



Rabbi Moshe Adler

## Eat Your Bread with Joy

The Torah (Deuteronomy 16:13-15) ordains: After the ingathering from your threshing floor and your vat, you shall hold the Feast of Sukkot for seven days. You shall rejoice in your festival, with your son and daughter, your male and female slave, the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow in your communities. You shall hold a festival for HaShem your God seven days, in the place that HaShem will choose; for HaShem your God will bless all your crops and all your undertakings, and you shall have nothing but joy.

The Torah (Numbers 29:35) further ordains: “On the eighth day you shall hold a formal gathering [*atzeret*]; you shall do no weekday work.” The Talmud (Sukkah 48a) establishes that the joy mandated for the seven-day festival of Sukkot extends to the separate eighth-day festival [*shmini atzeret*] as well.

In short, we are to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem (“the place that HaShem will choose”), where we will dwell in a *sukkah* for seven days and offer up altar offerings in the Temple. We are to stay over for an additional day and offer up altar offerings. Throughout the eight days we are to rejoice.

But can people realistically be commanded to feel an emotion? One either feels it or one does not. The commandment to feel

a particular emotion, therefore, entails performing a certain action that is designed to engender that feeling. For example, the commandment to love one’s fellow means that we are to treat our fellow in a loving way. Similarly, the commandment to love God means that we are to meditate on God’s creations and, awed by their beauty and complexity, love the Creator. The same principle applies to the commandment to “rejoice in your festival” and “have nothing but joy”: there is an action that will engender that joy. What is that action?

The context makes it clear: When you are on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, “you shall rejoice in your festival...and you shall have nothing but joy.” When you have offered up the offering of wellbeing, and you and your family are partaking of its meat and wine, you will feel the joy of visiting God’s earthly palace and sharing a sacred meal with God.

Our Sages (P’sahim 109a) discuss the question of how a man fulfills his duty to enable his family to rejoice on the festival. One opinion maintains that rejoicing on a festival means enjoying what people in a given locale generally associate with festivity; in the talmudic period it was wine for men, and festive clothing for women. The second opinion maintains that only the meat of the festival (*continued on page 3*)

מועדים  
לשמחה



Moadim  
l’simcha

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



**Sherry Ball,  
President**

## President's Perspectives, October 2014

# Shul, Sukkah, and So Much More

As we get ready to build our *sukkot* this new year, we might take a moment to contemplate the *sukkah* as a metaphor for how the important things in our lives are constructed. The *sukkah*, with the parts that come together more or less just right for our holiday gatherings, represents the way our shul building and our congregation, in all their imperfections, perfectly culminate in a physical and spiritual home.

Our aging building presents many challenges and despite all those challenges I assert that it is the perfect building for our congregation. Over the past year we have seen how our building serves practical, historical, and philosophical functions. We are fortunate that we have a comfortable space where we can gather for Shabbat, holiday services, and *simchas*. Many visitors come for services at least once a year, to reminisce about former congregations and services. Our cornerstone display honors the memory of Rose Mandel. Our presence in this building is a testament to our commitment to the Heights neighborhood.

Our building is a myriad of spaces with five roofs, all held together with strong materials: wood, brick, nails, mortar, tar, and shingles. But as we have seen, they are vulnerable to time and the elements. All the maintenance takes a tremendous amount of work. We are fortunate to have so many committed members who are generous with both time and money.

Sometimes we take the building for granted. When all the parts are working well together and little extra work is needed, we come for services and have a safe place to gather. But when the parts stop working as they should – such as the roof, which keeps water outside the building – then we really notice how important each part is. We realize that if we don't replace a piece of the building when needed, we can incur damage to the whole building.

Our congregation is every bit as diverse as the spaces of our building and is held together with traditions and shared beliefs which also must be maintained – and sometimes refurbished – to remain strong.

Similarly, each of our members is important to the whole of our congregation. We each make valuable contributions, even when it is just to help us maintain a critical mass within our membership in order to continue the mission of our shul.

