



November 2021

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XXXVI, Issue 10

"God Bless America"



In 1918, near the end of World War I, Israel Beilin penned a patriotic song while serving in the army at Camp Upton in N.Y. But, there were so many patriotic songs coming out

at the time that the composer filed the piece away in his scrap heap.

Two decades later, the composer, whose name was Americanized to Irving Berlin, was approached by radio star Kate Smith, who wanted a new song to sing for a special 1938 Armistice Day radio show.

Berlin tried several different songs and then remembered his "God Bless America," filed away in an old trunk. However, the world had changed in many ways in the two decades from 1918 to 1938. For one, after World War I, Americans were enthusiastic and patriotic. They were proud of their war efforts and their "boys" who went "over there."

Now, in the 1930s, Americans were adamantly opposed to participating in another European War. So Berlin himself dusted off his old song and made several changes to make it a "peace song."

The original stated: "Stand beside her and guide her to the right with a light from above." Initially, "to the right" had not been a political statement. But, it had become so, and Berlin



said: "For obvious reasons, I changed the phrase to "Through the night with a light from above."

More significantly, Berlin added an ominous preamble to his song, which included his own prayer for non-intervention in the war:

"While the storm clouds gather far across the sea

Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free

Let us all be grateful that we're far from there

As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer."

The song was sung this way by Kate Smith every performance from the fall of 1938 into the early months of 1939. Yet, Berlin copyrighted the song in February 1939, changing the words "grateful that we're far from there" to "grateful for a land so fair."

What caused the composer to shift from an isolationist viewpoint to the song as we sing it today? A chilling twist of fate is that "God Bless America's" premiere occurred one day after Kristallnacht, Germany's Night of Broken Glass! On November 9-10, the Nazi's SA paramilitary forces and civilians carried out a pogrom, attacking Jewish homes, businesses, and

synagogues. This violent attack was America's first view of the brutality of the Nazi regime, shifting American public opinion about intervention.

For Berlin, "God Bless America" could no longer be a peace song. He changed its words and began to lead it at rallies in support of American involvement in the escalating conflict in Europe.

"God Bless America" is the quintessential Jewish War Veterans' song. As Irving Berlin's daughter, Mary Ellen Barrett, wrote in her memoirs, "It wasn't 'God Bless America, land that we love.' It was 'God bless America, land that I love.' It was an incredibly personal statement that my father was making, that anybody singing that song makes as they sing it. And I understood that that song was his 'thank you' to the country that had taken him in. It was the song of the [Russian Jewish] immigrant boy who made good."

This Veteran's Day, may we honor those who served and swear allegiance to continue the fight for a land that's free.

Shalom,

Rabbi Judy Chessin

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.

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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

This year we have started back on the road to a more normal Temple life, despite all the COVID issues that we are facing. Our Temple was able to have live in-person services, in combination with streaming services to our congregants that felt more comfortable staying home for the High Holy Days or were too far away to attend in person. Our Rabbis did an outstanding job in creating a series of special services that embodied the spirit and meaning of the High Holy Days but were tailored to all the issues surrounding in-person gatherings. Our hats are off to them for their ingenuity and creativity.

As we continue looking at this year, the goal of our Board and our Rabbis is to continue the effort that we started with the High Holy Days, which is to move back to more in-person services; the use of our lovely temple facilities; in-person Life Cycle events, and in-person educational offerings. The COVID task force has worked tirelessly to create a series of measures that will allow us to meet in person yet help protect us and keep us safe and healthy. Our Safety and Security committee has also worked to replace Dave Williams, our first security person and has been successful in developing a new security team that will be in place over the next few years. In addition, when you do come to the Temple, you will notice some new security measures that, with the help of our security grants, are now in place. One of the most obvious security measures will be a new gate for the side and the back of our facility.

We have already come a long way and I look forward to even more exciting fall and winter activities at Temple. I can not tell you how much the Board appreciates all your continued support as we continue to move back to a more traditional and normal year. Thank you for your help and understanding.

John Granby, President

Lighting up the Atmosphere



Atmosphere creates meaning. When it reaches October, I find myself deep in the crawlspace of my home, digging out the Halloween decorations. Why do Rachel and I decorate for Halloween? I am not sure, but it is fun, and it adds a little pop to our front porch.

This year, we even moved a couple of smart lightbulbs to the porch so that the lights would change from orange to purple and back again. Couple that with a few carved pumpkins, a few LED light strings, and whatever else we find in our container of supplies, and you get a fun display for all to see.

