

July 2021

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XXXVI, Issue 7

The Jew Colossus



On July 4, 1884, France presented the Statue of Liberty to the United States. Created by French sculptor Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi, the statue was intended to pass

the torch of European enlightenment, power, and intellect to America. Our Lady Liberty was modeled on the Colossus of Rhodes, a victory tribute in 280 C.E. dedicated to the sun god Helios.

However, according to Ruth Wisse, scholar of Yiddish and American culture, the original intent of the statue was changed entirely by the sonnet engraved on her pedestal. The poem "The New Colossus" was composed by Jewish American poet Emma Lazarus:

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch,
whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand*

*Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.*

*"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired,
your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.*

*Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!*

Emma Lazarus was born to a prominent Sephardic Jewish family in New York in 1849. After reading George Eliot's novel *Daniel Deronda*, Lazarus began to consider her own Jewish heritage. In the 1880s, she took up the cause against the persecution of Jews in Russia. She worked with the thousands of Eastern European refugees flooding onto Ward Island's immigrant processing center (precursor of Ellis Island). When invited to write a sonnet about the statue, Lazarus redefined Lady Liberty's intended meaning.

Emma Lazarus's "the New Colossus" reflects not conquest and victory but rather hospitality and refuge. Her harsh gaze represents not European enlightenment but rather maternal protection and safety. The beacon of



light no longer calls to mind a sun god but instead lights the way to a kinder, more welcoming nation than the world had ever known.

No matter how we view our current national immigration policies or border security, there can be no doubt that the American ideal hopes to find legal means by which to become a haven for the exiled and oppressed. Even if we cannot admit all refugees who come to our borders, we still hold to the ideal of becoming a refuge for "all huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

It is not Lady Liberty herself which reflects this ideal, but rather the subversive sonnet penned by a Jewish author and inspired by her Jewish values. Perhaps it would be apt to call the poem "The Jew Colossus."

Happy Independence Day,

Rabbi Judy Chessin

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.

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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.

Opportunities to Support Temple Beth Or

Shop and Support Opportunities

Temple Beth Or participates in on-going shop-and-support opportunities with **Kroger**, **Amazon Smile**, and **Dorothy Lane Market (DLM)**. It's easy! Select Temple Beth Or as your charity of choice, then shop at the stores as part of your everyday shopping. If you haven't selected Temple Beth Or as the organization you would like to support, you can do so on the store's website. Please visit the link below to find links and information on how to sign up and support Temple Beth Or when you shop:

<https://templebethor.com/support>

Commemorative Opportunities:



Paver Bricks: Paver brick are a lasting way to commemorate a person or an event. Bricks are available in two sizes and can hold three or five lines of text, respectively. Small/rectangular bricks are \$100; Large/square bricks are \$200. Contact Donna at the Temple Beth Or office for an order form.

Yahrzeit Plaques: Yahrzeit plaques are available for \$500. Payment for the Plaque includes:

- Name mentioned at yearly Service
- Name plaque illuminated in Memorial Stand yearly
- Notification sent to family members of yearly Service
- Listing in *Yom Kippur* book
- Name read at *Yom Kippur*

Makor: Year in Review



Makor School News

Makor Registration 2021-2022

Even with our new “normal”, it’s time for us to start planning for the future! We hope to get back to a regular *Makor* year when we arrive at the fall season, but only time will tell. *Makor* registration for the 2021-2022 academic year is now open. Of course, we understand that it may be necessary for some families to hold off on registering their children until the future is even more clear. Please know, if finances are a reason holding you back from registering, that we have multiple avenues for helping those in need to afford a Jewish education for their kids.

Remember: You do not need to pay for *Makor* at the time of your registration. What is most important to us is that your children get set into our system as soon as possible, so we can ensure we are set to offer them a top-notch program next year.



If you anticipate needing help paying for *Makor* into next year, also keep in mind that we can offer tuition scholarships through our Saba fund. The deadline for requesting SABA funds is October 1. For more details, please contact the Temple office.

We generally ask that Makor fees be paid by the first day of *Makor*. However, if you cannot pay your fees all at once, we are happy to work with you.

New Member Spotlight: The Sowry Family



Meet the Sowry family, Samantha, Brandon, daughter Emma (16 years old), and son Ezra (4 years old). Samantha is from Englewood and Brandon is from Huber Heights. For the past 11 years they have been living in Kettering, fairly close to Temple. Brandon was raised a secular Jew. As a young adult, he began studying Judaism with Rabbi Avnit at Shomrei Emunah but remained unaffiliated until they joined Temple Beth Or. Family dinners are very important to the Sowry family, especially Shabbat. It's a time to change clothes, sit around the table, enjoy the company of their extended family and share a delicious meal and most importantly, separate from the rest of the week. Brandon likes Temple Beth Or's energy, modern approach and

sense of community. They look forward to the building reopening so they can get to know us and we can get to know them.

