

News from The West Temple



Nisan/Iyar 5784 May 2024

Features Rabbi's Desk ...1,2 President's Desk ...3.4 Educator's Desk ...5 Hebrew School ...6 ...7-10 Camp Kee Tov ...11 Announcement ...12-15 You're Invited **Photos** ...16-19 Celebrations ...20 ...21 **Yahrzeits** Service Schedule ...22 Contributions ...23



Jewish time and the Omer

I love "Jewish time!" On the Jewish calendar, every single month, except one, has at least one holiday or observance. We don't take time for granted. We have to always be paying attention to the passage of time, to know what day it is, so that we can observe it properly. This is different from the secular calendar. On the secular calendar, months come and go – some with no holidays at all. On the Jewish calendar, daily life is interspersed with spirituality and tradition.

BUT. This intersection of spirituality and tradition with mundane, everyday life can only happen if we are aware of what day it is. I often describe Judaism as a "mindfulness practice: - we have to pay attention to the rhythm of time, or we don't get to benefit from the richness of the different qualities of time.

Right now, we are in a heightened period of time – the time between Passover and the festival of Shavuot is called The Omer. During these 49 days, we count. The best time to count the day is in the evening, at the beginning of the next Jewish day.

(continued Page 2)

On Passover we celebrated when God took us out of slavery in Egypt. On Shavuot, we will celebrate when God gave us the Torah at Mount Sinai. The sages of our tradition teach us that on Passover, God became betrothed to us, the people. On Shavuot, God married us – the Torah is our ketubah, our marriage contract.

Kabbalistic masters overlaid the Omer with even more significance. Each week of the 7 weeks, are assigned one of seven qualities associated with an aspect of Godliness. Each day of the week is also assigned one of those same seven qualities. Every day during each of the seven weeks, we are given an opportunity to meditate upon the specific quality of that week, until we have cycled through the seven days of the week and the seven weeks of the Omer. By the time we arrive at Shavuot, we are well ready to receive the Torah, to know God deeply and to live in community with others in God's presence.

I invite you check out these resources for counting The Omer and for guidance along the spiritual path of the process of The Omer:

There is an Omer counting app, called "Omer Counter" by David Cooper for the ipod/iphone/ipad and for android. It is free and downloadable at the iTunes store or the Google play store.

A fun site is http://homercalendar.net This site goes through the daily count with Homer Simpson as our guide. There is not a lot of association with the spiritual qualities of the day, but Homer Simpson is kind of fun.

The week-by-week qualities assigned to each week are:

Week 1 (April 24 – April 30): Hesed = Lovingkindness, Benevolence

Week 2 (May 1 - May 7): Gevurah = Power, Justice, Discipline, Restraint, Awe

Week 3 (May 8 - May 14): Tiferet = Beauty, Harmony, Truth, Compassion

Week 4 (May 15 - May 21): Netzach = Endurance, Triumph, Fortitude, Ambition

Week 5 (May 22 - May 28): Hod = Splendor, Humility

Week 6 (May 29 - June 4): Yesod = Foundation, Creativity, Bonding

Week 7 (June 5 – June 10): *Malchut* = Nobility, Sovereignty, Leadership

On each night of these weeks, ask yourself how you embody the quality associated with that week. Ask yourself how that quality strengthens you and makes you a better person. Ask yourself how you can use that quality to improve your relationship with others.

By the time you get to the 50th day, June 11, we will be at the first day of Shavuot, ready to stand at Mount Sinai to receive the Torah and to stand before God.

By the way, there is a tradition to stay up at night on June 11 in preparation for receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai. I will be teaching from 11:20 pm - 12:20 am at the community-wide Layl Tikkun Shavuot, the night of study, at B'nai Jeshurun in Pepper Pike. My workshop will explore the holiness of interfaith relationships and is called "Ruth, Boaz, Interfaith Relationships, and Us." I hope that you will join me. There will be lots of teachers, lots of food, and lots of opportunities to connect with Jewish people from all over the greater Cleveland area.

