

THE DOME · · · FEBRUARY 2022

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL · 892 CHERRY STREET · MACON, GEORGIA · 31201



February is a strange month - the shortest of the year and, outside of Valentine's Day (a Hallmark Holiday), somewhat depressing. The weather is chilly, dark, and frequently wet (and not in the good way - think swimming pools).

Yet there are fun days as well - President's Day weekend when we get to have a three day weekend. It is also the Great American Pie month - a month when many of us add creative pie pictures on our instagram feeds. Yet there is one other holiday, Groundhog Day - a celebration of wonderment when we, as a society, look to determine if Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow or not - can find an important lesson beyond instagram feed pictures or hallmark cards.

The origins of Groundhog Day as a holiday began when Christians would bring a candle to church in order for it to receive a blessing and then bring that blessing to their households for the remainder of winter. As time evolved, an English hymn was added:

If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Come, Winter, have another flight;
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,
Go, Winter, and come not again.

As you see from the above poem, there is no mention of a groundhog, this evolved later, as the tradition was brought to Germany. In Germany, the addition of an animal to Candlemas occurred (originally it was a hedgehog, in the US it became a groundhog). When individuals saw the animal's shadow, they believed that six more weeks of winter were to come. As German settlers came to the United States they brought this tradition with them.

The question is what would you do with our added six weeks of winter? (Don't reference the groundhog movie starring Phil Murray). Instead, think about it this way. This year, we have an added month - Adar I which occurs seven times in a 19 year cycle before the "read Adar" (renamed as Adar II). The addition of this month adds a holiday of laughter and joy. A holiday called Purim Katan or Little Purim. Here we have a foreshadow of the real Purim. In this case, it reminds us to allow ourselves to celebrate the joy resulting from the miracle of Purim. This holiday commemorates our being saved from Haman who almost destroyed us. It honors that fear or darkness is transformed into laughter and light.

Another name for this special season is - a *Shanah Meuberet* - a pregnant year. In this case the expectant month of anticipation (Adar I) comes before the month of celebration (Adar II).

Interesting, on a sad note, *Purim Katan* also functions as an anniversary of the day the community was rescued from anti-Semitism. For example, it marks the rescue of the Ancona Jewish community in Italy's survival from an attack or when the community in Carpentras, France survived a blood libel accusation. This is not necessarily tied to a calendar date when the community calls for a celebration following an almost destruction.

Perhaps you will find significance in celebrating Purim Katan this year. You might notice it since we are here even though there is more anti-Semitism. You might celebrate it since it may be that we are entering another phase of the pandemic with increased immunity. Or maybe you want to celebrate it since you want to add a little light into a dark and cold month.

Either way, I invite you to join me as we make cookies together this month to celebrate this Purim Katan.

Message from Our President

As I write this column. We just celebrated Graham Bullington's Bar Mitzvah. Graham ROCKED! He breezed through his readings as though he had been doing so for years. In the past two months, Graham blossomed as his confidence grew. This reflects the support he received from his amazing parents, his brothers who could empathize with his nervousness, and the encouragement from Rabbi Bahar. His bar mitzvah has certainly been unique as he and his parents navigated through the pandemic, constantly having to shift plans. But he sailed right through the day and Shaw and Richard are very proud of their son, as are we all.

While we are still having only virtual services at this time, we hope to soon be back in-person services in the sanctuary and having onegs again. Onegs are an important part of our fellowship. It is often the only time we have the opportunity to socialize with other members of our congregation. It is also when we get to know our new members and visitors. Please keep this in mind when you are asked to host an oneg.

We finally have the Office Manager position filled. Carl Graap, whom some of you know from Kiddush Club, has accepted the position. He has the technology skills that are now an essential part of the job. I want to thank Sophie Rosen for the assistance she had provided in developing some of our flyers. She will also be assisting the Rabbi with the Young Families Programming.

Purim is coming up next month, and I am sure the Rabbi will have some fun events planned. Be sure to read the weekly emails to stay on top all events planned.

Shalom, Betty Taylor

Board Meeting

A meeting of the board will be held
Sunday, February 20, 2022
1:00 PM at Temple Beth Israel



JOIN RABBI BAHAR IN THIS
WEEK'S TOPIC:

ANTISEMITISM

FRIDAYS IN FEBRUARY AT 5:15 PM
ON ZOOM

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83522827840](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83522827840)

MEETING ID: 835 2282 7840

Join us for
Virtual Kabbalat Shabbat

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TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL
FRIDAYS AT 6:30PM
JOIN ZOOM MEETING

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82589792291](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82589792291)

MEETING ID: 825 8979 2291



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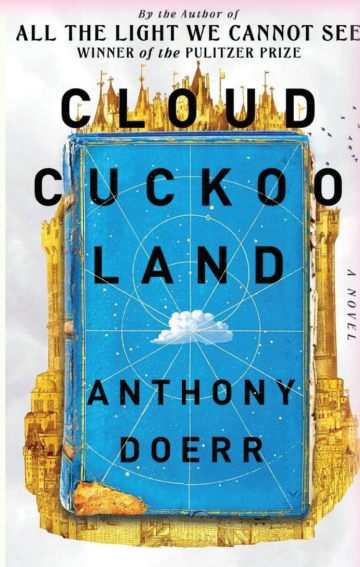
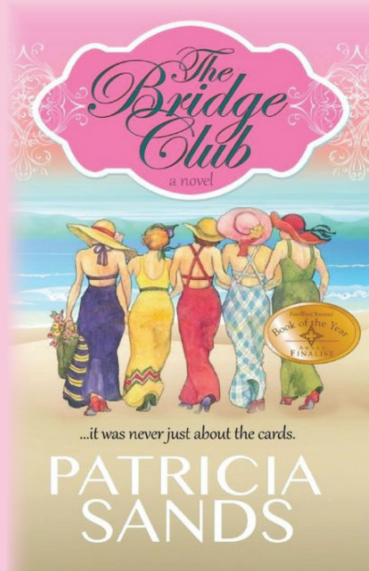
YOUNG FAMILY

