



Features

Rabbi’s Desk ...1,2

President’s Desk ...3

Educator’s Desk ...4

Camp Kee Tov ...5-8

Congregational
meeting ...9

Photos ...10-12

Celebrations ...13,14

Yahrzeits ...15,16

Service Schedule ...17

Contributions ...18



A Reflection on the Past Year

As we wind our way to the end of my first year as Rabbi of Beth Israel – The West Temple, I reflect on what we did this year and how it went.

I love you all! You are warm, kind, and very forgiving of “newbie” mistakes. You are interesting and interested. Though we all come from different backgrounds and have different viewpoints and opinions about a variety of things, our passion for Judaism, the Jewish community, and Jewish life really connects us.

This has been an exceptionally hard year for anyone who is Jewish. Since October 7, we have been pummeled with news from the left and from the right. We hear from pro-Israel and pro-Palestine activists. We go to work and school with people who are angry about what is happening in Israel and Gaza – some of us felt unsafe at times wearing a kippah (yarmulka) or a Jewish star. And yet we persevere.

(continued Page 2)

For many at Beth Israel -The West Temple, this has been a very different, if not hard, year, simply because your previous rabbi retired and a new rabbi began. I appreciate how gracious you have been toward me as the new person in the building. Over this past year, I have been impressed with the atmosphere of volunteerism at our temple. I am blown away by the people who plan, implement, and then clean up meals when we have meals together. I am blown away by our religious school teachers, who volunteer their expertise and their time. I am blown away by our board members and other volunteers who do what they do to keep Beth Israel – The West Temple running and to keep our building in good repair.

It is an incredible honor to serve as your rabbi.

This past year, as your rabbi, I was honored to be present and officiate at two baby namings, one bris, one bat mitzvah, one funeral, and to be present visiting people in their homes or the hospital as they recovered from illness or surgery. I am deeply honored that you trust me to be by your side during times of challenge and joy.

I have been honored to work with Walter Wright and the Board on visioning for the future. It has been a privilege to spend time with others who are not necessarily on the Board, but who are integral to our functioning as a healthy congregation: the people who come to Torah study, the people who show up on Zoom for Friday night services, and the people who join in for classes or book discussions.

I have also been honored to talk with many people who are considering Judaism as a path that might be right for them. Even during this difficult time in the Jewish world, there are many for whom our Jewish concepts of God and our Reform ideology are appealing and meaningful.

I am very excited to continue writing our Jewish story together! Over the coming months, it is my goal to speak with each of our members, to meet you, to get to know you – or get to know you better. I will be reaching out to get together for coffee, a walk, or even lunch if you are up for it.

Our tradition has a saying: *"Kol Yisrael arayvim zeh bazeh* – We are all mixed up with one another." I am so glad to be "mixed up" with you and so honored to be your Rabbi. Thank you for a great year!

Rabbi Rachel Brown

From the President

Introducing Josh Levy, President-Elect - in his own words

My journey through Judaism has been a long and winding road. I grew up in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and attended the Solomon Schechter Day School through 5th grade. My family was culturally Jewish and they were members of a Reform congregation, Keneseth Israel. In high school, I was an active member of Young Judaea, a Zionist youth movement. College saw me study History and Jewish Studies, which led to a Master's Degree in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University and a PhD in Medieval Jewish History from New York University.

In my non-Temple life, I serve as Associate Director of Admissions at Oberlin College. To relax, I enjoy reading (fiction suggestions are always welcome; I'm happy to share some too), playing bridge, baking, and tearing my hair out over the New York Times Spelling Bee.

Jan and I have been members of Beth Israel – The West Temple for 14 years. Our three daughters – Helen (17), Alice (13), and Gabi (13) – are Religious School lifers and have all become b'not mitzvah on our bimah.

I look forward to working with Rabbi Brown and the Board of Trustees to keep BITWT a strong and vibrant presence for the Jews of the West Side. Some goals for the next two years include:

- Helping Rabbi Brown bring new and fresh ideas to Beth Israel. This will mean changes, some small and some more noticeable. We hope that you keep an open mind and embrace new ideas as we see together to create a great future for our congregation.
- Work with the Board to engage our membership in new ways. We want to hear from you about programs you'd like to see at Beth Israel.
- Partner with the Board to strengthen our financial standing. We are in a good place financially but who wouldn't love to have more money? Recent fundraisers like the Rosh Hashanah honey sale and the Purim shalach manot baskets have been very successful; I'd like us to investigate some additional programs. If you have ideas, please send them our way.

