



April 2021

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

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Turn it, and Turn it, for Everything is in it



A Rabbi with a funny name, Ben Bag-Bag, used to say: "Turn it, and turn it, for everything is in it. Reflect on it and grow gray with it.

Don't turn from it, for nothing is better than it". *Pirke Avot*, Ethics of Our Ancestors 5:22.

Rabbi Ben Bag-Bag was referring to our Torah, or more broadly, the entire Jewish Bible. While many people call our scripture the "Old Testament," the appropriate term is *Tanach*, an acronym from the Hebrew letters of its three components: *Torah* (Law), *Nevi'im* (Prophets), and *Ketuvim* (Writings). For 28 years, friends and members of Temple Beth Or have been reading and discussing the *Tanach* verse by verse. We began with Genesis 1:1 in the Fall of 1993 and have read and discussed every chapter and verse for the past decades since then. Now, this month, we will reach II Chronicles 36:23, the final verse of *Tanach*, and celebrate with a virtual *siyyum* – a party for the completion of reading the Bible. What an accomplishment!

It wasn't always easy going. Study-

ing Genesis and Exodus, Esther and Jonah were fun and exciting – these are the foundational stories of our faith. But, making our way through Leviticus with its sacrifices, or 150 Psalms with their relatively dense poetry, was a different story altogether.

Nonetheless, we prevailed. We didn't skip over a single verse and found meaningful discussion each session. We delved into issues of life and death, reward and punishment, theodicy and God's justice (or seeming lack thereof), good and evil, and free will. We also experienced hilarious moments pouring over soap-opera-worthy tales of sexual and political intrigue, profound medical treatises on buboes and leprosy, and commentaries on the best way to build gallows. Special kudos to Lorraine Fortner, the one person who was there from day one and stayed with us throughout the entire Bible study course.

Our study will not end now. Our intrepid study group will continue reading the Jewish Apocrypha, comprised of historical books written mainly during the Hellenization crisis and the Maccabean revolt. These books were not all considered divinely inspired and were too late



to make it into the sacred canon of the Bible. They may, indeed, be even more interesting to study since we are less familiar with them. Any of you are welcome to join in the dialogue, for there is no prior experience necessary to join our *chevruta* (friendly analysis, debate, and discussion of a text).

Going back to Rabbi Ben Bag-Bag, while we have grown old and some of us gray while studying together, we hope to continue our journey through sacred scripture for decades to come.

Just as we go through the text, we pray that the text will continue to go through us as well.

Shalom,

Rabbi Judy Chessin



THE LIGHT

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Our Lives

Do you have news or need prayers? Contact the Temple office at 937-435-3400 to share a birth, marriage or seek get-well wishes. Your congregation cares about you!

Congregation extends its deepest sympathies to:

Shara and Steve Taylor on the passing of Steve's uncle, Duane M. Taylor.

Jan Maharam and Phil Eldhardt on the passing of Phil's cousin, Dana Schock.

Temple Beth Or extends wishes of *refuah sheleima*, speedy healing, to:

Dr. Michael Cook

Yahrzeit Remembrances

Temple Beth Or remembers our loved ones on the Sabbath nearest the anniversary of their passing or *yahrzeit*. The following names will be read during services this month.