Brandon is a stay-at-home dad for the moment. Ezra is on the autism spectrum so Brandon decided to pause his home inspection business and stay at home with his son until he is in school all day. Right now Ezra attends Pre-K in Kettering. And, yes – the change was a big adjustment for Brandon. Samantha is a physical therapist at Grandview Hospital. Emma attends Centerville High School.

Brandon is a lifelong martial arts enthusiast, though these days he has to take more care and spend time warming up. In addition, he is a history buff, spending time reading and studying Jewish history and learning about the martial arts. Brandon is proud of a newly acquired skill: Master Lego Builder. It appears Ezra is a good teacher. Samantha loves to bake and try new wines. And when she has the time, do activities to keep fit, practicing yoga and exercising with kettlebells. Samantha is a member of the Centerville Coeds dance team and has been part of the organization since elementary school.

Last but not least, introducing the two 4-legged members of the Sowry family. Frankie, a rescued pit bull with blue eyes. Frankie is named for “old Blue Eyes” himself, Frank Sinatra. And, Cora who was adopted from Brandon's sister.

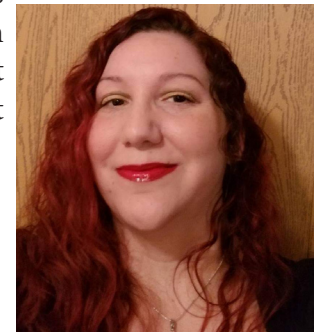
Longstanding Member Profile: Sarah Adams

Sarah literally grew up at Temple Beth Or. She is part of one of our founding families and was a member of the first class that went from consecration to confirmation. Sarah graduated from Centerville High school, attended Wright State University and then left the area for stints in Boston and Columbus. Wherever she lived, Sarah made it a point to get “home” to Temple Beth Or for the High Holidays and Passover. And, when she was living in Columbus, she often drove to Dayton to attend *Shabbat* evening services at Temple. Sarah moved back to Dayton two and a half years ago and immediately reconnected with her Temple family, catching up with lifelong friends and developing new relationships with the people who were adults and authority figures when she was a child in religious school.

Sarah's move back to Dayton was impacted by the pandemic. For over a year, there were no in-person events or volunteer opportunities at Temple. Casually sharing meals with friends was not possible. Plus, Sarah works in the health care field as a Medical Center Representative for Premier Health. Therefore, her workdays were so long and stressful that she was too tired for social gatherings on Zoom or anywhere else.

For years, Sarah has been active in interfaith work on one level or another, particularly with Daughters of Abraham and Kids4Peace. Now that we are moving beyond Covid, Sarah looks forward to getting back to the “new normal.” She longs to get back into singing in a choir, something she has enjoyed since 4th grade, her book club gathering in person, and, spending time with friends and her Temple family. In September, Sarah plans to travel to Michigan, tour different parts of the state and spend time with members of her dad's family.

Two months ago Sarah adopted a tortoise colored cat named Vanna from the Gem City Catfe. They are busy getting to know each other and, yes, Vanna is just as sophisticated as her name implies. (well not really) Rambunctious, funny, playful, inquisitive, and toddler-like could all describe her. She loves being carried like a baby.

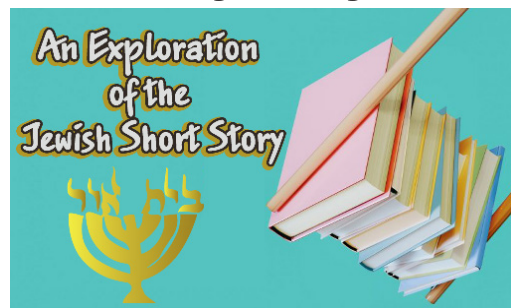


Adult Education

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story July 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 (If you attend regularly, Ruth will automatically sign you up and send you the story and starter discussion questions).



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

Jewish Movie Discussion Series Continues in July



The Adult Education Committee (AEC) of Temple Beth Or is pleased to announce a new partnered venture, beginning in June. It is the AEC's first

daytime offering as well. Congregants of Temple Beth Or are invited to join congregants of Congregation Anshai Emeth, Peoria, IL, in discussions of Jewish movies, old and new, dramas, comedies, and documentaries.

Who doesn't like films? Besides, these are Jewish movies. They are interesting, we will have fun discussing them, and this is an opportunity to learn about events, time periods, and people of importance to Jews.

Movies are available on Netflix, Amazon Prime (sometimes for a small fee), or YouTube. Use the link below to join the discussions; no registration needed.

Link to Join Zoom Discussion:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83313462906>

July 29, 12:00 p.m. on Zoom



We will discuss the movie, *The Other Story*, (available on Amazon Prime, \$3.99)

Summary: Two rebellious young women - one fleeing the chaos of secular hedonism for the disciplined comforts of faith, the other desperate to transcend her oppressive religion - cross paths unexpectedly in Jerusalem, to startling consequences.

