



Cheesecake: It's the Law!



In 2021, the 6th US Court of Appeals in Cincinnati upheld a trial judge's decision that the Michigan Department of Corrections violated Jewish prisoners'

religious rights when it failed to provide them cheesecake on the holiday of Shavuot. (among other meals for Jewish observance).

Imagine cheesecake being a legal right! Shavuot, the Jewish observance commemorating the receiving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai, has very few ritual requirements. But eating cheesecake and blintzes seems to be the universal custom associated with the holiday.

Shavuot has become associated with dairy for several reasons. Some find the origin in the Biblical verses that refer to the promised land (the ultimate destination of the wandering Israelites) as a land "flowing with milk and honey."

Likewise, Song of Songs 4:11 compares Torah to honey and milk. Torah is the source of our spiritual nourishment.

Others suggest that when the Israelites received the Torah, they learned about the dietary laws



of *kashrut*. Thus, they needed time to prepare meat appropriately and could only consume dairy products on the day of revelation.

Yet a final idea is that in *gematria*, the Hebrew word for milk, *chalav*, has the numerical value of 40, the same number of days Moses spent on Mt. Sinai receiving Torah.

For these reasons, blintzes and cheesecake became the sweet treats we enjoy marking the festival. Therefore, on Friday, May 26, at 6:30 p.m., Temple Beth Or will mark Shavuot and Shabbat with a unique interactive service, including the Temple

Beth Or Choir. We will follow the Service with a Shavuot Cheesecake Bar. Bring your finest cheesecakes or blintz soufflés; we will provide all your favorite toppings. We'll have taste-testing and prizes for those who bake! Extra points if you can come up with vegan offerings so everyone can enjoy our dairy holiday (Lactaid not included).

Be sure to come and enjoy this sumptuous evening of learning, celebration, and spiritual and physical nourishment. It is the law!

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:

Madalyn Ammons, Arlene Graham, Benji Klein, Carla Scherr, Ron Solomon, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells.

The Congregation extends its deepest sympathies to:

Mike and Terri Halasz, Rachel, Grant and Lindsay on the passing of their niece and cousin Jessica Hallie Kirshner
Bill and Stephanie Kirtland, Elsie, Aven and Soren on the passing of his mother and their grandmother, Bobbi Kirtland

The congregation sends a hearty *Mazel Tov* to:

Chava Gilbert for her *Bat Mitzvah*

May 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.

May 5

John D Auldridge II 5/3
Adam Nelson 5/4
Margaret Carsch 5/5
Lily Heuman 5/5
Anna Kuperschmidt 5/6
Sylvia Steiner 5/6
Robert Wolf 5/6
Barbara Gerla 5/7
Louis P. Landerman 5/7
Eloisa De La Cruz 5/8
Berta Sherman 5/8
Herman Dlott 5/9
Yetta Schwartz 5/9

May 12

Anna F. Epstein 5/10
Dr. Bob Ewing 5/10
Pearl Lemberg 5/10
Bettye Anna Louick 5/10
Harold Fishman 5/11
Jill Wadleigh 5/11
Mimi Wolnstein 5/11
Libby Elenko 5/12
Morris Sherman 5/12
Lila Kahn 5/13
Davida Block 5/14
Ed Colton 5/14
Gerald Jacoby 5/14
Lillian Tepper 5/14
David Sterling Margolis 5/15
Melba Meister 5/16
Gertrude Rendlor 5/16
Phillip Schwartz 5/16
Arnold Schwartzbart 5/16
Herb Solomon 5/16

May 19

Jeff Markman 5/17
Beatrice Moore 5/17
Molly Schear 5/17
Stephen Scherr 5/18
Ashland Crace, Jr. 5/19
Barbara Jane Fried 5/20
Manny Rose 5/20
Mona Briskin 5/21
Dr. Frank Villani 5/22

May 26

Edith Bookhamer 5/24
Erika Garfunkel 5/24
Shari Davis 5/25
Rita Molnar 5/25
Philip Horowitz 5/26
Ruth Weiss 5/26
Cyril J. Pearl 5/27
John Seidenschmidt 5/27
Stratos George Vlahos 5/27
Joey Weiner 5/27
Mary Ann Glantz 5/28
Edith Simpkins Schneidman 5/28
S. Herbert Moss 5/29
Martin Spritzer 5/29
Sally Farnbacher 5/30



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 Honor of:

Larry Beloff's 90th Birthday

Barbara Mandelbaum

Felix Garfunkel

Women of Valor – Rabbi Judy Chessin
and Mary Rogers

Cynthia and Anya King and Susan
Klenke

In Memory of:

