



January 2024

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XXXIX, Issue 1

Comedic Insight on an Age-Old Struggle



Comic Bill Maher offered a stunningly insightful segment on his HBO show "Real Time with Bill Maher" last month. He spoke brilliantly about the war and the eternal Israeli/Palestinian conflict, offering what he called a much-needed "dose of realism."

In pondering Christmas nativity scenes, Maher reflected that the little town of Bethlehem, the site of the birth of Jesus, was once 86% Christian. Now, it is overwhelmingly Muslim because "things change."

Two-point-three-billion Christians might lament the loss of control over their sacred site, yet "no Crusader army has geared up to take it back. Things change countries, boundaries, and empires. Palestine was under the Ottoman Empire for 400 years, but today, an ottoman is something you put under your feet," quipped Maher.

"The city of Byzantium became the center of Constantinople, then the city of Istanbul. Nobody liked it, but you can't keep arguing forever. The Irish had the entire island, but the English were empire builders. They blew each other up over it for 30 years, but eventually, everybody comes to an accommodation," Maher remarked, "except the Palestinians."

"Was it unjust that even a single Arab family was forced to move upon the founding of the Jewish state? Yes. But it is also not rare. It has happened throughout history, all over the world. And mostly, what people do is make the best of it."

I would add that Pakistan was established in 1947, after the partition of British India. It was divided along religious lines, with a Muslim majority in West and East Pakistan and a Hindu majority in India. Although there was ensuing violence and war, it was settled with no one questioning Pakistan's right to exist.

Only one group has maintained refugees 75 years later, and that is the Palestinians who choose to use the refugees to foster hatred and conflict against the Jewish state.

Maher continued: "And no one knows more about being pushed off the land than the Jews, including being almost wholly kicked out of every Arab country they once lived in. Yes, TikTok fans, ethnic cleansing happens both ways."

History is brutal and full of wrongs, but you can't make them unhappen because a paraglider isn't a time machine."

"There were deals on the table to share the land called Palestine in 1947, 1993, 1995, 1998, 2000, and 2008. Arafat was offered 95% of the West Bank, and he said, 'No.'"

"The Palestinian people should know that your leaders and those on campuses who are their willing allies are not doing you any favors by keeping up 'the River to the Sea' myth. I mean, where do you think Israel's going? Spoiler alert. Nowhere."

"What's happening to Palestinians today is horrible, and not just in Gaza but in the West Bank, too. Wars end with negotiation, and what the media glosses over is that it is hard to negotiate when the other side's bargaining position is 'You all die and disappear.' Let's look at the map: here is the River (Jordan), here's the (Mediterranean)

Sea. Oh, I see; it means you get all of it."

"Not just the West Bank, which was the original UN partition deal you rejected because you wanted all of it and always have, even though it is indisputably also the Jews' ancestral homeland. And so you attacked and lost."

"Look at what Mexico used to own up to the top of California. But no Mexican is out there chanting 'from the Rio Grande to Portland, Oregon.' Because they chose a different path, they got real and built a country that is now the world's 14th biggest economy. They knew that the US wasn't going to give back Phoenix any more than Hamas would ever be in Tel Aviv."

"If I give you the benefit of the doubt that the Palestinian plan for a completely Jewless Palestine isn't that all the Jews should die, what is the only other option?" asks Maher. Then he quips, "Oh, They move; you move all the Jews? OK, I got to warn you: there will be some kvetching. And what will you use, a fleet of trucks called Jew-haul? And to where are we moving this entire country, Texas? Sure, they have room, and I guess we could put the Wailing Wall on the border and kill two birds with one stone, or we could just get serious."

Oscar Wilde once said that if you're going to tell people the truth, you had better make them laugh, or they will kill you. Maher has taken up our cause with humor, class, and brilliance. His truth through humor should be required reading or viewing on every college campus!

Praying for peace,
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:

Arlene Graham, Benji Klein, Carla Scherr, Ron Solomon, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells.

The Congregation extends its deepest sympathies to:

Ryan Levin and family on the passing of his uncle Allen Levin.

Ira Segalewitz and Scott Segalewitz and family on the passing of Ira's son and Scott's brother Eric Segalewitz.

January *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 5

Vera Fortner 1/3
Susan Pachman 1/3
John Farnbacher 1/5
Ray Merl 1/5
Herman Paul 1/5
James Pickard 1/6
Colonel James Skelley 1/6
Milton Meyers 1/7
Eugene Rose 1/7
Wanda Hirsch 1/8
Myra Gloria Lindquist 1/8
Shirley Nathan 1/8
Camilla K. Meyer 1/9

January 12

Markus Garfunkel 1/10
Harvey Lowen 1/11
Charles Grant 1/12
Eleanor LeClaire 1/12
Isdore Steinberger 1/12
Janice Lowen 1/13
Frances Rosenberg 1/14
Jewel Safferman 1/14
Isobel B Bernstein 1/15
Harley Ellman 1/15
John G. Moody 1/15
Helen Bernie 1/16
Edward LeClaire 1/16
Melvin Sheinker 1/16

