

TEMPLE BETH OR 40 YEARS

The Light

March 2025

☆Today...and for Generations☆

Volume XL, Issue 3

"Etched in Stone, Written in Tears: A Legacy of Survival"



The bas-relief you see here is an ancient, remote image, yet it strikes a chord far too familiar to the Jewish soul. Carved nearly 3,000 years ago into the palace walls of Nineveh,

it celebrates the Assyrian conquest of Israel—the fall of Lachish, a city just 45 miles from Kibbutz Nir Oz. In this stone tableau, a Jewish woman is led into captivity, her two small children clinging to her, their figures frozen in a moment of terror and despair. The Assyrians boasted of their triumph through this art, preserving their cruelty for posterity.

Fast forward to October 7, 2023, and the world witnessed a haunting echo: Shiri Bibas, a 32-year-old mother from Nir Oz, clutching her sons—Ariel, age four, and Kfir, just nine months—as Hamas terrorists abducted them. Hamas, too, boasted, not with chisels on stone but with videos online, flaunting their savagery for all to see.

What became of those children from Lachish? What became of Ariel and Kfir? We know, and it is too horrible to detail here. The bodies of Shiri, Ariel, and Kfir were returned to Israel in February 2025, alongside peace activist Oded Lifshitz, after months of false claims from their captors. Forensic evidence showed they were deliberately murdered, not killed in airstrikes. Our



people are shattered, our hearts broken together. The ancient mother of Lachish and Shiri of Nir Oz share a story of captivity and loss, their children's fates a wound that spans millennia.

Yet amid this darkness, we know one thing. Just as the Assyrian reliefs now sit in museums, one day Jewish children will stand before images of this tragedy and ask, "Who are these men?" We will answer, "They were Hamas, and they tried to destroy the Jewish people." The children will ask, "What happened to them?" And we will say, "The same thing that happened to everyone who tried to destroy us—they failed, and we survived." God avenged those beautiful babies—Ariel, Kfir, and the nameless children of Lachish. Their captors disappeared into history, but we are still here.

Israeli speaker and advocate Hillel Fuld reminds us we've walked this path before. Recall the Jews of Purim, facing annihilation under Haman's decree—zero hope. Or Hanukah, outnumbered by the Seleucid empire—done, gone. Or Passover, 210 years of



slavery under Egypt's iron fist, chased to the sea with no escape. Each time, despair swallowed us whole. Yet today, we celebrate Purim with joy, Hanukah with light, and Passover with freedom. It's impossible now to imagine celebrating Simchat Torah again, but we've been in darker times. We didn't just survive, we flourished, while evil empires crumbled into dust.

The Assyrians carved their victory in stone; Hamas broadcast theirs online. Both are relics of a hatred that cannot win. One day, our children will point to these images in a museum—not of defeat, but of endurance—and we will tell them: "They tried to destroy us, but we thrived. Their memories live in us, and we are still here."

May we yet see *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, Deb Char, Arlene Graham, Melissa Guadalupe, Neil Kahn, Benjy Klein, Ruth Schumacher, Ron Solomon, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells.

The congregation sends a hearty *Mazel Tov* to:

Stuart and Pam Merl on the birth of a new granddaughter, Brooke Amy Bullerwell.

The Congregation extends its deepest sympathy to:

Ron and Sue Nelson, Myrna Nelson and Rachel Gilbert and family on the loss of their grandson and nephew Max Nelson.

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 7

Nagi Ahmed Nasr 3/5
Judith Meltzer 3/5
Ethel Paul 3/5
Ruth Schneider 3/6
Eunice Cauper 3/8
Robert Richman 3/8
Philip E. Cohen 3/10
Elaine Sachs Veta 3/11

March 14

Irene Jacoby 3/12
Morris Sherman 3/12
Frances A. Clair 3/13
Berta Sherman 3/13
Donna Throckmorton 3/13
Jacob Bettman 3/14
Andrew R. Nathan 3/14
David M. Nathan 3/14
Paul Nathan 3/14
Bruce Ronner 3/14
Anita Wilson 3/14
Isidore Farber 3/15
Joan Chesler 3/16
Betty Glickler 3/17
Bertha Nyman Miller 3/17
Maurine Moody Scott 3/17

