A Different Drummer

In the Torah (Leviticus 23:42-23), God tells the Israelite people, “You shall live in booths [sukkot] seven days; all citizens in Israel shall live in booths, in order that future generations may know that I made the Israelite people live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I HaShem your God.”

The Mishnah Brurah commentary on the Shulhan Arukh code of Jewish law, remarks that, by right, the commandment to live in a sukkah as a reminder of the Exodus should apply in the spring, just as the commandment to observe Passover applies in the spring. The reason that the mitzvah of sukkah applies in the fall, says the Mishnah Brurah, is that it would have made little sense to command us to live in a sukkah during the spring, when it is warm and people would in any case live in a sukkah. There would be nothing noteworthy about it. But in the fall, when people normally leave the sukkah and move back into the house, our moving from the house into the sukkah unmistakably marks that act as a ritual commanded by God.

This teaching reminds me of a similar one about why the Torah calls Abraham Avraham ha-ivri, Abraham the Hebrew: “The whole world was on one side [ever] and he was on the other side [ever]” (Midrash B’eshit Rabbah 42.8). In its plain sense, of course, the term Avraham ba-ivri refers to Abraham’s having come to Canaan from ever ha-nahar, the other side of the great river, Euphrates. But in its midrashic sense, Abraham was on one ever, one side, and the rest of the world was on the other ever.

Was Abraham a rebel? Did he feel compelled to do the opposite of what everyone else was doing? Hardly. Abraham crossed the river and migrated from one of the most advanced civilizations of that day, to settle in “the sticks” of Canaan, for only one reason: because God called him to do so. He was like the man of whom Henry David Thoreau (Walden, conclusion) wrote, “If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.”

We, Abraham’s descendants, still march to the beat of the divine Different Drummer whom Abraham followed. While we respect the rights of others to march to the beat they hear, we remain true to the beat we hear. Though we are members of the human family and refuse to let others deprive us of our membership, we must often stand aside from the rest of humanity in order to remain true to God’s call: “Go forth…to the land” (continued on page 8)
President’s Perspectives, October 2012

Reaching Out

When we moved from the now non-existent JCC on Mayfield Road to our current home at the corner of Berkeley and Desota, we, by default, became part of a neighborhood. On Mayfield Road, we were near retail shops, apartments and large streets. We are now surrounded by homes and small roads.

Soon after we moved in, we had an open house, where we invited many to our small synagogue in order to learn who we are. We had a nice turnout. Many were curious as to what all the work and construction was about; some just wanted to introduce themselves.

Since that time, however, our outreach efforts have flagged. As far as we knew, our neighbors perceived us as this large mysterious building that sat at the end of their block. Recently, however, we made an attempt to change that.

In early September, we distributed flyers to nearby homes inviting all neighbors to an ice cream social. We approached people in the street, asking them to attend our soiree. There was no ulterior motive; we simply wanted to reintroduce ourselves. The event was a major success. People of all ages came to meet us and to share in the ice cream (see photos on page 3). By inviting people to our synagogue, we attached faces to our building. There was good conversation, sharing of ideas, and the budding of relationships. I hope this is only the beginning. We would like to plan a neighborhood cleanup next spring, and perhaps other events that would foster even more collaboration with our neighbors.

Beth El-The Heights Synagogue is also starting to connect with other communities. In August, there was a terrible tragedy that took place in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, where Sikhs were murdered while praying in their Temple. We felt we needed to respond in some fashion to such a horrific incident. We wanted to share our feelings, not only to express our shock and dismay, but also because we are cognizant of the fact that this could happen to anyone. Rabbi Adler and I sent the following letter to the local Sikh community in Richfield, Ohio:

The community of Beth El – The Heights Synagogue, our Rabbi and Board, wish to express our deepest condolences regarding the most recent senseless shooting that took place this past week at the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

As a small Jewish congregation in Cleveland Heights, we come to our Synagogue to pray, be among friends and find solace. We’re certain one would find a similar atmosphere at the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, or here in northeast Ohio.

