



## PG Purim

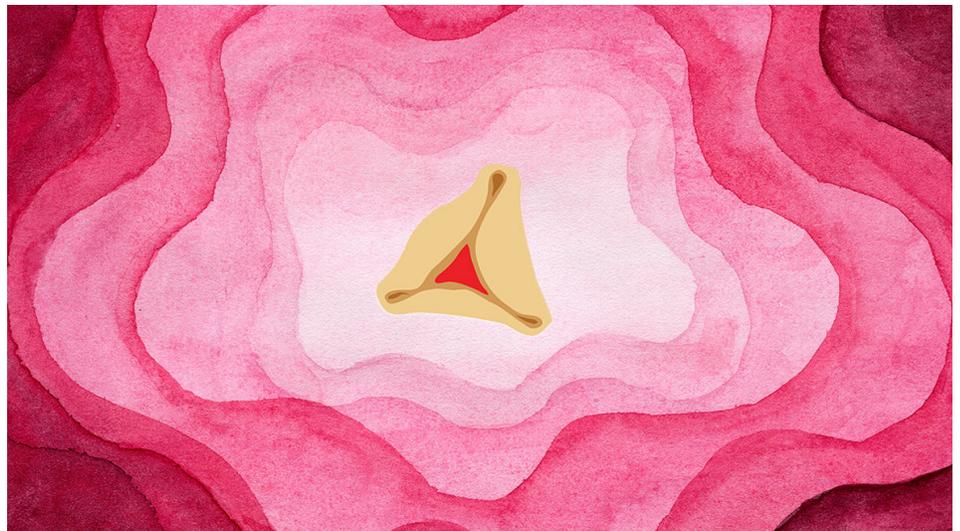


"They tried to kill us; we survived; let's eat." Like so many Jewish festivals, Purim celebrates Jewish survival. So why do we eat triangle-shaped cookies named after the villain? The themed food of

Purim, *hamantaschen*, is a three-sided filled pastry that represents Haman's three-cornered hat. Israelis call them *Oznei Haman* or Haman's ears, which I suppose were three-cornered as well. In any event, why would we commemorate a genocidal maniac with a sweet Purim treat?

Scholars have an entirely different but equally controversial origin theory for this traditional Jewish food. Our rendition of the Purim story tells the tale of a Jewish maiden named Hadassah, raised by her uncle Mordecai. Together they save the Jewish people. However, the name Esther is derived from Ishtar, the Mesopotamian goddess of sex, war, justice, and fertility.

Before the Israelites became a fully monotheistic nation, Jewish women worshipped Ishtar for protection, food, and healthy children. They even baked small cakes in her image to celebrate her. (Is a vestige of this act Sarai's kneading cakes for the three angels in her own fertility journey?) Molds of such cakes have been excavated portraying voluptuous pregnant women.



The triangular shape represented a "full womb."

A modernized version of Ishtar's fertility cakes arose in 18th century Europe when German bakers popularized their newest invention: the *mahn-taschen* – poppyseed filled pastries. Our Rabbi tamed the story, claiming that the poppy seed represented Esther's kosher vegetarian diet in Achashverosh's palace – she ate seeds and nuts. They also claimed that *mahn-taschen* sounds like *Haman-taschen*, and thus our favorite Purim nosh was born.

Whether you abide by the scholarly or the Rabbinic interpretation of the treat's origin, plan on bringing your favorite triangular treats to our pre-Purim Shabbat on Friday, March 3. We survived and continue to thrive, so let's eat.

Happy Purim,  
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:

Madalyn Ammons, Paula Gessiness, Arlene Graham, Benjy Klein, Marc Rossio, Carla Scherr, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells.

All those touched by the flu-RSV-COVID viruses.

