



The Token Has Fallen



Rabbi Moshe Adler

The Hasidic master, Rabbi Mendel of Kotzk, was once asked why it says in the *Sh'ma*, “These words shall be *al l’vavecha*, on your heart” rather than “*bi’l’vavecha*, in your heart.” He replied that the heart is not always open. We are therefore bidden to lay these words on our hearts, so that when the heart opens, the words will already be there, ready to enter.

It is important to learn Torah and at least try its *mitzvot* on for size, even when one is not ready to integrate them fully into one’s everyday life. During my years of teaching in elementary and secondary Jewish schools, I would sometimes be asked why so much Judaic material is important to the curriculum when it will not get children into good colleges or maximize their chances of getting good jobs. Why not simply put just enough Judaic studies into the curriculum to give it a Jewish flavor, so the kids will know something about Judaism and be proud of being Jewish? After all, they’re probably not going to be rabbis or Jewish educators – how much Judaic knowledge do they really need?

My response was, and still is: Torah is for ALL Jews, not just rabbis and other “professional Jews.” Pour it on now, while they’re in school. That way, if they run away from it in college or the workplace, and later want to reclaim it, it will already be on their hearts, ready to enter and be reclaimed.

At Beth El – The Heights Synagogue, we practice a similar philosophy. We come to shul to pray together, learn together, celebrate together, and bond around our Judaism. You can come as you are – no particular denominational label, no predetermined level of religious belief or observance, no socioeconomic profile required. We engage our hearts and minds, taking each other’s questions as our Sages took theirs: not as defections from faith but as triggers for strengthening it through honest thought.

In Israel, before the advent of cell phones (was there really ever a time when Israelis *didn’t* have cell phones?), people would use public phone booths. They would buy phone tokens and deposit them to make calls. Sometimes the token wouldn’t fall all the way in, and the user would hit the phone. The token would drop all the way in, and the user would get a dial tone. Thus was born an Israeli idiom that expresses a person’s sudden understanding of something he has once heard or experienced but not fully understood until now: *Nafal lo ha-asimon* – his token has fallen in!

The month of Elul, the month right before Rosh HaShanah, is approaching. It’s a time for internal stock-taking, for seeing where in life we’ve been and considering where we want to go, mending fences with God and with our fellow human beings. It’s an auspicious time for depositing that Torah token, even if it doesn’t fall all the way in. One day it just might, and won’t it be nice to begin (or resume) a lifelong, lively conversation with God through the study and practice of Torah?

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



**Scott Wachter,
President**

President's Perspectives, August 2012

New Year – New Goals

On June 10, I was very fortunate to receive the votes from our membership to continue to serve as President of Beth El –The Heights Synagogue for another year. It's a major responsibility, and I look forward to the year ahead. It's a given that there will be challenges and rewards; but they all point toward providing a strong and brighter future for Beth El –The Heights Synagogue.

I was both pleased and thankful that all of our Board members were also approved by our membership. You'd be hard pressed to find a brighter and more dedicated synagogue Board. In many aspects, our Board and volunteers are the heartbeat of our community, the rudder and sail that keep us moving in the right direction.

In this month's article, I intend to share what we accomplished last year, as well as our immediate and long-term plans.

We had, by several accounts, a very successful year. Our finances are in better shape, we enhanced our communication, and we created processes making it easier both to sponsor kiddushes and to update our website. These were just some of our many successes. At the same time, we embarked upon many new projects.

We are in the process of developing a new Siddur. Members are working diligently with Rabbi Adler, who is providing a translation. Current drafts are being vetted by members, who are also providing valuable feedback. Nili Adler, who is hands-down the best when it comes to Hebrew, both in reading and teaching, is providing quality

checks on the Hebrew and transliteration. This is a major undertaking, as one may well imagine. I know of few synagogues that have the resources to take on such an initiative. The final product will have to be approved by the Board. It's expected this Siddur will be the new Siddur for our Shabbat services. Although we don't yet have a completion date, the work has been productive.

We are also revamping our front foyer. Though we are a welcoming community, there is always room for improvement. A committee comprised of those from both the Board and current members are meeting to determine the best approach to improving our front foyer in order to make it more appealing to our guests and members.

These are just some of our new initiatives; there are many others.

We will also be planning for our current programming for our kids, teens, and adults. One of many examples: the Adult Education committee has already scheduled several Lunch and Learns for the upcoming year.

