



Monthly Message From Rabbi Bahar

What is the connection between AI and Judaism? Is there one or should there be one?

This is a conversation which is beginning among rabbis, thought leaders and lay leaders not just in Judaism, but among other religious denominations. Currently below is a list of ways that Artificial Intelligence is already starting to impact Judaism.

There is :

1. A Haggadah supplement which was written by ChatGPT on Haggadah.com
2. Iliff School of Theology now has an AI Institute where it is building a sustainable future for humans and machines. This institute is a graduate Methodist theological school in Denver, Colorado
3. Rebbe.IO – The World's First AI Rabbi. This is a Chabad Rabbi.
4. Sefaria – An Online Library for Jewish Sacred Text is starting to integrate ChatGPT to assist in collating sources.

The world that we live in is changing very quickly. And how artificial intelligence will further impact us is, as of yet, unknown. There are individuals who are concerned about what this increased use of artificial intelligence can mean for us as human beings. In 2022, 700 top academics and researchers working in artificial intelligence were surveyed regarding the chance of human extinction or severe disempowerment as a result of AI. The survey results indicated that they predicated a 10% chance of human extinction.[1]

Large language models, which is how AI was built are biased. "A 280 billion parameter model developed in 2021 shows a 29% increase in elicited toxicity over a 117 million parameter model considered the state of the art as of 2018." [2] Meaning that, as of now, AI is full of our bias and toxic thought patterns.

A New York Times reporter asked one of the testers of ChatGPT 4 what thoughts he had about the program. He said: "that testing GPT-4 had caused the person to have an "existential crisis," because it revealed how powerful and creative the A.I. was compared with the tester's own puny brain." [3] ChatGPT 4 was able to pass the bar exam, Biology Olympiad, ace Advanced Placement exams including AP art history and biology as well as getting a near perfect score on the SAT's. It is, furthermore, become a joke for late night TV comedians. What is deeply chilling, though, are the "emergent behaviors" which go beyond what the creators thought the AI would be capable of doing. As a large language model, it is able to predict the next word in a sentence. Creepily, though, it is also able to spontaneously learn new code.

Yuval Harari highlights that before companies are allowed to share drugs on the marketplace they must undergo rigorous safety checks, biotech labs the same for new viruses. Yet AI has already entangled the lives of billions of people since it has been released only a few months ago. What makes it impressive, for Harari, "the ability to manipulate and generate language whether with words, sounds, or images. In the beginning was the word. Language is the operating system of humor and culture."

The ability to understand the Bible was a closely guarded secret. Those who possessed it when it was first developed were the intellectual elite. Language, historically, was always understood to possess great power. The movie franchises "the Terminator" and subsequently "the Matrix" already assumed that human society would be controlled by AI, which would physically map onto our brains. Yet what Chat GPT offers is a verbal control. It uses social media, the illusion of increased efficiency, and the idea that we are in a golden age and that we need to jump on before we miss out - to get people hooked. All of which scream – "Danger Will Robinson."

Yet as a rabbi, I also see the potential. I too can see how it can make different aspects of my job more efficient, I believe that having chat bots may help initially when people are curious about basic questions regarding Judaism. This year, as we gather together for Passover, I decided to write part of the Hagaddah using ChatGPT. I am curious if you can figure out which parts. Perhaps it will help bring us together, perhaps it will be another tool that gets in the way of human connection - only time will tell.

¹ <https://aiimpacts.org/2022-expert-survey-on-progress-in-ai/>

² https://aiindex.stanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022-AI-Index-Report_Master.pdf

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/15/technology/gpt-4-artificial-intelligence-openai.html>



April Yahrzeits

April 7 (April 1 - April 7)

Nathan Dayan - 4/1/2021
 John Howard Starr - 04/02/1944
 Jacob Harris - 04/03/1891
 Dorothy Isaacs Gans - 04/04/1993
 Helene Sacks Torch - 04/05/1997
 Morris Finley - 04/06/2013

April 14 (April 8 - April 14)

John Marks - 04/08/1897
 Isaac Block - 04/08/1945
 Pinkus Happ - 04/09/1901
 Julius J. Waxelbaum - 04/12/1911
 Allison H. Dodson - 04/12/1978

April 21 (April 15 - April 21)

Julius Mack - 04/15/1928
 Walter F. Dannenberg - 04/15/1966
 Milford Purcel - 04/15/1969
 Rowena Fiveash Wood - 04/15/1999
 Peggy Strauss - 04/16/1901
 Joseph Oxman - 04/16/1955
 Abraham Michael Bernstein - 04/16/1999
 Christine Rene Cotè - 04/16/2011
 Marian Bloch Hecht - 04/17/1994
 Isadore Putzel - 04/18/1961
 Frank R. Happ - 04/20/1952
 Sam Guthman, Jr. - 04/21/1920

