

MONTHLY BULLETIN

December 21 -January 22 * Cheshvan/Kislev/Tevet * 5782



During the second year of my rabbinical studies, I was required to take a class in Homiletics – the art of writing sermons. The first sermon I attempted to write was centered

around Rabbi Hillel's famous saying recorded in Pirke Avot 1:14 – The Ethics of our Fathers: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?" At the time, I did not do a very good job of dissecting and expounding on the meaning of Hillel's pithy phrase. Thirty-six years later, I have finally hit upon its meaning, albeit an understanding not my own.

My teacher, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, writes: "Hillel captures our attention by initially posing two questions, each intended to articulate a paradox. To be a good person, do not think about your

own interests. But, as Hillel suggests, if a person is not concerned with her/his own needs and well-being, why should s/he expect others to be? But do not be only for yourself. If you are only for yourself, you cease to be a real human being, and you become no longer a "who" but a "what."

Hillel's final question, "If not now, when?" applies in your life. What is something that you have been postponing, but should do now?"

Rabbi Telushkin teaches that, at the very same time, we must be for ourselves and for others. That if we do not advocate for ourselves, we cannot expect any other person to do so; and yet, if we do not advocate for others, we are no longer a person worthy of being in relationship with them. We become a non-entity, a what. The who and the what are me and you.

Together, we create a balance. Recognizing this relational balance, we are called upon to immediately act



in the interest of the whole, for me and for you. I had the luxury of thirty-six years to understand Rabbi Hillel. At my age, at our age, however, we no longer are granted the time. If we are going to do something that matters, which is accounted to our credit and for the benefit of our various communities, we must act now, as if there is little time left.

I hope, as always, that our deeds will bring honor to our community, and the individual blessing of a good name.

B'vracaha rabba – with abundant blessing, Rabbi Looper

Healing List

It is the custom at Beth Or to say a prayer for those in need of healing during Shabbat services. If you wish to have the name of a loved one mentioned, please call Gina at the office by Wednesday afternoon. We will keep names on our list for three weeks at a time.



L'Chaim League: The Thanksgiving lunch/pantry drive was a huge success! We provided sweet potato casseroles, cornbread dressing, fried turkey, green bean casseroles, rolls, fluffy whipped fruit salad, pies, and cheesecakes. All of these were graciously provided and delivered by Mae Cohen, Gina Friday, Elaine Kirkpatrick, Susan Finkelstein, Sisterhood of Temple Beth Or, and Jimmy Smith. Thanks to our generous members who made donations: Marlene & Rick Beringer, Bert Shepherd, Joy & Dickie Blondheim, Bill Brounstein, Arnold Finkelstein, Susan & Joe Finklestein, Maxine & Michael Goldner, Kathy Hess, Rabbi Scott Looper, Irene & Scott Kramer, Yvette Hochberg, Myrna & Alan Rothfeder, Jean & Steve Schloss, Bobby & Sandy Segall, Bonnie Varon, Esther Varon, Claire Weil & Bob Weisberg, Louisa & Dr Mike Weinrib, Emily Allen, and Sally Green. The exceptional meal was enjoyed by all and there is a fully stocked pantry available to all the residents. These folks are so appreciative of all we do. This outreach project has turned into an event that the residents enjoy, and enjoyable for all of us to be a part of.

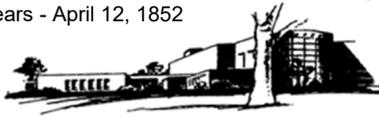
In the New Year, we are planning a book club event, an informative meeting to learn about how to use our phones, tablets, and laptops.

Hopefully, more outings will be planned as spring rolls in.

Wishing you a safe, and Happy New Year.

