



## Judaism and Abortion: It's Complicated



Last month after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, countless memes appeared on social media claiming that Judaism is solidly pro-choice and that any restrictions on abortion endanger our rights to the free exercise of our religion. Other tweets insisted that Judaism is, rather, pro-life – that our quintessential principle, “Choose life, so that you and your children may live...” encompasses fetal life.

The facts are that Judaism is far more nuanced regarding the rights of privacy and bodily autonomy on the one hand and the start of fetal life and “personhood” on the other.

Since Jewish law records dissenting opinions, it is easy to back up either claim to bolster our personal beliefs. On the one hand, Exodus 21 claims when an attacker kills a pregnant woman, he risks capital punishment, but if he ends only fetal life, he pays financial compensation. On the other hand, the Talmud allows for violating the Sabbath to save a

fetus. In other words, its “potential” life status allows for violating one of the 10 Commandments!

Maimonides, the great Jewish commentator, taught the life of the mother takes precedence when a conflict arises between her life and that of the fetus, but once the birth process has begun, God decides. Other great rabbis sanctioned the termination of a pregnancy in cases of fetal abnormalities and for risk of physical danger to the mother.

Then still other commentators extended the right to abortion for mental or financial risks to the mother as well.

In secular society, we choose whether we are “pro-life” or “pro-choice.” Yet, Jewish tradition does not fit easily into those categories, as Rabbanit Adena Berkowitz of the Hadassah Attorney Council puts it, “Jewish tradition...can best be summed up as neither pro-life nor pro-choice, but pro-woman, combined with a sensitivity to the gravitas of the loss of potential life.”

Many liberal Jews find themselves naturally in the pro-choice camp. However, as with so many complex ethical issues, we choose the Jewish sources that support our claims



and ignore dissenting texts. Perhaps an even more enriching approach would be to delve into all sides of the generational dialogue, not to change our minds but rather to gain nuance and depth in our faith’s regard for human life and to engage in the dialectic dialogue of our Jewish past.

Abortion is not a black and white issue, nor a blue or red one. Right now, liberals accuse conservatives of oppressing women, and conservatives condemn liberals for killing babies. However, Judaism acknowledges shades of gray. So, let’s enter this new academic year exploring this heated topic through Jewish texts and commentaries, classes, and learning opportunities during this coming dramatic political season.

*Shalom,*  
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, Arelene Graham, Arthur Greenfield, Benjy Klein,  
Marc Low, Martin Robbins, Carla Scherr, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells.

The congregation extends its deepest sympathies to:

Jude Cohen and family on the passing of Dr. Steven Cohen. Steve was a  
Past President of Temple Beth Or. He will be missed.  
Hindy Gruber and family on the passing of Richard Gruber.

The congregation sends a hearty *Mazel Tov* to:

Bob and Sandy Lachman on their 65th anniversary  
Arthur Greenfield on his significant birthday

## August 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.

### August 5

Israel Berman 8/3  
Shirley Hoffman 8/3  
Samson M. Weckstein 8/3  
Albert Youra 8/4  
Florence Fickler 8/5  
Scott Kabakoff 8/5  
Julia Grunbaum 8/6  
Samuel Calig 8/7  
Edith Holroyd 8/7  
John D. Auldridge, Sr. 8/8  
Harry Levenson 8/9

### August 19

Arthur Layman 8/17  
Otto Farnbacher 8/19  
Hannah Scheiner 8/19  
B. Frank Scherr 8/21  
Dora Solganik 8/21  
Sarah Wagner 8/21  
Renee Diamond 8/22  
Irma M. Grant 8/22  
Beatrice Schiffman 8/23

### August 26

Blanche Holstine 8/24  
Aaron Horwitz 8/24  
Marlene Spalter 8/24  
Sarah Berman 8/25  
Lionel Levant 8/25  
Theresa Merritt 8/25  
Herbert Wagshul 8/25  
Paul Krochmal 8/27  
Stanley P. Levine 8/27  
Shimon Goldstein 8/28  
Perry Ross 8/28  
Dan Weckstein 8/28  
Marjorie Haffner 8/29  
Rosalie Weckstein 8/29  
Allen Beckerman 8/30  
Sylvia R. Moss 8/30

### August 12

Charles L. Meyer 8/10  
Lillian Meyers 8/10  
Fanny K. Alcus 8/11  
Samuel Silverman 8/11  
Jeffrey Koerner 8/12  
Stella Klein 8/14  
Sylvan Holstine 8/15  
Joanne Long 8/15  
Judy Potasky 8/15  
Shae Rosenblatt 8/15

# 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

By: Anonymous

In Honor of:

*Art Greenfield's Significant Birthday*

Caryl and Don Weckstein

Louisa and Philip Dreety

In Memory of:

