



Beth Israel – The West Temple

BULLETIN

September 2023, (Elul - Tishrei) , 5783-5784

Our Mission

To be a center of worship and vital community life where Jews and their families from Cleveland’s western communities learn Jewish traditions and values, develop their Jewish identity, and assure the continuity of Jewish life.



The High Holy Days Are Here!

We have arrived. Many people think of the high holidays as beginning with Rosh Hashanah and continuing ten days later with Yom Kippur. The truth is, the high holidays have already begun. On the first day of the Hebrew month of Elul, which coincided with Friday, August 18, we began the process of ramping up to Rosh Hashanah. After the weight and introspection of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, our Jewish tradition has us celebrate in a big way with Sukkot. Sukkot will last for a full week and will end with a bang on Simchat Torah. By the end of the “High Holy Days,” we will have been observing holidays and celebrating for 60 days straight.

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In communities that have services every day, beginning on 1 Elul, the service ends with the sounding of the shofar. The month leading up to Rosh Hashanah invites us to ask the big questions about our lives: “Am I living my best life, according to my deepest values? Am I treating other people the way I want to be treated? Am I conducting my business as fairly and as honestly as I can?” And with each answer, comes the question: “How can I do better? What ‘course corrections’ do I need to make? How can I make those ‘course corrections’ gently, without rocking the boat too much or disturbing people who are part of my life?”

In just two weeks we will be together in our sanctuary. You may have been a member for years and years, so it may feel like “coming home” to a place that is warm and familiar. Or, maybe like me, it will be your first time experiencing the high holidays at Beth Israel – The West Temple. I am really looking forward to being with you, to worshipping with you, to studying with you, and to celebrating with you.

May the new year be filled with light, peace, love, joy, and blessings. May 5784 be a sweet new year for you, for your loved ones, and for the world. .



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October Deadline: September 15th



from the president's desk...

Beth Israel - The West Temple is committed to providing a warm, welcoming environment for our members, guests and visitors. Our board, staff and congregants are responsible for ensuring that the highest standards of conduct are maintained.

Our Constitution contains language about being “a member in good standing,” and notes that our congregants should not behave in an illegal, immoral or unethical manner. We expect the same of our staff, board, and volunteers.

But we may need to do better. We may need to discuss with our congregants, board, and staff what it means to be ethical. What are our values? What do we expect from one another? How do we handle behavior that violates any of our shared values?

In recent years, many organizations have faced challenges by members, staff and volunteers who have crossed ethical boundaries. Jewish organizations are not exempt from this. The Union for Reform Judaism has asked that all congregations develop a Code of Ethics that outlines our Congregational values and is shared with staff, board, volunteers and congregants. All would be expected to understand, accept and live up to the values that we, together, define. The URJ has developed materials to help congregations in this process. I have already begun a discussion with staff and board about this, but it is essential that our lay leadership is engaged as well. I will share with you some helpful information, and ask that you consider meeting, virtually or in person, to discuss our Code of Ethics. If you are interested in participating in the discussion, or if you have questions or concerns, please reach out to me:

president@thewesttemple.com — Walter



**Celebrate Shabbat and
Birthdays & Anniversaries
in September at our**

**Congregational Shared Shabbat
Service**

**7:30 p.m. – Shared Shabbat Family-
Friendly Service**

Zoom link in our News You Can Use

MEAL TRAIN MITZVAH OPPORTUNITY

A few months ago, I set up a Meal Train to help fellow congregant Lesley Watilo, who has recently gone blind. Lesley lives with her mom, Carolyn, who is 89, and doesn't have the stamina to do household tasks the way she used to. This is where we come in, with the help of Meal Train. Several of you responded to the call last time and brought home-cooked dinners, which Lesley and Carolyn truly enjoyed and appreciated. Unfortunately, there hasn't been much activity on the .Meal Train lately, but the problem hasn't gone away. They could use more meals

What is Meal Train?

