



BETH EL NEWSLETTER

The Heights Synagogue

August 2004
5764 אבאלול

ANNOUNCING
THE BETH EL
- THE
HEIGHTS
SYNAGOGUE
WEB SITE
For timely
and archived
information,
please visit
our new
web site.
The address
is: [http://
www.bethel-
heights.org/](http://www.bethel-heights.org/)
(no hyphen)

The web site
maintains the
synagogue
calendar,
archived
issues of the
newsletter,
a brief
history
of the shul,
a statement
from Rabbi
Adler
and much
more...



Rabbi Moshe Adler

Notes from the Rebbe...

G-d's T'fillin

Every weekday morning we put on t'fillin, leather cubes containing among other texts, the proclamation of

G-d's oneness, "Hear, O Israel! HaShem our G-d, HaShem is one."

Our Sages tell us that G-d, too, puts on t'fillin (Talmud, B'rachot 6a), and that inside G-d's t'fillin is the verse, "Who is like Your people Israel, a unique nation on earth" (I Chronicles 17:21). By wearing t'fillin that proclaim Israel's "oneness," G-d is saying, "You have made Me a unique entity in the world...and I shall make you a unique entity in the world" (ibid.).

In the same vein, Elul, the name of the month preceding Rosh HaShanah, is traditionally seen as an acronym for the words, "Ani l'dodi v'dodi li - I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine" (Song of Songs 6:3). As we take our moral and spiritual inventory in preparation for Rosh HaShanah, we seek to draw closer to G-d, to feel His love, and to resolve to return it by lovingly carrying out His commandments.

Does the fact that G-d chose us for this special relationship mean that He "un-chose" everyone else? The Jewish tradition speaks with two disparate voices on this question. According to one opinion, Israel alone is chosen and every other people is, ipso facto, un-chosen. The other opinion, however, maintains that, in choosing

Israel, G-d was not in any way disavowing other peoples or the righteousness they achieve.

Perhaps the most articulate expression of the second opinion is that of Rabbi Ovadyah Sforno, author of the classic Torah commentary that bears his name. Commenting on the passage "You shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples. Indeed, all the earth is Mine, but you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19.5-6), Sforno writes that the human species is dearer to G-d than the others, and that G-d esteems the righteousness of all people. Nevertheless, Israel is treasured among other peoples because it accepted the task of being priests to the world, teaching other peoples about G-d and role-modeling a life of service to Him.

Any favor conferred by chosenness comes about because of the mutuality of Israel's covenant with G-d. Our Sages expressed it this way: The ministering angels said before the Holy One, blessed is He, "Master of the Universe, it is written in Your Torah, 'For HaShem your G-d... shows no favor and takes no bribe' (Deuteronomy 10:17). But don't You in fact show favor to Israel? Is it not written, 'May HaShem show you favor?' (Numbers 6:26)"

He replied to them, "How can I not show favor to Israel? I wrote for them in the Torah, 'When you have eaten your fill, bless HaShem your G-d' (Deuteronomy 8:10), *(continued on p. 9)*



Jack Valancy

President's Perspectives...

The Year Past, The Year Ahead

**QUESTIONS?
CONCERNS?
COMMENTS?
COMPLAINTS?**
As always, please do not hesitate to contact your President by e-mail jack@valancy.com or home telephone (216) 371-1439

HELP US STAY IN TOUCH!
Please be sure we have your current contact information: phone number and home and e-mail addresses.

Send changes to Blanche Valancy, blanche@valancy.com or call her at (216) 371-1439

E-Mail Newsletter (available as a pdf e-mail attachment)
If you'd like to get the e-mail version, contact benews@apk.net

We're in our new home! Last year, we held our annual meeting in the Community Room, but we didn't own the building yet. This year, we held our annual meeting in our Sanctuary. Our Facilities and Development committee worked long and hard to find and finance our new home. When title to our building transferred to us in July 2003, the physical work began. Our newsletter has reported on our progress each month.

Our new home has consumed our attention – has it been worth it? Has it helped us fulfill our mission of worship, learning, and community? The paint in our Sanctuary and Social Hall had barely time to dry before our first services on September 6. We've been conducting weekly Shabbat services, High Holy Day, and holiday services there ever since. We've also hosted many simchas.

Our home is a place for learning: Lunch and Learn presentations, regular Learners' Services, special programs hosted by members, movie nights, and other programs. Our weekly kiddushes, not to mention our holiday parties, make our home a place for community.

If we're so good, how come we're not better? For example, we've got to do more in the way of programming for children and families, and we've got to improve our internal and external communications. In large part, the answer is time and money.

