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**I Can't Wait to See You!**

**Rabbi Brown**

In just a few days, May 2, 3, and 4, we'll mark a special moment in our shared journey—my official installation as your rabbi. While I've had the privilege of serving Beth Israel-The West Temple since the summer of 2023, this ritual our commitment to remain together and to build a life together. It's a declaration. A sacred promise. A covenant.

In many ways it feels like a wedding after dating seriously for a while. We've already built something real—we've celebrated *simchas*/joyful occasions, grieved losses, learned, prayed, wrestled with questions, and grown together. And now, we pause to say: "Yes. This matters. Let's continue to choose one another with intention and love."

(continued Page 2)

*Pirkei Avot/Ethics of our Ancestors*, teaches: “Find yourself a teacher, acquire for yourself a friend, and judge every person favorably.” This teaching has always resonated deeply with me—not just as a rabbi, but as a human being. In it, I hear a blueprint for sacred community.

Every person here carries a story, a history, a spiritual journey that is wholly their own. Some of us have grown up with rich Jewish lives; others are returning, exploring, or stepping into Jewish life for the first time. Some of us are rooted in Jewish identity by birth, others by choice, others by connection and love. Each person brings something precious. I strive to meet every person exactly where they are – in the capacity of teacher, friend, companion – however will serve a specific person best at any given moment.

To me, that’s what it means to be a rabbi. To be present. To share and teach tradition with passion – and also to honor every person’s lived experience and to understand the world from your perspective

This installation isn’t just about me. It’s about *us*. It’s a chance to affirm the sacred partnership we’ve already begun and to envision what we can create together in the years ahead. How do we build a community where every person feels seen and valued? How do we deepen our connection to tradition while understanding that “tradition” might mean different things to different people?

I am excited to continue to explore answers to these questions (and more) together. I have faith—in this congregation, in the power of showing up for one another, and in the ancient wisdom that continues to speak to our modern hearts.

Thank you for welcoming me, challenging me, celebrating with me, and growing with me. I am honored to walk this path with you—as your rabbi, your teacher, and your friend.

Note: The teaching I’ve woven into this reflection comes from *Pirkei Avot* 1:6 –

עֲשֵׂה לְךָ רַב, וּקְנֵה לְךָ חֵבֵר, וְהָיִי דִן אֶת כָּל הָאָדָם לְכַף זְכוּת.

*Asay l’cha rav, uk’nay l’cha chaver, v’ha’vay dan et kol ha’adam l’chaf zechut*

“Find yourself a teacher, acquire for yourself a friend, and judge every person favorably.”

This teaching is a reminder that sacred community is built not only on learning, leadership, friendship, groundedness, and generous hearts. May we continue to grow together.

**Rabbi Rachel Brown**



## **President's Desk**

Hello Beth Israel Friends. If you're a regular reader of the you'll know that early May is an important time for Beth Israel-The West Temple.

### **We're Getting Married!**

Yes, Beth Israel and Rabbi Rachel Brown are getting married. Installing a new rabbi is like entering into a marriage contract. We will grow with each other, working hard to ensure that we thrive in our relationship. We will learn about our likes and dislikes, compromising so that our collective strengths help the community grow. We will celebrate together and mourn together. We will offer our children roots, so that they are Jewishly grounded on the West Side of Cleveland, and wings, so that they can plant Jewish roots elsewhere.

Simchas are celebrated in many ways but there are two that I'd like to highlight. The first involves food – I hope that you can join us for services and meals on May 2 and 3. The second involves monetary donations – if you are able to make a contribution in honor of Rabbi Brown's installation, the Temple would greatly appreciate your support.

On behalf of the entire Board of Beth Israel, I want to thank you for all of your support, whether it is emotional or spiritual or financial. You make this community special. Without you, Beth Israel would not be the important institution that it is.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns.

**Josh Levy** ( [president@thewesttemple.org](mailto:president@thewesttemple.org) )



## Educator's Desk

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 have continued to offer learning opportunities, and spiritual connections for our students and families throughout the school year.