There are times in our lives when friends and family ask, "What can I do to help out?" The answer is usually to help them with a meal. When many friends provide support through a meal, Meal Train keeps everyone organized.

MealTrain.com is a free meal calendar tool that makes planning meals among a wide group easy and less stressful.

This is the Meal Train for Lesley and Carolyn Watilo:

<https://mealtrain.com/lywlrr>

It specifies the days and times Lesley would like to receive meals, and lists her food preferences. Please take a look at her page, and if you can help, sign up to bring her a meal. If you haven't got time to cook, you could order a meal from or Uber Eats, or send a gift card.

Please share this info with others who may know Lesley, who like to cook, or who just want to do a mitzvah. Thanks.

Rabbi Rachel Brown to lead A Taste of Judaism at Beth Israel! Sign up via the link below

Curious about Judaism? Learn about Jewish spirituality, ethics, and community in three free classes. Classes will be held at Beth Israel on October 12th, 19th and 26th from 7-9pm.

Register for the session you'd like to attend (select West Side for Beth Israel) and Rabbi Melinda Mersack will get back to you with all the class details.

Questions? Contact her at mmersack@jecc.org or 216-377-4006

Link for registration (either click on the link below, or copy and paste into your browser):

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7479010/A-Taste-of-Judaism-Registration-Fall-2023>









Educator's Desk - September - 2023

Welcome Back! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break. I, along with Rabbi Brown and your children's teachers, look forward to another incredible school year! **Our first day of Religious School is Sunday, September 10 from 10:00am-12:00pm.**

Later this month, on the evening of Friday, September 15, we will begin our celebration of Rosh Hashanah, and ten days later, we will conclude the Days of Awe with Yom Kippur. Rosh Hashanah is more than the Jewish New Year. It opens a time to reflect on the quality of our relationships with friends and family, and then compare ourselves to the way we were the previous year. These High Holy Days – the Days of Awe – give us a chance to make amends, and then make a commitment to improving ourselves in the upcoming year.

As parents, it is a perfect opportunity to use the days preceding Rosh Hashanah (and on to Yom Kippur) to go through a process of both introspection and self-evaluation as a family. Thinking and talking about behaviors that affect our relationships with others with your own children may be hard. However, this may be a meaningful way to have open and honest conversations with your children, and to let them know that we all struggle with problems. The most important step is to recognize that if we transgress, we all have the ability to learn from our mistakes, apologize and try to do better in the future.

Talk to your kids about: How can they improve their relationships with friends and family?

Connect to your children's lives by asking:

- What are ways we can be nicer to each other in our family?
- Do you treat your friends the way you would like to be treated?
- How does it feel to tell someone you are sorry for the way that you have treated him or her?
- What does it mean to accept an apology?

Debbie Chessin

This fall we will once again have a Congregational fundraiser the beginning of the school year- called the **“Sweet Honey Fundraiser.”**

The temple will be selling holiday gift bags of honey, beeswax candles and apples. All proceeds will be donated to the temple's general fund. The bags will be sold prior to Rosh Hashanah and will be available for pick up Erev Rosh Hashanah, Friday, September 15 or Saturday, September 16. Orders must be placed by **September 10.**

This year we will have one sized bag which will contain the following:

· 8 oz jar of honey, candles, apples- \$32

The orders should be sent via email to Anna Batyreva at abatyreva06@gmail.com.

Payments may be made using Venmo @bitwt or by check made payable to Beth Israel-The West Temple, 14308 Triskett Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44111.

Please use the order form below.

