

The Scribe



TEMPLE EMANU-EL
Dothan, Alabama

May 2025

Iyyar 3 - Sivan 4, 5785





THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Jonathan L. Jackson



We American Jews live in an ethos that celebrates the individual above and beyond all cultural symbols. The singular person can be a hero, a cautionary tale, an influencer, or a follower of note, or, Gd forbid, forgettable. Our deep archive of Jewish folk culture and stories does have tales of great individuals, martyrs, prophets, persecutors, and kings; however, such stories are rarely if ever the exalting of the individual. Instead, they teach us that the individual matters for the life and health of the community. In that way, the importance of the story of the individual in Judaism is never what have you done to magnify yourself, nor what have you done to “glorify Gd,” but rather what have you done for the world and your people? An individual is always an organ in the body of the community, a star in the sky of our ancestors, or the hope and comfort on whom those around you must lean.

Every service in the transition between the *Shema* and the *Tefilah*, when we walk the path of the Exodus on the blessing for redemption from Gd, we sing *Mi Chamocha*. Our prayerbook introduces it to us by reminding us how those in our Jewish family join hands to go forward together. And our ancient midrash does this too, but it teaches us what the individual does for the community.

This is the story of Nachshon, as explained in the *Jewish Journal*: “When Nachshon entered the sea, the waters did not immediately part. He tried to proclaim “mi kamocha” but as he went under the water, all he could get out was a muffled “mi chamocha.” When Hashem heard his words, the waters receded, and his voice rang out loud and clear. What began as a barely audible entreaty, ended up being an historic expression of praise that, 3,300 years later, constitutes one of the most inspirational parts of our Shabbat services” (JewishJournal.com, “The Day Nachshon Swallowed the Dot”).

Us modern American Jews might be tempted too quickly to celebrate Nachshon for his bravery and the transformation of his failure of speech into a timeless rallying cry for our people as we march toward Gd and the discovery of meaning and learning. But his bravery moved the people to be closer together.

Indeed, the Babylonian Talmud teaches us that “[t]his people are said to be like dust and said to be like stars. When they go down, they go down to the very dust. When they reach up, they reach up like stars” (b. Megillot 16a, cited in Bialik, *Book of Legends*). What does this mean? When the individual hurts us, acts against their community, or does not act for the good and best of their community, the whole community is low like dust; however, when the individual aspires beyond themselves, they make us like the stars of heaven, the very promise to Abraham our Father and Sarah our Mother that makes us a people.

Our little piece of the Jewish world here in Dothan depends on your heart, your participation, and your commitment to us as a people. Each of you has something unique to contribute, lead, inspire, teach, or give. Each of you must bring your unique heart, opinion, and approaches. We, the community owe you, in turn, acceptance and gratitude for your offering and help. The Nachshon story is incomplete without the Jewish people taking up his song, and we are incomplete without taking up yours. We have so many ways to participate formally and informally. But please, make it your priority to come, to give of yourself, to teach and learn, and to make sure that every ounce of your importantly unique soul benefits us by your presence and dedication to us.

YAHRTZEIT OBSERVANCES

May 2

Philip Joseph Shapiro
Sylvia Gross Cutler
Jennie Bieber
Terese Blumberg Rosen
Walter "Ret" Turner
Versie Mims Cooper
Samuel Swartz
Fannie Goldstein
Max Bashuk

May 9

Abraham Marvin Cutler
Joel Martin Berkelhammer
Kay Salke Becker
Daniel Blumenfeld
Sara Goldstein Blumberg
Gustav Dobbie
Karen Nomberg
Marcia Katz Young

May 16

Edison Padro
Julio Gomez
Charlie Robinowich
Douglas Morris Blumberg

May 23

Lena Rabinovich Cutler
Roselyn Baer Greenberg
Edna Williams
Carlton Ralph Daniel, Jr.
Katie Curry Cherry
Carlton Maxwell Daniel
Chesser Reynolds
Philip Robinowich

May 30

James Gannon
Irving Glustoff
Dora Rosenbaum Katz
Joe Goldstein
Charles Heyman, Sr.
Harry H. Blumenfeld
Dorothy Bieber Nomberg
Harold Mervin Cutler

May the beauty of their lives shine forever, and may we always bring honor to their memories."

