



March 2021

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XXXVI, Issue 3

Finding Community in Creativity



There is an old joke about the atheist who goes to *shul* every *Shabbat* and sits next to Ginsburg. One day, someone asks the non-practicing Jew why he keeps coming to services if he doesn't believe in God. He replies, "Ginsburg goes to *shul* to talk to God. I go to *shul* to talk to Ginsburg."

The truth is that Judaism is predominantly a religion of community. Many Jews, like Ginsburg's friend, belong to synagogues more for gathering than for praying or spirituality. Even the chosen Hebrew term for "synagogue," *Beit Knesset*, expresses this. Rather than "House of Prayer" or "House of Learning," the ancient Rabbis chose the name "House of Gathering" as the name for the synagogue.

It has now been an entire year since we, as a Jewish community, have been able to gather face to face. Many feared this extended shut down due to Coronavirus would mean the end for Judaism and the synagogue altogether. Finding ways to connect became an urgent response to social isolation.

Last March, as soon as synagogue doors closed, rabbis of observant

denominations relaxed Jewish laws requiring ten people to gather in one room to form a *quorum* or *minyan*.

They said a virtual gathering could be a *minyan* as long as people could see each other's faces, even if only on screen. Other congregations tried to meet outside, put up Plexiglas partitions, wear masks, and socially distance during reservation-only in person prayer services. We tried innovative drive-through and parking-lot services. My favorite response was the congregation that rented a drive-in movie theatre for "Car-Nidre."

For some Jews, none of these options work. They don't connect online and won't attend an outdoor event because they choose safety over community. On the other side of the spectrum are some ultra-Orthodox enclaves that have chosen community over safety. They continue to gather as always, unmasked and arm in arm for weddings and funerals, and have unfortunately created super-spreader events in Israel and the greater New York area.

Above all, Jews are an inventive and creative community that refuses to be daunted by the pandemic. When the Temple in Jerusalem, which had been the heart of Jewish life for centuries, was destroyed by the Romans, most Jews lamented Judaism's loss. But Rabbi Yohanan

Ben Zakkai cleverly smuggled himself out from under the Emperor's nose in Jerusalem and escape to the rabbinic scholars of Yavneh. There they created an innovative new institution, the synagogue, a local center for Jewish worship, study, and community building.

I feel sure that when we open the doors to our synagogues once again, we too will evolve new ways of marking Jewish observance. We will find a newfound or renewed appreciation for attending services together, enjoying an *Oneg Shabbat*, and hearing our choir sing in unison. And we will find fresh and inventive ways to include what we have learned while quarantined to make our worship more accessible to those who cannot be in attendance.

This pandemic has undoubtedly been a crisis for us all. The Hebrew word for "crisis" is *mashber*, from the root "to shatter." But *mashber* also means birthing stool. In the Jewish tradition, a crisis can also lead to new creations, and shattering pain can bring forth new life, delivering new ways to be Jewish in this world. There are blessings that await us in the aftermath of our quarantine. May we find ways to be a part of our community, even as we are apart.

Shalom,
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.

Financial Donations

General Fund

In Memory of:

Janet Hirsfeld
Karen and John Granby
Julius Simpson
Jessica and Brian Simpson
Ruth Layman
Melissa and Harold
Guadalupe
Iris Kapustein
Ira Segalewitz
Al Izenson
Eva and Fred Izenson
Marvin Solganik
Lois Solganik
Marsha Remer
Lynda and Gerald Troy
Irving Troy
Lynda and Gerald Troy
Melville Granby
Karen and John Granby

In Memory of:

Ruth Crace
Karen and John Granby
Julian Rochelle
Karen and John Granby
Ida Plotkin
Joann Plotkin
Donna Throckmorton
Joann Plotkin
Goldie Einis
Lori and John Westerkamp

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

By: Scot Denmark
Karen and John Granby
In Memory of:
Dorothy Rosenbaum
Barbara Cantwell
Richard Schuman
Beverly Louis

In Memory of:

David Yates
Sherry and Albert McKenney
Florence Yates
Sherry and Albert McKenney
In Appreciation of:
Rabbi Chessin's Time and Assistance
Lynne and Scott Goldberg
Marianne Ellman

Music Fund

In Honor of:

Mary Rogers and the Choir
Wendy Rachlin and Roger
Pankake

Richard Clair Camp Scholarship Fund

In Memory of:

Gert Dock
Eva Clair

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.

