

The Dark Side of the Moon



Most of us are anxious to bid farewell to the year 2020. With a deadly pandemic and its resultant economic lockdown, the tragic death of George Floyd and its ensuing violent protests; fraught national

politics and a vitriolic election season; wildfires, tropical storms, and earthquakes, we might wonder, what else could go wrong this year.

Of all of the words of comfort out there, I have been most inspired by the words of someone very close to me.

Michael's grandson Jesse Cook was

one of the many unlucky seniors to miss out on his high school graduation in Boston. As class president, Jesse had the honor of taping his graduation speech, which aired online on the day they



would have graduated. Jesse said:

"This year has been compared to several other points in history; the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918, the Great Depression, and even the aftermath of the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center. I find 1968 to be a better comparison.

Like 2020, the U.S. saw a presidential election, and Boston sports fans were angry about losing a seven-game championship series the year prior... Also, like

2020, there was an abundance of misfortune as disaster after disaster plagued the world. America was locked, starting to lose the war in Vietnam, presidential candidate and advocate for equal rights Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated, and one of the greatest minds of the 20th Century, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was fatally shot. The world looked like an awful place in which to live.

In the midst of all this chaos, N.A.S.A. was still hard at work, hell-bent on putting a man on the moon. In December of 1968, nearing the end of one of the worst years in American history, the crew of Apollo 8 embarked on the most important mission to date.

Their mission was to be the first humans to leave Earth for the moon. They would lock into lunar orbit, orbit ten times, and come home. No crew had ever attempted to lock into lunar orbit, and, consequently, no crew had ever attempted to leave lunar orbit for Earth. One slight mistake and they could either be vaulted into the vast emptiness of space or violently shuttled directly into the unforgiving surface of the moon, doomed to die in both scenarios. They had to be perfect.

As they approached the most dangerous part of the mission, flying over the dark side of the moon, where communications with mission control would be impossible, the world held its breath. The mission came at the tail end of a year of disaster, so why shouldn't something else go horribly wrong? For seemingly the first time all year, fittingly on Christmas Eve, everything went right. Communication reconnected at the right time, and the world listened in joy to a safe crew. They became the first humans to ever witness an Earthrise, and as the world saw the beautiful pictures of the journey and learned that it was possible to go to the moon and come back, everything began to heal a little bit.

Upon returning home to Earth, Apollo 8 Mission Commander Frank Borman received an anonymous letter, reading, "Thank you, Apollo 8. You saved 1968."

Now, I'm not saying that there has to be a mission to the moon or some other incredible worldwide event to save 2020, but I am saying that life will not always be this massive hardship. Look for the victories in your own life because even the smallest win can save a bad day. My sister has always loved a quote from J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. Dumbledore says, "Happiness can be found in the darkest of times if one only remembers to turn on the light."

In 1968, the world was a dark place, but, ironically, by flying over the dark side of the moon, Apollo 8 turned on a light. We will all go through dark times in life, but you can make them easier by just turning on that light."

Such perspective and wisdom from someone just starting his adult life, but like the prophet Joel states, "The old shall dream dreams, but the youth shall see visions." May Jesse's vision for a brighter tomorrow sustain us as we hope for a better and brighter 2021.

Shalom, Rabbi Judy Chessim



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 extends its deepest sympathies to:

Craig and Annie Self; Josh and Anna Kate Self on the passing of Craig's father John Columbus Self;

Linda Schuman and family on the passing of her husband Richard Schuman; Michael and Claire Magalnick and family on the loss of Michael's grandmother Eye Crebbs:

Ruth Schumacher on the passing of her sister Rochelle;

Ellen Lauber and A.J. (Aaron) on the passing of her husband and his father Samuel Lauber.

We wish *Refuah Shleimah*, a full and speedy healing, to Bonnie Gewertz, Gary Holstine, Lynda and Gerald Troy and Stephen Scherr.