The Congregation extends its deepest sympathies to:

Dr. Jerry Troy and Donna Kabakoff on the passing of his wife and her sister-in-law Lynda Troy

Jan Sherman on the passing of her brother Rob Shilling

## March *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.

### March 3

Dorothy Gutmann 3/1  
Judith Carsch 3/3  
Andrew Todd Frisch 3/3  
Ida Plotkin 3/3  
Joseph Schneider 3/3  
Maurice A. Cream 3/4  
Nagi Ahmed Nasr 3/5  
Francis A. Clair 3/6  
Ruth Schneider 3/6  
Andrew R. Nathan 3/7  
David M. Nathan 3/7  
Paul Nathan 3/7

### March 10

Eunice Cauper 3/8  
Robert Richman 3/8  
Else Heinze 3/9  
Philip E. Cohen 3/10  
Christina Crowley 3/10  
Shirley Rein 3/11  
Elaine Sachs Veta 3/11  
Irene Jacoby 3/12  
Morris Sherman 3/12  
Robert Dietz 3/13  
Berta Sherman 3/13  
Donna Throckmorton 3/13  
Jacob Bettman 3/14  
Anita Wilson 3/14

### March 17

Isidore Farber 3/15  
Leah Klein 3/15  
Joan Chesler 3/16  
Betty Glickler 3/17  
Cathy Michelson 3/17  
Anna Shapiro Fishman 3/18  
Arthur Liberty 3/18  
Ray Cook 3/19  
Goldie Einis 3/19  
Ruth Crace 3/20  
Ruth Zolot Goldberg 3/20  
Irving Troy 3/20  
Helaine Char 3/21

### March 24

Leo Finkelstein, Sr. 3/22  
Yetta Hecht Marks 3/22  
Eva Izenson 3/22  
Samuel Stein 3/22  
Lois Rubens 3/23  
Edith Besser 3/24  
Hubert Jacobs 3/24  
Rachel Ramsey 3/24  
Eric Bruce Stein 3/24  
Harold Dunn 3/25  
Max Gutmann 3/25  
Shirley C. Maharam 3/25  
Dr. Philip Klein 3/26  
Paul Kruke 3/26  
Sybil Sureck 3/26  
Bebe Char 3/27  
Katie Steinberger 3/27  
Melville Granby 3/28  
Evelyn Rich 3/28  
Julian Rochelle 3/28

### March 31

Mollie Patterson 3/29  
Gertrude Phillips 3/29  
Rabbi Dr. Michael Cook 3/30  
Joy Beebe 4/1  
Sarah Lauber 4/1  
Vernona Roberts 4/1  
Julius Stein 4/1  
Jackie Stone 4/1  
Charlotte Steinharter 4/2  
Ceila Malbin Feinstein 4/3  
Sylvia Gray 4/3  
Catherine Wohlfrom Nieman 4/3  
Lillian Adler 4/4  
David Flagel 4/4  
Fred Izenson 4/4

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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.

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Marni Flagel

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

*In Memory of:*

Dr. Edgar Alvin Slotkin

Ellen Lauber

Lynda Troy

Gerald Troy

### Tzedakah Fund

*By:* Anonymous

*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.*

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# An AI Purim



A few years ago, on the eve of the month of Purim, I related surgical masks we were wearing due to COVID to Purim.

This year, a different type of mask is becoming all the rage -- Artificial Intelligence (AI). Think about it briefly; AI is just a mask of the "author" using it. Behind the scenes, pulling the strings is some person who is masking their writing, skill, or question with the answer of an AI provider.

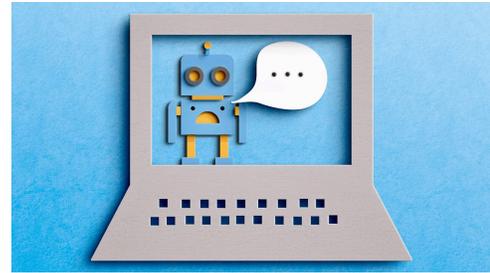
Is it really okay for this article to have been written by AI? When I asked ChatGPT that very question, it was so self-aware that even it didn't know if it was appropriate to have it write an article about itself...

