

October 2023

☆ Today...and for Generations ☆

Volume XXXVIII, Issue 9

London for London Commemoration



Ten years ago, I read about a most peculiar reunion. It wasn't a high school or college get-together for graduates. Instead, it was a reunion of Torah Scrolls that were gathered in February 2014 for a Service of Com-

memoration. Fifty years prior, 1,564 damaged and abandoned Czechoslovakian Torah scrolls arrived from Prague to the Westminster Synagogue in London for rescue, repair, and distribution worldwide. The anniversary of the recovery of these holy texts was celebrated that winter with a poignant Torah procession, creative liturgy, and music written by Czech composers who died in the Holocaust.

We at Temple Beth Or are honored to house one of these Czech Memorial Scrolls, and I hope many of us choose to attend the 60th reunion in London this coming February 2024! In honor of the reunion, Cathy Gardner, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton, has created a fantastic trip on January 28-February 5, 2024. Along with other Dayton Congregations, we will journey with our Torah Scroll to Budapest, Prague, and London.

About our Torah scroll: Our Torah #1438 came from a little village called Klatovy, near today's southwest Czech-German border. We don't know the actual origins of our scroll, but we do know that Jews began settling in Klatovy, Southwestern Bohemia, in the 14th and 16th centuries. They were expelled from the area in the 17th century but later returned. A synagogue was built in 1873 and consecrated for the approximately 600 Jewish residents.

In 1939, the German army occupied



Czechoslovakia, and by 1941, all Jewish congregations in Czechoslovakia were ordered to cease operations. The Klatovy Synagogue was pillaged, and the deportations of the local Jews began that year. Deportations continued until November 26-30th, when the remaining Jews of Klatovy and surrounding villages were rounded up in one schoolhouse and sent first to Terezin and later to Auschwitz. Few survived.

Meanwhile, seven Jewish scholars in Prague feared the possible destruction of the Jewish people, so they submitted a plan to the Nazis to save the Jewish ritual and cultural treasures from the now-abandoned synagogues. They supervised the arrival of over 2,000 Torah scrolls, which were warehoused in a damp Michle Synagogue outside Prague. The brave scholars who saved these treasures were deported to Terezin and put to death.

However, they did rescue these scrolls, which went untouched until 1963 when an American art dealer in London noticed them listed in a catalog of Hebraica published by a Czech government-owned bookshop. He contacted the Westminster Synagogue and found

a buyer. On February 7, 1964, two trucks loaded with 1,564 Czech Torah Scrolls arrived at the synagogue, where they were sorted, examined, cataloged, repaired, and sent out worldwide.

When I wrote about the 2014 reunion ten years ago and suggested we plan on attending the ceremony in 2024, one congregant responded enthusiastically: Dave London (z'l). Sadly, he cannot participate in this joyous occasion with his recent passing. But I hope many of us will choose to attend in his memory—a sort of London for London commemoration. We can serve as Dave London's emissaries and bring our Torah back to Europe to celebrate its survival. Then, we will return this beloved scroll to its permanent home in Dayton, Ohio, for our readers, Jews by choice, and *B'nai Mitzvah* to breathe life into its timeless words.

As we mark the festival of *Simchat Torah*, re-rolling the scroll from Deuteronomy back to Genesis, it is an auspicious time to celebrate our own Czech Memorial Scroll and renew our gratitude for the precious legacy in our ark.
Shalom,
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:

Madalyn Ammons, Arlene Graham, Bill Kell, Benjy Klein, Carla Scherr, Ron Solomon, Laurie Verson, and Peter Wells.

The Congregation extends a hearty *Mazel Tov* to:

Drs. Martin and Marti Jacobs on the birth of a grandchild, Xavier Apolinaris Jacobs, son of Jack and Janice Jacobs.

Elaine Bettman on the birth of great-grandson Charles Timothy Hopkins, born to Kyle and Lauren Sweeny Hopkins.

