



January 2021

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XXXVI, Issue 1

Celebrating Our Double Chai



After a challenging year, it is time to celebrate. In January 2021, we mark the 36th anniversary of our first *Shabbat* Service together. Thirty-six years ago, this month, we inaugurated and dedicated Temple Beth Or – our House of Light.

"Chai" is the Hebrew word for life and has the numerical equivalent of 18. Thus 36 is double life! The number bears additional significance in Judaism. Tradition has it that the light God created on the first day shone for precisely 36 hours. It was the light of discernment, which was then replaced by the lesser light emanating from the sun, moon, and stars. Judaism teaches that the world depends on the *Lamed Vav* (36) righteous individuals hidden in our midst. Finally, there are 36 candles kindled by the *shamash* over *Hannukkah's* eight-day festival of light and Temple rededication.

Unfortunately, this year, when we gather, it will not be in our Temple building. Who could have imagined that 36 years, 1,872 Sabbaths, 3,744 *Shabbat* candles, 13,149 days, 432



board meetings later, we would be celebrating our Temple from our homes online? Like everyone, I miss our building. But much more, I miss the handshakes and the hugs, the conversations over an *Oneg Shabbat*, and the ability to sing together. I long for the time when we can sing in unison and feel each other's hugs.

And yet, there are benefits to celebrating online. On Zoom, we've welcomed out of town guests from around the country, former Temple members who have moved far away, and those who had challenges getting to our synagogue for *Shabbat* Services. A beautiful quarantine meme states: "My synagogue is open. It is open every day because my synagogue is not a building. It

is the people who are helping each other and their community. It is the prayers for those who are struggling medically, financially, and emotionally. My synagogue never closed. It just opened in every home."

And so let us enthusiastically gather to rededicate our Temple from our homes this Double *Chai* 36th Anniversary Service on Friday, January 29 at 6:30 p.m. Let's celebrate all of the Jewish life and light which has emanated from our congregation over these decades. Let us hear from former members and Temple graduates. Most of all, let us celebrate twice the life, twice the love and twice the light that is Temple Beth Or.

Shalom,
Rabbi Judy Chessin



THE LIGHT

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Religious:
Volunteers: Paula Gessiness

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 extends its sympathy to:

Bobbi Mugford on the passing of her husband Col. Franklin Mugford (ret.). He was the stepfather of Annie Self and grandfather of Josh and Anna Kate Self. Frank died one week before his 90th birthday.

Jane Hochstein on the passing of her cousin, Stanley Lerner.

We send a hearty *Mazel Tov* to David and Deb Char on the birth of their granddaughter Liliana Nicole, born on the *Shabbat* of *Hanukkah*. She is a double blessing!

We wish *Refuah Shleimah*, a full and speedy healing to Dr. Heath Gilbert and Rachel Gilbert, Judie Kell, Stephen Scherr.

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.

January 1

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
Doris Ligo 1/2
Susan Pachman 1/3
B. Albert Friedman 1/4
John Farnbacher 1/5
Ray Merl 1/5

January 15

Janice Lowen 1/13
Mayme Low 1/14
Frances Rosenberg 1/14
Isobel B Bernstein 1/15
John G. Moody 1/15
Robert T. Rosengarten 1/15
Isidore Steinberger 1/15
Helen Bernie 1/16
Edward LeClaire 1/16
Melvin Sheinker 1/16
Rose Berkstein 1/17
Loretta Cox 1/17
Karl Alling Lindquist, Jr. 1/17
Florence Yates 1/17
Beverly Marx Goldberg 1/19

January 29

Ruth Layman 1/27
Michael Ammons 1/29
Muriel Brown 1/29
Abe Jacobson 1/29
Michael Novak 1/29
Karl Plotkin 1/29
Arthur Lotney 1/30
Leonard Rich 2/1
Stanley Fink 2/2
Beatrice Westerman 2/2

January 8

Vera Fortner 1/6
Esther Friedman 1/6
James Pickard 1/6
Colonel James Skelley 1/6
Rudolf H. Steinharter, MD 1/6
Gilbert Elovitz 1/7
Milton Meyer 1/7
Eugene Rose 1/7
Mier Hakim 1/8
Wanda Hirsch 1/8
Myra Gloria Lindquist 1/8
Shirley Nathan 1/8
Herman Paul 1/8
Camilla K. Meyer 1/9
Markus Garfunkel 1/10
Miriam Gerla 1/11
Harvey Lowen 1/11
Taube Besser 1/12
Charles Grant 1/12
Eleanor LeClaire 1/12