We are busy people. Each of us fills our days with family and career obligations. Yet most of us find a few (or more than a few) hours for Beth El – The Heights Synagogue. Thank you for volunteering your time and skills, to our congregation. Thanks, too, for your extraordinary generosity. Your donations are literally building our new home.

If we want to become better, we've got to have more time and money. We are facing a significant operating deficit. Our operating reserve can carry us for now, but we cannot run deficits indefinitely. Your Board is meeting this immediate challenge by searching for new revenue, examining our spending, and developing strict budgets.

The long term answer is that we must recruit more members. We must increase our membership by about one third. Tell your friends about Beth El – The Heights Synagogue: Bring them to services, programs, and parties. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see our new marketing campaign.

We're not a generic synagogue. We do things differently – and those differences make us a comfortable home for worship, learning, and community. Encourage your friends to make it their home, too. Finally, thank you for the privilege of serving as president of our congregation.

Tish'ah B'Av

at Beth El-The Heights Synagogue

Note: The season of Tish'ah B'Av began on July 6. However, it extends nearly until the end of the month, so this information is being included in the July-August newsletter.

The season of Tish'ah b'Av:

July 6 through July 27 (Shiv'ah-Asar b'Tammuz to Tish'ah b'Av), The Three Weeks Bracketed by two fasts commemorating national catastrophe, this period is known as beyn ha-m'tzarim ("within the straits"), after Lamentations 1:3, "Her enemies have overtaken her within the straits." During this period of semi-mourning we avoid:

- ◆ Holding weddings.
- ◆ Listening to live instrumental music.
- ◆ Attending public celebrations, especially those that involve singing, dancing and musical accompaniment.
- ◆ Cutting the hair or shaving
- ◆ Occasions for reciting the she-hecheyanu blessing (e.g., wearing a new suit or outfit for the first time).

July 19 - 27, The Nine Days

The Talmud (Ta'anit 26) teaches: "When Av comes in, we diminish joy." The period starting with Rosh Chodesh Av (July 19) and ending with Tish'ah b'Av (July 27) is called the "Nine Days." In addition to the items avoided during the rest of the Three Weeks, we avoid:

- ◆ The consumption of meat, poultry and wine. (NOTE: On Shabbat, these are permitted.)
- ◆ Bathing for pleasure.
- ◆ Purchasing items that bring great joy.
- ◆ Making home improvements or planting trees and flowers.

Monday night July 26 through Tuesday July 27 Tish'ah b'Av – Fast of the 9th of Av

Commemorates the divine decree barring our ancestors from entering the promised land; the destruction of the First Temple; the destruction of the Second Temple; the conquest of Betar and massacre of its inhabitants; and the plowing-up of the Temple Mount in preparation for

building a pagan temple. Fast starts July 26 at sunset (8:49 PM); ends at nightfall (9:30 PM) on July 27. Fast extends to:

- ◆ Eating and drinking
- ◆ Bathing
- ◆ Conditioning of the skin
- ◆ Wearing leather shoes
- ◆ Carnal relations

July 26, 9:15 PM: Evening service and the reading of the book of Eichah (Lamentations)
July 27, 1:30 PM: Afternoon service, followed by study session on a text related to the season

The moral uses of mourning:

The saintly halachist, Rabbi Israel Meir HaKoken, writes that this season is meant "to awaken hearts to keep to the paths of t'shuvah, the return to G-d" (Mishnah B'rurah commentary on Shulhan Aruch, § 549, note 1), When contemplating the catastrophes that occurred during this season, we are moved to take a moral and religious inventory.

Because misfortune makes us stop and think, our people have traditionally turned it into an opportunity for self-reflection and self-improvement. Doing so may help us become worthy of better fortune, and in any case, living a life of faith and good works is why we were put here. We do not know the "Great Plan" of G-d, or how it is served either by our well-being or by our misfortune. We do, however, know G-d's plan for us. "Hidden matters belong to HaShem our G-d, but revealed matters belong to us and our children: to keep all the words of this Torah" (Deuteronomy 29:28).

In the afternoon of Tish'ah b'Av, as the mood begins to shift from grief toward affirmation and optimism, we add this prophecy to the afternoon service: "A redeemer shall come to Zion, and to all in it who turn back from sin" (Isaiah 59:20).

May that prayer be answered before Tish'ah b'Av.
Rabbi Moshe Adler

Selihot Gathering

There will be a Selihot gathering on Saturday, September 11 at 9:30 PM at the synagogue: Want to learn the tunes to Piyutim we will be singing on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur? Have a favorite high holy day tune that you want to teach everyone else? Come for Selihot, and learn traditional songs of the high holy days.

More details about this wonderful evening will follow. If you are interested in teaching a piyyut on Selihot, please call Lisa Berusch at 216-397-9060 or send her e-mail at lberusch@core.com.

