



BETH EL

The Heights Synagogue

NEWSLETTER

November 2017
חשוון / כסלו 5777

CO-PRESIDENTS



ROBIN DUBIN



BUD STERN

Message from the Co-President

Beth El –The Heights Synagogue is Participatory!

I am frequently impressed at how much many members contribute to the running of our synagogue. Yes, I know that we are “participatory...” and all that, but many people study and read Torah regularly, cook countless meals for the congregation, wash hundreds of dishes, develop *d’var* presentations and other talks. Other members make significant financial contributions to fix things that need fixing and to pay the bills. Still others spend multiple hours writing articles, developing and sending out publicity. Others make sure that the newsletter is prepared and sent out to all our households.

To me, this is all wonderful and either just short of amazing or beyond amazing, depending perhaps on what I had for breakfast that day.

Recently several members have noted problems and tragedies in our

country and they have expressed strong sentiments that we should participate in “social action” to help out with these causes. After some board deliberations, I expect that suggestions will be shared with the congregation about some of these issues. In the meantime, I would like to hear from the members about their concerns in this arena, and what you think we should focus on and what you think we could do. Send me a note or shoot me an email. If you don’t copy my co-president Robin in, I will share what you say with her.

As a certain famous entertainer* on TV used to say, “Keep those cards and letters coming in!”

Bud Stern
docbud406@sbcglobal.net

(*Dean Martin on his variety show 1960’s and 1970’s)

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

Saturday Morning Services at 9:15 ♦ 3246 Desota Ave., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118 ♦ ☎216-320-9667



Contact Information

**BETH EL -
THE HEIGHTS SYNAGOGUE**
www.bethelheights.org
info@bethelheights.org

**QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?
COMMENTS? COMPLAINTS?**
Please do not hesitate to contact the Presidents by e-mail president@bethelheights.org or telephone
Robin (216) 382-8848
Bud (216) 991-7383

**HELP US
STAY IN TOUCH!**
Please be sure we have your current contact information. Send changes to 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, if you need help with signing up.

How Time Flies!

How time flies when one is part of the mechanics of a religious community! I am worrying about the fruit salad I plan to take to a Sukkot dinner, thinking about the end of the calendar year, and planning for the spring.

Yes, I am writing on the heels of the High Holy Days, but you are reading this in November, which is but eight weeks before our financial fates are inscribed in the files of the Internal Revenue Service (which mercifully allows us a few additional months before they are sealed on April 15). Now is the time to plan to make that tax-lowering, end-of-calendar-year donation to Beth El –The Heights Synagogue. The policy of your Board of Trustees has been that we are to secure the funds needed in order to meet this fiscal year’s operating budget before we consider any new initiatives. Together with the Finance Committee, we have determined \$30,000 to be the appropriate target for the end-of-year campaign.

To get us started, several donors have committed to contribute \$15,000 dollars, contingent on the community as a whole contributing the rest. As was noted during the Yom Kippur appeal, everyone with discretionary income can muster the will to make a donation. The goal: that our operating budget, along with the funds to meet foreseeable emergencies involving the building’s basic systems, would be met with donations from the congregation as a whole. Development Committee members will be reaching out directly to every member and friend of the congregation, and we ask everyone to participate. There is no such thing as a contribution that is too small to be meaningful. Every dollar counts!

So be prepared when you are contacted. Let’s make this the most broadly participatory and efficient year-end campaign in memory. Then we can get on with the truly fun arguments over what would most improve our congregation’s well-being and how to raise money for these most meaningful improvements.

Joel Genuth, Development Chair

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 Community Room, after the Torah is taken out and the portion is introduced (about 10:20 am to 10:30 am), and rejoin the service in time for the *d’var Torah*. Questions? Contact Mia Buchwald Gelles: 216-321-6717 or miabgelles@gmail.com.

Upcoming Learners’ Torah Discussion Dates this fall:

11/4/2017 - <i>Parashat Vayera</i>	12/2/2017 - <i>Parashat Vayishlach</i>
11/18/2017 - <i>Parashat Toldot</i>	12/16/2017 - <i>Parashat Miketz</i>

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For address or mailing list change, call 216-320-9667

Wanted: Social Action Team

Howdy fellow BE–THS members,

I was a member of the congregation years ago, left, and have returned. I'm going to briefly tell you why I joined, left and came back and then I'll solicit your help in my goal of creating my own "religious home."