March 21

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
Leo Finkelstein, Sr. 3/22
Yetta Hecht Marks 3/22
Samuel Stein 3/22
Lois Rubens 3/23
Clark W. Davis 3/24
Eric Bruce Stein 3/24
Harold Dunn 3/25
Shirley C. Maharam 3/25

March 28

Paul Kruke 3/26
Sybil Sureck 3/26
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 Michael Cook 3/30
Joy Beebe 4/1
Marion Chaet 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

Security Fund

In Honor of:

Bill Fried's Special Birthday
Claudia Fried and Family

In Memory of:

Edward LeClaire
Claudia and Bill Fried
Eleanor LeClaire
Claudia and Bill Fried

General Fund

In Memory of:

Margalit Rose de Harde
Jo Anna Szymborski
Elsie Goodman
Sharyn Reger
Jerry Goldstein
Sharyn Reger
Ida Plotkin
Joann Plotkin
Duane Taylor
Shara and Steven Taylor
Frieda Garfunkel
Felix Garfunkel

In Memory of:

Meyer Dreety
Louisa and Philip Dreety
Janet Hirschfeld
Karen and John Granby
Alma Hochman
Helene Adler

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of:

Dorothy Rosenbaum
Barbara Cantwell
Anne Rosset
Louisa and Philip Dreety
Linda and Scot Denmark
Dr. Edgar Alvin Slotkin
Ellen Lauber

Music Fund

In Honor of:

Mary Rogers Birthday
Ann Marx

In Memory of:

Robert Bernstein
Joan and Arthur Greenfield

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

New Software for a better member experience:

Your board of directors has approved a purchase of a variety of new software including ShulCloud to manage Temple activities. Investing in ShulCloud significantly enhances the temple experience for both administrators and members. This software is designed to streamline operations, improve member engagement, and ensure efficient financial management.

There will be a new member portal where everyone can manage their accounts, update personal information, and track important dates like *Yahrzeits*. Members can also register for events, make donations, and pay dues online, making it easier for them to stay connected and involved with temple activities.

Save the Date – June 01, 2025:

We will be holding the founders appreciation, annual meeting, and Shavuot on June 1. Please save the date so we can all celebrate what we have accomplished in our first 40 years!!

Mark Gruenberg,
President

Thank you to our Donors!

Pillars

Marni Flagel
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Ritva Williamson
Mimi and Stuart Rose
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Phil Hoffheimer
Bill Kell
Karen and Matthew Lindsay
Marilyn Marx
Sharyn Reger
Caryl and Scott Segalewitz
Annie and Craig Self
Jo Anna Szymborski

Thank You!

We kicked off our 40th anniversary celebration year with an amazing *Shabbat* service on Friday, January 31st featuring visiting Cantor Rosalie Will and a gala *oneg Shabbat* chaired by Karen & John Granby. There were more than 150 people in attendance.

Saturday morning Cantor Rosalie contributed to a lively morning study session of Jewish texts and tunes complete with a potluck breakfast.

Saturday night there were about 100 people for the Who Knows One? Live! entertainment featuring Micah Hart, and delicious baked potato, soup, and chili bar, chaired by Mary Youra, Cadi Polk, and Emily Snyder.

Be sure to save the date for our next anniversary event, a Founders Day event immediately following the annual meeting on Sunday, June 1st.

The whole weekend was happy, warm, and energetic. We could not have done it without you and especially not without these generous volunteers whether lending their organizational and planning skills, baking talents, uplifting us with song, or helping work the events. THANK YOU! to:

Susan Hand, Mary Youra, Cadi Polk, and Emily Snyder, Paula Gessiness, Mark Gruenberg, Evan Weiss, Alicia Ostrow, Heath Gilbert, Marti Jacobs, Scott & Caryl Segalewitz, Allie Fields, Mary Rogers, Adam Guadalupe, Sarah White, Jay Weiss, Marilyn Marx, Eva Clair, Scott Beckerman, Renee Peery, Alex & Jane Pearl, Deb Char, Helen Markman, Sue Nelson, Benji Klein's granddaughter Joy Kiser, Miriam De La Cruz, Ellen Lauber, Marc Siegel, Eva Clair, Beverly Farnbacher, Wendy Rachlin, Jay Holland, Elissa & John Dinsmore, Marni Flagel, Shara & Steve Taylor, Thea Monjot, Aven Kirtland, Avi Gilbert, Chava Gilbert, Karen Bressler, Roger Pankake, Ellen Holroyd, and our invaluable staff Rabbi Chessin, Rabbi Azriel, Donna Brodnick, Laura the custodian, and Gayle Jenkins.

