



June 2023

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XXXVIII, Issue 6

"Matchmaker, matchmaker, make me a match, find me a find, catch me a catch."



Jewish matchmaking has been in the news since Netflix premiered its new show by the same name last month. Reality dating shows like "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" have been all the rage in the last decade. Now "Jewish Matchmaking" features Aleeza Ben Shalom, an American/Israeli who serves as a matchmaker for Jews in Israel and the U.S. The featured singles of all ages and levels of Jewish practice have had no luck with online dating apps. So they are returning to the traditional custom, with a *shadchan* (matchmaker) who arranges dates with compatible partners. Ben Shalom boasts of having arranged 200 marriages thus far!

Among the singles on the show is our own Pam Schuller, a GUCI grad, who appeared at Temple Beth Or at Purim in 2019. Pam is a comedian and disability advocate who speaks publicly about her Tourette's Syndrome. She was thrilled to openly represent disability awareness in dating on the show. Watch Pam's "match" on episode 8 and see how it went. Or follow her on Twitter: @PamelaComedy

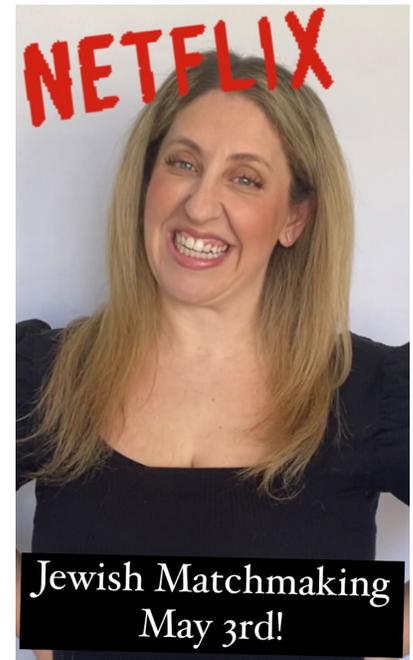
While the word "*shidduch*" refers to one's match, it is interesting to note that it derives from the Aramaic word "*shadach*," meaning rest or tranquility. We may question

whether marriage is tranquil, but even the Talmud understood the need for the "right fit" in marital compatibility.

The Talmud records the debate between the second-century Rabbi Yosi ben Halifta and a skeptical Roman matron. "How long did it take God to create the world?" she asked. The rabbi replied, "Six days." "So what has your God been doing since then?" Rabbi Yosi explained, "God has been making marriages." The matron laughed, "And for this, you have faith in this God of yours? Even I can do that." The matron, determined to prove her point, randomly paired off 2,000 household slaves in marriage. The following day her estate was in shambles. "What happened?" the matron demanded. Each one pointed to their new partner, "I don't want this one!" they complained. The matron then admitted to Rabbi Yosi, "There is no God like your God, and your Torah is true, pleasing, and praiseworthy." (*Bereishit Rabbah* 68:4).

In a world where Jewish matchmaking is depicted primarily in an oppressive and negative light (e.g., such as in the shows *Shtisel* and *Unorthodox*), it is refreshing to see the Jewish perspective applied to dating. A modern *shadchan* seeks to align partners based on their values, goals, hopes, dreams and level of Jewish practice. These might sustain a match after the blush of first romance and good behavior wanes.

Making a marriage work is hard work, as Rabbi Yosi, Ben Shalom,



and life confirm. Rabbi Yosi taught, "For God ... [making the right match] is as challenging as splitting the Red Sea."

Marriage is not for everyone, but for those who make this life choice, we invoke the following *beracha*: "May you be blessed with love. May your admiration, appreciation, and understanding of each other foster a love that is passionate, tranquil, and real. May this commitment to each other be strong and enduring and bring peace into your lives. Then, no matter how you met, your partnership will be a true *shiddach*."

Shalom,
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

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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.

Volunteer Recognition Shabbat

Rabbi Shimon the Righteous taught that the world rests on three pillars: *Torah* (learning), *Avodah* ("service", worship) and *Gemilut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness). *Pirkei Avot* 1:2 Volunteering is, in essence, holy work and we want to acknowledge all of you who do so much to keep the lights of Temple Beth Or bright!

