



## Zman Heirutanu – A Season of Freedom



Our Pass-over Seder commands us "*lirot et atzmo k'ilu hu yatzah mi-Mitzrayim,*" - "to see ourselves as if we personally left Egypt." Each time we retell the story

of our ancestors crossing the Red Sea, we are also invited to apply the theme of liberation to our own lives. While few of us have ever felt the sting of a taskmaster's whip, most of us are no strangers to enslavement.

Many have become enslaved to debilitating stress relievers in today's fast-paced, harried, and challenging world. Perhaps we rely on work, food, (too much or too little) alcohol or drugs, spending, cutting, gambling, inappropriate relationships, pornography, or aimless perusal of social media. While the term *Mitzrayim* means "Egypt" in Hebrew, the word also means "narrows, constriction or boundaries." What behaviors or habits have we adapted which bind us and detract from a fully present and spiritually liberated life?

I am in awe of one of our *Chai* School students at Temple Beth Or, who felt she wasted too much time on social media. So, she quit cold turkey, removing all apps from her



electronic devices! I don't know if I have enough discipline to remove such a great source of entertainment and endorphins, but she is right! So many of us are eternally attached to our devices!

Judaism's commandments equip us with the practice of self-control so that denying ourselves our every whim becomes second nature. Jewish living imbues us with the sense that we aren't to eat whatever or however we want, mate with whomever we want, or spend all that we want. And every Passover, we eat matzah – the bread of affliction to prove that we have self-control and the ability to say no to leavening. We are not enslaved by our appetites, even just for this short time,

We can find even more profound

meaning in this ancient holiday if we choose one binding habit from which to liberate ourselves, even for only one week. Can we get off the couch and exercise each day of the 7 (or 8) days of Passover? Let's silence Twitter, TikTok, or FanDuel for the festival's length?

As we abstain from leaven, limiting our reliance on debilitating habits can also be a first step in crossing the Red Sea and making Passover a true *zman heriutanu*, a season of our freedom. May this spring festival bring us the resolve to pass over the addictions that enslave us and journey toward the freedom that can result.

*Hag Sameach,*  
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!*

The congregation sends prayers of *Refuah Shlema* to:

Madalyn Ammons, Arlene Graham, Benjy Klein, Marc Rossio, Carla Scherr, Ron Solomon, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells.

The Congregation extends its deepest sympathies to:

Doris Constantine in memory of the loss of her son Mark Constantine.  
Drs. Martha Moody Jacobs and Martin Jacobs on the passing of Marti's mother Maurine Moody Scott.

Honorable *Menschen* - We are *Kvelling* with:

Ron and Sue Nelson and Myrna Nelson in honor of their grandson's mention in Moment Magazine. Zev Burton was listed as a notable among Ten Jewish TikTokers.  
Melissa Hoffheimer for being named 2023 Teacher of the Year by Centerville Schools. Melissa teaches French at Watts Middle School.

## April 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 7

Irving Fink 4/5  
Florence Paull 4/5  
Sam Kruke 4/6  
Charles Ryan 4/6  
Doris Westcott 4/6  
Sobhi Hakim 4/7  
Arnold Adler 4/8  
Harry Levy 4/9  
Gladys Parker 4/9  
Irene Smith Sachs 4/9  
Philip P. Holroyd 4/10  
Abraham B. Stein 4/10  
Jill Beckerman 4/11  
Max Fenberg 4/11

### April 14

Lewis S. Alcus 4/12  
Bernard Constantine 4/12  
Rabbi Samuel Cook 4/12  
Barbara Fligel 4/12  
Stephen Fried 4/13  
Vuokko Kaarina Leppanen 4/13  
Robert H. Glickler 4/14  
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  
Barbara Gelbart 4/18  
Lori K. Phillips 4/18  
Paulette Winthrop 4/18

### April 21

Donald Foster Low 4/19  
Marissa Factora 4/20  
Leo Kahn 4/20  
Sara Geisenfeld 4/22  
Michael Chesler 4/23  
Jean Weiner 4/23  
Benjamin (Beau) Michaelson 4/24  
Morton Ohlbaum 4/24  
Abraham H. Gorsky 4/25  
Roy Kenneth Hammonds 4/25  
Rebecca Linville 4/25