“Let me tell you the secret that has led me to my goal. My strength lies solely in my tenacity.”
 -- Louis Pasteur

One Congregation's Trash Is Another Congregation's Treasure

by **Blanche Valancy**

Recycling or reusing is best for the future of our planet, but who would think there could be an adaptive reuse available for spare parts from our synagogue?! Yet that's exactly what happened in June before the wreckers arrived to begin renovating our entrance!

In early June, I received an e-mail request, via a performing arts list serv, from Michael and Juliette Regnier, a couple of actors I know. Their congregation, First (United Methodist) Church Cleveland, had carved out a small theatre/performance space for youth programming and was

searching for a donation of a dozen or so theatre seats to complete the space. Wondering about the seats we would not be using in the sanctuary, I contacted Laura Gooch and she told me that they could, indeed, have as many of the seats that were slated for the dumpster as they wanted, but that they had to act fast, as demolition was scheduled to begin around June 8.

Bright and early on June 7, church members Herb and Lois Hampson and Dean Cox arrived at BE-THS with their vans and happily took a dozen or so of the seats that were stored in the old foyer, where they had been awaiting the dumpster! There were not enough cushions, so I agreed to call them back when they were located. A couple weeks later Dean came for the cushions and took a few more unwanted seats, as well.

When I was showing Dean our planned destruction/construction, he expressed interest in the columns holding up the soon-to-be-exportico. He had an idea that the Church could use them to create a Holy Land scene in the Sunday School. After Laura checked with the construction company, she let me know that we could donate the columns, as well, but that they would have to be picked up on June 28 or risk becoming landfill!! So once again Dean arrived, this time with a friend whose roofing business owned an old Akron ambulance, and picked up the columns.

Although this story is somewhat less amazing than the tale of the faux "stained glass" windows sold on e-bay by our own Shukgirl, Caren Shiloh, I am pleased and proud to have taken part in this charitable act and to know that one congregation's trash can truly be another congregation's treasure!!



You probably wouldn't like our shul.

REASON #4:

We talk in the wrong places.

Sometimes the rabbi speaks and sits down. Other times, he opens the floor. And twice a month, a member gives a *dvar torah*/sermon, often followed by discussion.

Torah readers often introduce their reading with commentary; even prayer leaders sometimes say a few words to illuminate what we're doing.

But — speaking of the wrong places — we try to pay attention to what's going on. This is NOT a shul with a constant buzz of conversation.

If you think you might like this kind of place, give us a call.
 Beth El—The Heights Synagogue. 216-932-5562.

Jewish Short-Story Reading and Discussion Group

The Jewish Short-Story Reading and Discussion Group is sponsored by the Adult Education Committee. The 2005-2006 kickoff meeting will be on Sunday, August 29, at 7:00 PM.

So many of us enjoyed discussing the Saul Bellow and Cynthia Ozick short stories at the Lunch and Learn with Shelly Bloomfield earlier this year. Our interest is piqued and we are ready for more engaging discussions of short stories by Jewish authors. The initial meeting will focus on creating an authors/stories selection list, how often the group should meet – monthly, bimonthly, quarterly – and other relevant matters.

Please e-mail Sondra Jacobs, hajacobs@juno.com or call her at 216-397-1481, if you plan to participate in this activity.

The meeting will be held at the home of Sondra and Harvey Jacobs, 1481 Blackmore, Cleveland Heights (Forest Hills area). Driving directions to 1481 Blackmore:

From Taylor Road northbound:

- ✦ Turn Left onto Rumson, the first street north of Mayfield.
- ✦ Blackmore is the fourth street on the right and only comes in on the right.
- ✦ The Jacobs' is the third house on the right on Blackmore.

From Taylor Road southbound:

- ✦ Turn right onto Rumson, south of Monticello and across from the Council Gardens Complex. It is the last street on the right before Mayfield.
- ✦ Blackmore is the fourth street on the right and only comes in on the right.
- ✦ The Jacobs' is the third house on the right on Blackmore.

From Lee Road northbound:

- ✦ Take Lee to Mayfield. Turn right (east) on Mayfield.
- ✦ Take the first left (north) onto Newbury, next to the Marathon station. Take the first right onto Rumson. The third street on the left is Blackmore, which only comes in on the left.
- ✦ The Jacobs' is the third house on the right side of Blackmore.

Community-Wide Cemetery Preservation Project

Volunteers are needed for this family-friendly mitzvah, which is sponsored by the Federation:

- ✦ Weed, rake and beautify the grounds
- ✦ Please bring shovels, clippers, hedgers, gloves and other gardening tools.
- ✦ Inventory and evaluate headstones

The Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery was established in 1904 to provide burials for Jews who could not afford a proper burial. The cemetery has been maintained since 1994 by the Commission on Cemetery Preservation, a supporting foundation of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, with the continued help of volunteers.