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 6

Danny Engel 11/4
David Fishman 11/4
Joseph David Goldberg 11/5
Claire Parnes 11/5
Phyllis Goldberg 11/6
Becky Simmons 11/6
Joseph Arthur Katz 11/7
Clare Sturkey 11/7
Selma Farnbacher 11/9
Florence Villani 11/9
Ruth Kaufman Baer Cooley 11/10
Eve Israel Naiman 11/10
Helen Reger 11/10

November 13

Rabbi Sidney Ballon 11/11
Anna Adler Farber 11/11
Carl K. Tepper 11/11
Max Davis 11/12
Henry Joseph Marx 11/12
John Factora 11/13
John Legner 11/14
Albert Israel Sheinker 11/14
Phyllis Stein 11/14
Canuto Ligot 11/15
Melvin Verson 11/15
Goldie Bloomberg 11/16
Nicolae Grunbaum 11/16
Jack Berman 11/17

November 20

Katharine Farnbacher 11/19 Andrew Glendening 11/19 Doris E. Scherr 11/19 Rae Izenson 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

November 27

Irving Saul 11/26 Jane Scheidecker 11/26 Kenneth Dubrovsky 11/27 Salvatore Forcina 11/27 Cindy Hart 11/27 Charles Throckmorton 11/27 Esther Chesler 11/28 Sarah Cramer 11/29 Thomas Lindsay 11/30 Leatrice Phillips 11/30 Irma A. Rosengarten 11/30 Patricia Blair 12/1

December 4

Edmon Low 12/2 Gertrude Pearl 12/2 Fannie Schneidman Rosengarten 12/2 Sara Bromberg 12/3 Genevieve K. Ryan 12/4 Dennis James Hammonds 12/5 Clark Davis 12/7 Irene Fisher Sachs 12/7 Molly Levenson 12/7 Irene Sachs 12/7 Greg Lindsay 12/8

December 11

Dr. Stuart M. Denmark 12/9
Ruth Hoffman 12/9
Deanna Pickard 12/9
Herbert Remer 12/9
Bertha Troy 12/9
Isaac Char 12/10
Pearl Farber Stein 12/10
Robert Walder 12/11
Martin Berks 12/12
Harry Solganik 12/12
Carl Hoffman 12/13
Barbara Shackleford 12/13
Jerome Chamovitz 12/15
Dr. Leon Rosenbaum, Jr. 12/15

December 18

Hilda Jacobs 12/17 Dorothy Dicker 12/18 Ruth Rosset 12/18 Mary Francis Bauer 12/19 Lillian Skelley 12/20 Stephen Meyers 12/21 Matilda Moltz 12/21 Melvin Bressler 12/22 Harvey Siegal 12/22 Rochel Turetsky 12/22

December 25

Ruth Alexander 12/24 Sidney Alexander 12/24 Jordan Bettman 12/24 Ronald Bressler 12/24 Patricia Throckmorton 12/24 Bernard S. Haffner 12/25 Ralph Lehman 12/26 Richard Flagel 12/27 Martin Garson Orlins 12/27 David L. Roberts 12/27 Thomas Rosenfield 12/27 Joan Sumers 12/27 Rae Engel 12/28 David Hochstein 12/28 Joan Lehman 12/28 Cecelian Levy 12/28 Sylvia Cohen 12/29



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

By: Billie Taylor In Honor of:

Drs Martha and Martin Jacobs Roberta and Monroe Nair Asher Pachman's Bar Mitzvah

Summer and Eric Pachman

In Appreciation of:

Rabbi Chessin and Temple Beth Or for a professional and meaningful virtual High Holy Day Services Paula and Lee Manders Mary and Bill Meers Linda and Dennis Patterson

In Memory of:

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Iean Levi

Karen and John Granby Louise Verson

Laurie and David Verson

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Thelma Karp

Lorraine Fortner

James Fortner

Lorraine Fortner

Robert Fortner

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Muff and Alan Steinharter Rabbi Janice Garfunkel

Felix Garfunkel

Richard "Dick" Clair

Eva Clair

Phyllis Goldberg

Marsha and Stephen Goldberg

Leo Goldberg

Marsha and Stephen Goldberg

Stella Klein

Ellie and Richard Klein

Dr. Philip Klein

Ellie and Richard Klein

Jacob Orlinsky

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Lillian Orlinsky

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Judy Potasky

Ellie and Richard Klein

Noel Zidal

Lois Wolff

In Appreciation of:

Rabbi's Hebrew Class

Victoria Minor

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of:

Rabbi Chessin and Temple Beth Or for a professional and meaningful virtual High Holy Day Services Annie and Craig Self

In Honor of:

All who have honored me with their prayers, cards, notes and kindness during my recovery

Gary Holstine

Music Fund

In Memory of:

Arthur Maharam

Jan Maharam

Thelma Karp

Jan Maĥaram

Hank Stern

Jan Maharam

Richard Clair Campership Fund

In Memory of:

Richard "Dick" Clair

Eva Clair

Adult Education Fund

Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Maxine Halasz

Arlene Graham

In Memory of:

Gladýs Maharam

Jan Maharam

Oneg Shabbat Fund

In Memory of:

Hank Stern

Arlene Graham

Thelma Karp

Arlene Graham

Noel Zidel

Arlene Graham

Ieffrey Chiger

Arlene Graham



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.