### April 28

Harold Swillinger 4/27  
Randy Goldstein 4/28  
Yetta Hochman 4/28  
Leah Karp 4/28  
David Goldberg 4/29  
Mirian Jacobson 4/30  
Jacob Naiman 4/30  
Shirley Conte 5/1  
Shirlee Gilbert 5/1  
Joseph Sachs 5/1  
Martin Sumers 5/2



# 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

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Larry Glickler

In Appreciation of:

Rabbi Judy Chessin and members of Temple Beth Or

Legacy Gift from the Estate of Marc Low

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Gary Holstine

Lois Rubens

Gary Holstine

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In Memory of:

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### Campership Fund

In Memory of:

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Rabbi Michael J. Cook

Muff and Alan Steinharter

### Oneg Shabbat Fund

In Honor of:

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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.

## SPRING CLOTHING DRIVE FOR CLOSET TRANSFORMATION

Donate gently used clothing (no rips or stains) at drop boxes

at Temple Israel, Temple Beth Or, & the CJCE by 4/14.

Teen volunteers will sort donations on 4/16 at 1:30

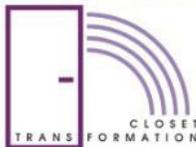
### NEEDED ITEMS:

- T-shirts
- hoodies
- larger size men's pants
- new underwear/socks
- travel size mouthwash
- shampoo/conditioner
- toothbrushes/toothpaste

Scan QR code for monetary donation options.



A clothing exchange affirming the transgender community of the Miami Valley.



# Was God the Original AI?



Last month you may have read about how ChatGPT thought we could relate Purim to the use of artificial intelligence in my Light article.

ChatGPT did a pretty good job relating the two topics, but it did so without a soul, in my opinion. It was so easy for the intelligence software to write an article, but it could not put the personal touch on the article or relate it to modern Jewish life at Temple Beth Or.

What is the point of such incredible software if it cannot connect emotionally with those who read and use it? Well, maybe that is the point. The success of ChatGPT is dependent upon its use as a source for everyday, regular, repetitive actions. It is not meant to create relationships between a reader and a writer.

If I brought up ChatGPT and asked it to write another article relating AI to Passover, it could do a fair job of giving us the facts. It might even bring God into the conversation, presenting why it believes God is an artificial intelligence that led the Hebrews out of Egypt and into freedom so many years ago.

Frankly, it might even try to convince us that AI and God have more in common than we may wish to believe.

It leaves me wondering how my relationship with AI differs from my relationship with God. Ultimately, both are present in my life in a way that is transcendent to my daily life. They both exist in a way that only feels personal if I choose to make it personal. They both have influence, but only if I consciously try bringing them into my life.

As I write more, I question whether God was the first form of artificial intelligence. Or, maybe God was the first form of intelligence in general.

AI's role in our life will evolve; just as computers became more important, cell phones became the norm, typewriters disappeared, and cars started to self-drive. AI will become a part of our lives – just how it does remains to be seen.

One thing is certain, though: God led the Hebrews out of slavery according to the stories in our Torah. AI didn't do that. So we can all celebrate our Exodus from Egypt together around our seder tables. Maybe even AI will appear when we open the door for Elijah.

*Chat Pasach Samach* – a happy Passover to you and your family.

*B'shalom,*  
Rabbi Ben Azriel

## Kids Make Seder

**Saturday April 8th 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.:**

Drop your kids off for a kosher for Passover matzah pizza dinner and time for us to prep for the Kids Make Seder on Sunday, April 9.

**Sunday April 9th 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:**

Kids Lead Seder while family participates  
All are welcome

**Cost:** \$10/child, max \$20/family to attend Saturday night. Cost covers dinner and Seder supplies

Please RSVP to the Office by Wednesday, April 5th so we know how much to prep for the kids to eat and work on the Seder presentation.



# Adult Education

## Chai Mitzvah April 13th 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

(Designed to “grow your Judaism”)



Due to generous financial underwriting from Rabbi Chessin, Adult Education at Temple Beth Or has been able to host *Chai Mitzvah* for a couple of years. Adult Education is pleased to offer a new *Chai Mitzvah* program that honors and celebrates each month of the year, as well as a woman of the Bible, whose life illustrates that month's focus. The heart of all *Chai Mitzvah* programming is respectful, honest discussion that values diverse viewpoints. You are encouraged to register for as many monthly discussions as you can make time for. Let's talk together to grow our Judaism individually. To register, call 937-435-3400, or visit: <https://templebethor.com/adult-education>

