



February 2021

STAR OF DAVID *Today...and for Generations* STAR OF DAVID

Volume XXXVI, Issue 2

Amen or A-woman



In a nod to gender-neutral language, Representative Emanuel Cleaver II concluded his opening prayer for the launch of the 117th Congress with the

words "amen and awoman." While it sounds like the kind of joke I might make, the fact is the congressman may have been seriously attempting to be inclusive.

The term amen's origins are from the Hebrew root for the word "*Emunah*," which means faith or belief. It is a gender-neutral term. Reciting Amen to a prayer or blessing demonstrates a statement of affirmation. Judaism teaches that when a leader says a blessing, and the congregation responds, "Amen," it is as if the entire community has fulfilled the *mitzvah* of saying the blessing. When Jews cannot recite an entire Hebrew prayer, a simple *amen* might suffice.

In American English, the word "amen" has two pronunciations, *ah-men* or *ay-men*. The *ah-men* pronunciation is the one that is used in performances of classical music and churches with more formalized ritu-



als and liturgy. The *ay-men* pronunciation is associated with evangelical Christianity and the pronunciation that is typically sung in gospel music.

The great 15th-century philosopher Adar Banal explained the term as follows. He said the congregation's real purpose is to combat the idea that God is merely in the heavens above. God also dwells within you and me and makes the Divine presence known through the acts of our hands, the impulses of our hearts, and the healing nature of our deeds. To say Amen and not to act is meaningless. A passionate Amen requires that we get up from our prayers and work in our world according to the high ideals expressed.

Thus for our elected officials, we pray: May you never let an Amen pass your lips without being followed by actions that unify and heal our fractured nation.

May your actions serve all of our citizenry's needs regardless of ethnicity, faith, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, or political affiliation.

May this Congress, rather than paying lip service to our Constitution and founding fathers' highest ideals, strive to serve its citizenry as one nation, under God, indivisibly enacting liberty and justice for all.

Then indeed, we will conclude with a hearty AMEN.

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!

Congregation extends its deepest sympathies to :

Brian and Cadi Polk and family on the passing of his grandmother Marcia Klain.

Bob Safferman and family on the passing of Jewel Safferman.

Temple Beth Or extends wishes of *refuah sheleima*, speedy healing, to Tyler Conte, Ellen Lauber, Steve Scherr, and Fran Schwartz.

We send a hearty *Mazel Tov* to:

Leslie Buerki on the birth of their granddaughter Zadie Galit Buerki.

Art and Joan Greenfield on the birth of a brand new great grandson, Yosef Zev Greenfield.

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.

February 5

Willie Schloessinger 2/3
Julius Simpson 2/3
Marsha Remer 2/4
Steve Mauch 2/6
Elsie Goodman 2/7
Martin Horwitz 2/7
Miriam Schlezinger 2/7
Anita Joy Feinstein Cochran 2/8
Charlotte L. Gorsky 2/8
Sally Gurian 2/8
Edward L. Katz 2/8
Rita Sheinker 2/8
Betsy Spaeth 2/8
Don Kayner 2/9
Louis Bernard Klein 2/9
Jackie Raymond 2/9
Dr. Edgar Alvin Slotkin 2/9
Badreeh Srour 2/9

February 12

Robert Hessel 2/10
Fred Simon 2/10
Leon Schiffman 2/11
Henry Hochman 2/13
Jennie Rein 2/13
Arnold Weiss 2/13
William W. Bernstein 2/14
Cantor Joyce Ury Dumtschin 2/14
Dorothy Rosenbaum 2/14
Jacob Constantine 2/15
Ethel Farber 2/15
Janet Hirschfeld 2/15

February 19

Sanford Bloomberg 2/17
Morton Karp 2/17
Judith Meltzer 2/17
Ethel Paul 2/17
Pasquale Charles Conte, Jr. 2/18
Al Izenson 2/19
Henrietta Lotney 2/19
Salomon Baier 2/21
Rita Lieberman 2/22
Roy Booth 2/23
Edith Simon 2/23

February 26

Sidney Phillips 2/24
Francis A. Clair 2/25
Elsbeth Schloessinger 2/25
Jerry Goldstein 2/26
Andrew R. Nathan 2/26
David M. Nathan 2/26
Paul Nathan 2/26
Leona Jacobs 2/27
Sadie Nelson 2/28
David Yates 2/28
Dorothy Gutmann 3/1



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:

Marni Flagel
Mary Rogers
Angela and Mark Gruenberg
In Honor of:
The leadership of Rabbi Judy Chessin
Kim and Shelley Goldenberg
The Double Chai Anniversary of Temple Beth Or
Caryl and Don Weckstein

In Memory of:

Marcus Garfunkel
Felix Garfunkel
Frieda Garfunkel
Felix Garfunkel
Vera Fortner
Lorraine Fortner

In Memory of:

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Linda Schuman
Charles Grant
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Claudia and Bill Fried
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Caryl and Don Weckstein
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Rhonna Troy
Lynda and Gerald Troy
Sidney Phillips
Marni Flagel

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of:
Harriet Lilienthal Holstine
Gary Holstine
Bertha Marks Holstine
Gary Holstine
Karl Plotkin
Joann Plotkin
In Appreciation of:
Rabbi Chessin's service for Jewel Safferman
Bob Safferman and Sharon Simon

Adult Education Fund

In Memory of:
Beatrice Westerman
Jan Maharam

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.



