

TEMPLE BETH OR 40 YEARS

The Light

April 2025

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XL, Issue 4

Your Vote Matters: Help Shape a Pluralistic Future for Israel at the World Zionist Congress



As members of Temple Beth Or, our votes hold significant power in shaping the future of Israel and the global Jewish community. The World Zionist Congress (WZC) election, which is open until

May 4, 2025, offers us a unique opportunity to advocate for pluralism, democracy, and equality in Israel. By endorsing a pluralist platform, we guarantee that our values are represented through the distribution of over \$1 billion annually to support Jewish causes worldwide. Your vote is not simply a choice; it's a powerful tool for change. Many of the 21 slates align with our pluralistic values and reflect our unique perspectives on our investment in the Jewish state. If you care about nurturing a democratic, pluralistic, and secure Israel, your vote is crucial. Discover the slates at www.Zionistelection.org and make your voice heard.

Among the many slates that support progressive Judaism are:

Vote Reform (Slate #3): This platform advocates for a democratic, pluralistic, and vibrant Israeli society and emphasizes funding for Reform synagogues, rabbis, and recognition and support of non-Orthodox Jews, women, and minorities.

Kol Yisrael (Slate #4): Affiliated with StandWithUs and Young Judea, this platform focuses on Israel-Diaspora relations, combating antisemitism, emphasizing pluralism, inclusivity,

and bridging gaps between diverse Jewish communities. Kol Israel is not affiliated with any political party or religious movement.

ANU: A New Union (Slate #6): A new left-wing slate primarily composed of millennial and Gen Z Jews. ANU supports a pluralistic vision for Israel and the Jewish community, emphasizing social justice and inclusivity. Delegates advocate for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the independence of Israeli courts and align with broader left-wing Zionist coalitions globally.

Hatikvah (Slate #16): This slate is abroad coalition of left-wing progressive Zionist groups, including J Street, the New Israel Fund, the National Council of Jewish Women, Ameinu, and T'ruah. It focuses on social justice, peace, and equality. It also supports marginalized communities and advocates for progressive policies in Israel. Hatikvah aims to counter the influence of right-wing and ultra-Orthodox groups within Zionist institutions.

Mercuz USA (Slate #17): Mercuz represents Conservative/Masorti Jews and advocates for pluralism and democracy. Its focus is funding Masorti programs, implementing egalitarian prayer spaces, ensuring that the Law of Return is not restricted, and increasing support for marginalized communities.

Dorshei Torah V'Tzion (Slate #18) is a Liberal Orthodox group supported by the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance. It seeks to improve Israel-Diaspora relations, promote religious pluralism, and expand women's equality

in religious settings like yeshivot. The group advocates for a pluralistic Orthodox approach, emphasizing gender equity and inclusivity.

The Jewish Future (Slate #20) advocates for "centrist liberal Zionism," which focuses on strengthening ties between Israel and the Diaspora. This approach emphasizes democratic values, pluralism, and inclusivity and seeks to balance progressive ideals with Zionist principles.

To Vote

Any Jewish adult in the U.S. aged 18 and over can vote online at zionistelection.org for \$5. This is a simple process and a powerful way to make your voice heard. Our vote is our voice, and we must use it to shape the future of Israel and the global Jewish community.

For an in-depth discussion, please join us for dinner at Beth Abraham Synagogue on Tuesday, April 22. The meal will feature Israeli cuisine, and activist Tammy Gottlieb will give a talk. (See the ad on page 9) There is no charge for this event, although you must RSVP to Beth Abraham (937-293-9520). Bring your phones so you can vote for your preferred slate. If you cannot attend, please cast your vote by **May 4** and help us build a future where all Jews can live and pray in peace in the Jewish state of Israel.

Shalom,
Rabbi Judy Chessin



THE LIGHT

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5275 Marshall Rd.
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www.templebethor.com
Phone: (937) 435-3400

RABBI

Judy Chessin

ASSOCIATE RABBI

Ben Azriel

ADMINISTRATOR

Donna Brodnick

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Gayle Jenkins

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Volunteers:	Paula Gessiness

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:

Sarah Adams, Hagen Blimbaum, Deb Char, Arlene Graham, Melissa Guadalupe, Neil Kahn, Benjy Klein, Ruth Schumacher, Ron Solomon, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells.

The congregation sends a hearty *Mazel tov* to:

The Ostrow family on the marriage of Alicia Ostrow to Nolan Couch.
Arthur Jenkins for finishing in 4th place in the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee.

