



# חדשות Chadashot

News from The West Temple

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5784  
October 2023



## Shag Sameach!

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Rabbi Brown

### Introducing Myself: Part 1

Shanna Tova! It was lovely to start 5784 with you, to worship with you, and to spend time with you on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur!

Since it is the beginning of our new relationship with each other, I'm going to spend the next few bulletin articles introducing myself through a few important lessons that I've learned along the way. I had intended to introduce myself this way during my Rosh Hashanah talk, and I'm happy to do this now.

### Lesson 1: My Relationship With God

As a child going to Orthodox yeshiva day school, we prayed every day, multiple times a day: we prayed the morning service first-thing when we got to school; we prayed before and after eating snacks and lunch; and we prayed the afternoon service.

## Introducing Myself: Part 1

We also learned about the miracles that God did for the Israelites and how God communicated with the Prophets, and how God wants to behave today. References to God were part of our everyday life. But “that” God was either distant and punishing or ready to “listen” to prayers and give us what we asked for *if* we were good enough. I didn’t have much of a relationship with that version of God.

I graduated from yeshiva day school at the end of 8th grade and went to public high school along with supplemental Hebrew high a few hours a week.

In high school, for some reason I can’t remember now, I made a promise to God to keep kosher even “out.” (Our family kept kosher in our house, but we ate anything we wanted when we went to restaurants.). The following week, my friends and I went to a Chinese restaurant where I ate spare-ribs. A day or so later, I came down with a terrible cold. I thought, “yup. I made a promise and now God is punishing me.” When I was well again, I talked to my Hebrew high school teacher (who was also a rabbinical student) and told him that God punished me for not keeping kosher. My teacher told me that God doesn’t work like that: God doesn’t punish people. He said that I got a cold because I got a cold, not because I ate spare-ribs.

It had never occurred to me that different people had different ideas about what God does and does not do!

In Hebrew high school we had to read the book When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Rabbi Harold Kushner. The main point of the book was that bad things happen sometimes because that’s how nature works, or because people have free choice and sometimes make terrible decisions. God is there to walk with us and to even carry us through the hard (and good) (and neutral) times, not to keep the bad things from happening in the first place. Rabbi Kushner tells a version of this story:

A person died and was viewing her life as a timeline inscribed in the sand on the beach. During most of the event in her life, she saw two sets of side-by-side footprints – her’s and God’s.

But some events were missing that second set of footprints – the especially hard times, the times of great difficulties with family members and friends, the times of illness, the times of hardship – the times when she was most sad or distraught.

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## Introducing Myself: Part 1

This bothered her and she questioned God about it. “God, I thought you would have been with me all the time! But I see that during the most difficult times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. How could You leave me when I needed You most?”

God replied, “I love you and would never leave you. During those hard times, I was carrying you.”

Recently I was studying the *Ahavah Rabbah* prayer, which is part of our morning service. It’s the one that comes right after the Call To Prayer. It says:

... Be gracious to us and instruct us. ... open our hearts so that we may understand and, with love, discern, hear, and study, observe, perform, and fulfill all the teachings of your Torah with love. Enlighten our eyes with Your Torah; attach our hearts to your mitzvot...

This prayer is about love. We don’t *need* to learn Torah or perform commandments because otherwise God will punish us! We *want* to learn Torah and perform mitzvot because that helps to deepen our relationship with God.

When you are in a relationship, you want to know everything you can about the other person. You want to learn their “torah”, their personal teachings, their stories (just like I want to learn about you!). And you want to do what will make them happy. As my teacher, Rabbi Mickey Rosen, of blessed memory, used to say, “If you know your sweetheart prefers flowers on her birthday over candy, why would you ever buy her candy!?” It’s not like she’ll leave you just for giving her candy, but in getting her flowers, she’ll feel, deep down inside, that you are paying attention and care about her. It’s that way with the mitzvot. God will always love me, but if I can do what God wants me to do, then why wouldn’t I do it? It keeps a certain openness flowing between us.

So now, I believe that God is there, walking beside me, listening to me rejoice and complain and cry, holding me when times are really tough. God wants to be in a relationship with me. God won’t punish me for being “bad,” and God will love and accompany each of us, even when we are not at our best.

Dear Beth Israel- The West Temple Community:

**It is important that all who are able support this event by attending.  
Please invite any friends and family!**

Our congregation played a critical role in the Soviet Jewry Movement. What started here became a national movement, and led to the repatriation of Soviet Jews to the United States.

October 1963: It all started here!  
October 22, 2023: 60th Anniversary!

We look forward to marking two huge 60th anniversaries -- beginning of the Soviet Jewry Movement, and the founding of the Cleveland Council on Soviet Anti-Semitism (CCSA), which was the first independent organization formed to fight for Jews in the Soviet Union.

We will gather to honor these events and the temple members who were involved in this historic time at Beth Israel - The West Temple.