Please join us on Friday, June 16, 6:30 pm as we honor all of our volunteers who gave so much time and energy this year. We will dedicate the additions to our Past President's plaque and thank past leadership as well.

Thank you to our Donors!

Pillars

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Robert Safferman

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Ira Segalewitz

Craig & Andrea Self

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Dan Weiner

Gary & Mary Youra



'23-24 Calendar



An incredible year in

Makor

See you on August 27!



Parent Survey



Adult Education

Afterthoughts: Stivers and Art on the Lot

Stivers Dance Concert

On May 6, 2023, 26 of us attended a dance recital at Stivers School for the Arts. From beginning to end, we were enthralled by the professionalism, energy, and abilities of these young student-dancers, under the direction of Mrs. DeShona Robertson. Adult Education at Temple Beth Or was very pleased to provide this opportunity to learn about and support exemplary programs that enrich our wider community—the Miami Valley. We hope to make this recital an annual event. Please join us next Spring – you will long remember your night at Stivers.

Here is a sampling of the comments from our evening at Stivers, May 6, 2023:

"The Dance Recital at Stivers was so enjoyable. The dancers were so accomplished and exciting to watch. This was a great opportunity to join the larger community in something special."

"I thought the evening was OUTSTANDING. On par with any performance at the Victoria Theater. It is such a pleasure to support our young people. The arts are a universal language of joy, hope, and inclusion. I so appreciate the opportunity to participate."

"This was much more than a typical student performance. Not only were the dancers at a professional level, but they were supported by equally excellent music, choreography, costumes and lighting. A very enjoyable evening!"



Art on the Lot

On May 30, 2023, the Adult Education Committee and *Makor* hosted our first joint event—Art on the Lot! 50 students and 20 adults and teens (the latter courtesy of Rabbi Chessin) joined forces to help young students develop art about the meaning of the Hebrew letter “Chai”. It was chaotic, fun, loud, and a wonderful start to programming that invites all of Temple Beth Or to support the staff, teachers, and the kids of *Makor*! We hope to make this event an annual happening. Come join the fun in 2024, and stay tuned for additional opportunities to participate.

Music is Prayer

In March, Adult Education at Temple Beth Or began something new. Each month, the Committee provides a link to a musical selection related to Judaism that we find compelling. We hope you will take a few minutes each month to listen. Go to <https://templebethor.com/adult-education> to access the music. June's selections is “Sim Shalom” by Six-13. This particular selection is a good one to share with kids.

Enjoy! Additionally, the Committee is interested in your feedback to this initiative. Please take a few minutes to email the Committee with your thoughts about any selections you listen to ruth.schumacher@wright.edu. Thank you.

"Music is prayer."

Ludwig Boerne (German-Jewish political writer and satirist, late 1700's, early 1800's)



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!

Adult Education

Chai Mitzvah June 8th 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

(Designed to “grow your Judaism”)



Due to generous financial underwriting from Rabbi Chessin, Adult Education at Temple Beth Or has been able to host *Chai Mitzvah* for a couple of years. Adult Education is pleased to offer a new *Chai Mitzvah* program that honors and celebrates each month of the year, as well as a woman of the Bible, whose life illustrates that month's focus. The heart of all *Chai Mitzvah* programming is respectful, honest discussion that values diverse viewpoints. You are encouraged to register for as many monthly discussions as you can make time for. Let's talk together to grow our Judaism individually. To register, call 937-435-3400, or visit: <https://templebethor.com/adult-education>

Stories of Courage, Cooperation and Perseverance

The Adult Education Committee (AEC) at Temple Beth Or is pleased to invite you on a “field trip” to the National Underground Freedom Center (50 E Freedom Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202; 513-333-7500) Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. Marti Moody Jacobs of the Adult Education Committee is graciously underwriting this experience.

For those wishing to carpool, we will meet at Temple Beth Or at 8:30 a.m. We will begin our tour at 10:00 a.m. in the lobby of the Center and conclude at noon. Even if you have visited this incredible educational treasure before, please come. You will learn above and beyond what you would on your own because we will be guided by Center staff.

