

Temple Beth Or Bulletin

A VIEW FROM THE BIMAH

April 2017 ~ Nisan/Iyyar 5777



Over the nearly ten years since taking the pulpit at Temple Beth Or, my tendency has been to use these “View from the Pulpit” columns to take up matters of general concern – our national agenda, issues facing the

Jewish community, events in Israel and so forth.

This column is more personal. Since learning of my cancer – Stage IV pancreatic – on top of Sandy Lynn’s lymphoma diagnosis back in January – we have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support, care and concern from our beloved Temple community, and beyond that as well (e.g., being added to prayer lists at a number of churches in town). Words really cannot describe what your words have meant to us.

Many of you know that I love to learn and teach, and enjoy any opportunity for research. I’m not sure I take quite as much pleasure researching alternative therapies; the field is of crucial importance, yet daunting, as I am learning about major research and clinical centers whose work goes far beyond traditional therapies. What I am looking for is the best combination of longevity and quality, so that I can return to my work at Temple Beth Or.

One thing I have learned is that everyone has a story. Virtually everyone I speak with has a relative or colleague or friend who is on a similar journey. I have learned that seemingly robust, healthy persons can face unseen challenges, or live with unknown (to others) fears and

anxieties, trying to put on the best face they can.

I have also learned that we are not alone – unless we choose to be. So many people, even complete strangers, are more than willing to lend a hand or provide a listening ear, and empathetic support.

One department I visited at M. D. Anderson is devoted entirely to Integrative Medicine, where I learned much about nutrition, supplemental therapies and holistic healing. Mindfulness is an important component in working through challenges such as a major illness – the mindfulness we call *kavvanah*, the utter intentionality of living in the moment, and letting the cares of the material world fall away as we focus on the moment in and of itself. To me, mindfulness includes a focus on the blessings that are all around us, if only we would look and be open to them. I think we have a natural tendency to plod along in a kind of day-to-day rut, without ever really counting all the blessings we have – our relationships, our experiences, our loved ones (in particular) and the times of good fortune that we should always keep before us.

At this moment I am mindful of the many blessings I have received by serving as your rabbi – more than I ever thought would be possible. I look forward to returning in better health, and appreciate your many expressions of support and caring.

MARK THE DATE . . .

Sunday, April 2, 9:30 AM,
Religion School

Friday, April 7, 6 PM, Shabbat service featuring our choir ensemble singing some of the great classics of our musical tradition. This service will mark the 165th anniversary of our congregation.

Sunday, April 9, 9:30 AM,
Religion School - Model Seder

Tuesday, April 11, 6 PM, Second Seder. Seating will begin at 5:30 PM, with the service to begin promptly at 6:00.

Sunday, April 16, 9:30 AM, No Religion School - Passover

Sunday, April 23, 9:30 AM,
Religion School

Sunday, April 23, 3 PM, Community Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Service at Agudath Israel*Etz Ahayem. Reception follows.

Tuesday, April 25, 11:30 AM, L'Chaim League luncheon at Temple Beth Or with guest speaker Bruce Lieberman.

Friday, April 28, 6 PM, Men's Club Shabbat. Guest speaker will be Joe Levin, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center. A wine and cheese reception precedes service at 5:15 PM.

Sunday, April 30, 5 PM - 8 PM, JFCA Israel Independence Celebration at Wynlakes Golf & Country Club. Featuring Israeli food and comedian Joel Chasnoff. Reservations required.

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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.

