

TEMPLE BETH OR 40 YEARS

The Light

January 2025

☆Today...and for Generations☆

Volume XXXX, Issue 1

Temple Beth Or at 40: Reflecting, Celebrating, and Looking Ahead



It is a momentous occasion as Temple Beth Or prepares to mark its 40th anniversary this month. While our founders dedicated years to shaping our synagogue, we officially consider Temple Beth Or's 'birthday'

to be our first *Shabbat* Service on Friday, January 25, 1985.

Just as the ancient Israelites spent forty years in the wilderness forging themselves together as a nation, our past forty years have been formative for us as a Temple family. As we approach 2025, it's a year to not only celebrate our past and cherish our present but also to eagerly anticipate the direction for our future. Here are three events and programs that I would like to highlight this month:

First: Our 40th Anniversary Service will be on Friday night, January 31, at 7:00 p.m. We are blessed to be musically led by Cantor Rosalie Will, the founder of "Sing unto God," an initiative to revitalize Jewish music education. I knew Rosalie as a talented song leader at the Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI). Since then, she has become a renowned cantor and lead consultant for the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) on music and worship.

Rosalie will provide the musical score to our Temple's life story, blending traditional Jewish melodies with contemporary sounds. Our own Temple choir director, Mary 'Mahira' Rogers, has worked with Cantor Will for the past year. They will blend our choir, our

youth musicians, and all our voices to "Sing unto God," giving thanks for our forty years together. There will be a Gala *Oneg Shabbat* to follow this service.

Second: The Jewish camping world also brings us our second special guest for this celebratory weekend. On Saturday, February 1, 6:00 p.m., Levin Hall will be the site of "Who Knows One," a social media game show conceived and hosted by Micah Hart (son of camp director Macy Hart).

WE will be the focus of this game show, which takes its inspiration from Hart's love for Jewish summer camp experiences. It's a modern twist of Jewish geography (Perhaps it will be Six Degrees of founding president Donald Weckstein?), which will trace our deep-rooted connections to one another and uncover unexpected bonds between diverse members of Temple Beth Or. It sounds like an entertaining night, filled with laughter, surprises, and a deeper understanding of our community.

Finally, an ongoing project will occur this year as we examine our Temple's road map and explore your hopes and aspirations for our synagogue as we move forward. Our board has engaged two experienced strategic advisors,



Richard Friedman, and Rachel Berezin, to help us forge a congregational dialogue about how best to navigate the next forty years of our journey together. May our vision be as bold, dynamic, and innovative as that of our founders!

What an exciting year ahead for our Temple family. Recalling our past, celebrating our present, and anticipating the next forty years will make for an inspiring 2025. And don't forget to save this time on your calendar next year (January 2026) for our Ruby Ball, a grand celebration symbolizing our forty years of journey, to culminate our year of celebration.

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, Anne Rosset, Ruth Schumacher, Ron Solomon,
Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells

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 3

Terry Bovinet 1/1
Meyer H. Dreety 1/1
Samuel Farber 1/1
Harriet Lilienthal Holstine 1/1
Marcia Klain 1/2
Doris Ligot 1/2
Steve Markman 1/2
Susan Pachman 1/3
John Farnbacher 1/5
Ray Merl 1/5
James Pickard 1/6
Colonel James Skelley 1/6
Milton Meyers 1/7
Eugene Rose 1/7

January 10

Wanda Hirsch 1/8
Myra Gloria Lindquist 1/8
Shirley Nathan 1/8
Camilla K. Meyer 1/9
Markus Garfunkel 1/10
Harvey Lowen 1/11
Dennis Rich 1/11
Charles Grant 1/12
Eleanor LeClaire 1/12
Janice Lowen 1/13
John Robbins 1/13
Frances Rosenberg 1/14



January 17

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
Loretta Cox 1/17
Judie Kell 1/17
Karl Alling Lindquist, Jr. 1/17
Beverly Marx Goldberg 1/19
Carolyn Guise 1/20
Eleanor Krongold 1/21

January 24

Robert Arthur Buerki 1/22
Frieda Garfunkel 1/22
Stanley Karp 1/22
Robert Reich 1/22
Rhonna Troy 1/22
John A. Reger 1/23
Leon Albert 1/24
Herman Paul 1/24
Gail Banks Buerki 1/25
Bertha Marks Holstine 1/25
Ron Gilbert 1/26
Ruth Layman 1/27

January 31

Muriel Brown 1/29
Abe Jacobson 1/29
Michael Novak 1/29
Karl Plotkin 1/29
Lynda Troy 1/29
Arthur Lotney 1/30
Isdore Steinberger 1/31
Leonard Rich 2/1
Stanley Fink 2/2
Beatrice Westerman 2/2
Morris Reich 2/3
Willie Schloessinger 2/3
Marsha Remer 2/4

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:

Dr. Leon Rosenbaum, Jr.

