



March 2024

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XXXIX, Issue 3

A Story of Survival and Ethical Victory



The Purim story I learned as a child was strangely truncated. Of course, Haman was hanged on the very gallows he intended for Mordecai, but what happened after that?

I'm not sure, but I think the Jews lived happily ever after, didn't they? As we say, "They tried to kill us, we won, let's eat."

A closer look at *Megillat Esther* yields a darker and more unsavory ending than we usually convey to the children. After Haman's hanging, the Jews, with the permission of the king, hunt down Haman's sons and all other enemies of the Jews. The Book of Esther records a death toll of 75,000. The Persian Jews eradicated their enemies. They did not, however, take spoils or harm the women and children.

Modern American Jews still feel uneasy about this tale of Jewish revenge and nationalism. We are far more accustomed to stories of our people as victims, not victors. Even our Hanukkah story is reframed as a Temple dedication story rather than a military victory.

My only memory of the Jewish celebration of self-defense was after Israel's 6-day war in 1967. And as the great statesman Abba Eban put it, 'Israel is

the only country to win a war and sue for peace.'

And so, Purim, in contemporary American synagogues, is censored of its bloody triumphalism. As Abby Schachter wrote in *Commentary Magazine*, "Clearly it is the very notion of Jewish self-defense, not to mention Jewish vengeance against an antisemitic populace, that is so discomfiting to those present-day Jews who like their faith nice and universal and are made especially uncomfortable by unconstrained nationalist sentiments."

Indeed, this ambivalence will be at play this Purim as Israel's Defense Forces continue their mission to eradicate Hamas, the terrorist entity behind the October 7 massacre in Israel whose stated goal is the genocide of the Jews 'from the river to the sea.'

Here, too, even the staunchest of Israel's supporters are beginning to wring their hands over our administration's increasingly critical stance on the Jewish state and the rise of antisemitic incidents here and abroad.

However, security consultant and writer for *The Forward*, Josh Katz re-



minds us, "There should be no ambivalence about Israel's actions in Gaza right now. Lacking ambivalence does not mean you lack compassion, and supporting the actions necessary to destroy Hamas does not mean you support collective punishment."

Instead, we should take a page from *Megillat Esther* in its entirety. The story provides a roadmap for an ethical military defense of our faith, families, and people. We don't celebrate that we had to go to war against our enemies. Instead, we commemorate our ability

to prevail, succeed, and flourish without vengeance or over zealotry.

Perhaps this year, we will resonate less with an accommodating pleading Esther but with our heroes who mounted an ethical military operation that wiped out the genocidal enemies of the Jews. "So, for the Jews, there was light and gladness, joy and honor (Esther 8:16)."

May the same be true for modern Israel and for us soon.

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:

Deb Char, Arlene Graham, Benjy Klein, Ron Solomon, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells.

The Congregation extends its deepest sympathies to:

Ryan Levin and family on the passing of his father Louis "Lou" Levin.

Ellen Holroyd and family on the passing of her brother and sister-in-law

Albert and Georgina Levy.

Mazel Tov to Deb Char on the birth of a new granddaughter: Lawren Marie Simmons. She was born to Jonathan and Ashley Simmons and carries a piece of her Zayde in her.