Blachschleger Library Fund
In Memory of Audri Schiller
In Memory of William Sparks
“Bill” DeMent

Alison and Greg Williamson

Caring Fund

In Honor of Rabbi Elliot Stevens
Bette Sue Strasburger

Floral Fund

In Memory of Norma Hitchcock
Frances and Ralph Capouya

In Memory of Norma Hitchcock
Karen and Lew Nyman

On the Yahrzeit of Simon Nyman
Karen and Lew Nyman

Food Festival

In Honor of Charlotte & Joe Mussafer
In Honor of Peggy & Maurice
Mussafer

Charles A. Stakely

Food Festival

In Honor of the 2017 Food Festival
Betty Loeb

Pat and John Moorehouse

General Fund

In Memory of Alan Levy
James C. Hodgson

In Memory of Harold B. Bo'Blach, III
Joan Baim Blach

Van E. Hart

Frances & Maurice E. Kreisman
Alan K. Levy

Charles S. Schulwolf

Bernice Kreisman Schulwolf
Rae Kreisman Selber

Mr. Mandel Selber, Jr.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Rabbi Elliot Stevens
Gay and Irving Winter

Lorraine and Robert Lieberman

Social Concerns

In Memory of Audri Schiller
Louisa and Michael Weinrib

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings on April 14th

APR ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Pete & Lynne Ginsburg
- 21 Terry & Elise Toney
- 25 Hal & Anne Bloom
- 29 Charlie & Celia Dubin
- 30 Bob & Betty Goldberg

APR BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Anne Franco
- 6 Paul Freehling
- 6 Lee Freibaum
- 7 Jim Levy
- 8 Aimee Harris
- 9 Robert Lieberman
- 11 Joan Loeb
- 11 Elliot Stevens
- 12 Lucille Goldsmith
- 13 Sandi Stern
- 16 Alison Berman
- 16 Frances Capouya
- 16 Jo Anne Rousso
- 17 Alan Weil Sr.
- 19 Allison Naprstek
- 20 Peter Prielaida
- 21 Steve Wallace
- 22 Maurice Mussafer
- 22 Ricky Loeb
- 22 Sandy Lynn Stevens
- 25 Al Benn
- 25 Steve Schloss
- 26 Steve Coleman
- 27 Jeff Pirofsky
- 29 Ronnie Leet
- 30 Jonathan Bleiberg
- 30 Joe Finklestein

YAHRZEITS

To be read April 7

- 4/2/2017 Abraham Rothfeder
- 4/3/2017 Ruth Noble
- 4/4/2017 Zelda Franco
- 4/6/2017 Janice Wolf Capilouto
- 4/8/2017 Ruth R. Rothschild

To be read April 14

- 4/9/2017 Arthur Freehling
- 4/12/2017 Charles A. Kohn, Jr.
- 4/12/2017 Elizabeth Feinman
- 4/13/2017 Jane Hoskins Sheehan
- 4/13/2017 Louis M. Kaufman
- 4/13/2017 Miriam Cohen
- 4/14/2017 Mildred Shapiro
- 4/14/2017 Sandra Kaye Botwinick

To be read April 21

- 4/17/2017 Florian Strassburger
- 4/17/2017 Gertrude Stern Behrman
- 4/18/2017 David Byck
- 4/18/2017 Victor E. Hanan
- 4/19/2017 Carolyn Rice
- 4/19/2017 Lillian Brownstein
- 4/21/2017 Bessie Rosenblum
Harris Shiller
- 4/21/2017 Dr. David B. Monsky
- 4/21/2017 Helen Rosenblum
Berenson
- 4/21/2017 Samuel Leopold Schloss
- 4/22/2017 Edgar Simon
- 4/22/2017 Ira K. Weil, Sr.
- 4/22/2017 Richard "Dick" Newman

To be read April 27

- 4/23/2017 Herbert Rice
- 4/24/2017 Isaac Alhadeff
- 4/25/2017 Louna Capouya
- 4/26/2017 Anna Bean
- 4/27/2017 Meyer Shum
- 4/27/2017 Nathan Lobman
- 4/28/2017 Roslyn H. Schulwolf
- 4/29/2017 Milton Schnitt

SISTERHOOD

Spring has sprung as they say...early! Hope you all are enjoying the warm weather. I know, like me, many of you are looking forward to first night Passover with your families.