**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, Jami Lercher and Sarah Bedrossian.**

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.

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On the last day of Religious School, **Sunday, May 11 from 10:30-11:45 am at Beth Israel-The West Temple**, we will have a very special service to honor our teachers and say goodbye to our graduating High School Seniors- **Ava Watts and Iris Wright**. **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.

(continued Page 6)





## BI-TWT's Summer Day Camp

July 28- August 1, 2025

9:00 am-1:00pm

For Preschool-4<sup>th</sup> Grade

# CAMP KEE TOV

### THINGS AT CAMP

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



### Camp Schedule:

Monday: Yom Israel- music,  
cooking and arts

Tuesday: Swings & Things

Wednesday: Great Lakes Science  
Center

Thursday: Yom Sport- Maccabiah  
Games and creek walk

Friday: Gan Chayim- visit to the  
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Bain Park Cabin, Cleveland  
Metroparks Zoo, Swings & Things,  
Lake Erie Science Center...  
Cost: \$100 per child (includes field  
trip tickets to science center, snacks  
& camp supplies)  
Please register  
by July 15<sup>th</sup>

For more information, please contact Debbie Chessin

at 216-337-6110 or [bitwteducator@gmail.com](mailto:bitwteducator@gmail.com)

Please register with this link: <https://forms.gle/LdGPapYVyXuaibz1A>

## May Schedule

**Friday, 2nd-** 6 pm Congregational Dinner- \$10 per person, under age 5 free, max \$36 per family

7pm Erev Shabbat Service

**Saturday, 3rd-** 9:30 Torah study

11:00 am- Shabbat morning service Installation of Rabbi Brown

12:30 pm- Lunch sponsored by the Beth Israel Board of Trustees

6:00 pm- Mocktail Party : Cove Community Center

**Sunday, 4th-** 10-12 am- Religious School-Special Family Celebration of Rabbi Brown's Installation

- 10-10:15- Havdalah
- 10:15-10:45- Collaborative art project
- 10:45-11:30- Creating a Blessing for Our Future
- 11:30-12- Festive Brunch

**Monday, 5th** - 6:30 pm – Last Monday Hebrew School

**Sunday, 11th** - 10-12:00 pm– Last Day of Religious School

- 10-10:30- Shortened Classes
- 10:30-11:45 All School Final Assembly and Service to Honor our Teachers and Graduating Seniors and Reflection Video
- 11:45-12- Ice Cream Party sponsored by BIC

**Saturday, 31st-** 10:00 am- Confirmation and Shabbat Service

**Upcoming Events:** This summer we will have Camp Kee Tov during the week of July 28 through August 1. The cost will be \$100 per child. We still plan on meeting at Bain Park Cabin, the Metro Parks Zoo, Swings N Things, and Great Lakes Science Center. See the attached flier which has the link to the registration form!



## Ritual Committee Report for May by Luis Fernandez, Chair

After a winter that seemed would never end, we finally got to spring and lots of activity. In last month's Bulletin you saw the pictures from our Purim Party in March. It's clear from the pictures of that every one there had a great time.

On April 5 we celebrated with the Decker family as their Sam Decker was called up to the Bimah for his Bar Mitzvah. He led the service like a pro and gave a great *devar Torah*. In case you were not able to be there, here are a few pictures:

