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Rabbi Brown

Into the Normal

It is the beginning of November. It is also the beginning of the Hebrew month of Heshvan. The High Holy Days are over, life can go back to "normal."

During the past month, which included Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah, I often thought about what life must have been like when the Temple stood in Jerusalem. In contemporary life, we squeeze observance of our Jewish holidays into the cracks – wherever they will fit – between ongoing regular tasks like paying bills, making dinner, keeping track of appointments, and writing monthly bulletin articles. But in "early times" the Israelites would pack up a month's worth of clothes, close up their houses, and travel to Jerusalem for the month. Once in Jerusalem, they would set up camp, and then – party.

(continued Page 2)

For one month, people would party. Even Yom Kippur, the day that we set aside to fast and pray for 24 hours, was a party day! The Israelites would fast, but only until around noon. Once the *Kohen Gadol*, the High Priest, would emerge out of the Holy of Holies in the Temple, the people would know that God forgave them for the ways in which they “missed the mark,” or transgressed, and they would spend the rest of the day partying – feasting, dancing, and playing.

And then during Sukkot, they would go all-out with partying. The party was so grand that even the Talmud (Sukkot Sukkah 51a) tells us that “whoever did not see this celebration never saw a celebration in his days.” The celebration was called *Simchat Beit HaSho’eva* – the Celebration of the House of Water Drawing. As told by Leslie Koppelman Ross in an article on My Jewish Learning, “the Talmud describes the festivities in detail, from the lighting of immense candelabrum set in the Temple courtyard (each holding gallons of oil and fit with wicks made from priests’ worn-out vestments), which generated such intense light that they illuminated every courtyard in the city. A Levite orchestra of flutes, trumpets, harps, and cymbals accompanied torchlight processions, and men who had earned the capacity for real spiritual joy through their purity, character and scholarship danced ecstatically to the hand-clapping, foot-stomping, and hymn-singing crowds. ...

“We do not imagine our distinguished sages as acrobats and tumblers, but they were often agile physically as well as mentally: Rabbi Simon ben Gamaliel juggled eight lighted torches and raised himself into a handstand on two fingers, a gymnastic feat no one else could master. Others juggled eight knives, eight glasses of wine, or eight eggs before leaders and dignitaries.”

It was a party like no other. And, because everyone was “off,” the Israelites were free to really get into the celebration – they didn’t have to worry about work, or bills, or doctor’s appointments.

I imagine that when they got home, they saw their houses and their lives with “beginner’s mind” – they noticed the scent of their house, details inside their house that they might have gotten so used to, that they didn’t notice them before – kind of like what it might be like after going on a long vacation and coming home.

They were a little tired from travelling and partying. They were dusty from the road. They came home, unpacked, and got back into life. But when they ran into each other at the marketplace, they could recount the stories and remember the joy.

(continued Page 3)

And because it was like a new beginning, a chance to rest between the last harvest and the first planting, they had time to think about life, about what they wanted from life, about their relationships with loved ones and business associates.

I kind of lament that we don't get to forget about mundane details and chores during the month of Tishrei. But I wonder, if I were to take some time to breathe, to write in my journal, to process the past year/months/season with a therapist, what changes would I want to make? Which people would I want to be sure to call, to be in touch with? Which actions would I want to take to make the world a better place?

I want to invite you to think about these with me. Most of us couldn't leave home to party, pray, and socialize away from home for the past month, but all of us would benefit from taking some time to consider how we want this year of 5785 to be different. Consider: What do you want to welcome more of into your life? What would benefit you to let go of in terms of work, relationships, actions? Uneventful Heshvan, the month after our Jewish fall holidays are over, is the time to make changes and start over.

May this month be a month of "beginner's mind," of blessing, of an easy entry into the mundane work-a-day rhythm of the year. And may this be the month that we finally have peace – for Israel/Gaza/Lebanon/Iran, for Ukraine/Russian, and for everyone, all around the world.

Rabbi Rachel Brown



Josh Levy

President's Desk

Shalom chaverim (hello friends). Last Friday, I attended services for Consecration and Simchat Torah. It was so inspiring to see the youngest generation in our Religious School formally kick off their Jewish education and to march with the small Torah scroll. I truly believe that we are in good hands.

We've been through three weeks of introspection, self-reflection, prayer, outdoor living and dining, and dancing with the Torah. From Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur to Sukkot to Simchat Torah, the holidays launch us into our Jewish year. They move us forward in our Jewish journey, in whatever form that might take for us.

There are many events planned for the rest of the year but I want to call your attention to three of them – yes it's early but we want to have strong participation so please add these to your calendar and know that specific information will be forthcoming soon.