Presidents' Message

As we enter the final months of 2020, many of us had hoped that the pandemic would be behind us and we would all be back to life as it was before. Back in March, it was hard to imagine that Temple Beth Or still would not be holding in-person services and Makor, Party Time events, and our traditional Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch. Those with more knowledge of the course of pandemics warned us that we would face multiple waves, but we hoped the pandemic would have run its course by the fall of 2020. Unfortunately, not so.

So, as we turn to 2021, we want to thank you, our Temple family, for staying with us, working with us, and continuing to support us. For many of us, Zoom meetings, online learning, streaming videos, and staying socially distant has been a new, and sometimes frustrating, way of life. We appreciate your continued patience and support and your participation in helping us continue to make Temple Beth Or a part of your daily life.

We thank our remarkable rabbis, our staff, our teachers, and our many volunteers for their creativity, ingenuity, wisdom, and hard-work. We cannot say enough how much we appreciate the work of our committees.

We welcome our new members who have joined us in these unusual times and we look forward to greeting you in person in the near future.

We hope you will continue to join us for Friday night services via Zoom or Facebook, *Makor*, adult education events, and other ongoing online activities. We hope to see you at the pandemic-friendly Artisan Fair and Brisket Lunch (December 6).

Best wishes for the coming year! John Granby & Karen Lindsay

Counting On A Precedent



Kindness is what we give. At least, that is the lesson that we are taught in the Talmud (b. Sukkah 49b). Our sages say

that *chesed* (kindness) and *tzedakah* (charity) can be compared on three levels, all of which have kindness "winning out" in the end.

- 1. *Tzedakah*, they say, can be performed only with one's money, while *chesed* can be completed with one's money or one's actions.
- 2. *Tzedakah* is given to the needy while *chesed* can be given to both the needy and those rich in blessing.
- 3. They say *tzedakah* is given only to the living while *chesed* can be given to both

the living and the deceased (i.e., the burial and mourning rituals).

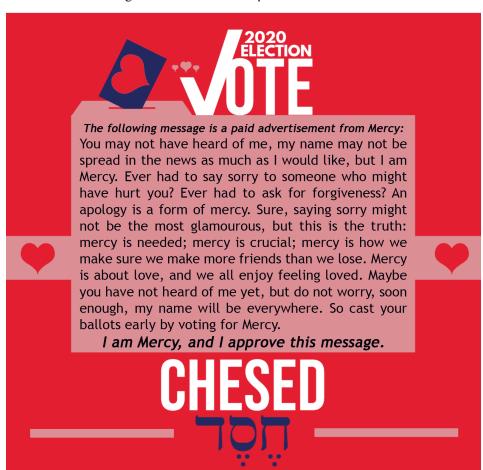
4. Chesed and tzedakah are both values that we hold dear to us in our community.

In fact, in our last Light, we introduced the theme for this semester's Makor - a "Precedential Election." With Rabbi Chessin playing the role of Tzedek (justice – notice the same Hebrew root letters as tzedakah) and me playing the role of *Chesed*, we are bringing to life these two different principles to teach our students the relationship, dichotomy, and need for both charity (justice) and kindness. Small interlude - Tzedek and Tzedakah share a root as Tzedakah can be thought of as just or righteous giving, now translated into English as charity. It should be evident that a Precedential Election is playing off of the theme of our society this year as we go through an election cycle. (As I sit and write, we are still

before our November 3rd election; I know not what the future holds; as you read, you can recall the anxiety that existed for one and all, no matter for whom you pulled the lever). Nonetheless, our *Makor* curriculum focused on these core ideas: Justice, charity, kindness, compassion. All exist within our world, there is room for them all, there is a need for them all, and our students must be exposed to them all so we can help to shape a generation of learners, doers, listeners and leaders that of whom we can all be proud.