Barbara Cantwell

Patricia Throckmorton

Joann Plotkin

Dennis Hammonds

Bill Kell

Dorothy Westmoreland

Bill Kell

Joan Summers

Marsha and Stephen Goldberg

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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In Memory of:

Newton Chessin

Joan and Art Greenfield

Campership Fund

In Memory of:

Leatrice Phillips

Dena Briskin

Building Fund

In Memory of:

Robert Walder

Ellen Lauber

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

Temple Members,

We have so much to celebrate. January is the beginning of our 40th year. That is an incredible milestone for us as a congregation.

I will be attending the 40th Anniversary *Shabbat* featuring Cantor Rosalie Will. This will be a great opportunity to listen and sing with a leading cantor in Reform Judaism.

I am also excited about "Who Knows One?" on February 1. This game show style event will be fun for people of all ages and we will learn interesting things about the temple's history. Food and 1 drink is included in your ticket price. I already purchased my tickets and have invited several friends to join me.

See you all at our first 40th year events.

Mark Gruenberg,
President

Thank you to our Donors!

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Martin and Martha Moody Jacobs

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Susie Hand

Phil Hoffheimer

Bill Kell

Karen and Matthew Lindsay

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Caryl and Scott Segalewitz

Annie and Craig Self

Jo Anna Szymborski

FROM THE CLASSROOM

It has been a fantastic winter semester of Makor. As students have grown over the months, our community has flourished, and we've gained valuable insights throughout this journey. Here's a glimpse into what's happening in the classroom!

Schedule Reminders

Mitzvah Day @ HTC
January 19, 2025
10:30 - Noon
2490 Technical Drive
Miamisburg, OH 45342
NO HEBREW

Winter Break
First Day Back:
Jan 12, 2025

PREK & KINDERGARDEN

We have been exploring the Jewish holidays that we have celebrated so far, along with themes of creation, Adam & Eve, and Noah's Ark. Some of our favorite activities include the creation scavenger hunt, where seven bags were hidden around the room for the kids to match with the corresponding creation day. Additionally, the students enjoyed a close-up look at the mini Torah for Simchat Torah.

1ST & 2ND GRADE

We've had a great time exploring holidays leading up to Hanukkah! We talked about *g'milut chasadim*, (acts of kindness) and talked about the differences between *mitzvah* and *tzedakah*. We shared stories about Adam & Eve and Noah. We also got involved with fun activities like animal charades, where we thought about how animals would survive on the ark. We acted out scenarios to show kindness, and played a game categorizing actions as *mitzvah* or *tzedakah*.

4TH & 5TH GRADE

We have centered our discussions around the question: What is a prophet? No, we're not referring to profit (that has a different spelling). We delve deeply into the traits that define a prophet. Our class emphasized individuals who are prophets who may not have recognized their prophetic roles during their lifetimes. We explored the "most significant" or widely recognized prophets and examined why they are regarded as influential figures. Additionally, we have learned how the actions of these prophets may hold relevance in today's world.

6TH-7TH GRADE

Our class has been exploring the history of the Holocaust, listening to both live and recorded testimonies from survivors, and watching documentaries on the topic. We are in the process of creating and writing a journal to share their thoughts and emotions about what we have experienced.

THE CHAI SCHOOL

This fall, our High School explored current events through a Jewish lens. We debated Zionism, addressed how to respond to antisemitism in their schools, discussed the Jewish vote, and tackled anti-Israel topics in social media. We unpacked contemporary events like the Amsterdam pogroms and examined Jewish laws on war, self-defense, abortion, and gender identity. We celebrated Sukkot with a Seder, made *mezuzot*, and baked challah. This is our students' first "adult" look at their Jewish practice, and we hope it inspires them to live Jewishly as they prepare to leave home and hearth.

HEBREW TIME

Our class has been concentrating on the liturgy of the Shabbat morning service. We've dedicated time to mastering the Hebrew alphabet, vowels, and frequently used words. We are actively engaged in reading prayers such as *Yotzeir Or* and *Maariv Aravim*. We focus on the chanting of the *Amidah*, along with the *Torah* and *Haftarah* blessings, and are advancing nicely. We should all take pride in our students' achievements.

CRAFT TIME

In Preschool and Kindergarten, we have been exploring holidays, the concept of creation, and crafting using mosaic tiles. In First and Second grades, we focused on holidays and using mosaic tiles to make artwork. Upon our return, we will complete our tiles and continue our studies on holidays, *mitzvahs*, and biblical stories.



Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch a Huge Success!

Thank you to all who made the 2024 Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch a success!

Set-Up and Tear-Down Crew: The set-up and tear-down crews were responsible for setting up Levin Hall and Café Or, creating an attractive Temple Booth, and then returning everything to the former Judaica Shop space after the event. Thank you to Phil Dreety, Marilyn Marx, Wendy Rachlin, Mark Gruenberg, Shara Taylor, and Matt Lindsay.