Linda R. Smith

Celebrating 169 years - April 12, 1852



Scott Looper, *Rabbi*
David A. Baylison, D. D., *Rabbi Emeritus*

Temple Beth Or Officers

Andy Weil *President*
Mae Cohen..... *Vice-President*
Larry Capilouto *Treasurer*
Jeff Blitz *Secretary*
Morris Capouya..... *Past President*

Board Members

Marlene Beringer John Ives Micki Beth Stiller
Al Bloom Joy Kaplan Alison Williamson
Steve Clein Jamie Loeb

SISTERHOOD PRES. ♦ MEN'S CLUB Co-PRES.
Carol Loeb Milt Livingston/Lew Nyman

Temple Beth Or Staff

Gina Friday *Temple Administrator*
Kerry Bleiberg *Religion School Co-director*
Linda Smith *L'Chaim League*
Marlon Cotton..... *Maintenance Manager*
Becky Taylor *Music Director*
Turia Stark *Cantorial Soloist*
 Music Administrator

Temple Singers..... *Michele Lott, Shane Nishibum*
 Tiffany Nishibun, David Peden,
 James Seay, Mabs Seay,
 Bill Taylor

Office Hours

Monday CLOSED
Tues., Wed. & Thurs..... 9-4
Friday 9-1

2246 Narrow Lane Road • Montgomery, AL 36106

Office: bethor@templebethor.net
Rabbi: rabbis18@templebethor.net
www.templebethor.net
(334) 262-3314 Tel ✪ (334) 263-5183 Fax

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

TREE OF LIFE

Don't forget the Tree of Life for graduations, birthdays, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and other special times in your life. Large leaves are \$350 and small ones, \$250.

Contact Sharon McDaniel or the Temple regarding purchase.

from the
PRESIDENT

We are now celebrating Chanukah, the Festival of Lights. As we kindle the lights, we remember the strength and resilience of our people to persevere through troubled times. Today, we have the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the betterment of our lives and to provide that example to those around us, especially to the next generations.

We have been dealing with challenging times for almost two years due to Covid-19. Just when we think we are out of the woods a new variant appears, presenting us with continued dread of not only infection, but also the fear of its impact on our lives. Modern science has been amazing in the development of vaccines and now a pill that will go a long way to keep us safer in terms of critical illness. However, there are incidents of breakthrough infections that can still wreak deadly havoc, especially on the elderly as well as those who have compromised immune systems.

I know we all are weary of the protocols set out by the CDC, of trying to process the information while also seeing how other congregations/groups are addressing the protocols. Many have made mask wearing optional. We have relied on our Reopening Committee to sort through the available information to determine our best approach to protecting ourselves and each other.

All along we have maintained a more stringent approach than many. The reasoning is that we have a very aged congregation with the attendant issues that come with aging. While most of us are vaccinated, we still can be vulnerable to infection. None of us wishes for any one of us to become so ill as to be hospitalized. There is a growing concern of breakthrough infections, and those of us who are vaccinated can still carry the virus and pose a threat to others.

It has been determined that wearing a mask is the most effective way to keep the spread of the virus down, especially while inside. I know the sanctuary is a big space and we are also socially distancing, but keeping our masking policy in place adds an extra measure of safety for all of us.

So I ask that when you attend services, to please continue wearing your mask for the sake of others - our friends and fellow congregants - so that they too can continue coming to services. I am confident that sooner than later we will have more robust treatments that will allow society to get back to some normalcy of life. Until then, please remain safe.

Lisa joins me in wishing you all a very Happy Chanukah and a Happy and Healthy 2022!

Andy Weil

Thoughtful Donations

Condolence Fund

Thank to Turia and the choir for their beautiful music at Holiday services
by Lucille Adler

In Memory of my brother, Steve Tamor
by Lucille Adler

Etz Ahayem Memorial

In Memory of Nace Varon
by Varon Family

Ground Beautification

In Memory of Alan and Nellie Weil
by John Herzfeld and Tatjana Kalinin

L'Chaim League

In Memory of Louis C. Neumann and Emily Hurt
by Susan and Joe Finklestein

Sabel Family Fund

In Memory of Bernice, Ed and Joe Clein
by Barbara Clein

General Fund

Remembering TBO at New Years
by Candy Masters

Happy Birthday Corinne C. Capilouto
by Charlotte and Joe Mussafer

In Honor of Harold Blach
by Missy & Warner Mathis

In Memory of Hilda Shinpaugh
by Robert Shinpaugh

Happy Birthday Jenny Ives
by Charlotte and Joe Mussafer

In Memory of Mary Lynne Levy
by Charlotte and Joe Mussafer

Donation for Yom Kippur
by Charlotte Lee

On the Yahrzeit of Zelona Livingston
by Milt Livingston

Social Concerns

In Memory of Morton Sussman
by Pam and Pete Hitchcock

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Thanks to Rabbi Looper for keeping in touch with members during the pandemic
by Buddy & Jo Anne Rousso

