



חדשות Chadashot

News from The West Temple

Adar II 5784
April 2024



Chag Pesach Sameach

THE BIG PHOTO ISSUE!

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Purim, Passover, and Peace

I am beyond impressed with how we at Beth Israel-The West Temple celebrated Purim! The party on Saturday night was one of the most fun parties I've been to in a long time. Kudos and *yasher koach* to Karen M, Deb G., Geralda S., Sylvia A., Tammie W., Emmie H., Katherine F. W. for planning the entire celebration, including, decorating, organizing the bartenders, the DJ, the delicious food, and setting up the room; to Sarah B., Walter W., Jenny S., Sylvia A., Liam G., Geralda S., Karen M., Beryl P., David N., Ken D., and Shosh A. for reading the Megillah – including funny voices and costume changes; Beryl P., Jesea C., Katherine F. W., Geralda S., Barbara S. for soliciting and/or donating basket items that were raffled off; to Renee K. for sitting by the door to greet people as they came in; and to Judy W., Becky W.,

(continued Page 2)

and Jenny S. who helped clean up and reset the sanctuary so that it was ready for our religious school's celebration the next day.

Kudos and *yasher koach* to Debbie C., Jeff H., and our high school students for our Purim shpiel: Jeff wrote and Iris W., Becky N., Rachell R., Charlie G., Emma R., Ellie H., Mia R., Ava M., Ava W., Alex W., Alice L., and Izzy B. performed the BEST Purim shpiel that I've ever seen, and for planning, setting up, and facilitating the Purim carnival for our younger students. Also kudos and *yasher koach* to Beryl P. and her crew: Charlie S., Josh D., Gabi L., and Helen L. for running Queen Esther's Café.

I am so impressed by the number of volunteers who got involved to make these events happen. I was impressed by how smooth and fun everything was. And I was impressed by the costumes and the way our members got into the spirit of the holiday.

Now that Purim has passed, it is time to gear up for the celebration of spring, of renewal, of freedom – the festival of Passover! This year, Passover begins on Monday, April 22, at night.

When I think about the theme of Passover – freedom, my attention turns toward the civilian hostages that Hamas took from Israel in October. As I write this, I realize that by the time you read this, the hostages may be released and the war with Hamas could be over. *Ken yehi ratzon* – may it come to pass that these words are irrelevant.

And just in case they aren't, I want to recommend that during any seder that you host or attend, include a chair for a hostage. Just as we have at Beth Israel – The West Temple, designate a chair for a hostage by wrapping it with a blue ribbon and setting a place at your table. As we recall how we were freed from slavery in Egypt by God's strong hand and God's outstretched arm, let's pray for freedom from captivity for the Israeli hostages and for peace between all the children of Abraham – those descended from Sarah and those descended from Hagar.

As we move into "The Season of Our Redemption", let's remember these words from A Prayer for Peace: "We have come into being to praise, to labor, and to love." May there be peace soon.

Rabbi Rachel Brown

From the President



From time to time, Beth Israel - The West Temple updates our Constitution, which is our governing document. At the end of this fiscal year, at our Congregational meeting, I will ask our members to approve the following:

Standing Committees

1. The Board voted to approve adding a new standing committee, Communications. I would ask that the following description be added to our Constitution:

“The Communications Committee is responsible for temple communications, including the monthly Bulletin and weekly News You Can Use emails.

Communications also includes oversight of our website and social media. The Committee may also create surveys and gather information to help us better serve our congregants, and may also create marketing materials for potential new members.”

Geralda Simko is our first Communications chairperson and board member.

2. Change of a committee name, from Building & Grounds to Facilities, to better reflect the responsibilities of this important committee. The Facilities Committee provides oversight for our physical building and grounds, or course, but also now includes our computers, printer, cameras and security systems.

Justin Morse is our Facilities chairperson and board member.

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Code of Ethics

1. The Board has approved a Code of Ethics, which was developed with assistance from the Union for Reform Judaism. The Code can be found on our website.