This is an opportunity to learn more about the history of structural racism in America, as well as the attempt by archaeological historian, Mary Ann Olding, to better educate all of us. Ms. Olding is one of a handful of people who succeeded, albeit in the face of many barriers, in spotlighting the only known slave pen; you will see the exhibit at the Freedom Center.

Parking is at 182 Race St, in the Central Riverfront Parking Garage: Look for signs marked GREEN AREA. Park and take the elevator up to the front doors of the Center.

Please contact the office to register, then you will be sent information regarding transport via carpool from Temple Beth Or at 8:30 a.m. on June 14 (if you wish), and lunching together as a group after our tour, at a restaurant within close walking distance of the Center (again, if you wish). Registration will close June 10, 2023, 5:00 p.m. You may also register online: <https://templebethor.com/event/adult-education-event-freedom-center/>



Note: Because maximum enrollment for this tour is 20 persons, please register early!

Please contact Ruth Schumacher for additional information at ruth.schumacher@wright.edu ; 937-672-3368.

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story June 28th

Please join the Zoom discussion, on June 28th 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>



June Chai-Lights

Friday, June 2, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

"Rock of Ages" *Shabbat*: Rabbi Ben Azriel and Marc Rossio rock the house with this lively musical service. Live and Streaming.

Saturday, June 3, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Zoom

Apocryphal Study: Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group at Temple Beth Or in Levin Hall. Bring a brunch offering to share as we continue the book of II Maccabees.

Sunday, June 4, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Zoom

Annual Meeting: Join us for the announcement of election results and for a Q&A session about the past year! Breakfast starts at 9:30 a.m. Please see more info on this page.

Thursday, June 8, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Chai Mitzvah: You are encouraged to register for as many monthly discussions as you can make time for. Let's talk together to grow our Judaism individually. Please see page 5 for details.

Friday, June 9, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Family *Shabbat*: Family Shabbat led by Rabbi Judy Chessin. Live and Streaming.

Wednesday, June 14, 8:30 a.m. In Person - National Underground Freedom Center

Stories of Courage, Cooperation and Perseverance: The Adult Education Committee (AEC) at Temple Beth Or is pleased to invite you on a "field trip" to the National Underground Freedom Center. See page 6 for details.

Friday, June 16, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Volunteer Recognition *Shabbat*: Shabbat Service in honor of our Volunteers. with Rabbi Judy Chessin and the choir. Live and Streaming. See page 3 for more info.

Saturday, June 17, 10:00 a.m. On Zoom

Apocryphal Study: Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group as we continue to explore the Book of II Maccabees.

Friday, June 23, 5:30 p.m. In Person

Annual Picnic: Join us for a casual outdoor service followed by picnic. We provide the burgers and hot dogs. You bring the sides. Outdoors weather permitting.

Wednesday, June 28, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: Please see page 6 for details.

Friday, June 30, 6:30 p.m. Streaming Online

Shabbat-tube: Join us for a prerecorded, streaming *Shabbat* Service.



Temple Beth Or Annual Meeting

June 4th, In Person and Zoom

Breakfast from 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Meeting begins @ 10:00 a.m.

Website: <https://zoom.us/>
(select "join a meeting")

Meeting ID: 897 1048 2589

Password: 181818

An email meeting invitation will be sent via Plan-It Beth Or before the meeting.
You may also contact Donna at the Temple Office, 937-435-3400, to be sent the link.

Join us for the announcement of election results
and for a Q&A session about the past year!

Nominees for Board of Directors

Two to be Elected (* denotes first term):

Rachel Gilbert • Ryan Levin

Ballots will be accepted (mail or email)
until Thursday, June 1

Continuing Board Members:

Jacob Elder, Scot Denmark, Mark Gruenberg,
Stephanie Kirtland, Stuart Merl, Shara Taylor,
Ira Segalewitz, Marc Siegel, and Even Weiss

We thank departing Board members, Rachel Booth
and John Granby, for their service on the Board!

Temple Beth Or Today...and for Generations



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Temple Beth Or's Annual Picnic

Friday, June 23, 5:30 p.m.
Casual *Shabbat* Outdoor Service*,
Picnic to Follow *weather permitting

Burgers & Hot Dogs Provided
Bring a Side Dish to Share

5275 Marshall Road, Kettering, Ohio
www.templebethor.com 937-435-3400

Today...and for Generations

