
- 22 Gracie Hanchrow
- 23 Jeff McKinney
- 23 Sharon McDaniel
- 24 Clare Weil
- 29 Beverly Bolen
- 30 Peggy Cohn
- 31 Diana Lacey
- 31 Celia Wool
- 31 Lee Hanan

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 6..... Robert & Alison Berman
- 8..... Richard & Jeanette Hanan
- 8..... Tommy Wool & Laurie Weil
- 14..... Charles & Bette Sue
Strasburger
- 18..... Daniel & Rosalind Markstein
- 23..... Ward & Lisa Newcomb
- 24..... David & Beverly Lipton



YAHARZEITS

To be read 3/6/2015

- Dr. I. E. Capilouto
- Dr. Howard J. Goldstein
- Annie Golomb
- Raymond and Helen Goodman
- Bessie Moscovitz
- Simon Nyman
- Alan Rice
- Richard Adler Rothschild
- Janis Sabel
- Leo K. Shwarts
- Ann Tillinger

To be read 3/13/2015

- Clare Burke
- Alex Jacob Cohn
- H. Van E. Hart
- Bernice Schulwolf

To be read 3/20/2015

- Jay Coleman
- Natalie Moster Davis
- Roslyn Eagle
- Van Eaton Hart
- Alphonse Levy
- Benjamin Sheftall
- Susie Neumann Warren
- Cheryl Rothfeder Zindler

To be read 3/27/2015

- Mathilda I. Cohen
- Mildred Ginsburg
- Walker Hobbie, Jr.
- Dorothy L. Klein
- Beatrice (Dee Dee) Kohn
- Myron C. Lobman
- Evelyn Richard Loeb
- Regina Kahn Loeb
- Bert Worth

SISTERHOOD

Another successful Food Festival is in the books as we greet the month of March. Wednesday March 4 is our Purim festival. Wear your costumes and come enjoy some Hamentaschen. Friday March 13 is our annual Huntingdon College Night. Please come welcome our friends to the Temple and greet them at the reception following services. Sisterhood will host a first night

Seder on April 3rd. Rabbi Stevens will lead us as we gather to celebrate Passover together. Reservations are required by March 27th and will be strictly enforced. I hope you will join us for an evening of fun along with a traditional Seder meal. Please understand that no reservations will be accepted after March 27th so we can plan accordingly.

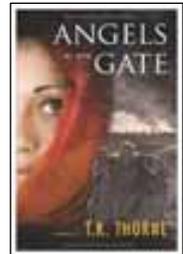
Your help is always appreciated in preparing for these events. Seder involves a great deal of planning from setting tables to cooking. We have lots of fun so I hope you will join us! I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at Temple.

Karen Goldstein
Sisterhood President

* * *

L'CHAIM LEAGUE

On Saturday, March 14th at 7:00 p.m., the L'Chaim League will attend "Gees Bend On Stage" at the Davis Theatre. Cost for this event is \$25 – general admission. Please make your reservations no later than Friday, March 6th.



On Thursday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m., the L'Chaim League will host guest author, T.K. (Teresa Katz) Thorne. A light reception will precede the event at 6:00 p.m. Teresa will speak on her latest book, *Angels at the Gate*. This is a story of adventure and the power of love, exploring themes about choice — the importance of asking the right questions and walking the fine edge between duty and personal freedom

continued on next page

SHABBAT DINNERS!

JOIN LA JOLLA GROUP FOR DINNER ON
MARCH 6th

On Friday evening, March 6, 19 adult members of Beth Israel Congregation in La Jolla, CA will be joining us for Shabbat services. They have arranged for us to cater a dinner after service (through Zoe's) in our Baylinson Social Hall, and invite us to join them. Cost is \$14 per person and reservations MUST be made in advance, by March 4, through the Temple office.

JOIN MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE GROUP FOR
DINNER ON MARCH 27th

An interfaith study group from Middlebury College (VT) will be joining us for Shabbat services. They have arranged for us to cater a dinner after service in our Baylinson Social Hall, and invite us to join them. Cost is \$14 per person and reservations MUST be made in advance, by March 24 at 10 AM, through the Temple office.



Friday, March 27, 6 PM

**Shabbat Service.
TORAH READING AND
D'VAR TORAH.**

L'Chaim League, continued from previous page.