## An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story April 26<sup>th</sup>

Please join the Zoom discussion, on April 26th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Each month's discussion will center on one short story that has Jewish content or is written by a Jewish author. We intend to have fun and learn from each other's understanding of the stories. You are encouraged to register for one session or as many monthly discussions as you would like. To register, call 937-435-3400 or visit: <https://templebethor.com/adult-education>



## Music is Prayer

Each month, the Adult Education Committee will provide a link to a musical selection related to Judaism that we find compelling. We hope you will take a few minutes to listen. Additionally, you are encouraged to post your thoughts about the composer, musician/s, lyrics, importance, etc. on the temple website. Go to <https://templebethor.com/adult-education> to access the music and comment.



*"Music is prayer."*

Ludwig Boerne (German-Jewish political writer and satirist, late 1700's, early 1800's)

*"There are places that open only to music."*

Hillel Zeitlin (prolific Hebrew and Jewish writer and journalist, murdered by the Nazis)

## Join us for Art on the Lot on April 30<sup>th</sup>

Temple Beth Or's Adult Education and *Makor* Committees are partnering to develop programming that provides multi-generational experiences. *Makor* teachers, students, families, and the entire Temple community are encouraged to participate in our first activity, "Art On the Lot," April 30, 2023 from 11:20 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Prior to April 30, *Makor* students will learn about the meaning of the word *Chai* חַי, and create sketches for "Art On the Lot."

On April 30, small groups of students will create a chalk drawing on a designated space of the Temple parking lot. The drawing will (1) speak to the meaning of life and (2) include *Chai* חַי.

We need YOU to help cheer these young students on. Silly awards will be presented—such as Student group with the loudest cheering section. (that means YOU!)

Light refreshments will be served. Please join the fun! No registration needed. For questions or more information, please contact Ruth Schumacher ([ruth.schumacher@wright.edu](mailto:ruth.schumacher@wright.edu); 937-672-3368).

In the case of inclement weather, the event will be postponed to a later date.



# Adult Education

## See a Dayton Gem in Person on May 6<sup>th</sup>



Adult Education is offering an exciting opportunity for you, your family, and friends! On May 6th, 7:00 pm you are invited to a **live student dance concert at Stivers School for the Arts**, (1313 E 5th St, Dayton, OH 45402; 937-542-7380.) The program is choreographed by Mrs. DeShona Pepper Robertson, Director of Dance, and features some of the Miami Valley's most talented arts students.

Students must audition for the dance program, which like all Stivers programs, is academically rigorous. The young dancers have been featured on PBS and commercial channels as well as in too many magazine and newspaper articles to count. The student company has performed throughout the United States and abroad to consistent and high acclaim.

It is the Miami Valley's good fortune that the company performs locally four times a year, including outreach all over the Miami Valley.

The cost for the concert is \$12 per ticket, but the Adult Education Committee of Temple Beth Or will underwrite the first 30 registrants. You are invited to register family and friends as well; each will need a ticket. Moneys raised will be used to fund renowned choreographers and provide high caliber performances, lighting, costuming and scholarships so that these young artists can perform at home, locally and internationally. Adult Education is very excited to host this Stivers School for the Arts program.

Registration for the dance concert will close April 10, 2023. Adult Education Committee members will greet you at the door May 6th, 6:30 pm with the # of tickets for which you registered. Please call the office at 937-435-3400 to register for the concert.

Please contact Ruth Schumacher for additional information or questions at [ruth.schumacher@wright.edu](mailto:ruth.schumacher@wright.edu) or by calling 937-672-3368.

## Encore Presentation May 18<sup>th</sup>

### Tending the Torn Roots of Judaism and Jews: The Problem and the Solution

"The fabric of Judaism and Jews in America is tearing. You are that fabric." So are the words of Dr. Richard and Diann Bromberg in their 2019 original play, "Tending the Torn Roots of Judaism & Jews: The Problem and the Solution." Presented in the format of Steve Allen's NPR classic Meeting of Minds, come enjoy the wisdom of Judaism's great minds at Temple Beth Or on Thursday, May 18, 2023 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in Levin Hall. Temple Beth Or members will be the actors in the play and will represent famous Jews from the past and the present.

Adult Education is hosting a Pot Luck dinner from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m., with the play beginning at 6:30 p.m. The main dish of fried chicken will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share, such as a salad, vegetable, or dessert.