**If you have not already done so, please register for this event.** The link is below, and has been included in the News You Can Use emails as a link.



# It all started here.

## Soviet Jewry Movement 60th Anniversary

### A Commemoration & Dedication

- Cleveland Council on Soviet Anti-Semitism: Founded October 1963
- Dedication of Ohio History Marker
- Preserving & Sharing These Stories: Soviet Jewry Movement Archives Project

**Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023 • 12:00 pm**

Beth Israel - The West Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

**Registration required.**

**REGISTRATION** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/98VQJ2D>

**EVENT INFORMATION** [sovietjewryarchives.org/news](https://sovietjewryarchives.org/news)

### SPONSORS

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The West Temple

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Protest stamp, designed  
by Mort Epstein for  
Cleveland Council on Soviet  
Anti-Semitism, 1967

## From the President-

At our September meeting, we welcomed two new board members - Sylvia Rimm, who is filling the unexpired term of Julian Ross as Chair of Adult Education and Geralda Simko, who is Chair of a new committee, Communications. We also welcomed Josh Levy, whom we endorsed as our next president when my term expires in June 2024.

All of these will require approval by our membership at our Congregational meeting this summer.

Sylvia is well known to us. As a noted psychologist and author, she has made many presentations to our congregants and students about the challenges children face growing up. She is a strong advocate for youth and parents.

Geralda is a newer member, and she and her husband, Kyle, are entrepreneurs with skills in tech, communications, and marketing. She loves to write, and she will be producing our monthly Bulletin, as well as the weekly News You Can Use. She will also update our social media presence. Kyle has also helped to improve our website.

Josh and his family have been members for over a decade, and he serves on the Education Committee. He is incredibly knowledgeable about Judaism, having obtained a PhD in Medieval Jewish Studies.

In addition, newer board members who are filling unexpired terms include Justin Morse, who is Chair of Building & Grounds (and is an expert in computer operations), and Karen McAleer, who has served on our Membership Committee (and been a lynchpin of our Congregational Dinner this past year). She is also an expert in benefits. They will also be on the slate of board members to approve this summer.

Thanks to Holly Neumann, who has worked with us on Nominations; and George Thornton, who has produced our Bulletin this past year.

It really does take a village!

Walter Wright

## From the Educator-

As we head into October, we will have several special holiday celebrations and family programs throughout the month.

The holiday of Sukkot begins Sunday evening, October 9. This is a joyous time on the Jewish calendar. On Sukkot we will eat, spend time in our congregation's sukkah, and celebrate with friends and family in our community. The sukkah is a structure that symbolizes the divine protection that envelops us each day. The sukkah is not sturdy or permanent; when we sit in it, we are reminded of a very important lesson: God is always with us and brings us safety. No matter where we are, we are never alone.

This year we are once again able to celebrate this holiday as a community. On Sunday, October 1 from 10 am-12pm we will have a special all school family Sukkot service and our traditional "pizza in the hut". We kindly ask families whose last name begins with A-L bring a side dish and if your last name begins with M-Z bring a nut free dessert to share. Pizza and drinks will be provided.

On Sunday, October 29-our students and families will discover *What's Jewish About Magic?* With Tada the Magician. There will be Religious School from 10-11 am, and this will be followed by the magic show and ice cream party. Thank you to Beryl Palnik and the Beth Israel Chaverim (Gr. 7/8 Youth Group) for making this program possible.

Debbie Chessin, Director of Education\*

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

### October Schedule:

Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> – Religious School- Sukkot Service and Pizza in the Hut-10-12 pm

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Hebrew -6:30pm

Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> – Religious School- 10 am-12 pm

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup>- Hebrew- 6:30 pm

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup>- Religious School

Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup>- Congregational Erev Sukkot Service and Pizza in the Hut- 5-7pm

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup>- Hebrew-6:30 pm

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup>- Religious School 10am-12pm

- Yad B'Yad Drop- 10:30am-11:30 am

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup>- Hebrew- 6:30 pm

Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup>- Religious School- classes will be held 10-11:30 am to accommodate the Soviet Jewry commemoration and dedication ceremony at 12 pm

Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup>- Hebrew-6:30 pm

Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup>- Religious School- 10-12pm

- Tada! Magic Show and Ice cream party- 11 am-12 pm

Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>- Hebrew-6:30 pm

Highlights from September: This year we celebrated had a special Opening Day of Religious School welcoming the New Year and Rabbi Brown! Enjoy the pictures!





High School students make Rosh Hashanah care bags for Beth Israel students in college.







We take turns  
going in the  
Sukkah and  
shake the Lulav!





