



April 2024

☆Today...and for Generations☆

Volume XXXIX, Issue 4

Connecting Celestial Events Across Millennia



On April 8, 2024 (*Erev Rosh Chodesh Nisan*), a total solar eclipse will pass through these parts. This will be the first total solar eclipse since 2017; the next one will be in 2044.

The eclipse will occur at 3:15 p.m. and last 4 minutes and 28 seconds.

Our Bible is replete with stories of eclipses. The famous tale of Joshua's entry into the Promised Land relates that the sun stood still, which scientists date as a solar eclipse on October 30, 1207, BCE. The Israelites entered the Promised Land and were confronted by five armies. Joshua prayed, and God helped the Israelites by stopping the sun. "Then Joshua spoke to the Lord on the day when the Lord delivered the Amorites before the children of Israel; and said in the sight of Israel: 'Sun, stand still upon Gibeon; and you, moon, in the valley of Ayalon'" (Joshua 10:12).

Researchers note that this story is unique in mentioning the role of both the sun and the moon. This implies that the text refers to a solar eclipse during which the moon passes between the sun and earth, blocking sunlight.

The prophet Amos saw an eclipse as a punishment for the Israelites. The prophet wrote, "Shall not the earth shake for this?...On that day, declares God, I will make the sun set at noon, I will darken the earth on a sunny day" (Amos 8:8-9).

Amos might also have been describing a solar eclipse, which, according to NASA, occurred in 763 BCE in Assyria and is called the "Assyrian Eclipse." An ancient Assyrian chronology about that time reports that "in *Simanu*, there was an eclipse of the sun." NASA has determined that a total eclipse occurred over Nineveh (near today's Mosul), which would have appeared as 90 percent solar coverage over northern Israel!

Later, Rabbinic commentators also saw a solar eclipse as a bad omen. But for whom? On the one hand, the Sages taught: "When the sun is eclipsed, it is a bad omen for the entire world" (*Sukkah* 29a). In the second century CE, Rabbi Meir was of two minds. He said, "When the heavenly lights, the sun, and the moon are eclipsed, it is a bad omen for the enemies of the Jewish people." But elsewhere, he said, it portends problems for the Jewish people. Later commentators on this question assumed that any calamity that afflicts the world is directed against the Jews since "we are the targets of many beatings." Other commentators inferred that the **solar** eclipse is a warning to other nations since, in general, their calendars followed the rotation of the sun. On the other hand, a **lunar** eclipse is a warning to the Jewish people since our calendar is based on the moon's cycle.

Of course, in the modern era, rabbinic authorities with access to science, astronomy, and astrophysics understand that eclipses are predictable natural events. As such, we know that they are not affected by human actions. Yet, even



if these celestial events are understood and predictable, they are still significant. An eclipse is an occasion to appreciate the finely ordered universe in which we live, commit to caring for our environment, and thank God for nature's wonders.

Our Rabbis said of an eclipse, "This may be compared to a human king who made a feast for his subjects and placed a lantern before them. When he grew angry with them, he told his servant, 'Take away the lantern from before them, and place them in darkness'" (*Sukkah* 29a).

The monarch is God, the subjects are the Jewish people, the lantern is the sun, and the servant is nature. From this, we derive a hopeful reminder that in these dark times for our people, the light is still burning and always returns. We yearn for the light to return to the Jewish nation and people. Let us see this eclipse as a reminder that, even in our darkest moments, the light will yet return to Israel and our world.

Shalom,
Rabbi Judy Chessin



THE LIGHT

Published monthly by
Temple Beth Or
5275 Marshall Rd.
Dayton OH 45429

www.templebethor.com
Phone: (937) 435-3400

RABBI

Judy Chessin

ASSOCIATE RABBI

Ben Azriel

ADMINISTRATOR

Donna Brodnick

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Gayle Jenkins

OFFICERS

Jake Elder, President
Mark Gruenberg, Vice President
Stephanie Kirtland, Secretary
Marc Siegel, Treasurer

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Scot Denmark Rachel Gilbert
Ryan Levin Stuart Merl
Ira Segalewitz Shara Taylor
Evan Weiss

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Facilities: Dave Verson
Adult Education: Ruth Schumacher
Fund-raising: Ellen Holroyd
Marketing: Mark Gruenberg
Member Services: Stephanie Kirtland
Security: Bill Fried
Volunteers: Paula Gessiness
Cemetery: Don Weckstein &
Caryl Weckstein

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:

Deb Char, Arlene Graham, Benjy Klein, Ron Solomon, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells.

The Congregation sends a hearty *Mazel Tov* to:

Gayle and Avi Jenkins and family on the birth of their daughter,
Leia Valentine Frecha Jenkins.