We have an exciting year ahead. I look forward to working with our Board and community as we continue to grow. It is my hope that you will join us and partake in many of our offerings. You are more than welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

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

**HELP US
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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!
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Send an e-mail to Leon Adato, leon@adatofamily.com if you need help with signing up.

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER:
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On Tour with the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra

Shoshana Klein, daughter of Ari Klein and Ditte Wolin and a student at Heights High School, went on tour to Europe this June with the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra. Seventy-five of the 100 members of the orchestra participated. Shoshana will begin her third year with the Youth Orchestra this fall, playing oboe.

The tour began in Prague with a concert in Dvorak Hall of the Rudolfinum. They dared to play Dvorak's *Symphony no. 8* there, and it was well received by a very packed auditorium. In addition, they played Brahms' *Academic Festival Overture*, Wagner's *Prelude and Liebestod* from *Tristan and Isolde*, and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*.

The group went on to play this same material in Vienna at the Minoritenkirche and in Salzburg in the Grossesaal of the Mozarteum. In Vienna, the tour members were able to view the Staatsoper (Opera House) and meet with Cleveland Orchestra conductor Franz Welser-Möst, who spends a good part of his year as conductor of the Vienna Opera.

The tour really was an opportunity of a lifetime. Some students recognized that this might be their only chance to play in these concert halls, while others hoped that they might return in the future! One challenge was the different acoustics of the different halls, most notably, the church in Vienna, where the sound reverberated much more than in the other halls. The conductor, James Feddeck, worked with the musicians during the two-hour rehearsal to dampen certain instruments and to make their sound 'crisp'.

It wasn't all work for the students. The group was given free time in each city to explore and shop, as well as to see the sites, such as Karljen Castle near Prague, Mirabel Gardens in Salzburg, where scenes from *The Sound of Music* were filmed, the Prague Castle, and the cemetery where many famous composers are buried. The organizers of the tour also did not flinch from an important historic lesson, taking the group to Terezin, a concentration camp not far from Prague. The students were visibly affected by what they heard and saw.

I was privileged to join the tour as a chaperone. It was a pleasure to get to know these talented young adults and to be a part of this experience.

~ Ditte Wolin



CYO on stage in Prague



Ditte and Shoshanna on dinner cruise in Prague

Your Turn: Our Members Write
Ditte Wolin writes about her trip to Europe as a chaperone for the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra.

New Member Profile

Molly Brudnick



Molly says Beth El is a very welcoming shul; she is grateful to Dr. Janice Carrick for introducing her to Beth El- The Heights Synagogue. She enjoys the lovely voices, and the egalitarianism – though her Orthodox upbringing makes her uncomfortable with taking an *aliyah*. As a single person, she says it has been great to be included in some of the families' holiday celebrations. She also appreciates the pre-Pesah cleaning job done by the youth program and would love to support such a program monthly.

Molly lives in Shaker Heights and is a retired medical social worker. She has been on the board of MetroHealth Friends of Mothers and Infants for forty years; they raise money in order to provide layettes, strollers, and portable playards to be used as cribs for families who are Metro patients. She is also on the MetroHealth Advisory Council, advocating for the best possible health care for patients. Molly keeps up her social work license in order to stimulate her brain; this requires taking thirty hours of continuing education every two years.

Molly is also a lifetime member of Hadassah and a member of the Hadassah Machon group, where each month a member presents on a topic of interest; her latest was the DVD “Hot Coffee,” on justice issues.

Many justice issues prompt Molly to write to legislators and the newspaper to voice her concerns. She would like to start a social justice advocacy group for discussion and action purposes at Beth El –The Heights Synagogue. The Beth El Adult Education Committee has agreed to host an “Ask a Doc” program on the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”) on October 20, at her behest.

Molly enjoys reading on her Kindle and traveling, especially with friends. Recently she and a friend went to Chautauqua for a five-day program of lectures on memory, music, politics, and religion. It was very interesting and in a lovely venue.



Rabbi's Class 2012-2013

MAIMONIDES: A PHILOSOPHER FOR THE AGES

A series of six sessions led by Rabbi Moshe Adler

HOLD THE DATES!: The Rabbi's Series will begin on November 3. Class dates are November 3, November 17, December 15, January 12, January 26, and February 9. The course will be based on *A Maimonides Reader*, by Isadore Twersky (West Orange, NJ: Behrman House, 1972). The book can be purchased at Cleveland's two Jewish bookstores or at Amazon.com or alibris.com (check for used copies in good condition). You may want to search for a copy ahead of the course start date.