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 1

Sadye Nelson 2/28

Duane Taylor 2/28

Judith Carsch 3/3

Ida Plotkin 3/3

Joseph Schneider 3/3

Nagi Ahmed Nasr 3/5

March 22

Ruth Crace 3/20

Ruth Zolot Goldberg 3/20

Irving Troy 3/20

Helaine Char 3/21

Leo Finkelstein, Sr. 3/22

Yetta Hecht Marks 3/22

Samuel Stein 3/22

Frances A. Clair 3/23

Lois Rubens 3/23

Andrew R. Nathan 3/24

David M. Nathan 3/24

Paul Nathan 3/24

Eric Bruce Stein 3/24

Harold Dunn 3/25

Shirley C. Maharam 3/25

Paul Kruke 3/26

Sybil Sureck 3/26

March 8

Ruth Schneider 3/6

Eunice Cauper 3/8

Robert Richman 3/8

Philip E. Cohen 3/10

Elaine Sachs Veta 3/11

Irene Jacoby 3/12

Morris Sherman 3/12

March 15

Berta Sherman 3/13

Donna Throckmorton 3/13

Jacob Bettman 3/14

Anita Wilson 3/14

Isidore Farber 3/15

Ethel Paul 3/15

Joan Chesler 3/16

Betty Glickler 3/17

Maurine Moody Scott 3/17

Ray Cook 3/19

Goldie Einis 3/19

March 29

Bebe Char 3/27

Katie Steinberger 3/27

Melville Granby 3/28

Jessica Hallie Kirshner 3/28

Julian Rochelle 3/28

Mollie Patterson 3/29

Gertrude Phillips 3/29

Rabbi Dr. Michael Cook 3/30

Joy Beebe 4/1

Sarah Lauber 4/1

Julius Stein 4/1

Jackie Stone 4/1

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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In Memory of:

Eric Segalewitz
Wendy Rachlin and Roger Pankake
Caryn and Bruce Williams
Steve Markman
Caryn and Bruce Williams
Carol Lynn Rawitz Layman
Caryn and Bruce Williams
David Char
Caryn and Bruce Williams
Louis "Lou" Levin
Marni Flagel

General Fund

In Honor of:

Speedy recovery for Deb Char
Marni Flagel
David Char's 60th Birthday
Deb Char
New Char Granddaughter, Lauren Marie Simmons
Deb Char

In Memory of:

Steve Markman
Helene Adler
Frayda and Larry Beloff
Felix Garfunkel
Judith Schwartzman and Mike Jaffe
Janet and Barry Block
Jean Nathan and Vince Berg
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Marni Flagel
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Arlene Graham and Family

In Memory of:

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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.

President's Message

Notice anything different about the sanctuary....no it isn't a new figure on Rabbi Chessin's podium. Evan Weiss, Mark Gruenberg (Technology Committee) have been hard at work upgrading our technology to provide an improved experience in the sanctuary and virtually. In addition to the newly installed monitors, new cameras, with better optics, have been installed to capture every moment of religious and life-cycle events.

These and other investments are part of our continued commitment to enrich your membership at Temple Beth Or.

Jake Elder

President, Temple Beth Or Board of Directors



Dayton Food Bank Volunteers

The Jewish Community will work at the Dayton Food Bank once again:

Tuesday, March 26th
8:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

'Shpiel' the Beans...spread the word!

All volunteers will work with members of Beth Abraham, Chabad, Jewish Community Relations Council, Temple Beth Or and Temple Israel

All volunteers must be 14 years of age or older, and anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Call the Temple office if you are willing to volunteer.

SELF DEFENSE: A JEWISH APPROACH

QUEST SPEAKER: RABBI CARY KOZBERG MAHL, D.D.

Intro: April 4, 2024 7:00 - 8:30 Zoom
Class 1: April 7, 2024 1:00 - 4:00 Live
Class 2: April 14, 2024 1:00 - 4:00 Live

Register early by:

📞 937-435-3400 or visiting:
<https://templebethor.com/adult-education>



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Dayton Pride Festival

We are proud to be members of Temple Beth Or. We are proud to be Jews. Won't you join us in proudly supporting the LGBTQIA+ community at this year's Dayton Pride Festival on Saturday June 1st. The fun begins at 11:00 as we gather to watch the parade. Then join us proudly representing our temple and our faith at our booth in Courthouse Square. If interested, call the office at (937) 435-3400.

20
MARCH

Tech Workshop 1

SMARTPHONES

We will review several key features of a smartphone including taking photos, browsing the web, using voice assistants, and connecting wireless devices. We will also have a live Q&A to address common issues and concerns.

Tech Workshop 2

03
APRIL

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

We will explore several of the ways AI is being used today, and discuss where it may be going. We will also discuss other technologies that are often tied to AI such as machine learning and cloud computing.



6:30 – 8:00



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Adult Education

Chai Mitzvah Thursday, March 14th 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. The new curriculum is entitled, "Because We Were Slaves: The Jewish Struggle for Justice in Making America Home." In this time of grief over war in the Middle East, and seemingly increasing polarization in the USA on a variety of important issues, this study provides an opportunity to take time to examine our history in America as a people and ourselves as we try to live Jewish core values.