January 22

Carolyn Guise 1/20
Fanny Sigmond 1/20
Dora Sax Fenberg 1/21
Eleanor Krongold 1/21
Donald Rosset 1/21
Robert Arthur Buerki 1/22
Frieda Garfunkel 1/22
Stanley Karp 1/22
Sylvia Miller 1/22
Robert Reich 1/22
Rhonna Troy 1/22
John A. Reger 1/23
Leon Albert 1/24
Morton Gerla 1/24
Gail Banks Buerki 1/25
Bertha Marks Holstine 1/25
Alma Hochman 1/26



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: Karen and Matt Lindsay
Mary Rogers
For Security:
In Memory of:
Henry J. Marx
Marilyn Marx
In Memory of:
Randy Knight
Felice Shane
Dorothy Dicker
Sue and Ron Nelson
Melvin Verson
Laurie and David Verson
Dr. Stuart M. Denmark
Scot Denmark
Richard Flagel
Marni Flagel
Allan Goldman
Nancy and Michael Goldman
Charles Throckmorton
Joann Plotkin
Patricia Throckmorton
Joann Plotkin
Sol Scott
Karen and Jeffrey Swillinger
Alexander Charles Scott
Karen and Jeffrey Swillinger
Carl K. Tepper
Karen and Jeffrey Swillinger
Irving Saul
Lita Saul
Guil Herrick
Felix Garfunkel
Samuel Lauber
Felix Garfunkel
Eva Clair and Ira Segalewitz
Louisa and Philip Dreety
Beverly Farnbacher
Karen and Jeffrey Swillinger
Marti and Marty Jacobs
Selma Farnbacher
Beverly Farnbacher
John Farnbacher
Beverly Farnbacher
Eve Naiman Israel
Sarah Adams
Erika Garfunkel
Felix Garfunkel

In Memory of:

Richard Schuman
Sue and Ron Nelson
Andrea and William Franklin
Jane and James Riffel
Pamela and Michael Feldman
Carolyn and James Tarantine
Lauren and Richard McCarthy
Jane and Louis Conti
Patrice and Michael Sposeep
Ruthann Ruthfield
Patti and Lance Ortenzio
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Stephen Meyers
Linda Schuman
Hank Adler
Helen and Steven Markman
Molly Levenson
Jeanne Nathan
Joan Sumers
Marsha and Stephen Goldberg
Terry Bovinet
Janese and Daniel Sweeny
Meyer Dreety
Louisa and Philip Dreety
In Appreciation of:
Ellen Holroyd
Mindy and David Duberstein
In Celebration of:
Rabbis Chessin and Cook's Wedding
Anniversary
Elaine and Joseph Bettman
Dena Briskin's 80th Birthday
Barbara Mandelbaum

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of:
Marni Flagel
Felix Garfunkel
In Memory of:
Raymond Lemberg
Gary Holstine
Samuel Lauber
Sharon and Israel Guterman
Ellen Lauber
Robert Walder
Ellen Lauber

BOTY/NFTY Fund

In Appreciation for:
All the good work the youth of our
congregation bring to our commu-
nity
Jane Katsuyama

Endowment Fund

In Memory of:
Joseph David Goldberg
Audrey Sachs

Music Fund

In Memory of:
Ruth Alexander
Wendy Rachlin and Roger
Pankake
Sidney Alexander
Wendy Rachlin and Roger
Pankake
Jordan Bettman
Elaine and Joseph Bettman
Danny Engel
Elaine and Joseph Bettman
Rae Engel
Elaine and Joseph Bettman

Temple Beth Or Campership Fund

In Memory of:
Felice Arst
Dena Briskin
Leatrice Phillips
Dena Briskin



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.

Presidents' Message

To say the least, 2020 was one of the most, if not the most, challenging years that Temple Beth Or -- and all of us -- have had to face since Temple was founded almost 36 years ago. I know we all hope that 2021 will be a far better, safer, and healthier year than 2020.

Once the pandemic has eased its grip on all of us, Temple Beth Or will begin to make every effort to leave behind as many of the Zoom meetings, online learning, and lack of in-person events as we can. What once was our normal way of serving our congregation might not be the way we serve you in the future. We might face another year of transitioning back into something that we all were very familiar with.

In December, we held our virtual annual Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch. It took a lot of thought, preparation, hard work, and ingenuity to make this event work, and we would like to thank all who made it possible. It was a great success!

