

TEMPLE BETH OR 40 YEARS

The Light

February 2025

☆Today...and for Generations☆

Volume XL, Issue 2

"Wildpeace"



At the time of writing this column, the news of a fragile Hamas/Israel ceasefire and gradual release of hostages has broken. There is great controversy in Israel and abroad as to whether this is a good or bad deal and whether it can move us to a lasting peace. I immediately thought of the great poet Yehuda Amichai's "Wildpeace" poem, which serves as a stark reminder of the cynicism and disillusionment with which we approach this new "ceasefire" agreement.

Wildpeace

by Yehuda Amichai

Not the peace of a ceasefire
not even the vision of the wolf
and the lamb,
but rather
as in the heart when the excitement is over
and you can talk only about a
great weariness.
I know that I know how to kill,
that makes me an adult.
And my son plays with a toy gun
that knows
how to open and close its eyes
and say Mama.

A peace
without the big noise of beating
swords into plowshares,
without words, without
the thud of the heavy rubber
stamp: let it be
light, floating, like lazy white
foam.

A little rest for the wounds - who
speaks of healing?
(And the howl of the orphans is
passed from one generation
to the next, as in a relay race:
the baton never falls.)

Let it come
like wildflowers,
suddenly, because the field
must have it: wildpeace.

Yehuda Amichai emigrated to Israel in 1935 from Germany, escaping the rise of Nazism and the Holocaust. He fought in the 1948 War for Independence and the Six-Day War in 1967. He wrote "Wildpeace" in 1969, reflecting his experience that peace does not arise from the grand visions or the heavy stamps of peace treaties but from a profound weariness where even the words feel hollow. He questions the authenticity of peace when young minds are still conditioned by toys of war, and the cycle of violence seems to perpetuate itself through generations.

This ceasefire might be yet another in a long line of temporary halts, not genuine peace. The poem warns us that the peace we seek might never come from the noisy clanging of swords into plowshares but could be more like the quiet, unassuming growth of wildflowers, if at all. The fear is that this moment might be fleeting, and beneath the surface, the seeds of discord remain ready to sprout at any moment. As we cautiously welcome this break in the 15 month conflict, let us not forget the orphans of war, the enduring pain, and the ever-present threat that peace might only be a brief intermission in the ongoing drama of conflict.

Yet, amidst this skepticism, we must acknowledge the immediate relief this ceasefire brings. For the hostages, this pause in hostilities offers a chance to heal from their physical and emotional wounds, reunite with loved ones, and begin the long journey toward recovery. For all of us, it provides a respite from the relentless horrors of war, a moment to breathe, to hope, and perhaps, to plant seeds of a peace that might, against all odds, bloom like wildflowers in the fields of our troubled land."

Sincerely praying for *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!

The congregation sends prayers of *Refuah Shlema* to:

Sarah Adams, Hagen Blimbaum, Arlene Graham, Melissa Guadalupe, Neil Kahn, Benjy Klein, Ruth Schumacher, Ron Solomon, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells

The Congregation extends its deepest sympathy to:

Rebecca Bernstein on the passing of her husband, Dr. Robert Bernstein.
Lauren Henry and Adam Henry on the passing of their mother and our beloved congregant Anne Rosset. Anne served as our Temple administrator for many years. She will be missed.

The Congregation extends a hearty *Mazel Tov* to:

Tom and Jill Conte and family on the birth of a new granddaughter Luciana. Proud parents are Josh Conte and Samantha Jo Corino.
Kevin and Karen Bressler on the birth of a new grandchild, Blake Emerson, Proud parents are Kaitlin and Brant Appel.
Jeff Rich on his recent marriage to Shannon Yost.

February 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 7

Fanny Sigmond 2/5
Elsie Goodman 2/7
Martin Horwitz 2/7
Sylvia Miller 2/7
Miriam Schlezinger 2/7
Anita Joy Feinstein Cochran 2/8
Charlotte L. Gorsky 2/8
Edward L. Katz 2/8
Rita Sheinker 2/8
Marvin Solganik 2/8
Don Kayner 2/9
Jackie Raymond 2/9
Dr. Edgar Alvin Slotkin 2/9
Bettie Bloom Reich 2/10
Rob Schilling 2/10
Fred Simon 2/10
Alma Hochman 2/11
Leon Schiffman 2/11