Teresa is a Montgomery native who spoke to the L'Chaim League members in 2013 about her debut novel, *Noah's Wife*. Her first non-fiction book, *Last Chance for Justice*, was featured on the *New York Post's* "Books You Should Be Reading" list.

There is no charge for this event and it is open to the community. Reservations are appreciated. A book signing will take place at the conclusion of this event. Advanced book orders can be placed, please contact the L'Chaim League for details.

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

Agudath Israel
☆
Etz Ahayem
Adult Education



Introduction to Judaism * 6 PM

March 5	April 16
March 12	April 23
March 19	April 30
March 26	May 7



The Newest Leaf
on our
Tree of Life!

In Honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
Catherine Ruth Loeb
January 24, 2015

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Each child of a member(s) in good standing of Temple Beth Or is eligible for financial assistance to offset the registration fee to attend an overnight Jewish Youth camp. Each camper shall be eligible for up to \$500 to attend a four-week session or \$250 to attend a two-week session. All financial awards are at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors of Temple Beth Or.

Contact the Temple office for an application.
APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 15TH.

**TBO would like to
recognize any graduating
high school or college
students.**



**Please call the Temple
(262-3314) with any
graduations you might be
aware of.**

CIVIL RIGHTS SCHOLAR TO SPEAK AT TEMPLE MARCH 19

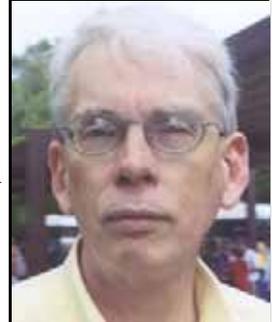
The Temple Beth Or Library Lecture Series, sponsored by the Rothschild-Blachschleger Library Fund, is proud to present Dr. J. Mills Thornton III, who will speak here in conjunction with this year's observance of the 50th anniversary of the bus boycott and the Voting Rights march from Selma to Montgomery. The program will take place on March 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Baylinson Social Hall.

Dr. Thornton, a native Alabamian, was on the history faculty at the University of Michigan from 1974 to 2010, and recently returned to Montgomery.

His 1980 article "Challenge and Response in the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955-1956," published in *The Alabama Review*, was later expanded into a book: *Dividing Lines: Municipal Politics and the Struggle for Civil Rights in*

Montgomery, Birmingham and Selma (Tuscaloosa 2002). The book was honored in 2003 with the Organization of American Historians' Liberty Legacy Foundation Award. His first book was *Politics and Power in a Slave Society: Alabama, 1800 – 1860*. The January 1914 issue of *the Alabama Review* devoted its entire issue to a career perspective on this extraordinary historian.

Dr. Thornton is a renowned scholar and speaker, and we hope that many will attend this important program, and bring your guests as well.



Over the last few months, Louisa Weinrib has been reading for fun and enlightenment one of the huge old volumes of minutes from our temple's history. She shares the following interesting tidbits:

- The Rabbi's message said 40 Kahl Montgomery members are serving in the Army or Navy. He mentioned that Jewish soldiers at Camp Sheridan come for services Sunday morning, and made a plea for Sabbath School parents to cooperate moving time for students to accommodate the soldiers' worship.
- The Nominating Committee stressed that officers who accept positions must promise to attend services; if there is a conflict with activities of a civic organization, the member must say "your presence is required in your church."
- Kahl Montgomery members killed in The Great War were Capt. Julien Strassburger and Lt. Julian Hohenberg.
- At the Annual Meeting President Weil announced that 90 Jewish boys were in service in the World War "to make the world free from autocracy and to save humanity." \$25,000 was collected from Jews in Montgomery "for Jewish sufferers of the War."
- There were lengthy remarks by men in attendance regarding disturbances within the membership and the need to restore harmony to the congregation.
- January 23, 1919 at a Called Meeting of Kahl Montgomery, letters were read from 94 soldiers at Camp Sheridan praising the work of Rabbi Ehrenrich.
- October 3, 1919 President David Weil died on the day of Yom Kippur. He had served Kahl Montgomery for over 50 years as Treasurer or President.
- January 4, 1920 Acting President Leopold Strauss welcomes Rabbi Jacob Mazur to Agudath Israel

Congregation and congratulates "Aish Achayim" the Turkish Congregation which as yet has no rabbi.

