



May 2024

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XXXIX, Issue 5

## "The Pain we feel is Peoplehood."



Our Jewish spring holidays have had a different flavor this year. The October 7 Hamas attack on Israel added an edge to Purim's frivolity over the defeat of Haman, but not Hamas. The dipping of greens in

our Passover tears seemed saltier as we wept for the fate of Israel's hostages. Our mourning for *Yom HaShoah's* victims is more profound as we bear witness to this year's murder, kidnapping and rape of Israeli victims only because they were Jewish. Israel's 76th birthday, *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, is bittersweet since we fear for the survival of the Jewish state as it fights this multiple-front war of self-defense.

And yet, for all our anxiety, something is ennobling in our pain. In an essay in *Sapir Journal*, Mijal Bitton, co-founder of the Downtown Minyan of New York City and fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute, teaches that **"the pain we feel is peoplehood."** Peoplehood roots us to time and place. It gives us a past, and a future and it is one of the notable gifts of being Jewish.

According to a *midrash* (a Jewish legend), a two-headed man lived during King Solomon's reign. He sired six one-headed sons and one two-headed son. When the father died, the two-headed son demanded a double portion of the inheritance. This was a dilemma, for it raised the question as to whether



the two-headed man was two people or one? King Solomon solved the problem this way. He poured boiling water on only one of the heads of the two-headed son. "Ouch!" both heads cried out in pain. And the King proclaimed, "When one head is injured, the other feels pain. Thus, this is one soul and will receive only one inheritance.

Our commentators have suggested that like that two-headed man all Jews are *"Am echad b'lev echad,"* one people with one heart. For no matter how varied are our countries of origin, languages, customs, races, or levels of observance, we are yet one people. Like the two-headed man, when one Jew is hurt, we all feel the pain. When our brothers and sisters are attacked in Israel, their pain is ours. And we must respond.

The great teacher Maimonides taught that when a person seeks to join the Jewish people through *gerut* (conversion), we ask them, "Don't you know that in the present era, the Jews are afflicted, crushed, subjugated, strained, and suffering comes upon them?" If they answer that they know this and still want

to become Jewish, they are accepted with open arms. Jewish existence is acceptance of the "honey and the sting" of peoplehood and its ensuing moral obligations.

Our Israeli brothers and sisters are in proverbial "hot water," and we feel the burn. Therefore, we must channel that pain into committed acts on their and our behalf by donating, praying for the hostages, advocating for their return, fighting social media distortions and half-truths, and lobbying for America's unwavering support for the only democracy in the Middle East.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks once wrote that Jews are not a collection of "I's" but a single "We" proud of our collective heritage and prayerful that these terrible events can move Israel into a better future once and for all.

Please join us in our discussion about the current events in Israel and how we can respond on Sunday, May 19, 10 – noon in Levin Hall.

*Shalom,*  
Rabbi Judy Chessin



## THE LIGHT

Published monthly by  
Temple Beth Or  
5275 Marshall Rd.  
Dayton OH 45429

www.templebethor.com

Phone: (937) 435-3400

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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, Scot Denmark, Arlene Graham, Benjy Klein, Ron Solomon, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells.

The Congregation extends its deepest sympathies to

Sarah Adams on the passing of her father Earl T. Adams

## 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 3

Shirley Conte 5/1  
Shirlee Gilbert 5/1  
Joseph Sachs 5/1  
Martin Summers 5/2  
John D Auldridge II 5/3  
Adam Nelson 5/4  
Margaret Carsch 5/5  
Lily Heuman 5/5  
Robert Wolf 5/6

### May 17

Yetta Hochman 5/15  
Gertrude Randler 5/16  
Arnold Schwartzbart 5/16  
Herb Solomon 5/16  
Jeff Markman 5/17  
Beatrice Moore 5/17  
Molly Schear 5/17  
Tony Char 5/18  
Ashland Crace, Jr. 5/19  
Barbara Jane Fried 5/20  
Manny Rose 5/20