Please RSVP by August 12, 2004, by calling Jewish Volunteers in Action (JVA) at the Federation, (216) 566-9200, ext. 264, e-mail [mjacob@jfcleve.org](mailto:mjacobs@jfcleve.org), or register online at www.jewishcleveland.org. Members of the following groups have been invited to participate: Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, Betar Youth Movement, Beth El – The Heights Synagogue, B'nai Jeshurun, Congregation Bethaynu, Green Road Synagogue, Hillel, Jewish Community Federation's Business Division and Community Relations Committee, Oheb Zedek, Shaarey Tikvah, Solon Chabad, Suburban Temple, Temple Beth Shalom, Temple Emanu El / Social Justice Advisory Council, Temple Israel Ner Tamid, The Temple Tifereth Israel, Beth Israel–The West Temple

Jewish Volunteers in Action, a program of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, provides opportunities for Jews to participate in acts of chesed (kindness) and tikkun olam (making the world a better place). JVA encourages family participation, and coordinates and tailors smaller projects for groups and organizations. Please contact JVA for more information.

Cemetery Preservation Project

Sunday,
August 29,
9–11:00 AM

Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery
3740 Ridge Road,
Brooklyn Heights
(Other cemeteries to be determined)

Details to the left.

NEWS FROM BETH EL חדשות

Mazel Tov to:

מזל טוב!

- ◆ **Karen and Harvey Kugelman** and Family on the engagement of Karen's daughter Natanya Rubin to Kyle Bice. The wedding will be next summer, in Illinois.
- ◆ **Deborah Michelson and Jon Lash** on their engagement.
- ◆ **Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin** on their recent wedding, which got feature coverage in the Sunday New York Times.
- ◆ **Aaron Tetelman and Jessie Vigorito**, who were married on June 27.

Farewell to:

שלום ולהתראות

- ◆ We wish our member **Ken Bardach** well in his new position at Washington University in St. Louis. We will miss his good cheer and beautiful voice.
- ◆ **Gil and Terri Preuss, and their children, Shoshanna, Sarah, Yoni, and Maya** are leaving for Boston, where Gil has accepted a position with the Boston Jewish Community Federation. Gil and Terri have been active members since the early days of our congregation. As our President from July 2001 to June 2003, Gil guided us through the process of acquiring our new home. We will miss the Preuss family!

Thanks for Kiddush Sponsorships: תודה!

- June 26 — **Frank and Jeannette Buchwald**, in honor of Shani's 7th birthday and Frank's 70th.
- July 3 — **Ari Klein and Ditte Wolin**, in memory of Ditte's mother, Naomi Wolin.
- July 10 — **The Congregation**, in honor of the Preuss family.
- July 24 — **Bill and Carol Bruml**, in honor of their daughter Sarah's engagement to Chris Buckley.
- July 31 — **Deborah Michelson and Andrew Steiger** in honor of their son, Eli Steiger, who will become Bar Mitzvah that morning.
- August 14 — **Bruce and Celia Jennings**, in honor of their daughter, Emily, who will become Bat Mitzvah that morning.
- August 21 — **David and Karen Shiffman**, in honor of their daughter, Devorah, who will become Bat Mitzvah that morning.

Thanks for Contributions:

תודה!

- ◆ **Ruth G. Ballonoff** in memory of her father, Albert L. Glaser
- ◆ **Dave and Emily Dennis** in gratitude for Dave's healing kidney
- ◆ **Joseph Eisenberg and Ida Greiner** in memory of Philip Ticktin
- ◆ **Hilda Goren** in memory of her husband Simon Goren
- ◆ **Alan and Norma Gressel** in memory of Philip Ticktin and Stuart and Theresia Kline
- ◆ **The Kugelman Family** in memory of Sonia Goldstein and in honor of Natanya Rubin's engagement to Kyle Bice
- ◆ **Lila Newman** for Yizkor
- ◆ **Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin** in memory of Naomi Wolin
- ◆ **Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin** in memory of Philip Ticktin
- ◆ **Laura and Marty Rabinowitz** in honor of Leon and Laille Gabinet
- ◆ **Abbie and Steve Sender** in memory of Naomi Wolin
- ◆ **Blanche and Jack Valancy** in memory of Philip Ticktin
- ◆ **Blanche and Jack Valancy** in honor of Lissa Keller's Lunch and Learn session, and towards the kiddush fund
- ◆ **Ieda and Marvin Warshay** in memory of Philip Ticktin

