

# Temple Beth Or Bulletin

A VIEW FROM THE BIMAH

May 2017 ~ Iyyar/Sivan 5777



I was fascinated to read an op-ed column in The New York Times recently by Casey Williams, a doctoral candidate in philosophy who writes about moral relativism. His thesis is that the rise of the wave of populism that led to the election of Donald Trump derives not from right-wing ideology so much as a long history of philosophically muddled thinking, particularly among left-leaning intellectuals. This loss of critical thinking has led, in turn, to confusion, even disdain, for settled facts, including those of modern science.

He writes: “For decades, critical social scientists and humanists have chipped away at the idea of truth. We’ve deconstructed facts, insisted that knowledge is situated and denied the existence of objectivity.” He describes how modern philosophy, going back to Kant, is based on a simple idea: We can never have certain knowledge about the world in its entirety. Claiming to know the “truth,” therefore, is a kind of assertion of power.

Philosophers call the loss of “truth” by many names: relativism, constructivism, deconstruction, postmodernism, critique – but the idea is the same. Truth is relative.

We see this in so many ways – as when the edifice of science around evolution is derided as just a “theory,” without any understanding of what scientific theory is. Or the way historians choose facts to write tendentious histories that convey their own point of view. We all

know how statistics conceal more than they reveal, and how reporters and witnesses – let’s say black or white, male or female, living in America or abroad – will perceive, interpret and judge the world in different ways.

The point is this: we can ascribe the rise of President Trump and his movement to right-wing ideologues or religiously conservative fundamentalists – or to the loss of critical thinking and the very notion of truth as described, for example, by the teachings of phenomenology and existentialism. Either way, as we now see in many parts of Europe, this loss feeds into mass uprisings, the roars of unbridled crowds – and the rise of dictators. Hitler roused the masses with his lies, and the masses went wild.

Yet I believe strongly that truth is not beyond reach. I believe that Judaism teaches truths we can live by. Judaism does not preach moral relativism. Judaism provides clear guidelines on how we ought to treat each other; how we are responsible for our planet and all that lives thereon; how we wage war and how we relate in peace. In a world awash with moral relativism and the sense that “anything goes,” it is our Judaism to which we must return – and teach our children – for Judaism is our “tree of life,” and the rock upon which we can always ground our lives.

## MARK THE DATE . . .

### APRIL EVENTS

**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.

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

### MAY EVENTS

**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

**Tuesday, May 23, 5 PM**, Sisterhood Closing Luncheon at home of Charlotte Mussafer.

**Friday, May 26, 6 PM**, Shabbat service will be held in the Blachschleger Library.

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

**Sunday, June 11, 6 PM**, L’Chaim League –Blues Cruise aboard the Harriott

*continued on page 5*

**Celebrating Our  
165th Year**



Since April 12, 1852

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David A. Baylinson, D. D., *Rabbi Emeritus*

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Temple Singers.....*Pete Hitchcock, Michelle Lott,  
Shane Nishibun, Tiffany Nishibun, David Peden, James Seay,  
Mabs Seay, Bill Taylor, 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.*

*Please be understanding of others  
when you come to Temple by  
avoiding heavily scented perfumes,  
colognes and lotions.*

# President's Message

Last summer, when my presidency began and I wrote my first bulletin article, I wrote about change. I wrote about the differences from the first time I held this office in 1994 to the present day. I wrote about our excitement as our Rabbi began his 10<sup>th</sup> year with the Temple. But I also wrote about the fact that our congregation was about half the size it was over 20 years later, with constantly changing demographics and the aging of our membership.

Most importantly however I wrote about the element that never changes and that is Shabbat comes every week and how the strength of our congregation and our community comes from your physical presence in services, not necessarily all of the time but occasionally. Later in the year, I wrote about volunteerism being defined as the “use of involvement of volunteer labor...”

As now our Rabbi and Sandy Lynn face enormous challenges to their health, I must confess that the members of this congregation have stepped up immeasurably and the outpouring of support has been overwhelming. When Diane Weil reached out for members to lead services, she quickly filled the calendar through the end of June. Special thanks to Diane, Jeff McKinney, Laura and Micki Beth Stiller and Alan Weil for leading services through April 21<sup>st</sup> and the Men's Club for their work at Men's Club Shabbat on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

And a very heartfelt thank you to Charlie Dubin who led the beautiful and well-attended Congregational Seder. Thank you Charlie for stepping up and volunteering and to the Sisterhood for its planning and hosting this annual event.

The annual meeting of the congregation will on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:15 with a reception preceding. I look forward to seeing you all there.

And lastly, a special thanks to Gina Friday and Marlon Cotton, without whom these past weeks and those ahead would be even more difficult.