It leaves me thinking about the above text from the Talmud. Our sages provided opinion after opinion after opinion, often contradicting each other, leaving room for dissent and argument, memorializing the discussions so that in the future (today), we can still see where variance in our practice might be found. Tzedek, tzedek tirdof - Justice, justice you shall pursue (Deut. 16:20) olam chesed yibneh (Psa 89:3) - the world will be built upon kindness, all of these phrases which can be teased out from our traditional texts are taken in sum, not individually. Our society is built upon an even balance of all of our morals, some of which may be more valuable to one family and others more valuable to another. However, without learning about them all, without exposure to a spectrum of ideas, our students would be left to one-sided conversations. Thus, Rabbi Chessin and I don our costumes on Sunday mornings, using our Zoom backgrounds and sound effects to bring our Precedential Election to life. Chesed and Tzedek may be looking to garner support from our students to win the competition. Still, neither of them disrespect the other but instead realize the importance of working together to create the balanced, just, kind community that we all deserve. B'bracha (in blessing),

Rabbi Benjamin G. Azriel



Curbside Artisan Fair & Brisket Lunch December 6th

Thanks for your patience as we work through these uncharted waters. Who knew 2020 would present so many options for creativity?

Our 2020 Artisan Fair will be virtual. Our Brisket Lunch is Pre-Order Only, and will be delivered curbside on December 6th between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Please use the form on our website to pre-order your Brisket Lunch (don't forget Brisket by the Pound / Chopped Liver by the 1/2 Pound!), *Hanukkah* Candles, Gelt, and Dreidels no later than 12:00 p.m. December 2nd. We are only preparing enough food to fill orders. You may prepay online using your credit card, or prepay to the office by December 2nd. On the day of the event, we will be doing curbside pickup of prepaid orders only.

Pre-orders due by December 2nd, 12:00 p.m. Curbside Pickup on December 6th, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

All Orders Must Be Made In Advance and Pre-Paid.

To pre-order and view our vendor list, please visit: https://templebethor.com/artisan-fair-brisket-lunch-2020/





CARES ACT Provides Incentives for Charitable Giving

The CARES Act, which passed on March 27, 2020, has made giving easier with expanded incentives for non-profits, including Temple Beth Or.

There are new Deductions: Up to \$300 per taxpayer (\$600 for married couples) in charitable contributions. This is available only to people who take the standard deduction (for taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions). It is an "above the line" adjustment to income that will reduce a donor's adjusted gross income (AGI), and thereby reduce taxable income. It is calculated by subtracting the amount of the donation from your gross income. Please note that a donation to a donor advised fund (DAF) does not qualify for this new deduction.

There are new Charitable Deduction Limits: As part of the bill, individuals and corporations that itemize can deduct much greater amounts of their contributions. Individuals can elect to deduct donations up to 100% of their 2020 AGI (up from 60% previously). Corporations may deduct up to 25% of taxable income, up from the previous limit of 10%. Plus, the most exciting news is that this new deduction is for cash gifts that go to a public charity, such as Temple Beth Or. The old deduction rules apply to gifts to private foundations only. If your assets are substantial enough that you can give more than your income this year, you won't lose the deduction for the excess amount. You can use it next year, as has always been the case.

Note: These new limits do not apply to gifts of appreciated stock or donations directly to a DAF.

Required Minimum Distributions have been waived and extended in 2020 for most donors: Required minimum distributions (RMD) that would normally start in 2020 do not have to start until 2021, including distributions from defined benefit pension plans and 457 plans. This change will dampen somewhat the incentive for a donor to make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from their IRA in 2020.

So, donors directing a QCD to a charity this year (up to \$100,000 per individual) will still reduce their taxable IRA balance. This allows taxpayers, itemizers, and non-itemizers alike to direct gifts from their IRA to charities in a tax-efficient manner.

This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. Please consult with your tax advisor regarding your individual circumstances.

Adult Education

Chai Mitzvah Continues Monthly on Zoom

Temple Beth Or is pleased to offer and help underwrite a third *Chai Mitzvah* course. *Chai Mitzvah* is a Jewish engagement program designed to help people grow their Judaism through text study and social action. This year's course explores "how each commandment provides us with beliefs, principles, and standards of behavior which can guide and challenge our identity and behavior." *Chai Mitzvah* class meetings are facilitated by enrollees on a rotating basis. Learning materials are provided via source books designed to develop a framework for meaningful discussion and personal growth.

Dates: First Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom Cost: \$40 (printed materials) or \$18 (PDF materials)

Questions: Contact Jan Maharam at 937-361-8157

Shedding Light on Celebrating Life

You are invited to a presentation, Monday, December 7, 2020, 7-8pm, focusing on the interaction of spirituality and aging. The Adult Education Committee (AEC) of Temple Beth Or is pleased to offer a presentation by Mrs. Bonnie Orlins, MSW and Patty Perry, PsyD, Hospice grief counselors working in Southwestern Ohio. Mrs. Orlins is Jewish and Dr. Perry is Catholic. Both work with adults in their later years.

