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Mazel tov, Rabbi Rachel Brown...

on being elected the President of the
Greater Cleveland Board of Rabbis!
We are proud of you.

Rabbi Rachel Brown

Dear friends,

As I write this, I am at Camp Havaya, in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. We started coming here when our son was about four years old. My husband, a Reconstructionist rabbi, was on faculty, and I was “the parent” of the too-young-to-be-a-camper child. From that first summer, I was impressed with Camp Havaya.

My love for Jewish camp comes from experience - but it wasn’t always that way. As a child, I went to a camp I hated. I was different, and the culture didn’t know how to make space for “different.” It left me convinced I’d never go back.

(continued Page 2)

Years later, my childhood rabbi invited me to work at a Jewish day camp. It was a day camp for the kids, but a sleepaway camp for staff. I worked with 4-year-old boys by day and relaxed with friends by night. I learned that the magic of camp comes from the culture - the way counselors create an environment where campers feel safe and valued.

Over the years, I worked at several Jewish camps - big and small, structured and more free-flowing. Each had its own strengths, but my belief grew: if every person could find their “right” camp, according to their own temperament and needs, we’d be a lot closer to world peace.

At camp, people respect each other even when they disagree. They are encouraged to be fully themselves. At Camp Havaya, I’ve met observant and secular Jews, LGBTQIA+ people, people of many races and ethnicities, people from the U.S. and from around the world. I’ve heard Hebrew, English, French, and Spanish. There are girls with short hair, boys with long hair, and non-binary campers with every hair length in between. People of every body type. Omnivores, vegans, gluten-free eaters - all accommodated. And the food is excellent.

What if the wider world worked this way?

What if religion or no religion could be freely chosen without judgment? What if skin color didn’t matter? What if everyone could love who they love, live in safety, have enough to eat, and receive a good education?

As I think about “re-entry” into the real world, I worry about the world we are leaving our children. It is our responsibility to make it better - that’s the mandate of *tikkun olam* on which the Reform Movement stands.

As we approach the High Holidays, in a year when Israel and Gaza are at war and hostages remain in captivity, I pray that we see ourselves and each other as created in the image of God, equal and worthy of care - just as at camp, where each person’s dignity is upheld.

Our tradition teaches: *Lo alecha ham'lacha ligmor v'lo ata ben chorin l'hibatel mimena* - It is not your responsibility to finish the work of perfecting the world, but neither are you free to abstain from it. In this season of reflection, may each of us take on one piece of that sacred work.

Rabbi Rachel Brown

President's Desk



Dear Beth Israel Community,

On September 22, we will gather to usher in the year 5786. It feels like just yesterday that we were assembling for Rosh Hashanah 5785 but so much has happened over the past 12 months. We celebrated as several of our teens became b'nai mitzvah. We welcomed new members to our community, whether they were families new to northeast Ohio, Jews-by-choice, or new babies. We mourned as members passed on. Our Religious School once again thrived, with amazing teachers passing their vast knowledge on to the younger generation. Rabbi Brown has continued to lead a thriving Saturday morning Torah study group. Things are great.

And yet, we could be doing more if we had the resources. Our budget is tight and the only reason we don't have serious financial problems is because of unexpected donations from our members. I can't begin to tell you how much this is appreciated but hoping for donations is not a financial strategy. Karen does an incredible job with fund raisers but we can only go to that well so many times. Recent Board meetings have explored new ways to generate income, from new investment strategies to raising the cost of membership (which is lower than most Cleveland congregations). We hope to have something in place in the near future.

When the Beth Israel community comes together, we can accomplish anything. We are replacing the sanctuary windows, and the rest of the windows on the second floor, this fall – thank you to all those who contributed to this project in any way. I look forward to leading you through another year of educating our children and our adults, of celebrating life's milestones, and of working together to ensure that Beth Israel remains the center of Jewish life on the west side of Cleveland.

Best,

Josh Levy



Educator's Desk

Welcome back. I trust everyone enjoyed a restful and pleasant summer break. Together with Rabbi Brown and your children's teachers, I look forward to an outstanding school year ahead.