John E. Ives  
President

**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.

**Birthday and Anniversary Blessings on May 5th**

**YAHARZEITS**

**To be read May 5**

- 5/1/2017 ..... Ben Lieberman
- 5/3/2017 ..... Helen Weil Loeb
- 5/4/2017 ..... Linda Horwitz
- 5/5/2017 ..... Beatrice K. Schneiderman
- 5/5/2017 ..... Betty Wolf
- 5/5/2017 ..... Chester Goldberg
- 5/6/2017 ..... Perry Mendel

**To be read May 12**

- 5/7/2017 ..... Ruth F. Byck
- 5/9/2017 ..... Milton Winter
- 5/10/2017 .... Louna Capilouto
- 5/10/2017 .... Thomas Moers
- 5/11/2017 .... Irma Gore
- 5/12/2017 .... Herbert L. Sandler
- 5/12/2017 .... Hilda Slager
- 5/12/2017 .... Norma K. Sheftall Shapiro
- 5/13/2017 .... Estelle Schafer
- 5/13/2017 .... Eunice Copeland
- 5/13/2017 .... Jennie Freehling
- 5/13/2017 .... Pearle M. Feinman

**To be read May 19**

- 5/16/2017 .... Lillian Leet
- 5/16/2017 .... Rose Rosenbluth
- 5/17/2017 .... Alan Goldsmith
- 5/18/2017 .... Gaston J. Greil
- 5/20/2017 .... Verna Wool

**To be read May 26**

- 5/23/2017 .... Elizabeth W. Baylinson
- 5/24/2017 .... Henry Abraham
- 5/26/2017 .... Allegra P. Cohen
- 5/26/2017 .... Jules Adler

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 4 ..... Steve & Jean Schloss
- 5 ..... Elliot & Sandy Lynn Stevens
- 7 ..... Jeff & Deborah Miller
- 18 ..... Pete & Pam Hitchcock
- 25 ..... Allen & Sandi Stern
- 31 ..... Scott & Aimee Harris
- 31 ..... Ricky & Jamie Loeb

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 ..... Jim Nathan
- 1 ..... Lisa Newcomb
- 1 ..... Joanne Shum
- 2 ..... Ron Shum
- 4 ..... Kathie Cohen
- 7 ..... Pee Wee Kohn
- 7 ..... Leonard Michelson
- 8 ..... Mary Lynne Levy
- 12 ..... Lynne Ginsburg
- 12 ..... Gay Winter
- 13 ..... Alison Williamson
- 13 ..... Steven Greil
- 15 ..... Larry Capilouto
- 16 ..... Susan Bernstein
- 16 ..... Eve Loeb
- 17 ..... Alex Kaufman
- 17 ..... Charlie Dubin
- 17 ..... Jean Harris
- 18 ..... Mandy Kaufman
- 19 ..... Babette Wampold
- 20 ..... Julie Goolsby
- 20 ..... David Franco
- 21 ..... Avi Nelson
- 22 ..... David Cohen
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- 30 ..... Janice Baylinson
- 31 ..... LeAnne Wallace

**Caring Fund**  
*In Memory of Audri Schiller*  
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*In Memory of Norma Hitchcock*  
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*In Memory of Warren Katz*  
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**Condolence Fund**  
*Honoring Rabbi Elliot and Sandy Lynn Stevens*  
*Lucille Goldsmith*

**General Fund**  
*Happy Birthday Clare Weil*  
*Alison and Greg Williamson*  
*In Memory of Helen Loeb*  
*Jeanette C. Rousso*  
*Honoring Rabbi Elliot and Sandy Lynn Stevens*  
*Celia and Charles Dubin*  
*Rita and Alan Rosenthal*  
*Alison and Greg Williamson*

**Prayer Book Fund**  
*In Honor of John Ives and the "support team."*  
*Celia and Charles Dubin*

The June and July bulletins will be combined into one issue. Our goal is to have this issue in the mail by June 14th.

## SISTERHOOD

Another busy and successful year is coming to an end. It is so hard to believe that it is almost May! Many thanks to my predecessor, Karen Goldstein for her guidance and help this year!

As April ends we are saying goodbye to our Sisterhood members Bette Sue Strasburger, Blake Rosen, and Sheryl Rosen, as they move on to new adventures in their lives. Their friendship and help will surely be missed.

Many thanks to Peggy Mussafer for saying yes to helping Lisa Weil in the Gift Shop.

Many thanks to Julie Goolsby (our Chair) for a spectacular Seder again this year. We missed not having Rabbi Stevens lead our Seder, but we were so glad that he and Sandy Lynn were in attendance. Everyone agreed that Charlie Dubin did a wonderful job with our Seder Service this year and we appreciate his stepping up to help.

Julie and her devoted troops ( Karen Leiberman, Maxine Goldner, Akiko Bloom and Susan Finklestein ) presented a beautiful night by preparing special delicacies, decorating, and counting silverware, dishes, and glasses. Susan Bernstein's recipe for charoset (prepared by Sheryl Rosen, Julie Goolsby, Susan Finklestein and Robin Ayers (Susan's niece)) and Marlene

Beringer's recipe for fresh homemade horseradish were big hits.

