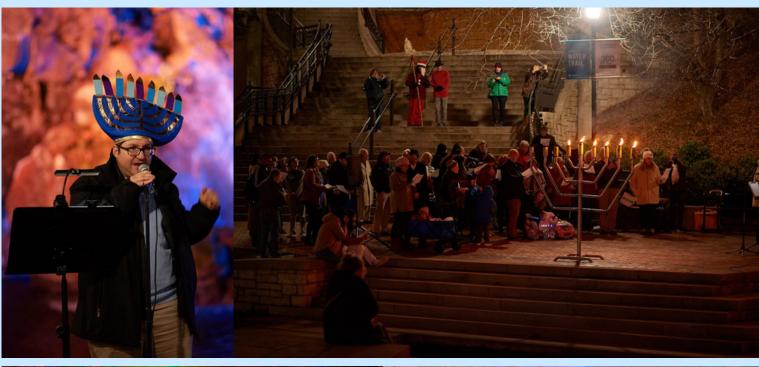


TEMPLE TIMES

January 2024 Tevet - Shevat 5784



Don't Let the Light Go Out! Community Hanukkah Celebration at Big Spring Park







A View from the Bima - Rabbi PJ Schwartz

As we approach the end of the secular year, I am in awe of all that we have accomplished. I shared at our Congregational Meeting that I have begun to articulate the vision I personally have for our congregation and have been grateful for your support and partnership as we set the foundation for a very vibrant and strong future.

The following is excerpted from my words at the December 10 Congregational Meeting.

I want to offer a 10,000 foot view of where I believe we are going:

- 1. We will be a 200 family congregation within the next 5 years.
- 2. We will enhance our engagement with families with children until they graduate high school, reconnect with those in college, including regular youth group events, and provide opportunities for parents to form community with one another.
- 3. We will have a mission and vision statement that guides our decision making programmatically and fiscally.
- 4. We will develop a strategic plan that will be shared as part of our 150 year celebrations beginning in 2026 that will guide us for the next 10-20 years.
- 5. We will become a center of Judaism for those seekers of Judaism, interfaith families, and those from the LGBTQ+ community, many of whom have felt disenfranchised and not welcomed elsewhere.
- 6. We will increase our outreach initiatives, enhance our presence within the greater Huntsville community, and be the first thing people hear and read about when they research "Jewish community in Huntsville." People will want to belong to TBS because they know that they do belong and are welcome here. This is everyone's Jewish home away from home.
- 7. We will formalize our model of historic preservation. As the oldest synagogue in continuous use in Alabama and the US, an underutilized Heritage museum, and cemetery with so many stories, it is important to use our 150th anniversary as one way to ensure that our congregation's and Huntsville's Jewish community's story continues to be told.
- 8. We will address the well needed upgrades, modernization, and maintenance of our facility.
- 9. We will expand our staffing needs to ensure that we are able to fully embrace the hope, possibility, and ongoing success of our congregation.
- 10. The 15th rabbi of Temple B'nai Sholom will become the longest serving rabbi of this congregation in 14 and a half years. He will be older, greyer, but will still be telling quintessential dad jokes.

With all of this in mind, I am excited for what's yet to come in 2024. May we continue to grow, thrive, and strengthen our presence in North Alabama.











11:30AM-1:00PM (BRING YOUR LUNCH)

Journey through Israel's history with rabbi pj

JANUARY 2: ERETZ YISRAEL, AM YISRAEL, MEDINAH YISRAEL, MA'ALAH YISRAEL: LAND, PEOPLE, STATE, AND VISION

JANUARY 9: THE ZIONIST IDEAS: POLITICAL, LABOR, REVISIONIST, RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL AND DIASPORA ZIONISM

JANUARY 16: INDEPENDENCE AND SURVIVAL

JANUARY 22: UNDERSTANDING THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT (NOTE MONDAY TIME)

JANUARY 29: IS HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF? (NOTE MONDAY TIME)



6:00PM
Dinner - Comfort
Food Potluck

7:00PM Contemporary Service with Songleader Fred Tamm Daniels

A-H: Soup (Suggestions: Matzo Ball or Tomato Soup) or Vegetarian Chili I-N: Salad Bread (Rolls or Baguette) O-Z: Pasta (sauce on side) or Mac and Cheese

Register through Sign Up Genius by Thursday, January 4.