Thanks for Tikkun Leyl Shavuot and Shavuot services

- Services and Tikkun — **Cheryl Birkner Mack**
 - Food — **Lisa Berusch and Marvin Palevsky**
 - Teachers — **Nili Adler, Rabbi Moshe Adler, Mark Davidson, Stacia Dearmin, Caren Shiloh**
 - Reading Megillah Ruth — **Nili Adler**
- Did you want to learn about the forbidden texts? Well, so did a few other shul members who stayed up all night on Shavuot. Fortunately (or not) we had so much else to learn we had to postpone that session, prepared by Cheryl Birkner Mack. Stay tuned for a future date for that subject. We did learn from Nili and Rabbi Moshe Adler, Mark Davidson, Stacia Dearmin, and Caren Shiloh. Michael Bloom also prepared a session which we were unable to fit into our full night (Thanks, Michael!). Maybe next year we'll stay up BOTH nights! Thanks to all who stayed up and learned and helped make our 5 AM minyan.

Condolences to:

ביחום אבלים

- ◆ **David Shutkin and Family** on the recent death of David's grandfather, Arthur Kravat.
- ◆ **Harold and Ellen Ticktin, Ieda and Marvin Warshay and Families** on the death of Philip Ticktin, MD. Philip was Harold and Ellen's third child, and a first cousin of Ieda Warshay.
- ◆ **Ditte Wolin and Family**, on the death of Ditte's mother, Naomi Wolin

Refuah Sh'lema to:

רפואה שלימה!

- ◆ Laille Gabinet

Thanks for the Donations:

תודה!

- ◆ Bill and Carol Bruml donated a punch bowl set.
- ◆ Lise Moulton donated adult and children's books.

Yasher Koah to:

יישר כוח!

◆ **Rabbi Moshe Adler**, whose letter correcting an article that said that Jews do not believe in the afterlife was quoted on National Public Radio's Morning Edition (on June 15).

◆ **Mia Buchwald Gelles**, who recently helped found Milestones, a non-profit that provides access, education, training and collaboration for the autism community. Milestones held its second annual Autism Conference in late June.

◆ **Allie Jennings**, who received an excellence award from Akiva High School, at the graduation ceremony on May 18. This award was established by Nili Adler, upon her completion of ten years as director of Akiva, in memory of her late father, Yehudah-Leib Schultz.

◆ **Bruce and Rick Jennings** on the premiere of Little Beth Entertainment, Ltd.'s first motion picture, *The Way Home*. Both Bruce and Rick appear in the movie; Bruce also wrote the music. *The Way Home* is a story of hope, love and the strength of family; it was filmed in Shaker Heights, and was premiered in May 22.

◆ **Roger Kohn**, who recently had an article and three short book reviews published in *AJL Newsletter: the Quarterly Review of the Association of Jewish Libraries*. The article was mentioned on the front page! (Article: "Creating Gender Equity and Organizational Effectiveness in Judaica Librarianship," AJL Newsletter, XXIII - 4 (May/June 2004), p. 1. Book

reviews: [1] "Judaica in the Slavic Realm, Slavica in the Judaic Realm: repositories, collections, projects, publications," Zachary M. Baker, editor. *AJL Newsletter*, XXIII - 4 (May/June 2004). [2] "Yom-Tov Lipmann Heller: portrait of a seventeenth-century rabbi," by Joseph M. Davis. *AJL Newsletter*, XXIII - 4 (May/June 2004). [3] "Harnessing the Holocaust: the politics of memory in France," by Joan B. Wolf. *AJL Newsletter*, XXIII - 4 (May/June 2004).

◆ **Marylin Malkin**, who completed Me'ah, a program of 100 hours of Judaic studies. She received her certificate at the Siegal College of Jewish Studies graduation on June 13.

◆ **Honey Massey**, who has earned a Master of Arts degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Cleveland State University, with a specialty in teaching English to students of other languages.

◆ **Morris Shanker**, who was quoted extensively in a July 7 *New York Times* article on the Portland, Oregon, Archdiocese's bankruptcy declaration.



You probably wouldn't like our shul.

REASON #10:

Our kiddushes go on way too long.

Some shuls whisk you in and out — cup of Mogen David, a pastry, and it's time to move on to Saturday afternoon.

Not us. We have to admit, we like to hang out. People dawdle as long as they wish — it's Shabbat, after all! Some just schmooze. Some weeks there's a "kiddush with Rashi" table. Most weeks there's a singing table; and almost always there's one or more benching tables. And if you want/need a lunch invitation, it's easy to arrange.

If you think you might like this kind of place, give us a call.
Beth El—The Heights Synagogue. 216-932-5562.