- January 19 will be our Congregational Meeting. In addition to hearing from our various committees, we will be discussing one change to our Constitution – changing from two congregational meetings each year to one.
- The weekend of May 2-4, we will be celebrating Rabbi Brown's Installation as our Rabbi. We will have a congregational dinner on Friday; Torah study, a morning service with Rabbi Brown's installation, and a bagel brunch on Saturday morning; a barbeque dinner on Saturday evening; and a celebration in Religious School on Sunday.
- On Friday May 30, we will be officially dedicating the sanctuary with a special service and congregational dinner.

Thank you all for making Beth Israel such a special community. Happy November to you all.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please reach out to me at president@thewesttemple.org.

Best,
Josh Levy



Educator's Desk

Debbie Chessin

Adonai appeared to him by the terebinths of Mamre; he was sitting at the entrance of the tent as the day grew hot. Looking up, he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them and, bowing to the ground, he said, "My lords, if it please you, do not go past your servant. Let a little water be brought; bathe your feet and recline under the tree. An let me fetch a morsel of bread that you may refresh yourselves..."

This text brings us to one of the most important stories of kindness to strangers. The concept of hospitality, also called *hachnasat orchim* (bringing in strangers), being extended to others is a central value in Judaism. An act of *g'milut chasadim* (loving kindness), *hachnasat orchim* is considered a mitzvah.

In this parsha, we learn that Abraham's and Sarah's kindness to their guests was exemplary. They took great measures to make their guests feel welcome and at home by washing their guests' feet, offering a place to rest and preparing a special feast. Modeling more than a standard level of courtesy, Abraham and Sarah taught later generations the true meaning of hospitality.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday season, it is a perfect opportunity as a family to talk about the blessing of giving to others. Hosting guests and taking care of them is an important way to express this. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, have your children think of ways to share the gifts of the holiday by making loved ones or friends welcome and cared for in your homes.

Debbie Chessin, Director of Education*

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

November Schedule

Sunday, November 3- Religious School-10-12pm

- 10:30-11:30- "The Rocky Road to the Women's Right to Vote"- for Grades 6-12 and adult congregants

Monday, November 4- Hebrew- 6:30 pm

Sunday, November 10- Religious School-10-12 pm

Monday, November 11- Hebrew-6:30 pm

Sunday, November 17- Religious School- 10-12pm

- Yad B' Yad- 10:30 am

Monday, November 18- Hebrew- 6:30 pm

Sunday, November 24- Religious School- 10-12pm

Monday, November 25 - Hebrew School- 6:30 pm

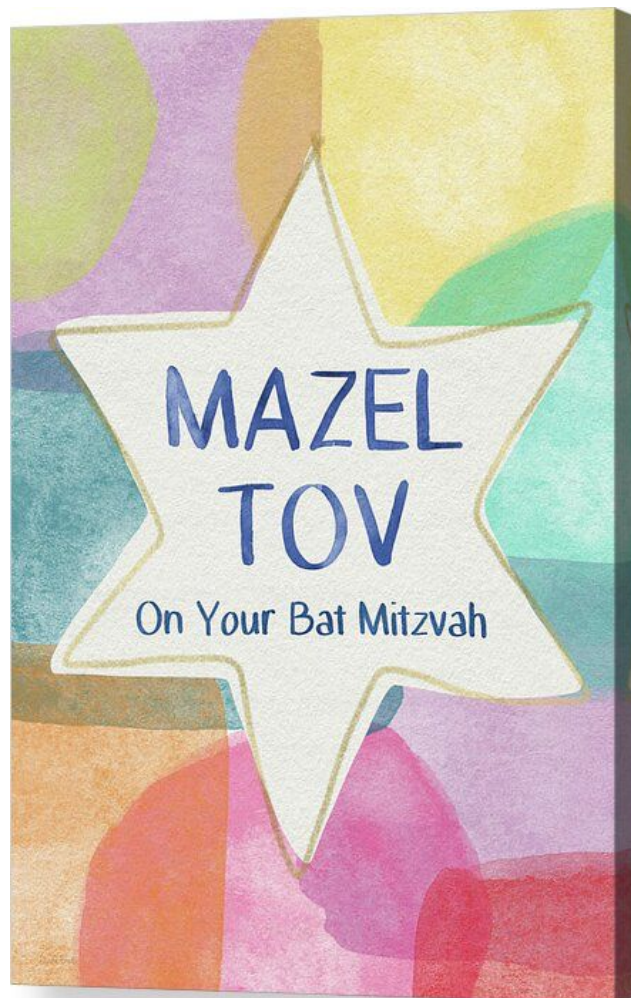
Thursday, November 28 - Thanksgiving

Sunday, November Dec. 3- NO Religious School

MAZAL TOV!

