



February 2022

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XXXVII, Issue 2

"To bigotry no sanction; to persecution no assistance."



American Jews watched in horror as four Jews were held hostage at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, last month. Thanks to the collected quick-thinking of Rabbi Charlie

Cytron-Walker, the training in safety protocols of the congregational members, and the aid of law enforcement and negotiators, the hostages emerged physically unharmed. (May their spiritual healing be swift and complete). And we, as an American Jewish community, emerged shaken.

In the aftermath of the October 2018 Tree of Life Synagogue massacre that killed 11 worshipers, we found comfort in the unified response of our nation. The Pittsburgh Gazette printed the Hebrew words of the *Kaddish* mourner's prayer on its front page. America was in mourning. Religious organizations, churches, and mosques; the media and political pundits responded as one, condemning antisemitism as a national plague. At the time, it felt like the entire nation acknowledged that an attack on the Jews was an attack on all of America.

Not so this time. Now, the identity of the attacker, an Islamist decrying the injustice done to his jailed jihadi "sister" Aafia Siddiqui, was protected for as long as possible. This time the media, the FBI, and our government

obfuscated the perpetrator's motives. This time social media warned of possible Islamophobic kick-back if too much was made of the attack. This time it wasn't Americans that were attacked, but rather "a Zionist synagogue."

Jews have long known that when a nation's social fabric frays, its minorities, specifically its Jews, are attacked first—the further the unraveling of society, the more danger to all Americans. Whether violence comes from the far left, the far right, or radical Islam, it threatens the very foundation of America: our freedom of religion, speech, equality, and pluralism.

Many Jews now claim to be frightened to go to their synagogues. This trepidation compounds the already prevalent apprehension of public gathering that COVID-19 has instilled. **But this IS precisely the time for us to return to synagogue in greater numbers.** The way to fight hatred is to actualize our Jewish lives for ourselves and our children. If we cower in fear and hide our identities, we let our enemies win. If we stay away, we lose our greatest weapon against antisemitism, the strength of our Jewish community. We are a well-protected community. Thanks to the vigilance of our Temple Watch and Security Committees (chaired by Bill Fried), we are protected with professional guards, trained and informed members, and wise safety protocols. We have been blessed with national and state-wide grants to enhance the security of our facility. We have and will add more trainings to

remind us what to do in the unlikely event of an emergency.

But also remember that we Jews come from hearty stock. We are the heirs of Jewish ancestors who faced far greater threats than we can even imagine. Our people didn't miss minyan but went to shul under threat of pogroms, Nazi roundups, and terrorist attacks from enemy neighbors.

And what of our children? How do we model for them the courage and resilience of their people if we refuse to leave the safety of our own homes? Now is the time to return to synagogue for Shabbat services, learning, and social events, because if we stay away, we give power to those who wish us harm.

George Washington, whom we celebrate this month, made a commitment to the members of Rhode Island's Touro Synagogue in an August 1790 letter promising, "to bigotry we will give no sanction, to persecution no assistance." Unfortunately, that promise is in jeopardy. We need to educate ourselves and those around us to understand the tropes of antisemitism from both sides of the political spectrum to protect ourselves and this great nation. Together, we need to be vigilant and responsive in countering hate and extremism and battling antisemitism. Together, we renew the promise of America's first president for ourselves and for America.

Lshalom,

Rabbi Judy Chessin

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

For Security:

In Appreciation of:

Ryan Levin's outstanding support

Claudia and Bill Fried

Scot Denmark

Claudia and Bill Fried

Mark Gruenberg

Claudia and Bill Fried

John Westerkamp

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David Verson

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In Honor of:

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The birth and bris of Gavin Wells

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Lorraine Fortner

Claudia and Bill Fried

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Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of:

Rabbi Chessin's birthday

Claudia and Bill Fried

Music Fund

In Honor of:

Maxine and Jerry Halasz's Special

Birthday

Debbie Robertson

In Memory of:

Joseph Bettman

Lorraine Fortner

Claudia and Bill Fried

Debbie Robertson

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.