Table of Contents

Number of Bags _____

Name _____

Email _____







September Schedule:

Sunday, 10th – 10 am-12pm First day of Religious School-Schedule:

Monday, 11th – First Night of Hebrew Grades 3-6. Grades 3& 4 in person at BI-TWT from 6:30-7 pm and Grades 5&6 on zoom from 6:30-7pm

Friday, 15th- Erev Rosh Hashanah-7:30 pm

Saturday, 16th- Rosh Hashanah

·10:00 am- Morning Service

**·4:00 pm- Afternoon Family Service, Tashlich and Picnic at South Mastick Rd. picnic area-
*please bring chairs and a picnic dinner.***

September, 17th - Morning Family Rosh Hashanah service- 10:00 am

Monday, 18th- Hebrew Grades 3-6 at 6:30 pm

Sunday, 24th- No Religious School- Erev Yom Kippur

Sunday, 24th- Kol Nidre-7:30 pm

Monday, 25th- Yom Kippur (no Hebrew classes)

· 10:00 – Morning Service

· 12:30 pm- Yizkor I

· 2:00 pm- Study Session

· 3:00 pm- Family Service-led by Debbie Chessin and musical accompaniments by Sara Bedrossian.

· 4:00 pm- Afternoon service

· 5:00 pm- Yizkor II

· 5:45 pm- Neilah/Concluding service

· Havdalah

Sunday, 29th- Erev Sukkot-services at 6:30 pm followed by a Congregational dinner.

Highlights from August:

Camp Kee Tov was held at the beginning of August. We enjoyed a visit to the zoo, Great Lakes Science Center, Cleveland Botanical Gardens, and adventures at the Bain Park Cabin. Enjoy the pictures!

Debbie Chessin, Director of Education*

*This position is partially funded through the Fund for the Jewish Future of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland.

Celebrations September 2023

September Wedding Anniversaries - 2023

David & Gloria Cutrona	Sept. 2	33 rd
William & Cheryl Greenhouse	Sept. 2	15 th
Joshua Levy & Jan Miyake	Sept. 2	22 nd
Laurie Levinson & Michael Kukura	Sept. 4	35 th
Dr. David & Robin Shapiro	Sept. 5	30 th
Peter & Jessica Sackett	Sept. 6	36 th
Justin & Melissa Morse	Sept. 7	4 th
John & Myrna Pendery	Sept. 9	45 th
Art & Diana Gold	Sept. 11	41 st
Frank & Nancy Eilberg	Sept. 26	42 nd

September Birthdays – Adults

Joshua Lazar	Sept. 3
Shosh Ault	Sept. 4
Michael Kukura	Sept. 11
Abigail Eshbaugh	Sept. 12
Jean Lettofsky	Sept. 13
Jami Lercher	Sept. 17
Hope Wondowsky	Sept. 18
Pat Outlaw	Sept. 19
Aaron Griffith	Sept. 21
John Goodworth	Sept. 22
Rabbi Rachel Brown	Sept. 23
Rabbi Enid Lader	Sept. 24
Linda Kramer	Sept. 25
Dana Eckert	Sept. 28
Robin Shapiro	Sept. 29

September Birthdays – Young People

Hannah Flynn-Wilson	Sept. 3	7 th
Joshua Decker	Sept. 5	15 th
George McAleer	Sept. 11	14 th
Mia Resto	Sept. 14	15 th
Caleb Sweet	Sept. 15	13 th

Perpetual Yahrzeits September 2023

WEEK ENDING

SEPTEMBER 2

Edmundo Klein
Helen Gold
Murray Greenfield
Rose Lettofsky
Frank K. Levin
Carol Heisey
Annette Briskman
Alex Bruscano, Jr.

WEEK ENDING

SEPTEMBER 9

Blanche Pyritz
Sylvia Nakrin
Judith Wolf
Carl R. Beres
Margaret Button
Gabriel Rubin
Robert Roth
Mary Freundlich

WEEK ENDING

SEPTEMBER 16

Herman Mark
Nina Schwartz
Isador Kantor
Harry Mittleman
Margaret Lenker
John G. Ludwig
Shirley Newman
Minnie Jacobson
Laura Green Stout
Thelma Goldberg
Carmella Hendricks