August 15, 12:00 p.m. on Zoom



We will discuss the movie, *A Most Beautiful Thing*, (available on Amazon Prime, FREE)

Summary: Chronicles the first African American high school rowing team in this country (made up of young men, many of whom were in rival gangs from the West Side of Chicago) all coming together to row in the same boat.

Upcoming Dates & Movies: August 26 (*Shalom Bollywood*), September 9 (*Selma*), September 23 (*Avalon*).

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!

July Chai-Lights

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

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: Read and discuss a Jewish short story in a welcoming, engaging forum. This program is offered by the Adult Education Committee (AEC). Please see page 10 for more information.

Thursday, July 15, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

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

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

Lay-Led Shabbat: Join Mary 'Mahira' Rogers and the Temple Beth Or Choir for a streaming Lay-Led Shabbat Service.

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

Apocrypha Study: Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group as we begin study of the Apocrypha on Zoom.

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

Lay-Led Shabbat: Join us on Zoom for a streaming Lay-Led Shabbat Service.

Sunday, July 25, 11:00 a.m. at Temple Beth Or

Alden Solovy: Spiritual Street Smarts: What happens when we apply “street smarts” – awareness, common sense, self-defense, and reading between the lines – to our spirituality? We get a deeper understanding of the Divine and a new sense of prayer. In this interactive session, Liturgist Alden Solovy will take you on a tour of some key texts using Jewish spiritual street smarts. A book signing will follow the event. To register, please visit:

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

Monday, July 26, 7:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Or

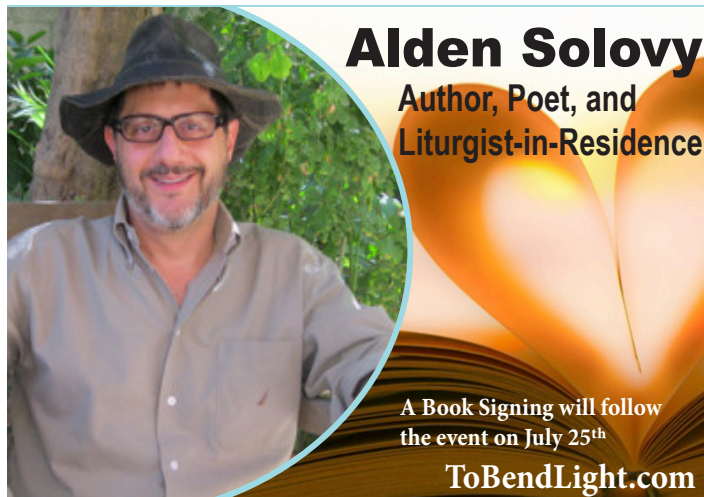
Alden Solovy: Halleluyah: The Biblical Basis of Prayer: Jewish prayer has foundational roots in Torah. From the word Halleluyah, perhaps the most famous single word of praise, to the structure of daily prayers, Alden will illustrate how the Bible has influenced prayer, adding his contemporary voice to ancient yearnings.

Visit this URL to learn more & sign up:

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

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

Lay-Led Shabbat: Join us on Zoom for a streaming Lay-Led Shabbat Service.



You are Invited to Join Us:

Sunday, July 25th 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Street Smarts:

What happens when we apply “street smarts” – awareness, common sense, self-defense, and reading between the lines – to our spirituality? We get a deeper understanding of the Divine and a new sense of prayer. In this interactive session, Liturgist Alden Solovy will take you on a tour of some key texts using Jewish spiritual street smarts.

Monday, July 26th 7:00 p.m.

Halleluyah: The Biblical Basis of Prayer:

Jewish prayer has foundational roots in Torah. From the word *Halleluyah*, perhaps the most famous single word of praise, to the structure of daily prayers, Alden will illustrate how the Bible has influenced prayer, adding his contemporary voice to ancient yearnings.

Alden Solovy spreads joy and excitement for prayer. An American Israeli liturgist, poet, lyricist, author, and educator, Alden is the Liturgist-in-Residence for the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. His teaching spans from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem to synagogues throughout North America, as well as Leo Baeck College in London and Limmud Conferences in the U.S., Canada and the UK.

Alden is the author of five books, three from CCAR Press: *This Precious Life: Encountering the Divine with Poetry and Prayer*, along with *This Joyous Soul: A New Voice for Ancient Yearnings* and *This Grateful Heart: Psalms and Prayers for a New Day*.

Member Support Forms On The Way!

This year's member support commitment forms are on their way! Please return your form promptly and update your contact information, if that has changed.



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Alden Solovy

Author, Poet, and
Liturgist-in-Residence

Sunday, July 25th 11:00 a.m.
Spiritual Street Smarts

Monday, July 26th 7:00 p.m.
Halleluyah: The Biblical Basis of Prayer

In Person at Temple Beth Or

A Book Signing will follow
the event on July 25th

ToBendLight.com