- There was a motion in the future for the President and Vice President to be elected for terms of one year only.
- January 1, 1922 President Isidore Weil added 2-3 women to each standing committee of the Board. Women are "a key ingredient".
- January 13, 1924 Council of Jewish Women paid for some of the Temple improvements and put on the congregational dinner.
- January 8, 1928 at the Annual Meeting remarks from outgoing President Emil Weil to E. J. Meyer congratulating him on becoming President and expressing confidence in his leadership, and commenting that all previous Presidents of Kahl Montgomery have been "Ash Ke Nezim" and Mr. Meyer is "Seph Chadim", "whose ancestors were among the first settlers in this new world".
- Leopold Strauss, chairman of the furniture committee recommended that the incoming administration purchase several pews offered for sale, and looks forward to the day that Kahl Montgomery has unassigned pews.
- The Ladies' Benevolent Society, Council of Jewish Women, Hadassah, and the Men's Club all have space and hold meetings in the Temple. In 1928 Kahl Montgomery had 298 members, 168 children in Sabbath School, and 18 in the Confirmation class.



Louisa H. Weinrib

CELEBRATE PASSOVER AT TBO!

Join your temple community on Friday evening, April 3, when Rabbi Stevens will lead the first-night Seder at TBO. Sponsored by Sisterhood and professionally catered, this year's Seder again uses "The Open Door," a Passover Haggadah published by the Reform Movement. Fully transliterated and beautifully illustrated, this Haggadah includes traditional and innovative blessings, gender inclusive language and all the old favorite songs as well as many new ones.

Seating will begin at 5:30 PM, with the service to begin promptly at 6:00. The entire program, including dinner, will conclude by 8:00 PM – assuming, of course, that someone finds the Afikomen! Space is limited, so reserve now. **Deadline is March 27th.**

For those who would otherwise miss Shabbat in the sanctuary, an abbreviated service will be held from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m. This will also provide an opportunity for those who wish to say Kaddish in the context of a service.

Cost for reservations:

Adults: \$25.00 Adults with reservation
Children: \$10.00 Children ages 6 – 12
Children 5 & under are free

Please note: The Temple Sisterhood will be providing a delicious traditional Passover Seder and dinner which will include desserts and wine (you are welcome to bring your own wine). **Reservation deadline is no later than March 27th.**
Your check is your reservation.

Send checks payable to **Temple Beth Or Sisterhood** to:

Sharon McDaniel
2632 Old Orchard Lane, Montgomery, AL 36117



We look forward to having you with us!

PASSOVER SEDER RESERVATION FORM

Send checks payable to
Temple Beth Or Sisterhood to:
Sharon McDaniel
2632 Old Orchard Lane
Montgomery, AL 36117

Name(s) of adult attendees: _____

Name of child(ren) attendee(s): _____

Telephone: _____
Email: _____

Seder Registration:

_____ adults at \$25.00: \$ _____
_____ children at \$10.00: \$ _____
Total Due: \$ _____

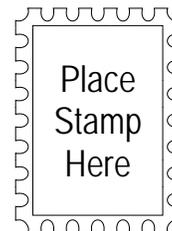
I would like to be seated with: _____

Your registration MUST be in by March 27th.

Detach at the crease to mail.

Seal here

Kahl Montgomery
Temple Beth Or
2246 Narrow Lane Road
Montgomery, AL 36106



Sharon McDaniel
2632 Old Orchard Lane
Montgomery, Alabama 36117-2410

fold here

What is Passover?



Pesach, known as Passover in English, is a major Jewish spring festival, commemorating the Exodus from Egypt over 3,000 years ago. The ritual observance of this holiday centers around a special home service called the seder (meaning “order”) and a festive meal; the prohibition of chametz (leaven); and the eating of matzah (an unleavened bread). On the eve of the fifteenth day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar, we read from a book called the hagaddah, meaning “telling,” which contains the order of prayers, rituals, readings and songs for the Pesach seder. The Pesach seder is the only ritual meal in the Jewish calendar year for which such an order is prescribed, hence its name.

The seder has a number of scriptural bases. Exodus 12:3-11 describes the meal of lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs which the Israelites ate just prior to the Exodus. In addition, three separate passages in Exodus (12:26-7, 13:8, 13:14) and one in Deuteronomy (6:20-21) enunciate the duty of the parents to tell the story of the Exodus to their children. The seder plate contains various symbolic foods referred to in the seder itself.

THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF CENTRAL ALABAMA PRESENTS:

CELEBRATE ISRAEL 67

A COMMUNITY WIDE YOM HA'ATZMAUT FESTIVAL

EXPERIENCE THE SIGHTS, SOUNDS & SPIRIT OF ISRAEL
WITH EXCITING ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH FROM 4-7PM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

ADULTS \$15 IN ADVANCE, CHILDREN UNDER 12 \$FREE

RSVP

334.277.5820

MAIL.JFCA@GMAIL.COM

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING BY APRIL 10

[Facebook.com/thejfca](https://www.facebook.com/thejfca)



JFCA
The Jewish Federation
of Central Alabama

memory?

One thing I've learned is that the national perception of "coalition" was not necessarily reflected here in the south. During the Civil Rights era, the vast majority of Jewish civil rights activism was by Jews in or from the north. Jews from southern states engaged in virtually no organized activity on behalf of civil rights. And even from the north, though their efforts were heroic and well publicized, the number of northern Jews that actually went south was only a few hundred.

Despite all the coalitions and marches and resolutions, the gulf between black and Jew remained very real. The fault line in America was not between oppressor and oppressed – to the extent that Jews were oppressed – but between those with white skin and those with black skin – especially after 1945 when Jews began to "make it" in American society in ways in which blacks were rarely able to do. Indeed one could argue that as Jews made rapid entry into the middle and upper middle classes, their very success bred resentment from the quickly growing black impoverished and disenfranchised classes, again especially in the south.

To be sure, some southern Jewish leaders were outspoken – rabbis, mostly, but not necessarily with the backing of their lay leadership. At the temple I serve, Rabbi Ehrenreich expressed outrage, back in 1916, when George Washington Carver was invited to make a presentation at one of Montgomery's big hotels, but was forced to use the freight elevator; the temple's leadership warned him not to criticize accepted social policies. Rabbi Benjamin Goldstein arrived in 1928, and the temple's Board warned him to "leave the Negro question alone," but he became an activist for black rights after the Scottsboro case in 1931. When he preached a sermon declaring the Scottsboro boys innocent, and invited black ministers to his home to organize food and clothing drives for the city's poor, mostly blacks, he was

fired from his position as rabbi.

Yet one must know the context. During the 1950's and 1960's, anti-Semitism in Montgomery was a powerful force. Jews were ineligible for country clubs and the city's elite social clubs; Jews were for the most part unable to penetrate into old-guard society, and excluded from buying homes in certain areas of the city. Jewish business people felt very vulnerable from the real threats made by the Klan against their businesses but also against their lives and property. Jews were also intimidated by white "Citizens Councils" who threatened "economic terrorism" against those who promoted school integration, or any integration; Jewish and other business owners were warned that they would suffer rent increases, evictions, foreclosures, intimidation of their customers and boycotts of their businesses. These Councils were often deeply anti-Semitic, and identified Northern Jews as the source of nearly all the South's troubles. They ranted about a communist-Jewish conspiracy, and their rantings and exclusions showed that acceptance of Jews in society was still very tentative. Not surprising, in other words, that the Jewish community here felt constrained to keep a low profile during the bus boycott or other landmark events of the Civil Rights era. They felt vulnerable – Jews who composed less than 1% of the population of Montgomery and feared for their lives and property. Even those who felt compelled to speak out felt even more strongly compelled not to, lest they get caught up in the maelstrom.

And both sides of the so-called coalition also came to resent what seemed to be a one-sided relationship. Some blacks resented that Jews sat on the boards of black organizations and held power in black institutions but never allowed for the reverse. Some Jews recall never hearing a black person speak out about anti-Semitism (although black colleges were sometimes the only schools that would hire Jewish scholars who had fled from Europe during the Nazi period).

So was there a confluence of interest, a convergence of goals? Did the Black-Jewish coalition really exist? Yes, to a certain degree, especially in theory, but the reality as always was more complex. For just as blacks have identified what they perceive are racist attitudes among some Jews, so too might we identify attitudes of anti-Semitism among blacks, attitudes that ought not to be glossed over if we are to make progress toward a better future.