The Congregation extends its deepest sympathy to:

Audrey Sachs on the passing of her Brother-in-law Norman Veta.
Larry Glickler and Charles Quinn on the passing of Charles's mother, Shirley Quinn, who passed away in Syracuse, NY.

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 4

Robert Kahn 4/2
Stephen Kramer 4/2
Ceila Malbin Feinstein 4/3
Lillian Adler 4/4
David Flagel 4/4
Evelyn Rich 4/4
Irving Fink 4/5
Sam Kruke 4/6
Charles Ryan 4/6

April 11

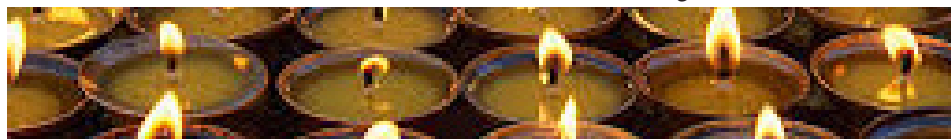
Gladys Parker 4/9
Irene Smith Sachs 4/9
Philip P. Holroyd 4/10
Abraham B. Stein 4/10
Jill Beckerman 4/11
Lewis S. Alcus 4/12
Bernard Constantine 4/12
Rabbi Samuel Cook 4/12
Barbara Flagel 4/12
Bobbi Kirtland 4/12
Stephen Fried 4/13
Vuokko Kaarina Leppanen 4/13
Robert H. Glickler 4/14
Sol Abrams 4/15
Earl Thomas Adams 4/15
Arnold Adler 4/15
William M. Hoffman 4/15

April 18

Curt Goodman 4/16
Harry Levy 4/16
Mildred Nizny 4/16
Zelda Segalewitz 4/16
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

April 25

Michael Chesler 4/23
Jean Weiner 4/23
Benjamin Ward Michaelson 4/24
Morton Ohlbaum 4/24
Roy Kenneth Hammonds 4/25
Rebecca Linville 4/25
Harold Swillinger 4/27
Randy Goldstein 4/28
Leah Karp 4/28
David Goldberg 4/29
Frieda Gruenberg Schwarzbart 4/29



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:

Barbara Rosenbaum
Gary Rosenbaum
Max Nelson
Paula Gessiness and Jay Holland
Marni Flagel
Ellen Holroyd
Marsha and Stephen Goldberg
Ruth Crace
Karen and John Granby
Melville Granby
Karen and John Granby
Julian Rochelle
Karen and John Granby
Nagi Ahmed Nasr
Beverly Farnbacher

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of:

Susan Klenke
Karen and John Granby
Anne Rosset
Gary Holstine

In Memory of:

Max Nelson
Gary Holstine
Rabbi Michael Cook
Gary Holstine
Yetta Hecht Marks
Gary Holstine
Lois Rubens
Gary Holstine
Burton Rubens
Gary Holstine

Music Fund

In Honor of:

Ira Segalewitz's Special Birthday
Arlene Graham
Mary Roger's Special Birthday
Joan and Art Greenfield
Gary Holstine

Adult Education Fund

In Honor of:

Karen Granby's Significant Birthday
Karen and John Granby

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.

President's Message

As we gather to commemorate the profound journey of resilience and liberation during Passover, let us also look forward with hope. May this season remind us of the enduring strength of community, the light that follows every hardship, and the shared commitment to building a future filled with freedom, peace, and unity.

You are warmly invite to celebrate together at the Temple Beth Or 2nd Seder on April 13. Bring your family and friends to share in this meaningful tradition of reflection, connection, and joy.

I deeply appreciate the invaluable contributions of our members, whose dedication and spirit sustain our vibrant community. Together, let us embrace this special occasion, and we look forward to celebrating together.

Save the Date – June 1, 2025:

We will be holding the founders appreciation, annual meeting, and Shavuot on June 1. Please save the date so we can all celebrate what we have accomplished in our first 40 years!!

Mark Gruenberg,
President

Thank you to our Donors!

Pillars

Marni Flagel
Vicky and Robert Heuman
Martin and Martha Moody Jacobs
Dr. Milton Nathan and
Ritva Williamson
Mimi and Stuart Rose
Laurie and David Verson

Builders

Marsha and Stephen Goldberg
Pamela and Stuart Merl
Renee Peery
Jan Sherman

Guardians

Julie and Joshua Atkin
Larry Glickler
Dale Goldberg and Mark Dlott
Ellen Holroyd
Susan and Ron Nelson

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Melissa and Harold Guadalupe
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Michael Glantz
Karen and John Granby
Joan and Arthur Greenfield
Susie Hand
Phil Hoffheimer
Bill Kell
Karen and Matthew Lindsay
Marilyn Marx
Sharyn Reger
Caryl and Scott Segalewitz
Annie and Craig Self
Jo Anna Szymborski

A Note From Rabbi Azriel



Below is a message sent out to our community in the past few weeks. In case you missed it, we are sharing it again here.