Jon and Rebecca Watts invite the entire congregation to join them in worship and celebration when their daughter, **Charlotte Ruth Watts**, is called to lead the Shabbat Morning Service on **November 2, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

A Festive Kiddush will follow the Service.



MAZAL TOV!

Kimberly & Aaron Griffith are happy to invite the congregation to attend the Shabbat Morning Service on **November 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** as their son, **Noah Myles Griffith**, is called to the Bima to lead the Service as a Bar Mitzvah.

A Festive Kiddush will be held in Ratner Hall following the Service.





Join us for an enjoyable, informative, and relevant program featuring two famous Suffragists, Susan B. Anthony and Alice Paul. Presented by actresses from the local group Women in History.

Sunday, November 3rd, 2024, in the BI-TWT Sanctuary
10:30-11:30 AM, followed by a short Q&A. Grades 6-12 will attend, along with adult congregants

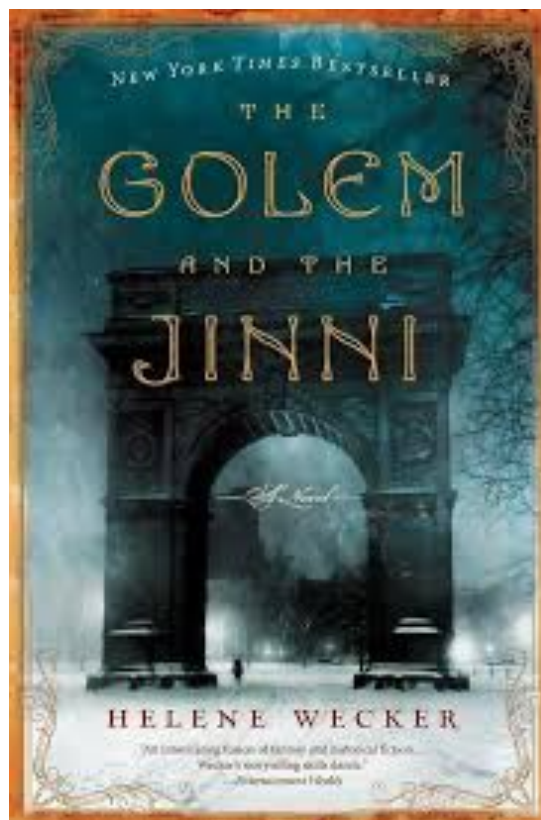
Free and no RSVP is necessary! Come and be entertained!

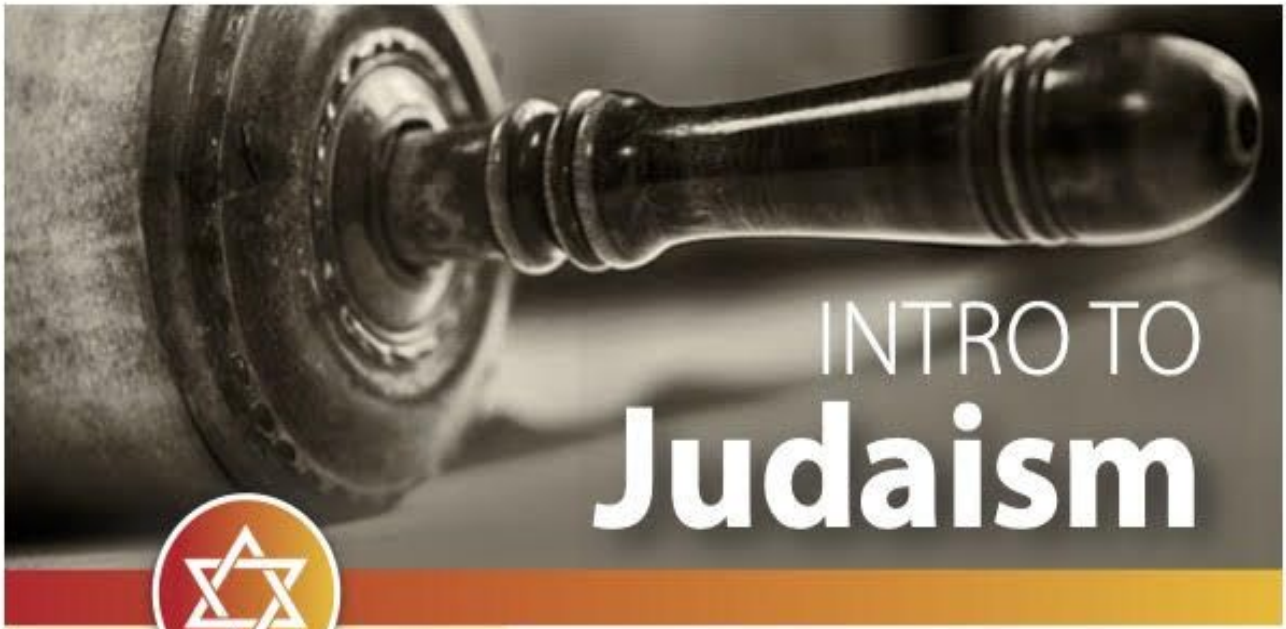
Susan B. Anthony was an early women's rights activist & suffragist and a pioneer in the women's right to vote movement. Alice Paul was a prominent activist in the 20th century and helped secure the passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, granting women the right to vote. (This program is sponsored by BIC)