Makor Spring 2021 Schedule

All programs at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise indicated

February 7 – Online Education & Online Hebrew

February 14 – Online Education & Online Hebrew

February 21 – Online Education & Online Hebrew

February 28 – Purim CARnival & CARstume Contest (Parking Lot Program)

March 7 – Online Education & Online Hebrew

March 14 – ZoomOver Passover Program & Online Hebrew

March 21 – April 4 – Spring & Passover Break

April 11 – Online Education & Online Hebrew

April 18 – Parking Lot Program & Online Hebrew

April 25 – Online Education & Online Hebrew

May 2 – Tikkun Olam Sunday & Online Hebrew

May 9 – Final Day of Makor Online & Online Hebrew

Mask Up



I had never been someone to wear a mask. I found masks to be hot, smelly, sticky, just all-around annoying. To avoid a big thing over my face or head, every year when Purim came around, I would always volunteer to be the person who would wear the elaborate costume with a wig or funny outfit, just as long as it didn't include a mask. Well, little did I know that masks would become reminiscent of the long-lost candies in jacket pockets – throwing on a jacket as I walk out the door and find my old mask crumpled in the pocket, needing to retrieve a new one from the sleeve of surgical masks in my car.

Hazah! Now! However! It has finally arrived at the time of year where my year-long mask-wearing practice would eventually become useful. Purim is here! It is in February, just weeks away. Now, you may say, “Purim is early this year,” I would con-

tend it is not, for it always falls on the same date...well, the same Hebrew date.

Purim. What a holiday! It was generally filled with reading the *megillah*, booing Hamen, and eating little, strangely shaped cookies with all kinds of filling (I am partial to fruit fillings). Enjoying the bounce-houses, makeup, costumes, carnival games, prizes. Purim can be all kinds of fun, and this year, though it might not be the same as it has been in many past years, it will continue to build upon centuries of celebrations and merriment. At Temple Beth Or, our celebration will take place outside and in a manner which promotes safety and fun at the same time. Be sure to create a ‘CARstume’ to show off to the community. Most importantly, it’s your chance to show just what your mask can do (and look like). Finally, an opportunity to bring masks to life and not only be useful but celebratory!

Hopefully, mask wearing will become a thing of the past in the not-so-distant future, but as we make our way through the COVID era, we have to pause to notice the good stuff.



This year, one of the good things that I have learned is that I will never again have to complain about being assigned the costume with a mask in any future Purim Spiel.

We look forward to seeing you reading *Megillat Ester* together on February 26th at our *Shabbat* service and celebrating together on Sunday, February 28th, in our parking lot celebration of Purim during *Makor* hours.

B’bracha (in blessing),
Rabbi Benjamin G. Azriel

President's Message

Many people make new year's resolutions in January. I have never been successful at maintaining them. So, I have begun making monthly resolutions. If I fall off the wagon, I can reset and start working again toward my goals only a short time later. What are your goals for Temple Beth Or this year?

Perhaps you will attend more *Shabbat* services. With our current streaming services, you can participate while eating dinner or relaxing on the couch. If you are busy at 6:30 on Friday, you can watch another time. Or maybe you will try *Tanach* study on Saturday morning.

Perhaps you will become more active at Temple. Although the pandemic has limited our in-person activities, our committees are still working, and we always need volunteers. Consider joining the Member Services Committee, Fundraising Committee, or Religious Committee. We need your ideas and assistance.

Perhaps you will attend an adult education event. The Adult Education Committee has prepared informative and interesting events throughout the year.

This year resolve to make the most out of your Temple Beth Or membership. Become a vital part of the Temple Beth Or family. What a great way to celebrate our 36th year!

John Granby & Karen Lindsay,
Co-Presidents

2020-2021 Premium Support Recognition

Temple Beth Or has been amazed and humbled by the generosity of its members this fiscal year. We appreciate your member support and contributions, regardless of amount.

With your support, we have been able to meet the ongoing operational needs of the Temple to date and to provide continued weekly and holiday programming for you. You have helped Temple Beth Or maintain a stable financial condition in this difficult year.

We especially want to recognize those members who have pledged to support Temple Beth Or at a premium level for our 2020-2021 year. Your financial support not only keeps the building's lights on, but also keeps the Light of Temple Beth Or shining for us, our children, and the future. Thank you! (An asterisk indicates a four-commitment. Again, thank you!)

