



December 2022

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XXXVII, Issue 12

"Judah will Live Forever"



Every Hanukkah, I am reminded of the depiction of a kindled menorah in the window across from Nazi headquarters in Kiel, Germany. It was the final days of 1931, and the Posner family lit their menorah in

a sign of Jewish courage, defiance, and faith.

Rachel Posner, the wife of Rabbi Dr. Akiva Posner, wrote in German on the back of this picture:



Chanukah 5692 [1931-2]

"Death to Judah" - So the flag says
 "Judah will live forever"- So the light answers."

It was weeks before Hitler became chancellor, yet the Nazi party was already circulating anti-Jewish propaganda and stirring antisemitic discontent in German communities. The Posner family wisely observed that it was no longer safe for Jews to live in

Germany. In 1933, they emigrated to the holy land and persuaded many of the Jews of Kiel to join them.

And in the coming decades, Akiva and Rachel Posner's grandchildren continued to light Hanukkah candles on the same menorah with their Israeli grandchildren. On Hanukkah 5770 (2009), their great-grandson, Akiva Mansbach, brought the lamp to his military base and read the following salute to his great-grandparents:

In 5692, the menorah is in exile; it stands in the window

It challenges the party flag that doesn't yet rule

"Judah die!" it says

And Grandma's rhyme responds

In its own tongue, without despair:

So the flag says, but our candle answers and declares

"Judah will live forever."

In 5770, the menorah stands in the window once again

Facing the flag of the ruling State
 The descendant Akiva, named for his great-grandfather

Salutes through the window and lights the menorah

Grandmother, give thanks above and say a prayer

That "the Redeemer will come to Zion" and not delay.

*Chanukkah
 5692
 (1932)
 "Juda verreckt die Fahne spricht -
 "Juda lebt ewig!"
 erwidert das Licht.*

Here we are some 90 years later, and the darkness of bigotry and antisemitism threatens to engulf us again. Thus, we are called upon to observe the rabbinic commandment *pirsum hanes* - to "publicize the miracle" of Hanukkah. The kindling of the Hanukkah lights is a statement of defiance and courage in a world threatening to immerse us in the darkness of hatred. When so many of our children feel compelled to hide their Jewishness on campus, and our Jewish institutions require fences and security guards, we are called upon to stand firm.

Latkes taste wonderful, *dreidel* games are amusing, and gifts are exciting. But the true commandment of Hanukkah is to make a public statement to our neighborhoods and our community that we affirm light over darkness.

Like the Maccabees of old, we will not discard our Jewish practice to assimilation and secular political pressures. Like the Posner family from Kiel, we will kindle the lamps of Judaism despite social media's antisemitic tropes. Giving our children the gift of Jewish pride and confidence will far outlast any other present we can offer them!

Each Hanukkah, as the descendants of Rachel and Akiva Posner, kindle the Hanukkah lights in their window; they affirm their great-grandmother's powerful words, which have sustained their family and our people forever "Judah (Judaism) will live forever." So may we.

Happy Hanukkah.
 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:

Helene Adler, Madalyn Ammons, Deb Char, Arlene Graham, Benjy Klein, Carla Scherr, Lynda Troy, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells

Honorable *Menschen*:

We are kvelling with the Jacobs' family on Dr. Marty Jacobs receiving the Radiologist Excellence Award from the Greater Dayton Imaging Professionals. It is a well-deserved recognition.

December 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.

December 2

Thomas Lindsay 11/30
Patricia Blair 12/1
LaDonna Sowry 12/1
Edmon Low 12/2
Gertrude Pearl 12/2
Sara Bromberg 12/3
Genevieve K. Ryan 12/4
Dennis James Hammonds 12/5

December 9

Sarah Cramer 12/7
Clark Davis 12/7
Irene Fisher Sachs 12/7
Franklin Mugford 12/7
Irene Sachs 12/7
Greg Lindsay 12/8
Leatrice Phillips 12/8
Dr. Stuart M. Denmark 12/9
Deanna Pickard 12/9
Herbert Remer 12/9
Bertha Troy 12/9
Isaac Char 12/10
Pearl Farber Stein 12/10
Robert Walder 12/11
Martin Berks 12/12
Harry Solganik 12/12
Barbara Shackelford 12/13

December 16

Jerome Chamovitz 12/15
Molly Levenson 12/15
Dr. Leon Rosenbaum, Jr. 12/15
Joseph Bettman 12/17
Ruth Hoffman 12/17
Hilda Jacobs 12/17
Dorothy Dicker 12/18
Bruce Holroyd 12/18
Ruth Rosset 12/18
Mary Francis Bauer 12/19
Lillian Skelley 12/20

