



## Nes Gadol Hayah Sham (Poh)



The letters on the Hanukkah top, the *dreidl*, are an acronym for “a great miracle happened there (or ‘here’ if it is an Israeli top).” But what exactly was the miracle?

The festival of Hanukkah celebrates the events recorded in the apocryphal books of Maccabees, which describe a small band of Jewish fighters who liberated the land of Israel from the Syrian Greeks. Under the tyrant Antiochus IV, the Syrian Greeks had defiled the Temple, banned Jewish practice, and abducted, tortured, maimed, and murdered practicing Jews. Finally, in 167 BCE, the five sons of the priest Matthias (the Maccabees) waged a three-year war that culminated in the liberating of the Jews and the cleaning and rededication of the Temple.

The miracle of Hanukkah then was the victory of a small band of unlikely fighters against the mighty Seleucid forces. For the later Rabbis, not wanting to glorify the warfare of the Maccabean revolt, the miracle was the longevity of one night’s worth of oil needed to rededicate the Temple for eight long nights.

Once again, the Jewish state finds itself embroiled in a mighty battle for our very survival. Where is

God’s powerful deliverance now, we may wonder?

Of course, the very existence of the tiny Jewish state is in and of itself a miracle, some might say. Hillel Fuld, the Israeli social media commentator, reminds us to look at the miracle that, although October 7 was catastrophic, the terrorists’ own evil impulses foiled Hamas’ frightening plans.

The farthest the Hamas terrorists were able to infiltrate was the city of Ofakim in the Western Negev, around halfway between Gaza and the West Bank. Their original plan was to hit major cities and military bases until reaching the West Bank, where Hamas has allies in the form of many local armed Palestinian terrorist cells.

Their lack of self-control and gratification from torture and murder, especially at the Nova music festival, ended up foiling their evil designs. The biblical language might depict this as “hardened hearts” or a miracle.

And what of the tens of thousands of rockets launched by Gaza that have missed their mark or been intercepted by Iron Dome? Every single time the IDF prevents a terrorist attack, might we humans be serving as the hands of God, creating biblical clouds of glory and protection for the Jewish state?

Finally, can we find a miracle in the Jewish unity which has result-

ed from this terrible event? Before October 7, the Jewish world and the state of Israel were torn apart by political and religious rifts. Now, most Jews are unified in one goal: to do all we can to fight those who would harm us, to bring light to this darkened world.

This Hanukkah, we can pray for **and** help sustain the miracle of Jewish survival. Through our efforts, donations, and advocacy, our children will teach their children about the evil Hamas, only from the pages of long-ago enemies. Hamas will join the list of the vanquished in the pages of history, along with the Syrian Greeks, Babylonians, Romans, and the Nazis.

And it will be a miracle when our grandchildren celebrate the holiday of Simchat Torah again but with a whole new meaning. They will dance with the Torah scrolls in celebration of the holy word and our victory over the forces of evil.

*Nes Gadol*, it will be a miracle when we light our candles and rededicate our efforts to our continued survival, our eternal existence in our home, the Land of Israel, and in a world free from persecution and hatred.

For this *chag sameach*, we pray,  
Rabbi Judy Chessin



## THE LIGHT

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

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Judy Chessin

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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:

Arlene Graham, Bill Kell, Benjy Klein, Carla Scherr, Ron Solomon, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells.

The Congregation sends its deepest sympathy to:

Esther and Jay Weiss and family on the passing of her aunt Elaine Icove.

Deborah Chesler Char, Benjamin Char, Jonathan and Ashley Simmons, and Claudette on the loss of David Char, a most loving husband, father and congregant.

Howard and Wincha Gelbert and family on the passing of their grandmother Lillian Rose Gelbert.

## 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 1

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

### December 8

Ruth Hoffman 12/6  
Franklin Mugford 12/7  
Irene Sachs 12/7  
Greg Lindsay 12/8  
Dr. Stuart M. Denmark 12/9  
Deanna Pickard 12/9  
Herbert Remer 12/9  
Bertha Troy 12/9  
Isaac Char 12/10  
Carl Hoffman 12/10  
Pearl Farber Stein 12/10  
Richard Kirtland 12/11  
Robert Walder 12/11  
Martin Berks 12/12  
Harry Solganik 12/12

### December 15

Barbara Shackelford 12/13  
Dr. Leon Rosenbaum, Jr. 12/15  
Joseph Bettman 12/17  
Dorothy Dicker 12/18  
Bruce Holroyd 12/18  
Mary Francis Bauer 12/19

### December 22

Lillian Skelley 12/20  
Stephen Meyers 12/21  
Matilda Moltz 12/21  
Melvin Bressler 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  
Ralph Lehman 12/26  
Harry Patterson 12/26