"As we approach the holiday of Purim, we are reminded of the story of Esther and Mordecai, who used their intelligence and wit to outsmart the wicked Haman and save the Jewish people from annihilation. The power of the written word played a central role in this story, as it has in Jewish history and culture throughout the ages.

But as we enter the age of artificial intelligence (AI), we are faced with new questions about the role of writing and the written word. With AI technology becoming increasingly sophisticated, we must ask ourselves: is it okay to have AI write an article, such as this one?

On the one hand, AI has the potential to make writing more efficient and accessible. AI algorithms can analyze vast amounts of data and generate text that is tailored to specific audiences and purposes. This can be useful for tasks such as news reporting, social media management, and even creative writing.

However, there are also concerns about the impact of AI on the quality and authenticity of written content.



AI-generated text can lack the nuance, tone, and creativity that come from a human perspective. Additionally, there are ethical concerns about the potential for AI to be used for propaganda or misinformation.

As we reflect on the story of Esther and Mordecai, we are reminded of the importance of using our intelligence and wit to confront the challenges of our time. While AI can be a useful tool, it is ultimately up to us as humans to use our judgment and discernment in deciding what we write and how we write it."

I have to first point out a few words in the last paragraph. ChatGPT (an AI) wrote, "it is up to US as humans"; it is trying too hard that it even thinks of itself as a human.

I guess it leaves me wondering what it means to be writing in a world where AI might be able to write just as well, just as engagingly, and just as rabbinic as I could. Scary? Nerve-racking? Deceiving? By the way, it titled this article "Celebrating Purim in the Age of AI: To Write or Not to Write."

Well, here's to dressing up as AI this year for Purim... which I guess just means dressing up as myself... uh oh. Tune in next month to see just what I believe about the use of this developing software, in my own words.

*B'shalom,*  
Rabbi Ben Azriel

## Dorothy Lane Market Good Neighbor Program



Did you know that every time you shop at DLM and scan your Club DLM Card, you can select a nonprofit to be "credited" with the purchase through the Good Neighbor Program? At the end of the year, each organization will be credited a prorated amount based on the total donation by DLM, determined by the purchases of club members who link their club cards to the nonprofit. Be sure to link your DLM Club Card to Temple Beth Or. This is an easy way for us to earn money to fuel our mission.

**Add us as your nonprofit of choice now at:**

[www.dorothylane.com/goodneighbor](http://www.dorothylane.com/goodneighbor)

# KEEP CALM AND EAT LUNCH



And not just any lunch—**THE Jewish Sandwich—Carnegie Deli Corned Beef** stacked on rye, with fresh Cole Slaw, homemade Brownie, Beverage...and a snappy Dill Pickle. What, no cheesecake?? Relax, Bubbe, we've got that too! Plus, a plant-based alternative, Mrs. Goldfarb's Unreal Corned Beef, also is available.

**Still craving more? Order Corned Beef by the Pound:** Carnegie Deli or Mrs. Goldfarb's Unreal Corned Beef.

**\$18 per meal**

**\$20 per pound**

**\$5 per slice of Carnegie Deli Cheesecake**

*Order online or call the Office*

<https://www.templebethor.com/corned-beef>

## Kids Make Seder

**Saturday April 8th 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m:**  
Drop your kids off for a kosher for Passover matzah pizza dinner and time for us to prep for the Kids Make Seder on Sunday, April 9.

**Sunday April 9th 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m:**  
Kids Lead Seder while family participates  
All are welcome

**Cost:** \$10/child, max \$20/family to attend Saturday night. Cost covers dinner and Seder supplies

Please RSVP to the Office by Wednesday, April 5th so we know how much to prep for the kids to eat and work on the Seder presentation.



# Adult Education

## Chai Mitzvah March 9th 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>

## An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story March 15<sup>th</sup>

Please join the Zoom discussion, on March 15th 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>



## Music is Prayer

In March, Adult Education at Temple Beth Or is beginning something new. Each month, the Committee will provide a link to a musical selection related to Judaism that we find compelling. We hope you will take a few minutes to listen. Additionally, you are encouraged to post your thoughts about the composer, musician/s, lyrics, importance, etc. on the temple website. Go to <https://templebethor.com/adult-education> to access the music and perhaps to comment. March's selection is *Purim Chagiga*. Enjoy!