## ☆ Celebrations ☆

### October Wedding Anniversaries - 2023

Michael & Renee Kolesar	October 5	44 <sup>th</sup>
Dr. Sam & Dalia Alterovitz	October 6	53 <sup>rd</sup>
Roger & Vicky Abady	October 8	40 <sup>th</sup>
Leonard & Kathleen Weiss	October 20	31 <sup>st</sup>
Craig & Amy Sumner	October 21	17 <sup>th</sup>
Dr. John & Carole Heimke	October 22	35 <sup>th</sup>
Emmie Hutchison & Michael Evans	October 22	24 <sup>th</sup>
Ed & Tricia Rand	October 26	10 <sup>th</sup>
Scott & Barbara Machol	October 27	44 <sup>th</sup>
Steven & Diana Strongosky	October 28	28 <sup>th</sup>
Allison Winokur & Neal Brashear	October 28	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Michael & Beryl Palnik	October 30	46 <sup>th</sup>

### October Birthdays – Young People

Benjamin Griffith	October 4	6 <sup>th</sup>
Charlotte Watts	October 6	12 <sup>th</sup>
Evelyn Payne	October 7	12 <sup>th</sup>
Dalia Rak	October 11	9 <sup>th</sup>
Jackson Sumner	October 12	15 <sup>th</sup>
Helen Levy	October 17	17 <sup>th</sup>
Lucille Lercher	October 20	11 <sup>th</sup>
Zev Balanson	October 25	16 <sup>th</sup>



### October Birthdays – Adults

Scott Jasilionis	October 1
Debbie Chessin	October 4
Louis Lazar	October 11
Andrew Melott	October 11
June Ridgway	October 15
Katherine Flynn-Wilson	October 16
Rivienne Levin	October 21
Marilyn Morgenstern	October 21
Dr. Evelyn Neufeld	October 24
Scott Machol	October 25
Kathleen Weiss	October 26

# PERPETUAL YAHREZEITS

October 2023

## WEEK ENDING

### OCTOBER 7

Shirley Altfeld  
Richard Feigenbaum  
Anne R. Kantor  
Susan Diamond  
Frances Fine  
Tova Chait  
Bernice Weisberg  
Benjamin Cohen  
Laurie Ellen Kranyak  
George W. Oliver

## WEEK ENDING

### OCTOBER 14

Ruth Kaplan  
Harry Mancher  
Robert Oscar Zabarsky  
Dave Gorland  
Sidney Gordon  
Frieda Provder  
Mady Solomonescu

## WEEK ENDING

### OCTOBER 21

Pearle Fairberg  
Gerald Greenfield  
Arthur Loeb  
Samuel Bir  
Zelda Gruber  
Fred Kassel  
Harry Mason  
Betty C. Sissman  
Saul P. Weissman  
Patsy Zabarsky

## WEEK ENDING

### OCTOBER 28

Ann Rubin  
Harry E. Schwartz  
Karl Kreuscher, Sr.  
Nellie Palnik  
Annette Jasilionis  
Frank Kramer  
Dorothy Louise Kassel  
Bernie Wanger  
James Goldman

## WEEK ENDING

### NOVEMBER 4

Phern R. Berns  
Richard McGary  
Clifford Altfeld  
Leonard Jaslove

☆ ☆ ☆



May their memory be a blessing...

## **Service Schedule October**

### **Friday Evenings**

All Friday services on ZOOM,  
unless otherwise noted.

#### **October 6**

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
Rabbi Brown

#### **October 13**

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
TBD

#### **October 20**

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
Luis Fernandez

#### **October 27**

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
TBD

### **Saturday Mornings**

All Saturday services in person,  
unless otherwise noted.

#### **October 7**

9:30am Torah Study  
10:30am Shabbat Service  
Luis Fernandez

#### **October 14**

9:30am Torah Study  
11:00 am Shabbat Service  
Rabbi Brown

#### **October 21**

9:30am Torah Study  
11:00 am Shabbat Service  
Scott/Luis

#### **October 28**

9:30am Torah Study  
11:00 am Shabbat Service  
Rabbi Brown



## CONTRIBUTIONS

October 2023

### General Fund

In Memory of  
Thelma Goldberg  
-Rob & Lisa Goldberg  
Rose Lehrer  
-Norm Lehrer  
Robert Horvitz  
Cheryl Horvitz  
Michael Horvitz  
-Sonia & Larry Horvitz

### Library Fund

In Memory of  
Laverne Roberts  
-Rosalind Roberts

### Rabbi Brown's Discretionary Fund

(Earmarked for the Food Bank)  
Donations have been received from:  
June Ridgeway  
Sylvia Rimm  
Alice & George Copen

In Memory of  
Frank & Janet Levin  
-Mike & Janina Levin  
Lea Leibovici  
-Sandu Leibovici

### Singer-Lader Music Fund

We gratefully acknowledge a donation from  
Blythe Houghton.

In Memory of  
Tom Miyake  
-Shosh Ault

### Tree of Life Fund

In Memory of  
Dr. Alfred Rimm  
-Shosh Ault  
Nita Goldberg  
-Beryl & Michael Palnik  
Nellie Palnik  
-Beryl & Michael Palnik