Temple Beth Or alum Rachel Westerkamp on her marriage to Alex White October 7, 2023, in Lyons, Colorado. Rachel is the daughter of Lori and John Westerkamp. The couple reside in Northglenn, Colorado with Blue and Boyd.

Todah Rabba: Thank you very much

Thank you very much to Vicky Heuman and Marni Flagel for reupholstering the Reader's and Torah Reading Pulpits on our bima. They had been fraying and coming loose. Now all are invited to check out the refurbished lecterns!

October 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.

October 6

Margot Marx 10/4/2023
Allan Schulman 10/4/2023
Richard Clair 10/5/2023
Adam Solganik 10/5/2023
Stephen Weckstein 10/6/2023
Stanley Markovitz 10/7/2023
Charles Dietz 10/8/2023
Philip Holstine 10/8/2023
Alma Slotkin 10/9/2023
Eugene Weiss 10/9/2023
Jack Kabakoff 10/10/2023
John Legner 10/10/2023
John L. Reger 10/10/2023

October 13

Mary Louise Dreety 10/11/2023
Daniel L. Leary 10/11/2023
Sonya Fastoff Schwartz 10/11/2023
Gladys Maharam 10/12/2023
Elaine London 10/13/2023
Ruth Wise 10/13/2023
Frank Clair 10/14/2023
William Feitelberg 10/14/2023
Allen London 10/14/2023
Helene Sureck 10/15/2023
Leroy Bloomberg 10/16/2023
Larry Briskin 10/16/2023
Evalyne Halasz 10/16/2023
Henry Nathan 10/16/2023
Louise Verson 10/17/2023

October 20

Sylvia Finkelstein 10/18/2023
Zelda Kleinman 10/18/2023
Sol Scott 10/18/2023
John Self 10/18/2023
Alexander Charles Scott 10/21/2023
Mary Ellen Dietz 10/23/2023
Mary Feitelberg 10/23/2023

October 27

Rabbi Janice Garfunkel 10/25/2023
Veronica Warner 10/28/2023
Carol Denmark Felman 10/29/2023
Thelma Ginsburg 10/29/2023



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

In Memory of:

Radene Goldberg Stump
Audrey Sachs
Martin Dicker
Sue and Ron Nelson
Scott Nelson
Sue and Ron Nelson
Lewis Plotkin
Joann Plotkin
Malcolm Block
Janet and Barry Block
Arthur Layman
Melissa and Harold Guadalupe
Dave London
Ellen Holroyd
Chase Hurst
Jude Cohen
Arlene Graham and Family
Ellen Holroyd
Jane and Alex Briskin
Marsha and Stephen Goldberg
Martha Moody and Martin Jacobs
Dorianne and Korky Katz
Allen Beckerman
Scott Beckerman
Jacqueline Fishman
Jude Cohen
Lori and John Westerkamp
Jerry Sherman
Jan Sherman
Gerhard and Judith Color
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Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

By:

Alex and Lyuda Fishman

In Honor of:

Mimi and Stuart Rose's 10th Anniversary
Mary and Gary Youra
Academic Achievements:
Jay Holland
Gary Holstine
Caryl and Don Weckstein (grandparents of Abbie Frank and Justin Weckstein)
Gary Holstine

In honor of:

Academic Achievements:

Karen and Matt Lindsay (parents of Emma Lindsay)
Gary Holstine
Melissa and Harold Guadalupe (parents of Ben)
Gary Holstine

In Memory of:

Dave London
Mary and Gary Youra
Gary Holstine
Emily and Ryan Snyder
Jacqueline Fishman
Gary Holstine
Tony Char
Gary Holstine
Martin Robins
Annie and Craig Self
Sylvan Holstine
Gary Holstine
Blanche Holstine
Gary Holstine
Kayla Klein
Benjy Klein
For a Speedy Recovery:
Lorraine Fortner
Gary Holstine

Music Fund

In Memory of:

Dave London
Wendy Rachlin and Roger Pankake
In Appreciation of:
High Holiday Music Programming
Melissa and Harold Guadalupe

Campership Fund

In Memory of:

Dave London
Dena Briskin

Building Fund

In Memory of:

Aaron Lauber
Ellen Lauber

Thank you to our Donors!