February 14

Gordon Kimbrell 2/12
Arnold Weiss 2/13
Dorothy Rosenbaum 2/14
Jacob Constantine 2/15
Ethel Farber 2/15
Janet Hirschfeld 2/15
Sanford Bloomberg 2/17
Mark Constantine 2/17
Pasquale Charles Conte, Jr. 2/18

February 21

Henrietta Lotney 2/19
Salomon Baier 2/21
Sidney Phillips 2/24
Samuel G Herrmann 2/25
Elsbeth Schloessinger 2/25

February 28

Jerry Goldstein 2/26
Sadye Nelson 2/28
Genevieve Gutman Reich 2/28
Duane Taylor 2/28
Henry Hochman 3/1
William W. Bernstein 3/2
Betty Goldberger 3/2
Judith Carsch 3/3
Ida Plotkin 3/3
Joseph Schneider 3/3



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 Memory of:

Eric Segalewitz
Ira Segalewitz
Rochel Turetsky
Ira Segalewitz
Newton Chessin
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Cynthia King
Sally and Richard Friedman
Dorothy Dicker
Sue and Ron Nelson
Mark Elovitz
Rebecca and Alan Elovitz
Kenny Bassik
Muff and Alan Steinharter
Steve Markman
Kim Dinsmore
Marcus Garfunkel
Felix Garfunkel
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Jeff Rich
Dennis Rich
Jeff Rich

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of:

Newton Chessin
Janet and Barry Block
Harold Braham
Cliff Brahm
Lillian Braham
Cliff Brahm
Harriet Lilenthal Holstine
Gary Holstine
Bertha Marks Holstine
Gary Holstine



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.

President's Message

As we plan and deliver our 40th anniversary events, we will pass on two events and bring them back next year, bigger and better. One is the Art and Music Café and the second is the Corned Beef sale.

We have had a couple of facilities updates taking place. We have replaced the old intercom with a new security access system. This will allow us to have a better safety process. If Donna is away from her desk or security is making rounds, they can still be contacted to open the door.

If you have been in the front entryway in the past month and the temperature was cold, that is because we had three furnaces stop working. All have been repaired. Our focus is to make every Temple experience nice for you, your family, friends, and the community.

Mark Gruenberg,
President

Thank you to our Donors!

Pillars

Marni Flagel
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Celebrating 40 Years



Valentine's Day isn't a Jewish holiday in the traditional sense, but when you think about it, the themes of love and commitment fit perfectly within our tradition. Love is at the heart of so many Jewish teachings and the founda-

tion of the relationships that sustain us—both in our personal lives and in our Temple community. This year, as we celebrate 40 years together, Valentine's Day feels like a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the love that has built and strengthened this community over the decades.

In Judaism, love isn't just about romantic gestures or grand declarations. It's about showing up for one another in everyday moments. The Torah teaches, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18), reminding us that love is an action, not just a feeling. It's in the kindness we extend to others, the way we support each other through life's ups and downs, and the care we invest in building a better world. Over the past 40 years, our synagogue has been a living example of this kind of love. It's a place where people celebrate together, grieve together, learn together, and grow together. It's a community built on love—love for Judaism, for one another, and for the shared vision of what we can achieve together.

The number 40 holds deep significance in Jewish tradition. It's the number of years the Israelites wandered in the desert before entering the Promised Land. Those years weren't just about getting from one place to another—they were about transformation. The Israelites became a people during that time, growing in their

faith, their relationships, and their sense of purpose. Forty symbolizes growth, renewal, and the journey toward something greater.

As we celebrate our synagogue's 40th year, it's incredible to think about the journey we've been on as a community. There have been challenges along the way, but there have also been so many moments of joy and connection. Like the Israelites, we've grown together—not just as individuals but as a community with a shared purpose. And just as love sustained the Israelites through their journey, love has been the foundation of our synagogue's journey as well.

One of my favorite teachings from the Talmud says that without love, life loses its joy, its blessing, and its goodness (Yevamot 62b). Whether it's the love of a partner, a family member, a friend, or a community, love is what makes life meaningful. And when I think about our Temple, I see so much love woven into its story. I see it in the way people welcome newcomers, the way we celebrate milestones together, and the way we come together to support each other in times of need.

So, this Valentine's Day, let's celebrate love—not just in the romantic sense, but in the broader sense that our tradition teaches us. Let's celebrate the love that binds us as a community and the love that has sustained our synagogue for 40 years. And as we look to the future, let's commit to continuing to build this community with love at its center. Here's to the next 40 years of connection, growth, and shared purpose!

