



Rabbi Moshe Adler

Black Fire on White Fire

Our Sages teach (Midrash D'varim Rabbah, 3:12): God betrothed Israel at Sinai, as it is written, "and the LORD said to Moses, 'Go to the people and get them ready [*v'kiddashtam*, which can also mean "betroth them"]'" (Exodus 19:10). Who wrote the document of betrothal? Moses. From where in Scripture do we know this? It is said, "Moses wrote down this Teaching [*torah*]" (Deuteronomy 31:9). And what reward did God give him? A radiant face, as it is written, "Moses was not aware that the skin of his face was radiant" (Exodus 34:29). ...When did he acquire the radiant face? When he wrote the Torah. How did this come about? Resh Lakish said: The scroll that was given to Moses was made of a parchment of white fire, and was written upon with black fire and sealed with fire and was wrapped with bands of fire, and while he was writing it, he wiped his pen on his hair, and as a result he acquired a radiant face.

itself), it neither sings nor stains his hair, and instead leaves his face radiant.

In conceiving of the Torah as God's document of betrothal of Israel, this *midrash* is elaborating on the prophetic motif of God as the husband of Israel. No matter how often the "wife" proves unfaithful, her "Husband" never divorces her: "Thus said the LORD: Where is the bill of divorce of your mother whom I dismissed?" (Isaiah 50:1). On the contrary, He assures her of a day when "I will espouse you forever: I will espouse you with righteousness and justice, and with goodness and mercy, and I will espouse you with faithfulness; then you shall know the LORD" (Hosea 2:21-22).

To say that the document of God's betrothal of Israel is made of divine fire is to say that, as long as God desires the marriage to continue, nothing can dissolve it or change its terms. This fact is reflected in the law that, no matter how far a Jew has strayed from the Torah and from God, even to the extent of converting to another religion (including one that purports to be a new and "completed" version of the Torah), the door is always open for return. The returnee need not convert to Judaism, since, although he may have left Judaism, it has never left him. (The Ashkenazic practice of having the returnee immerse in a *mikveh* before a *bet din* (continued on page 6)

The Bible often represents God's presence as a fire, one that threatens those who disrespect God but sheds benign radiance on those who revere Him. In this fascinating *midrash*, Moses is depicted as God's faithful scribe, so engrossed in his work that, rather than bothering to grab a cloth to wipe his pen, he runs his pen through his hair. Because the "ink" he is using is black fire (a divine mystery in



Shavuot
June 7-9
ו' - ז' סיון
מועדים
לשמחה

Beth El - The Heights Synagogue builds vibrant Jewish community.
We welcome all in participatory, traditional, egalitarian worship and learning.



**Jack Valancy,
President
(through June 12)**

**QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?
COMMENTS?
COMPLAINTS?**
Please do not
hesitate to contact
President by e-mail
president@bethelheights.org
or home telephone
(216) 932-5964

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have your current
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Send changes to
info@bethelheights.org
or call her at
(216) 320-9667

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communications@bethelheights.org
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President's Perspectives, June 2011

Time, Money, and Love

*"In this world, there is a kind of painful progress.
Longing for what we've left behind, and dreaming ahead."*

- Tony Kushner, *Angels in America: Perestroika*

Synagogues, like all other organizations, pass through life cycles. Why do some congregations thrive for centuries, like Congregation Shearith Israel, the oldest in the United States, established in 1654? Why do others disappear, often absorbed by larger congregations?

What are the significant influences on how a synagogue's life cycle develops? My first hand observations and personal experience suggest three essential ingredients to synagogue longevity: time, money, and love. A synagogue thrives when its members invest not only their time and money, but when they love one other as they travel their individual and collective spiritual paths.

We had "fire in the belly" when we started Heights Synagogue in the summer of 1998. We had high energy, and invested a lot of our time getting organized and getting together with our new friends at Temple Beth El, who also invested the proceeds from the sale of their synagogue. We worked hard hammering out a joint operating agreement that specified, among other things, the nature of our worship services.

We began worshipping together at the Mayfield JCC that fall, sitting on metal folding chairs. In those early days, we were figuring out how to do things. We had a joy of experimentation. Service leaders were free to approach worship as they preferred, introduce their favorite melodies, and generate *ruach* (spirit). We were patient

with one another. Several commented that it felt like leading services in camp, just doing your best without fear of being harshly judged. We enjoyed a lightness of being. We joked that we would one day be fighting about the melody to *Adon Olam*. We smiled when a curmudgeonly senior member would complain, "That's not the way the Jewish people do it!"

We set about building our vibrant Jewish community with gusto. We put schedules in place to set up for Shabbat services, lead services, and to shop, prepare, serve, and clean up after kiddush. We welcomed all to worship with us on the High Holy Days and throughout the year. We threw parties with live entertainment and door prizes. We soon had the resources to retain Rabbi Moshe Adler as our "*posek*" (religious authority), to teach and write, to preside at worship services and life cycle events, and to provide pastoral care.

We set and achieved more ambitious goals. We decided that we needed a home of our own. Many people searched for many months, evaluating several potential locations. We understood that buying, renovating, and operating a building would require much more money than we had raised to date – and much more of our time.

