



April 2022

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XXXVII, Issue 4

## Some words from our Temple COVID Task Force



It is hard to believe that we have been apart for two years. Now, more than two years in, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve relatively rapidly. This time, thankfully,

for the better. With the relaxation of CDC masking guidelines, many institutions have been adjusting their policies. Temple Beth Or is doing the same.

In consultation with our Temple Beth Or Reopening COVID Task Force, effective immediately, our Temple's religious services and adult programs will generally become mask-optional activities. HOWEVER, *MAKOR* (our Sunday school) and its programs will continue to require masking students and teachers through the end of the school year. In addition, communal dining events will return in the coming weeks, including our live Passover Seder (which will also be streamed online for those who prefer to celebrate at home.)

While a mask-optional policy may be welcome news for some, it may also bring health concerns and more complex emotions in others. As a religious community, we must maintain our commitment to accepting and supporting one another. No one should feel questioned or judged by continuing to wear a mask for any reason, nor for their decision not to. Given this, we invite those who may



themselves be immune-compromised or have someone in their household who is and have children under 5 in their family to continue their current practice of mask usage.

While the science supports the lifting of universal masking among an all-vaccinated community within a low incidence setting, it is also clear that continuing to wear a high-quality mask (N 95, KN 95, KN 94) is one of the best tools we have for helping protect ourselves for any reason, even in an environment where others are unmasked.

No one knows what the future holds for COVID-19. The leadership of Temple Beth Or and our Task Force will continue to monitor and review

our policy using the most current data and guidelines. It will adjust as we deem appropriate for our community.

Over these past two years, we have defined what it means to be a multi-access community by creating a sacred connection online and in person. We are committed to seeing each other, masked or unmasked, to develop a community of love, relationship, and safety.

*Shalom,*  
Rabbi Judy Chessin  
Scot Denmark: Temple COVID Re-open Task Force Chair  
Task Force members: Jude Cohen, Melissa Guadalupe, and Stuart Merl



# 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

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*All that Temple Beth Or has lost in recent months*

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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.

## Special Thank You to our Corned Beef Volunteers!

Andrea Abrams

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# Asking All the Questions



The *Talmud* is a piece of artwork, a literary guide, a roadmap to Jewish legal decision-making, and a historical

biography of the Jewish people. It combines centuries of scripture, discussion, and stories that articulate nearly every aspect of the way one should live their life. Frozen at the point of codification (somewhere in the 7th to 8th century CE), the Talmud explained the decision-making process and the laws by which life should be lived. While the Talmud is a document that is frozen in time, our peoplehood, Judaism itself, evolved into the later centuries, continued into the present day, and hopefully for many generations to come. But its stories and teachings are nuggets into our shared history as Jews.

In the Babylonian *Talmud*, the Tractate *Pesachim*, deep in the discussion on page 116a, is a discussion about children and Passover. As we practice around our seder tables, on Passover, we dip twice, while on every other night, we need not even dip once. However, in this tractate, in this story, we are taught that children are exempt from even needing to dip once, even on Passover. Why is this the case? Rav Safra explains children do not need to dip because they should be so consumed with asking questions that they do not even have the chance



to dip their parsley into the salt-water.

Passover is the chance for children to learn about the woes not only of our ancestors but the woes of our modern day. It is a chance for every question to be addressed (age-appropriately, of course) so that they may take the stories of olden days and learn from them.

As we sit around our seder tables, we encourage the youngest child to ask the Four Questions — questions they may memorize in school or remember from years past. Meanwhile, older kids see themselves in the parallel story of the wise, wicked, simple, and naive children. Whether the questions are written in the *Haggadah*, or they are genuine questions born out of a desire to learn and know, Passover gives us the

chance to teach our children not only how to ask questions but that they deserve answers.

Whether at Temple Beth Or on a Sunday morning, a text from a Bar Mitzvah student, or on a Zoom call, questions are the best part of being a Rabbi. Students' questions are an opportunity to pass my knowledge *ldor vador*, from generation to generation.

So on this Passover, may our Seder tables be filled with questions and as many answers as we can give. But mostly, may it be filled with the sound of the community passing tradition from one generation to the next. ***Chag Pasach Kasher V'Sameach*** — may it be a happy Passover for us all.

*B'shalom,*  
Rabbi Ben Azriel

# Sofer Shel Bassel: Torah Scribe Visited March 20<sup>th</sup>



# Yom Ha'Atzmaut

CELEBRATING  
ISRAEL

SUNDAY MAY 1, 1:30-4PM  
Indian Riffle Park  
2801 Stroop Rd., Kettering 45420

This program is proudly supported by:



**ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT FUND**

A JCC Association Program Accelerator

Live music, Israeli dancing, Krav Maga demonstration, activities for everyone!  
A large accessible playground for children.  
Israeli-style Kosher box lunches for adults and children available for preorder at [rochelskitchen.com](http://rochelskitchen.com)

*Free admission, and onsite parking!*



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Temple Beth Or  
Temple Israel

## Adult Education

### Chai Mitzvah Returns April 7<sup>th</sup> on Zoom

In appreciation for generous underwriting by Rabbi Judy Chessin, Temple Beth Or's Adult Education Committee (AEC) is delighted to announce the formation of a new *Chai Mitzvah* group. Because Temple Beth Or has hosted previous *Chai Mitzvah* groups, the national *Chai Mitzvah* organization is waiving the cost of materials to individuals who join the group. This means that you, personally, will pay nothing for materials.