Important Security Announcements

The New Gates are Now Operational

We have addressed an important security concern by completing the installation of gates and fences to better control access to the West and North sides of our Temple. Please be aware that this back driveway is now one way. The exit gate onto Marshall is operational and is traffic actuated. Pulling up to the exit gate will open it automatically allowing you to exit onto Marshall Road. Access to the main parking lot and main door remains unchanged.

If you need access to the North and West sides of the building, please contact the Temple Office.

We Need Your Help!

The Temple Beth Or Security Committee continues to make great strides in increasing the safety of our congregation. With your support, Temple Beth Or has become a stronger and more secure community. Our security has been dramatically improved further with the help of our members in the Temple Watch Program. They have been doing an outstand-

ing job, but we still need more volunteers, particularly during Makor on Sundays, to help spread out the load and also cover all of our in-person events. Please consider joining our team and helping out.

Temple Watch Program Description:

— Similar to the Neighborhood Watch programs with which most people are familiar.

— Program members will serve as the extra "eyes and ears" for the Temple; augmenting our Security Guards by reporting any suspicious activities to the guards on duty.

— Temple Watch members will notify Law enforcement/Temple Security Officers who will take action if necessary.

— This critical program addresses key security recommendations from our last two Security Assessments.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Temple Watch team, please contact Mark Gruenberg at (937) 479-7774 or mark@gruenbergfamily.net

Growing Out of Anger



Sometimes, it is okay to be mad. It is okay to be upset; it is okay to be stressed, distressed, sad, tired. It is okay to be angry.

I have felt all of these over the past month. I have felt these emotions concerning COVID-19, home improvement projects, scheduling, even grocery shopping! And most recently, I felt them as I watched the hostage situation unfold and, thankfully, resolve in Colleyville, Texas.

It has been stated and proven, by countless organizations across the country, that antisemitism has been and continues to be on the rise in recent years. It has been prevalent in schools, civic gathers, public events, even in written form — and dangerously, in acts of violence. While we hope and pray that we are never a target, we still ensure we have proper procedures and measures to protect our building and, most importantly, our people. We are thankful to our guards, our committees, our board, our police, even our security system for helping us to maintain a secure environment that is still a warm and welcoming place for us to enjoy all that we do.

But it is okay to be mad about the reality that we live in. It is okay to



be angry that antisemitism even exists. We must live in the fact of our world, and to do that, we must acknowledge the truth that surrounds us. Sometimes, faith, our shared Judaism, offers us resources and hope when we are troubled.

In Exodus 33:19, we are told that God will pass goodness and compassion before God's people, that God's presence will lead us and support us as a people. And in times where I am angry, I long for that compassion; I long for God's guidance. But so too am I mad that God didn't provide it earlier. Indeed, being angry with God is as much a Jewish trusting in God. And being angry with God is okay. It may even be productive. I am angry that antisemitism is on the rise, and I am angry that God has not helped us as a people to quell the rise.

Being mad, being upset, being sad, all of these emotions not only are okay, but they can also help us to move forward. They can help us realize our own needs and push us to better ourselves and the community we are a part of. And while I may be mad right now, I hope that in the coming days, weeks, and months, my emotions not only help me to grow but that they also help me to help my community grow.

