



The
Light

May 2025

☆Today...and for Generations☆

Volume XL, Issue 5

Honoring Our Heroes: Memorial Day 2025



Several years ago, an Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister claimed on Israeli television that American Jews' never send their kids to fight for their country,' asserting that most Jews do not serve in the U.S. military. This state-

ment is not only demonstrably false, but it also undermines the long and proud history of Jewish military service in the United States. According to the Jewish War Veterans, American Jews have served in the U.S. Armed Forces far beyond their proportion in the population, earning over 52,000 awards, including the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Historical records provide compelling reports about Jewish military service. During the French and Indian Wars, Jewish officers like Jacob Judah and Isaac Meyers fought, with Meyers leading a company across the Allegheny Mountains. By 1775, with approximately 2,500 Jews in the colonies, at least 27 Jewish officers served in the Continental Army, and George Washington commanded 40 Jewish soldiers. In Charleston, South Carolina, every adult Jewish male fought for independence, and their unit was jokingly called the "Jews' Company." Hayim Salomon lent a fortune to the Continental Congress, dying bankrupt without repayment. Francis Salvador, the first Jew elected to public office in South Carolina, died fighting in the Revolutionary War, becoming the first Jewish casualty of the conflict.

In the Civil War, Jews served on both sides in a variety of roles. Judah Philip



Benjamin was the Confederacy's Secretary of War and State, and the Confederacy had at least 23 Jewish staff officers. Surgeon General David de Leon served the Confederacy, while Dr. Jonathan Horowitz was his Union counterpart. At Appomattox, Benjamin B. Levy, one of six Jewish Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, was present. The U.S. Cemetery for Hebrew Confederate Soldiers in Richmond, Virginia, holds 121 Jewish Confederate graves, the only known Hebrew military cemetery outside Israel, despite reports downplaying Jewish service. Simon Wolf's 1891 publication listed 7,000 Jewish Civil War veterans, demonstrating the diversity of Jewish military service.

In World War II, Joe Rosenthal, a Jewish photographer, captured the iconic image of U.S. Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima, earning a Pulitzer Prize. Tibor Rubin, a Holocaust survivor, volunteered for the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Captured, he used skills honed in the Mauthausen death camp to keep fellow POWs alive during 30 months in a North Korean prison camp.

In 1967, during the Vietnam War, Jewish Intelligence officer Dov Ben Galil read a report in the Stars and Stripes that in Japan, American soldiers were walking around with jackets emblazoned with '5-10-5' on the back. (In Japanese that is pronounced 'Go Jew Go.') He said American soldiers joked that we might get out of Vietnam if their generals wore eye-patches.

In more recent conflicts, approximately 15,000 American Jews serve on active duty, with 5,000 more in the Guard and Reserves. These contributions not only contradict the Israeli foreign minister's claims but also highlight the significant Jewish presence in the U.S. military. The bravery and sacrifice of Jewish service members make Memorial Day a sacred day on our Jewish calendar, honoring fallen heroes and inspiring a commitment to peace.

We pray for the *shalom* for which they fought,

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, Bob Buerki, Deb Char, Arlene Graham, Jonathan Graham, Melissa Guadalupe, Clara Hochstein, Neil Kahn, Benjy Klein, Ruth Schumacher, Ron Solomon, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells.

Temple Beth Or sends best wishes to:

Rabbi Ari Ballaban Jun in his new position as Rabbi at Temple Sholom, Cincinnati, Ohio

Rabbi Ben Azriel, who will be the Executive Director of Beth El, a synagogue in the northern suburbs of Chicago.