We significantly increased our membership dues. We contributed hundreds of hours of physical labor cleaning, repairing, and re-decorating our building. *(continued on page 3)*

(Time, Money, and Love, continued from page 2) We moved to our synagogue in September 2003 and started raising money to fund the construction of our accessible main entrance. We contributed generously and were fortunate to receive an essential grant from the Cornelia Schnurmann Foundation.

Despite our efforts, by the time of our new main entrance's Grand Opening in June 2005, we did not have enough money to stay afloat for long. A generous grant from an anonymous benefactor helped us keep our heads above water.

In 2006, we raised money to replace our sanctuary windows. In 2007, a severe storm damaged our synagogue's roof, flooded our social hall, and knocked out our elevator. We raised money for repairs.

Having our own synagogue has made it more comfortable for us to worship on Shabbat, as well as holiday worship throughout the year. Having our own synagogue has also made it possible for us to develop and expand our Adult and Family Education programs. Our Learner's Service meets in our library, our Lunch and Learn programs convene in our social hall. Learn with the Rabbi sessions occasionally take place in the comfort of our sanctuary. Our Scholar in Residence programs occupy both our sanctuary and social hall. Our library contains hundreds of books on Jewish themes.

Our Teen Torah Study group studies and davens in a corner of our social hall, and our young adults return there for snacks after field trips. Our Junior Congregation congregates in our space; our Tot Shabbat kids play and sing in our babysitting room. Our members host more intimate programs, such as our long running Short Stories by Jewish Authors Reading and Discussion Group and our Movie Nights, in their homes.

Our kitchen caters our Shabbat kiddushes and luncheons, our Kabbalat Shabbat and holiday dinners, including Sukkot, Purim, S'leichot, and Tikkun Leyl

Shavuot, not to mention our Pre-Passover Pasta Palooza. Our kitchen also caters sit-down luncheons and dinners to celebrate simchas, breakfasts for our Members' Annual Meeting, Board retreats, our Pancake Breakfast, and snacks for a variety of programs.

Our new Board and others have started the process of improving the way we do things. Our committee chairs and program planners are preparing for the coming year. Our members are organizing themselves to do the work ahead, including recruiting and retaining members and raising money. Soon-to-be-President Scott Wachter and our Board will tell us more at our Members' Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 12, (9:00 AM – minyan; 9:30 AM – breakfast; 10:00 AM – call to order).

Beth El – The Heights Synagogue is a labor of love shared by many. It has been my privilege to serve our community since its founding, most recently as President. As I conclude my service, I leave you with the following:

- Let us fulfill our vision of a community that welcomes all, in which every voice is heard, by working together in good faith to make our worship services more accessible to those seeking to strengthen their faith.
- Let us fulfill our vision of a participatory community by being more generous with our time. Many hands make light work, and we will get better results.
- Let us fulfill our vision of a community of abundance, rather than scarcity, starting with an adult conversation about money. Let us give from the heart.
- Finally, let us fulfill our vision of a compassionate community, by being more tolerant, more patient, more loving with one another as we travel our individual and collective spiritual paths.

*“You will find, my friend, that what you love
will take you places you never dreamed you'd go.
— Tony Kushner, Angels in America: Perestroika*

Thanks to Our Board

Beth El - The Heights Synagogue is a labor of love shared by many. We run our congregation ourselves. We conduct services, present educational programs, and produce social events. We maintain our synagogue, stay in touch, raise money, and manage our finances. We run a gourmet kosher kitchen. We take care of each other in mourning, illness, and dire circumstances.

Our Board members work together to guide our congregation. At our Members' Annual Meeting on June 12, we will thank departing and continuing Board members for their service, and welcome new Board members. We will also thank nominating committee members Robin Dubin, Sharona Hoffman, Marilyn Malkin, and Scott Wachter.

Please do not hesitate to contact interim President Scott Wachter or our Board members with your questions, comments, concerns, or complaints. Their email addresses and telephone numbers appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Departing Board members

➤ **Lisa Berusch** completes her service as co-Chair of our Ritual committee. Lisa has served our community in countless ways, including as **Beth El –The Heights Synagogue's** first President.

➤ **Merry Lugasy** completes her service as Chair of our Catering committee. Merry has been a pillar of our community since the early days of Heights Synagogue. Merry worked closely with Executive Chef Marvin Palevsky to prepare and serve gourmet kosher food at our kiddushes, programs, parties, and meetings.

➤ **Menachem Shoham** completes his service as an At Large Board member. We appreciate Menachem's knowledge, perspectives, and sense of fairness in his approach to matters before the Board.

Continuing Board members

➤ **Leon Adato**, continues as Secretary. Leon maintains our web site and email communications. He presents thoughtful and humorous d'verei torah and essays. We appreciate his articulate enthusiasm.

➤ **Bill Bruml** continues as Chair of our Building committee. Working closely

with Superintendent Marvin Palevsky, Bill brings his knowledge and attention to detail to assure that our building is well maintained and in good repair. We appreciate his sensitive perspectives on matters before the Board.