Unfortunately many minorities who are not part of the mainstream are susceptible to these types of horrific events. Though no one can explain why these atrocities happen, we at Beth El – The Heights Synagogue are aware that ignorance, fear and xenophobia fan the flames of hate and distrust.

Please know our thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

As a community, we want to be an increasingly positive force, not only in our immediate area, but in the region as well. And I want nothing more than to write letters to other communities that suggest we get together and share our common bond, rather than letters of condolence. And of course, the addition of ice cream never hurts.
Learners’ Services

Announcing New Learners’ Service Focus for 2012-2013

The Weekly Torah Portion

Last year our group completed a very rewarding two-year cycle of studying *Hi’neni: Prayerbook Hebrew for Adults*, by Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin. Based on input from the group, our focus this year will be on the weekly Torah portion. We will study and discuss selections from the Torah portion, consider commentaries, raise questions, and see where they lead (perhaps to answers or perhaps to more questions). The sessions will be completely accessible for non-Hebrew speakers.

Join us the 2nd and 4th Shabbat of each month in the library adjacent to the balcony when the Torah service starts (about 10:30am). We rejoin the service in time for the d’var torah. Each week’s lesson is a self-contained unit so you can drop in as your schedule permits.

Questions? Contact Mia Buchwald Gelles, miabgelles@gmail.com, or 216-321-6717.

Learners Service Dates:

- October 13 – *Bereshit* (starting after the 1st *aliyah*)
- October 27 – *Lech Lecha*

Yahrzeits, October 2012

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Celebrate Simhat Torah

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

Monday evening, October 8, at 7:30 PM, and Tuesday morning, October 9, at 9:15 AM.

Ethel Neuger 29 Tishrei 5734
Sam Tepper 29 Tishrei 5703
Sam Dworkin 30 Tishrei 5732
Marvin Dubin 30 Tishrei

Ben Tepper 2 Heshvan 5718
James Saunt 2 Heshvan 5766
Harry Mayzel 4 Heshvan 5761
Rose Zeisler 4 Heshvan 5723
Louis Brody 5 Heshvan 5713
Rashe Sobel 8 Heshvan 5716
Joseph Weiss 8 Heshvan 5747
Barney Krasny 10 Heshvan 5705
Harry L. Miller 10 Heshvan 5728
Blanche Carr 10 Heshvan
William Schenkelman 10 Heshvan 5724
Sarah Dolin 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
Beth El Celebrates Simhat Torah by Honoring our Chatan Torah and Chatan B’reshit

By Miriam Palevsky

Every year, on Simchat Torah, we finish reading the Torah scroll … and immediately begin reading it again! The last two aliyaot of the year consist of the last aliyah in the book of Devarim, and the first aliyah in the book of B’reshit. These aliyaot are customarily extended to special honorees who have helped make our Beth El community life flourish. This year our honorees are two people to have provided and continue to provide our congregation with tireless service week after week: Leon Gabinet (our Chatan Torah) and Joel Falck (our Chatan B’reshit).

Leon Gabinet first attended Temple Beth El in 1968. At that time, Beth El was a Modern Orthodox synagogue and its rabbi was Rabbi David Genuth. Leon was attracted to the synagogue by Rabbi Genuth, who was a scholar with a Master’s degree from Yale. His sermons were a delight; both Leon and Laille attended regularly to hear them. It was Rabbi Genuth who convinced Leon that, in the diaspora, the synagogue had to be the central Jewish institution and the focus of Jewish life.

When Temple Beth El’s president of 32 years, Joe Bertman, died suddenly and unexpectedly, Leon became the President and they elected a board to run the shul. Leon says the most important step they made during his Presidency at old Beth El was the Bat Mitzvah of Jamie Saunt! Imagine! A girl on the bimah reading the haftorah. Leon was afraid there would be “kolot uv’rakim,” thunder and lightning, but Hashem seemed to take it in stride. Their next bat mitzvah was Leon’s granddaughter, Gavriella.