I joined Beth El –The Heights Synagogue because you are the Jews who stayed put. You created a congregation here in the old neighborhood, the one that is my home. I met people here who shared my values. Are these religious values? I'm not sure, but they are the ones I was raised with, so I'm going to call them religious. My folks were those liberal Democrats who tried to instill in their kids respect for others, tolerance and the consciousness that I am where I am because of a lot of good fortune. They said that these were Jewish values – and who am I to argue with my mom and dad who aren't here to defend themselves? That's why I initially joined the synagogue.

But why did I leave? The membership is still great. You are a bunch of special folks who, by and large talk a pretty good talk, and often walk an awfully good walk to promote the values you believe in. I left because I am neither religious nor spiritual. I have a really hard time with religion. I know religion is supposed to be a source of good in the world, but as I look around, it often seems clannish, warlike and downright intolerant. I don't have a particular relationship with a higher being, so participation in traditions often feels meaningless and empty.

And yet I returned. Why? I have many Christian friends whose churches are the centers of their engagement in community action. They have religious communities that build schools, support refugees, provide sanctuary for immigrants, challenge authority, and in so many ways commit to making their communities and the world better. I have been jealous of those friends for years. They've told me that I can join their churches, but I can not do that. I am Jewish.

I would like BE–THS to be the community that helps me express the values my parents said were Jewish. I have some concrete ideas and some more nebulous goals.

Let's start by telling the neighborhood and world who we are:

- How about a rainbow flag and/or a sign expressing our support for immigrants and refugees.
- A little free library would be a nice way to tell the neighborhood that we want to engage with them.
- Let's become a synagogue supporter of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS). It just requires that we add our shul's name to their list.

Now on to actions:

- Boulevard Elementary School has a tutoring program. They are our neighborhood school. Let's work with them.
- Noble Road Elementary School has a ten percent refugee population. Let's find out how we can support those kids and their families.
- Forest Hills Presbyterian Church has courageously become a sanctuary church. How might we help them in their work?
- There is a group home for recovering women with drug and alcohol dependency in Cleveland Heights. They can use room sponsors.
- There are several food pantries in the Heights that would welcome our involvement.
- Greater Cleveland Congregations needs our financial support and involvement.

And now to the more nebulous:

- We can become the go to group that will be ready to protest, make phone calls, organize, and/or act when the issues erupt.
- We can be the small but mighty activists in the Jewish community that are ready to express ourselves loudly and clearly for all we believe in.

This is a longer article than I intended it to be, but clearly just a beginning. I need to hear from you, members of the BE–THS community. Where should we be heading? What are your ideas for social action? Are you interested in any of the above?

Email me at robinkoslen@gmail.com

Robin Koslen
Board Member at Large

NEWS FROM BETHEL

חדשות

Condolences to:

ניחום אבלים

- Ruth Cantleberry, whose husband, Bernie Cantleberry z"l, recently passed away.

Refuah Sh'lema to:

רפואה שלימה!

- Sondra Jacobs
- Shaul Janes
- Miriam Palevsky
- Arnold Stone
- Daniel Weisberg, Marsha Weisberg's brother
- Miriam Weisberg, Marsha Weisberg's sister

Yasher Koah to:

י"שר כוח!

- Saul Genuth, who will be honored on November 10 at a scientific symposium hosted by the Case Western Reserve University Medical School and University Hospitals, in celebration of his lifetime achievements.
- Sharona Hoffman, who was recently featured on the cover of the Case Western Reserve Law School magazine, *Case Law-Med*. Her work on *Aging with a Plan* is detailed on pages 7 and 29-30. http://law.case.edu/Portals/0/Documents/Law-Med/newsletter/Law-Medicine_News_v21_n01_y2017_a1.pdf
- Becky Schur, who successfully defended her dissertation for her Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering on September 29. She is now Dr. Becky Schur! Congratulate Becky on a lot of hard work, well done!
- Menachem Shoham, for his ongoing research on ways to prevent and treat deadly infections, including his development of a new small-molecule anti-virulence technology, known as F19, which doesn't kill bacteria, but rather disarms them of disease-causing toxins and virulence factors. His work was recognized in *THINK*, CWRU's Fall/Winter 2017 Magazine, <https://tinyurl.com/ycn9du7h>

Thanks for contributions to:

תודה!