### May 10

Eloisa De La Cruz 5/8  
Herman Dlott 5/9  
Yetta Schwartz 5/9  
Yetta Schwartz 5/9  
Anna F. Epstein 5/10  
Dr. Bob Ewing 5/10  
Pearl Lemberg 5/10  
Bettye Anna Louick 5/10  
Jill Wadleigh 5/11  
Abraham H. Gorsky 5/12  
Lila Kahn 5/13  
Davida Block 5/14  
Ed Colton 5/14  
Gerald Jacoby 5/14  
Lillian Tepper 5/14

### May 24

Edith Bookhamer 5/24  
Erika Garfunkel 5/24  
Louis P. Landerman 5/24  
Shari Davis 5/25  
Rita Molnar 5/25  
Ruth Weiss 5/26  
Cyril J. Pearl 5/27  
John Seidenschmidt 5/27  
Joey Weiner 5/27  
Mary Ann Glantz 5/28  
Mimi Wolnstein 5/28

### May 31

Libby Elenko 5/29  
Martin Spritzer 5/29  
Sally Farnbacher 5/30  
Phillip Schwartz 6/2  
Bernard Berks 6/4  
Seymour Miller 6/4  
Arnold Jefferson Rosenkranz 6/4  
Joseph Schlezinger 6/4



# 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 Appreciation of:*

Safety and Security Committee and Our  
Security Guards

Claudia and Bill Fried

*In Memory of:*

Steve Markman

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Claudia and Bill Fried

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Jean Trebnek

### General Fund

*In Memory of:*

Curt Goodman

Sharyn Reger

Randy Goldstein

Sharyn Reger

Morton Ohlbaum

Lori and John Westerkamp

Lori Phillips

Marni Fligel

David Fligel

Marni Fligel

Irving Fink

Marni Fligel

Barbara Fligel

Marni Fligel

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Robert B. Kahn

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*In Memory of:*

Eleanor LeClaire

Claudia and Bill Fried

Edward LeClaire

Claudia and Bill Fried

Margot Fried

Claudia and Bill Fried

Lorraine Fortner

Claudia and Bill Fried

Carla Scherr

Claudia and Bill Fried

Earl Adams

Ellen Holroyd

Martin Spritzer

Marni Fligel

*In Appreciation of:*

Steve Goldberg

Ellen Holroyd

*Standing with Israel:*

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### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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Rabbi Chessin

Helen Markman

*In Memory of:*

Michael Cook

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Lorraine Fortner

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### Assistant Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

*In Honor of:*

The birth of Eliana Abigail Azriel

Cynthia King

Leslie and Robert Buerki

Ellen Lauber

### Music Fund

*In Appreciation of:*

Mary Rogers

Claudia and Bill Fried

### Education Fund

*In Honor of:*

Rabbi Ben Azriel's daughter's Baby Naming

Milton Nathan and Ritva Williamson

*In Memory of:*

Vuokko Leppanen

Milton Nathan and Ritva Williamson

Mimi R. Wolnstein

Arlene Graham and Family

Manny Rose

Arlene Graham and Family

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*In Honor of:*

Rabbi Ben Azriel's daughter's Baby Naming

Jude Cohen

## Thank you to our Donors!

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Dale Goldberg and Mark Dlott

Bill and Claudia Fried

Arlene Graham

Karen and John Granby

Sharon and Israel Guterman

Teri and Michael Halasz

Susan Hand

Marilyn Marx

Barbara Mendelson

Gail Moore

Sharyn Reger

Caryl and Scott Segalewitz

Ira Segalewitz

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.

Thank You  
to our  
TEACHERS

Makor  מִקּוֹר

Scott Beckerman  
Deb Char  
Jude Cohen  
Rachel Dillon  
Alicia Ostrow  
Renee Peery  
Mary Rogers

Esther Weiss  
Jay Weiss  
Evan Weiss  
Sarah White  
Rabbi Ben Azriel  
Rabbi Judy Chessin



Temple Beth Or  
[www.templebethor.com](http://www.templebethor.com)  
937-435-3400

Today...and for Generations

# Answering Tough Questions about Israel: Breakfast and Discussion



Half a year after the October 7 attack on Israel, we have been challenged with difficult questions and moral dilemmas. A biased media, fluctuations in US policy, and world-wide increasing antisemitism leave us with few places to find moral clarity.