We aren't winning any prizes or going to be on any of those light shows, but it is still fun. Come November, we alter it slightly for a more Thanksgiving theme, and of course, in December, we show off our Hannukah pride filling our house with light to celebrate the Festival of Lights.

The atmosphere in our neighborhood changes around this time of year: neighbors seem to be more neighborly, street hockey appears to be a little bit more fun, and light fills the street. November just feels different to me, but for all the right reasons. The days get a little shorter as the sun sets earlier, but the evening gets a little more orange and fills the sky just as it crosses the horizon. This is the meaning that I find in November, and I am thankful for it.

Atmosphere creates meaning in all that we do. When we walk through the halls of Temple Beth Or and take a second to notice something hanging that we hadn't seen in the past; when we step into a classroom during *Makor* and find it filled with children laughing; when we rise from the pews to welcome the Shabbat Bride during *L'cha Dodi*, we create atmosphere, and we create meaning.

And so, it is my goal when I bring education to life to do it not only through meaningful lessons and inspiring classes, but through creating

an atmosphere that allows us, allows our students, allows everyone to feel welcome and ready to learn. Hopefully, our students feel it when they walk in on Sunday, and I invite all to create meaning by designing an atmosphere. It's a challenge, but certainly one I hope all will enjoy.

This is the season of Thanksgiving, the season of showing appreciation and giving (and accepting) gratitude. This year, the season of Thanksgiving mixes with the Festival of Lights, and I hope that your season is filled with light. When you drive through the streets of your neighborhood, I hope it is filled with a sense of calm and serenity, mixed with a love for light and joy.

And if/when you visit the Azriel home, I hope that you find our porch lights shining brightly, maybe orange and purple, maybe red and brown, maybe blue and white, but always shining, inviting you to join in our joy of the festival and holiday season.

B'shalom,
Rabbi Ben Azriel

RAID ON ENTEBBE



Presented by Brigadier General Paul Cooper (Retired)
In Levin Hall on Wednesday, December 15, 2021
From 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

On July 4, 1976, Israeli commandos led by Lt. Colonel Jonathan Netanyahu led a successful raid at the Entebbe Airport in Uganda to free Israeli hostages held by Idi Amin from a hijacked Air France flight. The presenta-

tion will highlight the challenges, decisions, and strategy that enabled the commandos using C-130 aircraft to defeat the terrorists and their demands.

Brigadier General Paul Cooper retired in 2002 as commander of the Air Force Reserve's 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. During Operation Desert Storm, General Cooper commanded a C-130 unit that deployed to the Middle East for six months. General Cooper returned to extended active duty in 1996 after the Dayton Peace Accords to command Tuzla NATO Air Base in Bosnia.

Light refreshments will be served in Levin Hall at 6:30 PM. For those participants who are unable to attend the live presentation, the program will also be offered on Zoom.

The Adult Education Committee is pleased to be able to provide this important part of Israeli history with the Israeli commandos leading an ambitious plan to rescue the hostages. The Adult Education Committee is very appreciative of General Cooper's offer to present this important program.

Longstanding Member Profile: The Taylor Family

Get to know the Taylor family – Shara, Steve, Rachel and Natalie. The Taylors moved to Centerville 13 years ago when Steve separated from the Air Force. They previously lived here from 1996 – 2000 while Steve completed his residency at the base. Elder daughter, Rachel, was born here. Younger daughter, Natalie, was born while Steve was stationed in Japan. The choice to relocate to Centerville with daughters about to enter 5th and 1st grades was an easy one. Shara and Steve had fond memories of the area and they knew about the good schools in the area. So, they chose Centerville as their new home. Their choice to join Temple Beth Or was equally stress free. Armed with list of area synagogues, the Taylors decided to visit each one and see where they felt most comfortable. The first visit was to Temple Beth Or. It was an early summer lay-led service with Marty Jacobs officiating. The first people to introduce themselves were the Guadalupes and their youngest, Benjamin, invited Natalie to sit with him. That night the decision was made and the Taylors joined Temple Beth Or.



