



# BETH EL

## The Heights Synagogue

# NEWSLETTER

May 2017  
5777 אייר / סיון

### CO-PRESIDENTS



ERICA NEW



ERAN SHILOH



Shavuot  
June 11-13

ו' - ז' סיון

מועדים  
לשמחה

## Politics and the Synagogue

As presidents of the synagogue we were contacted by members of our congregation who were offended by political comments that have been made from the *bima* during Shabbat services at shul.

While we all like to debate, and sometimes argue, our points, we also need to make sure that we do not use Shabbat services for serving the political agenda of one party against another, or for or against one politician or another. Let's remember our motto: we welcome all(!), regardless of observance level, sexual orientation, income, skin color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or political orientation. Let's focus on the Torah, and the study of all that relates to the Torah. We are all Jews; let's give to one another the respect we wish to receive, ourselves!

We recognize the reality of current U.S. politics, and we live with the history of the Jewish people. In each of our lives we have been the sons and daughters, or the grandchildren, of individuals who have suffered firsthand the results of power-hungry politicians and their ilk. We know where the results of burying our heads in the sand can lead, and we have all been to numerous Yizkor (Remembrance) services. We recognize that, as members of a democratic society, it is our responsibility to hold our

elected officials responsible.

All elected officials should be – and are – available for scrutiny; we do need to be able to have open and free discussion about our elected officials regardless of their political leanings. At the same time these discussions should be done respectfully, and with openness to different opinions and perspectives. Making “off the cuff” remarks during services is a terrible way to have a discussion, and is a good way to alienate and offend people. Also, our main goal is not political discussion but traditional prayer service, Torah study, and Jewish culture and community, among other things. Let's focus on that. Should any of us engage in a discussion at shul or elsewhere, let us recall the advice of Rachel Kalish, who provided us with a very instructive Lunch and Learn in May 2016. (Eran still has a copy of her notes if any of you is interested.) One of the tools she offered was S. L. O. W.:

- **S**peak your truth: use “I” statement to clarify feelings, thoughts, reactions, and values.
- **L**isten Deeply, deal with “triggers” as they arise by breathing, praying, taking breaks, asking for help.
- **O**wn your concerns, issues, needs, rather than projecting them onto others; take ownership for *(continued on page 3)*

Beth El - The Heights Synagogue builds vibrant Jewish community.

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

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

# Developing Developments ... Or is it Development's Developing?



## Contact Information

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?  
COMMENTS? COMPLAINTS?  
Please do not hesitate  
to contact the  
Presidents  
by e-mail  
[president  
@bethelheights.org](mailto:president@bethelheights.org)  
or telephone  
Eran (440) 223-9765  
Erica (216) 276-1029

HELP US  
STAY IN TOUCH!  
Please be sure we  
have your current  
contact information.  
Send changes to  
[info@  
bethelheights.org](mailto:info@bethelheights.org)  
or call  
(216) 320-9667

KEEP UP WITH THE NEWS!  
JOIN THE  
BE-THS LISTS!  
Send an e-mail to  
Mick Miller,  
[mick@mickmill.com](mailto:mick@mickmill.com),  
if you need help with  
signing up.

However, one might wish to put it, here is the current state of the world from the perspective of Beth El – The Heights Synagogue's Development Committee:

Since the formal merger of Temple Beth El with the Heights Synagogue in 2000 and our purchase of the building on Desota Avenue in 2003, we have retired all the debts we incurred attendant to our establishment save one. In 2020, we will owe the City of Cleveland Heights a balloon payment of \$106,000 on the loan that helped us purchase our building.

**This final obstacle between us and complete financial independence can be surmounted if the community as a whole can rise to the task of matching exceptionally generous contingent contributions.**

Last spring, the Development Committee was focused on raising funds to cover a potentially significant shortfall in our anticipated operating expenses. That drive was successful. However, it overshadowed and squeezed out broad discussion of a wonderful offer BE-THS received from the Cedars Legacy Fund. The Fund pledged an annual gift of \$7,500 each year, if – but only if – BE-THS raised \$15,000 by June 30 of each year to retire the debt to Cleveland Heights. A handful of members provided the funding required by the Cedars Legacy Fund on top of their contributions to the operating budget last year, so we now have roughly \$22,500 on hand for debt retirement.