Sisterhood has been VERY busy. Purim was a hit! From the table decorations by Jenny Ives, to the set decorations by Jeff McKinney, and the scrumptious lasagna dinner prepared by Jenny, Diane, Susan and Marlene. The kids especially enjoyed the hamentashen prepared by Marlene Beringer, and the butter beer prepared by Diane was enjoyed by all. Many thanks for all who helped and enjoyed this event.

Many thanks to Susan Bernstein for chairing Huntingdon College Night ...at the last minute. She was the hostess with mostest...thanks to all of you who prepared goodies. The Temple had over 200 visiting students and their professors from Huntingdon. Rabbi gave a beautiful service to all attending. We could not do all that Sisterhood does without the help of two very special people... Marlon and Gina. Thanks for always being there for us. Thanks also to Marilyn (Marlon's cousin) who helped especially with Purim!

Sisterhood joins me in wishing Rabbi and Sandy Lynne all our love, support and prayers in their journey ahead of them.

Susan Finklestein
Sisterhood President

* * *

MEN'S CLUB

As I write this article I am thinking of Rabbi Stevens and all the support and encouragement he has given me. I know he wants very much for the Men's Club to exist and to grow. My hope is that with your help this can be accomplished.

On April 28 Joe Levin, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, will be the guest speaker at the Men's Club Shabbat. I hope you will be able to attend.

In the near future I hope to have a Men's Club get-together, date to be determined. The purpose of the meeting will be to socialize and to discuss the purpose or goals of the Men's Club. Do we want to do more social events? More temple service beyond occasional ushering and help with the Sukkah? Is there some community service that we'd like to support? I plan to send out a survey prior to the meeting to give us a starting point for discussion. I hope to see you there, and look forward to getting your input.

Pete Hitchcock

* * *

L'CHAIM LEAGUE

On Tuesday, April 25th, Bruce Lieberman will present a lively discussion about need-to-know life in Alabama and the laws that pertain to us. His many years of Public Service have allowed him to offer a unique perspective that affects us all. Please join us at 11:30 at Temple Beth Or for this insightful presentation and lunch. Lunch is \$10 per person. Reservations are needed by April 18th.

We are being offered a chance to see the show *Sherlock Holmes* at ASF. With your \$40 ticket, you will receive a lunch prepared by Jennie Weller. This event is May 7th for a

matinee performance at 2:00. Arrive by 12:30 to enjoy your lunch. Your reservation is NECESSARY NOW to secure the limited seating being offered. Final payment is due April 21st.

In June, we will gather together for a fun-filled Blues Cruise aboard the Harriott II. Plan to attend all or any events you like. We would love to see you there!

Linda R Smith
lchaimleague2246@yahoo.com

* * *

NOTE FROM THE SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

A previous TBO temple bulletin featured an article by Rabbi Stevens about Robin Myers, a man who was almost certainly wrongfully convicted of murder in 1993. The jury recommended a life sentence, but the judge overrode them and ruled that Myers should be executed.

In all of Myers' post-conviction proceedings, he and his counsel have argued that he should not be executed because he is innocent (a key witness recanted his original testimony and then implicated Myers, and there was no physical evidence to link Myers to the crime), and also because he is intellectually disabled.

Although Alabama's decision to execute Myers is a direct violation of a 2002 U.S. Supreme Court ruling (the execution of an intellectually disabled inmate to be cruel and unusual and, therefore, in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution), this claim has never been fully addressed by any court. In fact, it is because of Myers' intellectual disability (he is illiterate) that he missed the deadline to appeal. Robin's counsel abandoned

continued on next page

Friday, April 7 ● 6 PM

Shabbat service features our choir ensemble singing some of the great classics of our musical tradition. This service will mark the 165th anniversary of our congregation.

Social Concerns report, continued from previous page

him in the midst of his post-conviction proceedings, but he did not know that, because he could not read and thus did not know he no longer had legal counsel!