After that, they decided that they would count women for the minyan, but it was not until the merger with the Heights Synagogue that the congregation became both truly traditional and egalitarian. It was Leon’s vocal and ardent wish that we could have a real ark for our Torah scrolls, and not the rolling cabinet we had at the JCC.

As a result, Ed Small saw fit to have a plaque made and affixed to our Aron Kodesh – to memorialize the realization of Leon’s wish for a real ark !!

Leon believes that he is now the oldest living active member of the synagogue. Leon continues to lead services, read Torah and Haftarah, lead High Holy Day services, provide d’vrei Torah, and give the occasional announcement at the end of services.

Joel Falck has attended Beth El – The Heights Synagogue since early in the first year of services at the JCC. Joel, and his lovely wife Julie, knew immediately that this was the shul for them. Their sons Josh and Sam celebrated their bar mitzvahs at BE–THS, and to blow shofar. Despite being allergic to committee meetings, he has worked on the Merger Committee that formally created BE–THS, the Building Committee that acquired our current building, and has assisted past presidents and the Board with many financial matters.

We are fortunate that Joel Falck has accepted the Chatan Torah aliyah. Joel has given an enormous amount of his own personal time, using his professional financial skills to help lead Beth El – The Heights Synagogue toward a more secure economic future. Joel’s innovative ideas and work have helped lay a strong financial foundation for Bour congregation. In turn, his approach and leadership have provided our community the momentum to move forward and grow. We are very grateful for his time and efforts.

Joel is also active with the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, and currently serves on its Audit Committee, Insurance Committee, and on the board of the Cemetery Preservation Foundation. He is also the past treasurer of Cleveland Hillel.

In real life, Joel works as a Chief Financial Officer; Julie has her own law firm. Josh (age 23) has recently started his career as a business analyst with a major bank, and Sam (age 18) is a freshman in the Honors Program at The Ohio State University.
Short Stories by Jewish Authors Reading and Discussion Group

Josh Rolnick for Lunch

Short Stories by Jewish Authors Reading and Discussion Group will have lunch and discussion with author Josh Rolnick, whose 2011 short-story collection, *Pulp and Paper*, won a Short Fiction Award in 2011 and a Starred Review for “books of remarkable merit.” The event will take place on Thursday, October 11, at noon, at Tommy’s on Coventry.

Our group members were exceptionally pleased with Rolnick’s story-telling prowess and we look forward to meeting with him. Josh will talk about his work, answer questions, and do a reading. He is also publisher of *Shma: A Journal of Jewish Ideas*, and Editor, *Unstuck: An Independent Literary Annual* that was recently included on a New York Times top-ten list of new and interesting literary magazines.

All readers are welcome to join us, but reservations are required, due to space limitations. Please contact Sondra Jacobs at sondrajacobs@sbcglobal.net or 216-397-1481.

Jewish Heritage Day

Rabbi Moshe Adler participated in the fourth annual Jewish Heritage Day, held on August 19, at Classic Park in Willoughby, home of the Lake County Captains, the Cleveland Indians’ Class A affiliate. As Matt DeFaveri’s article in the Jewish News said, “Jews and baseball go together like latkes and applesauce. Seven Jewish players were on Opening-Day rosters in the major leagues, including four former all-stars, two who played in last year’s World Series and one National League most valuable player.” Rabbi Adler threw one of the ceremonial first pitches for the Captains’ game against Lansing (the Captains won 9-2).

The full article may be found at <http://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/news/local/article_d5ef50ce-e584-11e1-beb7-001a4b8cf887a.html>
Conlences to:
- Stephanie Gordon, her children, Abram, Rachel, David, Merle, and Derek Roth Gordon, and their families, on the recent death of Stephanie’s husband of fifty-one years, Chester Gordon Z”L.