To help us navigate our way, Richard Friedman, Ehud Borovoy, and Rabbi Judy Chessin will lead a discussion on how to respond to our colleagues, classmates, children, and social media critics with regard to Israel's five-front war since the catastrophic October 7 Hamas attack on Israel.

Join us on Sunday, May 19, at 10:00 am in Levin Hall for a Zoom and live discussion, including coffee, bagels, and light Israeli snacks. This program

is for teens, adults, Jews and non-Jews and anyone interested in discussing this timely troubling topic.

Richard Friedman, joining us on Zoom, is the former

executive director of the Birmingham Jewish Federation of Alabama. He is also a journalist and associate editor of Southern Jewish Life and InSight magazines and a consultant for David Valinsky Associates, an Ohio-based fundraising and nonprofit consulting firm.

Richard has dedicated his life's work these past six months, advocating for moral clarity in churches, national Jewish Federations and organizations, and non-Jewish political city, state, and national civic organizations and chambers of congress.

Ehud Borovoy is a local Krav Maga instructor, a group/personal fitness trainer, and a safety and self-defense instructor from Israel. He was born and raised in Israel, serving as a fitness instructor in the IDF (Israel Defense Forces). Following his military service, Ehud became a fitness instructor for the Israel Police Academy, where he trained cadets to pass their fitness exams for eight years. Ehud has lived in Dayton since 2007, where he has become our go-to expert on everything Israel.

Rabbi Judy Chessin, of Dayton's Temple Beth Or will moderate. Among her greatest achievements is the 2 grandsons she and Richard Friedman shares.

## Jewish War Veterans to Honor Fallen Comrades

JWV Post 587 invites members of your congregation who may be veterans, partners of veterans, family members of veterans or individuals who have an interest in Jewish veteran's affairs to participate in events that will be taking place this month. At 10 a.m. on Friday, May 17, members of Jewish War Veterans Post 587 will be honoring Jewish Veterans that have been laid to rest in Beth Jacob Cemetery (4001 Old Troy Pike, Dayton, OH 45404). Flags will be placed on Veterans grave sites. On Sunday, May 19, at 10 a.m., two other recognition events will be taking place simultaneously. Flags will be placed on Jewish Veterans graves at the Temple Beth Or cemetery site at David's Cemetery (4600 Mad River Rd. Dayton, OH 45429) and at both cemetery sites for Beth Abraham and Temple Israel located on West Schantz Ave. All are welcome to come and assist.

In honor of Memorial Day, JWV post 587 will be hosting a Veterans brunch event on Sunday, May 26. It will be held at Temple Beth Or (5275 Marshall Rd. Dayton, OH 45429). Veterans, partners of veterans, family members of veterans and individuals who have an interest in Jewish Veterans affairs are invited to attend. The event will kick off at 10:30 a.m. The speaker will be Marshall Weiss. His topic is the 100th anniversary of the 10 Commandments movie. Reservation required. RSVP to Ira Segalewitz at [isegalewitz@gmail.com](mailto:isegalewitz@gmail.com) or 937-287-2948 Cost is \$10 a person..



**Jewish War Veterans**

*of the United States of America*



# Adult Education

## See a Dayton Gem in person on May 4th @ Stivers!

Adult Education is once again offering an exciting opportunity for you, your family, and friends! On May 4, 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 performed throughout the United States and abroad, have been featured on PBS and commercial channels, and been featured in too many magazine and newspaper articles to count.

The cost for the concert is \$12 per ticket, but the Adult Education Committee of Temple Beth Or will underwrite the first 20 registrants. You are invited to regis-

ter family and friends as well; each will need a ticket. Moneys raised will be used to fund renowned choreographers and provide high caliber performances, lighting, costuming and scholarships so that these young artists can perform at home, locally and internationally. Adult Education is very excited to host this Stivers School for the Arts program.

Registration for the dance concert will close April 28, 2023. Adult Education Committee members will greet you at the door May 4, 6:30 p.m. with the # of tickets for which you registered. Please go to: <https://templebethor.com/adulteducation> to register for the May 4 concert or call the office at 937-435-3400. Please contact Ruth Schumacher for additional information or questions at [ruth.schumacher@wright.edu](mailto:ruth.schumacher@wright.edu); 937-672-3368.

