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A message from the president...

Josh Levy

Dear Beth Israel Community,

It's hard to believe that it's almost a year since I took over for Walter Wright and assumed the Presidency of the BITWT Board. It's been quite a year with lots of holiday celebrations, b'nei mitzvot, an installation service, graduation, confirmation, and a sanctuary dedication. But the year's not quite over.

On Sunday, June 8 at 10 am we will have our semi-annual Congregational Meeting. This is your opportunity to hear from Board members about the work that their committees have done. You can learn more about and vote on the Temple's annual budget. You can ask questions of the Board to learn more about the direction that the Temple is going. (continued Page 2)

You can see old friends and catch up with them. And you can decide if serving on the Board is something that you'd like to do (wink, wink, nudge, nudge).

I continue to be honored to serve as your President. I and the Board are working hard to ensure that Beth Israel remains a vital and vibrant presence on the West Side of Cleveland. It's not always easy but it's incredibly rewarding. We know that Beth Israel plays an important role in the lives of members so we work hard to provide quality services and programming. We hope that you appreciate all that Beth Israel provides and that you will continue to be active, involved members of the community.

I hope to see you all on June 8. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns.

Josh Levy

president@thewesttemple.org



Educator's Desk

As summer approaches, I thank our staff and parents for their support this year. I hope students and parents enjoy travelling, attending camps, and reconnecting with loved ones.

BI-TWT will provide opportunities for members to connect over the summer. Virtual Shabbat services are on Friday evenings and in-person services on Saturday mornings. A Congregational Picnic is planned for August 31. Check the News You Can Use for weekly updates.

Religious school will begin on Sunday, September 14. Registration materials will be sent out in July.

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 28- Friday August 1, 2025. Please see the attached Camp Flier and Registration. The cost per child will be \$100 for the week. Please contact me at bitwteducator@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Debbie Chessin

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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



BI-TWT's Summer Day Camp

July 28- August 1, 2025

9:00 am-1:00pm

For Preschool-4th 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 15th

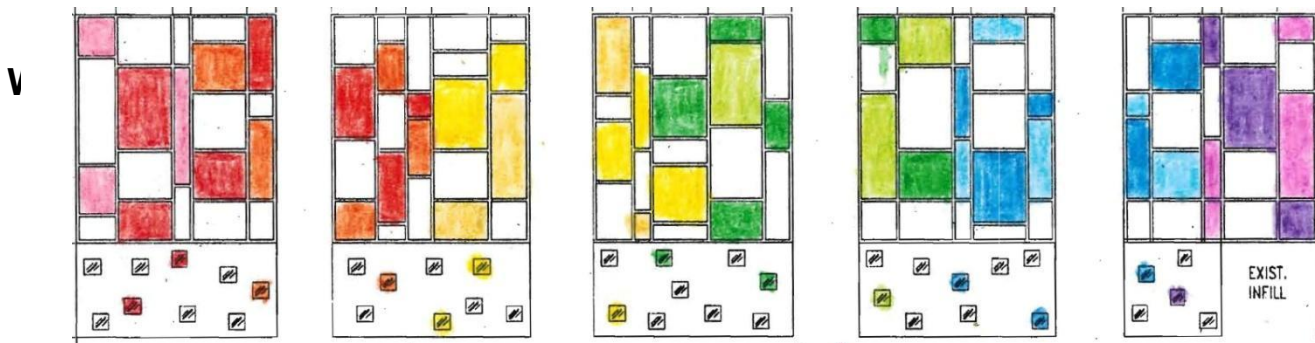
For more information, please contact Debbie Chessin

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

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

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 21st 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.

On May 30, during the 7:00 pm Shabbat evening service, we rededicated our sanctuary in honor of **Ruth and Harold Friedman**, former members of our congregation. The Friedmans touched our hearts with their inspiring story and heart-warming words. Their generosity and determination to help has left us with an unforgettable legacy that we will always carry. Thank you Ruth and Harold Friedman for improving Beth Israel- The West Temple and making our sanctuary a beautiful place to gather!



(continued Page 7)



Highlights from May:

Our students in Grades PK-12 and their families enjoyed a special installation program to honor Rabbi Brown. The last day of Religious School we celebrated our teachers and graduating teens with an ice cream party! 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 June

Friday Evenings

All Friday services on ZOOM,
unless otherwise noted.

Saturday Mornings

All Saturday services in person,
unless otherwise noted.

