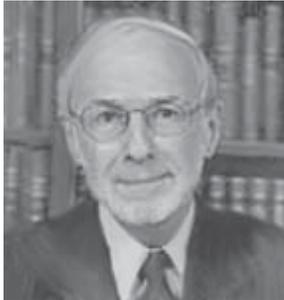




BETH EL NEWSLETTER

The Heights Synagogue

January 2005
5765 **טבת/שבט**



Rabbi Moshe Adler

Notes from the Rebbe

We Had a Dream

As we honor Martin Luther King this month, I'd like to share with you some excerpts from an article of his entitled, "Letter to an Anti-Zionist Friend" (Saturday Review, August 1967):

You declare, my friend, that you do not hate the Jews, you are merely 'anti-Zionist.' And I say: Let the truth ring forth from the high mountain tops, let it echo through the valleys of God's green earth: When people criticize Zionism, they mean Jews – this is God's own truth.

Anti-Semitism, the hatred of the Jewish people, has been and remains a blot on the soul of mankind. In this we are in full agreement. So know also this: anti-Zionist is inherently anti-Semitic, and ever will be so.

Why is this? You know that Zionism is nothing less than the dream and ideal of the Jewish people returning to live in their own land. The Jewish people, the Scriptures tell us, once enjoyed a flourishing Commonwealth in the Holy Land. From this they were expelled by the Roman tyrant, the same Romans who cruelly murdered Our Lord. Driven from their homeland, their nation in ashes, forced to wander the globe, the

Jewish people time and again suffered the lash of whichever tyrant happened to rule over them.

The Negro people, my friend, know what it is to suffer the torment of tyranny under rulers not of our choosing. Our brothers in Africa have begged, pleaded, requested – DEMANDED – the recognition and realization of our inborn right to live in peace under our own sovereignty in our own country.

How easy it should be, for anyone who holds dear this inalienable right of all mankind, to understand and support the right of the Jewish People to live in their ancient Land of Israel. All men of good will exult in the fulfillment of God's promise, that his People should return in joy to rebuild their plundered land.

This is Zionism, nothing more, nothing less.

And what is anti-Zionist? It is the denial to the Jewish people of a fundamental right that we justly claim for the people of Africa and freely accord all other nations of the Globe. It is discrimination against Jews, my friend, because they are Jews. In short, it is anti-Semitism.

(continued on p.4)



**Shabbat services
Saturday
mornings
at 9:15 AM**

**Kabbalat
Shabbat services
the first Friday
of the month at
6:00 PM**



Jack Valancy

President's Perspectives, January 2005

Where There's a Will, There's a Way

Since I was a young boy, my mother has told me, "Where there's a will, there's a way." Her words came to mind as I was preparing for our December 5, 2004, congregational meeting.

The Board called the meeting to review the progress we have made as a congregation, to outline our work ahead, and to discuss our plans to meet the challenges we face. We had a frank discussion about money. In addition to myself, Vice President Laura Gooch, Membership Chair Karen Kugelman, and Development Chair Emily Dennis spoke to our fellow members.

We are facing some significant challenges. Our financial projections show operating deficits and many of our volunteers are getting tired. We need more members and more money.

Vice President Laura Gooch summarized the Capital Campaign, capital budget, and operating budget. Our Capital Campaign went extraordinarily well, with pledges of close to \$230,000. Our renovation project evolved from our first conception of putting an elevator in the office wing and repairing the old front steps, to construction of our new accessible front entrance, which includes a Shabbat-compliant elevator. Despite complications, we are only a percent or two over the budget we set when we began construction.

When we originally projected our budgets, we expected to have operating deficits.

Our actual operating deficits are higher than projected. Although our expenses are running somewhat less than forecast, our income is running much lower than projected for two reasons: Our membership has not grown as much as we expected, and donations for ongoing operations are lower than we expected.

In response, our Finance and Budget committee is streamlining our accounting processes and helping us understand how our money is spent. The Board is running a very tight ship operationally – there aren't easy ways to save large sums of money. The Membership and Development committees are looking at ways to bring in more members and money from outside sources.

Membership Chair Karen Kugelman reviewed our current membership data, recruiting activities since June 2003, and areas of potential growth. Development Chair Emily Dennis summarized our current and potential fund-raising programs.