➤ **Sherry Ball** continues as Chair of our Adult Education committee where she actively collaborates and facilitates program planning. We appreciate her perspectives on matters before the Board.

➤ **Jeff Halpern** continues as an At Large member. He also continues to advise our Teen Torah Study group and other young adult activities and heads our Israel Study Scholarship committee. We appreciate Jeff's hard work.

➤ **Sharona Hoffman** continues as an At Large Board Member. We appreciate Sharona's clear thinking, direct approach, and conscientiousness in proposing the Shanker Motion* at each Board meeting.

➤ **Ari Klein** continues as Chair of our Family Education committee. He has been a dedicated leader of our Junior Congregation for many years. We appreciate Ari's practical and professional approach to matters before the Board.



➤ **Alan Lerner** becomes an At Large Board Member after serving as our Treasurer for the past two years. We appreciate Alan's thoughtful analysis and stewardship of our finances, as well as his perspectives on matters before the Board.

➤ **Cindy Mittman** becomes our Chesed committee Chair after serving as Communications committee Chair. Cindy has been a reliable member of our mailing group, and we appreciate the enthusiasm she brings to matters before the Board.

➤ **Miriam Palevsky** continues as Chair of our Ritual committee. Miriam, along with co-chair Lisa Berusch, Sue Klein, Nina Sobel, Rabbi Adler and others, take care of all matters ritual. Miriam has led services since our early days, and was active in our Rethinking Worship group.

➤ **Adam Probst** continues as an At Large member. With Adam's guidance as co-advisor, our Teen Youth Group has blossomed, with many active field trips throughout the year. We look forward to his active participation in our Board's deliberations.

➤ **Eran Shiloh** continues as our Development Chair. He recently formed our "phone tree supreme" to enhance communications by providing information about our programs and listening to our members needs and wants. We appreciate Eran's perspectives and his empathetic perspectives on matters before the Board.

➤ **Scott Wachter** becomes our interim President after years of dedicated service as Chair of the Membership and Chesed Committees. Scott has served our community in various capacities since our formative days. His initiatives include organizing minyanim, coordinating our Pancake Breakfast and Pre-Passover Pasta Palooza, and producing our Comedy Night. Scott responds to the needs of our members and encourages friends to join our community. We look forward to his leadership of our vibrant Jewish community.

Incoming Board members

➤ **Margaret Conti** joins our Board as Communications Chair. She brings professional skills and experience developed during her career in the advertising industry. Margaret got to work immediately upon her nomination to the Board. We welcome Margaret's creative energy.

➤ **Robin Dubin** rejoins our Board as an At Large member. Robin previously served as our Secretary and established our congregation's Comprehensive Calendar on the Internet. We welcome the return of Robin's precision, orderliness, and good cheer.

➤ **Yevgenia Probst** joins our Board as Treasurer. She brings her professional experience as a C.P.A. and her personal interest as an active member, including as co-advisor of our Teen Youth Group and planner of our S'udat Purim and Mystery Party. We welcome Yevgenia's initiative and energy.

➤ **Jamie Saunt** joins our Board as Chair of our Membership committee. Jamie's commitment to Beth El – The Heights Synagogue runs deep, as she grew up in Temple Beth El, where her father Jim (Z"l) was a pillar of the community. Jamie leads worship services and reads Torah and haftorah. We welcome Jamie's commitment to strengthening our community by recruiting and retaining members.

It has been my privilege to serve our community since its' founding, most recently as President. **Beth El – The Heights Synagogue** is truly a labor of love shared by many.



*Shanker Motion, a motion to adjourn, originated by Professor of Law Emeritus Morry Shanker.

Wanted: Ushers!

Join our group of friendly Shabbat greeters.

If you can commit to one Shabbat morning on a regular basis (once a month, or once every other month, fifth Shabbat of the month, etc.), we'd love to have you.

Training provided at your convenience.

Contact
Karen Kugelman,
216-932-5562
or yahrzeits@bethelheights.org.

Thanks, Jack!

The date: Sometime in the Fall of 1997 or thereabouts

The place: The Kugelmans' living room

The event: A meeting (one of many, many held at many other places, too) to discuss the possibility of forming a new synagogue in the Heights.

I remember folding chairs, warm laughter, probably cookies. Baby Sonny nursed and napped. Adam played with blocks. We were all friends, connected by past or present synagogue membership and in other ways, and all of us were enthusiastic, stirred by the idea of bringing about something new.

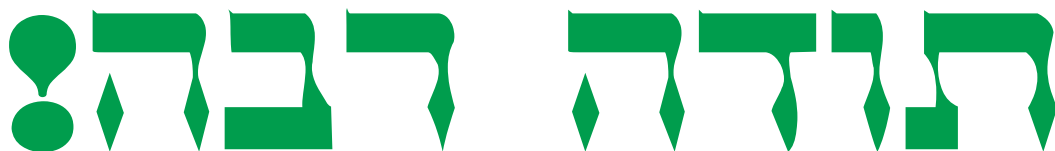
The talk went round and round. Should we incorporate? Could we survive as an entity? Should we look for a partnership, maybe with an already-existing shul? (Brilliant idea!) Finally, almost as an afterthought, we decided that it was finally time to throw some money into this venture – an assessment, I seem to remember, of \$25.00 per family, to fund postage and the like. And it was Jack Valancy who spoke up and said, “Well, I’ll volunteer to collect those funds and keep track of them.”