December 23

Carl Hoffman 12/21
Stephen Meyers 12/21
Matilda Moltz 12/21
Melvin Bressler 12/22
Harvey Siegal 12/22
Rochel Turetsky 12/22
Herman Skiller 12/23
Ruth Alexander 12/24
Sidney Alexander 12/24
Jordan Bettman 12/24
Ronald Bressler 12/24
Patricia Throckmorton 12/24
Bernard S. Haffner 12/25
Ralph Lehman 12/26
Harry Patterson 12/26
Richard Flagel 12/27
Martin Garson Orlins 12/27
David L. Roberts 12/27
Joan Summers 12/27

December 30

Rae Engel 12/28
David Hochstein 12/28
Joan Lehman 12/28
Cecelian Levy 12/28
Sylvia Cohen 12/29
Reuben Miller 12/30
Evelyn Ross 12/30
Helen Ruth Goldstein 12/31
Dorothy Westmoreland 12/31
Albert Altman 1/1
Terry Bovinet 1/1
Meyer H. Dreety 1/1
Samuel Farber 1/1
Harriet Lilienthal Holstine 1/1
Florence Ness 1/1
Lindsay Anne Weprin 1/1
Marcia Klain 1/2
Doris Ligot 1/2
Susan Pachman 1/3

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 Honor of:

Scot Denmark's BIG Birthday

Sue and Ron Nelson

In Memory of:

Richard Schuman

Linda Schuman

Helen Reger

Sharyn Reger

Leo Goldberg

Marsha and Stephen Goldberg

Phyllis Goldberg

Marsha and Stephen Goldberg

Charles Throckmorton

Joanne Plotkin

Henry Joseph Marx

Marilyn Marx

Allan Goldman

Nancy and Michael Goldman

Veronica Warner

Rachel and Heath Gilbert

Felice Arst

Dena Briskin

David Fishman

Lyuda and Alexander Fishman

In Appreciation of:

Jewish War Veterans Brunch

Jewish War Veterans Post 587

With Gratitude to:

Ed and Susan Ross for their gracious hospitality

Sue and Ron Nelson

Marsha and Stephen Goldberg

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of:

Martin Robins

Andrea and Craig Self

Samuel Lauber

Ellen Lauber

In Appreciation for:

The streaming of High Holiday Services

Linda and Dennis Patterson

Endowment Fund

In Memory of:

Joseph David Goldberg

Audrey Sachs

Campership Fund

In Memory of:

Rabbi Sidney Ballon

Muff and Alan Steinharter

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Guardians

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Marsha & Stephen Goldberg

Ellen Holroyd

Jennifer Sherman

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Miriam & Victor De La Cruz

Linda & Scot Denmark

Mark Dlott & Dale Goldberg

Lyuda & Alex Fishman

Wincha & Michael Gelbart

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Neil & Gina Kahn

Ronald Kahn

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Marilyn Marx

Barbara Mendelson

Gail Moore

Joann Plotkin

Robert Safferman

Carla Scherr

Ira Segalewitz

Caryl & Scott Segalewitz

Andrea & Craig Self

Lois Solganik

Mary & Gary Youra

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.

thank you

Temple Watch needs your help

Greetings from Temple Watch! We are the "action arm" of the Temple Beth Or Security Committee and need your help. Temple Watchers assist our professional security team by providing additional eyes, ears and physical presence to help safeguard our congregants and especially our *Makor* students. Time commitment for large services, such as High Holy Days or special events such as the Hanukkah party or Purim Festival is usually between 2-4 hours. For additional information about joining this important organization, please contact Donna at 937-435-3400 or donna@templebethor.com.

The Giving Season



With Thanksgiving behind us and black Friday in the review mirror, we can now take a deep breath of the crisp, cool December air.

December is a month filled with different occasions for different faiths and communities; there are memorials like Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on December 7th. There are celebrations like Nobel Prize Day, which occurs on December 10th. There are religious and cultural holidays like Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa, and there are secular holidays like New Year's Day.

Putting many of these holidays together, you get the part of the year sometimes referred to as the giving season. For our students and kids, it jokingly could be called the taking season or the gift-getting season, when gifts seem to flow at many family parties.

That is why this December, our Temple Beth Or community is proud to take a moment to teach about what it means to give during this season. Whether you have a student enrolled in *Makor* or not, we hope you will participate.