The board has voted to approve the inclusion of the following language to be added to our Constitution:

"Beth Israel - The West Temple has adopted a Code of Ethics, which provides broad and distinct guidelines for our clergy, staff, volunteers, members, and guests. The Board may amend the Code as needed, with approval from the Congregation. Reported violations of the Code will be reviewed by the Board. If the matter is determined to be relatively minor, the Board will seek to bring all parties to a fair and equitable resolution, including, but not limited to a review and reminder of our expectations of how we treat one another – with courtesy and respect, consistent with Jewish values. More serious matters may include the convening of an ad hoc committee by the President, which would also include at least two board members and one congregant. This committee would review the issue, and, if needed, would determine appropriate sanctions, such as the loss of employment, membership, or status as a volunteer. Any allegations that include criminal behavior of any kind will be reviewed by the Board (and clergy where appropriate) with both discretion and confidentiality. If the alleged violation is determined to be a criminal matter, it will be referred to the authorities, as appropriate, without delay."

We will vote to adopt these changes at our Congregational Meeting scheduled for June 9.

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*****NOTICE*****

The following Members are proposed for Board Positions, to be affirmed at our Congregational Meeting June 9, 2024. Per our Constitution, we are giving notice 45 days prior to the meeting for your consideration.

Executive Committee Officers - 2 year terms to begin July 1, 2024

President - Josh Levy

VP - Karen McAleer (currently serving an unexpired term)

Standing Committee Chairs - 2 year terms beginning July 1, 2024

Facilities - Justin Morse (currently serving an unexpired term)

Communications - Geralda Simko (currently serving an unexpired term)

Adult Education/Lifelong Learning - Julia Lazar and Susan Hunter (committee co-chairs)

They will join current Executive Committee board members Emmie Hutchinson, secretary, and Robin Kaufman, treasurer, as well as standing committee chairs Jenny Sedlak, Membership; and Luis Fernandez, Ritual. There is currently no Social Action chair, and no Security chair. Debbie Chessin is an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the board and chairs the Education Committee.

Also please welcome new volunteers:

Sam Yeaman, member, Facilities Committee

Kim Griffith, member, Education Committee (replacing Josh Levy)

Our Board and Volunteers are truly the lifeblood of our congregation. Please welcome them, and thank them for their service!

Walter Wright, President

Holly Neumann, Nominating Committee Chair

Thank you all!

Walter Wright

President

From the Educator



Asking questions is an essential part of raising children. Doing one's best to answer these questions is part of being a parent. Sometimes we are thrilled by these questions, and at other times we become uncomfortable, since we are unable to answer them. Whichever it is, we know how important it is for our children to keep on asking questions.

This month we will all be taking part in a Passover seder. The Torah, and the rabbis who created the seders, placed children's questions at the center of the celebration of the holiday. The "Four Questions" are designed to specifically engage children. Additionally, the purpose of much of what we do differently on this night is to encourage children to ask spontaneous questions. We cover and uncover the matzoh at strange moments. We hide the Afikomen, a piece of one of the matzahs on our seder plate, and we do odd things with unusual foods like dipping bitter herbs in a sweet mixture of chopped apples... and a green veggie (like parsley) in salt water.

The seder itself speaks of four different kinds of children with four different approaches to the Passover Seder: the wise, the wicked, the simple one, and the one who does not know how to ask. The essential point is that there are different kinds of children with different kinds of learning styles. The questions of each child come from the point where that child is in his own development. The goal is to address children where they are and lead them to a deeper understanding of their lives and the lives of their family and people.

Talk to your kids about the special heritage of the Passover story and the importance of asking questions.

During your Seders consider asking the following questions:

- What is your favorite part of the Passover holiday?
- How do you think the Passover story connects to your life today?

Debbie Chessin

Director of Education

April Religious School Schedule:

Sunday, 7th – 10-12:00 pm Religious School

Monday, 8th – 6:30 pm Hebrew School

Sunday, 14th – 10-12 pm Religious School

- 10:30 am Yad B'Yad

Monday, 15th – 6:30 pm Hebrew School

Sunday, 21st – 10-12 pm Religious School

Monday, 22nd – No Hebrew School. First night of Passover.