CALENDAR, AUGUST 2004

אבאלול 5764

Labor Day
Minyan

Join us for
a
Labor Day
morning
minyan,
Monday,
Sept. 6,
2004, at
9:30 AM
at the
synagogue.

Enrich
your
holiday
with the
stirring
sounds of
the shofar,
a preview
of the
weekly
Torah
portion
and an
enthusi-
astic
Shacharit
service.

Saturday, July 24 – Kiddush to be sponsored by Bill and Carol Bruml in honor of their daughter Sarah's engagement to Chris Buckley.

Monday-Tuesday, July 26-27: Tisha B'av:

July 26, 8:30 PM: Introductory study session at 8:30 PM, followed by Ma'ariv and the traditional mournful reading of Eikha, which retells the destruction of Jerusalem. The fast begins at 8:40 PM.

July 27, 10:00 AM: Study session on the significance of Tisha B'av. The fast ends at 9:20 PM.

Saturday, July 31: Eli Steiger will become Bar Mitzvah. Kiddush will be sponsored by Deborah Michelson and Andrew Steiger, in his honor. (Profile was published in June.)

Saturday, August 14 – Emily Jennings will become Bat Mitzvah. Kiddush will be sponsored by Bruce and Celia Jennings, in her honor.

Saturday, August 21 – Devorah Shiffman will become Bat Mitzvah. Kiddush will be sponsored by David and Karen Shiffman, in her honor.

Sunday, August 29, 9:00 to 11:30 AM – Cemetery cleanup, sponsored by the Federation (see page 5 for details).

Sunday, August 29, 7:00 PM – Jewish Reading and Discussion Group meeting at the home of Sondra and Harvey Jacobs (see page 5 for details).

Monday, September 6, 9:30 AM – Morning Minyan (see sidebar to the left).

Saturday, September 11, 9:30 PM – Selihot gathering at the synagogue (see page 3 for details).

Note: Shabbat and holiday candle lighting times may now be found on our web site and will no longer regularly be published in the monthly calendar. See <http://www.bethelheights.org/>

Emily Jennings Will Become Bat Mitzvah



On July 14, 1991, in Albany, New York, Emily Jayne Jennings was born to her parents Bruce and Celia Jennings. She has two older siblings: Rick, who is now 19 and Allie, who is now 16. In 1995 they moved to Shaker Heights, Ohio. A year later, Emily began school at Solomon Schechter Day School. At 7, she got her first Siddur and at 9, her first book of Torah. In fifth grade, she began attending Woodbury, Shaker Heights' upper elementary school. At the same time, she also studied Hebrew and Judaic studies at Cleveland Hebrew Schools. She is now going into the eighth grade at Shaker Middle School.

Emily has many hobbies and interests. She likes to cook, help out at her school's special education classroom, walk her cat, and ride her scooter. She looks forward to another year at the SMS and beyond. She especially looks forward to her Bat Mitzvah on August 14, 2004.

The Jennings family invites the congregation to join them for lunch in the Social Hall after services on August 14, in honor of Emily's Bat Mitzvah.

Thanks, to Our Former Board Members

For the past year, it has been my pleasure to serve with our dedicated Board. In June, the following members completed their terms as officers, committee charge or at large Board members. I thank each of them for their service:

Cheryl Birkner Mack, Ritual committee

Cheryl assured that we had leaders for our Shabbat and holiday worship services, as well as attending to other ritual matters. The Board will miss her informative d'var Torahs and her warm sense of humor.

Leon Gabinet, At large

Leon co-chaired our Capital Campaign, and was instrumental in securing the very generous grant we received from the Schnurmann Foundation. I have come to rely on Leon for sage advice and support.

Gil Preuss, Immediate past President

We continue the work Gil started during his term, and we thank him for his very large role in bringing us to our new home. We bid Gil, Terri, and their children a fond farewell as they head to Boston. We will miss you!

Marty Rabinowitz, At large

We will miss Marty's thoughtful, sincere advice on complex situations.

Steve Sender, Treasurer

We appreciate the hundreds of hours Steve

spent organizing our books and researching complex accounting and tax issues, as well as his close financial oversight.

Ed Small, At large

We appreciate Ed's work on the Facilities committee and the very large part he played in bringing us to our new home. We will miss his sensitive approach to difficult situations.

Linda Tobin, Capital Campaign Committee

Thanks to Linda's organizational skills and perseverance, we exceeded our Capital Campaign goal, which makes it possible for us to build our new, accessible entrance.

Marvin Warshay, Secretary

In addition to recording meeting minutes, Marv provided perceptive insights and practical advice about serving our members.

By Jack Valancy, President

G-d's T'fillin

(continued from page 1)

yet they are particular [to say the Grace after Meals] even if the quantity eaten is only the volume of an olive or an egg!"