If you were moved by the article, please consider sending a postcard to Governor Bentley to tell him so. The request is simple; to grant clemency to Robin Myers by changing his sentence from death back to the original sentence of life without the possibility of parole. The Social Concerns committee would like to make this easier for you by providing postcards that are addressed to Governor Bentley. Note that these postcards are being provided for convenience and do not have any text or logo to identify Temple Beth Or. This feature means that these postcards are appropriate to share with friends who may also support this issue.

Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Service

Sunday, April 23 at 3 PM
Agudath Israel ☆ Etz Ahayem
Reception follows.

Please join us for a beautiful and meaningful memorial service. Having participants from multiple faiths reminds us that the Holocaust affected all humanity, not just those who were singled out as victims.



Men's Club Shabbat Friday, April 28 ● 6 PM

Men's Club Shabbat. Guest speaker will be Joe Levin, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center. A wine and cheese reception precedes service at 5:15 PM.



ISRAELfest 69

WYNLAKE'S GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 69 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE SPONSORED BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 30th 2017

The Jewish Federation of Central Alabama (JFCA) invites you to join us for ISRAELfest69, an annual community-wide celebration, which will showcase Israeli life, culture & spirit. All are invited: Whether you carry an Israeli passport or you carry Israel in your heart and mind, we hope you will join us to celebrate the Jewish State.

Israeli Independence Day, known as Yom Ha'atzmaut in Hebrew, commemorates the public reading of the Israeli Declaration of Independence by the first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, and its approval by Israeli leaders 69 years ago. In Central Alabama and communities across the United States, we celebrate Israel's independence each year as a way to support one of our country's strongest allies and to honor freedom and democracy throughout the world.



The event will feature: a variety of traditional Middle Eastern food, a salute to outstanding leaders dedicated to Israel, inspiring words from special guest speakers, a performance by a well-known Israeli entertainer, a raffle, an 8 foot replica of Jerusalem's Western Wall, craft activities and dancing for the kids, merchandise, exciting door prizes, and much more!



At the center of the celebration is live entertainment by comedian Joel Chasnoff who will be joining us from Israel to make this year's Central Alabama Independence Day Celebration a big success! He's a former IDF combat soldier and author of the comedic memoir *The 188th Crybaby Brigade*, about his service in the Israeli Army.

"Joel was absolutely hilarious—our guests were laughing so hard they were literally crying."

Comments by previous attendance of Joel's performance

JOEL CHASNOFF
COMEDIAN



Join us to celebrate Israel at ISRAELfest69

A community-wide Yom Ha'atzmaut Festival

Please join us for our ISRAELfest69 where we celebrate Israeli life, culture & spirit. Guests of all backgrounds can come learn about Israel, our local Jewish community and the wonderful work we do every day at the Federation while gathering with others who share a common love for the Jewish Homeland. Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut is a way for us as a community to express solidarity with Israel. We hope that you will attend and make this year our most successful year ever!



What: ISRAELfest69
Where: Wylakes Golf & Country Club
 7900 Wylakes Blvd
 Montgomery, AL 36117
When: Sunday, April 30, 2017
 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Additional info: visit our Jewishmontgomery.org or our Facebook page at Facebook.com/thejfoa.
 RSVP at (334) 277-5820 or Info@JewishMontgomery.com
Admission: Adults \$18, Children (6-13) \$7 and Tots (under 6) are Free. Pre-booking is essential as seating is limited.
Parking: Free

Raffle items include:



- Television set by Cohens
 - Original artwork by well-known community members
 - Much more, including door prizes!
- Raffle Tickets: \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00.
 Drawing to be held at 7:45 PM



Temple Beth Or

2017

ANNUAL
MEETING

Thursday, May 18

5:30 PM Reception with
heavy hors d'oeuvres

6:15 PM Meeting

Quorum required to conduct business.
Members Only



**SHERLOCK
HOLMES**

Sunday, May 7 • 12:30 PM

L'Chaim League attends "Sherlock Holmes" at Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Catered lunch by Jenny Weller is at 12:30 PM and the matinee at 2 PM. Cost is \$40 and your check is your reservation and must be received by April 21st.