Today, Steve is a psychiatrist practicing in Dayton. When not working, Steve runs and likes to participate in local 5k races. Shara is retired and focuses on things she enjoys – reading, puzzling, playing mahjong and visiting the Gem City Catfé. They are still getting used to being almost empty nesters. Rachel graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2020 and is now living and working in the Rochester area. Natalie is a sophomore at Sarah Lawrence, in New York. The Taylors share their house with three black cats, Yin, Yang and Sid. For the past two years, the Taylor family has not been able to travel internationally. They used to go on one big trip a year. A visit to Japan to see where they lived has been in the planning process for the past two years. Hopefully, they soon can set dates and make firm arrangements.

Since joining, the Taylors have volunteered whenever their schedules allowed. This past June, Shara took it up a level and joined the Board. When asked the reason for taking this step, Shara shared that Temple has been a big part of their family’s life since joining, and that now that she has time, Shara wants to give back, learn more about how decisions are made and have input with the goal of keeping Temple around for future generations.

New Member Profile: The Das Lemon Family

Meet the Das Lemon family, Jeremy Lemon and Shubham Das, members since July. Jeremy is a lifelong resident of the area. He was born in Dayton and raised in Xenia. Shubham is a native of India and moved to the US to attend graduate school at the University of Cincinnati. They currently live in West Carrollton with four rescue cats and two dogs (a 13-year old pug and a 3-year old golden retriever). It is a busy household.



Jeremy is nursing home administrator at Trinity Community at Fairborn. He started working for his company at their Beavercreek location part-time in high school and found he enjoyed working with seniors. Now after 17 years and various positions, he has a career in the field. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree in health care administration at the University of Cincinnati. Shubham earned a master’s degree in Information Systems at University of Cincinnati and is now Assistant Director for data products at Liberty Mutual Insurance Company.

Jeremy recently completed his conversion to Judaism with Rabbi Chessin. His conversion journey also involved Rabbi Ginsberg and Cantor Greenberg from Beth Abraham Synagogue. He recalls that during his conversion, while trying to navigate how to become more involved in the community, he attended his first Purim Spiel on March 9, 2020, just days before the world shuttered its doors. While he continued his studies with Beth Abraham, he found that his outlook and values more closely aligned with the Reform movement and remembered how engaging Rabbi Chessin was during his Intro to Judaism classes. Now that Temple is returning to in-person worship and activities, Jeremy looks forward to joining us more often.

They look forward to the time when it is safe to travel internationally since they have not seen Shubham’s parents since 2019 when they visited the U.S. for Shubham and Jeremy’s wedding. Hopefully, they will soon be able to arrange a visit. Jeremy and Shubham have been doing a bit of travel closer to home. Jeremy just earned his open water scuba diving certification. Would you believe that one year ago he did not know how to swim? Jeremy typically spends his scarce free time reading, cooking, hosting dinners and traveling based on food guides. Shubham is more adventurous. He tends to gravitate towards high adrenaline activities and recently went bungee jumping. He is a serious home chef and an amateur photographer.

Please welcome them to our Temple family.

Adult Education

Chai Mitzvah Returns November 4th on Zoom

In appreciation for generous underwriting by Rabbi Judy Chessin, Temple Beth Or's Adult Education Committee (AEC) is delighted to announce the formation of a new *Chai Mitzvah* group. Because Temple Beth Or has hosted previous *Chai Mitzvah* groups, the national *Chai Mitzvah* organization is waiving the cost of materials to individuals who join the group. This means that you, personally, will pay nothing for materials.



Register & Learn More: <https://templebethor.com/chai-mitzvah/>

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story November 10th

Do you like to read, but don't have time, so you prefer short stories? Have we got a program for you! Once a month, or every so often, read a Jewish short story (and we mean short), and come to a follow-up discussion. You will make new friends, renew your current friendships, and deepen your understanding of Jewish life through the ages in a welcoming, engaging forum.



<https://templebethor.com/upcoming-adult-education-events/>

Veterans' Day Program November 11th



The Temple Beth Or Adult Education Committee (AEC) is inviting our U.S. Armed Services Veterans to be honored at its second annual Veterans' Day Remembrance and Recognition Event on Thursday, November 11, 2021. The AEC is pleased to be able to host a live event this year at the U.S. National Air Force Museum at 1:00 PM.

Veterans will be treated to a complimentary box lunch of turkey or roast beef. A vegetarian box lunch is available upon request. Guest lunches are \$20.

The program will start with Steve Wyke and Mary Wyke Rogers singing the National Anthem and God Bless Amer-

ica. There will be a luncheon presentation by Steve Wyke, followed by Bill Fried, Alex Pearl, and Steve Markman, who will share their experiences as veterans when they attended the 2019 Honor Flight trip to Washington D.C. The program will conclude with an optional walking tour of the Holocaust exhibit, hosted by Ira Segalewitz.