Rachel Gilbert. Stephanie Kirtland. Karen and John Granby



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The Wicked, the Wacky, and the Wonderfully Delicious



Purim is a time for topsy-turvy fun, dramatic storytelling, and celebrating the triumph of good over evil. And what better way to capture that spirit than with a "Wicked" Purim? Just like in the hit musical

Wicked, where we see the story of Oz from a whole new perspective, Purim reminds us that things are not always as they seem. Maybe Haman saw himself as the hero of his own story (though we know better!). Maybe Vashti was the original Elphaba—misunderstood, defiant, and refusing to conform.

And what better way to add a little mathematical mayhem to our merrymaking than by embracing Pi Day (3/14)—which just so happens to fall on the same day as our Purim celebration! It's the perfect excuse to indulge in pie-themed treats alongside our traditional hamantaschen. After all, Purim reminds us to blur the lines between order and chaos, so why not mix up the menu a little?

At our Purim celebration, we'll pay tribute to the wicked, the wacky, and the wonderfully delicious by serving an array of pie-themed food. Who knew math could be so tasty?

And speaking of celebrations, this year's Purim-Pi Day mashup is even more special in my household—because March 14 is also Rachel's birthday! While Haman may have cast his lots for destruction, I'm grateful that my own "lot in life" includes a partner as wonderful as Rachel. So, if you see her around, be sure to wish her a *Chag Purim Sameach* and a Happy Pi-Day Birthday! (It's also our wonderful Mary 'Mahira' Rogers birthday too, so be sure to come and celebrate with us all!)



So, whether you come for the Purim spiels, the games and fun or just to enjoy a wickedly good slice of pie, this year's celebration is bound to be a deliciously joyful one. Let's eat, laugh, and turn the world upside down—just as Purim (and pi) intended!

Chag Purim Sameach!
Rabbi Ben Azriel

Temple Beth Or Scrapbook

Temple Beth Or needs your help in being an important part of capturing the 40-year history our Temple in beautiful photo albums. Once completed the albums will be available to enjoy on June 1st, as part of our 40th anniversary celebration. We are also looking to include pictures and memorabilia that you have at home that can be included to complete our amazing 40 year history.

Save these dates to come to Temple to help complete the albums:

March 27 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

April 29, and May 18.

Times for upcoming dates to be announced

Watch the upcoming issues of *The Light* for more details.





Scan this code or click [THIS link](#) 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

APR

11

Taco/ Nacho Bar

Bring Taco/Nacho toppings to share!

Taco meat provided!

4th/5th Grade
Makor Students
leading services!



MAY

9

It's "Skyline" Time

Bring your favorite skyline toppings to share!

Hot dogs and spaghetti provided!

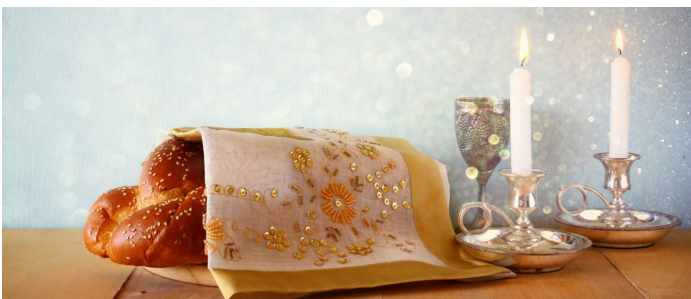
PK/K Makor
Students
leading services!



— templebethor.com
937-435-3500



We need *Oneg Shabbat* and *Pre-Shabbat* Reception Hosts



We hope to invigorate our *Oneg Shabbat* and "pre-neg" reception hosting. We ask only for a simple tray of fruit, cheese, or cookies. The Temple will provide *challah*, wine, and juice. It would be lovely if our members would choose a date to remember a beloved for *yahrzeit* or mark a happy occasion, birthday, or anniversary. Please call the Temple office if you would like to celebrate or commemorate with your Temple Family.

Adult Education

Navigating Loss: Dinner with Comfort Foods

Thursday, March 20th:
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

This class is for people that have had loss in their life, whether recent, in the past, or the future. We will share information about the 5 stages of grief and other information to help you deal with loss.