Thanks to Nili Adler for the New Member Profiles of Molly, Joel, and Bud.

Nili also took the photo of Molly, above.

New Member Profile

Joel Genuth

Joel Genuth was born and mostly raised in Shaker Heights, Ohio. He graduated from Shaker Heights High School in 1974 and attended Harvard College and MIT (Ph.D. in science policy). In 1983 he married Sara Schechner. They lived in Chicago, where their daughter, Miriam, was born in 1989; in Mt. Vernon, New York, where their second daughter, Naomi, was born in 1992; and in Silver Spring Maryland, where they separated in 1998.

In September, 2000, Joel resigned his post-doctoral research position at the American Institute of Physics in favor of teaching secondary school mathematics and science. He continued to work with his post-doctoral research findings and published *Structures of Scientific Collaboration* in 2007 (with Wesley Shrum and Ivan Chompalov, MIT Press).

In 2001, Joel and his daughters moved to Newton, MA to accommodate Sara's professional aspirations. He taught mostly within the juvenile detention and treatment programs while raising his daughters.

In September 2011, with Miriam settled on attending graduate school in San Francisco (Ph.D. candidate in biology at UCSF) and Naomi attending college (Harvard), Joel returned to Cleveland where his father, Dr. Saul Genuth, and aunt, Judy Goodman, happily live. His Cleveland ties extend back farther: his grandfather, Rabbi David Genuth, was founding rabbi of Temple Beth El. Joel is a serious amateur classical pianist and a better home cook than he is a musician.



New Member Profile

Myron Bud Stern

Myron Bud Stern was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He belonged to several Conservative congregations there because his family moved around. He went to Oberlin for a couple of years and received several degrees from Case Western Reserve University. He has worked as a family and clinical psychologist for over forty years.

Bud was also a nursery school teacher and a Sunday School teacher at the former Congregation Beth Am. He loved second grade so much he stayed there for seven years!

Bud has one son, Dan, who lives in Denver with his wife. His brother lives in Greater London, and his parents still live in Chicago.

Bud was introduced to Beth El –The Heights Synagogue by Honey Massey. He looks forward to retirement later this year, with walks in the woods, plays, concerts, and getting together with friends. A little known fact about Bud is that he drove cross country to a national CAJE conference with Rabbi Moshe Adler, Nili Adler, and some other friends ... and they found their way back!



NEWS FROM BETHEL **חדשות**

Yasher Koah to:

יישר כוח!

➤ **Joshua Davidson**, son of Mark and Adina Davidson. Joshua graduated with Honors in English from Oberlin College on May 28. He will begin working at the Cohen Center for Jewish Research at Brandeis University in September.

➤ **Jeffrey Halpern**, a postdoctoral researcher at and double alumnus of CWRU, who has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship to help develop a breath test that would identify early cancers. "A goal is to create a test used during office visits – check-ups – as a first screening for cancer," he said. Jeff will spend 20 months at Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, in Haifa,

working in the lab of Hossam Haick, professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and the Russell Berrie Nanotechnology Institute, beginning January 1, 2013. Read the full article in the CWRU *Daily* at <http://thedaily.case.edu/news/?p=8630>.

➤ **To the readers of the book of Ruth on Shavuot:** Nili Adler (Hebrew), Abby Halpern (Hebrew), Bruce Amsel (English), Henry Bloom (English).

Mazal Tov to:

מזל טוב!

➤ **Maureen Barasch**, whose second grandchild, Eliana Orli, was born on June 5.

Thanks for Contributions to:

תודה!

➤ **Rabbi Moshe and Nili Adler**, in memory of their parents, Max and Clara Adler Z"l, and Yehudah-Leib and Nechama Shultz-Shalit Z"l.

➤ **Kenneth Bardach**, in honor of his new granddaughter, Yael Ellie Bardach, who was born in April.

➤ **Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin**, in memory of Ann Bloom Z"l.

➤ **Michael and Shelley Bloomfield**

➤ **Allison and Richard Braverman**, in memory of Allison's mother, Esther Genuth Smith Z"l.

➤ **Molly Brudnick**

➤ **Molly Brudnick**, in memory of her brother, Hyman Brudnick Z"l, and her mother, Mary Brudnick Z"l.

➤ **Molly Brudnick**, in honor of Joe Berusch becoming bar mitzvah.