Rabbi Rachel Brown

From the President



As I begin to wind down my term as President, it's powerful to reflect on all the momentous changes and accomplishments that we have experienced together over the last few years.

During this time, we -

- Celebrated Rabbi Lader's retirement, and welcomed Rabbi Rachel Brown to our Bimah
- Hosted a remarkable event to celebrate our congregation's impact in the wider world as a champion for Soviet Jews and their return to the United States to practice religion freely
- Completed the Brick Plaza for our Historic Marker to honor the above
- Completed major portions of our 21st Century Fund Capital Improvements, a project that has been almost a decade in length and touches every aspect of our building
- Received and implemented a grant for a new, sophisticated security system
- Launched regular Congregational Dinners to help to build our community (and to have fun!)
- Celebrated the High Holy Days together again in person, at first with masks and social distancing, and enhanced security protocols
- Celebrated numerous b'nai mitzvah and other life-cycle events
- Welcomed many new board members and volunteers, including a new Communications committee and chair
- Updated our website, newsletter, and News You Can Use weekly email blast
- Adopted a Code of Ethics, revised Board job descriptions, and worked to improve our governance and procedures
- Due to careful stewardship and generous donors, continued to enjoy a healthy financial position
- As I transition, I want to express my thanks to the incredible network of the Beth Israel community whose generosity ensures that our congregation continues to thrive.

I am grateful to Rabbi Lader for helping me to transition to the role of president, and to Rabbi Brown for helping me to sharpen my skills as I worked with her and the congregation on a successful rabbinical transition.

I am grateful to current and former board members including Robin Kaufman, Luis Fernandez, Julia DiBaggio, Karen McAleer, Emmie Hutchinson, Jenny Sedlack, Julian Ross, Sylvia Rimm, Geralda Simko, Ken Dunn, Barbara Feldmar, Justin Morse, and Debbie Chessin, ex officio.

(continued Page 4)

I want to thank the Broadcast Committee who really stepped up during COVID - Deb Gerard, Ed Rand, Luis Fernandez, and Justin Morse. And to Kyle Simko who has revitalized our website.

I want to thank the Membership Committee: Karen McAleer, Beryl Palnik, and Jenny Sedlak, for all they do to welcome new members and to celebrate our community through Congregational Dinners and the annual summer picnic.

Thanks to our Facilities Committee: Justin Morse, Luis Fernandez, Misha Kesselman, Sarah Bedrossian, and Brian Friedman. Without them we wouldn't have a functional, safe, and pleasant building in which to meet.

I wish to thank Pat Outlaw, office manager, and volunteers Renee Kolesar and Val Tate.

Thanks to immediate past president Peter Sackett for his support, and to Luis Fernandez, Ritual Chair, who is tireless in organizing service leaders, overseeing the security grant implementation, and planning and oversight of our High Holiday Services.

I want to thank all of our teachers who give our students a place to learn about Judaism and celebrate community with their peers, starting with young children in preschool and Camp Kee Tov, and on to Sunday School, learning Hebrew and chanting Torah, preparing for Bar and Bat Mitzvah, and joining our Youth Group. A special thanks to Debbie Chessin for her leadership.

I wish to thank everyone who has paid their dues and donated money to support us, helped to lead a service, visited with a congregant, comforted a child, welcomed a guest, attended services and Torah Study, moved tables and chairs, offered their voice or played a musical instrument, and to all of you who worked to welcome Rabbi Brown to our congregation and thanked Rabbi Lader for her service.

For the past three years, it has been my privilege to serve with you, to worship with you, to celebrate with you, and yes, sometimes to work through conflict with you.

THANK YOU ** THANK YOU ** THANK YOU

Your (Outgoing) President, Walter Wright

From the Educator



As we begin the final month of the school year, I hope that our students and their families continue to have a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Personally, I am grateful for the continued leadership and guidance of our Rabbi Brown, the Education Committee and Executive Board, and incredible teachers who have worked tirelessly to make sure that we continued to offer learning opportunities and spiritual connections for our students and families throughout the school year.