April 2

Harry Levy 3/31

Joy Beebe 4/1

Sarah Lauber 4/1

Vernona Roberts 4/1

Julius Stein 4/1

Jackie Stone 4/1

Charlotte Steinharter 4/2

Ceila Malbin Feinstein 4/3

Catherine Wohlfrom Nieman 4/3

Lillian Adler 4/4

David Flagel 4/4

Irving Fink 4/5

Sam Kruke 4/6

Charles Ryan 4/6

Doris Westcott 4/6

April 16

Sol Abrams 4/15

William M. Hoffman 4/15

Curt Goodman 4/16

Abraham H. Gorsky 4/16

Mildred Nizny 4/16

Zelda Segalewitz 4/16

Hyman Chessin 4/17

Jerome Holzer 4/17

Jill Rosset-Fleishman 4/17

Jennifer Troy 4/17

Lori K. Phillips 4/18

Paulette Winthrop 4/18

Yetta Hochman 4/19

Donald Foster Low 4/19

Leo Kahn 4/20

April 9

Sobhi Hakim 4/7

Gladys Parker 4/9

Irene Smith Sachs 4/9

Philip P. Holroyd 4/10

Abraham B. Stein 4/10

Max Fenberg 4/11

Lewis S. Alcus 4/12

Bernard Constantine 4/12

Rabbi Samuel Cook 4/12

Barbara Flagel 4/12

Stephen Fried 4/13

Vuokko Kaarina Leppanen 4/13

April 23

Sara Geisenfeld 4/22

Michael Chesler 4/23

Jean Weiner 4/23

Morton Ohlbaum 4/24

Roy Kenneth Hammonds 4/25

Rebecca Linville 4/25

Harold Swillinger 4/27

April 30

Randy Goldstein 4/28

Leah Marie Karp 4/28

Louis P. Landerman 4/28

David Goldberg 4/29

Berta Sherman 4/29

Mirian Jacobson 4/30

Jacob Naiman 4/30

Shirley Conte 5/1

Joseph Sachs 5/1

Martin Summers 5/2

Mimi Wolnstein 5/2

John D Auldridge II 5/3

Libby Elenko 5/3

Adam Nelson 5/4



We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Temple Beth Or could not accomplish anything without teamwork. Thanks to every contribution of prayer, time and funds, we can fulfill our mission of being a warm, welcoming place for ALL.

Financial Donations

General Fund

By:
Joan and Peter Wells and the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee
In Memory of:
Else Heinze
Lorraine Fortner
Robert Richman
Joni and Ralph Watson
Morton Ohlbaum
Lori and John Westerkamp
Janet Binstein
Lynda and Gerald Troy

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of:
Adam Nelson
Myrna Nelson
Louis Landerman
Myrna Nelson

Endowment Fund

In Memory of:
Ruth Zolot Goldberg
Audrey Sachs
Elaine Sachs Veta
Audrey Sachs

Adult Education Fund

In Memory of:
Shirley Maharam
Jan Maharam
Mimi R. Wolnstein
Arlene Graham and Family



Temple's many funds provide a meaningful way to mark the life cycle events we all experience. From a birth to a graduation, from the recovery from an illness to a promotion or marriage, we all experience joy and sadness throughout our lives. To express your caring and concern, please send your tribute card and minimum \$10 donation to the Temple office. All donations are tax deductible.

Temple Security Upgrades and Improvements

About four years ago, the Temple Beth Or Board of Directors began investigating ways to improve the safety and well-being of all who might come to our Temple. We created a Safety and Security Committee whose sole purpose is to look at, investigate, and implement means that would enhance Temple security. Prior to this year, the Board approved measures to improve the Temple facility, including adding motion-sensitive lighting in the staff parking area and affixing force-resistant coating on the exterior windows and entrance doors to minimize that avenue for someone to harm us. The Security Committee arranged active shooter training for *Makor* staff and the congregation at large.

Two years ago, Temple Beth Or applied for and received two major security grants, one from the federal government and one from the State of Ohio. We also received a third grant directed to a public address system. While the Temple building has been closed due to Covid-19, the Security and Safety Committee has been hard at work implementing and upgrading the facility for the benefit and safety of everyone.

With the grant money, we have improved and upgraded our perimeter lighting for both the building and the parking lot. Within the past month, a new emergency backup generator has been installed in case we have a power outage. In the coming months, a new PA and intercom system will be installed that will help ensure the safety of our children when they attend *Makor* and when we are in the Temple. The PA and intercom upgrade was part of the Ohio grant that required matching

funds from the Temple. Ryan Levin was instrumental in helping the Temple defray some of the matching costs that were not covered by the grant. Bollards will be installed that will help protect the doors, the generator, and our utilities, and we will be adding a perimeter fence and vehicular gates, in the rear, that will help protect the back of our building.

The other change that we made was the addition of an in-house security presence. We had the great fortune to have a retired law enforcement officer, Dave Williams, help us for over two years. Dave crafted some of our security needs and was with us every Friday night and every weekend that we had *Makor*. Dave also helped us on special gatherings, such as High Holy days, a joyous life cycle event or a major community event. Unfortunately, Dave was offered a full-time opportunity at a police department for which he had been doing some consulting work, and he has left the Temple Beth Or family. We all thank Dave for his advice and dedication to our Temple.

Many other thanks are in order. In particular, thank you to past-president Jerry Weckstein, who had the vision to address our security needs before the significant increase in anti-semitic attacks. Thank you to the Security and Safety Committee for their tireless work over the last few years. Special thanks to Bill Fried, who has chaired the committee, along with Dave Verson and Ira Segalewitz, who have spearheaded the review of vendors and the actual implementation of the upgrades. In addition, thank you to Kate Elder, who helped us apply for and administer the grants.