This spring, we are not facing a shortfall in our operating expenses. Therefore, we are seeking community-wide support to raise the money needed to keep us on course towards retiring the Cleveland Heights debt. One anonymous member has already pledged \$5,000 *contingent upon the rest of us pitching in \$10,000*. Together that would trigger a second Cedars Legacy Fund payment of \$7,500, which would bring us close to half the funds we will need in 2020.

So, this spring, please make a donation to our debt-relief drive. Doing so will put us on track to be free and clear of all financial obligations to outsiders by 2020. We would then be positioned to entertain all manner of projects that would enhance our spiritual lives and increase our presence as a force for good in our community.

Joel Genuth  
Development Chair

# Rabbi Search Committee Report

We wanted to communicate with the congregation where we are in the search for a rabbi for our congregation.

At the last board meeting, on March 23, the board accepted the official recommendation of the Rabbi Search Committee not offer the position to any of the candidates interviewed so far. The Rabbi Search Committee was recognized for the thorough work the members have done on behalf of our congregation. The board also asked the committee chair to request that the members of the committee remain available to reconvene, should new candidates appear in the future.

At this time, we remind everyone that Rabbi Adler is still working as our *posek* or “decider” on issues related to *Halacha*/rabbinic law, and is available to that purpose for all our members.

While we are not planning to remain forever without a rabbi, we have to plan how to continue, in the near future at least, without an active rabbi. If you would like to share an idea to that effect please contact either of our Co-Presidents, Eran Shiloh or Erica New.

Polly Wilkenfeld  
Committee Chair



## Spring Cemetery Cleanup

The Jewish Federation of Cleveland will host a spring cemetery cleanup volunteer event from 1 to 3 pm, rain or shine, on Sunday, May 7, at Lansing Cemetery, 3933 East 57th St., Cleveland.

Volunteers can bring weed trimmers, shovels, clippers, hedgers, gloves, wheelbarrows, and other gardening tools.

There are also plans to paint the fence and clean up winter debris.

*Shaimos*, or holy objects, also will be collected at the cleanup, to be buried at the cemetery.

RSVP before May 7 at [bit.ly/2p3Dkkm](https://bit.ly/2p3Dkkm)

## Nili Adler Memorial Lecture

The annual Nili Adler memorial lecture, “Language, Longing, and Belonging: An Evening with Israeli Author Ayelet Tsabari,” will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 7:00 pm at the Landmark Centre Building, 25700 Science Park Drive, Suite 100, Beachwood, under the auspices of Case Western Reserve University’s Lauren and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program. Free for members of Lifelong Learning; \$5 for non-members. Register at [case.edu/lifelonglearning/jewish-studies](https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/jewish-studies) or by calling 216-368-2091

*(Politics and the Synagogue, continued from page 1)*  
maintaining confidentiality.  
> **W**isdom abides in our community  
- try to trust the process; when asking questions, please be concise.

We should welcome all, and all members of our community should feel welcome and safe to discuss their concerns.

Much has been discussed in the media regarding the echo chambers that people

have been building around themselves, to the point where they only hear what they believe. Let’s open ourselves for a richer discussion; let’s hear what people who do not mirror our own beliefs have to say. But more than anything, let’s recognize that we have a wonderful congregation with a diverse backgrounds and knowledge bases, and let’s recognize and enjoy each other without ostracizing people.

Thank you,  
Eran and Erica



# Shabbat Playdate



May 13

11:00-11:45 am

in the  
Babysitting Room

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



# Learners' Torah Discussions Open to All

Join us to study and discuss selections from the weekly Torah portion. We consider commentaries, raise questions, and share tips for using the *Chumash*. Each week's lesson is self-contained so come as your schedule permits. The sessions are accessible for non-Hebrew speakers or readers and open to people at all levels of experience.

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

Upcoming Learners Torah Discussion Dates (Summer recess begins after June 3):