Thank You to our 2017 Food Festival Sponsors

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Special Thanks to Huntingdon College for generously accommodating our parking needs

Sunday, April 30, 9:30 AM,
Religion School

Sunday, May 7, 12:30 PM,
L'Chaim League attends "Sherlock Holmes" at Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Catered lunch by Jenny Weller at 12:30 PM, matinee at 2 PM. Cost is \$40. Your check is your reservation and must be received by April 21st.

Sunday, May 7, 9:30 AM, Religion School

Friday, May 12, 6 PM, Shabbat service. Our full choir ensemble (8

voices) presents music in the "Classical" mode, by some of the greatest liturgical composers of past centuries. Even as most of our music becomes more contemporary, we celebrate our musical tradition with this magnificent service, accompanied on organ by Becky Taylor.

Sunday, May 14, 9:30 AM,
Religion School - Mother's Day Breakfast

Sunday, May 14, 7 PM,
Confirmation Service at Temple

Beth Or.

Thursday, May 18, 6:15 PM,
Reception and Annual Meeting at 6:15 PM. Reception with hors d'oeuvres precedes at 5:30 PM. Members only.

Sunday, May 21, 9:30 AM, Last Day of Religion School

Friday, June 9, 6 PM, Shabbat service with full choir ensemble.

CONFIRMATION SET FOR SUNDAY, MAY 14 AT TEMPLE BETH OR

Confirmation – the culminating service that celebrates our students’ completion of their formal religious education – is truly a celebration for the entire community. Here in Montgomery, our Confirmation class is a two-year program taught by both rabbis; our students benefit from hearing different perspectives on Jewish life and tradition, and our wide-ranging discussions are equally engaging for both students and rabbis.

Confirmation is a beautiful service, linked in season to Shavuot, the festival that traditionally marks the Revelation to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Students symbolically receive the Torah as their own, and confirm their own intention to involve themselves in Judaism as they enter adulthood.

This year’s service will be on **Sunday, May 14, at Temple Beth Or at 7 p.m.** The service will be led by Rabbi Scott Kramer, and co-led by soloist Turia Stark Williams. Hannah Bloom, Catherine Loeb and Hannah Soloff are this year’s confirmation students. A reception will follow, and we look forward to having a GREAT turnout from our entire community.

The Jewish Federation
of Central Alabama



*When scheduling
calendar events
involving the
Temple it is*

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

NEED HELP GETTING AROUND DURING SERVICES?

A wheelchair and walker are stored in the coat closet and are 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.

April 2017

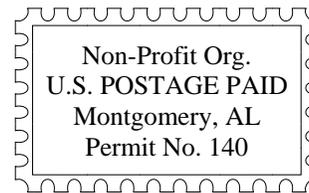
Want an updated look at what's going on at Temple? Go to www.templebethor.net.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2</p> <p>9:30 AM, Religion School</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6 PM</p> <p>Shabbat Service honoring our 165th anniversary and featuring some of the great classics of our musical tradition.</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30 AM, Religion School - Model Seder</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6 PM, Second Seder. Seating will begin at 5:30 PM, with the service to begin promptly at 6:00</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6 PM</p> <p>Shabbat Service</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6 PM</p> <p>Shabbat Service</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:30 AM, Religion School</p> <p>3 PM, Community Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Service at AIEA. Reception follows</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11:30 AM, L'Chaim League luncheon at Temple Beth Or with guest speaker, Bruce Lieberman</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6 PM</p> <p>Men's Club Shabbat. Guest speaker will be Joe Levin. A wine and cheese reception precedes service at 5:15 PM</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>5 PM - 8 PM, JFCA Israel Independence Celebration at Wynlakes Golf & Country Club. Reservations required</p>						

Kahl Montgomery—Temple Beth Or

2246 Narrow Lane Road
Montgomery, AL 36106

APRIL 2017 Bulletin



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.templebethor.net

**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.**

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.