We have accomplished a lot together in the past six years. Unfortunately, as I said before, our continuing operating deficits and our volunteers' burnout both threaten our future.

Our parents and grandparents lived through the Depression and World War II. They had the will, and they found a way. Now it's our turn.

(continued on p.3)

**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 If you'd like to get the pdf e-mail version, contact benews@apk.net (You must have the free Acrobat Reader in order to open the attachment.)

(Where There's a Will, There's a Way, cont. from p.2)

You can help insure the future of Beth El – The Heights Synagogue by:

- Actively participating in our congregation.
- Volunteering your time
- Paying your dues
- Making voluntary contributions
- Recruiting new members and retaining current members. Tell your friends what we do. Invite them here and show them what we do. If you haven't seen a member for a while, give them a call.

We must to work together now to keep our congregation strong for our children and grandchildren. Where there's a will, there's a way.

Time, Talent, Treasure!

BE–THS provides a unique place for deepening our understanding of Jewish faith and practice. Many of us imagine with dread the sense of loss we would suffer if BE–THS did not exist. At the same time, we recognize that our synagogue has financial challenges. Some of those challenges will be met through significant fund-raising and rental income. But these efforts will not erase the need for continued donations. How can we individually manage to give that little bit extra that means so much to the livelihood of our congregation?

Some of our members have been very creative in this regard! One agreed to tutor a child in Hebrew, requesting that the parents make a significant donation to the shul. Another did home remodeling work for a friend, stipulating that the payment be sent to BE–THS as a donation. Yet another donated profits from selling ice cream in their neighborhood. These are a few ways that people have turned their time and talents into treasure for the synagogue. What can YOU do?



Rabbi Moshe Adler,
Maia & Anna Wachter
Havdalah at the
Hanukkah Party



You probably wouldn't like our shul.

REASON #16:

We have the wrong priorities.

We're just finishing our building renovation.

Some of it was absolute necessity: we needed a new facade to replace the crumbling stairs out front.

But we made some other choices too. The biggest one, and our biggest expense, was to build a "Shabbat elevator" so that our 70-year-old building will be accessible to all.

There were other things we wanted — but we made our choice. Not everyone can climb stairs — but everyone should be able to count in a minyan.

**If you think you might like this kind of place, give us a call.
Beth El–The Heights Synagogue. 216-320-9667.**

Give Yourself a Gift for 2005
A unique opportunity to learn a lot of Hebrew in a short time

Siegal College's intensive classical Hebrew course.
January 3 through January 28, Monday through Thursday, 8:00-10:00 P.M.
For 3 credits or audit
Learn to read and understand simple Biblical narratives and basic prayers.

To register, contact Nili Adler 216-464-4050 Ext. 116
Or e-mail enroll@siegelcollege.edu

(We Had a Dream, continued from p.1)

The anti-Semite rejoices at any opportunity to vent his malice. The times have made it unpopular, in the West, to proclaim openly a hatred of the Jews. This being the case, the anti-Semite must constantly seek new forms and forums for his poison. How he must revel in the new masquerade! He does not hate the Jews, he is just 'anti-Zionist'!

My friend, I do not accuse you of deliberate anti-Semitism. I know you feel, as I do, a deep love of truth and justice and revulsion for racism, prejudice, and discrimination. But I know you have been misled--as others have been--into thinking you can be 'anti-Zionist' and yet remain true to these heartfelt principles that you and I share.

Let my words echo in the depths of your soul: When people criticize Zionism, they mean Jews – make no mistake about it.

Would Dr. King apply this same critique to the anti-Arabism or anti-Islam of our own day? In all likelihood he would. So, indeed, have Jews themselves done, from Alan

Dershowitz on the left to Paul Wolfowitz on the right. There is a difference between protesting a specific policy of a given Israeli administration, and denying Israel's right to exist. Similarly, there is a difference between opposing the reign of terror currently gripping the Arab and Islamic worlds, and denying the right of Palestinian Arabs to govern themselves. Both our peoples have suffered. Both our peoples need justice and peace. Neither people can benefit from distorting the image of the other or attempting to rewrite the other's history.