As we said last month, with the help of our wonderful rabbis, staff, teachers, and volunteers, Temple Beth Or continues to be the warm, caring and vibrant congregation that was imagined by our founding members in 1984. Please join us on Friday, January 29, the 36th anniversary of our first congregational service, via Zoom or Facebook to share this milestone.

We hope we will be able to see each other in person in 2021, our 36th year. In the meantime, we ask that you all stay safe and be as careful as you can.

Best wishes for the coming year!
John Granby & Karen Lindsay,
Co-Presidents

Life and Legacy 2020 Year-End Update

Life & Legacy is a 4-year planned giving program in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. As a participant in the Life & Legacy program, Temple Beth Or has benchmarks that it must meet each calendar year. Through the generosity of our members, we have met the annual benchmarks for 2020. Thank you to our Temple Beth Or members, listed below, who have submitted a Letter of Intent to make an afterlife gift to Temple Beth Or as of November 30.

Anonymous*	Gary Hochstein*
Elaine and Joe Bettman*	Jane Hochstein*
Kevin and Karen Bressler*	Drs. Martha Moody and Martin Jacobs
Dena Briskin	Judie V. and William H. Kell, Jr.
Rabbi Judy Chessin	Karen and Matthew Lindsay*
Eva Clair*	Jan Maharam*
Jacob Elder	Helen and Steven Markman
Kathryn Elder	Ron Nelson*
Marni Flagel*	Sue Nelson*
Lorraine Fortner*	Ira Segalewitz
Marc and Laurie Friedman	Janet Sherman and Marc Low
Cathy Gardner	Jennifer Sherman
Paula J. Gessiness	Sara and Micah Siegal
Dr. Heath Gilbert*	Marc and Carrie Siegel
Drs. Marc Gilbert and Annette Nathan	Dr. Brian and Jessica Simpson
Rachel Haug Gilbert*	Daniel Sweeny*
Marsha Goldberg	Janese Sweeny*
Stephen Goldberg	Janese and Daniel Sweeny*
John and Karen Granby	Donald and Caryl W. Weckstein
Dr. Michael and Teri Halasz	Dr. Gary and Mary Youra

A gift through Life & Legacy is a gift to ensure Temple Beth Or's future. There are many different ways to leave your own legacy, and your legacy gift can be designed to match your personal circumstances. Some ways to create your Life & Legacy commitment to Temple Beth Or include will or trust beneficiary, retirement funds, life insurance, and cash or securities.

It is not too late to create your legacy to Temple Beth Or through Life & Legacy. What steps do you need to take?

1. Complete a Letter of Intent
2. Formalize your commitment, consulting with your financial or legal advisor, if necessary.
3. Complete a Legacy Gift Confirmation Form

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact Dan Sweeny, Life & Legacy Chair, at dpsweeny@gmail.com or 937-901-2554, Rabbi Judy Chessin via the Temple Office, 937-435-3400, or Life & Legacy committee members Marni Flagel, Martha Moody, Ira Segalewitz, and Karen Lindsay.

* Indicates that the gift has been formalized. Thank you again!

WHY LIFE AND LEGACY?

The first time that I attended services at Temple Beth Or, I knew I had found a home. Not only was the congregation friendly and welcoming, but also Rabbi Chessin was unlike any rabbi I ever had—a terrific teacher with a sense of humor. I was sold. Never once have I regretted our family's decision.

Over the years, I have found ways to give back for the joy of being part of the Temple Beth Or family, whether serving on the board, helping with fundraising, or turning an old church into our Temple. It is now time to plan for the future.

Through the generosity of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, we have been given a wonderful opportunity. Under the administration of our Jewish Federation, we have support and training. All our legacy gifts remain completely for our Temple. Additionally, we receive monetary incentives depending on how many commitments we have. Those incentives become a part of our own administration. If you have not already signed a letter of intent, I urge you to do so. No one needs to be wealthy to be part of this program. Since this is a legacy gift, it can be made now or in the future.

I am excited about the Life and Legacy Program. It provides a way to ensure that Temple Beth Or will continue for many years. It is an especially good feeling to know that our inclusive philosophy will live on for generations.

From,
Marni Flagel

A sincere thank you to everyone who made the 2020 Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch possible!

This year we went virtual! Brisket, chopped liver and *Hanukkah* supplies were ordered online and delivered curbside. A web page was created to link participating artisans and vendors to shoppers. As with everything we do at Temple, it took a lot of people working under Covid protocols to pull it off. We appreciate your willingness to pitch in, be creative and have some fun.