We invest in our community by giving of our time and talent. It is a costly but worthwhile investment. Replacing a roof is expensive. Our members give generously to make our building function. But as our building must stay together, including all of its different parts, so must our congregation. As we build our *sukkah* this new year, it is a good time to take stock of what we have, what we still need, and how to best build, maintain, and nurture our whole community.

**QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?  
COMMENTS?  
COMPLAINTS?**  
Please do not hesitate to contact the President by e-mail [president@bethelheights.org](mailto:president@bethelheights.org) or home telephone (216) 371-8827

**HELP US  
STAY IN TOUCH!**  
Please be sure we have your current contact information. Send changes to [info@bethelheights.org](mailto:info@bethelheights.org) or call (216) 320-9667

**KEEP UP WITH THE NEWS!  
JOIN THE  
BE-THS LISTS!**  
Send an e-mail to Mick Miller, [mick@mickmill.com](mailto:mick@mickmill.com), if you need help with signing up.

**E-MAIL NEWSLETTER:**  
If you'd like to get the pdf e-mail version, contact [news@bethelheights.org](mailto:news@bethelheights.org)

### *Our Apologies to Stephanie Gordon and her family.*

The Gordon family sponsored Kiddush on September 20, in memory of Stephanie's husband and their father, Chester Gordon Z"l, but the sign announcing their sponsorship was inadvertently left off of the Kiddush table.

# A Roof Over our Heads

We need a new roof over our heads – no doubt about it. More than one, to be truthful. There is a full explanation of the need for a replacement main roof, and of some of the decision-making process, on page three of the September newsletter (downloadable from [www.bethelheights.org](http://www.bethelheights.org)). This is just an interim report:

Heights Roofing has been contracted to replace the main roof on the synagogue. The Energy Star shingles we chose were on back order, but should be here soon, and Heights Roofing anticipates being able to do the job around the end of September. They are fully aware of the Holy Days schedule through the end of Sukkot, and will work around that.

There was also leakage, with some interior damage, from the section of flat roof that is over the west side of the Sanctuary and Social Hall this spring. We had it patched during the summer, but it leaked again during the week of September 1. Warren Roofing patched the roof again on September 9. The heavy rain on the night of September 10 tested those patches, and we saw no evidence of further leaks. While it is holding for now, this roof is at the end of its life. We should replace it this fall.

Eran Shiloh and Marvin Palevsky have done a heroic job of keeping up with the interior repairs to the water damage: in addition to all of the other prep for Grace Bloom's Bat Mitzvah the weekend of September 13, they were up on ladders, mudding walls and painting. Twice. Please thank them for their efforts!

Ilene Gertman reports that the matching fund campaign, to pay for the roof repairs, is going well. We still have not fully covered the cost of these jobs, but we are getting there! Your contributions will be much appreciated, and will help keep us dry!  
~ Bill Bruml, House and Operations



*(Eat Your Bread with Joy, continued from page 1)* sacrifice affords the true joy – that of dining with God in His own house – and that when there is no Temple, we make do with wine, which at least “cheers the heart of man” (Psalms 104:15). The general practice has been a melding of both opinions: we rejoice on the festival by enjoying meat (or whatever functions for the person as meat) and wine, and we wear festive clothing. It's the best we can do, and is therefore acceptable to God.

It is similar, in this respect, to Passover, when we are commanded to eat the paschal lamb in Jerusalem while on pilgrimage and to rejoice over our God-given freedom. Now that there is no Temple, and the paschal lamb can no longer be eaten, the *mitzvot* that are a part of that offering are no longer mandated by the Torah: there's no *mitzvah* to eat *maror* or to tell the Passover story as an explanation for why we observe these rites on this night, because we aren't observing them any more.

To prevent the paschal lamb feast, and all that went with

it, from disappearing, our Sages constructed the seder. They reinstated the eating of *maror* and the telling of the Passover story, as well as the drinking of four cups of wine and the reciting of *Hallel*. The seder isn't the paschal lamb feast, but it's the nearest thing to it that we can achieve, and is therefore acceptable to God.