## Chai Mitzvah Thursday, May 9th 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

## An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: May 22

Welcome to a brand new year of Jewish Short Stories (and we mean short)! Please join the Zoom discussion from 7:00-8:30 pm the 4th Wednesday of each month. Discussion will center on one short story that has Jewish content and/or is authored by a Jewish writer. We intend to have fun and learn from each other's understanding of the stories. You are encouraged to register for as many monthly discussions as you can make time for. A big WELCOME to new participants—come check us out!

A hearty WELCOME BACK to each and every participant who will continue to participate!

To register visit <https://templebethor.com/adult-education>.

To download content: Visit: <https://templebethor.com/an-exploration-of-the-jewish-short-story/>

Questions? Contact (Ruth Schumacher 937-672-3368; [ruth.schumacher@wright.edu](mailto:ruth.schumacher@wright.edu))



# May Chai-Lights

## Friday, May 3, 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, May 4, 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 breakfast item to share. LIVE and ZOOM.

## Saturday, May 4, 6:30 p.m. In Person at Stivers

See a Dayton Gem in person at Stiver's School for the Arts. See page 6 for more info.

## Thursday, May 9, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom

*Chai Mitzvah*: Visit page 6 for more information.

## Friday, May 10, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Teacher Recognition *Shabbat*: Led by Rabbi Azriel and all of *Makor* Classes with Mary ‘Mahira’ Rogers. All families are encouraged to come to thank our teachers and send off our graduates. A celebratory *Oneg Shabbat* will follow.

## Saturday, May 11, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Streaming

*Bat Mitzvah* of Evie Polk.

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

*Shabbat* Service with Rabbi Chessin.

## Saturday, May 18, 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 breakfast item to share. LIVE and ZOOM.

## Sunday, May 19, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Zoom

“Answering Tough Questions about Israel”: Join us in Levin Hall and on Zoom for this panel discussion and breakfast. Please see page 5 for more details.

## Wednesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom

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

## Friday, May 24, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

*Shabbat* Service with Rabbi Azriel.

## Saturday, May 25, 10:00 a.m. Streaming Only

Musical *Shabbat* Morning Service: Join Mary ‘Mahira’ Rogers and Renee Peery online for a musical walk through a *Shabbat* morning service.

## Sunday, May 26, 10:30 a.m. In Person

Veterans Brunch Event, with speaker Marshall Weiss. Hosted by JWV post 587. See page 5 for more details.

## Friday, May 31, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

*Shabbat* Service with Rabbi Chessin and the choir under the direction of Mary ‘Mahira’ Rogers.



## Temple Beth Or Annual Meeting

June 2nd, In Person and Streaming

**All the best congregants deserve  
all the best! Come to the Annual  
Meeting & stay for brunch, catered  
by All the Best Delicatessen!**

Join us for conversation @ 10:00 a.m.  
Meeting begins @ 10:30 a.m.

**Website:** <https://zoom.us/>  
(select “join a meeting”)

**Meeting ID:** 868 1509 9187

**Password:** 181818

An email meeting invitation will be sent via Plan-It 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! Please review the mailed committee reports and posted video reports prior to the annual meeting.

## Nominees for Board of Directors

Three to be Elected (\* denotes first term):

\*Eric Pachman • \*Phil Hoffheimer • Mark Gruenberg

Ballots accepted (mail or email) until Wednesday, May 29th

## Continuing Board Members:

Scot Denmark • Stuart Merl • John Granby  
Ira Segalewitz • Rachel Gilbert  
Stephanie Kirtland • Marc Siegel  
Ryan Levin • Evan Weiss

We thank departing Board members, Jake Elder and Shara Taylor, 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! Please send information and a photo of your graduate to [thelight@templebethor.com](mailto:thelight@templebethor.com) by May 15.



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# Answering Tough Questions about Israel

Temple Beth Or, Levin Hall,  
Sunday, May 19, 2024. 10 am – 12 pm



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**For more information and to RSVP,  
please visit our website or call the office at 937-435-3400.**