

ANSHE EMETH NOVEMBER E-NEWS

Shabbat Service: Friday, Nov 18, 7:30 PM with Rabbinic Intern Anna Burke (see her message below).

In-person or Zoom. (Link at the end)

Misha B'erach:

Neil Schmidt, Mitzi Saeman, David Ferrell

Message from Rabbinic Intern Anna Burke:

When I visited Piqua a few weeks ago, we discussed the challenges we face that cause us to procrastinate or put off the things we know we need to do. Sometimes we fear confrontation, so we delay difficult conversations with loved ones or coworkers. In other moments, we know that we should wait for the right time to complete the task on our to-do list, like waiting for the end of the season to rake the leaves in our yard. Personally, I tend to procrastinate because I am so concerned with “getting right” whatever I am doing the first time that I try. I value strategic thinking and planning when I am tasked with something, which can sometimes hold me back from even starting the process. In our conversation about *Parashat Noach*, we acknowledged that we are like Noah in many ways, searching for our “*tze min hateva*” moment, our time to step off the metaphorical ark and dive into the work we know we must complete. So, what can we do to “get off the ark?”

In the upcoming Torah portion, *Parashat Chayei Sarah*, Abraham sends his servant to find a wife for Isaac. When the servant finds Rebecca and she agrees to return with the servant to marry Isaac, her family asks that Rebecca stays with them another ten days before departing. In response, the servant says, “Do not delay me, now that Adonai has made my errand successful. Give me leave that I may go to my master” (Genesis 24:56). Abraham’s servant acts with zeal, a trait in Judaism called *zerizut*. Our tradition teaches that *mitzvot* should almost always be performed with *zerizut*, promptly, and with an eager heart. In the case of Abraham’s servant, he shares an important reason for his alacrity: because God had made his pursuit successful. Abraham’s servant was supported in his quest to find a wife for Isaac, and God had provided him with the opportunity to complete his task; he knew not to take the possibility of completing his mission for granted and thus responded with *zerizut*.

When we are struggling with checking the boxes off of our to-do lists or starting and completing a project, the Jewish tradition compels us to act with *zerizut*, meaning zeal or alacrity. Mussar, the practice of Jewish spiritual discipline, invites us to recognize the character traits we need to work on and to actively choose to better ourselves, and in turn, the world around us. In opting to practice *zerizut* when we are feeling fearful or lazy about our work, we give ourselves the chance to succeed not only

in the work but in our own growth. We may even find the passion we had been lacking. Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato, a prominent Mussar scholar, wrote that “Just as zeal can result from an inner burning, so can it create one. That is, one who perceives a quickening of his outer movements in the performance of a [*mitzvah*] conditions himself to experience a flaming inner movement, through which longing and desire will continually grow.” Challenging ourselves to not only complete our work but to begin it promptly, and with enthusiasm, provides us with the chance to become *more* ready, *more* enthusiastic, and *more* fulfilled in our future endeavors. I look forward to discussing Mussar further next Friday during our service with each of you. Shabbat shalom!

Yahrzeits for November:

Robyn Friedman, Dorothy Kastner, Edna Kastner Feingold, Arthur Litchfield

With Grateful Thanks:

In memory of Ken Barcus (continued from Oct.)

Susan & Jeff Bargemann

Cemetery Fund:

Mitzi Saeman

Legacy Fund:

Mitzi Saeman

General Fund:

Cory & Sharon Lemmon

Barbara & Dick Bollenbacher

Marcia Stayer

Reesa Schachter

Lois & Rich Foster



2022 - 2023 Introduction to Judaism

Beginning November 1, all classes are on Tuesdays from 7 – 8:30 PM

Cost: \$36 per person/couple

This year's Introduction to Judaism will have a mix of in-person and virtual classes.

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.

[https://jewishdayton.org/program/intro-to-judaism/?ct=t\(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_3_27_2020_16_48_COPY_01\)&mc_cid=bb598e4b59&mc_eid=610f8a1132](https://jewishdayton.org/program/intro-to-judaism/?ct=t(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_3_27_2020_16_48_COPY_01)&mc_cid=bb598e4b59&mc_eid=610f8a1132)

JOIN IN PERSON OR ZOOM.... ZOOM LINK HERE:

To Join Zoom

Service: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7643723318?pwd=STJIR1drNXFoL29XRGw0L1AzMThxQT09>

Or go to your Zoom App and put in this information:

Meeting ID: 764 372 3318 Passcode: 0092

Or simply dial by your location: 646 876 9923 US (New York)

When prompted, put in for the Meeting ID: 764 372 3318 and push #Passcode: 0092 and p