



## Features

Rabbi's Desk ...1,2

President's Desk ...3

Educator's Desk ...4,5

Hebrew School ...6

Ritual Committee ...7

Photos ...8

Our Sponsor ...9

You're Invited ...10

Service Schedule ...11

Celebrations ...12

Yahrzeits ...13

Contributions ...14



## Moments of Community and Celebration

**Rabbi Rachel Brown**

Dear friends,

As we head toward fall and the new Jewish year, I want to take a moment to share some joyful milestones from this past spring and summer – of deep meaning and pride that reflect not only personal achievement but the strength and sacredness of our shared community.

In May, I had the deep honor of being installed as the rabbi of Beth Israel – The West Temple. Though I'd already been privileged to serve this community for a year and a half, our installation Shabbat was a powerful affirmation of our mutual commitment – to one another, to Jewish life, and to building a spiritual home where all are seen and valued. Thank you for the warmth, blessings, and holy energy you brought to that weekend.

(continued Page 2)

Just a week later, I completed the 18Doors Rukin Rabbinic Fellowship, an eighteen-month journey with rabbis across North America focused on supporting interfaith couples and families with compassion, creativity, and Jewish depth. My biggest takeaway from this program is that we at Beth Israel-The West Temple are already doing this! Our BI-TWT canopy is so wide and open that we make room for every individual and family, no matter which demographics they match or how they found their way to us. It was heartening to spend time with colleagues working to become more welcoming – and to feel affirmed in what we already embody.

Also in May, I was awarded a Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa, from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, in recognition of 20 years in the rabbinate. This honor prompted deep reflection on the path that brought me here – on the people, places, and communities that have shaped me. I am profoundly grateful to be walking this path with you. The joy, depth, and partnership we share at BI-TWT renew and strengthen my calling every single day, with a sense of purpose I couldn't have predicted when I began this journey 26 years ago (six years of rabbinical school, 20 years since ordination).

It was also a joy to be part of this year's Tikkun Leil Shavuot, hosted by B'nai Jeshurun in Pepper Pike and co-sponsored by more than 20 Jewish congregations and organizations from across Greater Cleveland. It was a treat to see so many of our Temple members there, and I was honored to lead one of the evening's learning sessions. The night was full of Torah, connection, sacred community – and even good food! – and reminded me what a gift it is to be part of the greater Cleveland Jewish community.

Finally, as we move toward the High Holidays, I'm thrilled to share that our new mahzorim (High Holiday prayerbooks) have arrived! In late August and September, I'll be teaching a series of classes to help us get to know these new prayer books. They are beautiful. Every Hebrew word is transliterated, so even those who don't read Hebrew can follow along, and the translations and English readings are accessible and relevant to how we practice Judaism today.

Each of these moments – personal, professional, communal, and spiritual – has brought me a deep sense of gratitude and renewal. I'm so thankful for the journey we're on together. Thank you for your trust, your presence, and your partnership. As we move toward fall, and toward the new Jewish year 5786, I'm excited to continue this sacred journey with you.

May we go from strength to strength,  
**Rabbi Rachel Brown**

## President's Desk



Dear Beth Israel Community,

Welcome back everyone. I hope you've had an enjoyable summer and have had the opportunity for some rest and relaxation. I haven't had as much time to sit back, enjoy a cold beverage, and catch up on the list of books I want to read as I would have liked but I've snuck a few days in here and there.

Even though summer has just started (according to the calendar), it feels like it's almost over. Area schools will be in session later this month and Religious School is starting on September 14. We can't wait for another amazing year with Debbie Chessin overseeing our fabulous teachers.

The High Holidays are just around the corner. Rosh Hashanah begins on Monday night, September 22. Services will be at 7:30 pm. 10 short days later, Yom Kippur will begin with our Kol Nidrei service at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, October 1. Please keep your eyes open for emails and paper mailings with registration information.

Finally, I want to update you on where things stand with the sanctuary window renovation. We have received bids on the project and are determining which one to accept. We are also looking into the possibility of replacing all of the windows on the second floor. This project is not inexpensive and our bank accounts are not limitless so if anyone would like to contribute towards the project, please feel free to be in touch with me.

I look forward to serving as your President for the next year. If you have questions or concerns or just want to talk, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best,

**Josh Levy**

president@thewesttemple.org



## Educator's Desk

It is hard to believe that the summer is flying by! Before the school year begins, BI-TWT has several special programs and events for our families and members and friends of our congregation.