SIMCHAT SHABBAT

MAY 2025

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

01 - ANNA SCHMIDTKE
05 - NANCY HAWTHORNE
09 - MICHELE STUFFEL
14 - LENARD CARROLL
22 - ELIANNAH ANDERSON
23 - CARLY BRION
25 - KRISTEN SLATER
30 - LARRY PADRO

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

04 - BOB & JANE BARBER
12 - TODD & LORNA ANDERSON
20 - STEPHEN & AUDREY
BERNSTEIN

SIMCHAT SHABBAT IS TYPICALLY CELEBRATED ON THE FOURTH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.

MI SHEBERACH

A PRAYER FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING

EDA FELDMAN
PETER FELDMAN
SARA LOZANO
GILBERT LOZANO
MIKE STUFFEL
KATHY STOUT
JEMIESE CRAWFORD
MARCUS WOODWORTH
ADAM JETTER
JUDY ANN DEAL
DEAN MITCHELL
GABE TUFANO
PHILLIP RAY
JOE RUGGIERO
ERIC GILMORE

EDDA BECK-GILMORE
BEVERLY BUGDA
ALLEN MANNING
PAT GLAZER
DOTTIE BROWN
DEBRA SANSONE
BERYL COSSIN
LISA HOLLAND
ROBERTA MARBLESTONE
LENARD & LISA CARROLL
JOHN LITTLE HAWK
ROSE CANIGLIA
STEPHANIE OWENS
MARCIA FAULK
ARTHUR KRAUT

HELEN CATES
TODD DERRICK
DOUG SHUMATE
CAROL ROGERS
PATRICIA TOWNSEND
BOBBY LEWIS
DAVID & DENISE CLEVELAND
JERRY & MIRIAM HOUSER

TEMPLE EMANU-EL TZEDEKAH, MITZVAHS & MAZELS

TEMPLE EMANU-EL GENERAL FUND

Fran Sekela

Yahrzeit of Josephine Katz Nost

Margot & David Wynne

Yahrzeit of Barney Wynne



Temple Emanu-El 2025 Annual Meeting



Sunday, June 8
12:00 p.m.
Temple Emanu-El
Social Hall

Please make plans to attend this very important event.




SHAVUOT

BBQ MEET & GREET

SUNDAY, JUNE 1
1PM - 3PM

COME & WELCOME OUR
NEWEST TEMPLE MEMBERS!

May 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1  Israeli Independence Day	2 Shabbat Services 7pm	3 Sat. Morn. Services 9:30am Torah Study 10:30am
4 Sunday Funday 1:30pm	5	6	7	8 Ft. Novosel Minyan 6:30pm	9 Chanting Service 6:15pm Shabbat Services 7pm	10 Torah Study 10:30am
11 Sunday Funday 1:30pm	12	13	14 Board Meeting 7pm	15	16 Shabbat Services 7pm	17 Torah Study 10:30am
18 Sunday Funday 1:30pm	19	20	21	22 Ft. Novosel Minyan 6:30pm	23 Chanting Service 6:15pm Shabbat Services 7pm	24 Torah Study 10:30am
25 Sunday Funday 1:30pm	26 Memorial Day/Office Closed	27	28 Rosh Chodesh Sivan	29	30 Shabbat Services 7pm	31 Torah Study 10:30am



TEMPLE EMANU-EL
Dothan, Alabama

Notes

Fort Novosel Services - Wings Chapel,
6:30pm-7:30pm

Friday, May 16 - Lag BaOmer

Sunday, June 1 - BBQ, New Member
Meet & Greet/Shavuot, 1pm-3pm

TEMPLE EMANU-EL LEADERSHIP 2024-2025



BOARD OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	STEPHEN HOLLAND (334) 797-0134
VICE PRESIDENT	LARRY PADRO
TREASURER	LARRY BLUMBERG
SECRETARY	JOSHUA LESSIN

CLERGY

RABBI	JONATHAN LEE JACKSON (781) 206-7939
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BOARD TRUSTEES & LIAISONS

BOB BARBER	SUSAN S. BLUMBERG
LES KRAUT	BILL MILLER
IRA SUKOFF	BARBARA MINSKY, PH.D.
DR. STEFAN ZWEIG	LUCIA SUKOFF
PAMELA ROSS	



TEMPLE OFFICE INFORMATION

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30am-12:30 pm
Secretary: Susan Griffin
(334) 792-5001

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