



THE LIGHT

Temple Beth Or

April 2020

✧ Today...and for Generations ✧

Volume XXXV, Issue 4

Together We Will Find Our Way



This spring, the coronavirus has created an unprecedented crisis in our lifetimes. Already, we had been learning to cope with extremism in politics and religion, divisive elections, and antisemitism both here and abroad. Now, the COVID-19 virus has become a global pandemic, filling many of us with an unprecedented level of anxiety and terror.

How are we to cope with such fright? We find wise counsel in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King who was assassinated 52 years ago, April 5, 1968. In his sermon “Antidotes for Fear,” Dr. King described two types of fear: “Sigmund Freud spoke of a person who was quite properly afraid of snakes in the heart of an African jungle and of another person who neurotically feared that snakes were under the carpet in his city apartment. Psychologists say that normal children are born with only two fears—the fear of falling and the fear of loud noises—and that all others are environmentally acquired. Most of these acquired fears are snakes under the carpet....”

Normal fear protects us; abnormal fear paralyzes us. Normal fear motivates us to improve our individual and collective welfare; abnormal fear constantly poisons and distorts our

inner lives. Our problem is not to be rid of fear but rather to harness and master it.”



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Despite the fear and worry which he faced daily, Reverend King lived his life, forged ahead and built bridges of courage on which to lead his people from slavery. In his final speech in Memphis, on April 4, 1968, the night before he was slain, Martin Luther King Jr. stated: “You know, whenever Pharaoh wanted to prolong the period of subordination in Egypt, he had a favorite formula of doing it. What was that? He kept the slaves fighting among themselves. But whenever the slaves get together, something happens in Pharaoh’s court, and he cannot hold the slaves in slavery. When the slaves get together, that’s the beginning of getting out of slavery. Now let us maintain unity.”

Likewise, we currently find ourselves amidst powerful days of commemoration on our Jewish calendar. Passover celebrates the flight of the

Jewish slaves from fear to freedom. *Yom HaShoah v’Hagevurah* (the remembrance of the Holocaust and Heroism) provides countless models of resilience, resistance, bravery, and survival. And *Yom Ha’atzmaut* (Israel’s Independence Day) celebrates the Jewish people’s eternal yearning for a homeland where Jewish children may yet breathe free and unafraid.

Remember the old story about the man lost in the forest, lonely and afraid? He came across another wanderer, who said, “Friend, I too am lost. But take my hand, and together we will find our way.”

Sadly, due to the coronavirus, we may not be able to join hands right now. However, even with recommended “social distance,” we can still walk together virtually and find our way to the Promised Land... a place where none shall make us afraid.

Shalom,

Rabbi Judy Chessin



THE LIGHT

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Our Lives

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

The congregation prays for continued healing and strength to Hank Adler, Madalyn Ammons, Marni Flagel, Arlene Graham, Thelma Karp, Judie Kell, Allen Klein, Jan Maharam, Linda Troy, and Peter Wells.

The congregation extends its sympathy to the Mader family on the passing of Anita Wilson.

Hearty Mazel Tov to Matthew and Kaelah Stephan on the birth of Benjamin (Levi Reuven) Stephan.

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 3

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
Sylvia Gray 4/6
Sam Kruke 4/6
Charles Ryan 4/6
Doris Westcott 4/6
Sobhi Hakim 4/7

April 10

Florence Paull 4/8
Gladys Parker 4/9
Irene Smith Sachs 4/9
Philip P. Holroyd 4/10
Abraham B. Stein 4/10
Arnold Adler 4/11
Max Fenberg 4/11
Lewis S. Alcus 4/12
Bernard Constantine 4/12
Rabbi Samuel Cook 4/12
Barbara Flagel 4/12
Harry Levy 4/12
Stephen Fried 4/13
Vuokko Kaarina Leppanen 4/13

April 17

Sol Abrams 4/15
William M. Hoffman 4/15
Curt Goodman 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
Donald Foster Low 4/19
Leo Kahn 4/20

April 24

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
Randy Goldstein 4/28
Abraham H. Gorsky 4/28
Leah Karp 4/28



We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Temple Beth Or doesn't 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. Thank you!

Financial Donations

General Fund

For Security:

In Honor of:

The Lord

Amber Ledford

In Celebration of:

The marriage of Kaitlyn Bressler to Brant Appel

Karen and Kevin Bressler

In Memory of:

Ida Plotkin

Joann Plotkin

Robert Richman

Joni and Ralph Watson

Leo Finkelstein, Sr.