If there is, as the Bible (Ecclesiastes 3:4) says, “a time for weeping and a time for laughing,” Sukkot is the classical example of a time for laughing – not the raucous laughter of victory over Haman, but the heartfelt laughter of inner joy and peace. That's why Sukkot and Sh'mini Atzeret are referred to in our liturgy as *z'man simhatenu*, the season of our joy.

The right food and drink at the right time helps engender the joy of the season. “Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do” (Ecclesiastes 9:7).

*Hag sameah!*

~Rabbi Moshe Adler

# Beth El celebrates Simhat Torah by Honoring our Kallat Torah, Blanche Valancy



Blanche Valancy is a founding member of Heights Synagogue and Beth El-The Heights Synagogue. Arriving as a sixteen-year-old transplant from the east, she put down deep roots in Ohio, graduating from Cleveland Heights High School, Miami University, and the Case Western Reserve University School of Applied Social Sciences.

Blanche lives with her husband of almost 43 years, Jack, in Cleveland Heights. Their son, Zev, and his fiancé, Adam, live in Chicago with Myra the greyhound.

Most of her professional career, Blanche was a pediatric social worker at Metro Health Medical Center. Her intimate involvement with the health and lives and deaths of others led Blanche purposely to choose to take on a series of mundane but important tasks throughout the life of BE-THS.

Blanche has answered the BE-THS telephone and handled email inquiries, coordinated High Holy Day ticket distribution, functioned as the “database queen,” helped edit and proofread the Newsletter and flyers, and coordinated synagogue mailings for many years. She has helped in the kitchen with food preparation and cleanup, set up the “shul-in-a-box” several times a month when we were davening at the Jewish Community Center, sweated with other members readying our building for occupancy and for special events, provided chesed, served on the Membership and Communications Committees, read during services and delivered d’vei Torah, and has given general support to the President and other Board members throughout the last sixteen years.

Blanche is active in the greater community, including serving as chair of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland and supporting Dobama Theatre’s Marilyn Bianchi Kids Playwriting Festival. She is dedicated to water aerobics, as well!

After all these years, Blanche is retiring from most of her congregational roles. In recognition of this, Blanche will be the Kallat Torah this Simchat Torah.

*Photo by  
Jack Valancy*



# Beth El celebrates Simhat Torah by Honoring our Kallat B'reshit, Carol Bruml

Carol Bruml moved all over the country, as a child, following her father's jobs, but considers Cleveland Heights to be "home," since she lived there from age three through fourth grade (at Oxford Elementary), and returned for high school at Cleveland Heights High.

After she graduated from Heights, Carol attended Swarthmore College, in Swarthmore, PA, where she earned a BA in Zoology, followed by an intensive program at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, where she earned a BS in Nursing. Throughout her career as a nurse, Carol worked primarily in Orthopedics and Podiatry at Kaiser Permanente.

Carol and her husband, Bill, met in sophomore English class at Heights High, and began dating during their senior year, when they were lab partners in second-year Chemistry. They went off to separate colleges, he to M.I.T. and she, to Swarthmore, but kept the relationship alive via snail mail, and infrequent, expensive phone calls and visits. They were married a year after college, in 1972, by Rabbi Alan Greene of Temple Emanu El, where Bill's parents were founding members.

Bill and Carol spent three years in Canton, OH, but were glad to move back to Cleveland. They purchased their "starter" home on Middlehurst Road, in 1976... where they still reside.

Carol and Bill have two daughters: Deborah, her wife, Sarah E. Bruml, and their 15-month-old son, Milo, live in Shelburne Falls, MA; Deb is primarily a full-time mom, right now. Sarah K. Bruml is a speech language pathologist, whose house is in Buffalo, NY, but who has been doing travel assignments for the past year; she is currently doing a three-month stint in Cooperstown, NY.

Carol began her newsletter editing "life" with the North Coast Macintosh Users Group, where she served for ten years. When Jack Valancy sent out a plea for someone to replace Laura Gooch as editor at BE-THS, Carol stepped up to the plate. She has served as editor of the BE-THS newsletter since 2003. Given that the newsletter is the hub of communications within the shul, Carol joined the Communications Committee, of which she is now Chair.