➤ **Janice Carrick**

➤ **Leon Gabinet**

➤ **Joel Genuth**, in memory of Rabbi David Genuth's daughter, Esther Smith Z"l.

➤ **Laura Gooch and David Kazdan**, to the Chesed Fund.

➤ **Laura Gooch and David Kazdan**

➤ **Laura Gooch and David Kazdan**, in honor of the birth of Yaakov Miller.

➤ **Joel Heller**

➤ **Betty and Meyer Hoffer**, in honor of Miriam Palevsky's recovery and in gratitude to the congregation for their support during her illness.

➤ **Sharona Hoffman and Andy Podgurski**

➤ **Etole and Julian Kahan**, in memory of their grandparents, Elka and Isaac Genuth Z"l.

➤ **Lee Kohrman**, in honor of Rabbi Moshe and Nili Adler.

➤ **Elliot Magalnick**, in memory of Ann Magalnick Z"l, Joseph Magalnick Z"l, Alvin Magalnick Z"l, and Diane Magalnick Z"l.

➤ **Maxine Margolis**, in honor of the graduations of Anna and Maia Wachter and the birth of Yaakov Miller.

➤ **Ron Myers**

➤ **Stanley Neuger**

➤ **Abbie and Steve Sender**

➤ **David and Teri Tomberg**

➤ **Beth and Scott Wachter**

➤ **Ieda and Marvin Warshay**

➤ **All who made anonymous donations at the Members' Annual Meeting breakfast.**



Thanks for Community Challenge Contributions to: תודה!

- Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand, in memory of Ernest Gelfand Z”L.
- Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand, in honor of Mick Miller and Jamie Saunt, and welcoming Yaakov Miller into this world.
- Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand
- Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles
- Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck
- Joel and Julie Falck
- Leon Gabinet, in memory of his wife, Laille Gabinet Z”L.
- Joel Genuth
- Adi and Judith Gerblich
- Chester and Stephanie Gordon
- David Gordon
- Sharona Hoffman and Andy Podgurski
- Harvey and Karen Kugelmann
- Alan Lerner and Erica New
- Karen Mandel
- Shirley Marks, in appreciation of several lovely luncheons and interesting seminars.
- Honey Massey and Bud Stern, in honor of Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles, and in thanks for their hospitality, integrity, and friendship.
- Adam and Yevgenia Probst
- Vicki Rosales
- Beth and Scott Wachter, in honor of Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin’s wedding anniversary and the birth of Yaakov Miller.
- Ieda and Marvin Warshay, in memory of Clara Dick Z”L.

Thanks for Contributions Made at the Wonderfully Successful Musicale on May 13 to: תודה!

- Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand, in honor of Nina Sobel, who organized the event.
- Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin, in honor of the musicians and arrangers of the May 13 Musicale.
- Bill and Carol Bruml
- Frank and Jeanette Buchwald
- Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck
- Adi and Judith Gerblich

- Antoinette Miller
- Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin
- Menachem Shoham
- All who made anonymous donations at the Musicale.

Thanks for Kiddush Sponsorships to: תודה!

- June 9 – Miriam Palevsky, in honor of Marvin’s 50th birthday.
- June 16 – Marvin and Miriam Palevsky, in honor of their 27th wedding anniversary.
- July 14 – Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck, in honor of their 12th wedding anniversary, and Sharona Hoffman and Andy Podgurski, in honor of their 7th wedding anniversary.
- July 21 – Leon Gabinet, in memory of Laille S. Gabinet Z”L, Rose M. Schutz Z”L, and Sara Gabinet Z”L.
- August 4 – Adam and Yevgenia Probst, in honor of their wedding anniversary.
- August 18 – Bill and Carol Bruml, in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary.

Thanks for Simcha Kiddush Contributions to: תודה!

The month of May

- Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand, in honor of the birthdays of Eleanor Gelfand and Roberta Siegel.
- Molly Brudnick, in honor of Mick Miller and Jamie Saunt’s new son, Yaakov Miller.

The month of June

- Frank and Jeanette Buchwald, in honor of Frank Buchwald’s and Shani Gelles’ birthdays.
- The Wachter Family, in honor of the birthdays of Scott, Anna, and Maia.

Thanks for newsletter mailing help to: תודה!