Pillars

Marni Flagel
Lorraine Fortner
Vicky and Robert Heuman
Martin and Martha Moody Jacobs
Marc Low z'l
Carla Scherr
Jan Sherman

Builders

Marsha and Stephen Goldberg
Pamela and Stuart Merl

Leaders

Felix Garfunkel
Michael Glantz
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Joan and Art Greenfield
Melissa and Harold Guadalupe
Gary Holstine
Yana and Jeffrey Kleinman
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Sandy and Bob Lachman
Sue and Ron Nelson
Renee Peery
Annette Nathan and Marc Gilbert

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Andrea and Gary Abrams
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Linda and Scot Denmark
Wincha and Michael Gelbart
Dale Goldberg and Mark Dlott
Karen and John Granby
Sharon and Israel Guterman
Teri and Michael Halasz
Marilyn Marx
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.

The Meaning of School



I grew up in a suburb outside of Chicago. The Temple our family belonged to was fifteen to thirty minutes

away, depending on the time of day and traffic.

Hebrew school was on Tuesdays and Thursdays for about 90 minutes, and Sunday school was about 2 hours on Sunday mornings. Add in the Friday night services we were able to make it to, a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* now and again, not to mention when I was doing my *Bar Mitzvah* training; it is safe to say I spent a reasonable amount of time either at the synagogue or driving to and fro.

A few high schoolers were teaching aids in the classrooms. In third or fourth grade, I was pulled out of class for “remedial Hebrew time,” which meant I wasn’t doing up to par in my Hebrew skills. I remember going home and swearing I was never going back to that place if they would make me feel dumb. That wasn’t their intention, but it was how I felt nonetheless.

I wasn’t an excellent Hebrew student. Years later, while I was either in rabbinical school or shortly after that, I was back at that congregation when one teacher, who I had for multiple years, remarked how incredible it was that the class clown, up-to-no-good Hebrew student, was, in fact, the only student she had who went on to become a rabbi.

I went to Sunday and Hebrew



school from Kindergarten through confirmation in tenth grade and stayed around for a couple more years as a tutor. I was a youth group director in college and led the high school teaching-aid program.

So, when I decided to create a career in Jewish education, I was clear on one goal: to create positive Jewish experiences for children and adults.

Creating positive Jewish experiences doesn’t necessarily mean doing something Jewish. It doesn’t mean doing something in the Temple, or with Jewish people, or religious or frankly, even Jewish. Creating positive Jewish experiences means having the opportunity to realize that being a part of the Jewish community is, in fact, not dumb.

So, whether it is doing jumping jacks in Levin Hall, teaching the *alef-bet* in a classroom, leading a service, offering a sermon, talking baseball

during snack time, or running into someone in the grocery store -- creating positive Jewish experiences is about feeling the value and importance that Judaism can have in a person’s life.

As school begins this year in *Ma-kor*...my goal is to create positive Jewish experiences for each student and person who finds their way to Temple Beth Or. Being Jewish is everything but dumb, and ever since realizing how wrong it was to feel like that as a kid, it has been a part of my purpose to bring meaningful and positive Jewish experiences to everyone I interact with.

School’s meaning depends on the person, but the least we can do is make it meaningful.

B’shalom,
Rabbi Ben Azriel

Save the Date: Interfaith Thanksgiving



Temple Beth Or will host our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 20, at 7:30 pm. If you would like to contribute food to a festive gathering following the service, please contact the office.



Interested in Jewish history and ritual? Involved in an interfaith relationship? Want to learn more about your Jewish neighbors, friends, or family members? Seeking conversion?