Dear Temple Beth Or Community, I joined our Temple Beth Or community in July 2020. It was an incredible opportunity that I am grateful for every day. My Grandpa always impressed upon me that getting up in the morning and looking forward to your day ahead is the key to happiness. For five years, I have been happy and have looked forward to spending my days working with our Temple Beth Or family.

Many people shaped me into the person I am today, but my Grandpa, Pops, and Dad (may their memories be a blessing) always made one thing clear: There is nothing more important than family. Rachel and I welcomed Eliana into our family a little over a year ago. She has quickly become the light of our lives and the joy of our days.

I share with deep emotion that Rachel and I have made the difficult decision to return home to Chicagoland this summer, where we will continue to grow in our careers and, most importantly, raise Eliana surrounded by more of her family. This was not an easy choice, as Temple Beth Or has been such a meaningful part of my life and my professional journey these past years.

Over the past five years, I have had the privilege of serving as your Associate Rabbi and Educator, working to strengthen and sustain this congregation for generations to come. Together, we have worked to build a strong and engaging educational program, fostering a

love for Judaism in students of all ages. Watching our students grow in their knowledge and connection to Jewish life has been deeply fulfilling, and I am so proud of the vibrant learning community we have cultivated. From the classrooms to the bimah, from family education programs to lifelong learning opportunities, teaching and growing alongside you all has been a joy. Being a partner to Rabbi Chessin, our staff, and our teachers has been an opportunity unlike any other. I have been constantly challenged to become a better Rabbi and person. The many lay leaders and volunteers I have had the pleasure of working with have been foundational to our education program's success, and I am thankful for your partnership.

I will forever be grateful for the relationships we have built, the sacred moments we have shared, and the trust you have placed in me. While my physical presence will change, my love for this community will not. I am confident that Temple Beth Or will continue to thrive and grow, and I look forward to seeing the fantastic things you will accomplish. Because of Temple Beth Or, I have grown into the professional that I am today, and I look forward to using the skills you have taught me as I continue my career.

I look forward to these next months as I complete my time at Temple Beth Or and to seeing many of you in the coming weeks and months at our many programs and events.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your lives. I will cherish these years always.

With gratitude and blessings,
Rabbi Ben Azriel

A Note from the Board of Temple Beth Or...

Temple Beth Or extends its best wishes to Rabbi Azriel and his family as they begin an exciting new chapter in Chicago. We are confident that Ben, Rachel, and little Eliana will thrive in their new home. We sincerely appreciate Ben's heartfelt service and significant impact on our community.

As we move forward, the board, in collaboration with Rabbi Chessin, is actively exploring several strong options to fill the responsibilities previously held by Rabbi Azriel. We are determined to find qualified and dedicated professional(s) who will continue his legacy and uphold the vital work that Ben has carried out over the past five years.



Scan this code or click [THIS link](#) to sign up to bring items for Family Service Theme Nights!

Temple Beth Or Presents:

Family Service Theme Nights!

Themed Dinner: 5:30-6:15

Family Services: 6:15-8:00

APR

11

Taco/ Nacho Bar

Bring Taco/Nacho toppings to share!

Taco meat provided!

4th/5th Grade
Makor Students
leading services!



MAY

9

It's "Skyline" Time

Bring your favorite skyline toppings to share!

Hot dogs and spaghetti provided!

PK/K Makor
Students
leading services!



— templebethor.com

937-435-3500



**KEEP AN EYE ON PLAN-IT
FOR MORE DETAILS**

SAVE THE DATE
MAY THE 4TH
BE WITH YOU
FAREWELL TO RABBI AZRIEL



Temple Beth Or Scrapbook

Temple Beth Or needs your help in being an important part of capturing the 40-year history our Temple in beautiful photo albums. Once completed the albums will be available to enjoy on June 1st, as part of our 40th anniversary celebration. We are also looking to include pictures and memorabilia that you have at home that can be included to complete our amazing 40 year history.

Save these dates to come to Temple to help complete the albums:

**April 29, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
and May 18.**

Times for upcoming dates to be announced

Watch the upcoming issues of The Light for more details.