In recognition of Carol's efforts to keep us all on-schedule and tied together, Carol will be given the honor of being the Kallah B'reshit this Simchat Torah.



*Carol, Bill, and  
daughter, Sarah*



# Learners' Torah Discussions Open to All

Join us to study and discuss selections from the weekly Torah portion. We consider commentaries, raise questions and share tips for using the *Chumash*. Each week's lesson is self-contained so come as your schedule permits. The sessions are accessible for non-Hebrew speakers or readers and open to people at all levels of experience.

We meet in the room across from the Babysitting Room, after the Torah is taken out and the portion is introduced (about 10:20 AM-10:30 AM), and rejoin the service in time for the *d'var torah*. Questions? Contact Mia Buchwald Gelles: [miabgelles@gmail.com](mailto:miabgelles@gmail.com) or 216-321-6717.

Upcoming Learners Torah Discussion Dates (every other week this fall):

- October 25 - *Parashat Noach*
- November 8 - *Parashat Vayera*
- November 22 - *Parashat Toldot*
- December 6 - *Parashat Vayishlach*
- December 20 - *Parashat Miketz*

Share your thoughts:

Deliver a *d'var* on an upcoming Shabbat.

Contact Nina Sobel, 216-258-3104 or via e-mail at [nrsol1223@lycos.com](mailto:nrsol1223@lycos.com) (phone is preferred), to learn which parshas are available.

If you're interested in doing a *D'var* but haven't done so before, contact Nina, and she will be happy to fill you in about the specifics, such as resources, timing, etc.

## Yahrzeits, October 2014

### Tishrei ~ תשרי

Elias Greenhut	7 Tishrei 5718
Carl Wasserman	7 Tishrei 5720
Blossom Levit	9 Tishrei 5721
Marcella Wachter	10 Tishrei
Harry Abrams	12 Tishrei 5716
Hyman Goldberg	14 Tishrei 5771
Irene Cowan	15 Tishrei 5732
Harry Dolusky	15 Tishrei 5694
Pearl Rabinowitz	17 Tishrei 5764
Carola Jacobs	19 Tishrei
Robert Mendel	19 Tishrei 5771
Jared B. Klein	20 Tishrei 5761
Myrtle Wish	20 Tishrei 5772
Bertha Shifrin	21 Tishrei 5721
Esther Mintz	22 Tishrei 5767
Pearl Peninah Pasternak	22 Tishrei
Herbert Oppenheimer	22 Tishrei
Maurice Tavill	22 Tishrei
Isaac Warshay	22 Tishrei
Lenore Singer	23 Tishrei 5760

Blema Beitman	24 Tishrei 5706
Eva Naiman	24 Tishrei 5713
Sadie Kammen	25 Tishrei 5744
Freida C. Brody	26 Tishrei 5701
Leo Guzik	26 Tishrei 5735
Charlotte Dubin	27 Tishrei 5768
Mirmie Ginsburg	27 Tishrei 5734
Henry A. Hollander	28 Tishrei 5725
Mary Ann Gordon	29 Tishrei 5731
Albert Greenberg	29 Tishrei 5753
Ethel Neuger	29 Tishrei 5734
Sam Tepper	29 Tishrei 5703
Sam Dworkin	30 Tishrei 5732
Marvin Dubin	30 Tishrei
Roger Wilkenfeld	30 Tishrei

### Heshvan ~ חשוון

Ben Tepper	2 Heshvan 5718
James Saunt	2 Heshvan 5766
Harry Mayzel	4 Heshvan 5761
Rose Zeisler	4 Heshvan 5723
Louis Brody	5 Heshvan 5713

# CALENDAR, OCTOBER 2014

5775 תשרי / חשוון

*For the complete listing of all of the Holy Day service and candle-lighting times, please see the schedule attached to the September newsletter, downloadable from <[www.bethelheights.org](http://www.bethelheights.org)>, if you don't still have a copy.*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 –

10 AM – 12:00 NOON – **Sukkah construction:** Please come help erect the frame and walls of our Sukkah. Bring your own tools and safety equipment.