Finally - in talking about scientific progress, the great theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking said, "Each generation stands on the shoulders of those who have gone before them." I am truly humbled to stand on the shoulders of our past Presidents and I hope when my term is completed, we can all look back and say, "Kee tov, it was good."

From the Educator



Educator's Desk- June-July -2024

As we head into summer, I want to thank our staff and parents for their support of our school this year. I also hope that our students and parents will enjoy traveling, going to summer camps, and reconnecting with friends and family.

Throughout the summer, BI-TWT will continue to offer ways for our members to spend time with their friends in our community. There will be virtual Shabbat services on Friday evenings and in-person services on Saturday mornings. We are also planning on a Congregational Picnic this year on September 22. Check the News You Can Use for weekly updates.

Important information for Summer Activities:

We are looking forward to once again running Camp Kee Tov for families with children ages 3-9. It is currently scheduled to run from Monday, July 29- Friday, August 2, 2025. Please see the attached Camp Flier and Registration. The cost per child will be \$80 for the week. Please contact me at bitwteducator@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Debbie Chessin*

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

June Schedule:

Sunday, June 9th- 11:00 am- Congregational Semi-Annual Meeting

Highlights from May:

Our students in Grades PK-12 enjoyed our end-of-the-year Tefillah as we honored our graduating teens- Emma Rogers, Izzy Brashear, Becky Neumann, and Helen Levy. Enjoy the pictures!



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

Bain Park Cabin, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Cleveland Botanical Gardens, Lake Erie Science Center...

Cost: \$80 per child (includes field trip tickets to science center, snacks & camp supplies)

Please register
by July 24th

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 _____ State _____ Zip code _____ Child's Home # _____

PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Child lives with: _____

Person responsible for payment _____

Parent/Guardian #1

First _____ Last _____ Ms. Mrs. Mr. Other _____

Street Address _____

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home # _____ Work # _____

Cell # _____ FAX _____ E-mail _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Parent/Guardian #2

First _____ Last _____ Ms. Mrs. Mr. Other _____

Street Address _____

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home # _____ Work # _____

Cell # _____ FAX _____ E-mail _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION – ALTERNATE PICKUP/RELEASE

Emergency Contact #1

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Home # _____ Work # _____

Cell # _____ Email _____ Relation to child _____

Emergency Contact #2

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Home # _____ Work # _____

Cell # _____ Email _____ Relation to child _____

Please list those people, in addition to parents/guardians listed above, who are permitted to pick up your child:

1: _____ 2: _____ 3: _____

Beth Israel – The West Temple
Camp Kee Tov Medical Release Information – 2024

NAME OF CHILD: _____

MEDICAL RELEASE INFORMATION - Insurance

The following information is to ensure that, in an emergency, medical personnel have details of medical issues which may interfere with or alter treatment.

Policy # _____ Name of Health Insurance Provider _____

Primary Physician _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Hospital Preference _____

Please list any medical problems, including those requiring maintenance medication (i.e. diabetic, asthma, seizures).

<u>Medical Problem</u>	<u>Required treatment</u>	<u>Should paramedic be called?</u>
_____	_____	Yes/No
_____	_____	Yes/No
_____	_____	Yes/No

Is your child presently being treated for an injury or sickness, or taking any form of medication for any reason?

Yes___ No___ If yes, explain: _____

Is your child allergic to any type of food or medication?

Yes___ No___ If yes, explain: _____

Does your child require a special diet?

Yes___ No___ If yes, explain: _____

I understand that I will be notified in the case of a medical emergency involving my child. In the event my child is injured or becomes ill and I cannot be reached, I authorize the calling of a doctor and the providing of necessary medical services.

Parent's/Guardian's Initials _____

I understand that neither Camp Kee Tov nor Beth Israel – The West Temple will be responsible for any medical expenses incurred, but that such expenses will be my responsibility as parent/guardian.

Parent's/Guardian's Initials _____

Beth Israel – The West Temple
Camp Kee Tov Additional Information – 2024

NAME OF CHILD: _____

Photo Release

I hereby give permission for my child to be photographed during Camp Kee Tov. I understand the photos will be used to keep a journal of activities, to share during power point presentations and/or reports to our donors and for promotional purposes including flyers, brochures, newspaper and on the internet. I understand that although my child's photograph may be used for advertising, his or her identity will not be disclosed.