Thanks for Contributions to:
- Bruce and Judie Amsel, in honor of Bill and Carol Brum’s 40th wedding anniversary.
- Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand, in celebration of the August Lunch and Learn program.
- Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin
- Molly Brudnick, in honor of Rabbi Moshe and Nili Adler’s 25th wedding anniversary.
- Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles
- Janice Carrick, in celebration of Molly Brudnick’s birthday.
- Sandra Falck
- Ron Fersky
- Adi and Judith Gerblich, in honor of the August 25th Lunch and Learn program.
- Joel Heller
- Harvey and Sondra Jacobs, in memory of Harvey’s mother, Celia Jacobs Z”L.
- Alan Lerner and Erica New
- Carole and Daniel Litt, in honor of Ieda and Marvin Warshay’s 50th wedding anniversary.
- Karen Mandel
- Dafna Ronis, in appreciation of Rabbi Adler and the members of BE–THS who helped make a minyan in her home during shivah for her late father, Mr. Leonard Ronis Z”L.
- Arnold and Diane Stone
- Frederick and Joyce Tavill
- Trinity Cathedral
- Beth and Scott Wachter, in honor of Sherry Ball’s and Marty Gelfand’s wedding anniversary.

Thanks for contributions toward the Scholars in Residence Program, with Rabbis Arthur Waskow and Phyllis Berman, in November to:
- Molly Brudnick
- Fern Grunberger
- Alan Lerner and Erica New
- Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin
- Edith and Philip Piccus
- Beth and Scott Wachter

Thanks for Kiddush sponsorships to:
- September 8 – Rabbi Moshe and Nili Adler, in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary and Nili’s milestone birthday.
- October 20 – Molly Brudnick, in honor of the Lunch and Learn that day, at which Dr. Mark Binstock will be speaking.
- November 3 – Honey Massey and Bud Stern, in honor of Bud’s 70th birthday.

Thanks for September newsletter mailing help to:
- Sherry Ball
- Marty Gelfand
- Sondra Jacobs
- Sue Klein
- Erica New
- Bernie Siegel
- Roberta Siegel
- Blanche Valancy
- Beth Wachter
- Scott Wachter

Simcha Celebration
Join us in celebration of all of our October simchas at Kiddush on October 31.

We celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, engagements, accomplishments, and more.

Become a Simcha Kiddush honoree
Donate $36 per simcha celebrant to the Kiddush Fund, using the form, attached, or available online at http://www.bethelheights.org/simcha.php.

Your contribution supports our synagogue.
**Monday, October 1**—First day of Sukkot

9:15 AM—Shacharit

11:45 AM—Schacharit (morning service with Yizkor)

7:30 PM—Ma’ariv (evening service with Hakafot) (Candle-lighting at 7:39 pm)

Kiddush

**Tuesday, October 2**—Second day of Sukkot

9:15 AM—Shacharit

7:49 pm—Yom tov ends

**Sunday, October 7, 12:00 to 2:00 pm**

– Lunch in the Sukkah.

All holders of High Holy Days tickets are welcome! See flyer for more information.

**Monday, October 8**—Sh'mini Atzeret

Morning

9:15 am—Shacharit (morning service, with Yizkor)

Evening

– Simchat Torah begins

7:37 pm—Holiday ends

**Tuesday, October 9**

9:15 am—Shacharit (morning service with Hakafot)

7:37 pm—Holiday ends

**Thursday, October 11, 12:00 Noon**

– Author Josh Rolnick will join members of the Short Stories by Jewish Authors Reading and Discussion group for lunch and discussion at Tommy’s on Coventry. Reservations required! See page 6 for details.

**Saturday, October 13, about 10:20 am** (starting after the first aliyah) — Learners’ Service: Beth.

See page 4 for details.

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**Saturday, October 13, about 10:20 am** (starting after the first aliyah) — Learners’ Service: Beth.

See page 4 for details.
You’re invited to join us for lunch in our Sukkah on Sunday, October 7 from noon to 2 p.m.