- Bruce and Judie Amsel, wishing Bill Bruml *refuah sh'lema*.
- Russell Berusch
- Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin
- Michael and Shelley Bloomfield, towards cost of new High Holy Day *Mahzorim*.
- Ilene Gertman

- Philip Kalina and Donna Spiegler
- Berenice and Herbert Kleiman
- Zachary Lerner
- Alan and Pamela Levine, in appreciation of Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck's hospitality.
- Merry Lugasy, in memory of her father, Leonard Singer z"l.
- Merry Lugasy, in memory of her mother, Lenore Singer z"l.
- Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin, in memory of Adi Gerblich's mother, Bronia Gerblich z"l.
- Adam and Samantha Probst
- Juliana Sadock Savino, to the Kiddush Fund.
- The Schwab Charitable Fund: Fersky Fund for Adult Learning
- Bud Stern, in honor of all members who led High Holy Day services.
- Bud Stern, in honor of those who blew the *shofar* on Rosh Hashanah.
- Beth and Scott Wachter, in memory of Scott's mother, Marcella Wachter z"l.
- Alisa Warshay and Italo Gonzalez, in honor of Leon Gabinet's 90th birthday.
- Ieda Warshay, in appreciation of support during Marvin's illness and *shiva*.
- Mary and Richard Zigmund

Thanks for help with sukkah construction on September 24 to:

תודה!

- Bill Bruml
- Adam Probst
- Marvin Palevsky

Thanks for Simcha Kiddush contributions to: תודה!

- August – Brian Aronson, in honor of his birthday.

Thanks to:

תודה!

- Sherry Ball for making new signs directing visitors to our sanctuary, social hall, etc.
- Bill and Carol Bruml and Bud Stern for going through the files and boxes of papers that were crowding our office, and discarding all of the ones that were old enough that we are not legally required to keep them. We're sure Brian will appreciate being less crowded! Thanks to Bud for getting the discarded ones shredded.

Lunch and Learn on December 5

Saving Our Older Cities: A Kinder and Gentler Urban Renewal

Presented by Robin Dubin
Department of Economics, Weatherhead School of Management
Case Western Reserve University

The foreclosure crisis resulted in a glut of abandoned and vacant property in many US cities. This presentation analyzes a possible solution to this problem, which is to re-concentrate the existing population into a set of new neighborhoods, using voluntary (i.e. subsidized) moves. The costs of this program are renovating or building new houses for the movers (less the portion paid by moving households) and demolition of the existing structures in the vacated areas. The benefits include lower costs of public service provision (due to a smaller service area), increased property taxes, better housing for city residents, lead abatement, and walkable neighborhoods. City residents will additionally benefit by being surrounded by occupied, rather than vacant, houses and will have improved shopping and recreational opportunities. Based on a computer simulation using data from Cleveland, Ohio, I present estimates of the costs and some of the benefits of such a program. This analysis shows that the pecuniary benefits accruing to the city exceed the costs and, therefore, that this program can pay for itself.



An article about Hanukkah already? Now That's a Mystery!

Why is an article about Hanukkah coming out in our October newsletter? We just finished up the holidays, plus it's just too soon to think of December.

Well, on all counts, that's correct. But this year, Beth El –The Heights Synagogue will not be hosting the "typical" Hanukkah party. Rest assured: we'll have the traditional foods, and as always they will be delicious, but this year, instead of a party we are hosting a Hanukkah Mystery party and dinner. *The Case of the Stolen Menorah: An Enlightening Hanukkah Mystery* will not only involve a four course meal, but also the case of very special menorah that is missing.

All are welcome to attend this one-of-a-kind event. This dinner and mystery is family oriented, and open to all ages. We will have activities for kids, and all attendees will comprise our nine teams. While enjoying a wonderful dinner, all will need to collaborate with their team and try to determine who stole this very unique menorah.