Thank you to the Temple Beth Or Community for welcoming us
by Merrill Wasser

In Memory of Dr. Jack Wool
by Tricia Wool and Ed Munson

In Memory of Edith and Harry Stiller
by Micki Beth and Laura Stiller

Social Concerns

In Memory of Norman Dorosin and his father, Max Dorosin.
by Harriette Dorosin

Happy Birthday Bob Weisberg
by Alison and Greg Williamson

Youth & Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Rita Rosenthal
by Myrna and Alan Rothfeder & Family

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3Esther Scheuer
8Jan Hoffman
9Kenneth Capouya
10Kenneth Wool
10James L. Loeb
11Edward Abraham
13Rubin Franco
15Gisele Pirofsky
19Sharon Berry
21Shirley Beringer
29Max Whitney
30Michael Beringer

DEC ANNIVERSARIES

12/10Buddy & Jo Anne Rousso
12/10Kenneth & Celia Wool
12/17Morris & Leslie Capp
12/20Russell & Sherry Levy
12/29Maurice & Peggy Mussafer

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4Joseph J. Levin
5Lois Weissman
6Peggy Mussafer
7Ruth Rosenthal
10Bette Sue Strasburger
12Elizabeth Wahls
13Laura Stiller
13Adler Rothschild
14Richard Hanan
16Morris Capp
22Monica Kohn
23Rita H. Sabel
28Diane Weil
30Maxine Goldner

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/16 Jeff & Robin Blitz
1/17 Larry & Corinne Capilouto

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood has been a little busier this fall. Our annual fundraiser, led expertly by Marlene Beringer and Lisa Weil, was a big success! This year, in addition to cheesecakes, we offered pastrami, corned beef, deli mustard, and black and white cookies from Carnegie Deli. Judging from the early numbers, we have raised more than we have in a very long time. We are so

thankful for Lisa and Marlene, and all the other ladies who came out to help with wrapping and pick up. We appreciate the support of our Temple members, and those from the wider Montgomery community as well.

Please mark your calendars for our Sisterhood Shabbat service on Friday, January 14th. Our speaker will be fellow Temple member Leah Nelson, who serves as Research Director at the Alabama Appleseed Center for Law &

Justice, here in Montgomery. Alabama Appleseed Center is a non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1999, whose mission is to work to achieve justice and equity for all Alabamians. We are so excited to hear Leah speak to us and hope to see you all there.

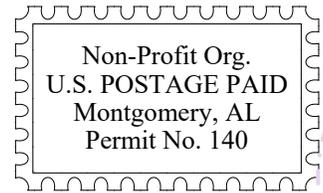
Happy Hanukkah, and Happy 2022 to all of you!

Carol Loeb
Sisterhood President

Kahl Montgomery—Temple Beth Or

2246 Narrow Lane Road
Montgomery, AL 36106

DEC 21-JAN 22 Bulletin



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.templebethor.net

ADULT EDUCATION

No matter our age, we too are often unaware of what our faith has to say about any given subject. To this end, Rabbi Looper invites you to join with him for a bi-weekly class:

What does Judaism say about...?

We will cover a broad array of topics, some of Rabbi's choosing but most requested by you, class participants. There will be two sessions, a lunch and learn offering on Tuesdays at the temple from noon to 1:00, and an evening Zoom class (also on Tuesdays), from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Both sessions will cover the same topics. You may choose which session to attend on any given week. (Dates to be announced.)

Register via the weekly email or contact the Temple office.

Holiday Hours and Information

Gina Friday will be on vacation beginning December 24 at noon and will return to work on Tuesday, January 4.

The week after Christmas, Marlon Cotton will be at the Temple Tuesday - Friday from 8:00 to 11:00.

A joint trip to Israel is being coordinated with Church of the Ascension for 2022. Consult your weekly email for information.



A TRIP
TO
ISRAEL