Phyllis and Leo Finkelstein

Irving Troy

Lynda and Richard Troy

Joseph Schneider

Joan and Art Greenfield

Ruth Schneider

Joan and Art Greenfield

Max Gutmann

Darlene Gutmann

Nagi Amed Nasr

Eva Clair

Harriet and William Fenberg

Melville Granby

Karen and John Granby

Julian Rochelle

Karen and John Granby

Ruth Crace

Karen and John Granby

Sam Kruke

Elaine and Joseph Bettman

In Appreciation of:

The organizers and volunteers of the 2nd Annual Corned Beef Lunch

Jan Maharam

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of:

The birth of their granddaughter Esther Louise Laurie and David Verson

In Celebration of:

The anniversary of Laurie and David Verson Laurie and David Verson

The marriage of Kaitlyn Bressler to Brant Appel Karen and Kevin Bressler

The marriage of Jody Steinbarger to Carmen Curtis

Jody Steinbarger and Carmen Curtis

Adult Education Fund

In Memory of:

Shirley Maharam

Jan Maharam

*Thank
you*



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.

Sit at Home...and Save a Life



I have an admission to make: I am incredibly, disproportionately upset that I won't be able to have a normal Pass-

over seder this year with my family. *Pesach* is my favorite holiday, and I can't recall a time when I've **not** spent it with my family—and that includes occasions on which I've traveled internationally to do so. This year, even though much of my family is just a few miles away, it is unlikely that we'll be celebrating together.

Maybe you're having similar experiences, in one way or another? Life is anything but normal right now, and my Passover woes are far from the worst thing going on. With COVID-19 ravaging our country and world, most businesses and schools closed, and our regular services and classes at Temple Beth Or canceled or moved online, I have begun to find the world feeling somewhat surreal.

Experts seem to indicate that the last event in history analogous to this situation was the 1918 Influenza Epidemic. If we connect a few dots, then, there might be **something** "normal" about this situation. A selection of a few relatable precedents from late 1918, published by the *American Israelite*, America's oldest extant Jewish newspaper, include:

This dance and dinner cancellation from October 10th, 1918:

On account of the influenza epidemic at Camp Zachary, the dances and Sunday night suppers for the soldiers of Jewish faith, at the Y. M. H. A. have been called off for the past two weeks.

The postponement of a Council of Jewish Women annual meeting, from October 17th, 1918:

The annual meeting of the Board of Managers scheduled for October 28th at Providence, R. I., has been postponed on account of the epidemic of influenza which is so serious, particularly in the East. The new date tentatively decided upon is December 2d, and the meeting will be held then if health conditions improve. If not, a further postponement will need to be made.

And, from November 28th, 1918, this cancellation of Jewish students' activities at the University of Michigan:

THE JEWISH STUDENT CONGREGATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.
Owing to the taking over of the largest portion of the University of Michigan by the military authorities and to the closing down of all public gatherings because of the influenza epidemic, it was impossible for the Jewish Student Congregation to resume its activities as heretofore at the beginning of the school year.

As it turns out, we're far from alone. Even in the midst of a pandemic, we're part of a Jewish tradition...it's just a little different than the usual.

By canceling, postponing, or digitizing our Temple Beth Or programs, we are practicing *pikuach nefesh*, a Jewish principle that dates to the Talmud. *Pikuach nefesh*, which teaches that you can violate all but three commandments—sexual immorality, murder, and idolatry—to save a life, is what one of my dearest teachers, Dr. Rabbi Mark Washofsky, is wont to call the "prime directive of *halakhah* (Jewish law)."

In *halakhah*, the phrase used regarding these three things to **never** do, even to save a life, is *shev v'al ta'aseh*, literally, "sit, and do nothing," i.e., "better to sit there and die than practice idolatry or commit murder." How fitting (or, perhaps, ironic—I suppose it's a matter of perspective) that, in this situation, it is precisely

by sitting and doing nothing that we **do** get to save lives.

Obviously, it's not easy to stay at home for days, weeks, or—maybe—even months at a time, not able to participate in many of the activities that help to make normal life...normal. In lieu of them, in addition to taking time to enjoy healthy doses of Netflix (or whatever kind of media you most like to consume!), this is also a great opportunity to reflect on the things you may have taken for granted in the past that you still can have right now: phone calls to friends, time with family and pets, and (if we're lucky) a little bit of quiet. Likewise, we can plan for the future, thinking of the things we are most excited to experience when our routines return. For me, of course, my list includes items such as Passover seders; but it also includes more seemingly "banal" entries like going to the gym, hugging friends, or even just attending an in-person Shabbat service.

Acknowledging the things you miss most right now isn't just sour grapes—it's an important part of a reflection process that can help us to recognize what is truly important when this pandemic passes. Moreover, there is something sacred about our time spent sitting at home, doing so. This too is *pikuach nefesh*, and this too shall pass. Feeling unconvinced? Just read this December 12th, 1918 *American Israelite* note regarding Altoona, Pennsylvania:

Altoona, Pa.—Since the influenza epidemic is passed, and the ban lifted from meetings, the Temple services and all other Jewish activities have been resumed with vigor.