And Jack never looked back after that. For the fourteen years since then, Jack has lived and breathed Beth El – The Heights Synagogue. All his considerable skills – managerial, organizational, diplomatic – have been brought to bear and tested, and he has steadfastly persisted, year after year. We wouldn’t be where we are today without Jack.

And it has clearly been a labor of love for Jack. Over the years, he has surveyed one Beth El scene after another – a Purim, a pancake breakfast, the dedication of the new entrance – and said to me with beaming satisfaction, “Isn’t this great! Look what we made happen!”

Now that Jack is laying down the burden of being our longest-serving president, we can all return that love, and say to him “Kol ha kavod – because of you, look what we made happen.”

~ Karen Kugelman



A Tribute to Jack

One can write pages upon pages of accolades all worthy of Jack and his eight years as president of **Beth El – The Heights Synagogue**. The monthly columns that provided insight into our community and society as a whole and the announcements Jack faithfully read week after week at services – these are just a few examples of his ongoing support to BE–THS. His presence at nearly all of our functions (even before he became President), his willingness to be the first to extend a hand to an unfamiliar face at a Kiddush luncheon, his welcoming all who attended our High Holiday services by standing outside our building, regardless of the weather, are other instances where Jack has been a true force. But as part of the BE–THS Board, I was able to learn more about Jack and all the other work he did for BE–THS. What Jack did for BE–THS behind the scenes, is known only by a few and deserves mentioning.

Hardly a Board meeting went by when Jack would not share a wealth of information about BE–THS-related emails and phone calls he had handled during the days and weeks between meetings. Mind you, this information was never presented to the Board in the manner of a complaint, but rather with a drive to search for alternatives and solutions. Few people totally appreciate or realize the incredible amount of work Jack did, on a daily basis, for our community. We're talking about hours of his time, often sacrificing his own personal business. (What he smilingly called, "that pesky day job of mine.") This includes attending funeral services of members or their relatives, visiting those who are ill, listening to people's concerns about their family and friends or about the Synagogue, and being in contact with city officials and others who had questions. The countless meetings Jack held at Tommy's over breakfast about BE–THS, the number of impromptu phone calls he fielded in the night and the day are other instances. And let us not forget Blanche, who, like Jack, kept BE–THS at the top of her priorities, much as if the shul were a family member.

Jack's personal blood, sweat, tears and time don't do justice to the amount of energy and effort he has provided BE–THS. His leadership has kept us moving in the right direction, at times through some difficult waters.

And Jack's allegiance to BE–THS doesn't end with his stepping down from the presidency. Both Blanche and Jack will continue working on moving BE–THS forward. Jack, along with Eran Shiloh, will be heading up the Development Committee, while Blanche will continue to maintain our membership database (critical BE–THS information that needs consistent updating) while attending to other important BE–THS matters.

No speech, article or tribute does justice to what Jack has done for our Synagogue. His legacy will be a continuous blessing for our community.

~ Scott Wachter

BE-THS Teens Elect New Board

Congratulations to the newly elected board of The Beth El Teens:

President: Shani Gelles

Treasurer: Noam Gelles

Secretary/Communications Chair: Aviva Klein

Social Chair: Isaiah Pressman

Positions are effective starting June 2011 for a one year term.

All teens are invited and encouraged to come to the programming meeting on June 5 at 7:00 PM to help plan the next programming year.

Teen Torah Study Assistants Sought

Jeff Halpern seeks volunteers to help with the Teen Torah Study program. If you are interested in helping out please let him know what role(s) and what date(s). He seeks help with the following:

Facilitator: While a teen leads, make sure everyone participates and encourage discussion.

Discussion leader: Prepare a one hour discussion and lead it with the teens.

Mussaf leader or teacher: Looking for people to teach new tunes for mussaf, lead a teaching session about various mussaf prayers, or occasionally lead mussaf yourself at the teen session. This could be a perfect opportunity for anyone who wants practice leading.

Jeff is also looking for **someone to help out long term with organizing and scheduling** associated with the teen Torah study.

If you are able to help out with any of these tasks, please email Jeff Halpern at pghsocrates@gmail.com.

(**Black Fire on White Fire**, *continued from page 1*) and declare his renunciation of the other religion and his acceptance of the Torah is not a conversion but a public statement of homecoming.)

Some of the radiance on Moses' face, which came from his faithful contact with the Torah, can be seen in the eyes of any Jew who maintains faithful contact with the Torah and its commandments. Each morning before the

Sh'ma, we pray, "Make our eyes light up with Your Torah and our hearts cling to Your *mitzvot*."

Like any good marriage, this one lasts the whole year through. So catch some rays this summer (while protecting your skin), catch up on your reading, and make time for Torah learning and *mitzvah* observance.