7:00 – 8:30 PM – **Short Stories by Jewish Authors** Reading and Discussion Group will read a play by Arthur Schnitzler. Contact Sondra Jacobs for further information: 216-397-1481 or <[sondrajacobs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sondrajacobs@sbcglobal.net)>.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 10 AM – 12:00 NOON – **Complete the Sukkah.** Add s'chach, and decorate. Help wanted – all ages!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 5:00 – 7:30 PM – **Dinner in the Sukkah.** Reservations requested by October 6. *See attached flyer. Walk-ins accepted, but it costs more at the door.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16 – Sh'mini Atzeret

9:15 AM Morning service (with Yizkor)

7:25 PM – Candle lighting and kiddush, followed by evening service with Hakkafot (Torah celebration)

שמעוני עצרת

זכור

הקפות

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 9:15 AM – **Simhat Torah morning service with Kiddush and Hakkafot**

שמחת תורה

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, AFTER KIDDUSH – The Mishnah Study Group will meet in the room across from the Babysitting Room.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

ABOUT 10:20 AM – Learners' Torah Discussion Group, *Parshat Noach*. (see page 6 for details)

AFTER KIDDUSH – Learn with the Rabbi, session 1: "Torah, written and Oral: Text and Application." Meet in the Sanctuary. *See attached class schedule for details.*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, AFTER SERVICES – **Lunch and Learn with Judie Amsel and Beth Wachter: "The Challenges of Growing Older: Issues in Geriatric Care Giving and Planning for End of Life."** *See attached flyer for further information.*

## Ice Cream Social 2014

Beth El - The Heights Synagogue held its third annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 31. Sherry Ball, Marty and Eden Gelfand, Howard Goldberg, Karen Kugelman, Erica New, Marvin Palevsky, and Cheryl Stone all pitched in to help. Our members shared ice cream and became reacquainted with our neighbors, old, young and in between. We played frisbee and other games, we played music, and everyone talked – a lot!

Our Synagogue is located in a residential area, so it's important for us to reach out to our neighbors, in order to maintain a healthy and growing relationship with others who share the same streets, lawns, sidewalks, and trees.

We've had three successes. We look forward to hosting a fourth annual Ice Cream Social next year.  
~ Scott Wachter



## Celebrate Simhat Torah

Join the *hakafot*, as we complete the circle and begin anew.

Thursday evening, October 16, at 7:25 PM, and Friday morning, October 17, at 9:15 AM.

# NEWS FROM **חדשות** **בית**

## Condolences to:

ביחום אבלים

➤ **Emily Dennis and her sons, Jacob and Aaron**, on the recent death of her husband and their father, Dave Dennis.

## Welcome, New Members:

ברוכים הבאים

- **Giselle and Michael Dover**
- **Richard Zigmond**

## Refuah Sh'lema to:

רפואה שלימה!

- **Arnold Stone**

## Yasher Koah to:

יישר כוח!

- **Fern Grunberger**, who was recently invited to join the Grant Deming Artist Collective that held a show at the gallery at Loganberry Books through the month of September. Nine of Fern's beaded pieces were on display there. See photos of Fern's work and watch for news of upcoming shows on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/fernsfrills>. Fern says she is really enjoying retirement!
- **Irving Kushner**, who received the Ohio Association of Rheumatology's Lifetime Achievement Award on Friday, September 5, 2014, in Columbus, Ohio. This award is the highest award of the Society and was given in recognition of his exemplary work ethic and performance as well as his outstanding dedication, leadership, and achievements in the field of rheumatology. Dr. Kushner, an internationally recognized rheumatologist and investigator, spent his career at what is now MetroHealth Medical Center where he divided his time between patient care, teaching, and research.

## Mazel Tov to:

מזל טוב!

- **Ruth Cantleberry**, on the birth of her newest granddaughter, Shoshana Rena Ballonoff, born on July 26. Shoshana's parents are Ruth's daughter, Alison (Ayala) Ballonoff and her husband, Evan Aidman. She joins a family of two sisters, Ilana and Chana, and two brothers, Ari and Yoni.
- **Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles**, on the marriage of their daughter, Ruth Link-Gelles, to Daniel Kovari on September 14.
- **Mark Davidson**, whose son, Joshua, is engaged to Becca Richman of Bethesda, Maryland. A September

2015 wedding is planned.