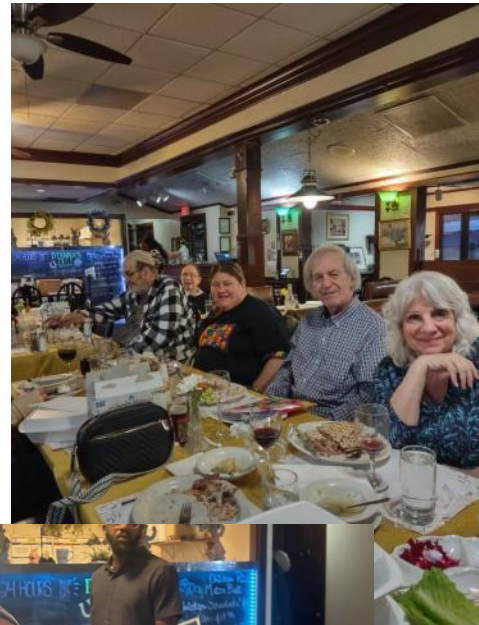


The following Shabbat Maria Cruz and her husband Mark Warner formally gave their new baby Itzayana her Jewish name: Batyah Chen bat Mirriam Zahara v'Mark. Here is the little cutie with her proud mama.





The next day on April 13, we had a Community Seder at Dianna's Deli. 37 members attended, singing, eating, and generally having a great time. We are indebted to Rabbi Brown, Karen McAleer, Beryl Palnik for putting this together as well as to everyone who brought their favorite Passover dessert offerings.

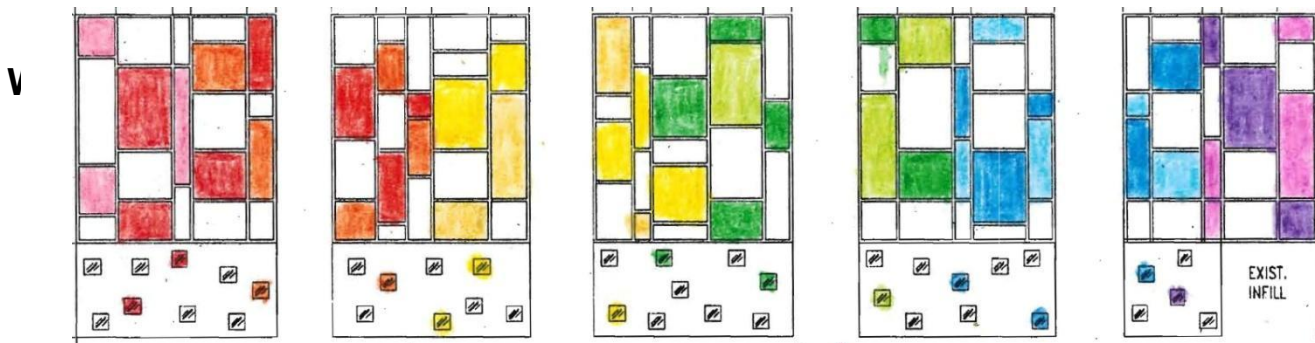


More events are coming up soon. On the weekend of May 2-3, we will have the official installation of Rabbi Rachel Brown. It will begin with a Congregational dinner on Friday (details are the News You Can Use newsletter), then the installation ceremony during the Shabbat morning service, followed by a Bagel Brunch. The festivities continue in the evening with a Mediterranean mocktail party at the Cove Community Center in Lakewood. At the party you will be able to view and purchase original local art, original prints, and other Judaica.

On May 30 we will be renaming our Sanctuary in memory of Ruth and Harold Friedman z"l with a special service and dinner. The naming of the Sanctuary is a way of thanking the Friedman family for the very generous donation they made to our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Renovation Campaign. More information about that event will be in future Newsletters.

You may have heard that we had some of our Torah scrolls repaired. Last year Rabbi Brown and I went through our Torah scrolls to see if there were any damaged letters. We found damage on all three of the large scrolls and had that confirmed by a R. Bec Richman, *sofer* (scribe) in Cleveland. One of the scrolls was repaired (just in time for Sam's Bar Mitzvah!), but the other two had extensive damage that would be very expensive to repair. As a result we are in discussions with a congregation in Toledo that is closing about purchasing one of their scrolls instead.

You probably thought that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century renovations were now behind us. We thought so too, but then last fall, at the urging of Jim Hartnett, the Director of Community Security at the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, we submitted a Ohio Security Grant proposal to replace our 70 year-old Sanctuary windows. The new windows will be double-paned and use both energy-efficient "E-glass" as well as laminated safety glass (like what is used in car windshields). The new windows will also be more colorful. Here is an artist rendering of the current design. I think you will agree that the new windows will be transformative!