Jan Sherman and Jennifer Low Sherman on the marriage of granddaughter
and daughter Emma Pickard to Proctor Ford.

The congregation sends its condolences to Karen Lindsay and family on the
passing of her uncle Phil Needleman.

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 5

Ceila Malbin Feinstein 4/3
Lillian Adler 4/4
David Flagel 4/4
Irving Fink 4/5
Sam Kruke 4/6
Charles Ryan 4/6
Gladys Parker 4/9
Irene Smith Sachs 4/9

April 19

Hyman Chessin 4/17
Jerome Holzer 4/17
Jennifer Troy 4/17
Barbara Gelbart 4/18
Lori K. Phillips 4/18
Marissa Factora 4/20
Leo Kahn 4/20
Michael Chesler 4/23
Jean Weiner 4/23

April 12

Philip P. Holroyd 4/10
Abraham B. Stein 4/10
Jill Beckerman 4/11
Lewis S. Alcus 4/12
Bernard Constantine 4/12
Rabbi Samuel Cook 4/12
Barbara Flagel 4/12
Bobbi Kirtland 4/12
Stephen Fried 4/13
Vuokko Kaarina Leppanen 4/13
Robert H. Glickler 4/14
Evelyn Rich 4/14
Sol Abrams 4/15
William M. Hoffman 4/15
Curt Goodman 4/16
Mildred Nizny 4/16
Zelda Segalewitz 4/16

April 26

Benjamin Ward Michaelson 4/24
Morton Ohlbaum 4/24
Arnold Adler 4/25
Roy Kenneth Hammonds 4/25
Rebecca Linville 4/25
Harry Levy 4/26
Harold Swillinger 4/27
Randy Goldstein 4/28
Leah Karp 4/28
David Goldberg 4/29
Mirian Jacobson 4/30
Jacob Naiman 4/30



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:

Goldie Einis
Lori and John Westerkamp
Ruth Schneider
Joan and Art Greenfield
Joseph Schneider
Joan and Art Greenfield
Joy Beebe
Kate and Jake Elder
Ida Plotkin
Joann Plotkin
Donna Throckmorton
Joann Plotkin
Ruth Crace
Karen and John Granby
Melville Granby
Karen and John Granby
Julian Rochelle
Karen and John Granby
Gertrude Phillips
Marni Flagel

In Memory of:

Steve Markman
Linda and Alex Roth
Lorraine Fortner
Virginia O'Connor
Jessica Hallie Kirshner
Teri and Michael Halasz
Eric Segalewitz
Miriam Quast, Tom Sherman, and
Beverly Montrose

In Appreciation of:

My Jewish Friends
Naomi Finlay
Tara Finlay Brodbeck

Standing with Israel:

Jean Trebnek
Anonymous

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of:

Lorraine Fortner
Susan Wright

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 THANKS to



HONORABLE MENSCHIN SPONSOR

Kim Dinsmore
In Memory of Dave London
Jewish Federation
of Greater Dayton
Ryan Levin of the Levin
Family Foundation

Winston Heat Treating
and The Reger Family
Michael Halasz, DDS

MILE HIGH SPONSOR

Rachel Halasz
Sandy and Bob Lachman
WSWO 97.3, Dayton's Oldies
Sue and Ron Nelson
Caryl and Don Weckstein

Dave and Laurie Verson
Gary M. Holstine, Financial
Advisor – Stifel Investments
Bill and Claudia Fried

HIGH FIVE SPONSOR

Deborah Char
In Memory of David Char
Emily Snyder
emilynge designs
Marni Flagel
Bernstein's Fine Catering
Jane and Alex Briskin

FRIENDS OF TBO

Dayton Optometric Center
Drs. Gilbert, Rudolf, and Wells
Kate and Jake Elder
Jane and Alex Pearl
Paula Gessiness and Jay Holland
Joni and Ralph Watson
Joan and Arthur Greenfield

Thank you to our Donors!