Thank
you 

Thank You to All Our Temple Beth Or Angels

When COVID-19 Vaccinations began last month, there was a severe shortage of vaccines and appointments for the estimated 2.2 million Ohio senior citizens who were eligible. All of the sites for scheduling appointments were swamped making it nearly impossible for seniors to get vaccination appointments, especially those who were not computer savvy. The Hank Adler Senior Connections saw the need and sprung into action. We were able to help over 17 members (and some of their friends) get appointments and transportation. Special thanks to all our Temple Beth Or Angels who quickly came forward to help with this important project. Thanks to Bill and Claudia Fried, Alex Pearl, Jen VanArtsdalen, Jan Maharam, Summer Pachman, David and Deb Char, Bev Farnbacher, Marilyn Marx, Joni and Ralph Watson, and all the others who helped get the word out. If you still need help getting a COVID vaccination, please call Bill Fried at (937) 434-0744.

The Jewish Law of Vaccines



As I write this note, we are on the precipice of a third COVID-19 vaccine authorization for Johnson & Johnson's version of a vaccine. We are

nearing the 50 million vaccine doses mark and hovering around 1.4 million doses a day, depending on the day of the week, the weather, and many other factors. Nonetheless, a vaccine seems to be arriving, albeit slower than many of our prayers had hoped.

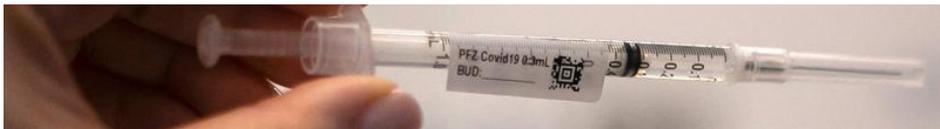
Scores of Temple Beth Or members have already had their chance to get the first (and some the second) doses of their vaccine. Thanks to the work of dedicated volunteers led by Bill Fried and our Hank Adler Connections for Seniors group, members

of the vaccine. Yet, I can confidently say that I trust the vaccine and have already received both doses. However, I am a Rabbi, so I have been struggling with a question of Jewish law in recent days, asking myself if Jewish Law should (or does) mandate that all people should be vaccinated, except those with physician's exceptions.

For this question, I turned to our text and our teachers. Through the words of the *Tur* (Rabbi Yaakov ben Asher in 14th century Spain), who cites *Ramban* (Rabbi Moshe ben Nahman in 12th century Spain), we learn that the act of practicing medicine is a permission that is given, i.e., graduation from medical school, Board certification, and/or appointment to a faculty. However, once that permission is granted, practicing medicine is an **obligation** placed upon a physician. It is a *mitzvah*, a commandment, to practice med-



icine if one is able because the act of saving a life is one of the highest deeds an individual can do. ter group of medical societies from the public and private sectors stand by the vaccine efficacy. In fact, with resounding unity and only a few outliers, the medical community has shown the vaccine is a proven, safe preventative to the disease and will undoubtedly save lives. Thus, in the eyes of Jewish law, the COVID vaccine is a medical necessity, one which we are each obligated to pursue and, when it is our turn, to do our part to put an end to the pandemic.



who could not find appointments were given an "angel" who could help schedule their appointments and arrange transportation if needed.

Temple Beth Or is working hard to open its doors again, to join together in prayer and celebration in our sanctuary, and to have communal events, and every person who is vaccinated in our community gets us one step closer to that reality. I am not a doctor, and I do not play one on TV (though Rachel, my wife, will become a doctor upon her graduation this May from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine), so I will not venture into the science

of saving a life is one of the highest deeds an individual can do.