**MAY 6 - Parashat Achrei Mot-Kedoshim**

**MAY 20 - Parashat Behar -Bechukotai**

**JUNE 3 - Parashat Nasso**

## Yahrzeits, May 2017

Sam Hemple	5 Iyar	Aaron Schneider	26 Iyar
Dorothy Katz	5 Iyar 5758	Nathan Valancy	26 Iyar
George Friedlander	7 Iyar	Irving Markowitz	27 Iyar 5740
Sam Neuger	8 Iyar	Miriam Zaremsky	27 Iyar
Sam Auerbach	9 Iyar	Mollie Davis	28 Iyar
David Shamis	9 Iyar	Rachel Savino	28 Iyar
Sarah Frumker	9 Iyar	Rachel Barazone	28 Iyar
Annie Keller	10 Iyar	Bessie Stashower Fredman	
Max David Fredman	11 Iyar 5765		29 Iyar 5726
Shirley Markowitz Katz		Anna Weinberger	29 Iyar
	11 Iyar 5765	Clara Kord	29 Iyar
Chaim Gabinet	12 Iyar	Isaac Genuth	29 Iyar
Rose Hemple	12 Iyar	Elka Genuth	29 Iyar
Sarah Friedman	17 Iyar	Allen Goldstone	29 Iyar 5764
Sari Rivkah Herzig	18 Iyar 5771	Goldie Lederer	29 Iyar
Ethel Eisman	19 Iyar	Ernest Gelfand	29 Iyar 5759
Jacob Gutterman	19 Iyar	Donna Williams	29 Iyar
Sylvia M. Lavine	19 Iyar 5735	Bernard Goldstone	1 Sivan 5772
Yevgenia Probst	19 Iyar 5773	Rachel Leah Tavill	1 Sivan
Stanley Donald Stone	19 Iyar 5776	Anna Krasny	2 Sivan
Samuel Herman Katz	21 Iyar	Anna Gutentag	2 Sivan
Jerome Wachter	21 Iyar 5770	Celia Jacobs	3 Sivan
Harold Saul Neuger	22 Iyar	Sadie Rocker	3 Sivan
Gerson Carr	24 Iyar 5770	Violet Saunt	4 Sivan
Florence Schlinger	24 Iyar	Anna Davidson	4 Sivan
Al Glaser	25 Iyar	Abe Morris Abelkop	4 Sivan

# Remembering Sue Klein

BE–THS member Sue Klein lived most of her life in Cleveland. She graduated from Cleveland Heights High and attended Mather College. In the 1980s she drove a bus for the JCC food program for the elderly, and later worked in the weight loss clinic at Mt. Sinai Medical Center. Sue was heavily involved in the American Field Service student international exchange program, and participated in AARP and the Cleveland Hunger Network activities. Sue enjoyed tutoring young readers at Boulevard and Canterbury elementary schools. In later life she took full advantage of programs at the Cleveland Heights Senior Center where she spent a lot of time with friends.

Sue got pleasure out of talking with people, writing to and visiting friends around the world, and spending time with her family. She loved keeping the post office busy by making sure she kept up with birthdays and anniversaries for countless friends and family. Sue joined Beth-El The Heights Synagogue in 2003 when her son, Ari Klein, and daughter-in-law, Ditte Wolin, became active. Sue helped out in ways that she could with newsletter mailings, served on the board, and somehow became the Torah reading scheduler for the Ritual Committee – a job she held for over five years. Sue had no experience with *leyning*, but applied what she knew about getting our Torah reading crew to volunteer. She enjoyed coming to services to make sure everything worked out even though she had not spent much time attending services for most of her previous life. Sue thoroughly enjoyed being part of the shul community.

Sue's mental and physical health went downhill over the last two years making it difficult to come to shul. She died on March 15 at age 83.

The Klein and Wolin families appreciate all the support from the BE–THS community. Thanks to everyone who attended shiva, donated in Sue's memory, sent a card, or expressed sympathy in some other way.

In Memoriam  
Sue Klein  
by Ari Klein

## Lunch and Learn on May 13

# How Do We Integrate People into Our Jewish Community?

On May 13, Beth El - The Heights Synagogue will have a Lunch and Learn in memory of Yevgenia Baron Probst z"l. Our speaker will be Ms. Darlene Legarth, a companion of Yevgenia, both personally and professionally.

Making all feel welcomed is an important part of our community, and Ms. Legarth's focus will be on integrating individuals into our Jewish community. This will include ways of welcoming those of different backgrounds and cultures, refugees, individuals with special needs, etc. They can learn from us, as we can learn from them.

As it states in *Pirkei Avot (Ethics of our Fathers)*, 4:1 "Who is wise? One who learns from each person."

Our Kiddush that Shabbat will be sponsored by Adam Probst and by Leonid and Mariya Baron, in memory of Yevgenia Baron Probst z"l.