April 28 (April 22 - April 28)

Frances Morris - 04/22/1917
 Max Morris - 04/22/1918
 Harry Shapiro - 04/22/1952
 Estelle Newman - 04/22/1975
 J.M. (Mickey) Lubel - 04/22/2004
 Louis Julius Roobin - 04/23/1925
 James Arthur Wood - 04/24/1969
 Yetta Cohen - 04/24/1976
 Philip Flowers - 04/24/2016
 Susie Fleischer - 04/25/1965
 Esther Fried - 04/25/1972
 Theodore Fried - 04/26/1939
 Rabbi Jacob Voorsanger - 04/27/1908
 Moses Jack Wood - 04/28/1944

May 5 (April 29 - May 5)

Lena Roobin Minkoff - 04/29/2004
 Laura Marie Newman - 04/30/1997
 Gustave Bernd - 05/01/1919
 Rabbi Elkan Cohen Voorsanger -
 05/01/1963
 Kathryn Cave - 05/01/2001
 Lala Oberdorfer - 05/02/1995
 Harris Lubel - 05/03/1961
 Morris Aaron Mink - 05/03/1992



"BLOW OUT THE CANDLES: APRIL IS A MONTH OF CELEBRATION! WISHING ALL OUR TBI FAMILY BORN IN APRIL A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!"

Caren Read - April 1
Nina Blemmer - April 4
Nancy Kaplan - April 5
Evan Wade - April 5
Leslie Bashuk - April 10
Taylor Bashuk - April 10
Lana Salis - April 12
Janet Brown - April 13
Nancy Frank - April 17
Diana Alemán - April 19
Cole Kirshner - April 19
Jamie Downing - April 21
Marianna Kaufman - April 22
Glenn Rosen - April 24
Ciara Kirshner - April 29
Lise Kaplan - April 30



CHEERS TO LOVE: APRIL IS THE MONTH OF ANNIVERSARIES! MAZEL TOV TO ALL OUR MEMEBERS COMMEMORATING A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH!

Sigfried & Lise Dayan - April 14
Brian & Kelly Wolk - April 26

sisterhood

CRADLES OF THE REICH
 BY JENNIFER COBURN



SISTERHOOD
BOOK CLUB

CRADLES OF THE REICH

Sunday | 1 PM
 April 30
 Temple Beth Israel

Join us in person or on Zoom!

Author
 Jennifer Coburn

TBI Outreach

Request for two Macon Outreach volunteers from TBI to serve a cafeteria-style lunch with two CSI volunteers to those in need at Mulberry Methodist from 10:45 a.m. - 12 noon on the third Thursday of each month: Jan. 19th 2023, Feb. 16th, March 16th, April 20th and May 18th.

If you can volunteer or have any questions for any of the 2022-2023 dates please **contact Marlene Humphry, TBI Social Action Chair, at mhumphry@cox.net.**

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

community
Yom Hashoah

Join Us
April 16th
4PM
AT TBI

Commemorating the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust

Guest Speaker, Katy Matello
University and Adulfi Education Coordinator
Museum of History and Holocaust Education, Kansas State University

*This Exciting Event is in conjunction with Congregation Shirey Israel

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

CRADLES OF THE REICH
BY JENNIFER COBURN

SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB

CRADLES OF THE REICH
Sunday 11 PM
April 30
Temple Beth Israel
Join us in person or on Zoom!
Author Jennifer Coburn

26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

16 Community Yom
HaShoah
Observance
4PM

23 Board Meeting
1 PM

30 Sisterhood
Book Club 1 PM

7 Passover Seder
5:45 PM

14 Kiddush Club
5:15PM
6:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat

21 Kiddush Club
5:15PM
6:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat

28 Kiddush Club
5:15PM
6:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat



Temple Beth Israel
892 Cherry St
Macon, Georgia 31201



Visit our website via
this QR Code

**SNAPSHOT STORIES: OUR FAVORITE
CAPTURED MOMENTS FROM LAST
MONTH!**

April Awakenings: Don't Miss These
Exciting Upcoming Events at TBI!

Passover Seder

April 7th

5:45PM

Temple Beth Israel

Join us for a Passover Seder experience filled with tradition, community, and celebration! Our Seder will feature Passover cuisine and rituals of the holiday. Come together to retell the story of our ancestors' journey from slavery to freedom, and share in the joy and wonder of Passover.

Community Wide Yom HaShoah Observance

April 16th

4PM

Temple Beth Israel

Gather with us to observe Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), which commemorates the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the largest act of resistance to Nazi aggression during the Holocaust. We will have a guest speaker, Kato Matello, University and Adult Education Coordinator from Kennesaw State University's Museum of History and Holocaust Education.