Indeed, suppose a physician gives us advice as a patient. In that case, commentators of the *Shulchan Aruch* (Joseph Caro in 16th Century Tzfat) teach us that as a patient, we are obligated to heed the advice because we are compelled to save our own life if it is possible. An exception arises in a later commentary to the use of untested drugs, which is critical to note for the COVID vaccine. Why should one be compelled to take something unproven? In Jewish Law, one is not. However, in Jewish Law, the COVID vaccine is not unproven. Group af-

In our community, at Temple Beth Or, we have all been through a year of pain and sadness. The end, however, is insight. If we each do our part, if we heed the words of our tradition, practicing our *pikuach nefesh*, the need to keep ourselves safe and healthy, hopefully soon we will be sitting together again in our sanctuary singing the words *Heini Mah Tov*, how good it is to be seated together.

Ken Yehi Ratzon,
May this be God's will.
Rabbi Benjamin G. Azriel



Makor Spring 2021 Schedule

All programs at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise indicated

March 7 – Online Education & Online Hebrew

March 14 – ZoomOver Passover Program & Online Hebrew

March 21 – April 4 – Spring & Passover Break

April 11 – Online Education & Online Hebrew

April 18 – Parking Lot Program & Online Hebrew

April 25 – Online Education & Online Hebrew

May 2 – Tikkun Olam Sunday & Online Hebrew

May 9 – Final Day of Makor Online & Online Hebrew

We Will Be Back...Corned Beef Will Return in 2022

The March Corned Beef Sandwich Sale is on hold for this year because of Covid-19, but we will be back in 2022. We will again be asking for your help making our delicious corned beef sandwich lunches. Watch the Light for details.

Thank you to all of the wonderful Temple members who volunteered to make our 2020 fundraiser a success. We hope you will be able to help us again next year, and of course, thank you to our 2020 Sponsors.

Marni Flagel

MCL Restaurant and Bakery

DeVore Katz Michaelson ENT

Dr. Michael Halasz, DDS

Winston Heat Treating, Inc

Economy Linen and Towel Service, Inc.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton

Susan M. Snodgrass, Financial Advisor and Stephen Lee,

Managing Director – Wells Fargo Advisors

Kevin A. Bressler, CFP/Ameriprise Financial

Ron & Sue Nelson

The Station House at St. Leonard's

Pediatric Associates of Dayton

97.3 WSWO-LP – daytonoldies.org

Shaun P. Nicholson, CFP, Managing Director-

Wealth Management – UBS Financial Services, Inc.

Gary Holstine – Wells Fargo Advisors

Dayton Optometric Center, Doctors Gilbert & Rudolf

Everything You Wanted to Know About The COVID Vaccine, But Were Hopefully Not Afraid To Ask

We are now into the second year of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. In the US, with a population of about 330 million people, more than 27.8 million people have been diagnosed with COVID (the disease caused by the coronavirus), and over 490,000 people have died of or with it. Although the percent of people who die of COVID is low at around 1.7%, that does vary based on age, health, etc. Those who contract COVID can have no or mild symptoms, or severe life threatening problems. Although many people recover completely, some may take months to do so, and some will have persistent symptoms. A vaccine strategy is our best means to avoid illness and death and to get back to normal.



What is herd immunity and why can't we wait for that?

Herd immunity is the idea that when around 80% of the population has immunity to a disease (through infection or vaccine), the disease has so few people to infect it fades away. Right now we are at about 20%. Achieving herd immunity would take about 4 times as many people infected or vaccinated. Unfortunately, without vaccines that could translate to over to 1 million more deaths from disease. That is clearly an unacceptable price to pay.

What are the vaccines and how do they work?

There are 2 vaccines approved in the US at this time. Pfizer and Moderna are mRNA vaccines. mRNA is a small piece of genetic material which directs cells to make a specific protein. In this case, cells called macrophages “eat” the mRNA. Once inside these cells, the mRNA directs the cells to make coronavirus spike proteins. These macrophages with coronavirus spikes are recognized as foreign by the body, and antibodies are made to attack them. The mRNA and these weird macrophages are then cleared by the immune system and do not hang around. Fortunately, the immune response does. These vaccines require a 2nd dose at 3 or 4 weeks later.

So, I won't get COVID from these vaccines?

No, you cannot get COVID from any of these vaccines.

How well do these vaccines work?

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines decrease the risk of COVID by 95% in studies which combined involved about 80,000 subjects. Those few who received the vaccine and still got COVID got only mild cases, not serious or life threatening ones.

What's all this I hear about different coronavirus variants?