- Sherry Ball
- Margaret Conti
- Sondra Jacobs
- Sue Klein
- Shirley Marks
- Honey Massey
- Nina Sobel
- Bud Stern
- Teri Tomberg
- Blanche Valancy
- Beth Wachter
- Ditte Wolin

I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Maya Angelou

CALENDAR, AUGUST 2012

אב / אלול 5772

[TEEN TORAH STUDY WILL TAKE PLACE DURING SERVICES, EVERY SHABBAT.]

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2012, 9:30 PM – Tish'ah b'Av service and reading of the book of Echah (Lamentations). Tish'ah b'Av, the fast of the Ninth of Av, commemorates the destruction of the first and second Temples, as well as other catastrophic events that occurred on that date. The fast begins at sunset and ends the next day after dark.
NOTE: Lights will be lowered during Echah; bring flashlights from home.

SUNDAY, JULY 29, AFTER DARK – Havdalah is said at home. Just wine or grape juice; no fire or spices.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, AFTER SERVICES – Adam and Yevgenia Probst will sponsor Kiddush in honor of their wedding anniversary.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, AFTER SERVICES – Bill and Carol Bruml will sponsor Kiddush in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25 –

DURING SERVICES – Michael Bassin, IDF soldier, author, and businessman, will speak to the teens.

AFTER SERVICES –

Monthly Simcha Kiddush: Join us as we celebrate all of the happy events that have occurred during August!

Lunch and Learn with Michael Bassin. (see attached flyer)

SATURDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 8 - S'lichot

סליחות

10:00 PM – Learning session “Call on Him while He is Near” – Preparing to Come before God. – S'lichot Service at 11:00 PM.

Yahrzeits, August 2012

Marcia L. Jacobs	14 Av	Victor Linden	3 Elul 5755
Harry Tinman	15 Av 5729	Alter David Miller	3 Elul 5732
Norman Paul Glanz	16 Av 5723	Isaac A. Belkes	3 Elul 5703
Sarah Blume Levine	16 Av 5737	Rose Rapport	4 Elul 5723
Ida Greenstein	18 Av 5728	Jack Malkin	4 Elul
Lena Freed	19 Av 5726	Walter Kugelman	5 Elul 5771
Morris Ginsberg	19 Av 5732	Chari Shanker	5 Elul 5767
Esther Ann Farachi	20 Av 5739	Rev. Nathan Davidson	6 Elul 5741
Helen K. Weil	22 Av 5752	Ira Marks	9 Elul 5771
Joseph D. Klein	23 Av 5718	Sarah Rottman	9 Elul
Samuel Messerman	24 Av 5748	Benjamin Slor	9 Elul 5731
Vladimir Bonacic	26 Av 5759	Kimberly Carr	11 Elul 5771
Sadie Landesman	27 Av	Sylvia Jane Starkman	11 Elul 5743
Dr. David Russack	27 Av 5743	Regina Stern	11 Elul 5712
Bernard Mason	29 Av 5719	Zelda Muszynski	12 Elul 5702
Joshua Andrew Topy	30 Av 5767	Fannie Sussman	12 Elul 5729
Osher ben Zalman Rabinovich		John Date	12 Elul
	1 Elul	Samuel Henry Stroom	13 Elul 5729
Esther Liederman	1 Elul	Frank Katz	13 Elul 5749

Torah Readers Needed!

Please contact Sue Klein if you would be willing to read Torah at any of the upcoming services. Many parshas are available!

Sue can be reached at 216-321-6541 or sue1028@dasa93.net

Lunch and Learn

Saturday, August 25, 2012

Presented by **Michael Bassin:**

I Am Not a Spy: An American Jew's Odyssey Through the Arab World and Israeli Army

A college student studying overseas wouldn't expect to be accused of being a foreign operative, have disturbing encounters with the secret police, or serve as an unofficial ambassador for a misunderstood people in an unpopular country.

Michael Bassin, however, experienced all of the above, and will talk about his confrontation with the ugly realities of propaganda and misinformation in the Middle East through his personal story as an openly Jewish student living in the Arab world, and serving as a combat Arabic translator in the Israeli army.

Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, Michael has travelled the Middle East as a student,

soldier, and
businessman. A
graduate of George
Washington
University in
Washington DC, he
is author of the

Michael in a traditional Emirati white robe, in the student center at the American University of Sharjah in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. September 2006.

Taking aim with an M-24 sniper rifle during sniper school near Modiin, Israel. September 2009.

upcoming memoir I Am Not a Spy: An American Jew's Odyssey Through the Arab World and Israeli Army.

3246 Desota Avenue, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118 Telephone, 216-320-9667

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