January 19

Loretta Cox 1/17
Judie Kell 1/17
Karl Alling Lindquist, Jr. 1/17
Fanny Sigmond 1/17
Beverly Marx Goldberg 1/19
Sylvia Miller 1/19
Carolyn Guise 1/20
Eleanor Krongold 1/21
Robert Arthur Buerki 1/22
Frieda Garfunkel 1/22
Stanley Karp 1/22
Robert Reich 1/22
Rhonna Troy 1/22
Alma Hochman 1/23
John A. Reger 1/23

January 26

Leon Albert 1/24
Gail Banks Buerki 1/25
Bertha Marks Holstine 1/25
Ron Gilbert 1/26
Ruth Layman 1/27
Muriel Brown 1/29
Abe Jacobson 1/29
Michael Novak 1/29
Karl Plotkin 1/29
Lynda Troy 1/29
Arthur Lotney 1/30



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

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By: Lyuda and Alex Fishman
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In Memory of:

David Char
Karen and Kevin Bressler

General Fund

In Honor of:

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In Memory of:

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Benjy Klein
Rena and Glenn Garland, Rachel
and Ted White, Helen Hasenfeld
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Pamela and Stuart Merl

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In Appreciation of:

The members of Temple Beth Or

Bill Kell

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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Karen Lindsay, Ellen Holroyd and Scott
Segalewitz's work on the Artisan Fair
& Brisket Lunch
Gary Holstine

The Baby Naming of Deborah and Robert
Goldenberg's Grandchild
Deborah and Robert Goldenberg

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Anonymous

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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.

Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch a Huge Success!

The 2023 Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch is history – Good history.

WOW! What a great event. Each year the event gets bigger and better. This year was no exception!

Now for some numbers. It's time to kvell. Over 320 pounds of briskets were prepared and sold. 450 *sufganiyot* (jelly donuts) were consumed. Close to 350 potato *latkes* were enjoyed. And over 50 tubs of chopped liver made its way to new homes. In short, all the food sold out! The 2023 Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch is now part of our history!

Thank you to everyone who made the 2023 Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch a success. We couldn't have done it without our hard-working Temple volunteers.

Set-Up and Tear-Down Crew: The set-up crew was responsible for setting up Levin Hall, Café Or, dining spaces, creating an attractive Temple Booth, and then returning everything to its proper place after the event. Thank you to Phil Dreety, Jake Elder, Marc Gilbert, Melissa Guadalupe, Phil Hoffheimer, Ari Hoffheimer, Matt Lindsay and Wendy Rachlin.

Temple Booth: The Temple Booth volunteers answered lots of questions and sold stuff, lots of it. Thank you to Karen Lindsay, Helene Adler, Claudia Fried, Wendy Rachlin, Caryl Weckstein, and Don Weckstein.

Food Service: The food service staff took orders and ensured that everyone was served quickly and efficiently. Plus, they did whatever needed to be done to ensure our customers were happy. Thank you to Andrea Abrams, Amaya Askew, Scott Beckerman, Elissa Dinsmore, Jake Elder, Eva Clair, Bill Fried, Phil Hoffheimer, Matt Lindsay, Dave Morter, Roger Pancake, Ira Segalewitz and Shara Taylor. Also thank you to our high school students, Ali, Bri and Cate Becker, Chava Gilbert, Mila Gelbert and Ilan Kuhl.

Brisketeers: The Brisketeers gathered on Saturday morning to begin the magic process of creating delicious BBQ brisket. The process was completed on Sunday morning when hundreds of pounds of delicious brisket were weighed out for sandwiches or packed for taking home. We also need to thank them for cooking the latkes to a perfect golden brown. Thank you to Scott Segalewitz, Jake Elder, Kevin Fields, Lucas Fields, Bill Fried, Mark Gilbert, Steve Goldberg, Mark Gruenberg, Mike Halasz, Jay Holland, Marty Jacobs, Corky Katz, Matt Lindsay, Dave Morter, Alex Pearl, Marc Siegel, and Ed Wolf.

Chopped Liver Crew: Thank you to Ellen Holroyd, Kim Dinsmore, Ellen Lauber, and Helen Markman, who prepared the chopped liver. The Chopped Liver Crew is thankful for the behind-the-scenes assistance from Helene Adler, Deb Char, Judy Chesen, Kim Dinsmore, Marni Flagel, Larry Glickler Teri & Halasz and Jane Pearl.

More thank yous: Thank you to Jerry Halasz, our unofficial media partner, for shout-outs on Oldies 97.3, WSWO. Thank you to the Volunteer Committee for recruiting so many wonderful volunteers. Claudia Fried, Paula Gessiness, Melissa Guadalupe, Jane Pearl and Wendy Rachlin.

Thanks to Rabbi Ben Azriel for organizing a wonderful children's program. He was assisted by Rachel Dillon, Esther Weiss, Jay Weiss, Evan Weiss, and Sarah White.

Thanks are always due to our staff -- Donna Brodnick, Gayle Jenkins, and of course Rabbi Judy Chessin. And thank YOU for shopping, eating, schlepping and more!