B'shalom,
Rabbi Ben Azriel

Temple Beth Or Scrapbook

Temple Beth Or needs your help in being an important part of capturing the 40-year history our Temple in beautiful photo albums. Once completed the albums will be available to enjoy on June 1st, as part of our 40th anniversary celebration. We are also looking to include pictures and memorabilia that you have at home that can be included to complete our amazing 40 year history.

Save these dates to come to Temple to help complete the albums:

March 27, April 29, and May 18.

Times to be announced.

Watch the March Light for more details.



Kashrut Policy for Temple Beth Or

At Temple Beth Or, we strive to honor the Jewish tradition of *kashrut* (Jewish dietary laws) while accommodating the diverse needs and preferences of our community. Our policy reflects our commitment to both Jewish tradition and the values of inclusivity and environmental stewardship.

Our guidelines include:

No pork or shellfish products will be served at any synagogue event or function.

We encourage adherence to the traditional separation of meat and dairy, though this is not strictly enforced for personal consumption during events.

A vegetarian option will always be available at every meal or event where food is served. This option will be clearly marked and will be free from meat and derivatives.

For events where food is brought by congregants (like potlucks on an *Oneg Shabbat*), we encourage adherence to this policy but will not enforce it on individual dishes. However, we ask that any dish containing nuts or allergens be clearly labeled.

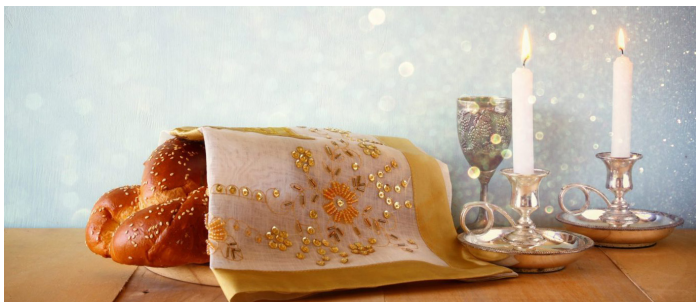
External caterers must comply with this *kashrut* policy.

We will maintain an open dialogue with our members about dietary needs, including allergies and other dietary restrictions, to ensure all feel welcome and included.

This policy aims to balance traditional Jewish practice with the principles of inclusivity and modern ethical considerations, reflecting the flexible and adaptable nature of Reform Judaism.



We need *Oneg Shabbat* and Pre-Shabbat Reception Hosts



We hope to invigorate our *Oneg Shabbat* and "pre-neg" reception hosting. We ask only for a simple tray of fruit, cheese, or cookies. The Temple will provide *challah*, wine, and juice. It would be lovely if our members would choose a date to remember a beloved for *yahrzeit* or mark a happy occasion, birthday, or anniversary. Please call the Temple office if you would like to celebrate or commemorate with your Temple Family.

Save the Date: Pi Day Purim, Friday March 14

Save the Date for Pi Day/Pie Day Purim, Friday, March 14. Get out your best pie recipes, sweet and savory for a contest with prizes and a celebrity judge.

We'll have a Wicked megillah reading spiel by our *Makor* cast of characters, food, games and Elphaba green beer.



Adult Education

Friends and Family CPR and Stop the Bleed Courses



SAVE A LIFE

**Sunday, February 23rd,
9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in Levin Hall**

The Adult Education Committee is pleased to offer the Friends and Family CPR/Choking/First Aid and Stop the Bleed Courses. The courses will be taught by Scott Henry, Washington Township's Fire Department Public Information Officer and CPR/First Aid/Stop the Bleed Instructor. These courses are being offered at NO CHARGE to participants.

The American Heart Association's Family & Friends CPR Course teaches the lifesaving skills of Adult hands-Only CPR, Adult CPR with breaths, Child CPR, Adult and Child AED use, Infant CPR and choking relief for Adults, Children, and Infants. Basic First Aid will also be included. This course lasts approximately two hours.

The CPR/Choking/First Aid course is designed for people who want to learn CPR, but DO NOT need a course completion card in CPR for their job. This course is ideal for schools and students, parents, grandparents, babysitters and others interested in learning how to save a life.

There will be a demonstration of the new vacuum anti-choking devices for adults, children, and infants.

The Stop the Bleed course lasts approximately one hour and is a grassroots national awareness campaign and call-to-action. Stop the Bleed encourages bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives.