Sunday, 28th – No Religious School. Passover.

Monday, 29th – No Hebrew School. Passover.

SAVE THE DATE!!! Camp Kee Tov 2024 will be making its return July 29- August 2nd . More information to come in the next few weeks!



Mazel Tov!

We invite the entire congregation to join with family and friends in worship and celebration of the Bat Mitzvah of Rachell Lacy Garcia on Saturday morning, April 6, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.



On April 7, 2024, it will have been six months since the terrorist group Hamas brutally attacked Israel and left thousands of innocent people murdered or injured and hundreds more kidnapped.

To honor those killed or kidnapped by Hamas on October 7, 2023, the Jewish Federation of Cleveland will host Ratzim Bishvilam (“Running for Them”), with support of its Young Leadership Division and in partnership with Run for Their Lives and Nice Jewish Runners.

Participants will be provided with a name of someone to honor during the run/walk at registration. This free, community-wide run/walk will begin with a brief program featuring Natalia Ben Zvi, whose son Sagiv was one of the innocent people killed by Hamas at the Nova Music Festival.

Link to register was sent in News You Can Use email.

Please email Geralda Simko if you have any questions:

comm@thewesttemple.org



Sunday, April 7

Gates open: 8 am

Program begins: 8:30 am

Run/walk (up to 2 miles): immediately following program

Jewish Federation of Cleveland
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Building
25701 Science Park Drive
Beachwood, OH 44122

Children 14 years old and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Only service dogs will be permitted.

Any bags or large purses will be subject to search.

Lifelong Learning Program

For High School Students and Adults

Sunday, May 5, 2024

9:30-12:00pm

Beth Israel-The West Temple

This event is free. A light breakfast will be served.

The Unimaginable Journey of Peter Ertel

Film Screening and Q&A with the Producer-Director Joe Cahn



The Unimaginable Journey of Peter Ertel (104 minutes) is about the extraordinary odyssey of an aspiring German violinist who becomes a reluctant soldier in Hitler's army and defies overwhelming odds to not only survive World War II, but to become a U.S. Government agent. Then, after immigrating to Ohio, he begins a 25-year career with a small company owned by Orthodox Jews. Peter Ertel, 95 at the time of filming, tells his own incredible and inspiring life story. It is an unprecedented film narrative of that historic period, which has newfound relevance to our current times of rising nationalism and anti-Semitism.



'Yom Hashoah'

HOLOCAUST REMEMBERANCE DAY PROGRAM

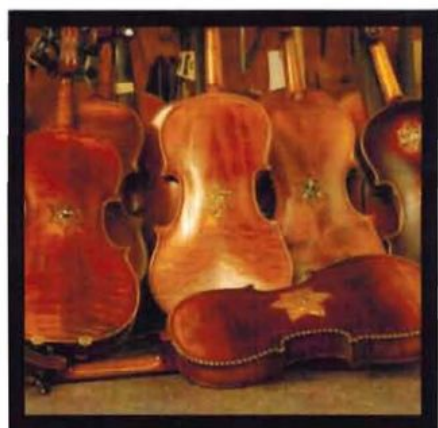
Featuring Holocaust survivor

CAROL WILNER

and

VIOLINS OF HOPE

*Violins rescued after the
Holocaust will be on display*



FREE, COMMUNITY EVENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 5TH | 4:30 PM

OBERLIN COLLEGE

Warner Hall, Oberlin Conservatory

MONDAY, MAY 6TH | 7 PM

LORAIN PALACE THEATRE

617 Broadway Ave. Lorain, OH

QUESTIONS?

Call 440-371-0532 or email holocaustprogram@gmail.com



Exploring Jewish Thought

sponsored by Agudath B'nai Israel Congregation

The Sessions will be at
 Agudath B'nai Israel Synagogue and on Zoom
 1715 Meister Road Lorain, Ohio 44053

February 27, 2024 – April 9, 2024 from 7-8:00 PM

All sessions are free and open to the public.

Refreshments will be served.