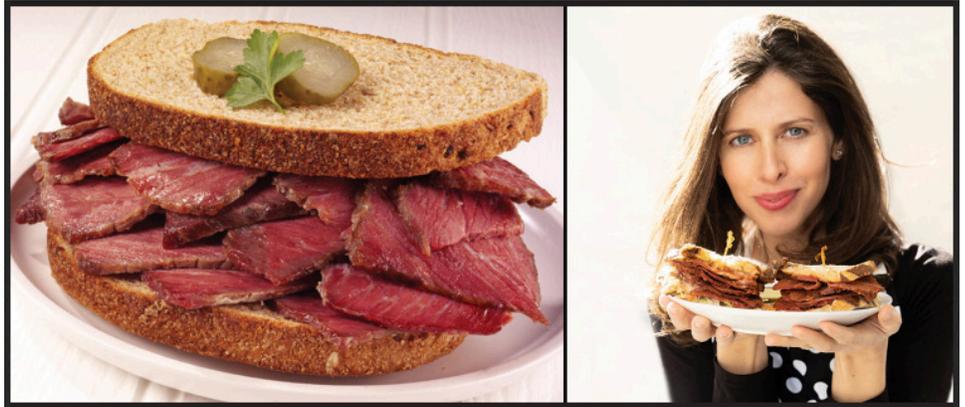
I am thankful to our security team. I am grateful that I feel safe at Temple Beth Or. I am thankful that I have a safe space to be a part of. May it be God's will that safety, wholeness, and peace reign down on our people and all peoples as we grow and learn together. *Ken Yehi Ratzon*,
May it be God's will.

B'shalom,
Rabbi Ben Azriel



We're Back! Corned Beef Sandwich Sale Planned for March 15th

Once again, Temple Beth Or will be holding our Corned Beef Sandwich Sale on Tuesday, March 15th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Boxed lunches will include a corned beef sandwich on rye bread, cole slaw, a pickle, and a brownie. The boxed lunches will be \$18 each. You can pre-order either by sending in the order form enclosed in The Light or on-line at templebethor.com.



We have been so grateful in the past to our many volunteers and sponsors. As you know, we will need lots of help to make this fundraiser run smoothly. We would love your involvement through one or more of the following ways:

Prep Work

We will be doing the prep work for the event on Sunday, March 13th. We will begin during *Makor*. With enough hands, we hope to be done with the prep in four hours. We will be following the Covid Safety Guidelines recommended by our Temple Beth Or Safety Committee.

- You can sign up to help through the URL below or call the Temple Beth Or Office. Click on the link about the corned beef sandwich sale. You can put your information into Sign-up Genius. Committee members will be contacting those who have signed up about times to work a few weeks before the event.

Event Staffing

We will also need help during the day of the sale itself. We will need help to make the sandwiches and to assemble the box the lunches and to deliver them. We will also need help handling the money and credit cards.

- You can sign-up on Sign-up Genius to help on the day of the event.

Order Form Distribution

We realize that many are now working from home, but if you are not, another way you can help is by taking the order form to work and asking your co-workers if they would like to buy a great lunch. We will deliver to offices with a minimum of ten sandwiches. There is a \$10 delivery fee.

Sponsorships

Sponsorships begin at \$100 and continue to the \$500 level. If you would like more information, contact the Temple Beth Or office. Our goal is to have enough sponsorships to cover our costs. From there, the proceeds from the sale of the sandwiches will be profit for the Temple.

We have enjoyed great success with this fundraiser in previous years, and hope to further build on that success. Thank you in advance for your help and support!

Pre-Order Here:

<https://templebethor.com/corned-beef/>

Volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D45ADA62DA4FD0-corned>

Adult Education

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story February 9th

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/>

A Discussion on Antisemitism February 22nd on Zoom



Participants will learn about contemporary and current antisemitism from the perspective of guest facilitator Jeff Silverstein. Jeff will share a bit about his own experiences on the frontlines fighting antisemitism, as well as discuss what Temple Beth Or can do to combat the scourge in our own community. Those who attend will have the opportunity to share their own experiences

and perspectives, as well as get informed about some of the ways they might join the fight. This discussion is meant to be a re-opening of the conversation around antisemitism, and we want your voice to be a part of it! Jeff Silverstein (he/him) is a second-year Rabbinical Student at HUC-JIR. Before attending rabbinical school, Jeff worked for Cincinnati Hillel as their Director of Engagement and Programming. He also worked for the American Jewish Committee in Atlanta as the Access Associate, overseeing the young professional arm of the regional organization as well as working in state and national congressional advocacy. Jeff received his bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado ('16) in Film Theory and Criticism with a Minor in Hebrew and Israeli Cultural Studies. He lives in Cincinnati with his fiancée (Meg) and their dog (Manischewitz).