**July 28-August 1** we look forward to once again offering Camp Kee Tov for children who are in PK-Grade 4. This year we will be meeting at the Bain Park Cabin and will be taking special field trips to the Cleveland Metro Park Zoo, Swings and Things, and the Great Lakes Science Center.

**Sunday, August 31-** we welcome all families to the Beth Israel-The West Temple's annual congregational picnic at the Clague Park Cabin from 4-6:30 pm.



(continued Page 5)

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](mailto:office@thewesttemple.org)  
[www.thewesttemple.org](http://www.thewesttemple.org)  
Rabbi: Rabbi Rachel Brown  
President: Josh Levy  
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

## Educator's Desk



The school year will begin Sunday, September 14. Classes will be held every Sunday for students in grades K-12. The classes will be divided as follows: PK/K Grades 1&2 Grades 3& 4 Grades 5& 6 Grades 7-12 will be in the teen group.

There will also be a free monthly Yad B' Yad preschool program for families with children ages 1-5. The dates for this program will be announced shortly.

This year, we are excited to offer Family Tefillah with Rabbi Brown for Grades PK-6 and their parents every Sunday from 9:00 am to 9:45 am. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with your children and community. This will be followed by a bagel snack before classes begin at 10:00 am. Religious school classes for PK-12 will then be held from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Rabbi will also be leading adult education classes from 10:15-11:15 am. The topics will be announced in the upcoming weeks.

Students in Grades 3-6 will have separate Hebrew language instruction on Sunday morning. In addition, Monday Hebrew for Grades 3-6 will offer several options for families.

Students in Grades 3-6 will meet in person at the temple from 6:30-7 pm. There will also be an online option during the week for those unable to attend in person. Students preparing for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah will schedule a separate time to be tutored with Shosh Ault.

Please register for Religious School by **August 31** using the following google doc link- <https://forms.gle/tqcX71ceWcdeHVrM9>

Registration fees may be paid by check or using Venmo @bitwt.

We appreciate the support from each one of our families for the Beth Israel-The West Temple Religious School. We look forward to another outstanding year full of engaging learning and growing!

Please stay safe and healthy! Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Debbie Chessin, Director of Education\*

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

## **August/September Schedule:**

**Monday, July 28 – Friday, August 1** - “Camp Kee Tov” BI-TWT’s Summer Day Camp for Preschool-4<sup>th</sup> Grade.

**Sunday, August 31**- Congregational Picnic from 4-6:30 pm- Clague Park Cabin

**Sunday, September 14** – First Day of Religious School- 9am-12 pm. Grades PK-6- Tefillah from 9-9:45 am- followed by Religious School from 10-12 pm. HS classes meet-10-12 pm.

**Monday, September 15**- First night of in person or online Hebrew-6:30-7 pm

**Sunday, September 21**- Religious School-9am-12 pm for Tefillah and Religious School. HS meets 10-12pm

**Monday, September 22**- Hebrew- 6:30 pm

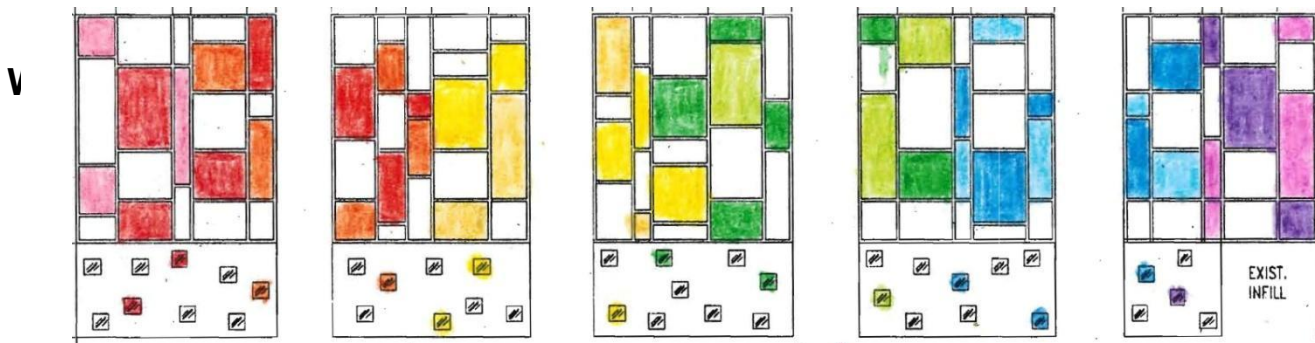
**Sunday, September 28**- 9 am-12 pm- Religious School-see the above schedule

**Monday, September 29**- Hebrew- 6:30 pm



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.