Recent surveys have shown that Black Americans of all education levels are significantly more likely than whites of the same education level to be anti-Semitic, that is, to hold to stereotypes having to do with alleged Jewish power over government, or the media, or money and banking, or the old canard of a vast Jewish world-wide conspiracy to take over the world. In one recent survey, blacks were nearly four times as likely as whites to fall into the most anti-Semitic category – by agreeing with statements that are clearly anti-Semitic along the above lines. Among blacks with no college education, 43% fall into the most anti-Semitic group.

And books have also been published purporting to show that Jews played a major role in the African slave trade, though mainstream scholars have concluded that Jews had little major or continuing impact on that history.

I concluded with a call to continue our dialogue, since so much of prejudice is based on ignorance – and we are not nearly where we need to be in learning to see the world through the eyes of the other. I also made a practical proposal that the university create and offer a course on the history of Black-Jewish relations – and I offered to help develop and teach it.

There is so much at stake as we move forward – for our community and for our country. I am glad to be part of the discussion.

Elliot L. Stevens

Tu B'shvat - Barak Levy, Shaliach International Women's Day

On March 8th the whole world will celebrate International Women's Day in order to honor those amazing women who changed the face of history and achieved the right to become as strong and independent as they are today. We all know that throughout history women didn't get treated as equally as men for many reasons: culture, religion, etc. In our day, women can do anything, and they do it perfectly.

Even before the establishment of Israel women played an equal role to men. They fought with them in order to keep the Jewish land that they cared so much about. The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the State of Israel treated men and women at the same way from the beginning of time. The Israeli Declaration of Independence states: "The State of Israel will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex." There is no place for discrimination of any kind in Israel because we appreciate and understand the value of human people especially after the horrible times World War Two brought into our Jewish life. A lot of

women's rights movements were established over the years in Israel in order to promote women's rights and these are still working hard in our days.

Israel was the third country in the world to be led by a female prime minister, Golda Meir, and in 2010, women's parliamentary representation in Israel was 18 percent, which is above the Arab world's average of 6 percent and equals that of the U.S. Congress.

Israel is one of the few countries in the world with a mandatory military service requirement for women. Women have taken part in Israel's military before and since the founding of the state, with women currently comprising 33% of all IDF soldiers and 51% of its officers, fulfilling various roles within the Ground, Navy and Air Forces. The 2000 Equality amendment to the Military Service law states that "The right of women to serve in any role in the IDF is equal to the right of men."

Although Israel is very progressive when it comes to women's rights, since the founding of the State of Israel relatively few women have served in the Israeli government, and fewer still have served in the leading ministerial offices. While Israel is one of a small

number of countries where a woman has served as Prime Minister, Israel is growing and changing fast,

for example in this 2015 election we can see the first Israeli political party dedicated to ultra-Orthodox women was unveiled, called "B'Zhutan: Haredi Women Making Change." Israel is working to develop and be part of the "modern world" although she is surrounded by more patriarchal societies.

We still have a way to go but we can see the world's progress and Israel's with it. International Women's Day is all for you, women who fought and are still fighting for your rights while trying to bring equality between men and women, and of course, let's not forget the women who built Israel and fought for her. Thank you for that!

* Most of the facts in this article are from Wikipedia.



Hosted by JFCA's Shaliach, Barak Levy

Tuesday, March 31
7:00 PM
Café Israel at
Temple Beth Or



Topic: Military Bands

Daylight
Savings Time
begins Sunday,
March 8th.



HUNTINGDON COLLEGE NIGHT AT TEMPLE BETH OR

Once again, Temple Beth Or welcomes religion students and faculty of Huntingdon College to our temple for a program of discussion and worship, followed by a reception. This long-standing custom has proven to be important to both communities.

On Friday evening, March 13, Rabbi Stevens will make an opening presentation to our guests at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The students and faculty in the Department of Religion will then join us for services, after which our Sisterhood will host a reception open to all. Please welcome our guests, and join us for this special service.



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 (2014) and ending in 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!

TASTE OF JUDAISM

REACHING OUT TO UNAFFILIATED JEWS IN MONTGOMERY

We need your help!

Rabbi Stevens proposed – and the Board approved – that we offer a program especially for unaffiliated Jews in and around Montgomery. We call this program A TASTE OF JUDAISM.