Are you interested in reading a historical fiction book and discussing it with temple members?

Please join us on **Sunday, November 17th at 10:15am** for a discussion of the book ["The Golem and the Jinni"](#) by Helene Wecker.





INTRO TO Judaism



Explore Jewish observance of holidays and life-cycle events, major periods in Jewish history and significant Jewish concepts through lecture, engaging text study, meaningful dialogue and exploration in the community. Class will be taught in four sections with a different rabbinic instructor for each section. Some classes will be held in person at the Mandel JCC Community Room and some dates will be taught virtually via Zoom. Open to the community.

Fee: Members: \$202.50
Community: \$225
for up to two participants

**FEE
INCLUDES
TEXT
BOOK**

*In partnership with the Greater
Cleveland Board of Rabbis*

THURSDAYS, 7 – 9 PM
10 IN-PERSON AND 10 ZOOM CLASSES

SECTION 1 THE STORY OF THE CALENDAR

Nov 7- Dec 12 (5 classes)

(no class 11/28)

Instructor: Rabbi Shana Nyer

SECTION 2 THE STORY OF BELIEF & SACRED TEXT

Dec 19- Jan 23, 2025 (4 classes)

(no class 12/26 and 1/2)

Instructor: Rabbi Thalia Halpert Rhodis

SECTION 3 OUR STORY IN THE WORLD

Jan 30 - Mar 6 (6 classes)

Instructors: Rabbi Joshua Jacobs and Rabba Amalia Haas

SECTION 4 THE STORY OF CELEBRATION

March 11- April 10 (5 classes)

(no class 3/13)

Instructor: Rabbi Melinda Mersack

**QUESTIONS? Contact us at 216-831-0700 ext. 1414
or skasdan@mandeljcc.org**



Mandel Jewish
Community Center

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION mandeljcc.org/Jewish-Life

26001 S. WOODLAND ROAD | BEACHWOOD, OH 44122

Thank you!

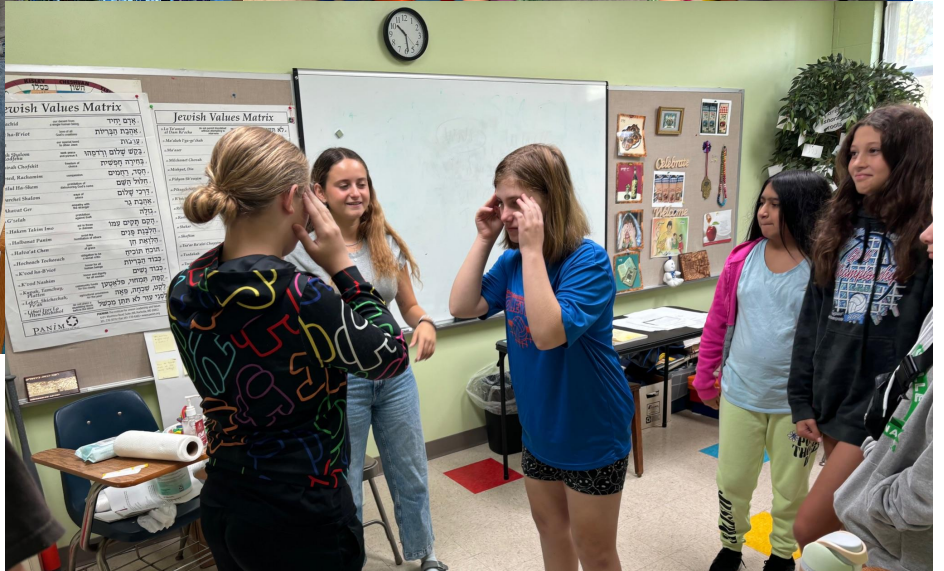
Thank you to everyone who contributed to the SCAN Hunger Pantry. We appreciate your charity. We filled the back of Mitchell Gruber's car!