The teachers at BI-TWT Religious School are all strong role models, and each exemplify positive Jewish values for the students in our school. As an educator, each of the teachers is a source of inspiration and encouragement to me about the future of both our community and society.

Todah Rabbah to -Lisa Fisher, Rivienne Levin, Abby Eshbaugh, Renee Kolesar, Ariella Epstein, Allison Winokur, Scott Machol, Shosh Ault, David Neumann, Beryl Palnik, Jeff Heller and Sarah Bedrossian. Please join us for a special Shabbat service on Friday, May 10 at 7:30pm via Zoom and in person to honor our amazing teachers!



On the last day of Religious School, Sunday, May 12 from 11:15-12pm at Beth Israel-The West Temple, we will have a very special service to honor and say goodbye to our graduating High School Seniors- Becky Neumann, Izzy Brashear, Helen Levy and Emma Rogers.

Parents are invited to join their students during the final service!

Debbie Chessin

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

May Religious School Schedule:

Sunday, 5th -10 am-12 pm Religious School

 9:30 am- 12 pm Lifelong Learning Program- for High School Students and Adults – The Unimaginable Journey of Peter Ertel- film screening and Q&A with Producer/Director Joe Cahn.

Monday, 6th – 6:30 pm Hebrew School. Last Monday Hebrew School-Grades 4 and 5

Friday ,10th – Teacher Appreciation Dinner and Shabbat Service beginning at 6:00 pm

Sunday, 12th -10 am-12 pm. Last day of Religious School

 11:15-12- All School Final Assembly and Service to Honor our Graduating Seniors

Upcoming Events: This summer we will have Camp Kee Tov during the week of July 29- through August 2. The cost will be \$80 per child. We still plan on meeting at Bain Park Cabin, the Metroparks Zoo, Cleveland Botanical Garden and Great Lakes Science Center. See the attached flier and registration forms!





BI-TWT's Summer Day Camp

July 29- August 2, 2024

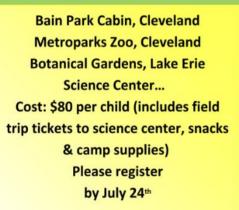
9:00 am-1:00pm

For Preschool-4th Grade

CAMP KEE TOV

THINGS AT CAMP

Field Trips to the Cleveland
Metroparks Zoo, Cleveland Botanical
Garden and Great Lakes Science
Center, Arts & Crafts, Cooking, Pizza
Party, Creek Walks, Hike/Picnic and
much more!!
Lunch and Snacks provided every
day!





Camp Schedule:

Monday: Yom Gan Chayim-visit to

the zoo

Tuesday: Yom Israel-through

Music, Crafts and Food

Wednesday: Cleveland Botanical

Gardens

Thursday: Yom Sport- Maccabiah

Games

Friday: Mercaz Madah-Visit to

Great Lakes Science Center-Special

Shabbat Picnic Lunch

For more information, please contact Debbie Chessin

at 216-337-6110 or bitwteducator@gmail.com

Beth Israel – The West Temple

Camp Kee Tov Registration Form - 2024

Please Print

CHILD:							
First	Middle	Last				Gender: Male _	Female_
School Name		Grade	Birth date .			Age	
Street Address							
Town/City	Sta	ate Zip code		_ Child's I	Home # _		
PARENTS/GUARD	IANS:						
Child lives with:							
	or payment						
Parent/Guardian #	1						
First	Last					Ms. Mrs. Mr. Othe	er
Street Address					·		
	State Z				W	/ork #	
Cell #	FAX		_ E-mail				
Occupation		Employer _					
Parent/Guardian #	2						
First	Last_					Ms. Mrs. Mr. Othe	er
Street Address							
Town/City	State Z	ip Home	#		W	/ork #	
Cell #	FAX		_ E-mail				
Occupation		Employer _					
EMERGENCY CON	TACT INFORMATION – ALTERI	NATE PICKUP/REI	LEASE				
Emergency Conta	ct #1						
First Name	Last Name		Home # _			Work #	
Cell #	Email			Relation to	child		
Emergency Conta	ct #2						
First Name	Last Name		Home # _			Work #	
Cell #	Email			Relation to	child		
Please list those peo	ple, in addition to parents/guardian	s listed above, who	are permitted	to nick u	o vour ch	ild:	
			·				
1:	2:			3:			