"Music is prayer. "

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

"There are places that open only to music. "

Hillel Zeitlin (prolific Hebrew and Jewish writer and journalist, murdered by the Nazis)

## Save The Date: Art on the Lot, April 30

Temple Beth Or's Adult Education and *Makor* Committees are partnering to develop programming that provides multigenerational experiences. *Makor* teachers, students, families, and the entire Temple community are encouraged to participate in our first activity, "Art On the Lot," April 30, 2023 from 11:20 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Prior to April 30, *Makor* students will learn about the meaning of the word *Chai* חַי, and create sketches for "Art On the Lot."

On April 30, small groups of students will create a chalk drawing on a designated space of the Temple parking lot. The drawing will (1) speak to the meaning of life and (2) include *Chai* חַי.

We need YOU to help cheer these young students on. Silly awards will be presented—such as Student group with the loudest cheering section. (that means YOU!)

Light refreshments will be served. Please join the fun! No registration needed. For questions or more information, please contact Ruth Schumacher ([ruth.schumacher@wright.edu](mailto:ruth.schumacher@wright.edu); 937-672-3368).

In the case of inclement weather, the event will be postponed to a later date.



# March Chai-Lights

## Friday, March 3, 6:00 p.m. In Person

Pre-Purim Homecoming Comedian *Shabbat*: 6:00 *Shabbat*, 6:15 Show, 7:15 Purim Party, treats, open bar, games

## Saturday, March 4, 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 pot-luck breakfast item to share.

## Sunday, March 5, 9:30 a.m. In Person

Cross-Congregational Purim: Join Temple Beth Or, Temple Israel, and Beth Abraham in a joint Purim program featuring an art project designed by K12 Gallery & TEJAS, an opportunity to create care packages to donate to the needy, music and a snack! Funding provided by an Innovation Grant of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton. For all school-aged students!

## Thursday, March 9, 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 6 for details.

## Friday, March 10, 6:00 p.m. In Person

Family *Shabbat*: (note early start) Pizza dinner followed by family *Shabbat* Service in Sanctuary 6:30 pm. with Rabbi Azriel.

## Tuesday, March 14, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Keep Calm and Eat Lunch: And not just any lunch - THE Jewish Sandwich. Please see page 5 for details.

## Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom

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

## Friday, March 17, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Musical *Shabbat*: Shabbat Service with choir and Rabbi Judy Chessin. Senior birthday cake and celebration to follow

## Saturday, March 18, 10:00 a.m. On Zoom

Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group as we continue to explore the Book of I Maccabees

## Friday, March 24, 6:30 p.m. Streaming Online

Zoomagogue: Celebrate *Shabbat* in the comfort of your own home with Rabbi Ben Azriel.

## Saturday, February 25, 10:00 a.m. In Person

*Bar Mitzvah* of Noah Baumgarten.

## Friday, March 31, 6:00 p.m. In Person

Pot-Luck *Shabbat*: Pot luck dinner with Krispy Krunchy Chicken. We bring the main course you bring the side dish. Short service will be followed by *Shabbat* dinner together.





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# Temple Beth Or Second Seder

Join your Temple family for a traditional Passover Seder.  
Where: Levin Hall, Temple Beth Or  
When: Thursday, April 6, 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy your choice of beef, fish or vegetarian entree.  
Gefilte fish with horseradish, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley.  
Wine (the good stuff), hard boiled eggs, bitter herbs, afikomen, charoset.

For Reservations and More Information, visit:  
[www.templebethor.com](http://www.templebethor.com)  
or call (937) 435-3400

Your participation will ensure that this will be yet another memorable Passover Seder experience.  
*Chag Sameich.*

Temple Beth Or 5275 Marshall Road Dayton, Ohio 45429  
[www.templebethor.com](http://www.templebethor.com) 937-435-3400



Today...and for Generations