October Pictures: The High School class enjoyed building the sukkah for our congregational celebration of Sukkot. Our Religious School Families enjoyed our traditional pizza in the hut during Sukkot. Students in the K/1 class participated in the Simchat Torah service and were consecrated. Enjoy the pictures!







Yom Kippur break fast at Simkos







☆ Celebrations ☆

November Wedding Anniversaries

Dr. Robert & Judith Weiss	Nov. 1	49 th
Joshua & Sarah Lazar	Nov. 2	11 th
Karen & Todd McAleer	Nov. 6	22 nd
Scott & Tracy Grauel	Nov. 7	22 nd
Dr. Charles & Rivienne Levin	Nov. 15	38 th
Sidney Donahoe-Goldberg & Heather Goldberg	Nov. 18	17 th
Donald & Lynn Mansfeld	Nov. 25	43 rd
Rick & Tina Keller	Nov. 26	41 st

November Birthdays – Young People

Noah Griffith	Nov. 2	13 th
Sadie Goldberg	Nov. 4	15 th
Maya Lynn Klosterman	Nov. 5	9 th

November Birthdays – Adults

Jonathon Jaslove	Nov. 1
Dr. Robert Goldberg	Nov. 2
Jennie Sedlak	Nov. 2
Karon Greenfield	Nov. 6
Kati Roth	Nov. 6
Karen McAleer	Nov. 8
Frank Labus	Nov. 12
Jon Watts	Nov. 18
Amanda Parker	Nov. 19
Lori Sweet	Nov. 19
Dr. Joel Keller	Nov. 21
Kari Basiewicz	Nov. 23
Jay Krasnow	Nov. 24
Charles Fisher	Nov. 25
Debra Girard	Nov. 25
Dr. Robert Weiss	Nov. 25
Heather Goldberg	Nov. 27
Eleanor Dreshfield	Nov. 29
Myrna Pendery	Nov. 30
Jennifer Robock	Nov. 30



PERPETUAL YAHRZEITS

November 2024

WEEK ENDING

November 2

Dave Gorland
Sidney Gordon
Frieda Provder
Mady Solomonescu
Phern R. Berns

WEEK ENDING

November 9

Pearle Fairberg
Arthur Loeb
Samuel Bir
Fred Kassel
Harry Mason
Betty C. Sissman
Saul P. Weissman
Patsy Zabarsky
Ann Rubin
Harry E. Schwartz

WEEK ENDING

November 16

Nellie Palnik
Frank Kramer
Lester Brown
Jean Loeb Lettovsky
Dorothy Louise Kassel
Bernie Wanger
James Goldman
Richard McGary
Gladys Weiss

WEEK ENDING

November 23

Clifford Altfeld
Stephen Kollins
Leonard Jaslove
Lois Fernandez
David J. Samuels

WEEK ENDING

November 30

Ralph Forman
Morris Rabin
Max Eisenstot
James Feldman
David Max Klipstein-Hauser
Edith Lettovsky
Vivian Lopatin
Milton Hyman
Alexander Pankiw
Lisa Susan Reminick
Beatrice Barnes
Billy Rutenberg
Anna Jaffe
Harry S. Schwartz
Norma S. Cohen



May their memory be a blessing

Service Schedule November

Friday Evenings

All Friday services on ZOOM,
unless otherwise noted.

November 1

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
On ZOOM
Rabbi Brown

November 8

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
On ZOOM
Rabbi Brown

November 15

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
On ZOOM
TBD

November 22

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
ON ZOOM
Luis Fernandez

November 29

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
ON ZOOM
Ken Dunn

Saturday Mornings

All Saturday services in person,
unless otherwise noted.

November 2

10:00am Shabbat Service/
Bat Mitzvah
Rabbi Brown

November 9

10:00am Shabbat Service/
Bat Mitzvah
Rabbi Brown

November 16

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

November 23

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

November 30

9:30am Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Service
Ken Dunn

CONTRIBUTIONS

General Fund

We gratefully acknowledge donations from the following:

In Memory of
Frieda Provder
-Theodore Provder

Rabbi Brown's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of
Charlotte Ruth Watts' Bat Mitzvah
-Susan & Tom Wagner

In Memory of
Illy Brown
-Josh Levy
Gerald Greenfield
-Brian & Aimee Greenfield
Rose Lehrer
-Norm Lehrer

Library Fund

In Memory of
Gerald Greenfield
-Karon Greenfield



Thank you!