Temple Beth Or members and the Dayton Community are invited to this informative and thought-provoking play. There is no charge to attend, but please register by Monday, May 15th. To register, call 937-435-3400, or visit: <https://templebethor.com/adult-education>



# April Chai-Lights

## **Saturday, April 1, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Zoom**

Apocryphal Study: Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group at Temple Beth Or in Levin Hall. Bring a pot-luck breakfast item to share.

## **Thursday, April 6, 6:30 p.m. In Person**

Second Seder: Join your Temple Family for a traditional Passover Seder. Catered by Bernsteins Fine Catering. See this page for more details.

## **Friday, April 7, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming**

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

## **Saturday, April 8, 4:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming**

*Bar Mitzvah* of Brandon Hertz

## **Saturday, April 8, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. In Person**

Kids Make Seder: Drop your kids off for a kosher for Passover matzah pizza dinner and time for us to prep for the Kids Make Seder. See page 4 for details.

## **Sunday, April 9, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. In Person**

Kids Lead Seder: Kids Lead Seder while family participates. All are welcome. See page 4 for details.

## **Thursday, April 13, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**

*Chai Mitzvah*: You are encouraged to register for as many monthly discussions as you can make time for. Let's talk together to grow our Judaism individually. Please see page 5 for details.

## **Friday, April 14, 6:30 p.m. In Person and Streaming**

Lay-Led *Shabbat*: Join us for a Lay Led Service with Renee Peery and Dr. Martin Jacobs.

## **Sunday, April 16, [NEED TIME] In Person**

Parents' Group: Join us for a discussion and demonstration centered on healthy habits with technology. We will discuss some important topics such as parental controls, accessibility, and internet safety, followed by an open Q&A around managing technology in a Jewish household. Led by Evan Weiss.

## **Friday, April 21, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming**

Musical *Shabbat*: *Shabbat* Service with choir and Rabbi Judy Chessin.

## **Saturday, April 22, 10:00 a.m. On Zoom**

Musical *Shabbat*: Join Mary 'Mahira' Rogers and Renee Perry online for a musical walk through a *Shabbat* Morning Service.

## **Wednesday, April 26, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom**

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: Please see page 5 for details.

## **Friday, April 28, 6:30 p.m. Streaming Online**

Zoomagogue: Celebrate *Shabbat* in the comfort of your own home with Rabbi Judy Chessin.

## **Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m. On Zoom**

Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group as we continue to explore the Book of I Maccabees.

## **Sunday, April 30, 11:20 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. In Person**

Art on the Lot: Joint program of the Adult Education Committee and *Makor* Committee. Please visit page 5 for more information about this creative and fun multi-generational program.

## Temple Beth Or Second Seder

Join your Temple family for a traditional Passover Seder.

Where: Levin Hall, Temple Beth Or

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

Enjoy your choice of beef, chicken, or vegetarian entree.

Gefilte fish with horseradish, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley.

Wine (the good stuff), hard boiled eggs, bitter herbs, afikomen, charoset.

For Reservations and More Information, visit:

[www.templebethor.com](http://www.templebethor.com)

or call (937) 435-3400

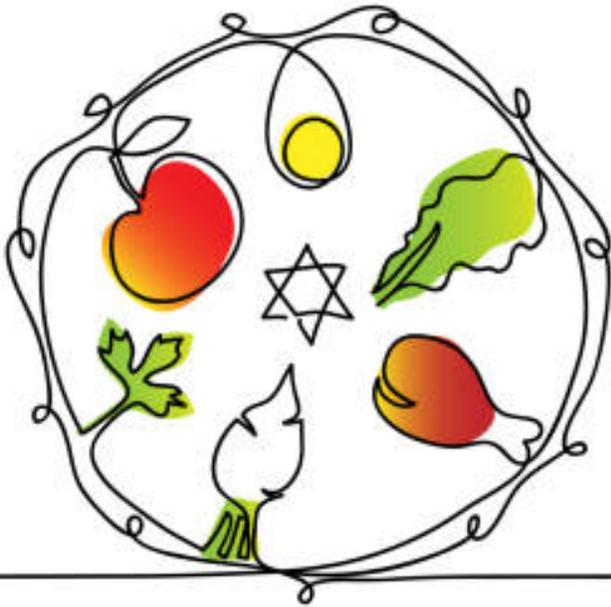


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*Happy Passover*