*Eric Schiff*

Marilyn Marx

*Lorraine Schiff*

Marilyn Marx

*Rose Landerman*

Myrna Nelson

*Sydell Merl*

Pamela and Stuart Merl

*Segundo Guadalupe*

Melissa and Harold Guadalupe

*Steve Cohen*

Sharyn Reger

Ellen Holroyd

*Shirlee Gilbert*

Sharyn Reger

*Gennady Katz*

Yana and Jeffrey Kleinman

*Sondra Zendlovitz*

Debra Zendlovitz

*Richard Gruber*

Ellen Holroyd

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

By: Anonymous

In Appreciation for:

*Rabbi Chessin's Prayers for Healing*

Martin Robbins

### Music Fund

By: Anonymous

In Honor of:

*Sandy and Bob Lachman's 65th Anniversary*

Joan and Art Greenfield

In Memory of:

*Paul Rachlin*

Wendy Rachlin

In Appreciation of:

*Beautiful tribute and a lifetime of beautiful music*

Jean and Todd Bettman Family Philanthropic Fund  
of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Dayton

Bettman Family Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish  
Foundation of Greater Dayton

*Diann Bromberg*

Karen and John Granby

### Education Fund

In Appreciation of:

*Rabbi Chessin's Officating in Jonathan and Katy's*

*Renewal of Vows*

Karen and John Granby

In Honor of:

*Art Greenfield's Special Birthday*

Karen and John Granby

In Memory of:

*Steve Cohen*

Karen and John Granby

### Campership Fund

In Memory of:

*Morris Sureck*

Dena Briskin



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.

# Searching for Peace



The Sunday after a gunman took hostage worshipers at a Shabbat morning service in Colleyville, Texas, I was sitting in my office crafting the best way to have an age-appropriate discussion with each class at *Makor*. To think that someone could walk into a synagogue and be greeted with kindness, only then to threaten their lives, hit all too close to home for me. It was never a topic I wanted to discuss during class, but it became a topic that had to be addressed. Hate; antisemitism; violence; division — each subject we talk about it in our classrooms to educate our students we illustrate how to respond to hate and how to protect ourselves from violence.

All the more so, when the shooting began at the Highland Park Fourth of July Parade, my stepfather, Howard, was playing on the Maxwell

Street Klezmer Band float, which was approaching the main drag of the parade, from where people were quickly running away. Some in our community at Temple Beth Or have gotten to know Howard, as he recently began an approach to lead Temple Beth Or through a strategic planning process. This time, "how close to home" became not a metaphor but a literal sense — how close to my childhood home this senseless act of violence took place made me pause and be grateful that my family, though affected, remained whole.

Violence and hate fill the dark corners of our world. It has since the beginning of Judaism, and though I may hope for an end, one is not in sight. We protect ourselves and our families by making strategies and discussing emergency plans. We talk to our students about what to do in case of an intruder, and we practice those steps in our classrooms. We are grateful to our security team and those who monitor the community

around us to alert us to any possible security situation and watch over us during classes and services. We take notice of our surroundings and stay ever vigilant.

But when violence and hate weigh heavy on my heart, as it did after Colleyville, as it did after Highland Park, as it did after the Oregon District shooting in our own Dayton community, when our hearts are heavy, we must take stock of our own lives and determine how we can best prepare ourselves.

While policy differences may separate how we desire to respond to the violence on a political level, we can agree on our inherent desire to ensure that our community, our families, and our students stay safe.

I wish I had the answer. I don't. My heart weighs heavy for the families of all those lost to senseless violence. May we never see such pain again. *Ken Yehi Ratzon*. May it be God's will.

*B'shalom,*  
Rabbi Ben Azriel



# Third Annual Art and Music Café

**Date and Time:** Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00pm (Doors open at 6:30)

**Cost:** \$25 per person (Adults Only)

**Sign up to attend or participate:**

 [templebethor.com/adult-education](http://templebethor.com/adult-education)

 Office 937-435-3400

 [staff@templebethor.com](mailto:staff@templebethor.com)



## Music

- *Live Open Stage*
- *Perfect ambiance to the event, with acoustic instruments and vocals*
- *Blending Folk, Jazz, Blues, Jewish Music, and more*

## Art

- *Featuring returning and new photographers, painters, wood crafters and more.*
- *Artists are happy to share their creative inspirations and new items with you!*

## Food

- *Unique and delectable dessert items provided by Hopewoods Baking Company*
- *A variety of appetizers*

## Drinks

- *A variety of adult beverages*
- *Flavored Bourbon tasting at the event provided by Ugly Dog Distillery*

## Also sponsored by:

- *Annette Nathan and Marc Gilbert*
- *Karen and Kevin Bressler*
- *Mary and Lynn Rogers*
- *Ugly Dog Distillery*
- *Hopewoods Baking Company*
- *Temple Beth Or Adult Education Committee*

# Adult Education

## Friends and Family CPR and Stop the Bleed Courses

The Adult Education Committee (AEC) is pleased to offer both the Friends and Family CPR and Stop the Bleed Courses on Sunday, August 28th from 1-4 PM in Café Or. The courses will be taught by Scott Henry, Washington Township's Fire Department Public Information Officer and CPR/First Aid/Stop the Bleed Instructor. These courses are being offered at NO CHARGE to participants. You can attend both courses or just select the one you are interested in.