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 2

Mirian Jacobson 4/30
Jacob Naiman 4/30
Shirley Conte 5/1
Shirlee Gilbert 5/1
Dorothy Goldberger 5/1
Joseph Sachs 5/1
Abraham H. Gorsky 5/2
Israel Gruenberg 5/2
Martin Sumers 5/2
John D Auldridge II 5/3
Adam Nelson 5/4
Margaret Carsch 5/5
Lily Heuman 5/5
Yetta Hochman 5/5
Robert Wolf 5/6

May 9

Eloisa De La Cruz 5/8
Herman Dlott 5/9
Lillian Knox 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
Harold Fishman 5/11
Jill Wadleigh 5/11
Lila Kahn 5/13



May 16

David Block 5/14
Ed Colton 5/14
Gerald Jacoby 5/14
Louis P. Landerman 5/14
Lillian Tepper 5/14
Gertrude Rendler 5/16
Arnold Schwarzbart 5/16
Herb Solomon 5/16
Jeff Markman 5/17
Beatrice Moore 5/17
Molly Schear 5/17
Tony Char 5/18
Mimi Wolnstein 5/18
Ashland Crace, Jr. 5/19
Libby Elenko 5/19
Barbara Jane Fried 5/20
Manny Rose 5/20

May 23

Phillip Schwartz 5/23
Edith Bookhamer 5/24
Erika Garfunkel 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

May 30

Mona Briskin 5/28
Mary Ann Glantz 5/28
Martin Spritzer 5/29
Sally Farnbacher 5/30
Harry Goldberber 5/30
Grace Goldberger 6/2

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 Memory of:

Lillian Adler
Helene Adler
Arnold Adler
Helene Adler

General Fund

In Memory of:

Lori Phillips
Marni Fligel
David Fligel
Marni Fligel
Barbara Fligel
Marni Fligel
Steven Kramer
Penney Kramer-Poling and Douglas Poling
Curt Goodman
Sharyn Reger
Randy Goldstein
Sharyn Reger
Robert Glickler
Larry Glickler
Betty Glickler
Larry Glickler
Ken Hammonds
Bill Kell
David Goldberg
Laurie and David Version
Sadye Nelson
Sue and Ron Nelson

In Memory of:

Zelda Segalewitz
Ira Segalewitz
Mildred Nizny
Martin Nizny

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of:

Ben Michaelson
Elaine and Ward Michaelson
Lillian Ohlbaum
Lori and John Westerkamp
Thomas Westerkamp
Lori and John Westerkamp
Joyce Westerkamp
Lori and John Westerkamp

Music Fund

In Honor of:

Mary 'Mahira' Rogers and the Choir
Wendy Rachlin and Roger Pankake

Education Fund

In Memory of:

Jill Beckerman
Scott Beckerman
Ashland Crace
Karen and John Granby

Campership Fund

In Memory of:

Max Nelson
Karen and John Granby

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

Please join us on June 1

Annual Meeting | Founder's Appreciation | Shavout

We are planning an afternoon and evening of sharing, appreciation, and celebration. We are offering concurrent youth programming during the annual meeting so more adults can join and more families can attend the celebrations.

Now more than ever it is critical for us to come together and celebrate together.

Mark Gruenberg,
President

Thank you to our Donors!

Pillars

Marni Fligel
Vicky and Robert Heuman
Martin and Martha Moody Jacobs
Dr. Milton Nathan and
Ritva Williamson
Mimi and Stuart Rose
Laurie and David Verson

Builders

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Renee Peery
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Phil Hoffheimer
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Karen and Matthew Lindsay
Marilyn Marx
Sharyn Reger
Caryl and Scott Segalewitz
Annie and Craig Self
Jo Anna Szymborski

A Note From Rabbi Azriel



Dear Temple Beth Or Family,

With the end of *Makor* just around the corner, and as we continue to count the days from Passover to Shavout—the holiday where we recall how we were each, metaphorically present when we received the Torah at Mt. Sinai—in so many ways, I find myself thinking about how we’re still standing at Sinai today. Each time a teacher prepares a lesson, and every time a child asks a meaningful question, and at every moment that our parents make Jewish learning a priority in the life of their family, that is Sinai. This is how we continue to recall and receive the Torah each and every year.

So, I want to say thank you.

To our **teachers**: You are the beating heart of our *Makor* community. You have shown up each week with patience, warmth, and creativity. You’ve gone above and beyond, most of the time with little or no fanfare, and I want you to know how much it means. Our tradition teaches that, “One who teaches another’s child Torah is as if they gave birth to them” (Sanhedrin 19b). Your influence will last far beyond this school year.