# NEWS FROM BETHEL

# חדשות

## Our condolences to:

ניחום אבלים

➤ **Amit Shuck and her family** on the loss of Amit's grandmother, Aliza Farkash z"l, who recently passed away. The funeral took place on March 24 in Israel.

## Refuah Sh'lema to:

רפואה שלימה!

- **Bernie Cantleberry**
- **Betty Hoffer**, Miriam Palevsky's mother
- **Miriam Palevsky**
- **Stephen Pepper**
- **Arnold Stone**
- **Marvin Warshay**
- **Daniel Weisberg**, Marsha Weisberg's brother
- **Miriam Weisberg**, Marsha Weisberg's sister

## Mazel tov to:

מזל טוב!

- **Samantha Miller and Adam Probst**, who were married on April 3 in Charleston, SC.
- **Marvin and Miriam Palevsky**, whose daughter Nicole recently married Josh Stone, whom she has been with for the last 12 years. The couple has a home near University Circle, and will be welcoming a new baby boy in August.

## Thanks for Contributions to:

תודה!

- **Rabbi Moshe Adler**, in memory of Clara Adler z"l.
- **Bruce and Judie Amsel**, in memory of Rae Beckenstein z"l.
- **Molly Brudnick**
- **Bill and Carol Bruml**, toward sanctuary table covers.
- **Bill and Carol Bruml**, in memory of Amit Shuck's grandmother, Aliza Farkash z"l.
- **Bill and Carol Bruml**, in memory of Janet Century's mother, Evelyn Century z"l.
- **Bill and Carol Bruml**, in memory of Dr. Milton Moss z"l.
- **Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles**, in honor of Eran Shiloh.
- **Ilene Gertman**
- **Stephanie Gordon**, toward new sanctuary chairs, in memory of Mary Cernigoj z"l.
- **Gabi Hays**, in memory of her father, Julius Weil z"l.

➤ **Heather and Ruth Kurzbauer**, in honor of Professor Leon Gabinet.

➤ **Heather and Ruth Kurzbauer**, in memory of Rabbi David Genuth z"l.

➤ **Adam Probst**

➤ **Juliana Sadock Savino**, to the Kiddush Fund.

➤ **Eran Shiloh**, to the Presidents' Discretionary Fund.

➤ **Menachem Shoham**, in memory of his parents, Armin and Ella Rothstein z"l.

➤ **Maya Sissoko**, in honor of Dr. Stephen Pepper.

➤ **Bud Stern**, in memory of Seth Lettovsky z"l.

➤ **Bud Stern**, in appreciation for Shabbat aliyot.

➤ **Bud Stern**, in honor of the present and past presidents of BE-THS, for their commitment to the synagogue.

➤ **Bud Stern**, in memory of Helene Sasonkin Stern z"l.

➤ **Beth and Scott Wachter**, in honor of Bill and Carol Bruml.

➤ **Beth and Scott Wachter**

➤ **Blanche and Jack Valancy**, in memory of Janet Century's mother, Evelyn Century z"l.

➤ **Gerald Zahler**

## Thanks for Contributions in memory of Sue Klein z"l to:

תודה!

- **Bruce and Judie Amsel**
- **Judy Apisdorf**
- **Bill and Carol Bruml**
- **Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles**
- **Susan David and Bernard Sharfman**
- **Barry and Joyce Hoffer**
- **Harvey and Sondra Jacobs**
- **Sylvia Kugelman**
- **David and Judy Perelman**
- **Blanche and Jack Valancy**
- **Beth, Scott, Anna, and Maia Wachter**

## Thanks for donation of the new magnetic bulletin board in the front lobby to:

תודה!

- **Bill and Carol Bruml**
- **Beth and Scott Wachter**

Thanks for Kiddush sponsorships to:

תודה!

➤ **March 18** – Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Shulamit Izen and Stephen Pepper

Molly Brudnick

Bill and Carol Bruml

Fern Grunberger

Joshua Pepper

Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin

Beth and Scott Wachter

➤ **April 1** – Amit, Margy, and Shlomo Shuck, in memory of Amit's grandmother, Aliza Farkash z"l.

➤ **May 13** – Adam Probst, in memory of Yevgenia Baron Probst z"l.

➤ **June 3** – In honor of Leon Gabinet's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday:

Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand

Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin

Sharona Hoffman and Andy Podgurski

Harvey and Karen Kugelman

Thanks for sponsorship of this year's Pre Passover Pasta Palooza to:

תודה!