During Elul, let's choose G-d anew. After all, He does it for us each year. "Ani l'dodi v'dodi li - I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine."

Note from the editor:

I am using new software and experimenting with format this month...

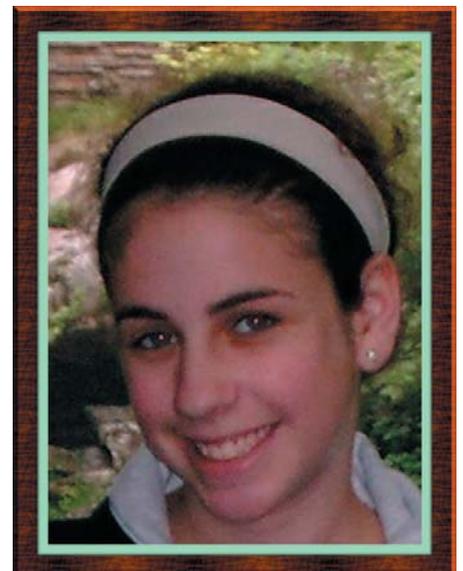
Your comments and criticism would be welcomed.

Carol
benews@apk.net

Devorah Shiffman Will Become Bat Mitzvah

Devorah Shiffman, daughter of Karen and David Shiffman, will celebrate becoming a bat mitzvah on August 21. Devorah will be in 8th grade at The Agnon School this fall, where she plays percussion in the band and is a member of the basketball team. While she lives in Beachwood, she travels extensively with her parents, siblings Sam and Lucie, having already visited 13 states in 2004. Devorah has a special love for small children, being an in-demand babysitter and a long-time volunteer at the pre-school camp at The Agnon School.

The Shiffman family invites the congregation to join them for kiddush after services on August 21, in Devorah's honor.



“Sisterhood”

Before Pesah a group of our women got together for a kosher wine tasting at Varietals.

Since then, Beth Wachter has heard rumors of continued interest in socializing outside services.

If you are interested, and especially if you have any ideas for activities or hear of a great event that a group might participate in... please contact Beth Wachter at wachter@nacs.net or (216) 932-5964.

Meet Our 2004-2005 Board

Our Board is a wonderfully diverse, knowledgeable, and hard working group. I look forward to working with them to build our congregation. As President, I thank each of them for their service:

These members are continuing on our Board as officers, committee chairs, or at large members:
Mia Buchwald Gelles, Adult Ed Committee
Mia has organized an extraordinarily effective committee that presents a wide variety of educational programs. The Board values her astute observations and thoughtful recommendations.

Emily Dennis, Development Committee
Emily thinks about Beth El – The Heights Synagogue and potential new revenue sources night and day. More importantly, Emily gets things done.

Adi Gerblich, At large
Adi asks tough questions, especially about our finances, that hold us to a high standard of fiduciary responsibility.

Laura Gooch, Vice President
Laura continues working intensely on our building construction projects. She is responsible for all building-related issues. We appreciate her grasp of the details.

Karen Kugelman, Membership Committee
Karen was present at the creation of both Heights Synagogue and Beth El – The Heights Synagogue. In fact, you could call her our congregation’s midwife. Karen has been a true friend.

Scott Wachter, Chesed Committee
Scott and Beth Wachter have done a terrific job co-chairing the Chesed committee for the past several years. They quickly and sensitively respond to our members and friends in need.

Ditte Wolin, House and Operations Committee
Ditte runs our building every day. She rolls up her sleeves and tackles the 1,001 jobs that need to be done.

These members are beginning their service on our Board as officers, committee chairs, or at large members:

Lisa Berusch, Ritual Committee
From organizing Heights Synagogue in her living room, to her service as President and beyond, Lisa has done innumerable things for Beth El – The Heights Synagogue. This committee will oversee all things ritual, working closely with the rabbi.

Michael Bloom, At large
Michael has led services, presented d/var Torah, and is in great demand as a piano player at our social events.

Mark Davidson, Child and Teen Programming Committee
Mark has been involved in our children’s education program for years, and most recently helped with our congregational retreat.

Robin Dubin, At large
Robin has served on our Adult Education and other committees.

Fern Grunberger, Secretary
Fern has organized golf outings, led a Lunch and Learn program, and served on several committees. As secretary, she will maintain our corporate books and records.

Celia Jennings, Communications Committee
Celia has helped with Board development, our Capital Campaign, and several projects involving manual labor. Her committee will oversee our internal and external communications.

Marilyn Malkin, At large
Marilyn has been chair of our Child and Teen Programming Committee

Bill Schmitt, At large
Bill has volunteered his time since the early days of Heights Synagogue. Most recently, he has devoted untold hours on building repairs.