Slinking into Passover



I was once taught that the Jewish calendar is like a slinky. If you follow a slinky, each rotation of the wire is

a year, connected to the prior year and the following, while each rung sits atop the other. We go round and round, cycling the same year, but in a slightly different place in our life, one rung atop each other.

A year ago, Rachel and I were sitting around our Seder table, just us, with a computer in front of us, celebrating a seder with our family states away. In some ways, it was a blessing, being with family that even in a perfect year we would not have been with; in other ways, we did not have any idea of the future year. Indeed, we did not have a picture of the coming night – a Tornado warning on the first night of Passover.

This year, our seder table is growing, as we join my in-laws' table and have a joy-filled celebration of four!



Who would have guessed that a seder of four would seem like such growth from a year ago? Despite the table's size, it is the meaning of this seder that is growing on me. It is a true sense of freedom, a true sense of growth, and breaking through barriers.

This year we arrive at the Passover story; it is the story of the underdog taking control and going forth to freedom. It is the story of the powerless seizing what little power they have and pushing the limit to reach new heights. It is the story of young Moses stepping up and being challenged, pushing for transformation, and creating change.

As we arrive at Passover this year, we realize the remaining chains shackling down the hope for to-

morrow. Yet, the story of Passover repeats itself in our day. This year, this Passover, we are on the precipice of freedom. Just as a youthful Moses was destined to do, we have a chance to shed shackles of restraint and create opportunities for growth and joy. The story of Passover is ever-present in our lives today. This year may our seders be filled with not only the ancient story of Passover, but may they also be filled with our modern tales of creating freedom. May we help to write the newest version of the Haggadah, the latest version of our story of freedom, the latest rung on our slinky of the Jewish calendar.

B'bracha (in blessing),
Rabbi Benjamin G. Azriel

Presidents' Message

When Temple Beth Or was first founded, we did not yet have a place that we could call our own. With the help, guidance, and generous support of our founding members, we were able to purchase, renovate and later add on to the facility that we now call home. On top of the pandemic that we have been dealing with this last year, we have also had to face the fact that our facility might not be as safe as we once thought it was.

Temple Beth Or has prided itself as being a warm, friendly, inviting, and safe place to come to, worship at, interact with fellow congregants, and host multicultural and community events. Several years ago, the Board of Directors, led by then-president Jerry Weckstein, began to investigate ways to increase the building's security. You might not have noticed some of the changes we approved for the facility over the past couple of years. Others, like the hiring of Dave Williams as security personnel, were more obvious.

More changes are coming. When we reopen the Temple for in-person activities, you may notice improved lighting in the parking lot, bollards by the doors, fencing near the outdoor sanctuary, and vehicle gates at the entrance to the staff parking area and the north driveway onto Marshall Road. All of these measures are to increase the safety of our members and the community at Temple Beth Or. Access to the main parking lot will remain unrestricted. When the time comes for us to gather again, we hope we can do so with joy, friendliness, and gratitude and a little more peace of mind.

John Granby & Karen Lindsay,
Co-Presidents

New Member Spotlight: The Fields Family



Meet the Fields family. Allie, Kevin, and son Lucas (8) moved to the Dayton area in June 2020 from Richmond, Virginia. They decided to relocate early last year in order to be closer to family and Bill's Donuts. In March, just as they started house hunting, the COVID lockdown occurred. With the support of family, a realtor they hadn't met in person, and Facetime, they found a house they loved, sold their house in Richmond, and moved. Soon after settling in their new house, Max, a sheepadoodle puppy, became part of the family. Rabbi Chessin has welcomed the Fields and especially Max, into the Temple with open arms. At about the same time in November, they joined Temple Beth Or.

Allie is the older daughter of David London and Mimi Villani. She grew up at Temple, attending religious school, becoming bat mitzvah, and participating in youth activities. She works in logistics, as a civilian employee, at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Kevin is a supervisory program manager at the Dayton VA Medical Center, helping veterans with disabilities find meaningful employment. Lucas is in the 3rd grade and attends Makor. He loves swimming, reading, and video games. Allie and Kevin are long distance runners and have completed marathons in the US and Rome. They race together, keeping each other company along the entire 26.2-mile course. Their next endeavor is the Air Force Marathon this fall.

Longstanding Member Profile: Caryl and Don Weckstein

Meet Caryl and Don Weckstein, two of our founding members. They moved to Washington Township from Xenia in 1980.