After all, we don't want to take the One we love for granted.

Annual Free Yiddish Concert: The Sisters of Sheynville

The Workmen's circle annual Free Yiddish Concert at Cain Park will be Thursday, June 23, at 7:30 PM. The program is terrific: the Sisters of Sheynville will rock your socks off! No tickets needed.

The Sisters of Sheynville were founded by Isabel Fryszberg, and Lenka Lichtenberg, two talented vocalists who share the Eastern European Jewish family experience and a driving passion for their music. This soulful group revitalizes Yiddish swing and klezmer music from the golden age of the mid-20th century fused with contemporary jazz. Inspired by the Barry Sisters' Yiddish swing vocals of the 30's and 40's, this high-energy, all-female sextet features intricate three-part harmony supported by a crack ensemble of some of Toronto's leading jazz and klezmer instrumentalists. In memory of Eugenia and Henry Green, Presented by Workman's Circle, this concert is free and open to the public; no tickets are needed. For more information, call 216-381-4515, e-mail wcircle@sbcglobal.net, or go to <http://www.workmenscircle.org/news.htm> . Don't miss it!

Short Stories by Jewish Authors Reading and Discussion Group

Jewish Sea Stories?

Yes – Jewish Sea Stories!

“Short stories by Jewish authors” is certainly a literary niche unto itself – but Jewish sea stories? We hardly knew what to expect (after Jonah, that is), but were completely intrigued with the range of watery tales that was offered in *Jewish Sea Stories* (Jonathan David Co., Inc., 1985), a collection by Samuel Sobel, editor, that was suggested by member Teri Tomberg. The venues ranged from a Jewish privateer leading ocean battles against the British during the War of 1812 to a Jewish U.S. Army captain’s survival in the ocean during WWII; rival neighborhood swimming competitions between the Litvaks and the Galicians in 1930s Brooklyn, emigres defecting by ship from Europe – sometimes to America, sometimes to Palestine, a Jewish cook in the U.S. Navy – all exciting, engrossing, and ripe for discussion. The final story, “Caine Mutiny – Court Martial Chapter” (Herman Wouk) – was so powerful that SBJA members were unanimous in wanting to have another look at the 1954 film. We viewed it together on May 15 at the Beachwood Library – another satisfying experience our group affords.

Editor Sobel was actually Rabbi Samuel Sobel, Ed. D., D.D., captain, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy retired. He had a distinguished military career. He died in 2007. We definitely recommend reading his *Jewish Sea Stories*.

Short Stories by Jewish Authors Reading and Discussion Group’s next meeting date/time/location to be announced. Contact Sondra Jacobs, sondrajacobs@sbcglobal.net or 216-397-1481 for information.

Take a Summer Course at Siegal

Hebrew This Summer at Siegal College

A variety of short and intensive courses in Modern and Classical Hebrew at all levels morning and evening hours.

Rabbi Adler to Teach Summer Course at Siegal College

Rabbi Moshe Adler invites you to join him for a five-week summer course at Siegal College, entitled “Three and a Half Rebels: the Korah Narrative.”

Korah was Moses’ cousin, who staged a rebellion against him in a bid for the High Priesthood. We’ll close-read the story and consider the question: Were Korah and his faction champions of the people, battling religious elitism and nepotism, or were they political opportunists manipulating the people for their own advancement?

All biblical passage are studied from the original Hebrew and discussed in English, with a view to how vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and style advance meaning.

Call Siegal College for information at 216-464- 4050 or online: www.siegalcollege.edu



Deliver Your Very Own Dvar!

We have a number of dates/parashat open for D'verei Torah in the coming months. Claim a parasha for your very own!

June 11th

Parasha
B'ha'alotecha

June 25th Parasha
Korach

July 9th Parasha
Balak

July 23rd Parasha
Matot

Please contact
Nina Sobel, 216-
795-1137 or via
e-mail at
nrsol1223@lycos.com,
for further
information
(such as the
verse numbers,
narrative),
or to let her know
what parasha/
parashiot you
would like
for your very own,
this summer.

NEWS FROM BETH EL

חדשות

Refuah Sh'lema to:

- Kimberly Carr
- Margaret Conti
- Marty Gelfand

רפואה שלימה!

Condolences to:

- Alan Lerner and family, on the death of Alan's brother, Ralph Lerner.

ביחום אבלים

Yasher Koah to:

- Sharona Hoffman, who was voted Teacher of the Year by the first year students at CWRU Law School.

Mazel Tov to:

- Rabbi Moshe and Nil Adler, whose daughter-in-law, Rabbi Julie Pelc Adler, was recently appointed as spiritual leader of Aitz Hayim, a Center for Jewish Living, which is a post-denominational synagogue in Glencoe, Illinois <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glencoe,_Illinois> . She will start her new job in July, leaving her current position as Hillel director of Santa Monica College in California.
- Leon Gabinet and Laille Gabinet Z"L, on the birth of a great-grandson, Shimon Ezra Kroo, born April 23. Other great-grandparents are Emil and Lucia Kroo. Proud parents are Josh and Danielle Kroo. Grandparents include Ira Kroo and Katie Gabinet-Kroo..
- Adi and Judith Gerblich on the upcoming marriage of their son, Jonny, in Israel. After his Bar Mitzvah, Jonny used to be the tenth man on Friday nights at Beth El Synagogue. He moved to Tel Aviv three years ago, and works in a start up company, "come2play." His fiancée is a "Sabra," Daphna Ogen, who works in a marketing company. A June 28 wedding in Tel Aviv is planned.