Beth Israel – The West Temple

Camp Kee Tov Medical Release Information – 2024

NAME OF CHILD:		
MEDICAL RELEASE INFORMATION	ON - Insurance	
The following information	on is to ensure that, in an emergency, medical po which may interfere with or alter treat	
Policy #	Name of Health Insurance Provider	
Primary Physician		
Address		
Phone	Hospital Preference	
Please list any medical problems, inclu	iding those requiring maintenance medication (i.e. o	diabetic, asthma, seizures).
Medical Problem	Required treatment	Should paramedic by called?
		Yes/No
		Yes/No
		Yes/No
Is your child allergic to any type of f	ood or medication?	
Does your child require a special die	et?	
	the case of a medical emergency involving mode, I authorize the calling of a doctor and the pro-	•
	Parent's/G	Guardian's Initials
	e Tov nor Beth Israel – The West Temple will be ill be my responsibility as parent/guardian.	e responsible for any medical expenses Guardian's Initials

Beth Israel – The West Temple

Camp Kee Tov Additional Information – 2024

NAME OF CHILD:	
Photo Release	
activities, to share during power point pre	be photographed during Camp Kee Tov. I understand the photos will be used to keep a journal of esentations and/or reports to our donors and for promotional purposes including flyers, brochures, tand that although my child's photograph may be used for advertising, his or her identity will not be
	Parent's/Guardian's Initials
Transportation Release	
I hereby give permission for the transport organizers.	ration of my child for official Camp Kee Tov activities by modes of transportation agreed to by the cam
	Parent's/Guardian's Initials
 All scheduled events are s I understand that no fees wor illness per physician or Photos of the children and In case of an emergency, a 	will be refunded or transferred unless a child is unable to participate due to an accident
Guardian Signature:	Date:
Printed Name of Parent/Guardian:	camp Kee Tov:
•	ol Word of Mouth Flyer Other

NEW KITCHEN GUIDELINES FOR CLEANLINESS & ORGANIZATION

When you eat here or use our kitchen, please follow these guidelines every time. This is necessary!!!

- 1) For food items and beverages brought to Temple for Shabbat pot lucks, Kiddush luncheons, Onegs, dinners, Religious School functions or treats, special events such as Bar/Bat Mitzvah lunches, please refer to these guidelines:
- -Take home your leftovers, give them to someone (small take home containers are in the storage room), or throw away in the garbage. Do not put things in the refrigerators thinking that someone will eat or use them. More than likely they will expire or spoil before ever being used. Toss beverages that have a very small amount left.

If some food is needed in the fridge for a certain event in the next several days, please clearly mark and date it.

--Items put in the freezer such as challahs, bagels, or pastry should be put into a zip lock bag. Freezer food items quickly get "freezer burn" and lose their freshness. **Keep the freezer organized**.

2) Cleanup after an event:

- --Please wash bowls, platters, utensils, DRY THEM, and put them back in the proper location. Do not leave them in the dish rack to dry, and leave for the next person.
- -Do not "donate" your older bowls, trays, casserole dishes to the Temple. Please take them home-we have newer updated serving dishes, or we will purchase more as needed.
- --Please take a moment to wipe down the counters with a detergent cleaner to remove grease and crumbs, and check if any crumbs or icky, sticky stuff needs to be wiped down in the fridges. Wipe the handles.