Contact the ABI Synagogue office 440-282-3307
 to reserve a place at any of the sessions and the Zoom link.

Topics are designed for the general community

Date	Topic	Presenter
February 27	Jewish Fairy Tales	Mark Jaffee, Agudath B'nai Israel
March 5	Mussar on Humility	Rabbi Michael Ungar, Beth El – The Heights Synagogue
March 12	Jacob's Divine Travel Partner(s).	Rabbi Enid Lader, Beth Israel-The West Temple (Emeritus)
March 19	TBD	Rabbi Mendel Jacobs, Westside Chabad
March 26	Torah of the Jewish Food Movement	Rabba Amalia Haas, Oberlin College Hillel
Wednesday April 3	Jewish Poetry (Exclusively on Zoom)	Rabbi Shena Jaffee, Temple B'nai Israel
April 9	Is Remembering the Holocaust Controversial?: A Historical Analysis of Yom Hashoah	Rabbi Shlomo Elkan, Oberlin College Chabad

Zoom link is shared in Newsletter emails

We are thankful for the generous contributions from our local business community that supported our 1st Beth Israel Purim Party!



Sponsors

Akron Fossil & Science Center
Akron Rubber Ducks
Angelo's Pizza
Bay Lanes
Beck Center for the Arts
Cleveland Public Theater
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Clague Playhouse
Executive Star Cleaning Services
Maltz Museum
Mitchell's Homemade Ice Cream
Music Box Supper Club
Petitti Garden Centers
Pier W
Severance Music Center
Waxman's Carpet & Rug Warehouse

Our Grades PK-6 students made a special flower project with our shin shin, Ella, to honor the soldiers in Israel. Our high school students enjoyed a night of fun and games at their shul in. Enjoy the pictures!



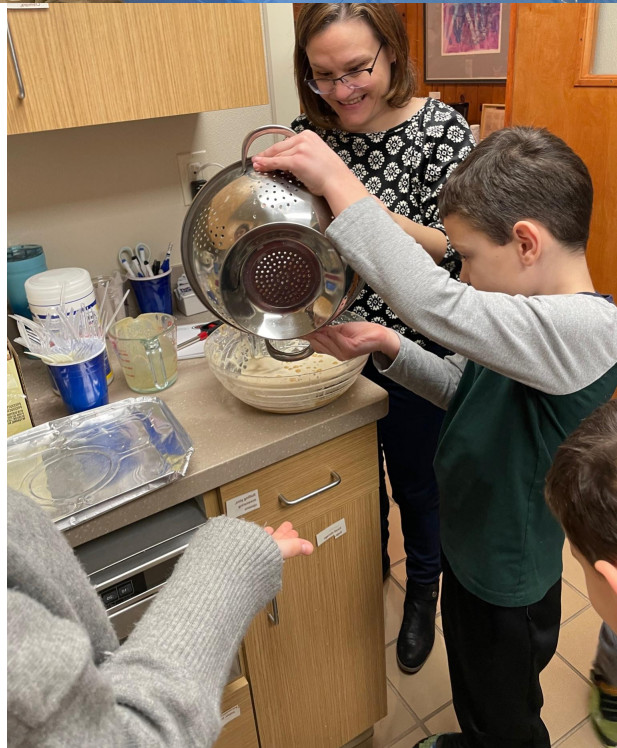


TaDa the magician visits our Religious School

The theme was "What's Jewish About Magic?- You'd be surprised!"



We enjoyed Winter U and Yom Israel- which included workshops including: RBG- A One Woman Show, Planting Terrariums for Tu B'Shevat, What's Cooking in Golda's Kitchen and a Hanoch Piven artist's workshop. Our youngest children learned about Shabbat and made their own kiddush cups and challah!



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 Buildings & Grounds Committee: Justin Morse
 Membership Committee: Jennifer Sedlak
 Finance Committee: Robin Kaufman
 Cemetery Committee: Rick Keller
 Public Relations Coordinator: Becky Watts
 Communications: Geralda Simko
 Bulletin Editors: Geralda Simko & Pat Outlaw

Winter U.