➤ Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin, in honor of Stephen's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

# Almost Graduation Time!

With spring flowers come spring graduations! Please share information about any spring graduates in your family, at any level from kindergarten to post-doc or M.D. with me as soon as possible, so we can celebrate all graduates in the June-July newsletter. Send the graduate's name, name of the school (and location), level (degree, diploma, etc.), major, and plans for next year, if known, to [benews3246@gmail.com](mailto:benews3246@gmail.com)



## Musicale 2017

The sixth annual Beth El –The Heights Synagogue “Musicale” – and pot-luck supper – returns in May, and it looks as if it will be another awesome “Piano-Palooza,” since many (if not most) of the offerings will feature piano works. To jazz things up a little, we’ll also be hearing from a popular not-quite-jazz trio of flute, bass, and piano, a pair of perky flutes, and perhaps a surprise musician or two.

**The Musicale will be on Sunday, May 21, at 5:00 pm.** It will be hosted once again by our gracious member, Saul Genuth, in Shaker Heights. Come out on a spring evening and enjoy being serenaded by our talented amateur musicians! Then stay for a wonderful vegetarian-dairy potluck supper.

The event is free, but reservations are requested, since seating space is limited for this popular event. Please call Nina Sobel at 216-397-1486 or email her at [nrsol954@yahoo.com](mailto:nrsol954@yahoo.com) to reserve your space. The address and directions will be given upon confirmation of your reservation. Please plan to bring a vegetarian dish to share.

# CALENDAR, MAY 2017

5777 אייר / סיון

SATURDAY, MAY 6, ABOUT 10:20 AM – The Learners' Torah Discussion Group will convene to discuss *Parashat Achrei Mot-Kedoshim*. They will rejoin the main congregation in time for the d'var Torah.

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 7:00 PM – Nili Adler Memorial Lecture, "Language, Longing, and Belonging: An Evening with Israeli Author Ayelet Tsabari." Details on page 3.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

11:00 – 11:45 **Shabbat Playdate** for children ages 7 and under in the Babysitting Room. The children rejoin the main congregation in time for *Adon Olam*.

AFTER SERVICES – **Lunch and Learn in memory of Yevgenia Baron Probst z"l: "How do we integrate people into our Jewish community?"** Darlene Legarth will be our speaker. Adam Probst is sponsoring Kiddush.

SUNDAY, MAY 14 – Lag ba-Omer

ל"ג בעומר

SATURDAY, MAY 20, ABOUT 10:20 AM – The Learners' Torah Discussion Group will convene to discuss *Parashat Behar –Bechukotai*. They will rejoin the main congregation in time for the d'var Torah.

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 5:00 PM – **The Sixth Annual BE–THS Musicale and Potluck Dinner**. Enjoy good music, good conversation, and a good potluck dinner with fellow members and friends. Details on page 7.

TUESDAY, MAY 30 – Erev Shavuot

שבועות

8:38 PM – **Candle-lighting at shul**

8:45 PM – *Ma'ariv* for *Yom Tov*, followed by *Kiddush* and *Tikkun Leyl Shavuot* – Late-night Torah study at BE–THS. Stay tuned for wonderful learning sessions by knowledgeable members.

12:00 AM – **Midnight Pizza Party**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 – Shavuot I

10:00 AM – **Morning service: *Shaharit*, Full *Hallel*, Torah reading, *Musaf***

9:47 PM – ***Yom tov* candle lighting**, from a pre-existing flame, *Kiddush*

THURSDAY, JUNE 1 – Shavuot II

9:15 AM – **Morning service: *Shaharit*, Full *Hallel*, Book of Ruth, Torah reading, *Musaf*, *Yizkor*.**

9:44 PM – **Nightfall: *Havdalah*** (*ha-gafen* and *ha-mavdil*; no candle or spices)

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

ABOUT 10:20 AM – The Learners' Torah Discussion Group will convene to discuss *Parashat Nasso*. They will rejoin the main congregation in time for the d'var Torah.

AFTER SERVICES – *Kiddush* is in honor of Leon Gabinet's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and is sponsored by Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand, Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin, Sharona Hoffman and Andy Podgurski, and Harvey and Karen Kugelman.

SUNDAY JUNE 4 – **Members' Annual Meeting**

9:00 AM – **Morning Minyan**

9:30 AM – **Bagels for Breakfast**

10:00 AM – **Annual Meeting Convenes**