Thanks to the chopped liver team who did the prep work in their own homes and came together to assemble the final product: Helene Adler, Marsha Goldberg, Karen & John Granby, Ellen Lauber, Helen Markman, and Jane & Alex Pearl. The team's efforts were coordinated by Ellen Holroyd, who was supported by the enduring patience of Bruce Holroyd.

While we missed the usual camaraderie of the brisket preparation, the cadre of physically-distanced Brisketeers were still able to ready and cook 212 pounds of meat for distribution. Thanks to this year's Brisketeers, including Mike Halasz, Dave London, Scott Segalewitz, Marc Siegal, and Ed Wolff. Special thanks also goes to Gregory Geiser who made and donated five incredible brisket-sized cutting boards.

The Curbside Crew assembled the orders and brought them to your vehicles on Sunday, December 6. Many thanks to Karen, Matt, Bryce, and Emma Lindsay and to Melissa and Benjamin Guadalupe.

Thanks are always due to our staff Donna Brodnick, Gayle Jenkins, Craig Seege, and of course Rabbis Judy Chessin and Ben Azriel.

And thank YOU for supporting this event and Temple Beth Or.

P.S. Make a note on your calendar now. December 5th is the date of the 2021 Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch. And, because December 5th is in the middle of *Hanukkah*, a *Hanukkah* Shop will be held in November.

Your event co-chairs,
Ellen Holroyd, Karen Lindsay, and Scott Segalewitz



The 36th Word



During my first year of rabbinical studies, my colleagues and I spent many evenings trying out the various eateries in Jerusalem.

I had one job at the end of all of the dinners – to split the bill appropriately. In Jerusalem, restaurants seemed to frown upon the idea of “separate checks,” so, since I had been in finance before starting at HUC, I got the honor of splitting the bill. I did not mind it. Numbers, finance, math, accounting, economics have always been enjoyable for me. It is no surprise, thus, that biblical numerology has always been an exciting cross-section of my love for Judaism and my interest in numbers.

There are so many numbers in Judaism that play an essential role in our Torah, our mysticism, and our teachings. Thus, as we turn to a new semester, we also turn to a new way for students to connect in a new theme. Just as last semester started with a thematic election, this semester will always start with the sharing important Jewish numbers. Stemming from our upcoming Double *Chai* anniversary at Temple Beth Or, *Makor* students, teachers, parents, and the entire community will come together at the beginning of every Sunday morning to count up our blessings and count out our history.

Naturally, our first day back will start with the number 36, acknowledging the years of hard work of so many in our community to build our Temple Beth Or family. How appropriate it is to look at an exciting coincidence for us about this number.

In the book of *Bamidbar* (Numbers), in the 36th chapter, the 36th word of the chapter, we find the word “*achinu*” which means our kinsman. As Temple Beth Or has continued to grow into the warm and caring place that it is, it has been because of the inherent sense of kin, of family, that fills the walls of the building and the hearts of those who walk through its doors. Double *Chai* represents an affirmation of life, as we look to each other to continue the traditions which have blossomed over 36 years. Rachel and I send our heartfelt congratulations on this momentous milestone. May the 36 years of kindness, compassion, and kinship fuel the next 36, and may we all go from strength to strength. *Ken Yehi Ratzon*.

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

Welcome to the families who have joined or re-joined Temple Beth Or over the past several months.

We're happy to have you with us!

Joshua and Julie Atkin
Jane Coursen and Junko Coursen
Allison (Allie) and Kevin Fields
Larry Glickler
Jonathan Graham
Lori Herrick
Michael & Clair Magalnick
Howard (Ward) and Elaine Michaelson
Gail Moore
Ralph and Frances Schwartz
Katherine Sher and Jared Serota
Brandon and Samantha Sowry
Sarah Wolf-Knight

First Day Back Online:

Hebrew
January 10

Makor
January 24

January (Double) Chai-Lights

Friday, January 1, 6:30 p.m. on Facebook/YouTube
Shabbat Tube

Thursday, January 7, 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, January 8, 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, January 9, 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!

Friday, January 15, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

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

Wednesday, January 20, 7:00 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, January 22, 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, January 23, 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!

Friday, January 29, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Join Rabbi Judy Chessin for special *Double-Chai Shabbat* to Celebrate the 36th Anniversary of Temple Beth Or.

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, beginning January 20, 7:00 pm.

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/>



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Celebrating Our Double Chai

36 Years of Impacting Countless Lives

*Join Us for a
Special Anniversary Service*

Friday, January 29, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Streaming on Zoom, Facebook Live & YouTube



Temple Beth Or 5275 Marshall Road Dayton, Ohio 45429
www.templebethor.com 937-435-3400



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