### Course 1 – Friends and Family CPR – 1-3 PM

Registration Link: <https://go.oncehub.com/FriendsandFamilyCPR>



The American Heart Association's Family & Friends CPR Course teaches the lifesaving skills of Adult hands-Only CPR, Adult CPR with breaths, Child CPR, Adult and Child AED use, Infant CPR and choking relief for Adults, Children, and Infants. This course lasts approximately two hours.

This course is for people who want to learn CPR, but DO NOT need a course completion card in CPR for their job. This course is ideal for schools and students, parents, grandparents, babysitters and others interested

in learning how to save a life. Upon completion of this course, participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance.

This AEC combination offering on August 28th will be limited to 15 participants. Additional classes can be offered in the future, based upon participant interest. Light refreshments will be available. Contact Karen Granby, AEC member for questions at [craceby@aol.com](mailto:craceby@aol.com) or (937) 286-6902.

### Course 2 – Stop the Bleed – 3-4 PM

Registration Link: <https://go.oncehub.com/Stopthebleed>

The Stop the Bleed course lasts approximately one hour and is a grassroots national awareness campaign and call-to-action. Stop the Bleed encourages bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. No matter how fast professional emergency responders arrive, bystanders will always be first on the scene. A person who is bleeding can die from blood loss within five minutes, therefore it is critical to quickly stop the blood loss.

Participants will learn multiple ways to control bleeding in an emergency, including applying direct pressure, packing the wound with bleeding control gauze and applying a tourniquet. The life-saving potential of early bleeding control has been employed by our military and in numerous studies conducted by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma and its EMS subcommittee.

This AEC combination offering on August 28th will be limited to 15 participants. Additional classes can be offered in the future, based upon participant interest. Light refreshments will be available. Contact Karen Granby, AEC member for questions at [craceby@aol.com](mailto:craceby@aol.com) or (937) 286-6902.



SAVE A LIFE

# August Chai-Lights

## Friday, August 5, 6:30 p.m. In Person

Lay-Led *Shabbat*: Join us for a Summer *Shabbat* service led by Marty Jacobs

## Friday, August 12, 6:30 p.m. In Person

Lay-Led *Shabbat*: Join us for a Summer *Shabbat* service led by Ira Segalewitz.

## Saturday, August 13, 10:00 a.m. In Person

*Bat Mitzvah* of Elsie Kirtland.

## Friday, August 19, 6:30 p.m. In Person

Musical *Shabbat*: Join the Temple Beth Or Choir for a *Shabbat* service led by Mary 'Mahira' Rogers.

## Saturday, August 20, 10:00 a.m. On Zoom

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

## Saturday, August 20, 5:30 p.m. In Person

Bingo Blast!!!: Family-friendly event. For more information, please see below on this page.

## Friday, August 26, 6:30 p.m. In Person

Lay-Led *Shabbat*: Join us for a Summer *Shabbat* service led by Renee Peery.

## Saturday, August 27, 6:30 p.m. In Person

Third Annual Art and Music Cafe: Join us for an evening of music, art, food, and drinks! Please visit page 5 for more information and how to get tickets. This is an adults-only event.

## Sunday, August 28, 1:00 p.m. In Person

Friends and Family CPR: Please visit page 6 for more information and how to register for the Friends and Family CPR Course.

## Sunday, August 28, 3:00 p.m. In Person

Stop the Bleed: Please visit page 6 for more information and how to register for the Stop the Bleed Course.



## FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

### Bingo Blast!!!

Join us for an evening of family fun! There will be good food, good friends and games of chance. Lots of prizes for people of all ages. Each person will receive one packet of bingo cards. Additional packets are available for \$2 per packet. Plus, there will be a 50/50 Raffle. Come prepared to play and to win!

**Dinner is a Taco Bar followed by a Dessert Bar.**

*Only family friendly beverages will be served.*

**On-site babysitting will be available for \$2 per child.**

All proceeds benefit the Temple Beth Or Campership Fund! Help send a child to Jewish Camp for an experience that will last a lifetime!

**When:** Saturday, August 20, 2022, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Levin Hall at Temple Beth Or

**Cost:** \$10 Per Person/\$40 Family Maximum

**RSVP to Temple office 937-435-3400**

**Maximum number of people:** Unlimited

**Open to Temple Beth Or Families and their guests**





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**Bingo Blast!! Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> - See Page 7**