June 6

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
On ZOOM
Rabbi Brown

June 7

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

June 13

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
On ZOOM
Luis Fernandez

June 14

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

June 20

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
On ZOOM
Rabbi Brown

June 21

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

June 27

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
ON ZOOM
Luis Fernandez

June 28

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

June Birthdays

Mr. Michael Evans Monday June 2
Mrs. Lisa Dvorin Tuesday June 3
Mr. George Thornton Tuesday June 3
Mr. Adam Gerstenhaber Wednesday June 4
Alice Levy Wednesday June 4
Gabi Levy Wednesday June 4
Mrs. Ilene Brehm Thursday June 5
Mr. Justin Morse Thursday June 5
Justin Morse Thursday June 5
Mrs. Patricia Rand Thursday June 5
Eva Rak Friday June 6
Benjamin Bruckman Monday June 9
Daniela Leibovici Tuesday June 10
Rabbi Alan Lettofsky Tuesday June 10
Mrs. Rachel Silver-Kessler Tuesday June 10
Magnolia Claire Flynn-Wilson Wednesday June 11
Victoria Grauel Wednesday June 11
Mr. James Howsmon Thursday June 12
Rebecca Neumann Thursday June 12
Ms. Erin Huber Saturday June 14
Mark Feldman Sunday June 15
Mrs. Renee Kolesar Sunday June 15
Mrs. Phyllis Sapell Monday June 16
Charlie Sumner Tuesday June 17
Nick Swetye Tuesday June 17
Lillian Shmois Thursday June 19
Ms. Barbara Schwartz Saturday June 21
Ms. Ariella Epstein Sunday June 22
Kristopher Gaughan Sunday June 22
Christian Cruz Monday June 23
Mrs. Sally Vinikoff Monday June 23
Mrs. Judith Weiss Tuesday June 24
Alissandra Heller Thursday June 26
Mrs. Robin Kaufman Saturday June 28
Lucy Keller Saturday June 28
Mrs. Judy Fox Monday June 30



June Anniversary



Mr. & Mrs. Jason Decker, June 4

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Phares, June 5

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Jaffee , June 14

Mr. Ben Kessler & Mrs. Rachel Silver-Kessler, June 14

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Eshbaugh, June 20

Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Feldman, June 22

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Tagliavoni, June 22

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Vinikoff, June 22

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Dreshfield, June 24

Mr. & Mrs. David Dvorin, June 28

PERPETUAL YAHRZEITS

June 2025

Barbara Spivack Monday, 6/9/2025 Sivan 13, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Dr. & Mrs. John Pendery Stepmother to Myrna

David Brown Thursday, 6/12/2025 Sivan 16, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Leona Ackerman

Sally Lezberg Friday, 6/13/2025 Sivan 17, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Erwin Lezberg & Rhea Seldin wife

Leo Machol Friday, 6/13/2025 Sivan 17, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mr. Scott Machol

Crystal Thornton Friday, 6/13/2025 Sivan 17, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mr. George Thornton sister

Celia E. Kahn Saturday, 6/14/2025

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Berns

Tom Miyake Saturday, 6/14/2025

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mrs. Jan Miyake Father

Fatmire Ymeraj Sunday, 6/15/2025 Sivan 19, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mrs. Geralda Simko Grandmother

Lily Hyman Monday, 6/16/2025 Sivan 20, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mrs. Carole Mason mother of Carole

Jerome Lettofsky Monday, 6/16/2025 Sivan 20, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Rabbi Alan Lettofsky Brother of Alan

Loretta Shapiro Monday, 6/16/2025 Sivan 20, 5785



(continued Page 14)

PERPETUAL YAHRZEITS

June 2025

Lester Samuel Sherrick Tuesday, 6/17/2025

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mr. Mitchell Gruber

Marjorie Grey Balick Wednesday, 6/18/2025 Sivan 22, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mrs. Susan Wagner Aunt

Gustave Leon Levinson Wednesday, 6/18/2025 Sivan 22, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Laurie Levinson & Michael Kukura father of Laurie

Jennifer Lyn Rinehart Wednesday, 6/18/2025 Sivan 22, 5785

Note 1: Plate

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Jennifer Rinehart

David Eilberg Thursday, 6/19/2025 Sivan 23, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Eilberg

Paul Green Thursday, 6/19/2025 Sivan 23, 5785

Leona Ackerman Friday, 6/20/2025 Sivan 24, 5785

Note 1: Plate

Nancy Feldman Friday, 6/20/2025 Sivan 24, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Ms. Hope Wondowsky Mother

Rose Metzel Friday, 6/20/2025

Note 1: Plate

Hershel Bloom Saturday, 6/21/2025 Sivan 25, 5785

Note 1: Plate

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bloom

Phillip Lettofsky Sunday, 6/22/2025 Sivan 26, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Rabbi Alan Lettofsky father of Alan

Joseph Mallen Monday, 6/23/2025 Sivan 27, 5785



PERPETUAL YAHRZEITS

June 2025

Joseph Mallen Monday, 6/23/2025 Sivan 27, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mrs. Shosh Ault stepfather of Shosh

Benjamin Stern Monday, 6/23/2025 Sivan 27, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mrs. Eileen Kollins Grandparent

Alex Bruscano, Sr. Wednesday, 6/25/2025 Sivan 29, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mrs. Tina Keller Father of Tina

Betty Covert Wednesday, 6/25/2025

Eugene David Wednesday, 6/25/2025 Sivan 29, 5785

Note 1: Plate

Jacob Eisenstein Wednesday, 6/25/2025 Sivan 29, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Dr. Robert Dreshfield

Celia Weiss Wednesday, 6/25/2025 Sivan 29, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mr. Leonard P. Weiss Mother

Paul Jay Hutner Saturday, 6/28/2025 Tammuz 2, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Susan Hutner & Nick Swetye Father

Raymond Wissman Saturday, 6/28/2025 Tammuz 2, 5785

Observing this yahrzeit Relationship

Mrs. Marilyn Morgenstern father