Pillars

Marni Flagel
Lorraine Fortner*
Vicky and Bob Heuman
Martin and Martha Moody Jacobs
Marc Low*
Dr. Milton Nathan and
Ritva Williamson
Carla Scherr*
Jan Sherman
Laurie and David Verson

Builders

Marsha and Stephen Goldberg
Pamela and Stuart Merl

Leaders

Felix Garfunkel
Michael Glantz
Larry Glickler
Joan and Art Greenfield
Melissa and Harold Guadalupe
Gary Holstine
Yana and Jeffrey Kleinman
Shara and Steve Taylor

Guardians

Joshua and Julie Atkin
Ellen Holroyd
Sue and Ron Nelson
Annette Nathan and Marc Gilbert
Renee Peery

Friends

Andrea and Gary Abrams
Karen and Kevin Bressler
Jane and Alex Briskin
Eva Clair
Miriam and Victor De La Cruz
Linda and Scot Denmark
Wincha and Michael Gelbart
Dale Goldberg and Mark Dlott
Arlene Graham
Karen and John Granby
Sharon and Israel Guterman
Teri and Michael Halasz
Susan Hand
Marilyn Marx
Barbara Mendelson
Gail Moore
Sharyn Reger
Caryl and Scott Segalewitz
Ira Segalewitz
Mary and Gary Youra

Art and Music Cafe Highlights

The Art and Music Cafe, 2024 was a HUGE success! Thank you to all of our friends who filled the room (and we mean FILLED the room) and thank you to all of the musicians and artists who donated their time and talent to create our best year yet. This event could not have happened without our dedicated committee, Marc Gilbert, Annette Nathan, Kevin and Karen Bressler and Lynn Rogers, and additional support from Mark Gruenberg and the Adult Education Committee. And for their promotional support for the event, thank you to Gayle Jenkins, Donna Brodnick and Stephanie Kirtland.

We'll see you again next year!



Within 15 minutes of the door opening, we were adding more tables!



Karen Jaffe kicked off the event with her natural improvisational talents, bringing an interactive style that made everyone feel like part of the show



Steven Wyke and Marc Gilbert were an awesome, Folk and Rock oldies, acoustic duo for music throughout the evening, and also as accompaniment to 'Allie, Bri, Cay and Ava' on 'Wagonwheel'



We welcomed first timer to our event, Shara Taylor, showing us insightful pics of people, pets and places



Arlene Graham of Fiberworks joined us this year with her natural, hand spun fibers and unique textured designs



Batia and Ely Eshel joined us again this year, showing Ely's individual crafted wood items and Batia's beautiful glass and tile designs



Linda and Larry Ran, joined us this year, as collectors and sellers of antique Israeli artwork



Thank you Stephen Goldberg, for your presentation from your recent travels, and the photos that were inspired by those travels



And Scott and Caryl Segalewitz, returning with new designs this year, Scott's hand crafted wood turnings and Caryl's unique glass designs



And our new music friends, John-guitar, Noah-guitar, Dale-bass guitar who shared their Blues and edgy Rock style for another great music set



And thank you to Renate Frydman for her presentation and re-introduction to her book 'Anschel's Story'



And thank you to Noah Wotherspoon for sharing his Blues guitar 'awesomeness' and for helping to lead the end of evening Blues jam

Friends & Family CPR and Stop the Bleed

The Adult Education Committee offered the Friends and Family CPR/Stop the bleed courses on February 25th. The courses were taught by Scott Henry, Washington Township Fire Department Public Information officer and guest speaker Jonathan Granby, career Firefighter/Paramedic (son of John and Karen Granby). There were 13 attendees: 85% grandparents and 15% parents with small children. Attendees thought all of the information was very helpful, especially the methods for choking relief for infants and children. The next class will be in August. Date TBD.



Jonathan demonstrating infant choking protocol

Jonathan demonstrating toddler positioning for choking protocol (using his son A. J.)



Dayton Pride Festival

We are proud to be members of Temple Beth Or. We are proud to be Jews. Won't you join us in proudly supporting the LGBTQIA+ community at this year's Dayton Pride Festival on Saturday June 1st. The fun begins at 11:00 as we gather to watch the parade. Then join us proudly representing our temple and our faith at our booth in Courthouse Square.

Tech Workshop 2

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

We will explore several of the ways AI is being used today, and discuss where it may be going. We will also discuss other technologies that are often tied to AI such as machine learning and cloud computing.

WED
03
APRIL



6:30 – 8



IN PERSON
& ZOOM



TEMPLE BETH OR ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Adult Education

Chai Mitzvah Thursday, April 11th 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (Designed to “grow your Judaism”)



What is *Chai Mitzvah*? *Chai Mitzvah* is a personal Jewish journey to share with friends. Groups exist in 39 states and 6 countries. The new curriculum is entitled, "Because We Were Slaves: The Jewish Struggle for Justice in Making America Home." In this time of grief over war in the Middle East, and seemingly increasing polarization in the USA on a variety of important issues, this study provides an opportunity to take time to examine our history in America as a people and ourselves as we try to live Jewish core values.

What is involved? Reading a short overview of the topic and then participating in a group ZOOM discussion.

What is the cost? Nothing -- Temple Beth Or's Adult Education Committee (AEC) is delighted to offer this to you without charge.