- **Abby and Jeff Halpern** on the birth of their son, Ezra, who joins brother Rafi in their new home, Portland, ME.
- **Alan Lerner and Erica New**, on the birth of their new grandson, Grant Bennet Tausz (Joseph ben David v' Tzipporah). Grant's parents are Claudia Esther Tausz and David Joseph Tausz, of Portland, Oregon.
- **Menachem Shoham**, whose grandson, Amit Shoham, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on September 18 at Kibbutz Be'eri in the Western Negev. Due to the war with Hamas the celebration had to be postponed from its original date in July.

## Thanks for your contributions to:

תודה!

- **Stephanie Berger and Alan Mintz**
- **Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin**
- **Molly Brudnick**
- **Bill and Carol Bruml**
- **Bill and Carol Bruml**, for the weeding and pruning of flower beds, new mats for the foyer, and replacement tips for the chair and table legs in the Social Hall.
- **Janice Carrick**, in honor of Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand.
- **Janice Carrick**, in honor of all who helped create the BE-THS Jazz Band.
- **Stacia Dearmin and Jay Pressman**
- **Giselle and Michael Dover**
- **Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck**
- **Ilene Gertman**
- **Laura Gooch and David Kazdan**
- **Harvey and Sondra Jacobs**, in memory of Harvey's mother, Celia Jacobs Z"l.
- **Robert Kurzbauer**, in memory of his wife, Lisa Kurzbauer Z"l.
- **Honey Massey and Bud Stern**
- **Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin**, in honor of Joe Buchwald Gelles' work on the Kabbalat Shabbat evenings.
- **Adam Probst**
- **Burton Randell**
- **Michael Schultz**, in appreciation of Shabbat and Kiddush at BE-THS.
- **Eran Shiloh**
- **Beth and Scott Wachter**, in memory of Beth's father, Ira Marks Z"l.



**Thanks for donations to the Roof Repair Fund to:**

- Bruce and Judie Amsel
- Bill and Carol Bruml
- John Budge and Victoria Eskinazi-Budge
- Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck
- Joel Falck and Julie Rabin
- Adi and Judith Gerblich
- Frances Goldberg
- Barry and Joyce Hoffer, in honor of Nurit Sharon's remembrance of Nili Adler's birthday by reading Torah at BE-THS on Shabbat, August 30.
- Sharona Hoffman and Andy Podgurski
- Philip Kazdan
- Enid and Irving Kushner, in memory of Nili Adler Z"l.
- Alan Lerner and Erica New
- Esther and Milton Moss
- David and Judie Perelman
- Shlomoh Sherman
- Devorah J. Silverman
- Beth and Scott Wachter
- Ieda and Marvin Warshay
- Bruce and Polly Wilkenfeld



**Ice Cream Social 2014**

**Thanks for Kiddush Sponsorships to:**

**תודה!**

**September 6 Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lettofsky –**

- Bill and Carol Bruml
- Fred and Joyce Tavill

**September 13 –**

- Michael Bloom and Peggy Sullivan, in honor of their daughter Grace, who became Bat Mitzvah that day.
- Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles, in honor of the wedding of their daughter, Ruth Link-Gelles, to Daniel Kovari.

**September 20 – Stephanie Gordon and her children, in memory of Stephanie's husband and their father, Chester Gordon Z"l.**



**Thanks to our Simcha Kiddush sponsors in August: תודה!**

- Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand, in honor of their anniversary.
- Mick Miller and Jamie Saunt, in honor of Elijah Saunt's birthday.

**Thanks for your heroic efforts to:**

**תודה!**

- Bill Bruml, Marvin Palevsky, and Eran Shiloh, who all worked very very hard to repair the damage from the roof leak and spruce up the shul in time for Grace Bloom's Bat Mitzvah and Ruth Link-Gelles' aufruf on September 13.