Please mark your calendar for our closing meeting on Tuesday, May 23rd (5:00 p.m.) at the home of Charlotte Mussafer. Those of you that have emails will receive an EVITE. If you do not have an email, an invitation will be mailed to you. Please join us for wine and a beautiful spread as only Charlotte can provide. We want to see all of you before summer comes and we all go in a thousand directions.

Many, many thanks to all my vice-presidents and their chairs for all their dedication this year.

It has truly made my job so easy.

Susan Finklestein  
Sisterhood President

\* \* \*

## MEN'S CLUB

Most likely, by the time you read this, the Men's Club Shabbat will have come and gone. I want to thank Joe Levin for speaking, Azriel Gorski for all his help in organizing the service, Pete Ginsburg, Lew Nyman, and Charlie Dubin for reading, and Jeff McKinney for leading Kiddush. A special thanks goes out to Rabbi Stevens for providing guidance and support even at this time.

Mark your calendars for the Men's Club Night at Biscuits Stadium on July 23! The sign-up sheet is in the lobby of the

Temple. We are also planning a Bingo night in June. This will be a fun night for all; more information will be coming soon. I'm still planning to send a survey about Men's Club, because I want your input.

Pete Hitchcock

\* \* \*

## L'CHAIM LEAGUE

On **May 7th**, we will enjoy a wonderful play and lunch at Shakespeare Festival, *Sherlock Holmes*. Reservations are closed, but tickets are available at the box office.

On **Sunday, June 8th**, join us as we board the Harriott II Riverboat for the Blues Cruise. Boarding begins at 5, and the cruise is from 6-8 pm. Cost is \$20 perperson. Live Blues Music and concessions on board. Make your reservations as soon as possible!

On **July 23rd**, Nick Ashner will treat us with his cooking skills and prepare made-to-order omelets, pancakes, and other foods. This brunch will begin at 10:30 a.m. at Temple Beth Or. You will not want to miss this special treat!

In August, we can look forward to a very entertaining event with **Mike Howley**. Plan some of your time to spend at one or all of our events. Hope to see you all soon.

Linda R Smith  
lchaimleague2246@yahoo.com

## 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 one-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. Hanah 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.



II Riverboat from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. \$20 per person.  
**Sunday, July 23, 10:30 AM**, L'Chaim League offers a Sunday morning brunch prepared by Chef Nick Ashner at Temple

Beth Or. Cost and details to come.  
**Sunday, July 23, 5:30 PM**, For Men's Club Members. Biscuits Day at the Ballpark from the Aronov suite. \$15 per person. Reservations Required.

**Sunday, November 19, 4 PM**, Joint Thanksgiving Service with First United Methodist Church and Church of the Ascension. Held at Temple Beth Or. Reception follows.

**Sisterhood Closing Meeting**  
**May 23rd at 5 p.m.**  
**Home of Charlotte Mussafer**

Take A Blues Cruise with the  
 L'Chaim League

**Sunday, June 11, 6 PM**, L'Chaim League joins the Blues Cruise aboard the Harriott II Riverboat from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., \$20 per person.

The Blues Cruise is a two hour cruise featuring live Blues entertainment from a variety of local entertainers. There is a full bar and concessions available for purchase.

This cruise will board at 5:30 p.m. and cruise from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

To make your reservation, contact Linda Smith at  
 lchaimleague2246@yahoo.com or 262-3314 x 223.



UPCOMING  
 MEN'S  
 CLUB  
 EVENT

The next Men's Club event will be the Biscuits vs. Pensacola baseball game on **Sunday, July 23rd** at 5:30 PM.

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

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



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

**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.**

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# May 2017

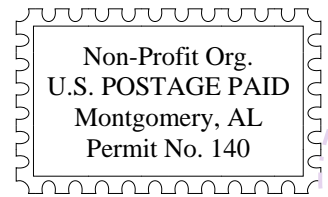
Want an updated look at what's going on at Temple? Go to [www.templebethor.net](http://www.templebethor.net).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 <i>6 PM Shabbat Service</i>	6
7 <i>9:30 AM, Religion School  12:30 PM, L'Chaim League attends "Sherlock Holmes" at ASF</i>	8	9	10	11	12 <i>6 PM Shabbat Service. Our full choir ensemble (8 voices) presents music in the "Classical" mode</i>	13
14 <i>9:30 AM, Religion School - Mother's Day Breakfast  7 PM, Confirmation Service at Temple Beth Or</i>	15	16	17	18 <i>6:15 PM, Reception and Annual Meeting at 6:15 PM. Reception with hors d'oeuvres precedes at 5:30 PM. Members only.</i>	19 <i>6 PM Shabbat Service</i>	20
21 <i>9:30 AM, Last Day of Religion School</i>	22	23 <i>5 PM, Sisterhood Closing Luncheon at home of Charlotte Mussafer</i>	24	25	26 <i>6 PM Shabbat Service</i>	27
28	29	30	31			

**Kahl Montgomery—Temple Beth Or**

2246 Narrow Lane Road  
Montgomery, AL 36106

MAY 2017 Bulletin



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.templebethor.net

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.*



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.