Don was an attorney in private practice and Caryl, a stay-at-home mom until their children were grown, taught math at Tower Heights Middle School. Their three children, Debbie, Jerry and Dan, attended Centerville Public Schools. The family was active in the only Jewish organization in the southern part of Montgomery County, the Jewish Association of South Dayton (JASD) then a part of the Greater Dayton Jewish Federation. There wasn't a synagogue or shul in the Centerville-Kettering area and the CJCE was located in Trotwood and called the Jewish Community Center. In 1984 Caryl and Don and other like-minded families recognized the need for a Reform Jewish Synagogue with a religious school in our area and made it a reality in 1985. Don served as the first president of the Board from 1985 to 1987. He served as president, again, from 1991 to 1992. Caryl and Don have remained active in Temple throughout the years, serving in various board and volunteer capacities. They currently chair the Cemetery Committee.



They are now retired and live at Bethany Village. Don enjoys talking about the history and growth of our Temple and the strength of our religious school and Temple programming. During this period of quarantine, they have completed eight one thousand-piece jigsaw puzzles, and online Mahjong has replaced in-person games for Caryl. In a non-Covid world they like to travel, especially to Florida and Phoenix, eat out with friends and attend the Broadway series productions. Caryl misses sitting around a card table playing bridge and canasta. And Don hopes to return to volunteering at the Kettering Cancer Center when it is safe.

Now to entertain you with two pieces of Temple trivia: The first bar mitzvah Rabbi Chessin performed was Dan Weckstein. Ask her how it went. Jerry served on the Temple Board as president for three years.

Adult Education

Chai Mitzvah Continues April 1st on Zoom

Temple Beth Or is pleased to offer and help underwrite a third *Chai Mitzvah* course. *Chai Mitzvah* is a Jewish engagement program designed to help people grow their Judaism through text study and social action. This year's course explores "how each commandment provides us with beliefs, principles, and standards of behavior which can guide and challenge our identity and behavior." *Chai Mitzvah* class meetings are facilitated by enrollees on a rotating basis. Learning materials are provided via source books designed to develop a framework for meaningful discussion and personal growth.



Dates: First Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Questions: Contact Jan Maharam at 937-361-8157

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story April 14th



Do you like to read, but don't have time, so you prefer short stories? Have we got a new program for you! Once a month, or every so often, read a Jewish short story (and we mean short), and come to a follow-up discussion. You will make new friends, renew your current friendships, and deepen your understanding of Jewish life through the ages in a welcoming, engaging forum.

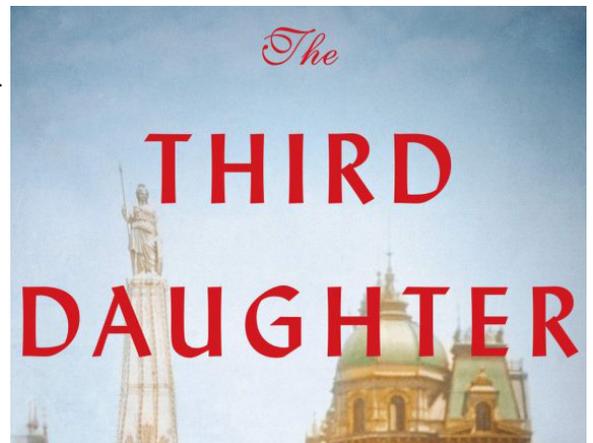
The Adult Education Committee (AEC) of Temple Beth Or is pleased to offer An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story, via Zoom, on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Come every month or drop in as you can. Co-facilitators are Rebecca Carlson of Congregation Anshai Emeth in Peoria, IL and Ruth Schumacher of Temple Beth Or in Dayton, OH. (The two facilitators are sisters!) The registration deadline is two days prior to each month's discussion. Once you register, you will receive the short story we will be discussing when we meet. Please register online:

<https://templebethor.com/upcoming-adult-education-events/>

Hope in the Face of Despair; Courage in the Face of Danger

The Adult Education Committees of Temple Israel and Temple Beth Or are pleased to host a two-part program about human trafficking. Part One (Thurs, April 22, 7pm) is a discussion of award-winning author, Talia Carner's novel, *The Third Daughter* (available through Amazon), which is designed to increase your awareness of a painful part of Jewish history. Part Two (May 20, 7pm) is a presentation by front line workers, designed to increase your understanding of the scope of the problem as well as current eradication efforts in the Miami Valley. Participation in the April book discussion is not a prerequisite for attendance at the May presentation. For more information and to register, please visit:

<https://go.oncehub.com/AdultEducation>



You Are A Super Hero!