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays at 10:00am, beginning January 3 in the TBS Social Hall

Improve balance, strength, flexibility, and overall wellbeing through gentle stretching and balance postures with certified Yoga Practitioner (and congregant) Susan Levy.

Wear something comfortable.





Communal
Trauma and
Israel Reflections
with Alissa (Lisa)
Cohen Lapidus,
LICSW

Sunday, January 7 at 10:00am in the TBS sanctuary

The war in Israel has resulted in enormous heartbreak, stress, and trauma in our community. Join us for a special opportunity to process with Lisa Lapidus, MSW, LCSW and find support, comfort, and continued hope amongst our community.

Please register by emailing Rabbi PJ at rabbischwartz.tbs@gmail.com







TBS Mitzvah Day Sunday, January 14

9:30am-12:00pm

Leaf Raking
Shrub and Plant Removal
Organizing Custodial Closet
Organizing Kitchen
Making Casseroles for Homebound
Making Welcome Baskets
Making Get Well, Thinking of You, Mazel Tov
Cards
...and more



Babysitting provided for children under 5

More details, including registration, to come

Shabbat Tzedek



Friday, January 12 7:00pm

Remember the life and work of Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr., and honor his
commitment to fighting for equality,
justice, and freedom.

Dr. King famously said, "An injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere."
As Reform Jews, we stand ready to heed Dr. King's enduring charge to fight for justice for all of God's creations and continue to combat hate and a bigotry.





Saturday, January 13 7:00pm

Join Rabbi PJ and Songleader Jeff Lapidus for a Campfire Havdallah, Song Session, and Smores in our Green Space



January 26, 7:00pm

On Shabbat Shirah, the Sabbath of Song, we will celebrate Moses and Miriam leading the Israelites across the Sea of Reeds and out of Egypt. Our Choir and Accompanist Ron Guthrie will help lead us in prayer with music primarily from female composers.







Judaism's Ten Best Ideas

This class will be an exploration of the ideas that make Judaism the world's most revolutionary, life-affirming, just, world changing, and demanding religion, introduced by Rabbi Schwartz and taught by Frank Levy.

While most religions focus on heaven or the afterlife, Judaism focuses on life and how best to live it. While most religions focus on belief, Judaism focuses on behavior; on "being a blessing to all the families of the earth" (Bereishit 12:3) While most religions teach that god and authority are to be feared, Judaism calls us to speak truth to power. Based on Rabbi Arthur Green's book of the same name, "Judaism's Ten Best Ideas" explores Judaism's most radical ideas through sacred text, music, food, art, directed conversation and spiritual practice. Judaism's Ten Best Ideas is for life-long Jews, seekers, committed practitioners looking for a fresh way to see what is already too familiar, and wanderers knocking on our tradition's door for the first time.

There is no cost to participate in Judaism's Ten Best Ideas, but registration is required. To register email Abby at bnaisholom.al@gmail.com.

Itinerary for Judaism's Ten Best Ideas

January 23 – 7:15 – 8:30PM – Introduction. Hillel. L'chaim.

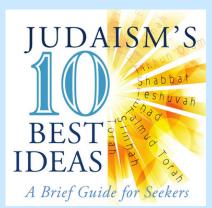
January 30 - 7:15 - 8:30PM - Turning Torah

February 6 - 7:15 - 8:30PM - Shabbat

February 13 - 7:15 - 8:30PM - YHVH, however named

February 20 – 7:15 – 8:30PM – Kashrut, but not Your Grandfather's kashrut.

February 27 - 7:15 - 8:30PM - Tzedakah - More than a donation.