Looking forward to greeting everyone again soon—with vigor!

Rabbi Ari Ballaban

Makor School News

Impacts of COVID-19 on Temple Beth Or Family Programming

We're doing our best at Temple Beth Or to maintain as much of a sense of normalcy as possible right now; but, of course, things inevitably will be different as a result of the precautions necessitated by the COVID-19 outbreak. We wanted to update you on a few important notes that will affect you and your families directly:

- All in-person programs at Temple Beth Or will be postponed, canceled, or moved online through, at earliest, April 9th. More general information about the way Temple Beth Or programs will be adjusted can be found in the next Plan-It.
- Makor is, as scheduled, on spring break through March 22nd. For Sundays March 29th and April 5th, we will be hosting virtual Makor sessions on Zoom. For those who have not used this technology before, all you need to do is download Zoom on the phone(s) or computer(s) you intend to use for the day, then click the link that we provide (forthcoming) at 9:30 a.m. We'll provide you with more details about this soon, so stay tuned.
- Families of students in 3rd-6th grade will be receiving more information soon about how we will be offering them Hebrew instruction in the coming weeks, especially if Makor remains closed past the 5th.
- Family services for April 10th have not yet been affected; however, please keep abreast of the updates that come from Temple Beth Or, as that may change in the future.

Please, please, please, if there is anything we can do at the Temple to help you, let us know. This is a serious and scary time, but our community can be a source of strength to us all.

Streaming Second Seder



cations suited for the times. While we will have physical distance, we will maintain social and communal connection!

The Temple will provide Seder meal boxes for pick up or delivery (if unable to come to the Temple). The cost will be dependent on you, however much you are willing or able to pay. As guidance, the cost to the Temple for each meal is \$25.00. At 6:30 p.m. a Seder webcast featuring Rabbis Chessin and Ballaban will begin featuring your favorite prayers and songs. Go to Temple Beth Or's Facebook page or website.

The meal will include Matzo Ball Soup, Kale Salad, 1/2 Roast Chicken or Grilled Eggplant with Artichokes & Oven Roasted Tomatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots, Roasted Red Skin Potatoes, Sunflower Seed Charoset & Parsley, and Mock Chestnut Cake.

This will be a BYOB (Bring your own bottle) affair. Because of time restraints, we cannot wait for reservations before ordering the dinners. The Temple will be ordering 80 meat and 20 vegetarian dinners. Get your reservations in early to be guaranteed a meal. Be clear however that the webcast Seder will be available to all whether you order the meal or not.

Your participation will insure that this will be yet another memorable Passover Seder experience. *Chag Sameich.*

Temple Beth Or will provide the food, you set the table!

Where: The comfort of your own home

When: Thursday, April 9th, 6:30 p.m.

How: Pick up at Temple (Limited delivery available)
Then go online and share Seder with all of your Temple friends and family!

With the daily disruptions to our lives from the ongoing pandemic, it should come as no surprise that our traditional second night Passover Seder (scheduled for Thursday evening, April 9) has been impacted as well. Canceling the Seder, especially in this, our double *chai* year, however was never an option.

To support our congregation, the local community and our business community (think Bernstein's Fine Catering who has been incredibly supportive of our congregation over the years), the Seder will go on, but with modifi-

Second Annual Corned Beef Sandwich Sale a Big Success!!

When we decided to hold the first Corned Beef Sandwich Sale, we had three goals: to raise money for Temple Beth Or, to build community within the congregation, and to engage in a positive way with our neighbors in Dayton. I am pleased to say that we accomplished all three of those goals. We raised approximately \$8,400 for Temple Beth Or. We had over seventy members of the Temple Beth Or Family help either on Prep Day on Sunday, or at the sale itself on Tuesday, March 3rd. Our lovely greeter, Wendy Rachlin, reported hearing customers as they walked out saying things like, "That was easy!" "That was well organized." "The members of Temple Beth Or are very nice!"

An enormous thank you to the Corned Beef Sandwich Sale committee: Scott Segalewitz, Caryl Segalewitz, Marc Siegel, Teri Halasz, Susan Diamond, Corky Katz, Claudia Fried, Bill Fried, Jake Elder, Paula Gessiness, Jane Pearl, and David London. These people met for many months to plan and coordinate a well-run and profitable event. Thanks to their careful planning, we had plenty of corned beef to cover our projected lunch sales and were able to sell any excess corned beef in the week following the sale.