מזל טוב!

Thanks for contributions to:

- Rabbi Moshe and Nili Adler, in memory of their parents, Yehudah and Nehamah Schultz-Shalit Z"L, and Max and Clara Adler Z"L.
- Bruce and Judie Amsel, in memory of Bruce's father, Adolph Amsel Z"L, and Judie's mother, Rae Beckenstein Z"L.
- Bruce and Judie Amsel, in thanks for aliyot.
- Bill and Carol Bruml, in honor of Frank and Jeanette Buchwald's 50th wedding anniversary and in honor of Jamie Saunt and Mick Miller's marriage.

תודה!

- Frank and Jeanette Buchwald, to the Simcha Kiddush fund in honor of Jeanette's April birthday.
- Geoff and Katie Claussen, in thanks for teens' pre-Pesah cleaning.
- Charlotte Price
- Bela and George Fischer, in honor of son Emil's graduation from Binghamton University.
- Hope and Jay Fromson, in memory of Abe Fromson Z"L.
- Adi and Judith Gerblich, in honor of Frank and Jeanette Buchwalds' 50th wedding anniversary.
- Laura Gooch and David Kazdan
- Claire and Matthew Lee, in honor of son Josh's graduation from Case Western Reserve University.
- Joe and Lila Newman, in memory of Lila's sister, Florence Schlinger Z"L.
- Joe and Lila Newman
- Blanche and Jack Valancy

Thanks for Kiddush sponsorship to:

May 21 –

- Jamie Saunt and Mick Miller, in honor of their aufruf that day and their forthcoming marriage.

May 28 –

- Marty Gelfand and Sherry Ball, in memory of Marty's father, Ernest Gelfand Z"L, and in honor of the dedication of his memorial plaque that morning.
- Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles and Irv and Julie Auerbach, in honor of Frank and Jeanette Buchwald's fiftieth wedding anniversary.

תודה!

Thank you to readers of Shir Ha-shirim on Shabbat Hol Ha-moed Pesah:

- Nili Adler
- Miriam Palevsky
- Laura Rabinowitz
- Blanche Valancy

תודה!

Thanks for May newsletter mailing help to:

- Dahlia Kutnik
- Cindy Mittman
- Larry Mittman
- Ditte Wolin

תודה!

Thanks to David and Teri Tomberg for enlarging our library by removing an unneeded cabinet. Our Learners' Service participants appreciate the more spacious meeting room!

CALENDAR, JUNE-JULY 2011

5771 אייר / סיון

SATURDAY, MAY 28, AFTER SERVICES –

- **Kiddush will be dually sponsored by Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles and by Irv and Julie Auerbach** (Jeanette's brother and sister-in-law) in honor of Frank and Jeanette Buchwald's fiftieth wedding anniversary.
- **Marty Gelfand and Sherry Ball** are also sponsoring, in memory of Marty's father, Ernest Gelfand Z"l, and in honor of the dedication of his memorial plaque this morning.
- **Monthly Simcha Kiddush** – Join us as we celebrate all of the happy events that have occurred in May.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, ABOUT 10:30 AM – **Learners' Service:** Wrap-up for the year.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 7:00-9:00 PM – **Beth El Teens' Planning Meeting.** All teens are welcome to come, as we make our plans for next year's activities.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 8:40 PM – **Tikkun Leyl Shavuot** begins.

תקון ליל שבועות

Prepaid reservations required if you plan to partake of the dairy dinner. See flyer for details.

8:39 PM – Candle-lighting (Candles may be lit at shul.)

8:40 PM – **Nili Adler:** *Sacred and Secular in Magazine Ads of 1950s Israel.*

9:40 PM – Ma'ariv, followed by holiday dairy dinner (advance reservations required)

10:30 PM - **Rabbi Moshe Adler:** *The Golden Calf Narrative as Judaism's Master Story of Fall and Reconciliation*

11:30 PM - **Rabbi Geoffrey Claussen:** *Standing at Sinai Amidst All of God's Creatures: How Receiving the Torah May Help Make Us Less Like Animals and Help Us Attend to the Needs of All Living Beings*

12:30 AM - **Dr. Alan Lerner:** *Fathers and Sons in the Book of Genesis: What Do We Learn from Our Founders and Their Family Life?*

1:30 AM - **Mark Davidson:** *Contemporary Musar Thought: Recent Writings by Rabbi Ira Stone*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9 – **Shavuot**

שבועות (ו' - ז' סיון)

9:15 AM – **Shavuot Shacharit** (morning service) with Hallel.