3) Kitchen Counters & Ovens

- --Avoid food or unnecessary items on the kitchen counters. Counter space is at a premium, and some items can be kept in a cupboard.
- --Wipe any food, grease, or dirty areas from the oven after use. Even a light wipe down is beneficial!

When in doubt...THROW IT OUT!

Thank you Beryl Palnik for cleaning out the fridge and making it spotless!



Save \$\$, Save the Planet: Free Federal Money for Homeowners, Renters & Car Buyers

An Interactive Program with Q&A on Thursday, May 2nd, 7:30-9 p.m.

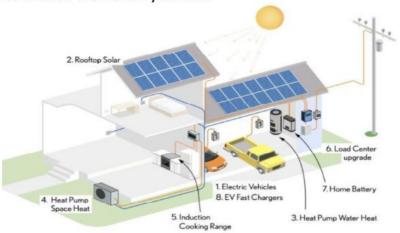
Presented by the Greater Cleveland Dayenu Circle,
Beth El-The Heights Synagogue, Beth Israel-The West Temple
& Kol HaLev's Climate Action Committee

The Inflation Reduction Act unlocks **billions** to help you save money, use less energy, and fight climate change. **Learn how to qualify for rebates and tax credits to**:

- Improve your home's energy efficiency (e.g., insulation, windows)
- > Electrify your home (appliances, heating/cooling)
- > Buy or lease an electric or hybrid car.

Discover your savings potential using the **Rewiring America** online calculator. We'll show you how!





Presenter **Dick Coin**, a chemical engineer, is a founding member of **Green Energy Ohio**. He is a member of **Al Gore's Climate Reality Project** and **Co-Chair of Climate Reality Project's Northeast Ohio Chapter**. Mr. Coin has converted his home, transportation, and yard tools to be entirely electric, powered by renewable energy sources on his property.

Don't miss out! Attendance is limited. <u>Please register here</u> to assure your spot and receive your zoom link.

(https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrduyrpiwsGdKggcwPxn1dRDMYVaMX3pl4)

Greater Cleveland Dayenu Circle is a citywide climate action group of Jews and Allies advocating for a just, livable, and resilient world for all people for generations to come.

Link was shared in the News You Can Use emails

Lifelong Learning Program

For High School Students and Adults

Sunday, May 5, 2024

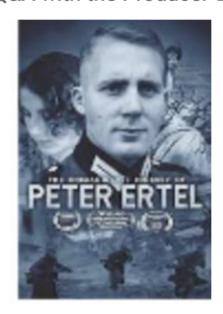
9:30-12:00pm

Beth Israel-The West Temple

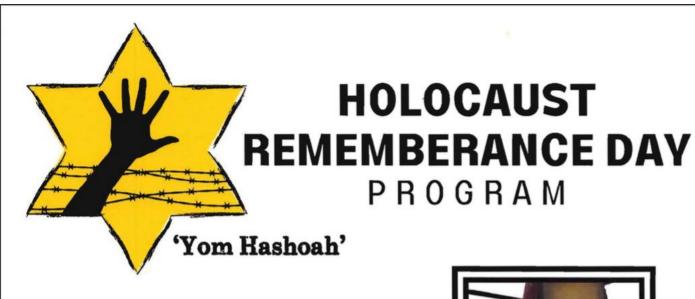
This event is free. A light breakfast will be served.

The Unimaginable Journey of Peter Ertel

Flim 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.



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

Celebrating a Simcha!



Mazal tov to member Romy (Shoshana) Larson and her fiance, Gabriella
Tuchman on their wedding! Shoshana and Gabriella will be celebrating their first
Sheva Brachot meal at Arova Israeli restaurant and invite all members of the Beth
Israel community to join in the celebration!

Please join them in welcoming this new chapter of life. We look forward to seeing you there! Location: AROVA 13911 Cedar Rd, South Euclid, OH 44118

Date: May 27, 2024 Time: 6-10pm

Highlights from April: Last month the students in Grades PK-6 participated in all all-school program the Great Passover Trek Game. Enjoy the pictures!







