



The Light

November 2024

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XXXIX, Issue 10

Truth and Justice, Compassion and Kindness



Three true nonpartisan, timely jokes:

-Waiting for results on election night is like waiting for your grade on a group project. I know I did my part right, but I'm worried the rest

of you screwed it up.

-Remember when Halloween was the scariest night of the year? Now Election night is the most terrifying.

-What is the difference between Thanksgiving Day and Election Day? On Thanksgiving, you get a turkey for a day, but on Election Day, you get a turkey for four years.

No matter the outcome of this year's contentious elections, I feel sure that partisan squabbling and fighting will stay with us long after the votes are counted. A Duke University study concluded that social media and technology make us think we are hopelessly divided. We are passionate about our own beliefs about the economy, healthcare, social justice, and foreign policy and dismiss those who feel differently as crazy, naïve, or evil.

And, of course, there ARE bad Democrats, bad Independents, and bad Republicans. But dismissing an entire political party simply because they don't believe as do we helps little. When and

if the political dust settles, we would do better to cross the ideological divides and listen to each other. Democracy, or constitutional republics rely on the principle of collaboration and compromise, and it completely fails when we give up the power of the people to actually come together and hash out difficult decisions.

In a story from the *Talmud* (*Berachot* 27b), Rabban Gamliel (the rabbinic community leader) disagreed with Rabbi Yehoshua. Rabban Gamliel publicly called out Rabbi Yehoshua and embarrassed him. The sages, in anger, replaced Rabban Gamliel with yet another rabbi, Elazar ben Azaria. Rabbi Elazar subsequently opens the study hall to accommodate many new students, adding even more voices to the debate.

Chastened, Rabban Gamliel apologized to Rabbi Yehoshua and each sage. He was enlightened by debating with diverse perspectives on the words of the Torah. Because he opened his mind and heart, Rabban Gamliel was offered a rotating leadership position as head of the academy along with Rabbi Elazar ben Azaria. This ensured that no single view would dominate, and decisions and solutions would become more robust because they included input from all.

Today, words are called violence, and differences of opinion are seen by one side as evidence of the other's evil or stupidity. Instead, Judaism encourages the exploration of diverse political opinions, valuing debate and compromise as a path to truth.

Rabbi Paul Kipnes has offered these

words of prayer for a moment such as this:

Eloheinu veilohei avoteinu v'imoteinu,

Our God and God of our fathers and mothers,

When our nation is divided

When our people are afraid

When our children are confused

When we ourselves are unsure about how to move forward.

Grant us,

Like Nachshon, the courage to face our fears and walk forward into the unknown.

Like Miriam, the insight to find the hidden waters in the wilderness to quench our thirst.

Like King Solomon, the wisdom to decide wisely as we face difficult questions in the days and months ahead.

Like the prophet Nathan, the faith to speak truth to power, demanding as he did from King David, truth and justice, compassion and kindness.

And may we lie down in peace and rise up each tomorrow refreshed and renewed, prepared to work toward blessing for all. *Amen.*

Shalom,

Rabbi Judy Chessin



THE LIGHT

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Temple Beth Or
5275 Marshall Rd.
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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:

Sarah Adams, Arlene Graham, Neil Kahn, Benjy Klein, Ron Solomon, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells.

The Congregation extends a hearty *Mazel Tov* to: Mitch and Anne Ostrow and family on the marriage of Amy Ostrow to Cody Sáraco-Polner.

November *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.