Since this was a pie-in-the-sky request, we also asked for major upgrades to our camera surveillance and keycard entry system. I did not think we had much of a chance: over 750 other non-profit organizations in Ohio submitted applications and only money to fund a small fraction of them. But in February we were awarded every shekel we asked for! So this summer we will be installing a new state-of-the-art keycard system, a "video doorbell" so that the office staff can more easily communicate with anyone who comes to the back door, and a new AI-enabled 180 degree camera on the front of the building.



Last month the students in Grades K-5 participated in an all-school program – a Mini Seder and Passover Cooking. Enjoy the pictures!







BETH ISRAEL  
THE WEST TEMPLE

# ★ SPECIAL THANKS ★

TO OUR SPONSOR



24601 Lorain Road, North  
Olmsted

FOR SPONSORING  
**RABBI BROWN'S  
INSTALLATION EVENT**



## **Service Schedule May**

### **Friday Evenings**

All Friday services on ZOOM,  
unless otherwise noted.

### **Saturday Mornings**

All Saturday services in person,  
unless otherwise noted.

#### **May 2**

Rabbi Installation

#### **May 3**

Rabbi Installation

#### **May 9**

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
On ZOOM  
Luis Fernandez

#### **May 10**

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

#### **May 16**

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
On ZOOM  
Rabbi Brown

#### **May 17**

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

#### **May 23**

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
ON ZOOM  
TBA

#### **May 24**

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

#### **May 30**

Sanctuary Renaming &  
Rededication with  
Rabbi Enid Lader

#### **May 31**

Confirmation with Rabbi Brown



## May Birthdays

Mara Atzenhoffer Thursday May 1  
Dr. John Pendery Thursday May 1  
Carly Chessin Friday May 2  
Kevin Michael Schwin Friday May 2  
Mrs. Amy Sumner Friday May 2  
Mr. Mark Tagliavoni Friday May 2  
Anna Goodman Monday May 5  
Anna Goodman Monday May 5  
Maya Rak Thursday May 8  
Lee Sackett Thursday May 8  
Eric Eilberg Friday May 9  
Mrs. Lynda Kane Friday May 9  
Ms. Shellie Sedlak Friday May 9  
Mr. Robert Cromleigh Saturday May 10  
Mallory Kaufman Sunday May 11  
Mr. Michael Gillam Tuesday May 13  
Abby Carol Lader Tuesday May 13  
James Lazarus Tuesday May 13  
Dr. Abby Wald Tuesday May 13  
Paige Goodworth Wednesday May 14  
Jessica Goodworth Thursday May 15  
Melanie Kukura Saturday May 17  
Sarah Chait Sunday May 18

Mrs. Geralda Simko Sunday May 18  
Aaron Gerstenhaber Monday May 19  
Norah King Monday May 19  
Ricky Roth Monday May 19  
Ms. Emily Volz Monday May 19  
Emily Volz Monday May 19  
Ben Kaplan Tuesday May 20  
William Brashear Wednesday May 21  
Charlotte Grauel Wednesday May 21  
Mrs. Sheila Eckstein Thursday May 22  
Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer Saturday May 24  
Mr. Mort Epstein Sunday May 25  
Mrs. Jan Miyake Sunday May 25  
Mrs. Nancy Eilberg Tuesday May 27  
Mrs. Jill Fleisher Wednesday May 28  
Mr. Ben Kessler Wednesday May 28  
Mr. Miles Kane Thursday May 29  
Malcolm Rand Thursday May 29  
Mrs. Laurel King Friday May 30  
Mr. Joshua Levy Friday May 30  
Ms. Joan Semene Friday May 30  
Laurel Sweet Friday May 30  
Mrs. Kathleen Jaffee Saturday May 31  
Levi Lazar Saturday May 31