During a unique program of *Makor*, our students will begin by decorating canvas bags they can take home. A sheet of highly requested items by one of our commu-

nity partners, Hannah's Treasure Chest, will be included in the bag (call the office for a list if you are not a *Makor* Family). We hope each family will take a moment during the eight days leading up to Hanukkah (December 10th through 18th) to put one item in the bag a night. We are calling it the "Eight Days of Giving." Whether it is a set of socks, a toothbrush, a game or a toy, we hope you will fill the bag with things that others in need could use each night. We hope our students will appreciate what it means to give at this time and not just receive.

Then on December 18th, at our community Hanukkah celebration, we invite you to bring your bag filled with things to donate and drop it off at Temple Beth Or and learn about Hannah's Treasurer Chest while enjoying the goodies we will have at the Hanukkah party!

Finally, on January 15th, our *Makor* community will gather at Hannah's Treasure Chest, where we can see firsthand the fantastic work they are doing and help with a volunteer project in the spirit of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend.

In the spirit of the season we enter, we look forward to giving just as much as we get, by filling our space with light, warmth and love during this, the season of giving.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Ben Azriel

8 Days of Giving...

December 10th - December 17th

**Count down the 8 days BEFORE
Hanukkah by collecting 8 GIFTS for
Hannah's Treasure Chest.**

...Hanukkah Party!!

Join us on Sunday, December 18th

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Activities Include:

- **Make Holiday Cards for Others**
- **Prepare Care Packages for Hannah's Treasure Chest (bring your 8 gifts)**
 - **Enjoy Food Trucks**
 - **A Snow Globe Surprise**
 - **Music and FUN!**



Ways to Support Temple

Temple Beth Or changed its member support structure beginning July 1, 2018. Instead of being assessed fixed dues, each household is asked to commit to a Sustaining Level of Support that is based on the Temple's expenses. This program has been incredibly successful based on your support and commitment. Thank you!

If you have not made your annual commitment, it is not too late. Please contact the Temple Office today. At this time of year, there are several other ways you can support temple:

Shop and Support Opportunities

For those looking for ways to support temple during the holiday season be sure to sign up for our shopping programs.

Temple Beth Or participates in on-going shop-and-support opportunities with **Kroger**, **Amazon Smile**, and **Dorothy Lane Market (DLM)**. It is easy! Select Temple Beth Or as your charity of choice, then shop at the stores as part of your everyday shopping. If you have not selected Temple Beth Or as the organization you would like to support, you can do so on the store's website. Please visit the link below to find links and information on how to sign up and support Temple Beth Or when you shop: <https://templebethor.com/support-temple-beth-or/>

Potential Tax Benefits

For Individuals age 70.5 and older you can direct up to \$100,000 per year tax-free from their IRAs to operating charities through Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). We have seen many congregants use this strategy to satisfy the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) requirement of their IRAs. This allows taxpayers, itemizers, and non-itemizers alike to direct gifts from their IRA to charities.

Each year the IRS allows individuals who itemize their deductions the ability to include charitable donations. Donations to Temple Beth Or are tax deductible. Even though the IRS has raised the standard deduction in recent years, if you do itemize you can include your donations to Temple Beth Or.

This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. Please consult with your tax advisor regarding your individual circumstances.

Commemorative Opportunities

Paver Bricks: Paver bricks are a lasting way to commemorate a person or an event. Bricks are available in two sizes and can hold three or five lines of text, respectively. Small/rectangular bricks are \$100.00; large/square bricks are \$200.00. Contact Donna at the Temple Beth Or office for an order form.

Yahrzeit Plaques: *Yahrzeit* plaques are available for \$500. Payment for the Plaque includes:

- Name mentioned at yearly Service
- Name plaque illuminated in Memorial Stand yearly
- Notification sent to family members of yearly Service
- Listing in Yom Kippur book
- Name read at Yom Kippur

Temple Beth Or Parlor Meetings

In follow-up to the survey we sent out earlier this year, we are hosting a series of Parlor meetings, designed to get more details. We will ask questions about services, music, temple staff, and more to be sure we capture your interest and priorities. This will be used as we put together strategic plans to prepare for our future together. Whether you filled out the survey or not, your input is valued. Please check Plan-it for our sign up link or call 937-435-3400.

Upcoming Parlor Meetings:

December 4th 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (In Person)	January 10th 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
December 6th 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)	January 22nd 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (In Person)
December 8th 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (Zoom)	

Adult Education

Chai Mitzvah December 8th 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. Starting in October (or *Tishrei*, the first month of the religious year), and continuing for 12 months, 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 January 18th



Please join the Zoom discussion, on January 18 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/upcoming-adult-education-events/>

One More Seat at the Table!