Pillars

(\$10,000+/couple; \$5,000+/single)

Anonymous*
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Eric & Summer Pachman
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Linda Schuman
Ira Segalewitz
Scott & Caryl Segalewitz
Eugene Solomon
Steven & Shara Taylor
Dan D. Weiner
Gary M. & Mary C. Youra



Adult Education

Chai Mitzvah Continues Monthly on Zoom

Temple Beth Or is pleased to offer and help underwrite a third *Chai Mitzvah* course. *Chai Mitzvah* is a Jewish engagement program designed to help people grow their Judaism through text study and social action. This year's course explores "how each commandment provides us with beliefs, principles, and standards of behavior which can guide and challenge our identity and behavior." *Chai Mitzvah* class meetings are facilitated by enrollees on a rotating basis. Learning materials are provided via source books designed to develop a framework for meaningful discussion and personal growth.



- Dates: First Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
Cost: \$40 (printed materials) or \$18 (PDF materials)
Questions: Contact Jan Maharam at 937-361-8157

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story



Do you like to read, but don't have time, so you prefer short stories? Have we got a new 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.

The Adult Education Committee (AEC) of Temple Beth Or is pleased to offer An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story, via Zoom, on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Come every month or drop in as you can. Co-facilitators are Rebecca Carlson of Congregation Anshai Emeth in Peoria, IL and Ruth Schumacher of Temple Beth Or in Dayton, OH. (The two facilitators are sisters!) The registration deadline is two days prior to each month's discussion. Once you register, you will receive the short story we will be discussing when we meet. Please register online:

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



Yiddish, in History and Song!

Join the Adult Education Committee and friends for a special music and history program on Wednesday, February 24th, 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

Maybe you remember a few words in *Yiddish*? Or don't know any at all? This fun program will add a few more words and phrases to your vocabulary, along with sharing the roots and stories behind a language that was, and still is, so important to many of the Jewish people.

Ira Segalewitz and Joe Bettman will share timeless songs and the stories behind them, joined by Mary 'Mahira' Rogers on vocals and guitar, as they walk through a brief history of the *Yiddish* language, as expressed through music. Lyrics will be provided for each song (in English and *Yiddish*), encouraging a sing-a-long atmosphere throughout this virtual program.

Watch Plan-It for reminders, and please RSVP by February 22nd:

<https://go.oncehub.com/TBOYiddish>

February Chai-Lights

Thursday, February 4, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Chai Mitzvah: Join us as we explore how each commandment provides us with beliefs, principles, and standards of behavior which guides us.

Friday, February 5, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Rock of Ages Shabbat: Marc Rossio rocks the house as he and Rabbi Chessin lead a creative and musical *Shabbat* service. Bring your candles, wine and challah.

Saturday, February 6, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Tanach Study: Rabbi Chessin and our study group continue to explore the last book of the Bible, II Chronicles. Be there as we finish up this quarter century venture!

Wednesday, February 10, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: Read and discuss a Jewish short story, make new friends, renew your current friendships, and deepen your understanding of Jewish life through the ages in a welcoming, engaging forum. This program is offered by the Adult Education Committee (AEC).

Friday, February 12, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Join Rabbi Ben Azriel for a family friendly *Shabbat* Service.

Friday, February 19, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Join Mary 'Mahira' Rogers and the Temple Beth Or Choir in worship. Sing your way through the service. Just have candles, challah and wine for blessing.

Saturday, February 20, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Tanach Study: Rabbi Chessin and our study group continue to explore the last book of the Bible, II Chronicles. Be there as we finish up this quarter century venture!

Wednesday, February 24, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Yiddish, In History and Song!: Join the Adult Education Committee and friends for this special music and history program. Ira Segalewitz and Joe Bettman will share timeless songs and the stories behind them, joined by Mary 'Mahira' Rogers on vocals and guitar, as they walk through a brief history of the Yiddish language, as expressed through music.

Friday, February 26, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Join Rabbi Chessin as we celebrate a Purim *Shabbat* and enjoy the *Megillah* reading. Come in costume and bring your *hamantaschen*.

Saturday, February 27, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Join ParaRabbi Lorraine Fortner and Mary 'Mahira' Rogers for a Musical *Shabbat* Morning Service.



Temple Beth Or Purim Celebrations

Purim is here! We look forward to a fun-filled weekend of events. Join us on February 26th at 6:30pm as we read the story of Esther during our regularly scheduled *Shabbat* services. Don't miss out on your chance to boo Hamen's name and share your costume from the comfort of your own home. Then, on February 28th at 10:00 a.m., join us in the parking lot and yard of our building to enjoy safe and socially distant Purim celebrations. Dress your car up for our CARstume contest and receive the prize you have always wanted! Enjoy the carnival and the fun time to celebrate our survival from Hamen and get your Purim treats! Look for more information in upcoming Plan-It emails and on our social media. BOOOO Hamen!



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PURIM CAR-NIVAL

Join us for a fun, Drive-Thru Purim Celebration!
Sunday, February 28th, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Fun for All Ages!
Award for Best Car-stume!

5275 Marshall Road
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937-435-3400
www.templebethor.com

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