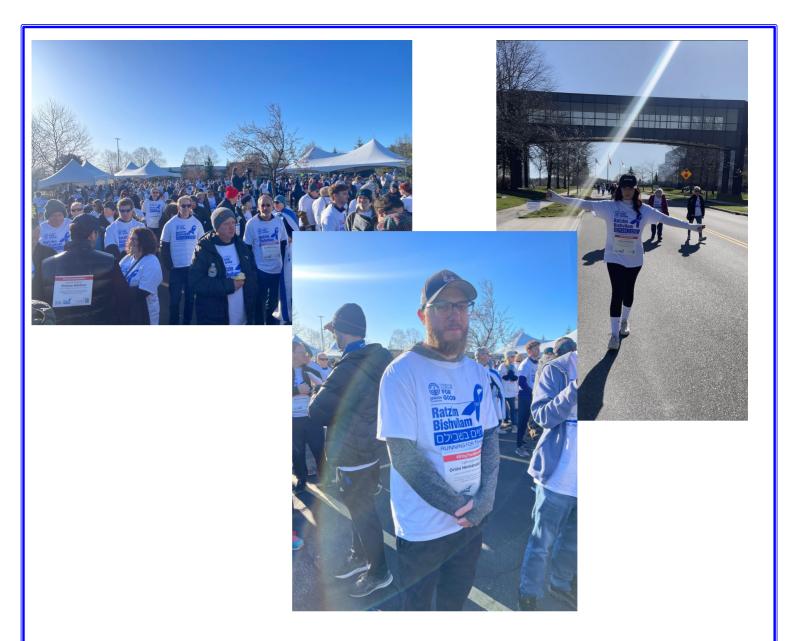




Our board members got together for our annual Board Retreat, where we connected and discussed the future of Beth Israel - The West Temple. We left refreshed and motivated! Enjoy a few photos from our day together.

In this photo: Walter Wright, Karen McAleer, Robin Kaufman, Emmie Hutchinson, Luis Fernandez, Justin Morse, Geralda Simko, Jenny Resto, Rabbi Rachel Brown, Debbie Chessin.





Kyle and Geralda Simko at Ratzim Bishvilam ("Running for Them") to honor those killed or kidnapped by Hamas on October 7, 2023. They ran in hopes of a safe return home for Orión Hernández Radoux and Yehuda Shukron.

Bulletin published 11 times a year by:

Beth Israel—The West Temple

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Rabbi: Rabbi Rachel Brown President: Walter Wright

Vice President: Karen McAleer Treasurer: Robin Kaufman Secretary: Emmie Hutchison Congregational Educator: Debbie Chessin

Ritual Committee: Luis Fernandez

Buildings & Grounds Committee: Justin Morse

Membership Committee: Jennifer Sedlak Finance Committee: Robin Kaufman

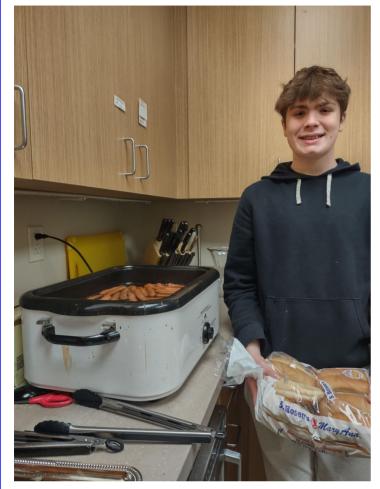
Cemetery Committee: Rick Keller

Public Relations Coordinator: Becky Watts

Communications: Geralda Simko

Bulletin Editors: Geralda Simko & Pat Outlaw

Queen Esther's Cafe from April









☆ Celebrations ☆

May Birthdays - 2024 - Youth

Norah King	May 19	15 th
Charlotte Grauel	May 21	15 th
Malcolm Rand	May 29	6^{th}
Levi Lazar	May 31	14 th