Dr. King's understanding of this critical distinction came from his religiously based moral system. If we would learn anything from the example of his life and thought, we must learn from our own religiously based moral system to affirm other human beings even when we are forced to oppose their bigotry or injustice.

Some three millennia ago, a Jewish prophet had a dream: "In all of My holy mount nothing evil or vile shall be done, for the land shall be filled with knowledge of HaShem as water covers the sea." (Isaiah 11.9) That dream must be ours too.



Joe Buchwald Gelles and Marvin Palevsky prepare egg rolls and latkes for the Hanukkah party.

Our Hanukkah Party Was De-LIGHT-ful!

More than 100 people had a de-LIGHT-ful time at our congregation's Hanukkah party on December 11. The evening started with Havdalah services led by Rabbi Adler, followed by the LIGHTing of Hanukkah candles. Afterwards, a PowerPoint presentation of photographs showed high-LIGHTS of our history.

In addition to traditional latkes with apple sauce and sour cream, we dined on egg rolls, pasta salad, vegetables, and relishes. Dessert included cookies decorated by our children and an outstanding chocolate chip cake.

With Michael Bloom at the piano, Stacia Dearmin on vocals, and Merry Lugasy instructing us in Israeli dance, we sang, danced, and socialized for hours under the festive, twinkling LIGHTS.

New bride Debbie Michelson coordinated our Hanukkah party planning team, chefs Marvin Palevsky and Joe Buchwald Gelles catered dinner, and Jeanette Buchwald, Mia Buchwald Gelles, Eric Fryxell, Laura Gooch, Merry Lugasy, David Tomberg, Blanche Valancy, Beth Wachter, and Ditte Wolin pitched in. Many hands make LIGHT work!

Love in the Afternoon at Beth El

I want to thank many congregants who attended the "Lunch & Learn" study session on The Song of Songs, on November 20. I truly enjoyed the group creation of dramatic interpretations of the text, and the sharing of personal insights on diverse aspects of Judaism, love and sexuality.

If you are interested in participating in such creative midrash sessions on other Jewish texts, please e-mail me at mbloom4@adelphia.net. ~ Michael Bloom

B'nai Mitzvah Parents' Planning Meeting

Planning a bar or bat mitzvah in the next few years? We invite all Beth El – The Heights Synagogue parents with children ages 9 to 12 to please attend a special informational morning on Sunday, January 23, 2005, at 9:30 AM at the synagogue building.

We will answer some of the many questions families have about this life cycle event – from the sociological and historical to the downright practical:

- What does it mean to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah?
- How can I make this event relevant to my son or daughter?
- What are the requirements and the options for celebrating this milestone at Beth El -the Heights Synagogue?
- How can I best use the Beth El building for my event? Are there costs involved?
- Where can I find a tutor to help my child prepare?

MANY THANKS to Judith Gerblich.

Judith has volunteered to become our B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator!

Judith may be reached at 216-921-2025 or jgerblich@hotmail.com

Please contact her if you have any questions regarding a forthcoming bar or bat mitzvah event.



Michael Bloom and Stacia Dearmin Provide Music at the Hanukkah Party

Scheduling Your Event at Beth El-The Heights Synagogue

If you wish to schedule an event at the synagogue, you must contact Fern Grunberger to book/confirm the date in the shul calendar.

Fern may be reached at 216-321-8570 or FERNETTE@aol.com

An Opportunity To Make Significant Progress In Classical Hebrew In A Short Time

Siegal College of Judaic Studies offers an intensive Classical Hebrew course beginning January 3 through January 28, Monday through Thursday, 8:00 – 10:00 PM.

Students learn how to read and acquire basic knowledge of Hebrew as the language of the Bible and the prayer book. They read and understand simple Biblical narratives and basic prayers from the Jewish prayer book. Courses can be taken for personal enrichment or for credit, which may transfer to other colleges. For more information, call Nili Adler 216-464-4050, ext. 116, or e-mail at enroll@siegalcollege.edu.