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the space is limited to 50 participants, which includes veterans and guests. The AEC is encouraging veterans to limit guests to one, so that there will be space available for our veterans. RSVP's must be made by Wednesday, November 6th to Temple Beth Or, including guest lunch fees and vegetarian meal request (make checks payable to Temple Beth Or). The AEC is recommending that veterans and their guests make their reservation as soon as possible to ensure their spaces at the event.

Handicap parking is available as well as wheelchairs and scooters.

If you have questions, please contact Karen Granby @ (937) 286-6902 or email craceby@aol.com or Mark Grunberg @ (937) 479-7774 or email mark@thrive360partners.com.

The Adult Education Committee hopes that you will be able to attend this year's Veterans' Day Recognition program.

Register: <https://go.oncehub.com/VeteransDayCelebration>

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!

November Chai-Lights

Thursday, November 4, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Chai Mitzvah: *Chai Mitzvah* is a personal Jewish journey to share with friends, with groups in 39 states and 6 countries. Visit page 10 for more info.

Friday, November 5, 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, November 6, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Apocryphal Study: Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group as we continue to explore the book of Jubilees. Hear the Genesis stories in a new way!

Saturday, November 6, 5:30 p.m.

Bat Mitzvah: Norah Glovka

Sunday, November 7, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Hanukkah Sale: Hanukkah items for purchase in the Sanctuary Lobby.

Wednesday, November 10, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: Read and discuss a Jewish short story in a welcoming, engaging forum. This program is offered by the Adult Education Committee (AEC). Please see page 10 for more information.

Thursday, November 11, 1:00 p.m.

Veterans' Day Program: The Temple Beth Or Adult Education Committee (AEC) is inviting our U.S. Armed Services Veterans to be honored at its second annual Veterans' Day Remembrance and Recognition Event at the U.S. National Air Force Museum. See page 6 for information.

Saturday, November 13, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Streaming

Torah Live!: Join Rabbi Chessin in the sanctuary as we spend a Sabbath focus on the *Parashat Ha-Shavuah*. We will read and study the Torah portion *Vayeitze*, focusing on the matriarchs Leah and Rachel. We will explore whose name should go first in the Amidah and why?

Sunday, November 14, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Hanukkah Sale: Hanukkah items for purchase in the Sanctuary Lobby.

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

Join the choir led Shabbat service under the direction of Mahira Rogers and accompanied by Diann Bromberg.

Saturday, November 20, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Apocryphal Study: Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group as we continue to explore the book of Jubilees. Hear the Genesis stories in a new way!

Monday, November 22, 7:30 p.m.

Interfaith Thanksgiving: Live at St. Charles and Streaming. See the article on this page for additional information.

Friday, November 26, 6:30 p.m. Streaming Online

Join us for streaming *Shabbat* Service. Bring your own candles, challah and wine for blessing.

**The Temple Office will be closed
Friday, November 26th**

Interfaith Thanksgiving



This year we will resume our in-person Interfaith Thanksgiving worship with our partners from David's Church of Christ, Dayton Mercy Society, Christ United Methodist Church, and St. Charles of Borromeo Church. The service will take place at St. Charles Church, 4500 Ackerman Blvd. on Monday, November 22, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. The service will be live-streamed so that everyone can choose how they would like to participate.

Clergy from all denominations will participate and members of our choirs will sing together but will wear masks and be seated appropriately spaced apart. Masks are recommended for worshippers attending the service. In place of a reception, attendees

are invited to bring a canned food item for the local food pantry.

A live streaming link will be sent out in our Plan-It Beth Or nearer to the date so that all may participate in the way that they feel most comfortable.

The theme of the Thanksgiving service will be "Our Journey toward Healing." How wonderful it will be to share with our interfaith community once again.



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Open to the public!
Artisan Crafts & Specialty Items.



Sunday, December 5th
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Stay for lunch!

Eat-in or Take-home:
Brisket Sandwiches & Combo Platters
Buy Brisket by-the-Pound and Half-Pound
containers of Chopped Liver.
**Pre-orders strongly recommended via
the Temple website.**

Hanukkah items available for purchase
Sunday, Nov. 7 & 14 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
in the Sanctuary Lobby.



Temple Beth Or
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