Oneg Hosts for January & February

1/5/24 – Susan Levy - Chairman, Shawn Fahy, Larysse Anders, BB Anders

1/12/24 - Mishele Johnson - Chairman, Karen Hirsch, Mona Harmon, Julie Lindy 1/19/24 - Claudia Pols - Chairman, Evie Pols, Jodi Rutenberg, Sarla Scherlis

1/26/24 - Eva Berman - Chairman, Betsy Berman, Sue Farbman, Melissa Farbman

2/2/24 - Larisa Thomason - Chairman, Michelle Levin, Marion Lapidus, Shani Levy-McBay

2/9/24 - Susan Levy - Chairman, Sandra McGuire, Ana Tam-Daniels, Edna Block

2/16/24 - Fern Brazda - Chairman, Rebecca

Brooks, Leah Ehrlich, Dana Averbuch 2/23/24 - Susan Goldby - Chairman, Suzy

Friedman, Margaret Ann Goldsmith, Claire Grisham

If you have a date preference for March - May let Susan Levy know (256.656.5704). If you can't do the oneg on the date you are assigned, please try to switch with someone and then let Susan know.

TBS Volunteer Security Team We are looking for volunteers!

The TBS Volunteer Security Team is a vital, non-lethal, unarmed, front-line layer of security that only members of the TBS community can provide. TBS members are in a unique position to identify suspicious behavior. They will serve as Greeter/Ushers for worship services and other TBS events. They will be the first TBS representative people meet as they enter our building.

So please, answer hineini – I am here – to the call to be a part of the TBS Volunteer Security Team.

Team members will receive unparalleled, best practices training developed by top-level Jewish security professionals taught by Community Security Services (CSS). This mandatory training will take place online Tuesday, January 16, 2024 from 7:15pm - 8:30pm.

If you are interested in being part of the TBS Volunteer Security Team and are willing to participate in the CSS online training Tuesday, January 16, please email Frank Levy at prepare.respond@gmail.com.







For families with children 6 and under



January 27
February 10
March 2
April 13
May 11

Saturdays, 10:00am-10:30am followed by potluck brunch and playtime



Sunday, January 28, 2024 9:00am-10:15am

Families of all ages. regardless of enrollment in NACHAS. are invited to a celebration of our relationship with nature and with fruit trees in particular.



RSVP to Rabbi PJ by Friday, January 26



Hanukkah at Huntsville Hospital







From Huntsville Hospital: The theme of this year's Menorah Lighting at Huntsville Hospital was "shamash," the center candle used to light the other candles of the traditional Hanukkah menorah. Temple B'nai Sholom Rabbi PJ Schwartz said shamash, which means "helper" in Hebrew, describes the many dedicated medical professionals who care for our community each day.

"We are all helpers trying to light the way in dark times, dark places and dark moments," he said. "We live in a world in which we as helpers put our hearts and souls on the line every single day."

Thank you, Rabbi PJ, for shining a light on our amazing team this holiday season. We wish you a very Happy Hanukkah!





New Member Update

Welcome to Our Family!

Bryan, Vicki Koslin, Charley, Hanan, & Benjamin Howell



We're the Howell family. Vicki is from Birmingham and is an Assistant Professor at the University of North Alabama. Bryan is from Huntsville and is a computer networks specialist. They're moving from Florence to Madison next year. They have two daughters, Charley and Hanan, (5 and 4) and a son, Benjamin (1). They were previously members of Temple Emanu-El in Birmingham.



Sarah Kirshtein & Grai Sharp

Sarah & Grai are both Huntsville natives who moved back to town after spending a decade in Birmingham. Grai is an accountant at a local nonprofit & Sarah is an Endoscopy nurse. In their free time, they love playing with their three cats (Fatters, Slinky, and Pop-Tart), building & painting models, and watching Buffy the Vampire Slayer.







On the second night of Hanukkah we formally welcomed Allison Jones, Megan Dempsey, and Eli Foreman to the Jewish family as a congregation.