Ellen Holroyd and Karen Lindsay, Co-chairs



Save the Date: The next Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch will be held on Dec. 8, 2024.

President's Message

As we come out of the High Holidays and the Festival of Lights, looking to 2024 with hope and optimism, please accept a personal thank you from myself and the Board for a wonderful 2023 at Temple Beth Or. Over the year we have come together in happiness and grief, have been challenged at home and in Israel, welcomed new members, and built stronger, longer lasting relationships with our friends. I am honored to be part of this organization and to help guide Temple Beth Or as we look to the future. While not always perfect, the Board, Clergy, and Staff work hard, and are committed to making Temple Beth Or the caring, welcoming, and inclusive congregation that you expect.

Additionally, we are incredibly fortunate to have very generous members and I would like to express sincere appreciation to the donors who supported our recent security funding appeal. Temple Beth Or has made incredible strides in ensuring all our events are safe, while still inviting, and your gift allows us to continue to give our members peace of mind while attending our many events.

Again, thank you for your continued support and on behalf of the Board and Staff, we wish you a happy, safe, and prosperous 2024.

Jake Elder

President, Temple Beth Or Board of Directors

Adult Education

***Chai Mitzvah* Returns February 8th 7:00 p.m. on Zoom** (Designed to “grow your Judaism”)



What is *Chai Mitzvah*? *Chai Mitzvah* is a personal Jewish journey to share with friends. Groups exist in 39 states and 6 countries. This new *Chai Mitzvah* group focuses on critical conversations (e.g., What is modern day idolatry? How do we reconcile faith in the presence of evil?)

What is involved? Reading a short overview of the topic and then participating in a group ZOOM discussion

Cost to you: Nothing -- In appreciation for generous underwriting by Rabbi Judy Chessin, Temple Beth Or's Adult Education Committee (AEC) is delighted to offer this to you for free.

How does the group function? Participants take turns facilitating the discussion. It's easy — discussion questions along with brief related reading are sent to all. If you haven't yet been a part of a *Chai Mitzvah* group, you are welcome to register for one or more sessions.

How do I get the materials? After registration you will be sent links for all the materials.

To register: Call 937-435-3400 or visit: <https://templebethor.com/chai-mitzvah/>

Adult Education

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: January 24

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>

Friends and Family CPR and Stop the Bleed Courses



SAVE A LIFE

Sunday, February 25th,

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 Temple Beth Or members and the community.

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. CPR can be practiced on the floor, table tops, or chair - "knees friendly".

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.

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.

January Chai-Lights

Friday, January 5, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

"Rock of Ages" *Shabbat*: Marc Rossio rocks the house as he and Rabbi Azriel lead a creative and musical Shabbat service.

Saturday, January 6, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Zoom

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

Friday, January 12, 6:30 p.m. In Person

Family *Shabbat*: Join Rabbi Chessin in Levin Hall for a family-themed service.

Saturday, January 13, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Streaming

Bar Mitzvah of Eli Dowler.

Friday, January 19, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Musical *Shabbat* Service with Choir: Join Rabbi Chessin and the choir under the direction of Mary 'Mahira' Rogers for a musical *Shabbat* of Love, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton. A LOVELY *Oneg Shabbat* will follow.

Saturday, January 20, 10:00 a.m. On Zoom

Apocryphal Study. Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group online.

Wednesday, January 24, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: Join our monthly discussion centering 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. Please see page 6 for more details and to register.

Friday, January 26, 5:30 p.m. In Person

Tu B'shevat Shabbat: Join Rabbi Chessin for a *Tu B'shevat* program. A Vegetarian pot-luck will be followed by tasting the 7 species grown in Israel.

Saturday, January 27, 10:00 a.m. Streaming Online

Musical *Shabbat* Morning Service: Join Mary 'Mahira' Rogers and Renee Perry online for a musical walk through a *Shabbat* Morning Service.

Annual Art & Music Cafe Fundraiser Returns March 2nd



Join us on Saturday, March 2nd, 2024 for 'The Annual Art and Music Cafe' - fundraiser!!!

Showcasing musicians and singers in open-stage setting, surrounding by painters, photographers, wood and glass crafters and more!

This special event is in partnership with the Temple Beth Or Adult Education Committee, providing opportunities for those talented adults within our local Jewish Community to showcase their talents for this 'artsy'-themed fundraiser event.

**** Presenters**** Exclusive table space is still available for this March event. In addition, musicians are also encouraged to sign up ahead of time in order to reserve their spot for this fun and spirited event.

Please contact Mary Rogers at maryrogers2017@yahoo.com for more info, before January 31st.

Tickets are \$25 and includes hot hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages (adults only please)

For the safety of our guests, current COVID-19 safety guidelines will be followed.

Please RSVP your attendance by no later than Monday, February 26th, to the Temple Beth Or office, or on line through the temple website.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2024 'Art and Music Cafe' fundraiser!



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Save the date for
**TEMPLE BETH OR'S ANNUAL
CORNERED BEEF LUNCH**

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

**MAKE YOUR
BUBBIE PROUD!**

**Volunteer the week
of the event**

**BE A TRUE
MENSCH!**

Sponsor the event