To RSVP, call 216-320-9667

Beth El–The Heights Synagogue
3246 Desota Avenue, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118
Telephone, 216-320-9667
Email, info@bethelheights.org;
Website, http://www.bethelheights.org/

Beth El–The Heights Synagogue builds vibrant Jewish community. We welcome all in participatory, traditional, egalitarian worship and learning.
So far: 86 million Americans have used provisions in the Affordable Care Act to get preventive services through their insurance plans with no co-pay.
2.5 million seniors have saved an estimated $1.5 billion thanks to prescription drug discounts.
At least 2.5 million young people now can stay on their parents' health insurance until age 26.
4 million small businesses can now claim a tax deduction for providing health insurance to their employees.
MAIMONIDES:  
A PHILOSOPHER FOR THE AGES  
A series of six sessions led by  
Rabbi Moshe Adler

Pages noted are from Isadore Twersky, *A Maimonides Reader* (West Orange, NJ: Behrman House, 1972). It can be purchased at Cleveland's two Jewish bookstores and at Amazon.com and alibris.com (check for used copies in good condition).

Nov. 3, 2012
1. First principles
   - God's existence; sanctifying God's name; 
   - loving God; cultivating moral qualities; free will and t'shuvah (pp. 43-85)

Nov. 17, 2012
2. Holy deeds and holy words
   - Sabbath and festivals (pp. 102-109); oaths and vows (pp. 127-133); gifts to the poor (pp. 135-139); helping others (pp. 167-169); wronging others (pp. 171-173)

Dec. 15, 2012
3. Judges and justice
   - Bribes and favors (pp. 201-203); duty of leaders to respect the people (p. 205); the supreme court of Jewish law (pp. 207-209); the indispensability of the Oral Law (p. 210, under heading “ch. 3”); the Messiah (pp. 222-227)

Jan. 12, 2013
4. Torah and science: complementary, not contradictory
   - Figurative interpretation of the Bible (pp. 246-251); God is incorporeal and is known by His deeds but not in His essence (pp. 265-270); the world was created in time and is not coeval with God (pp. 285-289)

Jan. 26, 2013
5. Dealing with the enduring questions
   - The presence of evil in a world ruled by a benevolent God (pp. 300-305); trials that test the human being (pp. 306-310); seeking reasons for the Torah's laws (pp. 310-314)

Feb. 9, 2013
6. The thirteen principles of the Jewish faith
   - The principles that Maimonides sets forth as absolutely basic to Judaism and its survival (pp. 402-423)
Coming soon:

Scholars in Residence, Rabbi Arthur Waskow of The Shalom Center and his wife Rabbi Phyllis Berman, leading five weekend programs sponsored by Beth El—The Heights Synagogue, November 30 to December 2, 2012

Co-sponsors: The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, HaMakom, Funny Times Peace Fund, and the Mandel Jewish Community Center

Weekend topics include
“Environmental Ethics of Climate Change,”
“Spirals of Jewish Time: Celebrating a Year and a Life,”
“Story Telling as a Path for Social Change,” and
“The Green Menorah: Hanukah as a Festival for Healing Earth.”

Save the date! Look for times, locations, and registration information.

Rabbi Arthur Waskow is founder and director of The Shalom Center, www.theshalomcenter.org, and a tireless activist for environmental stewardship and social justice. He is the author of a new edition of Seasons of Our Joy, and many other books of Jewish wisdom. His Freedom Seder (1969) seeded a generation of Passover seders that address the issues of our time. He is a member of U.S. Council of Elders' steering committee.

Rabbi Phyllis Berman is founder and director of the Riverside Language Program to teach English language and American culture to immigrants. She was director of the summer program at Elat Chayyim for 12 years and is a leading Jewish renewal liturgist, prayer leader and story teller.