Organized and taught by the rabbis of The Synagogue Forum of Greater Dayton. The course offers an in-depth look at Judaism from Conservative, Orthodox/Traditional, and Reform perspectives along with guest speakers who offer their insights and broaden exposure to the Jewish community. Presented by the Synagogue Forum of Greater Dayton; Beth Abraham Synagogue, Beth Jacob Congregation, Temple Beth Or, Temple Israel; with the support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton.

Intro to Judaism is held once a year between Fall and Spring quarter. Classes are held one night a week.

2023 – 2024 Class Schedule

All classes are on Tuesdays from 7 – 8:30PM

In-person class locations:

Beth Abraham Synagogue (305 Sugar Camp Circle, Dayton, OH 45409), www.bethabrahamdayton.org

Beth Jacob Congregation (7020 N Main St, Dayton, OH 45415), www.bethjacobcong.org

Temple Beth Or (5275 Marshall Rd, Dayton, OH 45429), 937-435-3400, www.templebethor.com

Temple Israel (130 Riverside Dr, Dayton, OH 45405), 937-496-0050, www.tidayton.org

October 24: ZOOM - All rabbis; Introduction to Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Judaism

November 7: Temple Beth Or - Rabbi Judy Chessin - God and Theology: Is belief required to be a Jew/theodicy?

November 14: Temple Beth Or - Rabbi Judy Chessin - Torah: Jewish texts, the life of a verse

November 28: Beth Jacob - Rabbi Leib Agar - *Klal Yisrael* peoplehood

December 5: ZOOM - Israeli Guest Speakers - Zionism and the State of Israel

December 12: Beth Jacob - Rabbi Leib Agar - Jewish History

January 9: ZOOM - All Rabbis - Doing Judaism *mitzvot* (personal observance)

January 16: Temple Israel - Rabbi Karen Bodney-Halasz or Rabbi Tina Sobo - Life Cycle

January 23: Temple Israel - Rabbi Karen Bodney-Halasz or Rabbi Tina Sobo - *Shabbat*

February 13: ZOOM - Guest Speakers - The ABC's of the JCC

February 20: Beth Abraham - Rabbi Aubrey Glazer - Jewish Holidays

February 27: Beth Abraham - Rabbi Aubrey Glazer - Prayer and Liturgy

March 5: ZOOM - Guest Speaker - Antisemitism & the Holocaust

March 12: Beth Abraham - All Rabbis - *Siyyum*

Adult Education

Separation of Church and State: October 8th



From our earliest history principles religious freedom and the concept of separation of church and state has been voiced in the development of the United States. BUT is this still relevant in today's world? Religious freedom exists and is maintained for all Americans, particularly religious minorities, by respecting the constitutional principle of Separation of Church & State. Through education and advocacy Michael Goldman and others from Congregation Beth Adam Cincinnati, push back against the weakening of this separation. To quote James Madison: "Religion flourishes in greater purity

without the aid of government." Come join us in the discussion, hosted by the Adult Education Committee.

To register, call 937-435-3400 or visit: <https://templebethor.com/adult-education>

An Exploration of the Jewish Short Story: October 25th

Please join the Zoom discussion from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Each month's discussion will center on one short story that has Jewish content or is written by a Jewish author. We intend to have fun and learn from each other's understanding of the stories. You are encouraged to register for one session or as many monthly discussions as you would like.



To register, call 937-435-3400 or visit:

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

November 13th: Discovering Ripley, Ohio Tales of Bravery and Empowerment from the Underground Railroad

Join Temple Beth Or Adult Ed on a field trip to beautiful Ripley, Ohio, a village of 1,500 on the Ohio River 60 miles east of the Cincinnati. There we will have guided tours of both the abolitionist John Rankin's House— a National Historic Landmark that USA Today picked as Ohio's "hidden gem"—and the house of John Parker, a former enslaved man who risked himself and his family repeatedly to help others escape. Our guides to the village will be Betty Campbell, a Ripley local who has studied and cherished her town's stories for years, and Mary Ann Olding, an architectural historian who has researched Ripley and who mesmerized the Adult Ed group visiting the Freedom Center in Cincinnati in July, 2023.