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

What is the cost? Nothing -- Temple Beth Or's Adult Education Committee (AEC) is delighted to offer this to you without charge.

How does the group function? You are welcome to register for one or more sessions. We take turns facilitating the discussion (with a partner if preferred).

How do I register? Visit <https://templebethor.com/chai-mitzvah/> or call 937-435-3430

EXPLORATION OF THE *Jewish Short Story*

"Shawls are used in order to keep warm, to complement a costume, and for symbolic reasons. One famous type of shawl is the tallit, worn by Jewish men during prayers and ceremonies." In the story titled "The Shawl" by Cynthia Ozick, the shawl becomes magic in the midst of the unspeakable struggles in the Holocaust camps. A disquieting but important story we won't soon forget.

 **March 27, 2024**

 **7:00 pm**

 **Zoom**



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Saturday, March 2nd, Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

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

This year we will be including the comedy of Karen Jaffe and the Blues stylings of Noah Wotherspoon. Music starts at 7 with the house band, acoustic trio including Steve Wyke, Marc Gilbert, and Mary-Rogers.

Tickets are \$25 and include a burrito bowl bar, from Hot Head Burrito, wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages (adults only please).

To register, call 937-435-3400, or visit:

templebethor.com/event/art-and-music-cafe/

The Adult Education Committee at Temple Beth Or believes that congregants represent a rich set of skills, abilities and interests that can benefit others.

Please contact Ruth (ruth.schumacher@wright.edu; 937-672-3368). We want to support YOU!

March Chai-Lights

Friday, March 1, 6:30 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.

Saturday, March 2, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Zoom

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

Saturday, March 2, 6:30 p.m. In Person

Art & Music Cafe: Visit page 4 for more information.

Friday, March 8, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Family *Shabbat*: Service led by 3-4th grade *Makor* Classes with support by Rabbi Chessin, Mary 'Mahira' Rogers, and Renee Peery. All families are encouraged to attend. Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 9, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Streaming

Bar Mitzvah of Alden Pachman

Tuesday, March 12, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. In Person

Corned Beef Lunch: Please see insert for details.

Thursday, March 14, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom

Chai Mitzvah: Visit page 6 for more information.

Friday, March 15, 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* Service.

Monday, March 18, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom

Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 6:30 p.m. In Person

Tech Workshop - Smartphones 101: We will review several key features of a smartphone including taking photos, browsing the web, using voice assistants, and connecting wireless devices. We will also have a live Q&A to address common issues and concerns. See page 5 for details.

Friday, March 22, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Only

Zoomagogue: Join us online for a Kabbalat Service, welcome the Sabbath in the comfort of your own home.

Saturday, March 23, 5:30 p.m. In Person

Purim Hamen-NOSH-en: Come make savory and sweet dinner Hamantaschen for dinner and dessert. Hear the Megillah reading. Bring a side dish to share. Cash bar.

Wednesday, March 27, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: Visit page 6 for more information.

Friday, March 29, 5:30 p.m. In Person

Shabbat Potluck Dinner: Join Rabbi Chessin in Levin Hall for a Sabbath Service and dinner! Please bring a main dish, side dish or dessert to share and enjoy a meaningful *Shabbat* dinner with your Temple family.



Purim at Temple Beth Or

Come join us for our Temple Beth Or *Megillah* Reading and Hamen-NOSH-en dinner. Everyone will have a chance to make dinner as well as dessert *Haman-taschen*. While they bake, we'll read the *Megillah*. Cash Bar. Please bring a side item to share. Come in costume and prepare for fun.

3-4 Grade Family Service

Our third-fifth graders have been preparing to lead our *Shabbat* Service on Friday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 5:30 p.m. They will lead our Sabbath prayers with the help of their wonderful teachers. Come support them and celebrate a beautiful *Shabbat*.



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Haman-nosh-en Dinner & the Whole Megillah

**Saturday,
March 23, 5:30**

Make
savory
hamantaschen
for dinner with your
family and friends!
Megillah reading during
baking.

Come in costume.
No cost, cash bar. Bring a side dish to share.
Visit templebethor.com or call the office to RSVP.