Temple Booth: The Temple Booth volunteers answered questions and assisted with sales. Thank you to Wendy Rachlin, Joanna Szymbolzki, Helene Adler, and Shara Taylor.

Food Service: The food service staff took orders and ensured that everyone got their food as fast as possible. Thank you to Matt Lindsay, Ed Wolf, Dave Morter, Teri Halasz, Corky Katz, Kevin Fields, Ali Fields, Lucas Fields, Phil Dreety, Jay Holland, Roger Pankake, Johnny Dinsmore, and Summer Pachman.

The Brisketeers: The Beth Or Brisketeers prepared a record of 348 pounds of meat, up from 322 pounds last year. Brisketeers also cooked all of the latkes, and prepared and packaged brisket for pounds and sandwiches. Huge thank-yous are in order for Scot Denmark, Kevin Fields, Lucas Fields, Heath Gilbert, Mark Gruenberg, Phil Hoffheimer, Jay Holland, Corky Katz, Matt Lindsay, Dave Morter, Eric Pachman, Scott Segalewitz, Steve Goldberg, 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 Fligel, and Larry Glickler.

More thank yous: Thank you to Jerry Halasz, our unofficial media partner, for shout-outs on Oldies 97.3, WSWO, our sponsor. Thank you to Paula Gessiness and the Volunteer Committee for contacting so many wonderful volunteers. Thank you to Rabbi Ben Azriel for organizing a children's Hanukkah program. A special thank you to Mark Gruenberg, our unofficial co-chair, for his efforts throughout the event planning process. As always, we could not succeed without the assistance of our Temple staff -- thank you to Donna Brodnick, Gayle Jenkins, and of course Rabbi Judy Chessin.

And thank YOU for shopping, eating, and supporting this wonderful annual event!

- Karen Lindsay and Elissa Dinsmore, Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch Co-Chairs

Save the Date: The next Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch will be held on Sunday, Dec 7, 2025. We want to make the 2025 Fair even better! Elissa Dinsmore will be chairing the event, and we're looking to expand our committee. Please email judaicashop@templebethor.com with your comments and suggestions and to volunteer!



You're Invited

to Temple Beth Or's
40th Anniversary Kickoff Weekend



Friday, January 31
7:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Or
**40th Anniversary Shabbat
Service and Celebration**

Join special guest visiting worship leader, consultant, and performer Cantor Rosalie Will for *Shabbat* service.

Celebration and toasts to follow in Levin Hall. No cost to attend, all are welcome!

Shabbat Service
followed by *Gala Oneg Shabbat*

Visit
templebethor.com
for more details

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...

Early bird special: \$20 by January 17

Your payment secures your reservation.

Includes dinner and 1 drink.

Additional drink tickets: \$5



RSVP online or call the office



5275 Marshall Road
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January Chai-Lights

Friday, January 3, 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*.

Saturday, January 4, 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.

Friday, January 10, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Family *Shabbat* & Dinner: Join us for dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by Family *Shabbat* Service led by Rabbi Ben Azriel at 6:15 p.m.

Sunday, January 12, 1:00 p.m. In Person & Streaming

You Too can take Great Photos!: Join local photographer Stephen Goldberg for a hands-on, two-hour workshop and learn how to capture and share great memories – No expensive camera necessary! See back cover for more details.

Friday, January 17, 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.

Saturday, January 18, 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.

Friday, January 24, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Potluck *Shabbat*: Join us at 5:30 for *Kiddush*, *Ha-Motzi*, and hors d'oeuvres. 6:15 Service with *Shabbat* dinner to follow. We'll provide the fried chicken, you provide the desserts and sides.

Friday, January 31, 7:00 p.m. In Person & Streaming

40th Anniversary *Shabbat*: 40th Anniversary Service featuring Cantor Rosalie Will and Rabbis Azriel and Chessin; Mary 'Mahira' Rogers and all of you. Gala *Oneg Shabbat* to follow.

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.



Scan this code to sign up to bring items for Family Service Theme Nights!

Temple Beth Or Presents:

Family Service Theme Nights!

Themed Dinner: 5:30-6:15

Family Services: 6:15-8:00

JAN

10

Breakfast for Dinner

Bring your favorite cereal and breakfast items to share!

Bagels and Milk provided!

1st/2nd Grade
Makor Students
leading services!





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You Too Can Take Great Photos!

January 12 1pm - 3pm



Join local photographer Stephen Goldberg for a hands-on, two-hour workshop and learn how to capture and share great memories - No expensive camera necessary!

stephengoldbergphotography.com

The seminar will cover 21 topics including:

- Photography basics such as Composition
- The Rewards for Patience
- Timing your Shot
- Finding Natural Frames
- Images that FLOW
- Exploiting background blur
- Think color
- Think Monochrome
- Adding Impact! and Emotion to your photos
- ... and many many more

You will leave with a great foundation for taking photos, and perhaps whet your appetite for a great hobby in Photography!



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