A generous donor is covering the costs of this program for up to 20 people; we will need several drivers.

To register, call 937-435-3400 or visit: <https://templebethor.com/adult-education>

Music is Prayer

In March, Adult Education at Temple Beth Or began something new. Each month, the Committee provides a link to a musical selection related to Judaism that we find compelling. We hope you will take a few minutes each month to listen. Go to <https://templebethor.com/adult-education> to access the music.



October's musical selection is a lively and upbeat *Simchat Torah*, which occurs in October. One can't help but clap, join in, or even dance with this Jewish Men's Choir's rendition!

Additionally, the Committee is interested in your feedback to this initiative. Please take a few minutes to email the Committee with your thoughts about any selections you listen to ruth.schumacher@wright.edu. Thank you. And an extra special thank you to those of you who have emailed me.

October Chai-Lights

Wednesday, October 4, 6:30 p.m. In Person

Men's Night in the *Sukkah*: Join us in the *Sukkah*. Bring a side dish to share, Temple will provide Chicken. To RSVP or if you have dietary restrictions, email mark@gruenbergfamily.net

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

"Rock of Ages" musical *Shabbat* with Marc Rossio and Rabbi Judy Chessin.

Saturday, October 7, 10:00 a.m. In Person & On Zoom

Apocryphal Study: Join Rabbi Chessin and our study group as we finish IV Maccabees in *Sukkah* (weather permitting). Please bring a brunch offering.

Sunday, October 8, 11:30 a.m. Live in Levin Hall

Join us for a *Simchat Torah* experience: Rollin' Rollin' Rollin' Torah and Sushi. Please see back cover for more details.

Sunday, October 8, 1:00 p.m. Live in Cafe Or

Separation of Church and State: See Page 6 for info.

Friday, October 13, 5:30 p.m. In Person

Food and Family *Shabbat*: Come for Dinner and continue with a *Bereshit*, new beginnings Service with Rabbi Judy Chessin.

Friday, October 20, 6:30 p.m. In Person & Streaming

Join the Choir directed by Mary 'Mahira' Rogers and Rabbi Judy Chessin in a musical *Shabbat*.

Saturday, October 21, 10:00 a.m. On Zoom

Apocryphal Study: Begin the book of Tobit with Rabbi Chessin and study group.

Wednesday, October 25, 7:00 p.m. On Zoom

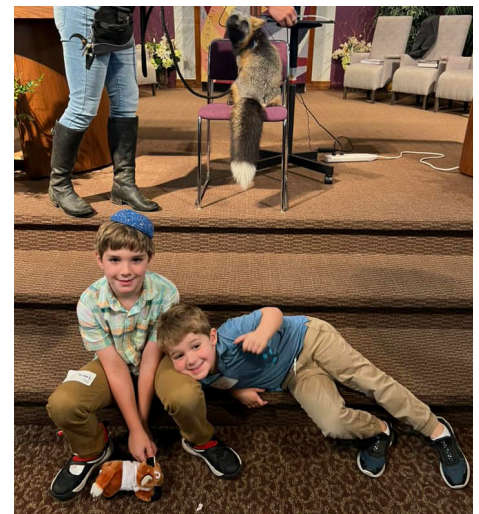
An Exploraation of the Jewish Short Story: Please see page 6 for more details and to register.

Friday, October 27, 6:30 p.m. On Zoom

Zoomagogue – *Shabbat* Zoom (only) Service with Rabbi Ben Azriel.

Saturday, October 28, 10:00 a.m. On Zoom

Join Mary 'Mahira' Rogers and Renee Peery for a musical *Shabbat* experience.





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Simchat Torah & Sushi

Rollin', Rollin', Rollin'!

Temple Beth Or *Simchat Torah* Celebration!

Sunday, October 8th in Levin Hall
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Roll your sushi lunch &
unroll the Torah for Simchat Torah.**

Open to all ages.



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



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