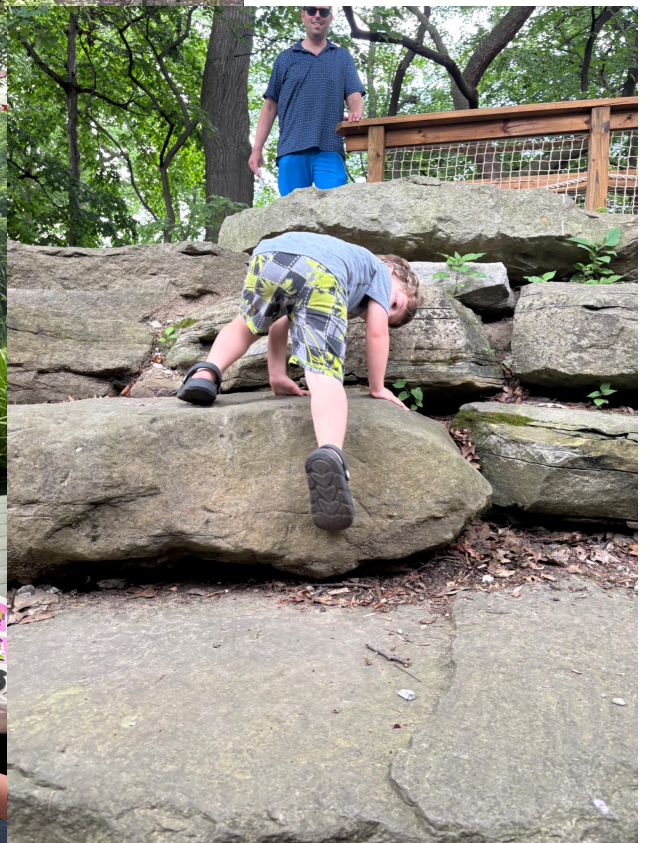
You probably thought that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century renovations were now behind us. We thought so too, but then last fall, at the urging of Jim Hartnett, the Director of Community Security at the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, we submitted a Ohio Security Grant proposal to replace our 70 year-old 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.



**Pictures from July- Our Yad B' Yad families met at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens for a scavenger hunt and craft in the children's garden. 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**



Join us for FOOD, FUN, and FRIENDSHIP at the annual  
**BETH ISRAEL-THE WEST TEMPLE CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

Clague Park Cabin at Clague Park in Westlake, Ohio  
(Corner of Clague Rd. & Hilliard Rd. Via Roman Rd. Entrance is on Hilliard)

**4:00-7:00 PM**--Dinner served at 4:45 PM

Fried chicken, hot dogs, chips & munchies, beverages provided

Kids activities!

\*\*\* Each family/single guest with last name A-L please bring a picnic side dish  
(potato salad, pasta salad, cole slaw, fruit salad, etc.)

\*\*\* Each family/single guest with the last name L-Z please bring a dessert to share

**COST: \$10 per person Ages 5 and under are free!**

Pay by cash/check at the door, or Temple Venmo account @bitwt

**RSVP BY THURSDAY, AUGUST 28<sup>th</sup> to:**

**BERYLPALNIK@YAHOO.COM**

(Important—Reservations will not be accepted after August 28<sup>th</sup> or when we reach the maximum of 85 people, whichever comes first!)

The Picnic Committee of Beryl Palnik, Rachel Marotta, Karen McAleer, & Tammy White LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!



Copyright Homemade-Preschool.com

## **Service Schedule August**

### **Friday Evenings**

All Friday services on ZOOM,  
unless otherwise noted.

### **Saturday Mornings**

All Saturday services in person,  
unless otherwise noted.

#### **August 1**

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
On ZOOM  
Luis Fernandez

#### **August 2**

9:30am Torah Study  
11:00am Shabbat Service  
Luis & Sarah Bedrossian

#### **August 8**

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
On ZOOM  
NO SERVICES

#### **August 9**

9:30am Torah Study  
11:00am Shabbat Service  
Luis & Sarah Bedrossian

#### **August 15**

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
On ZOOM  
Rabbi Lader

#### **August 16**

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

#### **August 22**

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
ON ZOOM  
Rabbi Brown

#### **August 23**

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

#### **August 29**

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
ON ZOOM  
Luis Fernandez

#### **August 20**

9:30am Torah Study  
11:00 am Shabbat Service  
Luis & Sarah Bedrossian



## ☆ Celebrations ☆

### August Wedding Anniversaries

Garik and Melanie Shmois	August 7	21 st
Stephen and Sandra Cohen	August 8	61 st
Brian and Aimee Greenfield	August 10	29 th
Evan and Jill Fleisher	August 19	30 th
Dr. Joel and Linda Keller	August 26	56 th
Thomas and Susan Wagner	August 27	53 rd
Mario and Rachel Marotta	August 30	33rd