You and your Family are invited to:

Passover in your PJ's

**When: Sunday April 6th, 2025
10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

What: Bring your Sleeping Bag and Slippers to join TBO Families in a relaxing event to celebrate and learn about Passover.

Matzah Pizza and a Dessert will be served

JOIN US FOR: COFFEE,
CONVERSATION
AND A CRAFT
Sunday, April 27th
9:45am-11:45am
Temple Beth Or



Namesake Coffee will be at Temple Beth Or serving craft coffees (regular, decaf and non-coffee choices) while members connect and catch up.

A fun craft will be provided during this informal gathering.

Drinks will be provided by TBO
(Adults only)

NAME SAKE
COFFEE ROASTERS



We need *Oneg Shabbat* and *Pre-Shabbat* Reception Hosts



We invite you to host or sponsor an *Oneg Shabbat* and "pre-neg" reception hosting. These are simple but special moments to gather as a community—before and after services—to enjoy each other's company and a light snack.

We ask only for a simple tray of fruit, cheese, or cookies. The Temple will provide the *challah*, wine, and juice, so hosting is easy and low-key.

Choose a date to remember a beloved for *yahrzeit*, or to mark a happy occasion like a birthday, anniversary, or just a joyful week.

Please call the Temple office if you'd like to celebrate or commemorate with your Temple Family. It's a small gesture that goes a long way in bringing warmth to our *Shabbat* gatherings.

Community *Pesach Mitzvah* Project

In the spirit of compassion and community, Temple Beth Or is partnering with the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton to support individuals and families impacted by the recent wildfires in Los Angeles.

As part of this year's Community Passover *Mitzvah* Project, we're inviting all members of our congregation to participate in a meaningful act of kindness—helping bring relief to those facing hardship in the wake of the devastating fires.

Here's how you can help:



Purchase Gift Cards

We are collecting \$10–\$20 gift cards from stores commonly found in the Los Angeles area:

Walgreens
Target
Trader Joe's
CVS
Whole Foods
Walmart
Costco

Sign Personalized Cards

Along with the gift cards, we'll be sending handwritten cards with messages of support and encouragement. This simple gesture can bring comfort to someone experiencing loss and uncertainty.

Drop-off Details:

When: Now through April 20, 2025

Where: Temple Beth Or

To launch the project, the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton is already contributing gift cards and inviting their staff and community members to participate. Once all donations are collected from local synagogues, they'll be delivered to trusted Jewish support services in Los Angeles, ensuring our help reaches those who need it most.

Let's come together this Passover season to perform a *mitzvah* that truly makes a difference.

Thank you for helping to spread hope and healing across communities.



Please join us!

Tammy Gottlieb

*Vice Chairwoman
Women on the Wall*

Beth Abraham Synagogue

305 Sugar Camp Circle
Oakwood, Ohio 45409

Tuesday, April 22

Doors Open 6 PM

Dinner Begins 6:30 PM

Join us for an inspiring evening, "**Voices of Strength: An Evening of Unity & Action**," featuring a free-of-charge Israeli-themed dinner and the Dayton Jewish Chorale.

Our special guest speaker, Tammy Gottlieb, Vice Chairwoman of Women of the Wall and a World Zionist Organization (WZO) Executive Board member representing MERCAZ, will discuss the importance of the current World Zionist Congress election for Conservative and Reform Jews. **If you haven't voted yet, you will have the opportunity to do so following Tammy's speech!**

**RSVP's Due By Thursday,
April 17th**

To reserve your seat, please call Beth Abraham at 937-293-9520 or email contact@bethabrahamdayton.org

This event is jointly sponsored by:



April Chai-Lights

Friday, April 4, 6:15 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. The service will be followed by *Oneg Shabbat*.

Saturday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Streaming
Bar Mitzvah of Adam Snyder

Sunday, April 6, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. In Person
Passover in your PJs: See page 6 for info.

Friday, April 11, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming
Makor Family Shabbat & Dinner: Join us for *Shabbat* Service led by Rabbi Ben Azriel and our 4th & 5th grade *Makor* students, followed by Taco/Nacho night.

Sunday, April 13, 6:30 p.m. In Person Only
Sephardic Passover Seder. RSVPs required

Thursday, April 17, 6:00 p.m. In Person
Navigating Loss: See page 10 for info.

Friday, April 18, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming
Musical *Shabbat* Service with Choir: Join us for pre-*Shabbat* hors d'oeuvres, at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Musical *Shabbat* Service led by Rabbi Ben Azriel at 6:15 featuring the Temple Beth Or Choir, directed by Mary 'Mahira' Rogers.