It is true that viruses mutate over time. The first significant variant B.1.1.7 is the more transmissible form found in Britain. There is evidence to suggest that the current vaccines provide protection against serious disease and death. There are also Brazil and South Africa variants which have been found in the US. So far, there is some evidence that the current vaccines may still work against these versions, but not as well as against the original. Despite that they seem to be very effective in protecting against serious cases of COVID and death. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines can be modified relatively quickly if necessary to protect against these variants. In fact, Moderna is already working on a “booster” shot, if it is thought to be needed. The situation is being monitored.

How quickly will these vaccines work?

In the studies, there was evidence of about 50% protection in as early as 2 weeks after the first dose. About 1 week after the 2nd dose, the protection is up to 95%.

How long will these vaccines work?

The real answer is we don't know. Remember that this vaccine is brand new, and there are no people who received it 5 or 10 years ago. Clearly, there are vaccines that last a lifetime, some that last 10 years, and others like flu vaccine which "lasts" about a year, because the flu virus changes. There is evidence that the coronavirus antibodies are present for at least 5 months. Again, this is based on the limited amount of time of study, and should not be construed to mean that is the final answer.

What are the side effects of these vaccines?

Mostly they are like any vaccine you have taken before. Some recipients will have no problems at all. Some will have soreness or redness at the injection site. Also reported are fatigue, headache and rarely fever. There is about an 11 out of 1 million chance of an allergic reaction to the shot. It appears to be an allergy to polyethylene glycol (PEG). That is why people who are allergic to PEG or its close cousin, polysorbate, should not get the mRNA vaccines. Because of the risk, all who can get it are to be observed for around 15 minutes after the injection. This is because the allergic reaction could affect breathing and blood pressure. Treatment is usually an Epi-Pen, which some of you may carry already. To date, no one has died from one of these reactions.

If I had Covid do I need the vaccine?

The medical answer is yes. It is not clear how robust an immune response one may have following a mild or asymptomatic case. As such, the vaccine is a good way to be sure you are truly maximally protected. Relatively new reports suggest that COVID survivors may have more side effects to the vaccine, indicating they have some immunity to the virus. You may be asked to wait 90 days after COVID before getting a vaccine.

Are there people who should not get it?

The problem is that not all types of situations have been studied. For example, pregnant or breast feeding women have not been studied. There are differing and changing opinions about whether pregnant women should be vaccinated. It is advisable to check with your obstetrician or primary care doctor regarding the latest recommendations.

Children have not been studied yet. So, no one under 16 should be getting the vaccine at this time.

It is thought that people who have allergies can receive these vaccines. People who have had severe reactions to the first coronavirus vaccine should consult the administering agency or their doctor. Also as mentioned above, if you are allergic to PEG or polysorbate, you should not get the current vaccines.

Once I have been vaccinated can I do anything and everything?

It's complicated. Since the vaccine is not 100% effective, there is still a chance you could get COVID, albeit a mild case. From that perspective, you could choose whether the activity in mind, traveling for example, is worth a low risk of COVID. The other issue is whether you can transmit coronavirus to others after you have been vaccinated. The true answer is we do not know. Theoretically, you can breath in coronavirus and have it start to grow in you before your immune system kills it off. In that time frame, you could potentially spread virus to those around you and infect them. For these reasons, wearing a mask is still a good idea.

What if I still don't want to take a vaccine?

The problem is that if too many people are not immune to the coronavirus, the pandemic will continue. That would mean more illness, hospitalizations, lockdowns, masks, social distancing, restrictive services, and deaths. You really can't rely on everyone else to take care of this problem.

We are all anxious to resume normal life as soon as possible. Each of our parts of repairing the world (*Tikun Olam*) includes making it safe from disease and protecting ourselves, our loved ones, our friends, and our community. The best and quickest way to get there is to get vaccinated when you are able.

New Member Spotlight



Meet new members: the Magalnick family! Michael, Claire, Oliver (9), and Abigail (5) have been living in Troy for about a year and a half. They moved here from Phoenix, AZ where they were members of Temple Chai. Michael is a pediatrician. Claire has been staying home with the children, however her new business endeavor is managing an Air B and B rental home near Destin, FL. As a family, they enjoy hiking, biking, and golf. Once the status of the pandemic improves, they hope to resume their love of travel.