Beth El–The Heights Synagogue builds vibrant Jewish community. We welcome all in participatory, traditional, egalitarian worship and learning.
Rabbi Arthur Waskow and Rabbi Phyllis Berman
Beth El—The Heights Synagogue Scholar in Residence Weekend
November 30—December 2, 2012

Co-Sponsors: CMNH GreenCityBlueLake (GCBL) Institute and Beth El- The Heights Synagogue
Introduction: Scott Wachter, president of BE-THS

December 1, Saturday, 9:15 a.m. - noon
Shabbat Services
Place: Beth El Sanctuary
Speakers/Leaders: Rabbis Arthur Waskow and Phyllis Berman
Program: Rabbi Moshe Adler
Sermon Topic: “The Spirals of Jewish Time: Celebrating a Year and a Life” Part 2

December 1, Saturday, noon - 2:30 p.m.
Lunch, Discussion and Song
Place: Beth El, Social Hall
Leaders: Rabbi Arthur Waskow and Rabbi Phyllis Berman
Topic: "The Spirals of Jewish Time: Celebrating a Year and a Life" Part 1
Program: Dinner, Discussion, Dessert and Songs

December 1, Saturday night, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Social Justice Havdalah Concert
Place: TBD Eastern suburb
Leaders: Rabbis Arthur Waskow, Phyllis Berman and Simcha Zevit
Program: HaMakom, a co-sponsor, will lead a Musical Havdalah Event and the rabbis will engage us with "Story Telling as a Path for Social Change"

December 2, Sunday morning, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Program: Book event celebrating the new edition of “Seasons of Our Joy”
Place: Mandel JCC, co-sponsor
Topic: “The Green Menorah: Hanukkah as a Festival for Healing Earth”
This is an open community lecture on Hannukah by Rabbi Arthur Waskow with an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of the new edition of his new book on the holidays Seasons of Our Joy. The Host members will receive signed copies of the new book.

For reservations,
Judie: 440-449-5855 or jbjbjbjb38@ameritech.net

Catered Kosher Meals:
Member: $30 per person for Friday dinner and/or Saturday lunch  Non-member: $36 per person for Friday dinner and/or Saturday lunch
Member Family: $70 for Friday dinner and/or Saturday lunch  Non-member Family: $80 for Friday dinner and/or Saturday lunch

NB: Higher cost if registration is paid and received in the office after Nov 16 and before Friday, Nov 23.
Member: $35 per person  Non-member: $40 per person  Member family: $80  Non-member family: $90
Unfortunately we cannot accommodate reservations after November 23. (No attendance without paid reservations.)
Catered Kosher Meals:

For registrations received and paid before November 16, 2012:

☐ Member Individuals*: $30 per person for Friday dinner and/or Saturday lunch
☐ Non-member Individuals*: $36 per person for Friday dinner and/or Saturday lunch
☐ Member Family*: $70 total for Friday dinner and/or Saturday lunch
☐ Non-member Family*: $80 total for Friday dinner and/or Saturday lunch

*Write in box how many will be attending

For registrations received and paid between November 16 and November 23, 2012:

☐ Member Individuals*: $35 per person for Friday dinner and/or Saturday lunch
☐ Non-member Individuals*: $40 per person for Friday dinner and/or Saturday lunch
☐ Member Family*: $80 total for Friday dinner and/or Saturday lunch
☐ Non-member Family*: $90 total for Friday dinner and/or Saturday lunch

*Write in box how many will be attending

Please note that no reservations for meals will be accepted after November 23. Be sure to plan accordingly. Attendance without prepaid reservations will not be permitted for the dining events.

Contact Judie Amsel, 440-449-5855, for other information you may require.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name ___________________________________________________________________________________

Family Member Names __________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________________________________

City / ZIP _______________________________________________________________________________

Email ___________________________________________________________________________________

Home Phone ___________________________ Cell Phone _______________________________

Please indicate your selections below:

Enclosed is a check in the amount of $ ___________________ to cover the cost of meals for
_________ member individuals/_______ non-member individuals or a member family/
nonmember family for the 2012 Scholar-in-Residence Weekend at Beth El—The Heights
Synagogue. I am taking/not taking advantage of the early registration discount.

☐ I am unable to attend but I would like to contribute support to this event with a check
enclosed.

Mail to Beth El—The Heights Synagogue, 3246 Desota Avenue, Cleveland Heights 44118

We welcome all in participatory, traditional, egalitarian worship and learning.