The Adult Education Committee (AEC) of Temple Beth Or believes that congregants represent a rich set of skills, abilities and interests that can benefit others. What is one of your superpowers that you would be willing to share? Please contact the AEC (ruth.schumacher@wright.edu; 937-672-3368). We want to support YOU!

April Chai-Lights

Thursday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Chai Mitzvah: Join us as we explore how each commandment provides us with beliefs, principles, and standards of behavior which guides us.

Friday, April 2, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Rock of Ages Shabbat: Marc Rossio rocks the house as he and Rabbi Chessin lead a creative and musical *Shabbat* service. Bring your candles, wine and challah.

Saturday, April 3, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Tanach Study: Rabbi Chessin and our study group continue to explore the last book of the Bible, II Chronicles. Be there as we finish up this quarter century venture!

Friday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Join Rabbi Ben Azriel for a family friendly *Shabbat* Service.

Saturday, April 10, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Tanach Study: Rabbi Chessin and our study group continue to explore the last book of the Bible, II Chronicles. Be there as we finish up this quarter century venture!

Sunday, April 11, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Makor online education and online Hebrew.

Wednesday, April 14, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: Read and discuss a Jewish short story, make new friends, renew your current friendships, and deepen your understanding of Jewish life through the ages in a welcoming, engaging forum. This program is offered by the Adult Education Committee (AEC).

Friday, April 16, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Join Mary 'Mahira' Rogers and the Temple Beth Or Choir in worship. Sing your way through the service. Just have candles, challah and wine for blessing.

Saturday, April 17, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Tanach Study: Rabbi Chessin and our study group continue to explore the last book of the Bible, II Chronicles. Be there as we finish up this quarter century venture!

Sunday, April 18, 10:00 a.m. at Temple Beth Or

Makor parking lot program.

Thursday, April 22, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Hope in the Face of Despair; Courage in the Face of Danger Part 1, Book Discussion: The Adult Education Committees of Temple Israel and Temple Beth Or invite you to a discussion of award-winning author, Talia Carner's novel, *The Third Daughter* (available through Amazon), which is designed to increase your awareness of a painful part of Jewish history. For more information and to register, please visit:

<https://go.oncehub.com/AdultEducation>

Friday, April 23, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Streaming *Shabbat* Service.

Saturday, April 24, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Join ParaRabbi Lorraine Fortner and Mary 'Mahira' Rogers for a Musical *Shabbat* Morning Service.

Sunday, April 25, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Makor online education and online Hebrew.

Friday, April 30, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Streaming *Shabbat* Service.

Adult Education Yiddish Event a Huge Success

At the end of February, it was my great pleasure to share an evening of song, history and Yiddish with Ira Segalowitz and Joe Bettman, two amazing treasures within our Temple Beth Or family. Our months of planning and rehearsing were well worth it, once we were joined by so many of our friends and family for this very special virtual program. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this one of the best attended Adult Education Committee programs so far!

Ira and Joe added their own personal stories and fun quotes to our unique song selection and Mark Gruenberg helped us create a wonderful visual presentation, including providing song lyrics in Yiddish and English for participants to join along from home.

As a matter of fact, Ira and Joe and I (and Mark) had so much fun that we are currently preparing another program, to be announced for a date in the Fall. This will give Ira and Joe time to teach their budding Yiddish student (ha ha, that's me) a few more songs and phrases as we continue to expand the audience and age groups who are speaking, singing and learning more about this beautiful language.

Thank you to Karen Granby and all of the members of the Adult Education Committee for listening to our idea and giving us the 'thumbs up' for this program. Stay tuned for additional programs brought to you by the Temple Beth Or Adult Education Committee.

Mary 'Mahira' Rogers
Music, Choir Leader
Temple Beth Or



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Temple Beth Or

Continues to offer thanks for the medical professionals—doctors, nurses, and health-care who continue to work on the front lines of the pandemic and we honor all who continue to persevere through all of the challenges of the past year. May we find ways to support and comfort one another, continue to pray for healing, and work to mend the world!



Blessed are You, O Eternal our God, Ruler of the universe, who has given us the opportunity to mend the world!
Visit Templebethor.com to view a variety of virtual and in-person events (when possible).

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