A TASTE OF JUDAISM is tailored for those who might be curious about their Judaism, or want to feel more comfortable in a Jewish setting; people who might want to explore what Jewish identity means in a secular world, or just want to feel more connected. We know the audience is there – whether single, married (mixed or otherwise), with or without kids, but currently not part of a congregation.

A TASTE OF JUDAISM will have three two-hour classes on March 18 and 25, and April 1, from 7-9 p.m. at the Temple. The program is offered without charge.

If you know of any prospective UNAFFILIATED candidates for this program, please let them know! We would also invite serious prospects for eventual conversion. We welcome questions – either to our member Pam Hitchcock, who is chairing the program (education@templebethor.net, or 614-266-5220), or to Rabbi Stevens at the Temple (262-3314). Thanks for helping our community to grow!

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.

This course will be led by Rabbi Stevens, and will consist of six classes, each on a Tuesday at 12:00 noon, starting January 6.

CLASS IV: RABBI TO OFFER COURSE IN

JEWISH SEXUAL VALUES

Our Jewish tradition has much to teach us about sexual ethics and sexual behavior. Contemporary issues including birth control, abortion, homosexuality, pre-marital and extra-marital sex as well as many others are reflected in Jewish texts, often in surprising, even astonishing ways. This course includes explicit discussions and texts, and is rated “R.”

This course will be presented in four parts, each on a Tuesday at 12:00 noon, starting March 31. Feel free to bring some lunch – we’ll provide the iced tea!

Upcoming classes:

- Tuesday, 3/3 Noon Mysticism V, Hassidism
- Tuesday, 3/17 Noon Mysticism VI, Modern Mysticism
- Tuesday 3/31 Noon Sexual Values I, Basic Principles
- Tuesday 4/14 Noon Sexual Values II, Jewish Law
- Tuesday 4/28 Noon Sexual Values III, Contemporary Issues I [Birth control, abortion, artificial insemination]

Kol Ami Religious School

Temple Beth Or

- 3/1
- 3/8
- 3/15 Model Seder
- 4/12
- 4/19
- 4/26

Family Tot Shabbat

A JOYOUS SHABBAT – FOR YOUNG AND YOUNGER!

TBO's "Tot Shabbat" is a time for our youngest members to welcome Shabbat with song, dance, a few prayers and a special story. Rabbi Stevens leads these fun services in the Library, from 5-5:30 p.m., on the following Shabbats:

March 20
May 15

Make Shabbat a part of your young ones' experience and memories.

Saturday, March 21
Shabbat Morning Service



Saturday morning, March 21, Rabbi Stevens will lead a Shabbat morning service. Service will run from 9:30 – 11:15 a.m. and include Torah study and a light brunch.

Thank You to our 2015 Food Festival Sponsors

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Future Events

Friday, April 3, 6 PM, First Seder. Seating will begin at 5:30 PM, with the service to begin promptly at 6:00. Shabbat worship: 5:15 - 5:45 PM.

Thursday, April 9, 7 PM, Returning guest speaker and author, T.K. (Teresa) Thorne speaks on her new book, "Angels at the Gate." Sponsored by the Lucien Loeb L'Chaim League.

Friday, April 10, 6 PM, Shabbat service led by Temple Beth Or youth (grades 4-9). Family dinner to follow service.

Tuesday, April 14, 12 pm, ADULT EDUCATION: Rabbi's class on "Sexual Values in Jewish Law."

Wednesday, April 15, 9:30 - Noon, AUM Holocaust Education Program. Holocaust survivors tell their stories and answer questions. Location: AUM Athletic Complex. Contact Dr. Sheila Guidry for information at 244-3268.

Saturday, April 18, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served.

Sunday, April 19, 4 PM-7PM, JFCA Israel Independence Celebration. More information to follow.

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

Tuesday, April 28, 12 PM, ADULT EDUCATION: Rabbi's class on "Contemporary Issues I in Jewish Sexual Values.

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

Tuesday, May 12, 12 PM, ADULT EDUCATION: Rabbi's class on "Contemporary Issues II in Jewish Sexual Values.

Tuesday, May 12, 7 PM, JFCA's Shaliach Café' Israel at TBO hosted by Barak Levy. Topic: To be decided.

Friday, May 15, 5 PM, Family Chavurah "Tot" Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library - suitable for children of all ages.