WEEK ENDING

SEPTEMBER 23

Lydia Faye Levinson
Albert Abady
Lea Leibovici
George Moseley
Harry Weiss
Rose Kreuzscher
Pearl Cohen
Judy Feldmar
Hyman Goldberg
Edith Gordon
Rose A. Lehrer
Dr. Sandor A. Schwartz

WEEK ENDING

SEPTEMBER 30

Jerome Nakrin
Hettie Schwartzfeld Zacky
Esther Elias
Daniel Sissman
Nita Goldberg
David Huber
David Mandel
Richard Rosen

Service Schedule

Friday Evenings

All Friday Services/Programs on ZOOM, unless otherwise noted.

September 1

7:30 p.m.

Service Leader: Rabbi Brown

September 8

7:30 p.m.

Service Leader: Rabbi Brown

September 15 - Erev Rosh Hashanah

7:30 p.m. – In person and Livestreamed

Service Leader: Rabbi Brown

Cantor: Larry Sheir

September 22

7:30 p.m.

Service Leader: Luis Fernandez

September 29 – Sukkot Service 6:30 p.m. follow by

Congregational Dinner

Service Leader: Rabbi Brown

Saturday Mornings

All Saturday Services in person, unless otherwise noted. (IP= In person; LS= Livestreamed)

September 2

Torah Study 9:30 a.m.

Service 11:00 a.m.

Service Leader: Rabbi Brown

September 9 - Morning

Torah Study 9:30 a.m.

Service 11:00 a.m.

Service Leader: Rabbi Brown

September 9 – Evening - Selichot

Service 8:00 p.m. – (IP)

Service Leader: Rabbi Brown

Cantor: Larry Sheir

September 16 - Rosh Hashanah

Service 10:00 a.m. (IP & LS)

Service Leader: Rabbi Brown

Cantor: Larry Sheir

4:00 p.m. Outdoor Family Service, Tashlich & Picnic at Rocky River Metropark (see Debbie Chessin's article for more information).

Sunday, September 17

Morning Family Rosh Hashanah Service

10:00 a.m.

September 23

Torah Study 9.30 a.m.

Service 11:00 a.m.

Service Leader: Sarah Bedrossian

Saturday, September 30 – Yom Rishon shel Sukkot

Service Leader: Rabbi Brown

Sunday, September 24- Kol Nidre

7:30 p.m. (IP & LS)

Monday, September 25-Yom Kippur

10:00 a.m.- Yom Kippur Morning Service (IP & LS)

12:30 p.m. Yizkor 1 (IP & LS)

2:00 p.m. Study Session (IP)

3:00 p.m. Family Service (IP in Sanctuary, music by Sarah Bedrossian)

4:00 p.m. Afternoon Service (IP & LS)

5:00 p.m. Yizkor II (IP & LS)

5:45 p.m. Neilah Concluding Service (IP & LS)

Havdalah (IP & LS)

Contributions – September 2023

General Fund

We gratefully acknowledge donations from
Josh Wayne.

In Memory of
Alexander Weiss
-Robert Weiss
Dr. Alfred Rimm
-Joel & Linda Keller
-Vivian & David Singer
-Elaine & Stephen Kraut
-Debbie Fossie
Reva Barkan
-Dr. Sylvia Rimm
Roland Ridgway
-June Ridgway

Religious School Fund

We gratefully acknowledge a donation from Eileen Kollins.

In Memory of
Phyllis Keller
-Joel & Linda Keller
Jack Keller
-Joel & Linda Keller

The Alan B. Lettofsky Fund for

The Center for Jewish Life

In Memory of
Rose Apple Lettofsky
-Rabbi Alan & Jean Lettofsky

Tree of Life Fund

In Memory of
Paul Palnik
-Beryl & Michael Palnik
Dr. Alfred Rimm
-Beryl & Michael Palnik

Library Fund

In Memory of
Charlotte Kramer
-Linda Kramer

Security Fund

In Memory of
Morris William Roberts
-Rosalind Roberts