Oliver and Abigail have been attending virtual *Makor* this year. They really enjoyed the “election” in *Makor* and how the rabbis tied in Jewish values and tradition with the current events of the presidential election. They have enjoyed the parking lot activities and look forward to more in person opportunities when the time is right.

The Magalnicks look forward to their kids' getting to know other Jewish kids, High Holy Day services, and *Shabbat* services. Michael and Claire were drawn to Temple Beth Or because we have a similar vibe, education, and interactivity to their temple in Phoenix. Welcome Magalnick family!

Longstanding Member Profile

Meet Deb and David Char of Kettering and their son Benjamin. David grew up in North Dayton and attended Temple Israel with his family. David went to Ohio State, and after working in New York he returned to Dayton on a “temporary basis” to open a tavern for his family. He never left. Deb is a native of Ann Arbor, Michigan and moved to Dayton in 1989 with a newly minted master’s degree in health care administration to take a job at Dayton Children’s Hospital. Flash forward to 2004, when they joined Temple Beth Or. Benjamin was a newborn; David was recovering from a broken leg and Deb was a busy mom with a full-time job in Springfield. They were drawn to our warm, caring, and nurturing community that happens to be “just around the corner” from their home.



Today Deb works in IT at Premier Health, David is a self-employed entrepreneur and Benjamin is a junior at Fairmont High School in Kettering. The Chars are foodies. They love all types of cuisine, good chocolate and time spent with friends. Their Covid project is fostering dogs with behavioral issues for SISCA to get them ready for adoption. Benjamin enjoys music: he sings in the a cappella group Fusion and Symphonic Chorale at school and runs track. You may also see him working at the Kroger at Cornerstone.

The Chars are active members of Temple. Deb currently serves on the fundraising committee, and has been a *Makor* teacher for a number of years. David is part of the High Holiday shofar squad and one of the original members of the brisketeers. Both have been members of our Board and look forward to getting back into the building for Onegs and hugs, and yes, an occasional service. They are also participants in the Life and Legacy program.

Picture caption: The extended Char family on vacation Dec. 2019. Deb, David, Benjamin, grown Jonathan with fiancé Ashley, and grandson, Mayson. Not pictured, granddaughter Liliana who was born in December, 2020.



Adult Education

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story March 10th



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/>

Chai Mitzvah Continues March 11th 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.



Date: Thursday March 11th, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Questions: Contact Jan Maharam at 937-361-8157

A JCRC Community Conversation *From Hallein, Austria to Philadelphia and Dayton: The story of two Jewish refugees Reunited after 69 years*



November 8, 2020 was the date that reunited teenage close friends, Israel 'Srulik' Segalewicz and Regina Puter. They were teenagers when they last saw each other in 1951 at the Jewish Refugees displaced persons camp in Hallein, Austria.

Today, they are Ira Segalewicz and Ruth Brandspiegel, and their teen years seem a lifetime ago. Join them as they share the story of how they ended up in Hallein, Austria, met each other, and found each other 69 years later.

Segalewicz's son, Scott, will moderate their conversation using a map that traces the routes from their homes to the DP camp to the U.S. This program is brought to you through a partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton's JCRC and JCC, Temple Beth Or Adult Education Committee, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's JCRC.

When: Tuesday, March 16th, 7:00 p.m.

Where: This event will be held on Zoom

RSVP: <https://jewishdayton.org/event/from-hallein-austria-to-philadelphia-and-dayton/>



Temple Beth Or
5275 Marshall Road
Dayton OH 45429-5815

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAYTON, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 1552

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Streaming Seder

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

Where: The comfort of your own home

When: Sunday, March 28, 6:30 p.m.

How: Pick up 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. @ Temple Beth Or

Cost: \$25/meal

While we will have physical distance, we will maintain social and communal connection!
The Temple will provide Seder meal boxes for drive-through pick up.

The meal includes: 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.

The Temple will be ordering 80 meat and 20 vegetarian dinners.

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

Temple Beth Or 5275 Marshall Road Dayton, Ohio 45429
www.templebethor.com 937-435-3400



Today...and for Generations