## May Anniversaries

David Bruckman & Kate Burnett-Bruckman Thursday May 1, 2025 10th anniversary

Dr. Harry & Rabbi Enid Lader Sunday May 4, 2025 50th anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Labus Tuesday May 6, 2025 25th anniversary

Mrs. Katharine Flynn-Wilson & Dr. James Wilson Sunday May 18, 2025 16th anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. David Neumann Monday May 19, 2025 23rd anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Bobby King Tuesday May 20, 2025 17th anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Tate Thursday May 22, 2025 49th anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Wright Thursday May 22, 2025 21st anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Jon Sweet Wednesday May 28, 2025 20th anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Zach Robock Friday May 30, 2025 10th anniversary



# PERPETUAL YAHRZEITS

March 2025

Fay Lader Thursday, 5/1/2025  
Herbert Marshall Schwartz Friday, 5/2/2025  
Lucille Deren Saturday, 5/3/2025  
Jerome Rosen Saturday, 5/3/2025  
Edith Bauer Feldman Monday, 5/5/2025  
Michael Fendrich Monday, 5/5/2025  
Miriam Rosenblum Monday, 5/5/2025  
Esther Sacher Tuesday, 5/6/2025  
Linda Steerman Tuesday, 5/6/2025  
Lorraine Schwartz Daxe Wednesday, 5/7/2025  
Ruth Goldman Wednesday, 5/7/2025  
Ben Kaplan Wednesday, 5/7/2025  
Eli Yale Scheinman Wednesday, 5/7/2025  
Helene Weber Wednesday, 5/7/2025  
Edith Zimblar Thursday, 5/8/2025  
Donna Lezberg Friday, 5/9/2025  
Alcides Ramos Saturday, 5/10/2025  
Joseph Cohen Monday, 5/12/2025  
Flora Eisenstein Monday, 5/12/2025  
Raquel Klipstein-Hauser Monday, 5/12/2025  
Malvina Gluck Tuesday, 5/13/2025  
John R. Kane Tuesday, 5/13/2025  
Alex Brody Wednesday, 5/14/2025  
Samuel Latnik Wednesday, 5/14/2025  
Edward Lehrer Wednesday, 5/14/2025  
Morton Lenker Thursday, 5/15/2025  
Maurice Coslow Friday, 5/16/2025  
Florence Newell Solomont Friday, 5/16/2025  
Myron Urdang Friday, 5/16/2025  
Samuel Chait Saturday, 5/17/2025  
Henry Welch Saturday, 5/17/2025  
Dorian Reminick Sunday, 5/18/2025  
Sidney Balick Monday, 5/19/2025  
James Mortach Monday, 5/19/2025



# PERPETUAL YAHRZEITS

March 2025

Reid Scott Brecher Tuesday, 5/20/2025  
Rose Mallen Tuesday, 5/20/2025  
Lisa Mancher Tuesday, 5/20/2025  
Anna Priesand Tuesday, 5/20/2025  
Ethel Schildhaus Tuesday, 5/20/2025  
Pincus Deren Wednesday, 5/21/2025  
Sylvia Fisher Wednesday, 5/21/2025  
Edward Jasilionis Wednesday, 5/21/2025  
Leon Leibovici Wednesday, 5/21/2025  
Herman Mailman Thursday, 5/22/2025  
Hilda Miller Thursday, 5/22/2025  
Toby Israel Saturday, 5/24/2025  
Geoffrey Madeley Saturday, 5/24/2025  
Sigmund Simpson Rimm Saturday, 5/24/2025  
Conrad Brown Sunday, 5/25/2025  
Simon James Eigen Sunday, 5/25/2025  
Mae Landy Mull Monday, 5/26/2025  
Elizabeth Hoffman Tuesday, 5/27/2025  
Sonia Kaplan Wednesday, 5/28/2025  
Julia Resko Wednesday, 5/28/2025  
Flora Romain Thursday, 5/29/2025  
Willis Wharton Thursday, 5/29/2025  
Simon Brailowsky Friday, 5/30/2025

May their memory be a blessing.