Parent's/Guardian's Initials

Transportation Release

I hereby give permission for the transportation of my child for official **Camp Kee Tov** activities by modes of transportation agreed to by the camp organizers.

Parent's/Guardian's Initials

TERMS OF AGREEMENT: Tuition \$80.00 for 5 day Camp Kee Tov

- **Camp Kee Tov is not responsible for lost or damaged personal property.**
- **All scheduled events are subject to change.**
- **I understand that no fees will be refunded or transferred unless a child is unable to participate due to an accident or illness per physician orders.**
- **Photos of the children and quotes from them may be used for publicity purposes.**
- **In case of an emergency, and if the primary physician cannot be reached, I hereby authorize my child to be treated by Certified Emergency Personnel (i.e. EMT, First Responder, and/or Physician).**

Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Please circle how you heard about Camp Kee Tov:

After School Program Website School _____ Word of Mouth Flyer Other _____

Sunday, June 9 at 11:00 am

Please join us for our

Congregational Semi-Annual Meeting

This is an important meeting where we will share updates and make decisions relating to our Temple. This is the time to make your voice heard and give your input.





Our students in Grades PK-12 enjoyed our end-of-the-year Tefillah as we honored our graduating teens: Emma Rogers, Izzy Brashear, Becky Neumann, and Helen Levy.







Bulletin published 11 times a year by:
 Beth Israel—The West Temple
 14308 Triskett Road, Cleveland OH 44111
 Phone (216) 941-8882
office@thewesttemple.org
www.thewesttemple.org
 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

☆ Celebrations ☆

June Wedding Anniversaries - 2024

Nicole & Jason Decker	June 4	18 th
Ben Kessler & Rachel Silver-Kessler	June 14	9 th
Abigail & Jonathan Eshbaugh	June 20	15 th
Sid & Lisa Feldman	June 22	44 th
Dr. Robert & Eleanor Dreshfield	June 24	68 th

June Birthdays – Young People - 2024

Alice Levy	June 4	14
Gabi Levy	June 4	14
Magnolia Flynn-Wilson	June 11	4
Rebecca Neumann	June 12	18
Charlie Sumner	June 17	14
Lillian Shmois	June 19	15
Alissandra Heller	June 26	13

June Birthdays – Adults - 2024

Michael Evans	June 2
George Thornton	June 3
Ilene Brehm	June 5
Justin Morse	June 5
Patricia Rand	June 5
Rabbi Alan Lettofsky	June 10
Rachel Silver Kessler	June 10
James Howsmon	June 12
Erin Huber	June 14
Renee Kolesar	June 15
Nick Swetye	June 17
Barbara Schwartz	June 21
Ariella Epstein	June 22
Judith Weiss	June 24
Robin Kaufman	June 28



☆ Celebrations ☆

July Wedding Anniversaries - 2024

Julian & Carol Ross	July 2	31 st
Drs. Neil & Mary Kay Greenberg	July 3	30 th
Aaron & Kimberly Griffith	July 3	14 th
Dr. Neal & Robin Kaufman	July 3	41 st
Ryan & Jami Lercher	July 3	19 th
Jeff & Amber Heller	July 9	2 nd
Charles & Lisa Fisher	July 21	11 th
Kyle & Geraldina Simko	July 21	2 nd
Susan Hutner & Nick Swetye	July 23	13 th
Sara & Allen Klosterman	July 23	13 th
Norman & Patricia Lehrer	July 25	31 st

July Birthdays – Young People - 2024

Iris Wright	July 2	17
Ilana Fisher	July 3	9
Nadav Kessler	July 10	7
Elian Rand	July 24	4

July Birthdays – Adults - 2024

Dr. Arnon Chait	July 2
Kyle Simko	July 4
Frank Eilberg	July 8
Nicole Decker	July 14
Vicky Abady	July 18
Sid Feldman	July 18
Charlotte Feldman	July 22
Norman Lehrer	July 25
Dr. Irwin C. Lewis	July 26
Peter Sackett	July 28
Sandu Leibovici	July 31



PERPETUAL YAHRZEITS

June 2024

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

June 8

Edith Garden
Lillie Feldstein
Leopold Neumann
John Goodworth, Sr.
Abe Silverstein
Sara Tucker Gerhardt
Harry Mark