Saturday, May 16, 9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served.

Sunday, May 17, 4 PM, Reception and Annual Meeting at 4:00 PM. Reception precedes at 3 PM. Members only.

Monday, May 25, 10 AM, 2015: Dani Loeb's Bat Mitzvah

Tuesday, May 26, 5:45 PM, Temple Beth Or Board Meeting.

SELMA: THE BRIDGE TO THE BALLOT
A NEW TEACHING TOLERANCE DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE STRUGGLE FOR VOTING RIGHTS

Official event of the
50th Anniversary of
Bloody Sunday

FILM PREMIERE
SATURDAY, MARCH 7 // 6:45pm (doors open at 6:15pm)
MONTGOMERY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE // 201 Tallapoosa Street
FREE TICKETS available at the box office

Free tickets are available through the Temple office.

HOSTED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER



When scheduling calendar events involving the Temple it is important that you check dates with the Federation and the Temple for potential conflicts within the Jewish community. Their number is 277-5820 and you can view the community calendar at www.jewishmontgomery.org.

NEED HELP GETTING AROUND DURING SERVICES?
A wheelchair and walker are stored in the coat closet and available to members and guests during Temple events.

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.

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.

March 2015

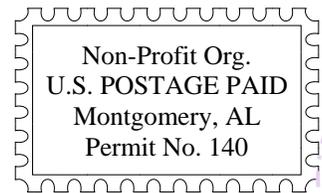
Want an updated look at what's going on at Temple? Go to www.templebethor.net.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School, Temple Beth Or</i>	2	3 <i>Noon, ADULT EDUCATION: Rabbi's class on "Hassidic Mysticism."</i>	4 <i>6 PM, Purim Service - Costumes (adults, too!), Purim Pranks, the famous Megillah and Hamentaschen! In the TBO Library.</i>	5	6 <i>6 PM Shabbat Service. Shabbat dinner to follow with Beth Israel from La Jolla, CA.</i>	7
8 <i>9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School: Time change, Temple Beth Or</i>	9	10	11	12	13 <i>6 PM Shabbat Service. Huntingdon College Night. Reception follows service.</i>	14
15 <i>9:30 AM, Kol Ami Religious School: Model Seder, Temple Beth Or</i>	16	17 <i>Noon, ADULT EDUCATION: Rabbi's class on "Contemporary Jewish Mysticism."</i>	18	19 <i>7 PM, Dr. J. Mills Thornton III presents on Montgomery during the Civil Rights Era. Dr. Thornton is a renowned scholar of the period.</i>	20 <i>5 PM, Tot Shabbat service in the Blachschleger Library 6 PM Shabbat Service.</i>	21 <i>9:30 AM, Shabbat morning service and Torah study with Rabbi Stevens. Light brunch served.</i>
22 <i>9:30 AM, No School - Spring Break, Temple Beth Or</i>	23	24 <i>5:45 PM, Temple Beth Or Board Meeting.</i>	25	26	27 <i>6 PM Shabbat Service. TORAH READING AND D'VAR TORAH. Shabbat dinner to follow with Middlebury College (VT).</i>	28
29 <i>9:30 AM, No School - Spring Break, Temple Beth Or</i>	30	31 <i>12 PM, ADULT EDUCATION: Rabbi's class on "Jewish Sexual Values: Basic Principles." 7 PM, JFCA's Sh'lichah's Café Israel at TBO</i>				

Kahl Montgomery—Temple Beth Or

2246 Narrow Lane Road
Montgomery, AL 36106

March 2015 Bulletin



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.templebethor.net

Alvin Steinhart Scholarships for Postsecondary Education are now available. Applicants must be:

- Jewish
- Members of Temple Beth Or
- Graduating High School Seniors or Current College Students

Applications are available through the Temple office. Deadline for submission is April 1st. Please contact Diane Weil at dianeweil@me.com if you need further information.

**PURIM GAMES – AND
MEGILLAH MAYHEM**

Wednesday ♦ March 4 ♦ 6 PM

Join Rabbi Stevens for this year’s Family Purim Service in the TBO library!



This year’s highlights include:

- Parade of costumes [adults and children!]
- Noisy reading of the *Megillah*, with more sound effects than absolutely necessary!
- Purim Game, with prizes for all
- Delicious Hamantaschen