How does the group function? You are welcome to register for one or more sessions. We take turns facilitating the discussion (with a partner if preferred).

How do I register? Visit <https://templebethor.com/chai-mitzvah/> or call 937-435-3430

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: April 24

Welcome to a brand new year of Jewish Short Stories (and we mean short)! Please join the Zoom discussion from 7:00-8:30 pm the 4th Wednesday of each month.

Discussion will center on one short story that has Jewish content and/or is authored by a Jewish writer. We intend to have fun and learn from each other's understanding of the stories. You are encouraged to register for as many monthly discussions as you can make time for. A big WELCOME to new participants—come check us out!

A hearty WELCOME BACK to each and every participant who will continue to participate!

To register visit <https://templebethor.com/adult-education>.

To download content: Visit: <https://templebethor.com/an-exploration-of-the-jewish-short-story/>

Questions? Contact (Ruth Schumacher 937-672-3368; ruth.schumacher@wright.edu)



You Are Invited! See a Dayton Gem in person!

Adult Education is once again offering an exciting opportunity for you, your family, and friends! On May 04, 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 performed throughout the United States and abroad, have been featured on PBS and commercial channels, and been featured in too many magazine and newspaper articles to count.

The cost for the concert is \$12 per ticket, but the Adult Education Committee of Temple Beth Or will underwrite the first 20 registrants. You are invited to regis-

ter 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 28, 2023. Adult Education Committee members will greet you at the door May 04, 6:30 p.m. with the # of tickets for which you registered. Please go to:

<https://templebethor.com/adulteducation> to register for the May 06 concert or call the office at 937-435-3400. Please contact Ruth Schumacher for additional information or questions at ruth.schumacher@wright.edu; 937-672-3368.

April Chai-Lights

Wednesday, April 3, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Zoom

Tech Workshop - Artificial Intelligence: We will explore several of the ways AI is being used today, and discuss where it may be going. We will also discuss other technologies that are often tied to AI such as machine learning and cloud computing. See page 5 for details.

Friday, April 5, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

"Rock of Ages" *Shabbat*: Marc Rossio rocks the house as he and Rabbi Chessin prepare for the solar eclipse. Bring your best sun and moon songs, and we'll have a special themed treat following services.

Saturday, April 6, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Zoom

In-person Apocryphal Study: Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group at Temple Beth Or. Bring a pot-luck breakfast item to share. LIVE and ZOOM.

Thursday, April 11, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom

Chai Mitzvah: Visit page 6 for more information.

Friday, April 12, 6:30 p.m. In Person

Family *Shabbat*: Join Rabbi Chessin and Mary 'Mahira' Rogers in Levin Hall for a musical Shabbat Service. Bring your kids to "sing along with Mary."

Saturday, April 13, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Streaming

Bar Mitzvah of Joe Kuhl.

Sunday, April 14, 11:00 a.m. In Person

Join Rabbi Ben and Dr. Rachel Podol Azriel for the baby naming of Eliana Abigail Azriel. Light luncheon to follow.

3rd and 4th Grade Student Led *Shabbat* Service on March 8

These are our very talented 3rd and 4th graders leading the service on Friday, March 8th (with preparation in the weeks leading up to from their teachers, Deb Char, Renee Peery and Mahira Rogers).



Friday, April 19, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Musical *Shabbat* Service with Choir: Join Rabbi Chessin and the choir under the direction of Mary 'Mahira' Rogers for a musical *Shabbat* Service.

Saturday, April 20, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Zoom

In-person Apocryphal Study: Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group at Temple Beth Or. Bring a pot-luck breakfast item to share. LIVE and ZOOM.

Tuesday, April 23, 6:30 p.m. In Person

Temple Beth Or Second Seder: Join your Temple family for a traditional Passover Seder, catered by Bernstein's Fine Catering. Beef, Chicken, and Vegetarian meals available. Please see back cover for more details.

Wednesday, April 24, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: Visit page 6 for more information.

Friday, April 26, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Only

Zoomagogue: Join us online for a *Kabbalat* Service, welcome the Sabbath in the comfort of your own home.

Saturday, April 27, 10:00 a.m. On Zoom

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





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

<<Name>>
<<Address (1)>>
<<Address (2)>>
<<Address (3)>>

Temple Beth Or Second Seder

Join your Temple family for a traditional Passover Seder.

Where: Levin Hall, Temple Beth Or

When: Tuesday, April 23, 6:30 p.m.

Catered by Bernstein's Fine Catering

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

Gefilte fish with horseradish, mashed sweet potatoes, roasted cauliflower.

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

For Reservations and More Information, visit:

www.templebethor.com

or call (937) 435-3400

Chag Sameach.