**Thanks to our September newsletter mailing helpers: תודה!**

- Brian Aronson
- Erica New
- Scott Wachter
- Carol Bruml
- Beth Wachter





# Sukkot 2014

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON – Sukkah Building**

We need to erect the Beth El – The Heights Synagogue sukkah frame and walls! This is a community event and we would greatly appreciate your help. Please bring your expertise and your own tools and safety gear. As always, our construction foreman will be the formidable Marvin Palevsky.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON –**

**Sukkah Decorating:** Add s'chach and decorate the Sukkah! Join the fun and help us finish the job more quickly!

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 5:30 to 7:00 PM –**

**Dinner in the Sukkah.** A dairy dinner will be served.

Cost: \$10 per person, free for children under 6 years, \$40 maximum per household. Reservations requested. Walk-ins will be accepted at \$12/person.

On the other nights of Sukkot, families are welcome to fulfill the commandment and to eat in the shul sukkah. Bring your own kosher dinners (parve or dairy, please), along with disposable plates and utensils.

Yes, we would like to come to the Dinner in the Sukkah, October 12.

Number of family members, at \$10 apiece: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children, under 6 (free) \_\_\_\_\_

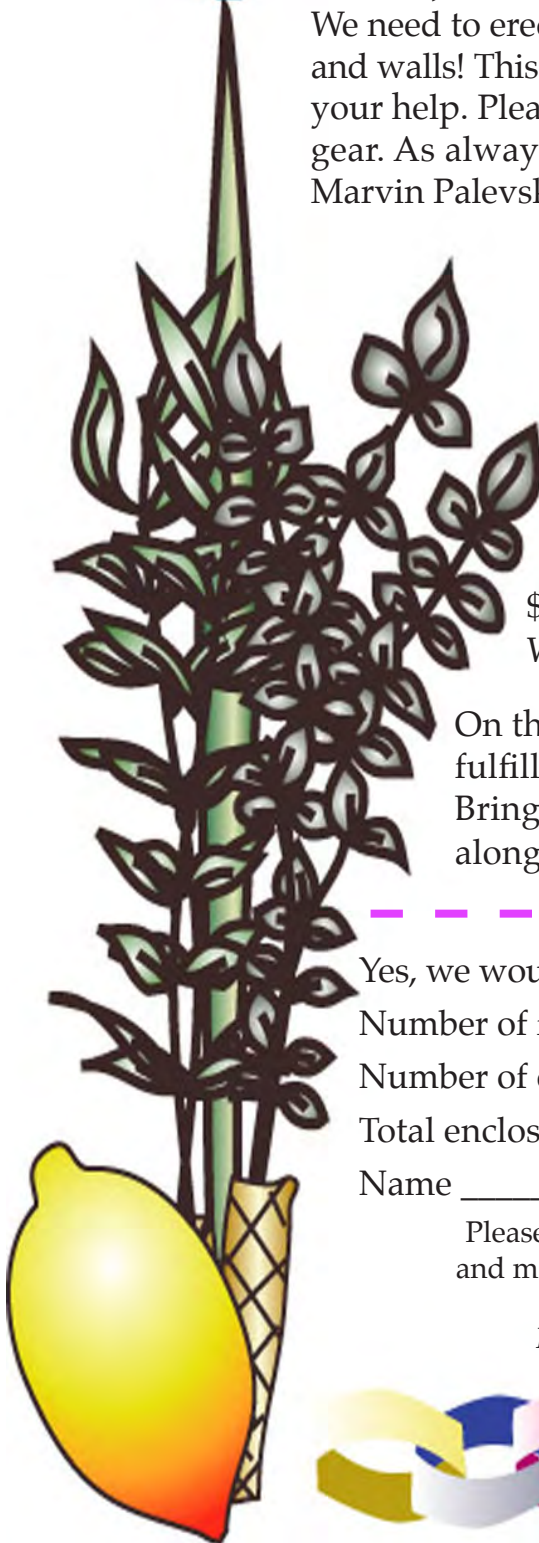
Total enclosed (maximum \$40 per household) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Beth El –The Heights Synagogue and mail them to 3246 Desota Avenue, Cleveland Hts., OH 44118, by October 6, 2014, so we can predict quantities.