9:40 PM – Candle-lighting (at home)

THURSDAY, JUNE 10 – **Shavuot**

9:15 AM – **Shavuot Shacharit** (morning service), with Hallel, the book of Ruth, and **Yizkor**.

זכור

9:40 PM – Havdalah (at home) (“ha-gafen” and “ha-mavdil” only)

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, AFTER SERVICES – **Graduates' Kiddush** – We will honor all of our members and their children, grandchildren, and other relatives, who have graduated (at any level) this spring.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 9:00AM TO 12:00 NOON – **Members' Annual Meeting**

9:00 AM – Minyan

9:30 AM – Breakfast

10:00 AM – Annual Meeting call to order

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, AFTER SERVICES – **Monthly Simcha Kiddush** – Join us as we celebrate all of the happy events that have occurred in June.

SATURDAY, JULY 30, AFTER SERVICES – **Monthly Simcha Kiddush** – Join us as we celebrate all of the happy events that have occurred in July.

Congratulations, Graduates!

מזל טוב ! יישר כוח !

- **Rabbi Geoff Claussen** received his Ph.D. in Jewish Thought from the Jewish Theological Seminary.
- **Emil Fischer**, son of Bela and George Fischer, graduates from Binghamton University, with a major in English.
- **Alexander Kushner**, grandson of Enid and Irving Kushner, graduates from Skidmore College with a B.A.
- **Josh Lee** graduates from Case Western Reserve University; he majored in Computer Science and Mathematics and will soon begin work with Google in Chicago. Josh is Abigail Lee Halpern's brother.
- **Marissa Palevsky**, daughter of Marvin and Miriam Palevsky, graduates from the Cleveland Institute of Art with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, majoring in Photography.
- **Elana Berusch** daughter of Lisa and Russell Berusch, graduates from Cleveland Heights High School. She plans to attend Ohio State University, in the Honors program, studying Food Science, in the fall.
- **Natasia DaSilva**, granddaughter of David and Teri Tomberg, graduates from high school in Warwick, NY. She will attend Queens College next year, majoring in English.
- **Rachel Davidson**, daughter of Mark and Adina Davidson, will graduate from Shaker Heights High School and Akiva High School this spring. She will attend Oberlin College in the fall, where she plans to major in psychology and minor in biology, or vice-versa.
- **Adam Kugelman**, son of Harvey and Karen Kugelman, graduates from Fuchs Mizrahi High School. He will attend yeshiva at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel during 2011-12 and then New York University.
- **Tali Lugasy**, daughter of Merry Lugasy and Nissim Lugasy, graduates from Cleveland Heights High School with Honors. She will attend Ohio State University in the fall.
- **Sophie Shiloh**, daughter of Eran Shiloh and Caren Shiloh, graduates from the Shaker Heights High School. She will start her college career at Ohio State University this fall.
- **Maya Tomberg**, granddaughter of David and Teri Tomberg, graduates from Cleveland Heights High School. She plans to attend Ohio University in the fall.
- **Shani Gelles**, daughter of Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles, graduates from 8th Grade at the Gross Schechter Day School. She will be a freshman at Cleveland Heights High School this fall.
- **Noah Sissoko**, grandson of Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin, graduates from The Nueva School in Hillsboro, CA, and has been accepted for high school to the Menlo School in Atherton, CA. Noah celebrated becoming a Bar Mitzvah at Peninsula Temple Shalom in Burlingame in April.