ICE SKATING
FEBRUARY 5th
MACON CENTREPLEX

Join us for a tour
& lunch



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12th
10:00 am



SISTERHOOD

**BOOK
CLUB**

The Bridge Club
Sunday | 1 PM
February 6th

Cloud Cuckoo Land
Sunday | 1 PM
February 27th

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82589792291](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82589792291)

February Birthdays



We congratulate the following for their birthdays this month

Edward Bashuk	3 rd	Sheila Bashinski	13 th
Jonathan Carter	3 rd	Tallulah Grace Becker	20 th
Carol Bashuk	5 th	John Pattan	21 st
Graham Bullington	5 th	Darrie Schlesinger	21 st
Morris Purcel	11 th		



Windows into Judaism



February 17th, 24th
March 3rd & 10th

Black and White Cookies

Servings: 24 Cookies

Prep time: 10 min

Freeze time: 30 min

Cook time: 15 min



INGREDIENTS

2½ cUPS blanched almond flour (not almond meal)
½ teaspoon celtic sea salt
¼ cup agave nectar or honey
½ cup grapeseed oil or palm shortening
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1 cup chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, combine almond flour and salt
2. In a small bowl, combine grapeseed oil, agave and vanilla
3. Stir wet ingredients into dry
4. Chill dough in freezer for 30 minutes
5. Between 2 pieces of parchment paper, roll out dough ¼ to ⅓ inch thick
6. Using a 2 inch cookie cutter or the top of a 2 inch wide jelly jar, cut out cookies
7. Bake at 350°F on a parchment paper lined baking sheet for 5-7 minutes until brown around the edges
8. Cool for ½ hour
9. In a small saucepan, melt chocolate over very low heat, stirring continuously
10. Remove saucepan from heat and one by one, dip cookies into chocolate
11. Set cookies to cool on a parchment lined baking sheet --refrigerate if necessary to harden chocolate
12. Serve

We remember the following on Shabbat
January 29 Sabbath of Observance (Jan. 29 - Feb. 4)

Annie Jacobs Lubel
01-31-1962

Lewis S. Lavine
02-02-1988

Cliff Webster
02-02-2005

Herschel Rothenberg
02-03-1964

Isaac Moses
02-04-1891

Joe I. Goldman
02-04-1999

We remember the following on Shabbat
February 12 Sabbath of Observance (February 12-18)

Solomon Cohen
02-12-1967

Jake Roobin
02-12-1997

Walter Schlesinger
02-12-2006

Elsie Guttman Stirling
02-13-1995

Dr. Daniel Nathan
02-17-2007

Lawrence Weitzner
02-17-2010

Nettie Pulitzer Carmel
02-18-1990

Robert Glantz
01-21-1992

We remember the following on Shabbat
February 5 Sabbath of Observance (February 5-11)

Lewis Wayburn
02-05-2010

Albert Salis
02-06-1996

Eva Bloom Bernd
02-07-1981

Edith Gertner
02-07-1988

Lois Bialac
02-08-2007

Leon Emanuel Kahn
02-08-1912

Simon Lewis Becker
02-10-1951

Henry Kaplan
02-10-1956

Solomon Waxelbaum
02-11-1902

Aaron Blum Bernd
02-11-1937

Joseph H. Hirsch
02-11-1950

We remember the following on Shabbat
February 19 Sabbath of Observance (February 19-25)

Gail Straus
02-20-2011

Victor Dayan
02-21-2004

Gates J. Waxelbaum
02-22-1932

Bertha Fried
02-22-1985

Irving Purcel
02-25-2002

We remember the following on Shabbat
February 27 Sabbath of Observance (Feb. 26 - March 4)

Joseph N. Kalish
02-26-1974

Tess Wilner Bashuk
02-27-1992

Sol Fried
02-28-1931

Paul Kuhr
03-01-1962

Marian Waxelbaum Kaufman
03-03-2010

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FEBRUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1 4:00 PM: HEBREW SCHOOL	2	3	4 5:15 PM KIDDUSH CLUB 6:30 PM KABBALAT SHABBAT	5 10:00 AM: YOUNG FAMILY ICE SKATING EVENT
6 1:00 PM: SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB	7	8 4:00 PM: HEBREW SCHOOL	9	10	11 5:15 PM KIDDUSH CLUB 6:30 PM KABBALAT SHABBAT	12 10:00 AM: TUBMAN MUSEUM TOUR
13	14	15 4:00 PM HEBREW SCHOOL 6:30 PM PURIM COOKING CLASS	16	17 12:00PM WINDOWS INTO JUDAISM	18 5:15 PM KIDDUSH CLUB 6:30 PM KABBALAT SHABBAT	19
20 1:00 PM: BOARD MEETING	21	22 4:00 PM: HEBREW SCHOOL	23	24 12:00PM WINDOWS INTO JUDAISM	25 5:15 PM KIDDUSH CLUB 6:30 PM KABBALAT SHABBAT	26
27 1:00 PM: SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB	28	1	2	3 12:00PM WINDOWS INTO JUDAISM	4 5:15 PM KIDDUSH CLUB 6:30 PM KABBALAT SHABBAT	5