If you or another Temple member need help, please contact:

Rabbi PJ Schwartz, (678) 575-3949, rabbischwartz.tbs@gmail.com

Ms. Abby Murphree, Office Administrator (256) 536-4771, BnaiSholom.al@gmail.com

Pam Rhodes, TBS Cares Committee, (256) 653-6533 pamela.j.rhodes@gmail.com







A Message from the President - Michael Goodman

As we enter into 2024, I thought it would be useful to reflect upon "change". We've partnered with Rabbi PJ Schwartz for six months now and like any organization in the midst of change we are adapting and embracing the new energy that he brings. In my career at NASA, I took a number of leadership improvement courses. Here are some key points I learned about a change in leadership that I believe apply to us:

1. Create a Welcoming Atmosphere: Many of you have already met Rabbi
PJ. If you haven't yet met him, then I encourage you to attend a Shabbat
service and meet with him afterwards during the oneg and/or setup an
appointment to spend more time with him and get to know more about him, as he will get to know more
about you.



- **2. Communication:** Open and transparent communication is crucial. We will strive to keep the congregation informed with clear communication that helps build trust within the community.
- **3. Encourage Feedback:** Along with communication is feedback. We need feedback from you: both complimentary and constructive. Feedback can help address concerns, make necessary adjustments, and ensure that the needs of our congregation are considered.
- **4. Understanding and Patience:** Change can be unsettling. I encourage you to have understanding and patience during our first year of transition.
- **5. Maintain Continuity:** While change is inevitable, we strive to maintain continuity in key aspects of our temple life. We will preserve important traditions, rituals, and programs that are meaningful to us.
- **6. Alignment with Our Congregational Values:** Change can be difficult and positive. It is important to maintain the core identity of the community through our values and traditions. Together we will move forward with a shared vision to smooth the transition and foster unity.

Let us all celebrate the strengths and positive aspects of Temple B'nai Sholom. Celebrate our achievements, traditions, and values. Now is the time to seize the opportunities for growth and positive change.

Celebrating the Eighth Night of Hanukkah with Governor Kay Ivey











One room. One rabbi. One topic. One unique approach to Jewish learning. This is a great opportunity to bring Jewish learning into your home. It's casual, easy and fun. It brings friends, new and old, together in a way that creates meaningful connections. Host Living-Room Learning in your home (or another setting of your choice).

- 1. Contact Rabbi PJ at rabbischwartz.tbs@gmail.com or (678) 575-3949 to discuss scheduling and topics of interest.
- 2. Invite your guests (friends or even acquaintances you'd like to get to know better).
- 3. Enjoy an afternoon or evening of learning, exploration, and community all led by your Rabbi in your space.



We are coming up on the coldest part of our year. It's too cold to work in the yard. You don't need an excuse to sit down with a good book.

Reading Recommendations from Our Librarian

Hitler's Jewish Soldiers by Mark Rigg

Erhard Milch was a German Generalfeldmarschall (General Field Marshal) who oversaw the development of the German air force as part of the re-armament of Nazi Germany following World War I. He was State Secretary in the Reich Ministry of Aviation and Inspector General of the Air force. During most of World War II, he oversaw all aircraft production and supply.

Oh, one more thing: he was half Jewish. And he was one of many thousands of Jews and part-Jews who served in Hitler's military.

History has gone into great detail covering the Holocaust. But not that much about identifying who was a Jew based on "blood" and its impact on Germany's military. Mark Rigg has gone deep into how some half Jews were not only allowed to live, but served in Hitler's army.

Hitler's Jewish Soldiers is a good non-fiction read for World War II history buffs.

Classification 940.54 / RIG Summary by Vic van Leeuwen

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

Moms and Dads, we have many books that you can share with your children before bedtime.

A Picture Book of Passover by David Adler

Describes the events which led to the liberation of the children of Israel as and explains some of the Passover traditions and customs.

Dewey Classification J / 296.437 / AD

<u>Dance, Sing, and Remember: a Celebration of Jewish Holidays</u> by Leslie Kimmelman

Explains eleven major Jewish holidays and how they are celebrated.

Dewey Classification J /296.43 / KIM

If you have a question, please reach out to Ann van Leeuwen, ann.van@knology.net

Remember: All TBS members can check out books from the TBS library.