Religious School will commence on Sunday, September 14. To start the new academic year, we invite parents, students and teachers in Grades PK-6 to our new Family Tefillah beginning at 9:00 am. Students in the Teen Class- Grades 7-12 will begin classes at 10:00 am. If you have not yet done so, please ensure that your registration and tuition are submitted by September 14.

In September, our community will begin the observance of Rosh Hashanah, followed ten days later by Yom Kippur, marking the conclusion of the Days of Awe. Rosh Hashanah not only signifies the Jewish New Year but also initiates a period for thoughtful reflection on our relationships with friends and family, encouraging personal growth when compared to previous years. These High Holy Days present a valuable opportunity for making amends and resolving to improve ourselves over the coming year.

For parents, this period offers a meaningful opportunity for family introspection and self-assessment. Initiating discussions about behaviors that influence our interactions may be challenging, but it can foster open, honest communication and reinforce that everyone faces difficulties. Recognizing mistakes, learning from them, offering apologies, and striving to do better are essential steps toward personal development.

Consider engaging your children with questions such as:

- What are some ways we can show greater kindness within our family?
- Do you treat your friends in the manner you wish to be treated?
- How does it feel to apologize for past behavior?

As we embark on both a new school year and a new Jewish year, I extend my best wishes to everyone for a Shanah Tovah. **Debbie Chessin**

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September Schedule:

Sunday, 14th – First day of Religious School-

- 9-9:45- Family Tefillah- PK-6
- 10-12 pm- Grades PK-12 Classes

Monday, 15th – First Night of Hebrew - 6:30pm

Sunday, 21st - Religious School- see the schedule from
September 14

Monday, 22nd – No Hebrew-Erev Rosh Hashanah- Evening
Service- 7:30 pm

Tuesday, 23rd – Rosh Hashanah-*L'Shanah Tovah*

10:00 am Morning Service

4pm Family service & Tashlich S.

Mastick Rd Picnic area

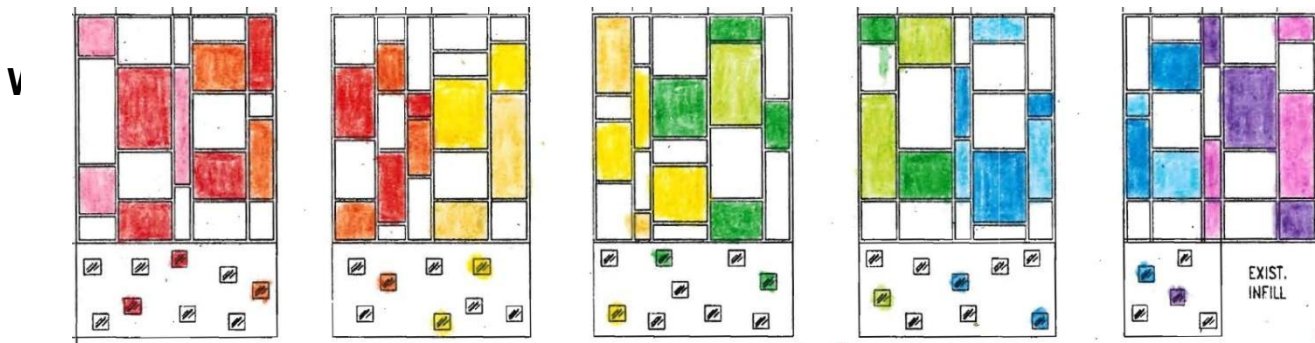
Sunday, 28th- Religious School- See the schedule from
September 14th

- Yad B Yad- 10:30 am

Monday, 29th- 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 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.

Highlights from August: Camp Kee Tov was held at the beginning of August. The theme this year was "Camp Kee Tov on the Go." The children enjoyed going to the zoo, Swings n Things, science center and the Bain Park Cabin. 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**



SAVE THE DATE

Congregational Retreat- March 1-3

Castaway Bay Resorts- “Creating Sanctuary” with Guest
Artist and Storyteller- Elizabeth Yaari

More Details to Come!