An endeavor this large cannot happen without lots and lots of help. Many thanks to our army of volunteers who came on Sunday to help with Prep Day and/or on Tuesday for the Sale itself. Thank you to Arlene Graham, Marilyn Marx, Renee Kirschner, Ruth Schumacher, Jessica Simpson, Mark Gruenberg, Phil Dreety, Marsha Goldberg, Steve Goldberg, Merle Coyle, Paul Spaeth, Jay Holland, Hindy Gruber, Andrea Abrams, Shara Taylor, Roger Pankake, Caryl Weckstein, Don Weckstein, Ed Wolf, Missy Hoffheimer, Laurie Verson, Miriam DeLaCruz, Eva Clair, Ira Segalewitz, Eugene Solomon, Gary Holstine, Marti Moody, Marty Jacobs, Jerry Weckstein, Julie Simon, Marissa Sucusky, Cadie Polk, Kate Elder, Rob Diamond, Liz Greenwald, Ari Greenwald, Stephanie Kirtland, Emily Snyder, Scot Denmark, Gina Kahn, Neil Kahn, Milton Nathan, Renee Peery, Maxine Halasz, Dena Briskin, Hindy Grueber, Karen Lindsay, Scott Beckerman, Rachel Halasz, Alex Briskin, Mike Halasz, Wendy Rachlin, Melissa Guadalupe, Harold Guadalupe, Jan Maharam, Karen Granby, Sandy Lachman, Rachel Booth, John Dinsmore, and Robyn Bueltel. I apologize if you helped and your name was accidentally omitted. Please know that your help was greatly appreciated.

As always, thank you to Rabbi Chessin and Rabbi Bal-

laban. Thank you to Jerry Halasz for promoting us on the radio. A special thank you to Donna Brodnick for her help keeping track of all of the moving parts.

A heartfelt "Thank You" to our very generous sponsors and donors. We could not have done this without them.

Thank You

Marni Flagel

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Hope to see you at next year's Corned Beef Sandwich Sale!

Jane Briskin, Committee Chair



What's with all the *Yoms*?

The month of April is full of Jewish celebrations even after Passover.

The first “yom” or “day” is *Yom HaShoah ve’HaGevurah* – Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day, which falls on April 20-21. This date was inaugurated in 1953 and falls on the Hebrew date of *Nisan* 27. The original proposal was to hold *Yom Hashoah* on the 14th of *Nisan*, the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising (April 19, 1943). However, since it is not permitted to mourn during the



Yom Ha Shoah, Yom Hazikaron, and Yom Ha'atzmaut

festival of freedom, Passover, the date was moved to eight days before *Yom Ha'atzma'ut*, Israeli Independence Day, linking these two days together.

Yom HaShoah ve-HaGevurah honors not only those who perished in the Holocaust but also those who resisted and fought courageously against the Nazi killing machine. Standing silently in the Land of Israel with heads bowed in reverence, while the sirens blare on *Yom HaShoah*, creates a moment of solidarity with all who lived and all who died.

Next, is *Yom HaZikaron*, Israel's Memorial Day for those who died in wars defending Israel and those who were victims of terrorist attacks. The date falls one day before Israel's Independence Day as a reminder of the high cost of freedom for the Jewish state. In Israel, April 27-28, *Iyar* 4, will be a serious and profound day of mourning. There is not a single family in Israel who hasn't been touched by military death. The names of each soldier or civilian who died in war will be named, and their pictures will be broadcast on TV and radio.

Finally, *Yom HaAtzmaut*, Israel's Independence Day, the 5th of *Iyar*, commemorates the day on which the State of Israel was declared in 1948. Never in Jewish history was the darkness greater than in the 1940s as the Nazi's “final solution” was in full force and the gates of immigration to the Jewish homeland were slammed shut. At this critical moment in Jewish history, David Ben Gurion declared the birth of the State of Israel, despite the enormous odds pitted against its survival. With little preparation and with no clear vision as to what would be the consequences of such a declaration, the fledgling State of Israel was born on May 14, 1948. While Israel still struggles for security and peace with her neighbors, we celebrate the aspirational dream of being a free, safe and secure people in our own land, in Zion each year on this Independence Day.

While we will not be physically together to mark these significant days (“*yoms*”) for our people, yet, we can still be together virtually and spiritually. Temple Beth Or will have special content on our social media pages so that we can come together and mark these important holy days and holidays as a Temple family.

April Events Listings for Temple Beth Or

Because of numerous cancellations and postponements in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the uncertainty of the planned events for the month of April as of press time, we are not publishing an events list or calendar this month. We are adding live, video, and interactive content on Facebook and will continue to build connection with our congregation online during this time.

For the latest information, please read our Plan-It emails and visit us online:

www.facebook.com/TBOdayton

www.TempleBethOr.com



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More details about our Streaming Second Seder are located on page 5.

Streaming Second Seder

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Get your reservations in early to be guaranteed a meal. The webcast Seder will be available to all.

Reserve your meal now at www.templebethor.com or call (937) 435-3400