Tuesday, April 22, 6:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham
"Let me Hear Thy Voice" Dinner and Speaker on the World Zionist Organization (WZO) elections. See ad on page 9.

Friday, April 25, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming
Potluck Shabbat: Join us at 5:30 for *Kiddush*, *HaMotzi*, and hors d'oeuvres. 6:15 Service with *Shabbat* dinner to follow. We'll provide the fried chicken and/or macaroni and cheese, you provide the desserts and sides.

Saturday, April 26, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Streaming
Bat Mitzvah of Lena Elder

Sunday, April 27, 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. In Person
Coffee, Conversation and a Craft: See page 7 for info.

Tuesday, April 29, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. In Person
Scrapbooking Event: Temple Beth Or needs your help in being an important part of capturing the 40-year history our Temple in beautiful photo albums. See page 4 for more details.

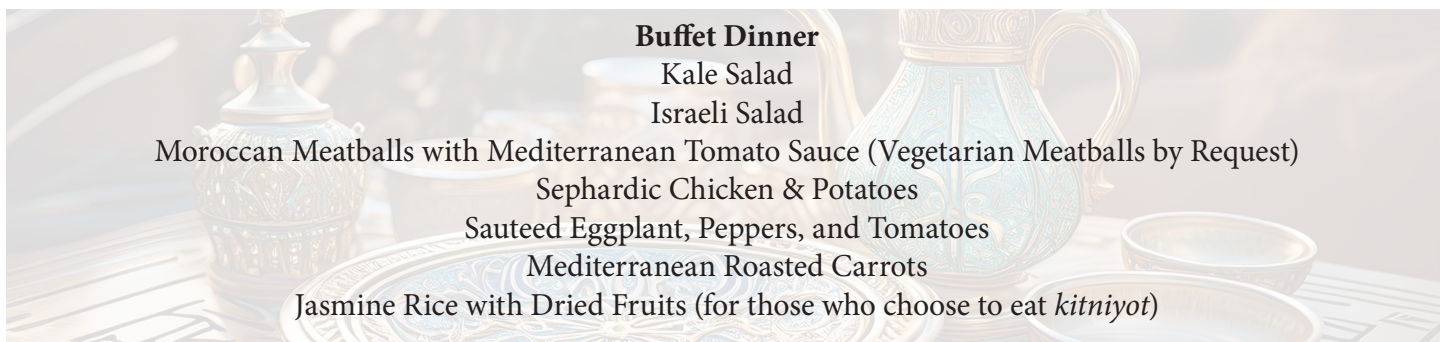
What is a Sephardic Passover Seder?

The Jewish diaspora has fostered two major cultural branches—Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jewry—each with unique traditions, languages and cuisines.

Ashkenazi Jews hail from Central and Eastern Europe, including Germany, Poland, and Russia. Sephardi Jews trace their lineage to the Iberian Peninsula before the 1492 expulsion, later settling in North Africa, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East.

Both groups avoid *chametz* (leavened foods) during Passover, but their approaches differ. Ashkenazim prohibit *kitniyot*—rice, legumes, and corn—due to historical concerns about contamination or resemblance to grains. Their Seder features matzah balls, gefilte fish, and brisket, suited to colder climates. Sephardim, however, permit *kitniyot*, enriching their meals with rice, lentils, and chickpeas. Their Seder might include spicy haroset with dates, lamb stews, or rice dishes, reflecting sunnier origins.

This year our Temple Beth Or Passover Community celebration will feature all of our customary rituals—the Haggadah, *matzah*, *maror*, and four cups of wine. Yet, we enhance our celebration with additional Sephardic customs, and our menu will include zestier, Mediterranean notes. (non-*kitniyot* options available).



We look forward to seeing you at our Seder, on Sunday, April 13. **RSVP by April 7.** See back cover for more info.



Temple Beth Or
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Temple Beth Or Passover Seder

Join your Temple family for a Sephardic Seder experience.

Where: Levin Hall, Temple Beth Or

When: Sunday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.

The Sephardic Seder menu is catered by Bernstein's Fine Catering

Cost: Let all who are hungry come and eat.

Meal costs the Temple \$40 per adult and \$20 per child.

Pay as you are able, or sponsor a meal for another.

An additional \$100 will reserve a table for you and your guests.

For Reservations and More Information, visit:
www.templebethor.com
or call (937) 435-3400

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

Chag Sameich.

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



Today...and for Generations