January 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Office Closed – New Year's Day	11:30am Lunch & Learn: Israel & Zionism: Past, Present, & Future	10:00am Chair Yoga with Susan Levy		First Fridays 6:00pm Dinner 7:00pm Shabbat Service with Songleader Fred Tamm- Daniels	10am Torah Study 11am Foundations of Judaism
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00am NACHaS 10:00am Communal Trauma & Israel Reflections with Lisa Cohen Lapidus, LICSW	6:30pm Adult Hebrew 101	11:30am Lunch & Learn: Israel & Zionism: Past, Present, & Future	10:00am Chair Yoga with Susan Levy 6pm Board of Directors Meeting		7:00pm Shabbat Tzedek Service with Songleader Steven Carini	7:00pm Shabbat Out of the Box: Campfire & Song Session with Songleader Jeff Lapidus
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30am- 12:00pm Mitzvah Day No NACHaS	Office Closed - MLK Jr Day	11:30am Lunch & Learn: Israel & Zionism: Past, Present, & Future	10:00am Chair Yoga with Susan Levy		7:00pm Shabbat Service with Accompanist Ron Guthrie	10am Joint Torah Study and Foundations on Tu B'Shevat
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00am NACHaS	11:30am Lunch & Learn: Israel & Zionism: Past, Present, & Future 6:30pm Adult Hebrew 101	7:15pm Judaism's Greatest Ideas with Frank Levy	10:00am Chair Yoga with Susan Levy		7:00pm Shabbat Shirah Service with TBS Choir, Accompanist Ron Guthrie & Torah Reading	10:00am TBS Tot Shabbat & Potluck Brunch
28	29	30	31			
9:00am NACHaS 9:00am Tu B'Shevat Seder for Families (all families invited)	11:30am Lunch & Learn: Israel & Zionism: Past, Present, & Future 6:30pm Adult Hebrew 101	7:15pm Judaism's Greatest Ideas with Frank Levy	10:00am Chair Yoga with Susan Levy			



1/1 Amasai Burt 1/17 Rhonda Rich 1/1 Jodi Rutenberg 1/18 Lisa Fishman-Katz 1/20 Lara Cardoso Anders 1/3 Larysse Anders 1/4 Vern Brewton 1/21 Dana Averbuch 1/4 Gregory Wallach 1/21 Greg Smyth 1/6 Mishele Johnson 1/23 Emily Lapidus 1/7 Douglas Lampert 1/26 Eli Foreman 1/7 William Davis 1/26 Tina Simon

1/8 Ellen Altschuler 1/28 Matthew Simons 1/10 Zeke Anders 1/30 Alexander Pols

1/10 Scott Godchaux 1/30 William Tucker 1/31 Solace Jackson 1/13 Daniel Perri

Anniversaries

1/17 Seth & Ana Spraggins 1/20 Zeke & Larysse Anders









Monthly Services and Yahrzeits

December 31–January 6: David Harris, Edith Ida Farber Levey, Geraldine Brown Doherty, Bobbie Miller, Edith Eichenholtz, Leo Maurice Cohen, Millie Kirshtein, Teddy Katz, David Reeves, Thomas Anderson, David Miller, Jane Wacaster, Michael M. Dembo, Brett Alan Berman, Hope Bogorad

January 7-13: Bernard S. Ginsberg, Lillie Taylor, Mas Nakajo, Samuel Block, Julius "Malcolm" Lindy, Jr, Theodor Hoehne, Lena Stiefl, Marvin Lieberman, Zimmie Wise Frank, Leo Bernard Ginsburg, Adam Semel Avraham Eliezer Ben Tuvya, Joseph Milton Elliott, Jesse Foreman, Mary Liswood, Rabbi Meyer Abramowitz, Richard Jess, Rose Friedman Banks

January 14-20: Deborah Lynn Sivyer, Joan Bauer, Morris Dembo, Phil Silberman, Estelle Rose Mintz, Judy Appelbaum, Lester Katz, Max Sterman, Diane Silverstein, Frances Prince, Lynn Harris Spielberger Bloomston, Ellen Frenzel Michelson, Raoul J. Harris, Col Leonard Winter, Helen Sandberg, Ira Brewton, Jr., Jean Furman, Milton (Mikey) Turbiner, Shirley Ostrow, Florence Druckman, Harriet S. Damson, Joanne Stern Gailar, Philipp Eisinger, Rabbi Jeffrey L. Ballon, Irene Anderson, Mildred Lapidus, Miriam Joan Levy Ferguson, Reginald Pollock