November 1

Jacob Reich 10/30
Frank Clair 10/31
Jeffrey Chiger 11/1
Leo Goldberg 11/1
Elaine Icove 11/1
Ida D. Jaffa 11/1
Jean Levi 11/1
Larry Briskin 11/2
Susan Cauper Tonra 11/2
Henry Nathan 11/2
Richard Schuman 11/2
Esther Constantine 11/3
Arthur Maharam 11/3
Danny Engel 11/4
David Fishman 11/4
Samuel Lauber 11/4
Joseph David Goldberg 11/5
Claire Parnes 11/5

November 8

Phyllis Goldberg 11/6
Becky Simmons 11/6
Joseph Arthur Katz 11/7
Clare Sturkey 11/7
Selma Farnbacher 11/9
Ruth Kaufman Baer Cooley 11/10
Eve Israel Naiman 11/10
Helen Reger 11/10
Anna Adler Farber 11/11
Carl K. Tepper 11/11
David Char 11/12
Henry Joseph Marx 11/12

November 15

John Factora 11/13
Eve Wolf-Knight 11/13
John Legner 11/14
Albert Israel Sheinker 11/14
Phyllis Stein 11/14
Lillian Gelbart 11/15
Canuto Ligot 11/15
Melvin Verson 11/15
Katharine Farnbacher 11/19
Andrew Glendening 11/19

November 22

Gertrude Kahn 11/20
Erin Constantine 11/21
Allan Goldman 11/21
Sam Baer 11/22
Felice Arst 11/23
Raymond Lemberg 11/23
Jerome Wise 11/24
Jane Scheidecker 11/26

November 29

Salvatore Forcina 11/27
Melvin Goldberger 11/27
Cindy Hart 11/27
Charles Throckmorton 11/27
Esther Chesler 11/28
Thomas Lindsay 11/30
Patricia Blair 12/1
Goldie Bloomberg 12/1
Gertrude Pearl 12/2
Sara Bromberg 12/3

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

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In Memory of:

Margo Marx

Marilyn Marx

Henry Marx

Marilyn Marx

General Fund

By: Anonymous

Jeanne Nathan

In Memory of:

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Sharyn Reger

Philip Holstine

Gary Holstine

Gus Holstine

Gary Holstine

Stephen Macpherson

Gail Moore

Carol Denmark Felman

Linda and Scot Denmark

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Louisa and Philip Dreety

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Richard Schuman

Linda Schuman

David Char

The Char Family

Tony Char

The Char Family

Sherman Char

The Char Family

Standing with Israel:

Jean Trebnek

For a Speedy Recovery:

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Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of:

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Yana and Jeffrey Kleinman

Alma Slotkin

Ellen Lauber

David Char

The Char Family

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Rabbi Judy Chessin and the High Holidays

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Oneg Shabbat Fund

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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.

The Power of Words



Gratitude is on the menu at Thanksgiving, a time when families come together and, it feels fitting to reflect on the power of our words – in a Jewish light. While "Thank you," & "You're welcome," might seem like everyday phrases,

Judaism teaches us they carry deep significance.

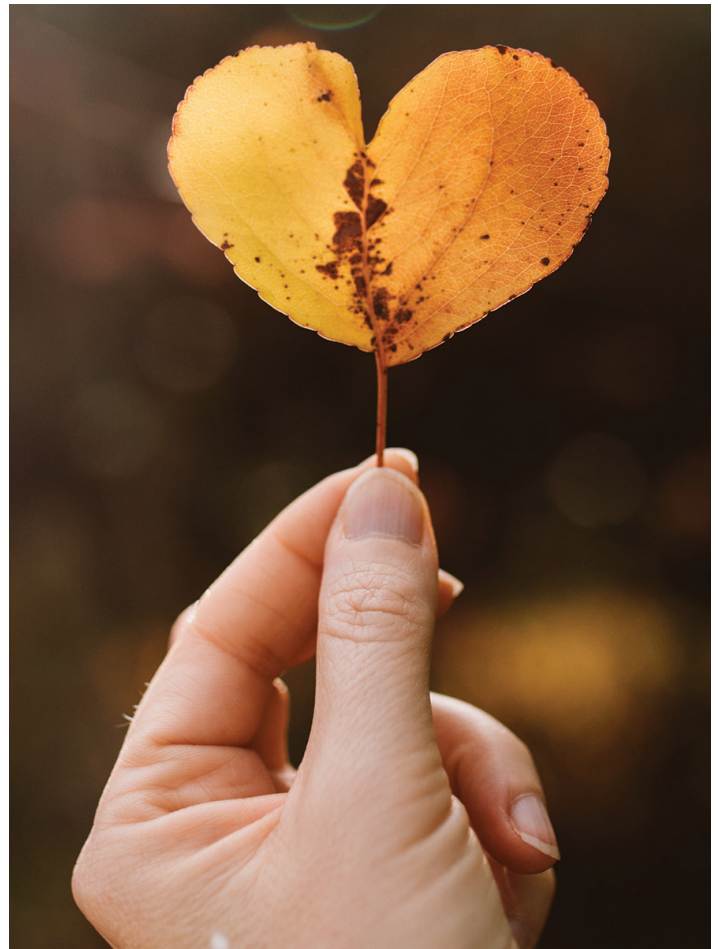
We know Thanksgiving is all about gratitude, but for us, saying thank you isn't just a once-a-year thing—it's an everyday commandment! The word "*todah*" (thank you) shows up all over our liturgy. We begin each day with *Modeh Ani*, thanking God for simply waking up and having another day to live. The *Talmud*, in *Berachot* 60b) says we should thank God for both the good and the bad, because even challenges contain blessings we might not understand right away.