If you like a good mystery, Hanukkah, and great company, then mark your calendar for Sunday, December 17 and plan to attend this special evening.

Part II, in the next newsletter, will provide more details, registration information, etc. Meantime, bone up on your detective skills!

Scott Wachter

Save the date! Sunday, December 17, 4:30 pm

*The Case of the Stolen Menorah
A Hanukkah Mystery and Dinner*

Open to Suggestions For the Adult Education Committee

The Adult Education Committee now has a potential full schedule of planned Lunch and Learns for the 2017-2018 season, but occasionally, schedule changes need to be made.

We are interested in knowing if any BE–THS members have expertise (and would be willing to share it) in topics that would be of general interest to our members. In addition to serving as fill-ins in 2017-2018, such presentations could be part of the 2018-2019 calendar.

Any interested member should contact me at bruce.wilkenfeld@aol.com, so I can send the suggestions on for review by the Committee.

Editor's note: All High Holy Day ticket donations will be acknowledged next month, in the December newsletter. We greatly appreciate each and every donation!

Yahrzeits, November 2017

Heshvan ~ חשוון

Sarah Dolin	12 Heshvan
Rose Rogul Gelles	12 Heshvan
Samuel Protus	12 Heshvan 5757
Yoav Borshtein	13 Heshvan 5772
Isadore Gertman	14 Heshvan
Norman Koff	14 Heshvan 5718
Mildred Morton	14 Heshvan 5730
Sadie Bernstein	14 Heshvan
Sam Bernstein	15 Heshvan
Pearl Maeroff	16 Heshvan 5731
Elsie Narmon	16 Heshvan 5729
Yehuda Leib Schultz-Shalit	16 Heshvan 5734

Tobias Seidman	16 Heshvan 5715
William Sonnenstein	16 Heshvan
Herman Collin	18 Heshvan 5723
Louis Freumker	18 Heshvan 5733
Anna Kessler	18 Heshvan
Fay Landau	19 Heshvan
Morton Hoffman	20 Heshvan 5775
David Nadle	20 Heshvan 5755
Jack Stern	20 Heshvan 5773
Doris Glaser	21 Heshvan 5734
Morris Samet	21 Heshvan 5731
Gertrude Sobelman	21 Heshvan 5715
Hyman Cohen	22 Heshvan 5734

Claire Kammen	22 Heshvan 5736
Philip Noll	23 Heshvan 5738
Morris Cohen	24 Heshvan 5684
Philip Reiss	24 Heshvan
Ann Groger	25 Heshvan
Anita Fertman Pereversky	27 Heshvan 5717
Harry Eisman	28 Heshvan 5703
Mindy Marfisi	28 Heshvan 5767
Beatrice Goodman	29 Heshvan 5716
Sarah Widzer	29 Heshvan 5731
Lena Berman	30 Heshvan 5708
Deborah Lindenbaum	30 Heshvan 5712

Kislev ~ כסלו

Jennie Gordon	1 Kislev
Patti Freed	2 Kislev 5774
Alexander Goldman	4 Kislev 5721
Michael J. Margolis	4 Kislev 5726
Anna Ginsberg	8 Kislev 5726
Anna Gutentag	8 Kislev 5726
Borris Maeroff	8 Kislev 5705
Morris Rapport	8 Kislev 5735
Anna Javitch	9 Kislev 5726
Louis Ruskin	10 Kislev 5693
Jacob Malamud	11 Kislev 5715
Sidney Weisberg	11 Kislev 5752

John Schaar

*The future
is not some
place we are
going, but
one we are
creating.*

*The paths
are not to
be found,
but made.*

*And the
activity of
making them
changes both
the maker
and their
destination.*

CALENDAR, NOVEMBER 2017

השון / כסלו 5777

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, *Parashat Lekh Lkha*

AFTER KIDDUSH: The Mishna Study Group will meet in the Community Room to study the first Mishna of Mishna Pe'ah.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, *Parashat Vayera*

ABOUT 10:20 AM – **The Learners' Torah Study Group** will meet in the Community Room to study this week's *parsha*. They will rejoin the congregation in time for the *d'var Torah*.