No matter how fast professional emergency responders arrive, bystanders will always be first on the scene.



A person who is bleeding can die from blood loss within five minutes, therefore it is critical to quickly stop the blood loss. Participants will learn multiple ways to control bleeding in an emergency, including applying direct pressure, packing the wound with bleeding control gauze and applying a tourniquet.

This offering is limited to 20 participants. You may attend one or both courses and will receive a separate Certificate of Attendance for each class attended. Visit <http://templebethor.com/adult-education> to register.

Light refreshments will be available. Contact Karen Granby, Adult Education member, for questions at craceby@aol.com or (937) 286-6902.

February Chai-Lights

Saturday, February 1, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Zoom

Taste of Texts on Jewish Liturgy: Join Cantor Rosalie Will for a lively look at texts and tunes that comprise our Jewish liturgy. Join us and our study group in Cafe Or and bring a pot-luck brunch item to share.

Saturday, February 1, 6:00 p.m. In Person

"Who Knows One?" Live!: Join Micah Hart for his interactive sensation where Jewish Geography meets laugh-out-loud games and stories. Visit whoknows1.com for a sneak peek! Tickets available now. RSVP Online or call the office.

Friday, February 7, 6:15 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. The service will be followed by *Oneg Shabbat*.

Sunday, February 9, 6:30 p.m. In Person

Super Bowl Watch Party: Please see ad on this page for more information.

Friday, February 14, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Family Shabbat & Dinner: Join us for Chocolate Shabbat, a chocolate buffet at 5:30 p.m. followed by Family Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Judy Chessin at 6:15 p.m. in Levin Hall.

Saturday, February 15, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Zoom

In-person Apocrypha Study: Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group at Temple Beth Or. Bring a pot-luck brunch item to share. LIVE and ZOOM.

Thursday, February 20, 6:00 p.m. In Person

Navigating Loss: Dinner with Comfort Foods: This class is for people that have had loss in their life, whether recent, in the past, or the future. We will share information about the 5 stages of grief and other information to help you deal with loss.

Friday, February 21, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Musical Shabbat Service with Choir: Join us for pre-Shabbat hors d'oeuvres, at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Musical Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Judy Chessin at 6:15 featuring the Temple Beth Or Choir, directed by Mary 'Mahira' Rogers.

Sunday, February 23, 9:30 a.m. In Person

Friends and Family CPR & Stop The Bleed: Please see page 6 for more information.

Friday, February 28, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Potluck Shabbat: Join us at 5:30 for Kiddush, HaMotzi, and hors d'oeuvres. 6:15 Service with Shabbat dinner to follow. We'll provide the fried chicken and/or macaroni and cheese, you provide the desserts and sides.

Who knows one?



Saturday, February 1

6:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Or

"Who Knows One?" Live

It's not who you know, it's who [who you know] knows!

It's not just a show—**it's an experience!**

Join Micah Hart for his interactive sensation where Jewish Geography meets laugh-out-loud games and stories.

Visit whoknows1.com for a sneak peek!

Tickets:

\$25 per person...

Your payment secures your reservation.

Includes dinner and 1 drink.

Additional drink tickets: \$5

Super Bowl Watch Party

Sunday Feb. 9

6:30 til the game is over

Come watch the big game with friends and family.

Bring your favorite game day snack and beverage.

Make sure to wear your team colors for a best dressed contest.

Winner gets \$50.

Temple will provide Pizza



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<https://bit.ly/TBO40>



Adult T-shirt: White
\$25



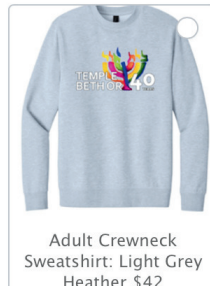
Adult T-shirt: Blue
\$25



Adult Crewneck
Sweatshirt: Heathered
Cardinal \$42



Adult Crewneck
Sweatshirt: Grey Frost
\$42



Adult Crewneck
Sweatshirt: Light Grey
Heather \$42



Adult Hoodie:
Heathered Navy \$43



Adult Long Sleeve
Tee: Heathered Teal
\$30



Adult Long Sleeve
Tee: White \$30



Youth T-shirt
(XS-XL): Grey Frost
\$24



Youth Long Sleeve
Tee (XS-XL): Navy
\$26



Youth Crewneck
Sweatshirt (XS-XL):
Navy \$35



Youth Hoodie
(XS-XL): Athletic
Heather \$36