But we can ask ourselves how often do we stop and say thank you to the people around us and actually mean it? Whether it's to the person who held the door for us, our spouse for taking care of the dishes, or the friend who checks in when we're overwhelmed, Judaism encourages us to practice gratitude regularly. The early scholars teach us that when we express thanks, we not only acknowledge the good we receive, but we also open ourselves to receiving more.

While saying thank you is essential, you're welcome can be just as powerful. There's something powerful about responding to gratitude with grace. In fact, the *Rambam* (Maimonides) teaches that giving graciously is as important as the gift itself (*Mishneh Torah*, Gifts to the Poor 10:4). When we give or help others, acknowledging their thanks with kindness can make the whole exchange more meaningful. It's not just about fulfilling an obligation—it's about creating a bond of mutual respect and kindness.

Think about it: how often have we brushed off someone's thanks with a casual "no problem"? What if we embraced it with a warm "you're welcome" and truly felt the *mitzvah* in that moment? We're not just doing someone a favor; we're creating an opportunity for connection.

For this thanksgiving holiday, let us consider using our voices by showing gratitude through compliments. In *Pirkei Avot* 1:6, we're taught to "judge everyone favorably," meaning we should see the best in people. Compliments are a way to express that, to actively lift others up. Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai even taught that words of



praise have the power to bring joy and goodness into the world.

Complimenting someone isn't just about making them feel good, though that's certainly important. It's about recognizing the divine spark in each person. We're reminded that every human is created in the image of God. When we compliment someone, we're acknowledging that *b'tzelem Elohim* (divine image) within them.

Next time you see someone doing something kind or impressive, take a moment to give them a compliment. You never know how much that small act might brighten their day, and in turn, yours.

As Thanksgiving approaches, take these lessons from our tradition with you. Whether you're sitting around the table with family or gathering with friends, let's embrace the power of thank you, say you're welcome with warmth, and share sincere compliments. These simple acts not only enrich our relationships, but they also elevate our daily lives.

B'shalom,
Rabbi Azriel

President's Message

We just had an amazing high-holiday season. Members enjoyed listening to the special presentation by Rabbi Azriel, *Yom Kippur* afternoon. I heard from several people that no one delivers such a moving sermon as Rabbi Chessin. We are lucky to have them.

We received a lot of positive feedback on our updates to the sanctuary. Many members used the monitors to follow along and participate in the service. To make it brighter, we are looking at lightbulb options. I wanted to be sure you all know about big events coming up, please mark your calendars.