Morton Ohlbaum

Lori and John Westerkamp

Curt Goodman

Sharyn Reger

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Sharyn Reger

Maurine Moody Scott

Ellen Holroyd

Eva Clair and Ira Segalewitz

Milton Nathan and Ritva Williamson

Felix Garfunkel

Sue and Ron Nelson

David Flagel

Marni Flagel

Barbara Flagel

Marni Flagel

Lori K. Phillips

Marni Flagel

Roy Kenneth Hammonds

Bill Kell

Lynda Troy

Felix Garfunkel

Erika Garfunkel

Felix Garfunkel

Martin Sumers

Marsha and Stephen Goldberg

Adam Nelson

Sue and Ron Nelson

In Memory of:

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Harriet and William Fenberg

Edith Bookhamer

Bill Kell

Zelda Segalewitz

Ira Segalewitz

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In Memory of:

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Elaine and Ward Michaelson

Louis P. Landerman

Myrna Nelson

Adam Nelson

Myrna Nelson

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In Honor of:

Women of Valor – Rabbi Judy Chessin
and Mary Rogers

Mary and Gary Youra

In Memory of:

Judie Kell

Wendy Rachlin and Roger Pankake

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In Memory of:

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Thank you to our Donors!

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Gail Moore

Joann Plotkin

Robert Safferman

Carla Scherr

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Dan Weiner

Gary & Mary 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.

Thank you

The (Sunday) Morning Report



Sunday mornings have started at the crack of dawn since I was in kindergarten. That's the truth! I have to get up, get ready for the day, and get to the synagogue as the sun rises. Sure, there were a few years where I didn't teach at a religious

school, and when I was in middle school, my class met in the afternoon – but for the vast majority of over 25 years now, every Sunday has started early. And I love it -- maybe that is why I became a rabbi.

But our *Makor* teachers don't have to give every Sunday morning. They decide to.

And that is why I want to start by saying thank you to our *Makor* faculty:

Dear *Makor* Teachers:

Each of you has opted to be a part of the *Makor* team; you dedicate your Sunday mornings throughout the school year, planning lessons during the week and getting ready to teach just what it means to be Jewish to our students every Sunday morning.

Being a *Makor* teacher is not easy, and I recognize that there are many things you could be doing with your Sunday morning. But your passion for bringing Judaism to life, your desire to be relatable and personable, and your love for being a Jewish role model to our students constantly remind me why I do what I do. Thank you for offering your hard work, effort and time to our Temple Beth Or and *Makor* communities.

And to our *Makor* volunteers: I want to say thank you for donating your time to making *Makor* the place it is. Whether it is helping in the classroom, planning an event, leading a committee, or attending a meeting, each of you gives us the ability to make *Makor* the place that it is. Your volunteerism and leadership are a support and inspiration to me, to our teachers and most of all, to our students.

And, of course, to our *Makor* parents and students: I want to say thank you for deciding to be a part of our community. There are so many extra-curricular activities, sports, and events that you could be using your Sunday morning for. Still, every day that you are at *Makor*, we can see the growth of students as members of our Jewish community and society. Thank you for making *Makor* a priority.

The tagline of *Makor* is “Not your Bubbie’s Sunday School.” This is true because of the dedication of our teachers, volunteers, parents, and students. Without you, we wouldn't be the *Makor* community that we are. So, while school may end in the coming weeks for this 5783 school year, we look forward to our doors opening again on Sunday mornings in August.

Until then, may your summers be warm and bright, filled with light, fun, laughter, and joy. And we look forward to hearing all about what you did over the summer when we see you in August.

B'shalom,
Rabbi Ben Azriel



Adult Education

See a Dayton Gem in Person on May 6th



Temple Beth Or's Adult Education Committee (AEC) is offering an exciting opportunity for you, your family, and friends! On May 6th, 7:00 pm you are invited to a **live student dance concert at Stivers School for the Arts**, (1313 E 5th St, Dayton, OH 45402; 937-542-7380.) The program is choreographed by Mrs. DeShona Pepper Robertson, Director of Dance, and features some of the Miami Valley's most talented arts students. Students must audition for the dance program, which like all Stivers programs, is academically rigorous. The young dancers have been featured on PBS and commercial channels as well as in too many magazine and newspaper articles to count. The student company has performed throughout the United States and abroad to consistent and high acclaim. It is the Miami Valley's good fortune that the company performs locally four times a year, including outreach all over the Miami Valley. Please contact Ruth Schumacher for additional information or questions at ruth.schumacher@wright.edu or by calling 937-672-3368.