Service Schedule September

Friday Evenings

All Friday services on ZOOM,
unless otherwise noted.

Saturday Mornings

All Saturday services in person,
unless otherwise noted.

September 5

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
On ZOOM
TBA

September 6

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

September 12

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
On ZOOM
Rabbi Brown

September 13

Slihot evening service
Rabbi Brown

September 19

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Luis Fernandez

September 20

9:30am Torah Study
Luis Fernandez

September 22

Rosh Hashana with Rabbi Brown and Larry Sheir

September 23

September 26

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
ON ZOOM
Rabbi Brown

September 27

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

☆ Celebrations ☆

September Wedding Anniversaries

Mr. and Mrs. David Cutrona
Dr. and Mrs. William Greenhouse
Mr. Joshua Levy and Mrs. Jan Miyake
Laurie Levinson and Michael Kukura
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sackett
Mr. and Mrs. Justin Morse
Dr. and Mrs. John Pendery
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gold
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Eilberg

September Birthdays- Youth

Joshua Decker	September 5	17 th
Rachell Cruz	September 11	16 th
George McAleer	September 11	16 th
Mia Resto	September 14	17 th
Caleb Remez Sweet	September 15	14 th
Margot Lazar	September 18	10th



September Birthdays- Adults

Joshua Lazar	September 3
Shosh Ault	September 4
Alexandra Blankfeld	September 5
Amber Heller	September 8
Michael Kukura	September 11
Bryan Willett	September 11
Abigail Eshbaugh	September 12
Jami Lercher	September 17
Hope Wondowsky	September 18
Patricia Outlaw	September 19
Aaron Griffith	September 21
John Goodworth	September 22
Rabbi Rachel Brown	September 23
Rabbi Enid Lader	September 24
Linda Kramer	September 25
Michael Kaput	September 26

PERPETUAL YAHREZEITS

September 2025

Week Ending September 6

Deborah Rubin
Sanford Gordon
Sami Klein
Gloria Fox
Edmundo Klein
Judith Liba Roberts
Patrick Chambers
Helen Golden
Rose Lettofsky
Stanley Kaplan
Frank K. Levin

Week Ending September 13

Hilda P. Abrams
Carol Heisey
Annette Briskman
Alex Bruscano, Jr.
Blanche Pyritz
Sylvia Nakrin
Charles M. Simons
Judith Wolf
Carl R. Beres
Julius Rosenblum
Margaret Button
Gabriel Rubin

Week Ending September 20

Robert Roth
Ronald Thomas
Bernice Welch
Mary Freundlich
Carmella Hendricks
Herman Mark
Nina Schwartz



Week Ending September 20 (continued)

Maxine Slone
Isador Kantor
Harry Mittelman
Rose Kreuscher
Margaret Lenker
John G. Ludwig

Week Ending September 27

Louis Green
Shirley Newman
Minnie Jacobson
Laura Green Stout
Ross J. Frankel
Thelma Goldberg
Lydia Faye Levinson
Lea Leibovici
George Moseley
Minnie Green
Harry Weiss

Week Ending October 4

Pearl Cohen
Judy Feldmar
Hyman Goldberg
Edith Gordon
Rose A. Lehrer
Dr. Sandor A. Schwartz
Fanny Green
Jerome Nakrin
Hettie Schwartzenfeld Zacky
Illy Brown
Esther Elias
Daniel Sissman
Maxine Goodman Levin

CONTRIBUTIONS

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General Fund

In memory of:

Norm Landau

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Library Fund

In memory of:

Laverne Roberts

-Rosalind Roberts

Tree of Life Fund

In memory of:

Paul Palnik

-Beryl and Michael Palnik

Library Fund

In memory of:

Laverne Roberts

Morris William Roberts

-Rosalind Roberts

In memory of:

Charlotte Kramer & Lawrence A. Kramer

-Linda G. Kramer

21 st Century Fund

Sylvia Rimm



Thank you!