### December 29

Richard Flagel 12/27  
Joan Summers 12/27  
Rae Engel 12/28  
David Hochstein 12/28  
Joan Lehman 12/28  
Cecelian Levy 12/28  
Sylvia Cohen 12/29  
Reuben Miller 12/30  
Helen Ruth Goldstein 12/31  
Mandy Stamper 12/31  
Dorothy Westmoreland 12/31  
Terry Bovinet 1/1  
Meyer H. Dreety 1/1  
Samuel Farber 1/1  
Harriet Lilienthal Holstine 1/1  
Marcia Klain 1/2  
Doris Ligot 1/2



# 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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Teri and Michael Halasz  
Susan Hand  
Marilyn Marx  
Barbara Mendelson  
Gail Moore  
Sharyn Reger  
Caryl and Scott Segalewitz  
Ira Segalewitz  
Mary and 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.



SHABBAT  
FAMILY SERVICE

HANUKKAH  
SING-A-LONG

TEMPLE BETH OR PRESENTS

# A VERY FAMILY HANUKKAH SHABBAT

**DECEMBER 8, 2023**  
**5:30 PM**

JOIN US FOR A LATKE DINNER  
WITH A TOPPINGS BAR AND  
DESSERT FROM HOLE-IN-ONE  
SUGGANIYOT (DONUTS).

**BRING YOUR OWN HANUKKIAH  
AND THREE CANDLES FOR OUR  
COMMUNITY KINDLING!**

RSVP TO [RABBIAZRIEL@TEMPLEBETHOR.COM](mailto:RABBIAZRIEL@TEMPLEBETHOR.COM) OR  
BY CALLING THE TEMPLE OFFICE @ (937) 435-3400

# Join us for "A Very Family Hanukkah Shabbat": December 8

We are looking forward to celebrating *Hanukkah* as a community on the second night of our Festival of Lights.

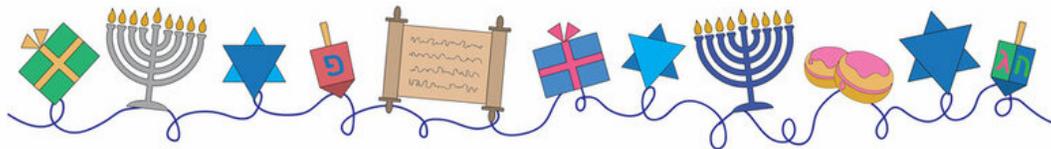
Please bring your *Hanukkah* menorah(s) with three candles and we will make Levin Hall brighter than ever before.

We will join together for a *Latke* Bar with a variety of toppings to enjoy (and argue about) and *sufganiyot* from Hole-in-One Donuts.

Our celebration wouldn't be complete without a family *Shabbat* service which will take place after dinner and a Hanukkah sing-a-long.

Please RSVP to:

RabbiAzriel@TempleBethOr.com  
or to the office at 937-435-3400.



**AS WE CELEBRATE THE LIGHT OF HANUKKAH PLEASE  
CONSIDER DONATING TO OUR COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH  
PROJECT WITH HANNAH'S TREASURE CHEST BEFORE •  
JANUARY 14, 2024**

**HANNAH'S TREASURE CHEST ACCEPTS DONATIONS OF  
BABY, TODDLER, AND CHILDREN'S ITEMS, AS WELL AS  
MATERNITY CLOTHING. ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF  
IN THE BINS AT TEMPLE BETH OR AT ANY TIME.**



FOR A LIST OF NEEDED ITEMS VISIT: [TINYURL.COM/HTCTBO](https://tinyurl.com/HTCTBO)



## MAC (and cheese) ABEE Team @ The Dayton FoodBank

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**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19**  
**12:45 - 3PM @ DAYTON FOODBANK**  
56 Armor Place, Dayton, 45417

RSVP by December 11 at [jewishdayton.org](http://jewishdayton.org)  
Any questions may be directed to [Jeff Blumer at jblumer@jfgd.net](mailto:Jeff.Blumer@jfgd.net).

In celebration of Chanukah, we ask you to join our  
MAC(and cheese)ABEE Team for an afternoon of service.  
We are seeking volunteers, age 16 or older, to help load  
boxes with food for seniors. Please wear closed-toe shoes.

*This JCRC project is being held in collaboration with:  
Beth Abraham Synagogue, Beth Jacob Synagogue, Chabad,  
Temple Beth Or and Temple Israel.*






## Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch: December 3

It's almost time for the annual Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch. This year the event will be on Sunday, Dec. 3rd from 10:00am until 2:00pm. Hanukkah candles, gelt, dreidels and other goodies will be available at the Temple Beth Or booth -- just in time for the 1st night of Hanukkah on Dec. 7th. Plan on spending time browsing the offerings of the many artisans and other vendors who will be displaying their items in Levin Hall.