Short Stories Long on Interest

The first-time miniseries, "Short Stories by Jewish Authors," was wonderfully successful, with participation by eleven members of Beth El-The Heights Synagogue and one guest. Not everyone was able to attend all sessions but all who came were well prepared to talk about the stories, their meaning and significance both to literature and Jewish life. There were many thought-provoking interpretations and new insights gained through sharing our own gleanings on the prominent authors, Cynthia Ozick, Bernard Malamud, and Grace Paley. A surprise highlight of the final session (on Grace Paley) was a taped reading by Grace Paley of one of her stories, provided by Joe Buchwald Gelles. It was the frosting on the cake, so to speak, to hear Ms. Paley, in her own voice, deliver one of her works. What a delightful experience that was! Thanks, Joe.

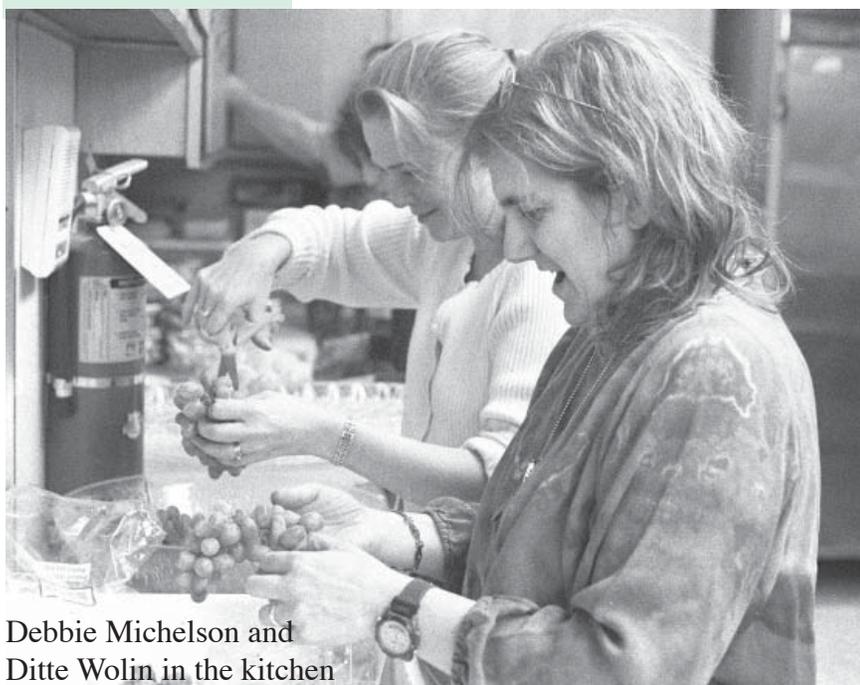
We hope to continue with the short story reading/discussion group in the not-too-distant future. We will select different authors and stories. Anyone who is interested in participating, please contact me at 216-397-1481, hajacobs@juno.com.

-Sondra Jacobs

Memorial for Nili Adler's Mother

On Sunday, December 26 (end of shloshim) there will be a memorial for Nili Adler's late mother, Nechama Shultz-Shalit Z"L, בחמה שולץ-שליט ז"ל, at 4:00 PM at Beth El - The Heights Synagogue 3246 Desota Ave., Cleveland Heights.

The memorial tribute will include a Torah study session led by Moshe Adler, Hebrew poetry study led by Nili, and a minchah service. Nili and Rabbi Adler would be honored to have you join them. Please let Nili know if you are able to attend, 216-291-2404 or niliadler@adelphia.net.



Debbie Michelson and Ditte Wolin in the kitchen

Have We Got a Meal for You! Mentoring Program to Sponsor Kiddush on January 8

Immediately following Shabbat morning worship on January 8, Beth El members and friends are warmly invited to a Kiddush sponsored by the mentoring program of the Adult Education Committee.

The mentoring program was organized last year in response to the requests of participants in the Learners' Service for individual instruction in the intricacies and nuances of worship. As people requested mentors, however, it became evident, however, that interests were not limited to worship but extended into other facets of Jewish life, including kashrut and Tanach. At Beth El – The Heights Synagogue, we are a most resourceful and talented Jewish community. After just a few telephone calls and a couple of e-mails, mentors were matched with “mentees” and the program came to life!

Informal guided study is a great way to explore Judaism, enhance your synagogue community, and make friends. As a long-time beneficiary of informal study at Beth El, Lisa Berusch, recently commented, “If you were to have asked me just a few years ago if I thought I would be reading Torah and leading services in the same week, I would have thought it was inconceivable.”

