



December 2021

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XXXVI, Issue 11

## A Man of Value

Here is the text:

### A Man of Value\*:

**A man of value cannot be praised; his worth is an incalculable treasure.**

**He rejoices in sunlight when he rises, and at night he blesses the dark.**

**A pillar of his household, he does not make himself a pedestal.**

**He puts down the gun and lowers his shield**

**and comforts the crying child.**

**He stands in equanimity before all**

**without deference to wealth or favor to the poor —**

**he is truthful in all his dealings.**

**When the winds of challenge buffet his ship**

**he shifts his sails and lightens the cargo**

**and continues to navigate calm waters.**

**His community praises his intention**

**his family rests in his esteem.**

**I'm here for a season and reason, he says**

**I will make the road by walking.**

Innovations in our synagogue's practice are based upon underlying assumptions, one being that "Reform Judaism is committed to gender equality. Our history teaches us that the ancient distinctions between the ritual roles of men and women are no longer justifiable on religious, moral or social grounds." (Dr. Mark



Washofsky; Jewish Living: A Guide to Contemporary Reform Practice). This principle does not blur the distinctions between the sexes but rather allows us to create comparable rituals that exist for one gender and not the other.

I would urge you to add Debra Cash's beautiful blessing at your Shabbat table whenever possible so that each partner who heads a household may be blessed and recognized for their contributions to the family. Let us begin to honor the men of value in our lives, even as we bless the women of valor.

\*To read more, please see: <https://opensiddur.org/prayers/solilunar/shabbat/seudat-leil-shabbat/a-man-of-value-by-debra-cash/>

Shalom,

*Rabbi Judy Chessin*



Last week we discussed the addition of women's names into the *Avot* prayer during a *Shabbat* Service. This prayer mentions the Biblical fathers, Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

When, why, and how did the Reform movement add the names of the matriarchs, Sarah, Rebecca, Leah, and Rachel? The answer is that given our movement's commitment to gender equality, the matriarchal names were added in the 1990s to our prayerbook.

In that vein, I was delighted to see an innovation to Jewish liturgy suggested by poet and liturgist Debra Cash. Cash has cited the Proverbs 31 text *Eyshet Hayil* (A Woman of Valor), which is recited in observant homes at the Sabbath table to honor the women of the house, to propose a companion blessing for the man of the house with, "A Man of Value."

Using Biblical references and medieval Hebrew poets, the author juxtaposes the values of Proverb's *Eyshet Hayil*. In addition, she refers to ancient rabbinic sources and even used some words from U.S. representative and civil rights leader Elijah Cummings who once said:

"I'm here for a season and a reason. I don't know why I'm here, I don't know how long I'll be here, but I am here. And I'm going to make the best of it."



# 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.

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### Building Fund

In Memory of:

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Susan and Robert Diamond

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.

## Honorable Menschen

We are *kvelling* with:

Lori Westerkamp for being named an Air Force Research Laboratory Fellow. This accomplishment is the culmination of 35 years of civilian service to the Air Force Research Laboratory. We thank her for her service.

Lily Rose who was featured in the front page of the Skywriter in an article entitled: Jag Spouse Makes Impact with Music: <https://epaper.daytondailynews.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&pubid=1629e6e2-411a-4732-826a-7ce1c535407f> Rose is a singer/songwriter/producer whose CD, See you Again, was released this fall.

<http://lilyrose.hearnow.com>

**Temple Beth Or has talent!**



# Looking Back on *Makor*



When the Covid-19 Pandemic began, we were wearing masks, celebrating that we had survived an oppressive Persian dictator. It was Purim 2020, and shortly after that, we quickly moved to remote education, distance services, and online programming. Forecasts said that we needed to stay home for two weeks, then four weeks, then the summer, and we would quickly make it back to 'normal' life.

When *Makor* was being planned for the school year 2020-2021, we knew that the entire year would be virtual. It was disappointing not to be together in our building, but it was necessary to ensure our community remained safe. The year went smoothly; students spent Zoom time together learning about holidays, Hebrew, Jewish morals, and even making crafts with at-home supplies.

Fast forward to the school year 2021-2022; we knew the importance of being back together in the same space, sharing classrooms, interacting with each other in person. The education committee, teachers, parents, and students came together to make this hope a reality. Through our Fall 2021 semester, we have achieved a fantastic semester thanks

to the dedication of all those involved in *Makor*. Students continue to learn together, in-person, safely, sharing meaningful Jewish experiences in our building. I could not be prouder of our team, especially our teachers, who have stepped up to the occasion to make this semester as successful as it has been.

Our youngest students have spent the semester learning about holidays, singing together, laughing, and doing amazing art projects, many of which have made their way home! They learned Hebrew colors, made edible dreidels, and created new friendships with Jewish students across Dayton.