January 21-27: Ernestine Daniels, Ben Hirsch Keyserling, Bernice Zimmern Levinson, Howard Erwin Schunick, Bertha Mandelbaum Sterman, Margaret Koslow, Maurice A. Aaronson, Ron Fishman, David Piha, Robbie Rosenthal, Angela Weede

January 28-February 3: Jerry Schwartz, Mollie R. Stone, Rose Sterman Banks, Bernard Michael Levine, Billy Morrison, Tammy Rhodes, Carl Brueck, Dorothy Eisen, Emanuel Sinoway, Fay Lucille Cohen, Dorothy Linton, Grace R. Gollop, Dusty Hood, Ernest Bernard Nathan, Joseph S. Damson, William Jacobs

Hanukkah Second Night Celebration at TBS







Refuah Shlema - "A Complete Healing"

Al Jupiter
Ana Spraggins
Charlie Applebee
Charlie Crocker
David Lawrence
Dee Berkowitz
Doug Castellano
Edan Alexander
Ellen Shaneck
Francine Perlman
Fred Levin
Fred Mackta

Genie Rutenberg Quinnelly
Ilene Linton
Jane Altschuler
Joan May
Johnny Weems
Joshua Saltiel - Eliezar bat
Yahudit
Judy Kunitz
Marjorie Githaiga
Mary Dougherty
Ralph Amiel

Rebecca Stewart
Renata Limmer
Richard Zimmer
Roz Howard
Sara Crocker
Sharron Schuff
Shifra Githaiga-Olembo
Susan Zlotnick-Hale
Suzanne Horsley
Tom Lawrence
Wayne Copeland



Donations

General Fund

- Renata Limmer in memory of Alan Merlin & Roslyn Honan
- Sarla & Morris Scherlis in memory of Alan Merlin & Roslyn Honan
- Carol Wasserman in memory of Rosemary Wasserman Gelvan
- Peace Smith
- David Berkowitz in memory of Judy Berkowitz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Michelle & Larry Banks in memory of Alan Merlin
- Victoria Donovan
- Marion & Brad Lapidus in honor of Rabbi Schwartz's Installation & In memory of Darlene Gollop
- Fern & Bradley Brazda in memory of Rita Schochet
- Ann Lois Ballon in memory of Darlene "Dolly" Gollop

Music Fund

- Lisa Kunitz Walker in memory of Paul Kunitz. Cantor Sharon Kunitz and Heidi Kunitz-Levy
- Wendy Davis in memory of Darlene Gollop

Building Fund

• Marion & Brad Lapidus in memory of Roslyn Honan

Security Fund

- Julie Lindy in memory of Malcolm Lindy
- Karen Anne & Greg Wallach in honor of Eric Jackson in appreciation of his extensive efforts having led the TBS Building and Grounds Committee

Please Consider Donating \$180 to Security

Security is on all our minds at this time. We are doing many things to ensure a strong security posture while maintaining a welcoming environment.

At the December 10 congregational meeting, Frank Levy shared with us the importance of investing in a comprehensive security assessment by Allied Universal, that will not only evaluate our physical plant, but assess our internal policies and procedures. They will offer tangible guidance that can inform future action regarding our security needs.

In addition, it is crucial that we install a new secure entry system for our building. Our current system is outdated, and, as we all know, we are regularly finding challenges with our key fob and doorbell systems.

The cost of the comprehensive assessment and secure entry system will be approximately \$21,000. If every household is able to donate \$180 towards security, we will be able to expeditiously engage Allied Universal in providing an assessment and replace our security entry system.

Please consider Temple B'nai Sholom for your charitable contributions. You can mail your donations to: Temple B'nai Sholom, P.O. Box 2463, Huntsville, AL 35804, or <u>CLICK HERE!</u>



Number E-mail Website Address Mailing Address Facebook Instagram (256) 536-4771 bnaisholom.al@gmail.com www.templebnaisholom.com 103 Lincoln Street SE, Huntsville, AL 35801 P.O. Box 2463, Huntsville, AL 35804 TempleBnaiSholom tbs.hsv