If you have a desire to learn and/or the willingness to teach please join participants in the mentoring program and members of the adult education committee for Kiddush. All are welcome!

~Dr. David Shutkin

Adult Ed Upcoming dates:

January 8: Learner's Service (Topic TBA)
January 8 Mentoring Program (used to be Davening Mentors) kick-off with a sponsored kiddush

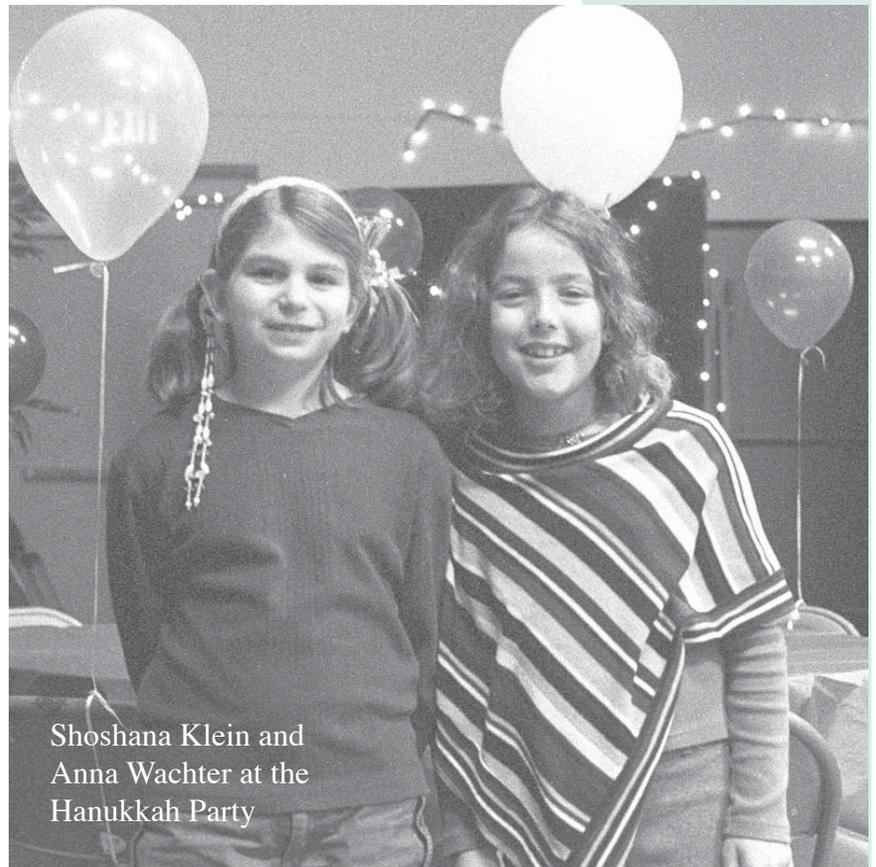
January 22: Learner's Service (Topic TBA)

January 22 Lunch and Learn: Shulamit Magnus, Ph.D. will present “Exclusiveness, Tolerance and Contempt: Jews and Christians in the Middle Ages.”

January 23 B'nai Mitzvah meeting for families with children ages 9-12 – (details to follow from Cheryl Birkner Mack)

For candle lighting times, check out the calendar at the Beth El – The Heights Synagogue web site, at <http://www.bethelheights.org/>

The web site is created and maintained by David Shutkin.



Shoshana Klein and
Anna Wachter at the
Hanukkah Party

Keep Informed with BigList

You can keep informed about services, educational programs, and events at **Beth El – The Heights Synagogue** by subscribing to our BigList discussion group.

Here's what you need to know:

- ▶ To subscribe, send an email to bethel-sub@valancy.biglist.com and then confirm your subscription by replying to the email you receive a few minutes later.
- ▶ To unsubscribe, send an email to bethel-unsub@valancy.biglist.com. Unsubscribe requests are processed immediately.
- ▶ Subscribers can post messages by sending them to bethel@valancy.biglist.com. Messages should be related to Beth El – The Heights Synagogue or information of interest to the Jewish community. Please, no political or commercial messages.

That's all there is to it!



You probably wouldn't like our shul.