May Birthdays - 2024 - Adults

Dr. John Pendery	May 1
Amy Sumner	May 2
Lynda Kane	May 9
Shellie Sedlak	May 9
Dr. Abby Wald	May 13
Geralda Simko	May 18
Sheila Eckstein	May 22
Jan Miyake	May 25
Nancy Eilberg	May 27
Jill Fleisher	May 28
Ben Kessler	May 28
Miles Kane	May 29
Laurel King	May 30
Joshua Levy	May 30
Joan Semenec	May 30
Geralda Simko Sheila Eckstein Jan Miyake Nancy Eilberg Jill Fleisher Ben Kessler Miles Kane Laurel King Joshua Levy	May 18 May 22 May 25 May 27 May 28 May 28 May 29 May 30 May 30

May Wedding Anniversaries 20

Dr. Harry & Rabbi Enid Lader	May 4	49 th
Frank & Abby Labus	May 6	24^{th}
Katherine Flynn-Wilson & Dr. James Wilson	May 18	15^{th}
David & Holly Neumann	May 19	22^{nd}
Laurel & Bobby King	May 20	16^{th}
Joseph & Valerie Tate	May 22	48^{th}
Walter & Judith Wright	May 22	20^{th}
Brian Friedman & Julia DiBaggio	May 28	3^{rd}
Jonathan & Lori Sweet	May 28	19^{th}
Zach & Jen Robock	May 30	9 th

PERPETUAL YAHRZEITS

May 2024

WEEK ENDING May 4

Rose Seldin
Dorothy Cohen
Jennie C. Rabin
Rose Priesand
Sandra Schwartz
Abraham Melnick
Maury Feldmar

WEEK ENDING May 11

Harvey Fisher
Henry Stone
Eli Yale Scheinman
Marvin Cohen
Alcides Ramos
Gerald Zeitlin
Fay Lader

WEEK ENDING June 1

Maurice Coslow
Myron Urdang
Samuel Chait
Sidney Balick
Reid Scott Brecher
Rose Mallen
Lisa Mancher
Ethel Schildhaus
Pincus Deren
Sylvia Fisher
Leon Leibovici
Herman Mailman



WEEK ENDING May 18

Herbert Marshall Schwartz
Lucille Deren
John R. Kane
Edith Bauer Feldman
Miriam Rosenblum
Esther Sacher
Linda Steerman
Lorraine Schwartz Daxe
Helene Weber
Dorian Reminick

WEEK ENDING May 25

Donna Lezberg
Joseph Cohen
Flora Eisenstein
Raquel Klipstein-Hauser
Malvina Gluck
Edward Lehrer
Morton Lenker

We are sorry to inform you that long-time member Richard ("Dick") Sweet passed away early in the morning on Wednesday, April 24, 2024. No funeral arrangements have been made as yet. Our heartfelt condolences at this difficult time.

Service Schedule May

Friday Evenings

All Friday services on ZOOM, unless otherwise noted.

May 3

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat On ZOOM Luis Fernandez

May 10

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat **AT THE TEMPL** Rabbi Brown

May 17

6:30 pm dinner followed with Kabbalat Shabbat service **AT THE TEMPLE** Rabbi Brown

May 24

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat ON ZOOM David and Holly Neumann

May 31

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat ON ZOOM Luis Fernandez

Saturday Mornings

All Saturday services in person, unless otherwise noted.

May 4

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

May 11

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

May 18

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

May 25

9:30am Torah Study 11:00 am Shabbat Service Sarah Bedrosian

June 1

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

April 2024

Singer-Lader Music Fund In Memory of Max Briskman -Lynn Mansfeld

The Evy & Lou Rosenblum Fund for Education & Social Justice In Memory of Hyman Lader -Dr. Harry & Rabbi Enid Lader



Thank you!