By Jack Valancy, President

This list of Board and Committee contacts was current as of July 5, 2004. Please keep it with your Beth El–The Heights Synagogue Membership List, for your reference. Discard any previous lists of Board contacts you may have. All previous lists are now obsolete; the membership of the Board has changed.

| Beth El – The Heights Synagogue Board and Committee Contacts June 2004 | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Name | Position | E-Mail | Phone |
| Board Members | | | |
| Officers: | | | |
| Jack Valancy | President | jack@valancy.com | 216-371-1439 |
| Laura Gooch | Vice-President | lgooch@alum.mit.edu | 216-932-1002 |
| Fern Grunberger | Secretary | fernnette@aol.com | 216-321-8570 |
| (Open seat) | Treasurer | contact Jack Valancy | |
| Committee Chairs: | | | |
| Lisa Berusch | Ritual | lberusch@core.com | 216-397-9060 |
| Mark Davidson | Child and Teen Programming | markyosef@aol.com | 216-295-1715 |
| Emily Dennis | Development | glendennis@rmrc.net | 216-589-0663 |
| Mia Buchwald Gelles | Adult Education | mia_b_g@hotmail.com | 216-321-7134 |
| Celia Jennings | Communications | celiakjenn@aol.com | 216-991-6704 |
| Karen Kugelman | Membership | karen.rubin@thompsonhine.com | 216-932-5562 |
| Scott Wachter | Chesed | wachter@nacs.net | 216-932-5964 |
| Ditte Wolin | Publicity | adwolin@nccw.net | 216-932-9907 |
| Open Seat | Social | | |
| At-Large: | | | |
| Michael Bloom | At-Large | mbloom4@adelphia.net | 440-442-1359 |
| Robin Dubin | At-Large | rad4@po.cwru.edu | 216-382-8848 |
| Adi Gerblich | At-Large | aag2@po.cwru.edu | 216-921-2025 |
| Marilyn Malkin | At-Large | mxm74@po.cwru.edu | 216-932-1949 |
| Bill Schmitt | At-Large | schmittcle@aol.com | 216-595-0003 |
| Other Committee Contacts | | | |
| Rabbi Adler | | moshetzvi@earthlink.net | 216-291-2404 |
| Russell Berusch | Facilities committee | rab@neighborhoodprogress.org | 216-397-9060 |
| Carol Bruml | Newsletter | benews@apk.net | 216-932-9155 |
| Stacia Dearmin | Operations: Food | stacia113@adelphia.net | 216-321-4327 |
| Ari Klein and Ditte Wolin | Publicity | Ari@nccw.net adwolin@nccw.net | 216-932-9907 |
| Debbie Michelson | Social; Decorating | michelson@goodmanweissmiller.com | 216-371-0327 |
| David Shutkin | Webmaster | dshutkin@jcu.edu | 216-371-3145 |
| Ed Small | Leasing | cleveurban5@aol.com | 216-321-0448 |
| Debbie Small | B'nei mitzvah | dsmall40@hotmail.com | 216-321-0448 |
| Blanche Valancy | Mailing | blanche@valancy.com | 216-371-1439 |
| Beth Wachter | Sponsored Kiddushes | wachter@nacs.net | 216-932-5964 |



What's Going On?

BETH EL

The Heights Synagogue

Issue 12, August 2004



Going, Going, Almost Gone!

Demolition of our old façade began in late June (see the photos). By the time this issue of the newsletter hits the streets, the old steps will have disappeared and our new elevator entry will be on its way up!

There will be some activity inside the building during construction, but its impact on our activities should be minimal. Once the new entry is in place and secure, new doors for the stairs and elevator will need to be cut in the back wall of the Social Hall. We expect this work to begin during the first or second week in August.

Inside Work to Go with the Renovation

Our decorating committee has been reactivated so that we can coordinate more painting and improvements in the sanctuary with the renovation. The committee is hoping to have the remaining sanctuary walls painted, the memorial plaques hung, a new screen installed behind the reading table, and other improvements to our place of worship in time for the High Holy Days.

Contact committee chair Debbie Michelson at 216-371-0327 or michelson@goodmanweissmiller.com if you'd like to help out.

Chesed Committee News:

We will be "adopting" Homewood Residence in Cleveland Heights, as part of an effort by the Federation to connect to Jewish residents living in non-Jewish nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Details to follow, but basically, we will be notified which residents are Jewish and, with their approval, we can introduce ourselves and then organize visits, special holiday events, etc. If you are interested in volunteering to take part in this activity, please contact Beth Wachter at wachter@nacs.net or 216-932-5964.