To our **parents**: Thank you for all of the schlepping, for the continuous encouragement, for challenging us with questions, and for staying involved. We know it’s not always easy to prioritize Jewish education in the midst of busy lives, and we don’t take your commitment for granted.

And to our **students**: Thank you for your curiosity, your energy, your ideas, and your sense of humor. You make learning joyful, and you remind us why we do this in the first place. Sunday would not be the same without you.

And so I hope you’ll join us on **Friday, May 9, for Teacher Recognition Shabbat**, when we will honor our educators from the bimah and offer blessings for their work. It’s always one of my favorite *Shabbatot* of the year—a chance to give *kavod* (honor) where it is so deeply deserved, and to celebrate as a community all we’ve learned and accomplished together.

As the school year draws to a close, may we carry the Torah we’ve shared into the summer ahead—and may it continue to guide us, connect us, and inspire us.

B’shalom,

Rabbi Ben Azriel



Temple Beth Or
congratulates
all of our
“**Smarties**”
in the

Class of 2025

*We honor our learners, thank our
teachers, our Makor Committee,
and celebrate our graduates.*

Thank You
to our
TEACHERS

Rabbi Ben Azriel

Scott Beckerman

Deb Char

Rabbi Judy Chessin

Rachel Dillon

Lena Elder

Avi Gilbert

Aven Kirtland

Alicia Ostrow

Renee Perry

Mary Rogers

Eliana Wasserman

Esther Weiss

Evan Weiss

Jay Weiss

Sarah White

Join Us for:

“Skyline Time” Teacher Recognition *Shabbat* & Dinner

Friday, May 9 starting at 5:30 p.m.

Visit templebethor.com for more details



5275 Marshall Road
Dayton, Ohio 45429
www.templebethor.com
937-435-3400

Today...and for Generations

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU

FAREWELL TO RABBI AZRIEL



Sunday, May 4th

11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

(following the last *Makor* session of the school year)

**Join us as we bid farewell
to Rabbi Ben Azriel**

featuring:

**Sandwich bar and sides
followed by a special treat!**



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.

If interested, call Karen Granby at 937-286-6902

Jewish War Veterans presents: "Buffalo Soldiers and the Holocaust"

The Jewish War Veterans Post 587 in honor of the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge and Holocaust Remembrance Day would like to invite you to attend our Memorial Day event "Buffalo Soldiers and the Holocaust" as presented by a representative from the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument located in Wilberforce, Ohio.

During World War II, as the Allied Forces pushed into German controlled areas, they encountered and liberated survivors held in concentration camps. The Allied Forces included American Army segregated all-Black units, nicknamed the Buffalo Soldiers. This connection built on shared experiences culminated in the fight against injustice abroad and at home. The theme highlights the questions 'what are the causes and consequences of prejudice and injustice, and how does an individual's response to them reveal his/her true character?'

Join us on Sunday May 18 at 10 am in the Levin Social Hall of Temple Beth Or located at 5275 Marshall Road, Dayton, OH. Jewish War Veteran members and their partners are free. All other attendees are \$10 per person. RSVP to JWVPost587@gmail.com .



Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America

Adult Education

Navigating Loss: Dinner with Comfort Foods

Thursday, May 15th:

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.