Juliette Renier from Women in History did very entertaining portrayal of Jewish Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader. This presentation was made possible by the Queen Esther Cafe/ Beth Israel Chaverim proceeds! Linda Kramer won the door prize " Nice Jewish Girls", and soon another copy will be available in our Temple Library.



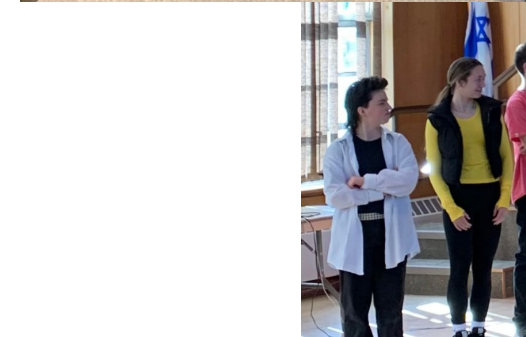
Beth Israel- The West Temple welcomed our newest members at a special service & dinner organized by the Membership committee of Jenny Sedlak, Beryl Palnik, & Karen McAleer. Beryl presented the new members with a certificate of membership and a BI-TWT, Rabbi Brown offered a special blessing, and all enjoyed a festive dinner!

Pictured: Sylvia Alotta, Maria Cruz and family, William Greenhouse Samuel Yeaman, Geralda & Kyle Simko.



Purim 2024







☆ Celebrations ☆

April Birthdays – 2024 – Youth

Madelyn Morse	April 6	1 st
Miles Hutchison	April 17	16 th
Andrew Eshbaugh	April 21	6 th
Elle Heller	April 21	16 th
Isaac Donahoe-Goldberg	April 28	11 th

April Birthdays – 2024 - Adults

Blythe Houghton	April 1
Laurie Levinson Kukura	April 3
Sara Klosterman	April 4
Abby Labus	April 5
Jennifer Cali	April 8
Emmie Hutchison	April 12
Dr. Adriana Leibovici	April 13
Roger Abady	April 15
Dr. Sylvia Rimm	April 16
Thomas Wagner	April 16
Judy Wright	April 16
Susan Hutner	April 18
Carol Ross	April 18
Steven Strongosky	April 18
Bobby King	April 20
Beryl Palnik	April 22
Barbara Machol	April 29



April Wedding Anniversaries 2024

Adam Rosen & Erin Huber	April 8	7 th
Louis & Julia Lazar	April 27	12 th

PERPETUAL YAHRZEITS

April 2024

WEEK ENDING

April 6

Bina Levin
Paula Williams
Boris Bruckman
Joshua Fernandez
Shirley Krissoff
Mary C. Friedman

WEEK ENDING

April 20

Lucille Velardo
Robert Ethan Horvitz
Hyman Lader
David McGary
Martha Bruckman
Max Briskman
Marilyn Josselson Ludwig

WEEK ENDING

April 13

Ada Ludwig Moyer
Hermine M. Stern
Myron F. Kramer
Mandara Provder
Adolfo Margulis
Arthur Rutenberg
Mimi Caro



May their memory be a blessing

Service Schedule April

Friday Evenings

All Friday services on ZOOM,
unless otherwise noted.

April 5

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
On ZOOM
Rabbi Brown

April 12

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
ON ZOOM
Luis Fernandez

April 19

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
ON ZOOM
Rabbi Brown

April 26

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
ON ZOOM
Rabbi Brown

Saturday Mornings

All Saturday services in person,
unless otherwise noted.

April 6

9:30am Torah Study
11:00am Shabbat Service
Rabbi Brown
Bat Mitzvah of Rachell Cruz

April 13

9:30am Torah Study
11:00am Shabbat Service
Luis Fernandez

April 20

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

April 27

9:30am Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Service
Luis Fernandez

CONTRIBUTIONS

March 2024

General Fund

In Memory of

Mandara Provder

-Dr. Theodore Provder

Religious School Fund

In Memory of

Howard Sackett

-Peter Sackett

Myron Kramer

-Linda G. Kramer

Ada Ludwig Moyer

-Linda G. Kramer



Thank you!