Polly Wilkenfeld will give the *d'var Torah*.

AFTER SERVICES: Rabbi Shulamit Izen will lead a **Lunch and Learn, "Teaching Spiritual Care in a Clinical Setting."** (This is a change of speaker and topic; Sr. Lisa Marie Belz is unavailable on the scheduled date.)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, *Parashat Hayyei Sarah*

Rabbi Barry Starr will give the *d'var Torah*.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

6:30 PM – **Kabbalat Shabbat** services with learning, followed by a vegetarian-friendly dinner about 7:40 pm. Prepaid reservations requested by Monday, November 13.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, *Parashat Toldot*

ABOUT 10:20 AM – **The Learners' Torah Study Group** will meet in the Community Room to study this week's *parsha*. They will rejoin the congregation in time for the *d'var Torah*.

Marty Gelfand will give the *d'var Torah*.

11:00 TO 11:45 AM – **Shabbat Playdate:** Jewish-themed songs and stories, for children ages seven and under.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, *Parashat Vayetze*

Joe Buchwald Gelles will give the *d'var Torah*.

AFTER SERVICES: Monthly Simcha Kiddush: Join us as we celebrate some happy events that have occurred this month.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, *Parashat Vayishlakh*

Sharona Hoffman will give the *d'var Torah*.

AFTER SERVICES: Robin Dubin will present a **Lunch and Learn, "Saving Our Older Cities: A Kinder and Gentler Urban Renewal."**

Mishna Study Resumes

The Mishna Study Group will meet for the first time this fall on October 28 after Kiddush. They will begin this year with Mishna Pe'ah. The first Mishna of this tractate is familiar from the very first part of the morning service- "These are the things for which there is no limit...Peah, Bikkurim..."

All are welcome to join the group, even if you have not attended previously. Contact Alan Lerner for further information: lerner44120@yahoo.com or (216) 932-5950.



**Shabbat
Playdate**



NOVEMBER 18

11:00-11:45 AM

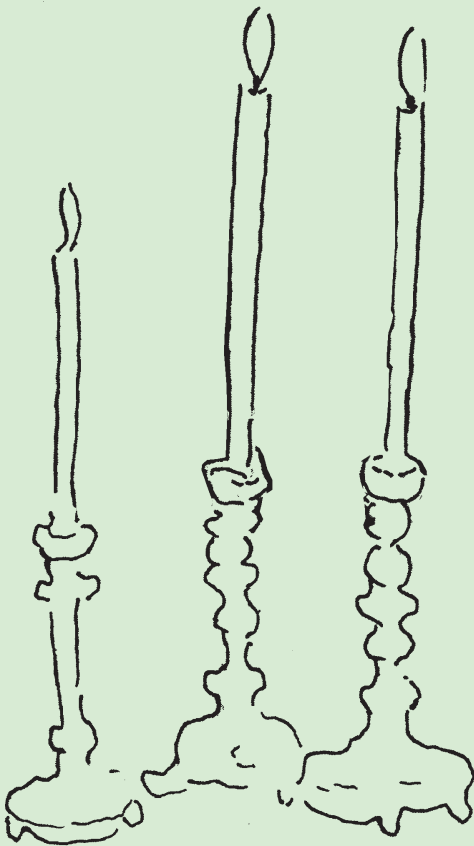
**in the
Childcare Room**

Jewish-themed
singing
and stories
for children
7 and younger.





INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE
SHABBAT
WITH A SERVICE AND DINNER.



Friday, November 17, 6:30 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat service with learning, 6:30 p.m.

Teacher: TBA

Dinner at about 7:40 p.m.

Dinner includes fish, vegetarian-friendly menu.

Price: \$10.00 per person.

RSVP: <http://www.bethelheights.org/kabbalat-shabbat/>

Or you can call Joe 321-6734.

Prepaid reservations requested by Monday, November 13

Location: Beth El–The Heights Synagogue

3246 Desota Avenue

Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

This is a membership event — a great time to introduce potential members to our community, a little less formal and a lot shorter than Shabbat morning. So bring a friend — don't be shy about asking!