Although they come from different faith perspectives, the presenters' shared objective is to help others intentionally live and review their lives through the lens of faith, family/others, traditions, and experiences. Please join us. Learn strategies for living well throughout your adult years. Please register online:

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



Tanach Study

We will continue to hold our *Tanach* Study Sessions on Zoom on Saturday, November 14th and 21st, December 5th and 19th. Currently, we are studying the books of Chronicles, the final books of the Hebrew Scriptures. This will wrap up our decades long verse by verse study of the Hebrew Bible. If you were there at the beginning, you may want to call into Zoom to hear the exciting conclusion of our holiest of books. Look for links in the weekly Plan-It Beth Or.



November / December Chai-Lights

Friday, November 13, 6:30 p.m.

Join Rabbi Ben Azriel for a family friendly *Shabbat* Service.

Saturday, November 14, 10:00 a.m.

Tanach Study: Rabbi Chessin and our study group continue to explore the last book of the Bible, II Chronicles. Be there as we finish up this quarter century venture!

Friday, November 20, 6:30 p.m.

Join Mary 'Mahira' Rogers and the Temple Beth Or Choir in worship. Sing your way through the service. Just have candles, challah and wine for blessing.

Saturday, November 21, 10:00 a.m.

Tanach Study: Rabbi Chessin and our study group continue to explore the last book of the Bible, II Chronicles. Be there as we finish up this quarter century venture!

Monday, November 23, 7:30 p.m.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Facebook.

Friday, November 27, 6:30 p.m.

Shabbat Tube

Friday, December 4, 6:30 p.m.

Rock of Ages *Shabbat*: Marc Rossio rocks the house as he and Rabbi Chessin lead a creative and musical *Shabbat* service. Bring your candles, wine and challah.

Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m.

Tanach Study: Rabbi Chessin and our study group continue to explore the last book of the Bible, II Chronicles. Be there as we finish up this quarter century venture!

Friday, December 11, 6:30 p.m.

Rabbi Azriel will welcome *Shabbat* and the second night of Hanukkah. Have your menorah and 3 candles ready along with your *Shabbat* candles, wine, and challah.

Saturday, December 12, 6:30 p.m.

Hanukkah, Havdalah and Hot Chocolate. Join us for a Hanukkah Havdalah as we light up the Temple outdoor menorah and roast marshmallows. Create your most creative Hanukkah mask!

Friday, December 18, 6:30 p.m.

Join Mary 'Mahira' Rogers and the Temple Beth Or Choir in worship. Sing your way through the service. Just have candles, challah and wine for blessing

Saturday, December 19, 10 a.m.

Tanach Study: Rabbi Chessin and our study group continue to explore the last book of the Bible, II Chronicles. Be there as we finish up this quarter century venture!

Friday, December 25, 6:30 p.m.

Shabbat Tube

Friday, January 1, 6:30 p.m.

Shabbat Tube



Hanukkah - Havdalah - Hot Chocolate

Warm up your hands and your hearts as we kindle the Temple Menorah and celebrate *Havdalah* around the camp-fire on the third night of *Hanukkah*, Saturday, December 12. 6:30 p.m. Dress up your mask in *Hanukkah* themes as we will follow Covid social distancing.

Interfaith Thanksgiving 2020

In 1988 our own religious committee chair Steven Alexander initiated south Dayton's first annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service with neighboring churches at our synagogue. Since that time, our celebration has grown to include the Muslim community as well. This year, David's United Church of Christ is virtually hosting our 33rd Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Facebook. Each congregation will contribute prayers, scriptures and thoughts from clergy about our faith traditions' ways of coping in times of COVID.

Please join us Monday, November 23rd at 7:30 p.m. on our Facebook page (facebook.com/TBOdayton) to give thanks with Christ United Methodist Church, David's United Church of Christ, Dayton Mercy Society and St. Charles of Borromeo Parish.





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2020 Virtual Artisan Fair & Curbside Brisket Lunch

Pre-orders due by December 2^{nd} , 12:00 p.m. Curbside Pickup on December 6^{th} , 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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To pre-order and view our vendor list, please visit: https://templebethor.com/artisan-fair-brisket-lunch-2020/