REASON #5:

We change the melodies.

We're a small shul with no *hazzan* — by choice.

Members lead all services. Some of us have great voices. Some of us don't. Some of us know the tunes you grew up with. Some of us teach melodies we learned last week somewhere else. Some give a learned *dvar torah* or sermon, some just bring a fresh eye and thoughtful mind.

We try to take pride in every leader, every teacher, every melody. It's not always familiar, but it's always from the heart. And we'd love to add your melodies.

If you think you might like this kind of place, give us a call.
Beth El–The Heights Synagogue. 216-320-9667.

Yasher Koach to: **יִישֵׁר כּוֹחַ!**

Russell Berusch, who will soon become CWRU's first Vice President for Commercial Development. According to the *Plain Dealer*, Russell will head all university projects to reinvigorate areas around the campus. (The article may be found at <http://www.cleveland.com/education/plaindealer/index.ssf:/base/cuyahoga/1103538615180820.xml>)

Ruth Link-Gelles, who received an internship in Washington, DC, for the next semester. She will be giving tours of the US Supreme Court.

Steve Sender, who has recently accepted a position as Principal in the tax, accounting and consulting firm of Margida and Warfield, Inc., in Hudson.

David Shutkin, who has received tenure and a promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of Education at John Carroll University.

NEWS FROM BETHEL

חדשות

Condolences to:

ניחום אבלים

➤ Nili and Rabbi Moshe Adler, and family on the recent death of Nili's mother, Nehamah Schultz-Shalit, Z"L, בחמה שולץ-שליט ז"ל, in Israel.

➤ Connie Friedman and family on the recent death of Connie's grandmother, Beatrice Muchin, Z"L.

➤ Charlie Gatins and family, on the death of Charlie's wife, our beloved member, Loretta Gatins, Z"L.

Mazel Tov to:

מזל טוב!

➤ Debbie Michelson and Jon Lash on their November 27 marriage, the first wedding our congregation has celebrated in this building.

➤ Zev Valancy, who has made the Dean's List at Northwestern University for (his first) four consecutive quarters.

Refuah Sh'lema to:

רפואה שלימה!

➤ Clara Dick

Thanks for Kiddush Sponsorships to:

תודה!

➤ December 18: Jeannette and Frank Buchwald in honor of Noam's 9th birthday and Cheryl Birkner Mack in memory of her father, Sam S. Birkner

Thanks for Donations to:

תודה!

➤ Lila Newman, mother of Judy Schoenfeld, for the donation of a handmade, child-friendly Hanukkiah, with felt candle "flames," and for two children's books.

➤ Carol and Howard Berusch

➤ Danial Blain and Miriam Rosenberg

➤ Joel and Julie Rabin Falck

➤ Laura Gooch and David Kazdan

➤ Martin and Nancy Kosmin

➤ Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin, for beautification of the synagogue, in honor of Debbie Michelson's recent marriage to Jon Lash.

➤ Ellen and Harold Ticktin

Thanks for Donations:

תודה!

In memory of Nili Adler's mother, Nehamah Schultz-Shalit, Z"L:

- Bonnie Diamond
- Jacqueline Freedman
- Charlotte Price
- Dan Price
- Linda Tobin and Stephen Pepper
- Blanche and Jack Valancy
- Annabelle Weiss

In Memory of Loretta Gatins, Z"L:

- Blanche and Jack Valancy

Thanks for the help!

תודה!

November Lunch and Learn: Thanks to Harold Ticktin, J.D. for the entertaining and enjoyable presentation and to Robin Dubin and Marvin Palevsky for cooking.

December Lunch and Learn: Thanks to Michael Bloom, Ph.D. for the stimulating and engaging presentation and to Richard Kruek and Joe Buchwald Gelles for cooking.

Jewish Short Stories Mini-series: Thanks to Joy Collas for leading thought-provoking discussions and to Sondra and Harvey Jacobs for organizing and hosting the series.

December's Kiddush with Rashi and the Learner's Service: Thanks to Cheryl Birkner Mack for insightful and accessible teaching.