And when you get hungry, follow your nose to Cafe Or to eat a lunch of BBQ brisket sandwiches and latkes. BBQ Brisket by the pound and chopped liver in half pound tubs will be available to take home.

A children's program will be held for kids ages 3 and older from 10:30 a.m. to noon in our upstairs youth lounge. Parents are welcome to drop off their kids while they shop at the fair. *Makor* and non-*Makor* students are all welcome.



## Adult Education

### An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: December 27

Please join the Zoom discussion 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/adult-education>



### Music is Prayer

In March, Adult Education at Temple Beth Or began something new. Each month, the Committee provides a link to a musical selection related to Judaism that we find compelling. We hope you will take a few minutes each month to listen. Go to <https://templebethor.com/adult-education> to access the music.

### Save the Date: Stop The Bleed

Stop The Bleed training will return on February 25, 2024.

Please see the January Light for more information!



SAVE A LIFE

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](mailto:ruth.schumacher@wright.edu); 937-672-3368). We want to support YOU!

# December Chai-Lights

**Friday, December 1, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming**  
"Rock of Ages" musical *Shabbat* with Marc Rossio and Rabbi Judy Chessin.

**Saturday, December 2, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Zoom**  
In-person Apocryphal Study. Bring a brunch offering to share as we begin the book of Judith. LIVE and ZOOM.

**Sunday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. In Person**  
Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch: Please visit page 6 for more information.

**Friday, December 8, 5:30 p.m. In Person**  
A Very Family *Hanukkah Shabbat*: Family Latke Bar Dinner and *Shabbat/Hanukkah* celebration with our 5th – 7th-grade students. (Note early start time)

**Saturday, December 9, 7:00 p.m. In Person**  
*Hanukkah Big Easy Style*: See below for more info.

**Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 p.m. In Person**  
Men's Night - Hanukkah Gathering: Enjoy food, fellowship, music, and games. Dinner and Latkes provided. RSVP by 12/11 to mark@gruenbergfamily.net

**Friday, December 15, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming**  
Winter Birthdays *Shabbat* Service with Choir and Rabbi Ben Azriel.

**Saturday, December 16, 10:00 a.m. On Zoom**  
Apocrypha Study. Finishing the Book of Judith with Rabbi Judy Chessin ZOOM only

**Friday, December 22, 5:30 p.m. In Person**  
*Shabbat* Dinner and *Kabbalat Shabbat* Service in Levin Hall. Greet the *Sabbath* and enjoy a beautiful, leisurely *Sabbath* dinner with family and friends. Led by Rabbi Judy Chessin.

**Wednesday, December 27, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom**  
An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: Please see page 6 for more details and to register.

**Friday, December 29, 6:30 p.m. Streaming Online**  
A prerecorded pre-Jew Year's Eve *Shabbat* Service led by Rabbis Azriel and Chessin.

## Get Lit in the Big Easy!

Join your Temple family for a New Orleans-themed Hanukkah celebration on Saturday, December 9, at 7 pm. A catered New Orleans Feast will include red beans and rice, bourbon chicken, a *beignet* (*sufganiyot*) bar, chicory coffee, and a cash Hanukkah-themed cocktail bar.

Bring your family menorah and four candles to light up the night.

Enjoy a jazz ensemble, a youth art project, and a parade with beads and *gelt* doubloons. The event costs \$10 per adult and \$5 per child.

RSVP at [templebethor.com](http://templebethor.com) or to the office at 937-435-3400.



## December Apocryphal Study

Just in time for Hanukkah, everyone is welcome to study the book of Judith on December 2 and 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet the Hanukkah heroine, who takes matters into her own hands, seducing and murdering the Assyrian enemy general and using her faith, feminine wiles, and foil.

Judith was considered the female counterpart to Judah Maccabee. Some Jews eat dairy products on Hanukkah to commemorate the salty cheese she offered to the general to encourage him to drink.

Even if you've never attended Tanach or Apocryphal Study, you will enjoy this 2 part-text study full of good conversation, controversy, and camaraderie.

Our first session will be live at Temple Beth Or (Café Or) and streaming on Zoom. Please bring a brunch treat (salty cheese and wine) to share. December 16 will be exclusively on Zoom.





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# HANUKKAH

at the

# BIG EASY

**Saturday, December 9th**  
**For Info & RSVP**  
**visit: [www.TempleBethOr.com](http://www.TempleBethOr.com)**