WEEK ENDING

June 15

Miska Gluck
Charles Metzel
Barbara Spivack
Leo Machol
Crystal Thornton
Celia E. Kahn
Tom Miyake
Fatmire Ymeraj

WEEK ENDING

June 22

Lily Hyman
Jerome Lettofsky
Loretta Shapiro
Lester Samuel Sherrick
Marjorie Grey Balick
Gustave Leon Levinson
Jennifer Lyn Rinehart
David Eilberg
Leona Ackerman
Nancy Feldman
Rose Metzel
Hershel Bloom
Phillip Lettofsky

WEEK ENDING

June 29

Joseph Mallen
Benjamin Stern
Alex Bruscano, Sr.
Eugene David
Jacob Eisenstein
Celia Weiss
Paul Jay Hutner
Raymond Wissman

Our congregation lost long-time member, Alice Mark, who passed away on May 14, 2024. Alice's daughter Julie, and her son Andrew have our sincere condolences as they grieve.

May their memory be a blessing

PERPETUAL YAHRZEITS

July 2024

WEEK ENDING

July 6

Betty J. Kukura
Victoria Carmichael Ridgway
David Sacher
Shirley Mittleman
Patricia Maynard
Naum Brailowsky
Alfred Rimm
Hugo Eckstein
Fred Goldberg
Karl Kreuscher



WEEK ENDING

July 13

Arthur Friedman
Allison Ginsberg
Sara K. Margulis
Ralph Miller
Eleanor Kaplan
Viola Melnick
Blanche David
Leona David
Gertrude Paul

WEEK ENDING

July 20

Edith Mason
Helen Friedman Kaplan
Sydel Pearl Coslow
Marie Sacher
Franklin McWilliams
Roberta Provder

WEEK ENDING

July 27

David Tanenbaum
Nancy Balick Ferst
Alan Rimm-Kaufman
Betty Zabarsky
Curtis Miller
Richard Grey
Max Krisch
Thomas V. Mizicko

WEEK ENDING

August 3

Herbert Wise
Bernard Feldman
Sophie Lustig
Evelyn Rosenblum
Jovanka Skoro Dunn
Marsha Newman Willey
Sofia Bruckman
Ardeth Dreshfield
Alexander Weiss

May their memory be a blessing

Service Schedule June

Friday Evenings

All Friday services on ZOOM,
unless otherwise noted.

Saturday Mornings

All Saturday services in person,
unless otherwise noted.

June 7

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
On ZOOM
Rabbi Brown

June 14

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
On ZOOM
David & Holly Neumann

June 21

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
On ZOOM
TBD

June 28

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
ON ZOOM
TBD

June 1

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

June 8

9:30am Torah Study
11:00am Shabbat Service
Rabbi Brown (**confirmation
and lunch**)

June 15

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

June 22

9:30am Torah Study
11:00am Shabbat Service
TBD

June 29

9:30am Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Service
TBD

*July's service schedule will be shared in the News You Can Use emails.

CONTRIBUTIONS

May 2024

General Fund

We gratefully acknowledge donations from the following people:

In Memory of
Eli Y. Scheinman
-Karon Greenfield
Edward Lehrer
-Norm Lehrer
Alice Mark
-Dr. Robert Dreshfield
Richard Sweet
-Pat Outlaw

Rabbi Brown's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of
Rabbi Rachel Brown
-William D. Schwartz
David Neumann
-William D. Schwartz

In Memory of
Richard Sweet
-Scott Machol
Leon Leibovici
-Sandu Leibovici

Religious School Fund

In Memory of
Richard Sweet
-Shosh Ault
-Susan & Tom Wagner
Alice Mark
-Susan & Tom Wagner



The Alan B. Lettofsky Fund for The Center for Jewish Life

In Memory of
Alice Mark
-Rabbi Alan Lettofsky

In Memory of
Fay Lader
-Dr. Harry & Rabbi Enid Lader
Richard Sweet
-Dr. Harry & Rabbi Enid Lader
Alice Mark
-Pat Outlaw

Singer-Lader Music Fund

In Memory of
Maurice S. Coslow
-Rabbi Enid & Dr. Harry Lader
Ethel P. Schildhaus
-Rabbi Enid & Dr. Harry Lader
Alice Mark
-Rabbi Enid & Dr. Harry Lader
Dorian Reminick
-Pat Outlaw

Thank you!