The Adult Education Committee is pleased to welcome Dr. Martha (Marti) Moody Jacobs! Marti has a long history of involvement and leadership in Temple Beth Or, the Jewish Community and beyond. She will be an important asset to Temple Beth Or in this new capacity. Current members of the Committee, Mark Gruenberg, Phil Hoffheimer, Karen Granby, Rachel Booth, and Ruth Schumacher say “WELCOME”!

Interested in learning more about what Adult Education does? Want to sit in on a meeting? Contact Ruth Schumacher (937-672-3368; ruth.schumacher@wright.edu)



New and familiar melodies; A Musical Shabbat!



We all have our favorite melodies, the ones that remind us of family and Shabbat celebrations from the past. And, in addition, our ears tend to 'perk up' when a new melody to a favorite prayer is introduced to our senses....

Join me and long time Temple Beth Or Hebrew Teacher, Renee Peery, on the fourth Saturday morning of each month, (10:00 a.m.) starting in January, for a short and sweet, music-fueled *Shabbat* service. Over the years, I have enjoyed these monthly services with various 'sur-

prise guests' and will continue to invite friends from the congregation to present their favorite prayers and melodies in these special Saturday morning *Shabbat* programs.

Please stay tuned to the weekly Plan-It for date confirmations and link details.

For now, these '4th Saturdays' will remain Zoom only.

Here's to a continued successful and healthy 5783 my friends!

Ze! Gezunt!

Mary 'Mahira' Rogers"

December Chai-Lights

Friday, December 2, 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 Shabbat service. A special *Oneg Shabbat* will be hosted by Scot and Linda Denmark in memory of Scot's parents' *yahrzeit* observance and in honor of his birthday.

Saturday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Zoom
Apocryphal Study: Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group at Temple Beth Or. Bring a pot-luck breakfast item to share. We will begin the book of Judith, just in time for Hanukkah.

Sunday, December 4, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In Person
Artisan Fair and 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.

Thursday, December 8, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
Chai Mitzvah: Please see page 6 for more info.

Friday, December 9
No Service

Saturday, December 10, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Streaming
Torah Live!: Join Rabbi Azriel in the sanctuary for services and *Torah* study.

Friday, December 16, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming
Musical Shabbat: Join Rabbi Chessin and the choir under the direction of Mahira Rogers for a musical Shabbat.

Saturday, December 17, 10:00 a.m. On Zoom
Apocryphal Study: Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group at Temple Beth Or (Zoom only).

Sunday, December 18, 12:00 p.m. In Person
8 Days of Giving Hanukkah Event: Join us as we celebrate Hanukkah by helping others and having fun! Please see page 4 for more details.

Friday, December 23, 6:30 p.m. Streaming Online
Zoomagogue: Join Rabbi Chessin for Zoomagogue. Celebrate Shabbat and learn about the strange customs of *Nittel Nacht*, Jewish Christmas Eve customs.

Wednesday, December 28, 6:30 p.m. In Person
Get Your Game On at Temple Beth Or: Join us for an evening of fun & games at Temple Beth Or. Please RSVP to the Temple Office by December 21. Please see the article below for more information!

Friday, December 30, 6:30 p.m. Streaming Online
Shabbat-tube: Pre-recorded *Shabbat* Service.

The Office will be closed December 26th



Get Your Game On at Temple Beth Or!

Tired of living the "Solitaire" life? Want to get out and "Bridge" the gap? Come Get Your Game On at Temple Beth Or and re-"Connect Four" fun with your Temple Beth Or family. Kids and adults are all welcome and will enjoy their own separate game rooms, and childcare will be provided so you won't have any "Trouble" enjoying yourself!

We'll provide these kids games: Jenga, Chutes and Ladders, Trouble, Sorry, Connect 4, Uno, and King Domino. Please feel free to bring your favorite game to share!

We'll provide these adult games: Catan, Ticket to Ride, Trekking the National Parks, and Pictionary as well as cards for Euchre or Bridge. Please feel free to bring your favorite game or supplies for Bunco or Mahjongg.

Snacks, desserts, and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided free of charge. Limited alcoholic beverages

will be available with purchase of a drink ticket. And there's door prizes! Don't be "Sorry" you missed this fun night out!

Date: Wednesday, December 28th

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Where: Temple Beth Or

Cost: \$10 per person, \$20 maximum per family.

First drink included with admission; subsequent drink tickets \$5 each

RSVP: By December 21 to the Office, 937-435-3400

Hosts: Cadi Polk, Melissa Guadalupe

Maximum number of people: no max

Open to the community



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Open to the public!
Artisan Crafts & Specialty Items.



Sunday, December 4th
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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