To register please visit:

<https://templebethor.com/discussion-anti-semitism/>

Call Me By Your Name: March 6th on Zoom

Because the Adult Education Committee (AEC) of Temple Beth Or sometimes partners with Temple Anshai Emeth's Adult Education Committee in Peoria, IL, Temple Beth Or is invited to a special presentation! On Sunday, March 6 at noon (on Zoom), Professor Seth Katz will interview Professor Andre Aciman, author of the bestseller, *Call Me By Your Name*, which was later made into an award-winning movie. You may have seen it.

The book and movie is a coming-of-age story about a gay, teenage, Jewish boy. You won't want to miss this thought-provoking author interview! We are very excited to bring this accomplished author to the Dayton area (via Zoom), courtesy of our partnership with Anshai Emeth!



For more information and to register, visit:

<https://templebethor.com/event/call-me-by-your-name/>

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!

February Chai-Lights

Friday, February 4, 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.

Saturday, February 5, 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!

Saturday, February 5, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom
Third Annual Art and Music Cafe: THE PREVIEW: Join us for a virtual preview on Zoom, featuring live performances from Marc Gilbert, Steven Wyke and Mary 'Mahira' Rogers (and perhaps a few surprise guests) will provide the narrated soundtrack for a visual display of paintings, photography and more. There is NO charge for this virtual preview.

Wednesday, February 9, 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 6 for more information.

Saturday, February 12, 10:00 a.m. In Person
Torah Live!: Our Torah portion is *Tetzaveh* or what the well-dressed Cohen wore. We will examine the fashion of holiness in Judaism throughout the ages.

Friday, February 18, 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 Mary 'Mahira' Rogers and accompanied by Diann Bromberg.

Tuesday, February 22, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
A Discussion on Antisemitism: learn about contemporary and current anti-Semitism from the perspective of guest facilitator Jeff Silverstein. Jeff will share a bit about his own experiences on the frontlines fighting anti-Semitism, as well as discuss what Temple Beth Or can do to combat the scourge in our own community. See page 6 for more information.

Friday, February 25, 6:30 p.m. Pre-Recorded Streaming
Join us for a pre-recorded *Shabbat* Service with Rabbi Chessin and Rabbi Azriel.

Saturday, February 26, 10:00 a.m. In Person
Shabbat Shireinu: Sing-along Sabbath led by Para Rabbi Lorraine Fortner and Temple Music Director Mary 'Mahira' Rogers. Come learn the most updated songs we use in our *Shabbat* services.

Third Annual Art and Music: THE PREVIEW February 5th

Our February 5th Art and Music Cafe date will now provide a 'virtual preview'—

**just a taste...
a bit of a tease...**

Of what you will see when we reschedule the actual 'in person' event in the very near future.

Live performances from Marc Gilbert, Steven Wyke and Mary 'Mahira' Rogers (and perhaps a few surprise guests) will provide the narrated soundtrack for a visual display of paintings, photography and more.

There is NO charge for this virtual preview!
<https://templebethor.com/art-music-cafe>





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Corned Beef on Rye...
Fast, Fresh & Piled High***

**TUESDAY, MARCH 15th, 2022
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**



**PRE-ORDERS AVAILABLE NOW!
TEMPLEBETHOR.COM/CORNER-BEEF**

Let Us Make You Lunch:

Overstuffed 1/3 lb. Sandwich on Rye featuring your choice of Carnegie Deli Corned Beef or Mrs. Goldfarb's Unreal Corned Beef (Plant-Based), Cole Slaw, Dill Pickle, Brownie & Drink (carry-out or delivery)

Corned Beef by the Pound:
Carnegie Deli
Mrs. Goldfarb's Unreal Corned Beef (Plant-Based)

\$18 per meal
\$20 per pound
\$5 per slice of Cheesecake

DELIVERY AVAILABLE!

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