Hanukkah Party:

Committee: Debbie Michelson, Jeanette Buchwald, Joe Buchwald Gelles, Laura Gooch, Marvin Palevsky, Blanche Valancy, Beth Wachter, Ditte Wolin
Chefs: Marvin Palevsky, Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles, Debbie Michelson, David Tomberg, Beth Wachter
Music: Michael Bloom, Stacia Dearmin

Dancing: Merry Lugasy

Help and Cleanup, Fun and Merriment: Everyone in attendance!

CALENDAR, JANUARY 2005

טבת\שבט 5765



For candle lighting times, check out the calendar at the Beth El - The Heights Synagogue web site, at <http://www.bethelheights.org/>

The web site is created and maintained by BE-THS member David Shutkin.

December 26, 4:00 PM – Memorial for Nili Adler's late mother, Nehamah Schultz-Shalit, ז"ל, נחמה בת אברהם צבי הלוי ז"ל

January 7, 6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat services

January 8, approximately 10:15 AM – Learners' Service, Topic TBA
Mentoring Program Kick-Off

January 22, approximately 10:15 AM: Learners' Service, Topic TBA
Lunch and Learn with Shulamit Magnus, Ph.D. (Details on p. 7)

January 23, 9:30 AM: B'nai Mitzvah Meeting for families with children ages 9-12 years (Details on p. 5)

January 25: TuB'Shevat ט"ו בשבט

February 4, 6:00 PM: Kabbalat Shabbat services

Mia's Yud Bait Challah (Round Pull-a-part Challah)

1 cup warm water
2 eggs
1 teaspoon salt
¼ cup oil
½ cup honey
4 ¼ cups flour (bread machine flour works well)
2 teaspoons dry yeast
1 additional egg for painting challah

Add ingredients to bread machine in the order listed above. Set the machine on dough only. Optional – add raisins in the bread machine at the appropriate time. Divide dough into 12 pieces and kneed into balls. Line the bottom of a 10-inch springform pan with parchment or wax paper (cut or tear off the extra) and spray the pan with nonstick cooking spray or rub with margarine). Place the 7 smallest balls around the outer edge, then 4 in the inner circle and the largest ball in the center. Brush balls with a small amount of beaten egg. Optional – sprinkle with poppy or sesame seeds if desired. Let stand at room temperature for 1 to 1 ½ hours (more time doesn't hurt). Bake in a preheated 350 oven for 30 minutes (plus or minus a few minutes depending on your oven). Remove from pan and cool on rack.

Of course this recipe is perfectly suited for making by hand as well.



What's Going On?

BETH EL

The Heights Synagogue

Issue 17, December 2004

The Law of the Final Inch

I seems like every month I write that our elevator addition is almost finished, that it will be done soon... And every month for the past several we *have* been almost finished. We've been held up, first by the slow installation of the elevator, and now by a delay while we waited until the team that "tunes" the elevator became available. That team is here this week (December 6 through 10). Once they finish their work, which includes setting up Shabbat operation, the Ohio elevator inspector will need to approve the installation. Then that work will be truly complete and our new entry can open for business!

In late November, members of the Facilities Team walked through the addition with Jim Lawler of Lawler and Crowley and architect Chris Dewey from Lowenstein and Durante to identify things that needed to be repaired or cleaned up to finish the project. Lawler and Crowley will be completing these "punch list" items as the elevator work is completed.



Redone Bima (above) – New Entrance (below)



More Inside Work

Thanks to the efforts of Debbie and Ed Small, painting in the sanctuary is complete and the many memorial plaques are up. The rest of the plaques will be refurbished before they are installed. Bill Schmitt continues to work on installing emergency lights in the stairwells, Social Hall and Sanctuary. David Tomberg has undertaken the task of locating the right glass to replace broken panes in our sanctuary windows and is replacing those panes now.

Looking Ahead

Once the addition is in use, we'll all be able to relax a little, but there will still be work to do to make the addition and other parts of the building more pleasant and functional. The Decorating Committee is working on a more permanent screen to go behind the Sanctuary reading table (between the table and the new entry doors) and on other enhancements for the Sanctuary. They have also begun to think about decorations for the walls in the addition and elsewhere. Call Debbie Small (216-321-0448) if you'd like to help with decorating. The work of the decorating committee will complement the work of Emily Dennis and the Development Committee on a donor recognition plaque recognizing those whose donations made the addition possible.

-Laura Gooch