Our elementary school class has been hard at work learning about the land of Israel and all of the fantastic places found throughout Ha'artz (the land). They created their own Western Wall and wrote personal prayers to fold up and put in the cracks. They have read many stories about the beauty and majesty of Israel and learned how to make a map of Israel using their bodies. It has been an incredible semester.

Our middle school class has spent an incredible semester digging into meaningful discussions about the complexity of Israel and all that goes into making a Jewish state. They discussed the kibbutz movement and how Israel was founded.

And they have spent time creating

digital media projects about what it means to be Jewish.

Our junior high school class has been engaged in learning about text and ritual items that make being Jewish so unique. They are in the process of creating their own *tallitot* and have gone on a tour of the synagogue to see the many ritual items that they might have passed without even noticing them. They continue to build a project about how being Jewish is meaningful to them and hope to share it with our community at the end of the year.

And finally, our high school class has had an amazing time with Rabbi Chessin. They did a deep dive into the image of Jews in media, social media, and comedy. They have debated boundaries in stereotypes and tried to determine where to draw the line with regard to gender, race, and religion parody. And they have discussed current events concerning Israel and antisemitism. All of this has been accompanied by great crafts, delicious food, and wonderful music.

It has been an amazing semester at Temple Beth Or *Makor*, and we want to thank all the students and parents for being a part of it. We look forward to another terrific spring semester!

*B'shalom,*  
Rabbi Ben Azriel

## RAID ON ENTEBBE

Presented by Brigadier General Paul Cooper (Retired)  
In Levin Hall on Wednesday, December 15, 2021  
From 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

On July 4, 1976, Israeli commandos led by Lt. Colonel Jonathan Netanyahu led a successful raid at the Entebbe Airport in Uganda to free Israeli hostages held by Idi Amin from a hijacked Air France flight. The presentation will highlight the challenges, decisions, and strategy that enabled the commandos using C-130 aircraft to defeat the terrorists and their demands.

Brigadier General Paul Cooper retired in 2002 as commander of the Air Force Reserve's 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. During Operation Desert Storm, General Cooper commanded a C-130 unit

that deployed to the Middle East for six months. General Cooper returned to extended active duty in 1996 after the Dayton Peace Accords to command Tuzla NATO Air Base in Bosnia.

Light refreshments will be served in Levin Hall at 6:30 PM. For those participants who are unable to attend the live presentation, the program will also be offered on Zoom.

The Adult Education Committee is pleased to be able to provide this important part of Israeli history with the Israeli commandos leading an ambitious plan to rescue the hostages. The Adult Education Committee is very appreciative of General Cooper's offer to present this important program.

# Save the Date! Saturday, February 5th, 2022

Join us for the Third Annual Art and Music Cafe fundraiser event. This special program is in partnership with the Temple Beth Or Adult Education Committee, providing opportunities for those talented adults within the Jewish Community to showcase their artwork and music talents in this 'artsy' themed fundraiser event.

We are currently looking for a few more artists to showcase at this event, although space allows for a limited number of presenters. If you are a painter, photographer, sculptor, wood carver, etc., contact Mary Rogers at maryrogers2017@yahoo.com or at cell 303-810-4849 for more information.

In addition, a coffee-shop style open stage at the event will provide a full evening of entertainment, and opportunities to showcase both vocalists and acoustic instruments throughout the evening. Previous years events showed a wide variety of talented music guests who featured Folk, Blues, Rock, Yiddish and other popular Jewish music. We are looking forward to both returning and new music guests for this event!

Your \$25.00 ticket (\$40.00 for couples) includes light nosh, wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages (adults only please).

For the safety of our guests, current COVID-19 safety guidelines will be followed.

More details will be available soon... stayed tuned to the Light and your weekly Plan-It for more information.

May your season be filled with light and good health!



## **The Third Annual Art and Music Cafe**

*Sponsored by Temple Beth Or, Adult Education Committee*

Members of the Linda A. Cohen Yiddish Club

The Art and Music Cafe Committee;

Marc Gilbert and Annette Nathan, Kevin and Karen Bressler, Mary and Lynn Rogers

Ugly Dog Distillery; providing a flavored-Bourbon tasting at the event

## **New Member Profile: Gail Moore**

Meet Gail Moore. Gail joined Temple Beth Or in September 2020 soon after completing her conversion under the instruction of Rabbi Chessin. One thing you need to know about Gail is that she is a history buff, especially Europe after World War I. It is this interest that brought Gail to Judaism.