Yahrzeits, June and July 2011

Mollie Davis	28 Iyar	Herman Brody	27 Sivan
Rachel Barazone	28 Iyar	Ida Abrams Lewis	28 Sivan
Bessie Stashower Fredman	29 Iyar 5726	Penina Bloom	30 Sivan
Anna Weinberger	29 Iyar	Adele Libman	30 Sivan
Clara Kord	29 Iyar	Ethel Neuger	30 Sivan 5770
Isaac Genuth	29 Iyar	Ian S. Miller	1 Tammuz 5746
Elka Genuth	29 Iyar	Norma Siff	2 Tammuz
Goldie Lederer	29 Iyar	Gertrude Greenberg	4 Tammuz 5754
Ernest Gelfand	29 Iyar 5759	Max S. Brown	5 Tammuz
Donna Williams	29 Iyar	Max Eisenbert	5 Tammuz 5727
Rachel Leah Tavill	1 Sivan	Morris Greenstein	6 Tammuz
Anna Krasny	2 Sivan	Hyman Kirschner	6 Tammuz
Anna Gutentag	2 Sivan	Pauline Lipoff	7 Tammuz
Celia Jacobs	3 Sivan	Sally Noll	7 Tammuz 5733
Sadie Rocker	3 Sivan	Norton Noll	8 Tammuz
Violet Saunt	4 Sivan	Jaqueline Bruder Zucker	9 Tammuz 5728
Anna Davidson	4 Sivan	Sam Math	9 Tammuz 5727
Abe Morris Abelkop	4 Sivan	Bernard David Friedlander	11 Tammuz 5733
Louis Mayzel	7 Sivan 5745	Norman Halpern	12 Tammuz
Reuben Schutz	7 Sivan	Nancy Jean Hall Landis	12 Tammuz 5766
William Citron	9 Sivan	Samuel Lederman	15 Tammuz 5737
Clara Newman	10 Sivan	Elsie Frank Birkner	17 Tammuz
Adolph Stern	11 Sivan	Blume Zavelowitz	17 Tammuz
Esther Frumker	11 Sivan	Leon Ballonoff	18 Tammuz 5763
Arnie Swertloff	11 Sivan	Rose Schenkelman	18 Tammuz 5725
Anna Miliniski	12 Sivan	Sara Gabinet	19 Tammuz
Naomi Wolin	12 Sivan 5764	Esther Zavelowitz	19 Tammuz
Henry Lipoff	14 Sivan	Rose Maremont	20 Tammuz
Jennie Zavell	15 Sivan	Jeffrey Landis	20 Tammuz
Max Naiman	15 Sivan	Pearl Siegler	22 Tammuz
Minnie Russack	16 Sivan 5745	Goldie Malamud	23 Tammuz 5726
Jacob Haskell	17 Sivan	Siegfried Dick	24 Tammuz 5724
Louis Noll	18 Sivan	Abe Kaplan	24 Tammuz
Max Krasny	18 Sivan	Irene Friedlander	24 Tammuz 5728
Wendy Kushner	19 Sivan	Ann Bergmann Manson	24 Tammuz 5766
Nathanial Starkman	19 Sivan	Laille Gabinet	25 Tammuz 5764
Ann Shalwitz Bloom	19 Sivan	Isaac Keller	25 Tammuz
John Samuels	19 Sivan	Fannie Kritzer	25 Tammuz 5735
Harry Rock	19 Sivan	Tillie Bertman	28 Tammuz 5740
Samuel Booker	20 Sivan	Morley Glin	28 Tammuz 5736
Frieda Gavurin	20 Sivan	Harry M. Newman	29 Tammuz 5726
Sarah Horwitz	21 Sivan	Harry Soliton	29 Tammuz 5721
Joseph H. Klein	23 Sivan		
Robert Sheafe Gooch	26 Sivan 5765		
Sadie Strayer	27 Sivan		



Memorial Plaque

Space remains available on our new memorial plaque.

Each bronze name plate has room for three lines of text; you will be able to preview the design before it is cast in bronze.

Donation for each name plate is \$324, (Chai², or \$18 x \$18).

If you have questions or need a copy of the form, contact

Karen Kugelman,
216-932-5562

or yahrzeits@bethelheights.org.

TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT

Join us in celebrating the Giving of the Torah with food for body and soul!

Tuesday, June 7, 2011 ~ Erev Shavuot

Our *tikkun* is designed for those of you who like to learn with friends, but also need to grab a little shut-eye. As in past years, we will study after a brief Erev Shavuot service and delicious dairy meal, and continue studying late into the night – but not too late; we can go home and get some well-deserved sleep. We reconvene at 9:15 AM, Wednesday, June 8, for Shavuot morning services.



Schedule:

8:39 PM – CANDLE-LIGHTING

8:40 PM – NILI ADLER: *Sacred and Secular in Magazine Ads of the 1950s in Israel.*

MA'ARIV AND HOLIDAY DAIRY DINNER (ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)

10:30 PM - RABBI MOSHE ADLER: *The Golden Calf Narrative as Judaism's Master Story of Fall and Reconciliation*

11:30 PM - RABBI GEOFFREY CLAUSSEN: *Standing at Sinai Amidst All of God's Creatures: How Receiving the Torah May Help Make Us Less Like Animals and Help Us Attend to the Needs of All Living Beings.*

12:30 AM - DR. ALAN LERNER: *Fathers and Sons in the Book of Genesis: What Do We Learn from Our Founders and Their Family Life?*

1:30 AM - MARK DAVIDSON: *Contemporary Musar Thought: Recent Writings by Rabbi Ira Stone*

If you would like to come for the Shavuot dairy meal, the cost is \$15.00 per person. Please send checks to the synagogue by June 1 or RSVP to the synagogue at 216-320-9667.

Yes, we are coming to the festive Shavuot dairy meal, Tuesday, June 7, 2011.

Name _____

Phone number _____

Number of: adults attending _____

Total amount enclosed (\$15.00 per person) _____

Please send checks to the synagogue by Wednesday, June 1.



BETH EL
The Heights Synagogue

3246 Desota Ave., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Beth El –The Heights Synagogue builds vibrant Jewish community.
We welcome all in participatory, traditional, egalitarian worship and learning.

The 33rd Annual Workmen's Circle Free Yiddish Concert
IN MEMORY OF EUGENIA AND HENRY GREEN



Sisters of Sheynville

NO TICKETS NEEDED

Thursday June 23, 2011
7:30pm

Cain Park
Evans Amphitheater

Cain Park is a production
of the City of Cleveland Heights

Pre-concert entertainment 6:30pm,
on the Terrace by
the Workmen's Circle Klezmer Orchestra



call 216-381-4515 or visit at www.workmenscircle.org

אן אונטער פון יידישע מוזיק און געזאנג

(An evening of Yiddish music and song.)