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Chai Mitzvah May 11th 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>

Encore Presentation May 18th

Tending the Torn Roots of Judaism and Jews: The Problem and the Solution

"The fabric of Judaism and Jews in America is tearing. You are that fabric." So are the words of Dr. Richard and Diann Bromberg in their 2019 original play, "Tending the Torn Roots of Judaism & Jews: The Problem and the Solution." Presented in the format of Steve Allen's NPR classic Meeting of Minds, come enjoy the wisdom of Judaism's great minds at Temple Beth Or on Thursday, May 18, 2023 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in Levin Hall. Temple Beth Or members will be the actors in the play and will represent famous Jews from the past and the present.

Adult Education is hosting a Pot Luck dinner from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m., with the play beginning at 6:30 p.m. The main dish of fried chicken will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share, such as a salad, vegetable, or dessert.

Temple Beth Or members and the Dayton Community are invited to this informative and thought-provoking play. There is no charge to attend, but please register at <https://templebethor.com/adult-education> by Monday, May 15th.



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

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story May 24th

Please join the Zoom discussion, on May 24th 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 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. May's selections are "The Maccabeats Home" by the Maccabeats (Jerusalem Day) and "Shavuot Medley" by Micha Gamerman (Shavuot).

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)

Jewish War Veterans to Honor Fallen Comrades

Please join members of Jewish War Veterans Post 587 (JWV) in honoring our deceased Jewish veterans for Memorial Day. We will place American flags on each veteran's grave at the four Jewish cemeteries in the Dayton area. JWV will provide the flags and the community is invited to participate. Flags will be placed at Beth Jacob cemetery on Friday, May 19, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. Then, on Sunday, May 21, 2023 we will place them at Temple Beth Or, Beth Abraham and Temple Israel cemeteries at 10:00 AM.



JWV keeps a list of Jewish veterans buried at these cemeteries and places a permanent flag holder at each veteran's grave to acknowledge their service. These holders are essential for helping to find each veteran's grave quickly so it can receive a flag. However, these markers occasionally get lost through routine cemetery maintenance and vandalism. Please help to ensure your loved one's military service is recognized. If the grave of a loved one who served in the U.S. military and is buried at one of Dayton's Jewish cemeteries lacks a flag holder, please contact the JWV Commander, Steve Markman, at 937-886-9566. JWV will ensure that a flag holder and flag are placed on the grave in time for Memorial Day.

Also, please help discourage the theft of veteran's flag holders. These items are funded by Montgomery County and the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton for the sole purpose of being placed on the graves of our veterans. The theft of these items is a criminal offense, as is the resale or purchase, if stolen. Metal recyclers have been advised not to purchase these as scrap. Retail stores can sell these items new, but if you ever see them for sale in used condition or in the possession of anyone for any other use, please report this to the Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission. It is one additional way to help honor deceased veterans for their military service.

May Chai-Lights

Friday, May 5, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

"Rock of Ages: Royal *Shabbat*": Prepare for tomorrow's Coronation with a special Royal *Shabbat* Celebration featuring Rabbi Judy Chessin and Marc Rossio. Wear your tiaras and royal robes! LIVE and Streaming.

Saturday, May 6, 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 begin the book of II Maccabees.

Saturday, May 6, 7:00 p.m. In Person at Stivers School for the Arts

Dance Concert: The Adult Education Committee is offering an exciting opportunity for you, your family, and friends to see a Dayton gem in person! See page 5 for details.

Thursday, May 11, 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, May 12, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Family *Shabbat*: Family Shabbat honoring our *Makor* Students and Learners.

Thursday, May 18, 6:00 p.m. In Person

Encore presentation of "Tending the Torn Roots of Judaism and Jews: The Problem and the Solution": AEC is hosting a Pot Luck dinner from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m., with the play at 6:30 p.m. See page 5 for details.

Friday, May 19, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Shabbat Service: Join us for a *Shabbat* service led by Rabbi Judy Chessin.

Saturday, May 20, 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.

Sunday, May 21, 10:00 a.m. at Temple Beth Or Cemetery

Flag Placement for Veterans: Please join members of Jewish War Veterans Post 587 in honoring our deceased Jewish veterans for Memorial Day. See page 6.

Wednesday, May 24, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom

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

Friday, May 26, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Shavuot & Shabbat: Join us for *Shavuot* and *Shabbat* with Rabbi Judy Chessin, Mary 'Mahira' Rogers and the Temple Beth Or Choir. Cheesecake bar to follow.

Saturday, May 27, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Streaming

Bat Mitzvah of Chava D. Gilbert.



Temple Beth Or Annual Meeting

June 4th, In Person and Streaming

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, 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



Send in Your Grads

Temple Beth Or would like to congratulate members who are graduating this year in the June Light.

Please send information and a photo of your graduate to thelight@templebethor.com by May 15.



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