Gail moved to Dayton from Manhattan when she was in elementary school. Her family was not involved in a specific faith. However, every summer she returned to Manhattan to spend time with a favorite aunt and uncle. The aunt was her mother's sister and her husband was a Jew who fled Stalinist Russia in the 1930's and landed in New York City where he married and set up a dental practice. It was her affection for her aunt and uncle and her deep respect for his journey that led to her interest in European history, the Jewish faith and a trip to Poland to fulfill a promise to never forget those who perished in the camps.

Gail grew up, graduated high school, started working, got married, had 2 daughters, became a homemaker and then life happen. Through it all she retained her love of history and interest in the Jewish faith. Today Gail lives in Centerville with her dog, Bossy (a black pug named after Stalin's nickname). Her daughters, Sarah and Vanessa plus three grandchildren, Nathan, Julie and Carmen live in the area. Gail returned to the work force as a single mother, taking a job at Miami Valley Hospital. She is now retired and enjoys traveling to Europe as much as possible, attending the Philharmonic and the Ballet and knitting scarves. Until the pandemic hit, Gail volunteered at Kettering Hospital. Now that the pandemic is receding, Gail looks forward to getting back to the activities she enjoys.

Gail is "Thrilled to be a member." Conversion is a life long dream come true. Judaism has always been in her heart, a gift from her uncle.

# Adult Education

## Chai Mitzvah December 2<sup>nd</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.



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

## An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story December 8<sup>th</sup>

Do you like to read, but don't have time, so you prefer short stories? Have we got a program for you! Once a month, or every so often, read a Jewish short story (and we mean short), and come to a follow-up discussion. You will make new friends, renew your current friendships, and deepen your understanding of Jewish life through the ages in a welcoming, engaging forum.



<https://templebethor.com/upcoming-adult-education-events/>

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; 937-672-3368). We want to support YOU!



## 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:** Sunday, January 16, 2022, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

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

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

**RSVP by January 10th to Temple office 937-435-3400**

**Maximum number of people:** Unlimited

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



# December Chai-Lights

## Thursday, December 2, 6:30 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, December 3, 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 Hannukkah *Shabbat* service.

## Saturday, December 4, 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!

## Sunday, December 5, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*Artisan Fair & Brisket Lunch:* Open to the public! Artisan crafts & specialty items for sale. Stay for lunch: Eat-in or take-home brisket sandwiches and combo lunch. Pre-orders recommended.

## Wednesday, December 8, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

*An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story:* Read and discuss a Jewish short story in a welcoming, engaging forum. This program is offered by the Adult Education Committee (AEC). Please see page 10 for more information.

## Saturday, December 11, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Streaming

*Torah Live!:* Join Rabbi Chessin as we welcome the Confirmation Class of David's United Church of Christ and study the final Torah portion in Genesis. We will look at the end of the Joseph stories and explore how the Hebrews ended up in Egypt.

## Friday, December 17, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Join Rabbi Ben Azriel and the Temple Beth Or Choir for a Musical *Shabbat* service under the direction of Mahira Rogers and accompanied by Diann Bromberg.

## Friday, December 24, 6:30 p.m. at North China

Join us for Shabbat Chinese Dinner at North China (Pay your own way)

## Friday, December 31, 6:30 p.m. Streaming Only

Join us for a streaming New Years Eve Shabbat Service. (Pre-recorded by Rabbi Chessin and Rabbi Azriel)

### Temple Office schedule changes:

December 24 - Closed

December 31 - Open until 3:00 p.m.

## Hanukkah with the Marvelous Toy, No Batteries Required

Join the Temple family for a great evening of Hanukkah fun on Friday, December 3, 6:30 p.m. Our Hanukkah/*Shabbat* Service will include games, songs and Hanukkah snacks. Fun for the whole family. Bring your *Hanukkiah* and 7 candles to celebrate the sixth night of Hanukkah.



## Save the Date: Temple Beth Or Women



Join the Women of Temple Beth Or at Raise Your Brush. On Saturday, January 8, 2022 (169 N Main Street Centerville, OH 45459) at 6:30 p.m. (socializing) and 7:00 p.m. to paint either an illuminated glass bottle or 2 wine glasses. Cost is \$37\*, which covers all supplies, instruction and hors d'oevers. Beverages available for purchase.

Please register:

<https://raiseyourbrush.com/product/temple-beth-or-women-1-8-22-7pm/>

\*If cost is an issue or you would like us to register you please contact Donna at the Temple office, 435-4300.



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**Open to the public!**

Artisan Crafts & Specialty Items.



**Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Stay for lunch!**

**Eat-in or Take-home:  
Brisket Sandwiches  
& Combo Platters**

Buy Brisket by-the-Pound and Half-Pound  
containers of Chopped Liver.

**Pre-orders strongly recommended via  
the Temple website.**



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