### August Birthdays- Youth

Benjamin Robock	August 16	8 th
Ariya Greenhouse	August 17	16 th
Henry McAleer	August 22	18 th
Avigail Fisher	August	28 8 th

### August Birthdays- Adults

Erin Butler	August 2	Rabbi Michael Ross	August 20
Kate Kaput	August 5	Jessica Sackett	August 24
Lisa Goldberg	August 7	Sam Alterovitz	August 25
Janina Levin	August 7	Mark Warner	August 25
Maria Cruz	August 8	Alice Copen	August 26
Craig Sumner	August 8	Edward Rand	August 29
Barbara Feldmar	August 9	Jason Decker	August 31
Katya Melott	August 11		
Allison Winokur	August 12		
Susan Button-Winsa	August 14		
Stephen Cohen	August 14		
Luis Fernandez	August 14		
Dr. Harry Lader	August 17		
Margery Ordog	August 18		
Jack Kreuscher	August 19		

# PERPETUAL YAHRZEITS

August 2025

## Week Ending August 9

Harry Ackerman  
William Kaufman  
Edyss Paul  
Shachni Paul  
Evelyn Ross  
Linda Goldman  
Barbara Sherman Rolleston  
David M. Levin  
Anthony Bruscino  
Morris William Roberts  
Marian Sattinger  
Leah Sweet  
Charlotte Kramer



## Week Ending August 16

Reva Barkan  
Ellen H. Wolfe  
Hela Klipstein-Hauser  
Jacob Paul  
Sadie Stromberg  
Richard Diamond  
Frank David  
Marjorie Ross Martin

## Week Ending August 16

Reva Barkan  
Ellen H. Wolfe  
Hela Klipstein-Hauser  
Jacob Paul  
Sadie Stromberg  
Richard Diamond  
Frank David  
Marjorie Ross Martin

## Week Ending August 16, continued

Isidore Warshawsky  
Mabel Goodworth

## Week Ending August 23

Evelyn Fox Robin  
Karla Rosenbaum  
Braanda H. Schwartz  
Roland Ridgway  
Lilly Ackerman  
Lawrence A. Kramer  
Carol Rimm  
LaVerne D. Roberts  
Janet Katz  
Jack Keller  
Janet G. Levin  
Dora Neufeld

## Week Ending August 30

Mark Ludwig  
Richard Meyer  
Rose Miller  
Louis Zabarsky  
Stephen G. Burnett  
Lilian Gluchov  
Murray Greenfield  
Phyllis Keller  
Jerry Goodworth  
Paul Palnik  
Ruth Grey  
William Korey

**Members of Beth Israel - The West Temple send condolences to Sosh Ault and her extended family on the death of her son Bruce Aultchouler, on June 25, 2025. May his memory be a blessing.**

## CONTRIBUTIONS

We gratefully acknowledge a donation  
from Mary Lou McGuire Trust

In memory of:

Alfred Rimm

-Dr. Sylvia Rimm

Shirley Mittleman

-Robert and Judith Weiss

Roberta Provder

-Theodore Provder, Ph.D.

Karl Kreuscher

-Jack Kreuscher

### **General Fund**

In Appreciation of Rabbi Brown,  
Debbie Chessin,  
and Beth Israel Family

-The Heller Family

In Memory of:

Fred Goldberg

-Robert Goldberg

Eli Scheinman

-Karon Greenfield

Franklin McWilliams

-Norm Lehrer



Thank you!

### **Israel Scholarship Fund**

In Memory of:

Bruce Altchouler

-George and Barbara Friedel

### **Tree of Life Fund**

In Memory of:

Bruce Altchouler

-Beryl and Michael Palnik

-Mr. and Mrs. James Ramunni

### **Singer-Lader Music Fund**

In Memory of:

Sydel Coslow

Bruce Altchouler

### **The Alan B. Lettofsky Fund for the Center of Jewish Life**

In Memory of:

Phillip Lettofsky

Jerry Lettofsky

Bruce Altchouler

-Rabbi Alan B. Lettofsky

### **Tree of Life Fund**

In Honor of 2025 BI-TWT Confirmands  
and High School Graduates

-Beryl and Michael Palnik

### **Rabbi Brown's Discretionary Fund**

Katya and Drew Melott

Susan and Tom Wagner