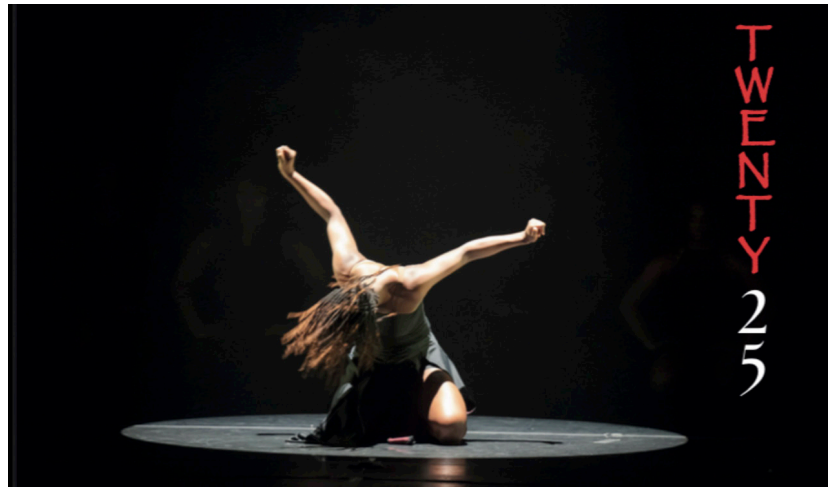


RSVP at templebethor.com

You Are Invited...To See an amazing dance program!!

Adult Education is offering an exciting opportunity for you, your family, and friends! On May 3, 7:00 pm you are invited to a live student dance concert at Stivers School for the Arts. 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.



First 20 Temple Beth Or members will get a free ticket, sponsored by Adult Education.

Registration for the dance concert will close May 1. **Adult Education Committee members will greet you at the door May 3, 6:30 pm with the # of tickets for which you registered.**

Please go to templebethor.com/adult-education to register for the May 3 concert or call the office at 937-435-3400. Contact Ruth Schumacher for additional information or questions at ruth.schumacher@wright.edu; 937-672-3368.

May Chai-Lights

Friday, May 2, 6:15 p.m. In Person & Streaming

"Rock of Ages" *Shabbat*: Marc Rossio rocks the house as he and Rabbi Ben Azriel lead a creative and Musical *Shabbat* Service. The service will be followed by *Oneg Shabbat*.

Friday, May 9, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Teacher Recognition *Shabbat* & "Skyline Time" Dinner: Join us for *Shabbat* Service led by Rabbi Ben Azriel, followed by "Skyline" dinner.

Saturday, May 10, 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.

Thursday, May 15, 6:00 p.m. In Person

Navigating Loss: See page 6 for info.

Friday, May 16, 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. sponsored by the Religious Committee followed by a Musical *Shabbat* Service led by members of the Religious committee and choir at 6:15.

OOTFriday, May 23, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Shabbat Service: Join us at 6:15 for a special *Shabbat* Service with *oneg Shabbat* dinner to follow in honor of Neil and Gina Kahn's 33rd anniversary and Gina's entry into the Jewish Covenant.

Saturday, May 24, 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.

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

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

Saturday, May 31, 4:00 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Bat Mitzvah of Lexi Hertz

Sunday, June 1, 3:00 p.m. In Person & Zoom

Annual Meeting, Shavuot Service, and Founders' Day Recognition. See next column for details.

Join us for Temple Beth Or's Annual Meeting, Shavuot & Founders' Day Recognition

Sunday, June 1st, In Person & Zoom

Please contact the office for the Zoom link

Schedule of events:

3:00 p.m.

Meet-and-greet

Wine & cheese hors d'oeuvre reception

4:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting

(Concurrent Youth Program in Cafe Or)

5:30 p.m.

Shavuot Service

Recognition of Founding Members

6:15 p.m.

Gourmet Shavuot Dinner

Nominees for Board of Directors

Three to be Elected (* denotes first term):

*Marc Siegel • *Stu Merl • Evan Weiss

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

Continuing Board Members:

Scot Denmark • Rachel Gilbert

Mark Gruenberg • Phil Hoffheimer

Stephanie Kirtland • Ryan Levin • Eric Pachman

We thank departing Board member, Ira Segalewitz, for his service on the Board!





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Temple Beth Or Annual Meeting & **Founders' Day Shavuot!**

Join us Sunday, June 1st

3:00 p.m: Wine & Cheese hors d'oeuvre reception

4:00 p.m: Annual Meeting & youth program

5:30 p.m: Shavuot Service & Recognition of Founding Members

6:15 p.m: Gourmet Shavuot Dinner

Visit templebethor.com for more information

*Happy
Shavuot*

TEMPLE
BETH OR **40**
YEARS