Instructor Andy Chaet has been a bereavement counselor/ coordinator in the hospice setting 14 years. He has extensive experience helping people with grief and loss. He has facilitated grief support groups for children and adults. He has counseled families and loved ones of hospice patients as well as community members. He has worked as coach, mentor, and teacher. He co founded a committee on suicide prevention and mental health awareness. He has a BA in psychology from Quinnipiac University and is a certified Grief Support Specialist from the University of Wisconsin/Madison. He and his wife Kathy have recently joined Temple Beth Or.



RSVP at templebethor.com

You and your Family are invited to:

Passover in your PJ's

When: Sunday April 6th, 2025
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

What: Bring your Sleeping Bag and Slippers to join TBO Families in a relaxing event to celebrate and learn about Passover.
Matzah Pizza and a Dessert will be served

March Chai-Lights

Saturday, March 1, 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, March 7, 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*.

Friday, March 14, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Pi/e Day Purim: Join us for an Abbreviated *Shabbat* Service and Wicked Megillah reading by our *Makor* student cast will be followed by our pie dinner. Bring your best sweet and savory offerings to win the Purim Pie contest. Games, food, Hamantaschen and Elphaba green beer.

Thursday, March 20, 6:00 p.m. In Person

Navigating Loss: Dinner with Comfort Foods: This class is for people that have had loss in their life, whether recent, in the past, or the future. We will share information about the 5 stages of grief and other information to help you deal with loss.

Friday, March 21, 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, March 22, 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.

Thursday, March 27, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. In Person

Scrapbooking Event: Temple Beth Or needs your help in being an important part of capturing the 40-year history our Temple in beautiful photo albums. See page 4 for more details.

Friday, March 28, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

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

Opportunities to Support Temple Beth Or

Shop and Support Opportunities

Temple Beth Or participates in on-going shop-and-support opportunities with **Kroger**, **Amazon Smile**, and **Dorothy Lane Market (DLM)**. It's easy! Select Temple Beth Or as your charity of choice, then shop at the stores as part of your everyday shopping. If you haven't selected Temple Beth Or as the organization you would like to support, you can do so on the store's website. Please visit the link below to find links and information on how to sign up and support Temple Beth Or when you shop:

<https://templebethor.com/support>

Commemorative Opportunities:



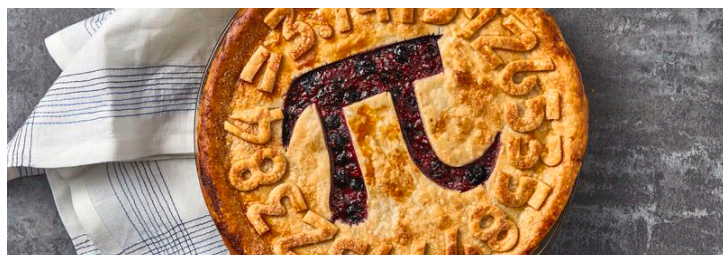
Paver Bricks: Paver brick are a lasting way to commemorate a person or an event. Bricks are available in two sizes and can hold three or five lines of text, respectively. Small/rectangular bricks are \$100; Large/square bricks are \$200. Contact Donna at the Temple Beth Or office for an order form.

Yahrzeit Plaques: *Yahrzeit* plaques are available for \$500. Payment for the Plaque includes:

- Name mentioned at yearly Service
- Name plaque illuminated in Memorial Stand yearly
- Notification sent to family members of yearly Service
- Listing in *Yom Kippur* book
- Name read at *Yom Kippur*

Join Us for Pi/e Day Purim, Friday March 14

Get out your best pie recipes, sweet and savory for a contest with prizes and a celebrity judge. We'll have a Wicked Megillah reading spiel by our *Makor* cast of characters, food, games and Elphaba green beer.





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Temple Beth Or Presents
Pi(e) Day Purim!

Friday, March 14th 5:30 p.m.

Pie contest for sweet and/or savory pies
Bring your best entree pie or dessert pie to share: celebrity judge and prizes
(Quiches, pot pies, pizza pies, and hand pies are all welcome)
Prizes for creativity, taste, and appearance

Abbreviated Shabbat Service
Megillah Reading
Makor Students will perform a "Wicked" rendition of the Purim story

Elphaba green beer
Games for the kids, including Haman's Gauntlet!