*Note the additional charge for walk-ins, above.*

*Questions?? Call the office at 216-320-9667.*



## Learn with the Rabbi, 2014-2015

### TORAH AS A LIVING ORGANIC SYSTEM: Halachah, Aggadah and How They Work

#### October 25

**Written Torah and Oral Torah: Text and Application** What kinds of work are we commanded to refrain from on Shabbat? Are we commanded to mutilate a mutilator? Are parents commanded to have their disobedient son stoned to death? What is the line between earning a fair profit and price gouging? Dealing with such questions is the job of the Oral Torah.

#### November 22

**Halachah: The “How” of Torah** Halachah, (literally, “path”) is the process by which we determine exactly what the Torah is directing us to do or to refrain from doing. By following Halachah, we travel the Torah’s path through life not just talking the talk, but actually walking the walk.

#### December 13

**Aggadah: The “Why” of Torah** Aggadah (literally, “narrative”) refers to parts of the Torah tradition that focus, not on law, but on meaning. By retelling Biblical narrative in mind-expanding ways, weaving parables, and sharing real-life anecdotes, our Sages did theology, sharpening and deepening our perspective on existence.

#### January 17

**The Halachic Imagination: Eternal Torah, Changing Times** How do the Talmudic Sages and post-Talmudic authorities periodically reinterpret Torah law to keep it in conformity with the Torah’s own stated ideals? We look at examples of Talmudic constitutional interpretation and post-Talmudic landmark rulings.

#### February 21

**The Torah-Informed Conscience: Halachah and Social Justice** We study an essay by one of the twentieth century’s halachic authorities, Rabbi Chaim David Regensberg, showing how Jewish law mandates universal civil rights.

#### March 21

**Making a Fragmented Torah Whole: Where Are We Now?** Today’s fragmented Jewish religious life is seen not only in tensions between orthodox and heterodox movements, but also within orthodoxy itself. How did it happen, and what can be done about it? We study excerpts from the writings of Rabbi Eliezer Berkovits on the decline of the Oral Law and how it could be restored to its full function and vibrancy.

*This series of six classes is offered at no charge, to all, and will meet in the Sanctuary after Kiddush on the Shabbat dates listed above.*



3246 Desota Avenue, Cleveland Hts., OH 44118  
216-320-9667 ~ [info@bethelheights.org](mailto:info@bethelheights.org) ~ [www.bethelheights.org](http://www.bethelheights.org)  
We welcome all in participatory, traditional, egalitarian worship and learning.

**Lunch and Learn, November 1, 2014**



**Beth Wachter and Judie Amsel**  
**will present a Lunch and Learn on**  
**The Challenges of Growing Older**  
**Saturday, November 1, after Services**

**Beth** will address challenges of aging, including the issues of cognitive decline and dementia; safety concerns and the risk of falls; caregiver issues and resources; the importance of social engagement and mental stimulation; the need for physical activity and exercise; and the necessity of good nutrition.

**Judie** plans a brief discussion about medical decision-making issues, how to plan ahead, while you are still able to make the decisions about the care you would like to receive if you had a severe accident or developed a debilitating condition, so that your care givers can carry out those wishes if and when you are no longer able to make decisions yourself.

**Beth Wachter** earned her bachelor's in gerontology from Miami University and her master's in social work from Smith College. She has worked in geriatrics in a variety of capacities, including nurse's aide at a nursing home, case management, elder mental health, home care, supervision, counseling and group facilitator. For the past 21 years, she has served as a clinical social worker at University Hospitals' Foley ElderHealth Center, which offers outpatient geriatric assessment, as well as neurology evaluation and treatment.

**Judie Amsel** has master's degrees in Social Service Administration and Management of Nonprofit Organizations, but her work as a Volunteer Guardian and family experiences influenced her interest in end-of-life issues. She has been the legal guardian for ten adults since 2001 and one of her duties is deciding on their medical care. This includes determining when to stop treatment which might prolong their lives even though their health has become seriously compromised.

**Free. Non-members, please contact Joel Genuth at 617-943-2076 for reservations.**



**BETH EL**

The Heights Synagogue

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