We invite you to register online and join us for *Chai Mitzvah* – a personal Jewish journey to share with friends. *Chai Mitzvah* has groups in 39 states and 6 countries.



**Register & Learn More:**  
<https://templebethor.com/chai-mitzvah/>

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. Please contact the AEC ([ruth.schumacher@wright.edu](mailto:ruth.schumacher@wright.edu); 937-672-3368). We want to support YOU!

VOLUNTEERS  
**NEEDED!**

## Babysitters Needed

Our partners at David's Church are seeking childcare for Easter Sunday morning services. They are in need of babysitters on Sunday, April 17, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. This church provides our babysitting for our High Holidays and we reciprocate during their holy seasons. If you are willing and available please contact Donna at the Temple office.

# April Chai-Lights

## Friday, April 1, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Rock of Ages *Shabbat*: Marc Rossio rocks the house as he and Rabbi Chessin lead a creative and musical *Shabbat* service.

## Saturday, April 2, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Apocryphal Study: Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group as we continue to explore the book of Jubilees. Hear the Genesis stories in a new way!

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

*Chai Mitzvah*: *Chai Mitzvah* is a personal Jewish journey to share with friends, with groups in 39 states and 6 countries. Visit page 6 for more info.

## Friday, April 8: No Service Scheduled

## Saturday, April 9, 10:00 a.m. In Person

Torah Live!: Join Rabbi Judy Chessin in-person for *Shabbat HaGadol*, the Sabbath before Passover.

## Friday, April 15: No Service Scheduled

## Saturday, April 16, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Second *Seder*: Pre-order today! Please see the article below for more information.

## Friday, April 22, 6:30 p.m. Zoom & Streaming

Join Rabbi Ben Azriel for a streaming *Shabbat* Service including special Passover *Yizkor* prayers (memorial) on Zoom and streaming.

## Saturday, April 23, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Apocryphal Study: Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group as we continue to explore the book of Jubilees.

## Friday, April 29, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Join Rabbi Judy Chessin and the Temple Beth Or Choir, directed by Mary 'Mahira' Rogers for a musical *Shabbat* Service.

## Saturday, April 30, 10:00 a.m. In Person

*B'nai Mitzvah* of Max and Miriam Rose

# Hybrid Second Seder



**For those taking meals to-go:** The Temple will provide Seder meal boxes for pick up or delivery (if unable to come to the Temple). At 6:30 p.m. our in-person Seder will begin, and the Seder webcast featuring Rabbis Chessin and Azriel will begin featuring your favorite prayers and songs. The webcast will be available on Facebook Live and Youtube.

Temple Beth Or is excited to welcome our congregation back in person to join us for our Second Seder! For those who prefer to participate from the comfort of home, our Second Seder will also stream online.

**Where:** In person at Temple Beth Or / Your home

**When - In Person:** Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.

**When - Pickup:** To Be Announced - See Plan It

**Cost:** \$25 per adult, and \$15 for children (ages 3-12).

Our live (and streaming) Seder will include all of the traditions of the Passover meal. Together we will eat matzah, the bread of affliction, commemorate the harshness of slavery with bitter herbs, drink four cups of wine or juice, and participate in a creative *Maggid*, the retelling of the story of our ancestors. Creative touches and joyful music will highlight our service and the younger set will perform the 4 questions for our congregation. Finally, we will have prizes and surprises for all of those who participate in finding the *afikomen*, the dessert matzah. It will be a joy to participate together as we have so many times in years past.

**For those joining us in person:** Please bring your own family seder plate for your table. We will provide ceremonial foods.

Join us in person or online and share the Second Seder with all of your Temple friends and family!

**Chicken and vegetarian meals available.**

Get your prepaid order in by 12:00 p.m. on April 8<sup>th</sup> to be guaranteed a meal. The webcast Seder will be available to all whether you order a meal or not.

Your participation in person and virtually will ensure that this will be yet another memorable Passover Seder experience. *Chag Sameach*.

**Preorder by noon on April 8**



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*Hybrid Seder*

**Join Temple Beth Or for an in-person & streaming Second Seder**  
**Where: Temple Beth Or or the comfort of your own home**  
**When: Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Take Home: Pick up @ Temple Beth Or**

We will be hosting our Second Seder in-person at Temple Beth Or!  
 The Temple will also offer Seder meal boxes for pick up for those who would like to attend from home.

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](http://www.templebethor.com) or call (937) 435-3400**

Your participation will ensure that this will be yet another memorable Passover Seder experience.  
*Chag Sameach.*