Sunday, November 10:

Honoring Veterans, Healing Wounds: PTSD Awareness (Steve Taylor)

Sunday, December 8:

Artisan Fair and Brisket

Sunday, January 12:

You too can take great photos (Stephen Goldberg)

Friday, January 31:

40th Anniversary *Shabbat* (featuring Cantor Rosalie Will)

Saturday, February 1:

40th Anniversary Event: Who Knows One – entertainment, stories, games (special guest Micah Hart)

This year, you can sponsor an *Oneg Shabbat* by providing light snacks and desserts, or, for \$60, we will provide the food and list you as the sponsor in honor of your special occasion. If you have a family birthday, anniversary, commemoration, or anything else. If you are interested, please contact me or call the office.

Wishing you all a great year!!
Mark Gruenberg, President



November Chai-Lights

Friday, November 1, 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* in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of Addie Dillon.

Saturday, November 2, 10:00 a.m. In Person & Zoom

Join us for the *Bat Mitzvah* of Addie Dillon.

Friday, November 8, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Family *Shabbat* & Dinner: Join us for dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by Family *Shabbat* Service at 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, November 9, 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.

Sunday, November 10, 9:30 a.m. In Person

Honoring Veterans, Healing Wounds: PTSD Awareness: Please see page 6 for more information.

Friday, November 15, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Musical *Shabbat* Service with Choir: Join us for a "Pre-neg" *Shabbat* Reception, hosted by Deb Char in memory of David Char and his first *yahrtzeit*, at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Musical *Shabbat* Service at 6:15 p.m. featuring the Temple Beth Or Choir, led by Mary 'Mahira' Rogers.

Thursday, November 21, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom

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

Friday, November 22, 5:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Potluck *Shabbat*: Join us at 5:30 p.m. for Kiddush candles and hors d'oeuvres, 6:15 *Shabbat* Service, and Potluck Dinner to follow. We provide the chicken, you bring the sides!

Saturday, November 23, 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.

Monday, November 25, 7:30 p.m. In Person at David's United Church of Christ

Interfaith Thanksgiving, at David's United Church of Christ.

Friday, November 29, 6:15p.m. Streaming Online

Pre-recorded *Shabbat*: Pre-recorded Thanksgiving *Shabbat*.

Temple Beth Or's Annual



Sunday, December 8th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Open to the public!

Artisan Crafts & Specialty Items



Stay for lunch!

Eat-in or Take-home:
Brisket Sandwiches & Combo Platters

Buy Brisket by-the-Pound and Half-Pound containers of Chopped Liver.

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Honoring Veterans, Healing Wounds: PTSD Awareness

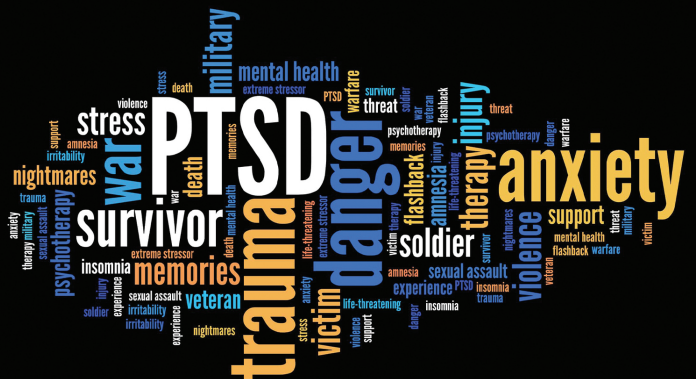
Temple Beth Or invites you to a special program honoring the Greater Dayton Veterans' Community

Sunday, November 10, 2024

9:30 a.m. - noon

Free & Open to the public

Join us for an important and timely program on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), featuring Dr. Steve Taylor, a Psychiatrist with extensive experience in helping individuals afflicted with PTSD. The program will cover causes, symptoms, treatments, and available resources for veterans and their families. This free event is open to the public. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to support our veterans and their families as they cope with the effects of PTSD. Refreshments will be provided, and there will be several raffle prizes for our veterans.



9:30 a.m. Refreshments

10:00 a.m. Program followed by questions

RSVP at www.templebethor.com

