



Beth Israel – The West Temple BULLETIN

March 2012, Adar – Nissan 5772

President Fernandez reflects on the upcoming bittersweet end of Winter

Our Mission

To be a center of worship and vital community life where Jews and their families from Cleveland’s western communities learn Jewish traditions and values, develop their Jewish identity, and assure the continuity of Jewish life.

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By the time you get this, we will be less than two weeks away from the topsy-turvy holiday of Purim and less than a month away from the month of Nissan, “the first of the months of the year.” (Exodus 12:1). The start of Nissan means the arrival of Spring, but nature seems to be impatient this year. The daffodils in my garden have already sprouted and instead of snowing it rained today. I admit to some sadness at seeing the winter snow disappear since it means putting away my new skis for another year, and skiing is my favorite sport.

I am also feeling a bit sad at the realization that we have only a few months left with Rabbi Lettofsky. My sadness is tempered by the knowledge that Rabbi Lader is in place to take over his mantle, but I am sad just the same. I first met Rabbi Lettofsky over 20 years ago when I represented Oberlin College on the Cleveland Hillel Board. Rabbi Lettofsky was Hillel Regional Director at the time and, so, attended the Board meetings as well. Although I was somewhat oblivious to the internal political dynamics of the Hillel Board, I quickly determined that Rabbi Lettofsky was someone who said what he really believed, even if it was impolitic. Eventually I left the Hillel Board, and it was about a decade before we met again in very different circumstances. He was now Rabbi at Beth Israel, I was now President of Agudath B’nai Israel Congregation in Lorain, and we were figuring out whether and how our congregations could merge. He helped me to see that what separated the two communities were not rituals or organizational affiliation, but the simple fact that we were strangers to each other, despite our relative proximity.
(continued on p. 2)

President Fernandez reflects... (continued from p. 1)

When A.B.I. voted to suspend further merger discussions and Barbara and I resigned our membership there, Rabbi helped convince us to make Beth Israel our new religious home. We have never regretted it. Both Barbara and I have learned an enormous amount from him during these last eight years. His breadth of knowledge is both an inspiration and a daunting challenge. I will miss him a lot.

--Luis Fernandez, President

luisf@oberlin.net

Correction: In my January column I erroneously said that Rabbi Lettovsky's Retirement Gala would be on Sunday, April 29. The correct date is **April 22**, in the new Cleveland Aquarium. Kudos to Sandy Kahn for securing this wonderful location for what we hope will be a terrific celebration.

Corrections from the February Bulletin

(1) The March date for volunteering at Fairview Hospital was incorrectly reported. The correct date is Monday, March 12, 4-6 pm.

Thank you to our eagle-eye readers! We apologize for any inconveniences these mistakes incurred.

Jan Miyake (jan.miyake@gmail.com, 440.774.1570)

Community News

An intriguing article called "[Mensch in the Moon](#)" (written by Josh Gelernter) was the feature on *Jewish Ideas Daily* on February 14th. It presents the story of **Abe Silverstein** and the integral role he played in our nation's success in putting a man on the moon.

Jewish Ideas Daily aims to be the premier aggregator and originator of Jewish ideas on the web. Each day, an original feature piece focuses on an issue of contemporary interest and enduring relevance. In Today's Picks, we draw on sources ranging from daily opinion pages to weekly and monthly magazines, academic journals, books, blogs, think-tanks, universities, and online learning sites. Many of our postings are up-to-the-minute; others are classics from the near or distant past. In brief, we hope to offer a one-stop source of the best that has been and is being thought and said by or about Jews.

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Deadline for April issue: March 15, 2012

Roberts-Skory Family is Eager to Learn

Meet Rebecca Roberts and her two daughters, Lana (8) and Lilly (6) Skory. They are our newest members, joining our congregation in December and enrolling the girls in our Religious School.

Rebecca lives in Parma, where she grew up as the only Jewish kid she knew, and saw her daughters having the same experience. Rebecca learned to celebrate the Jewish holidays with help from her mother's family in New York and New Jersey, and she would call them when she needed advice on how to teach her daughters. A couple of years ago, when the girls seemed old enough to absorb what was going on, they started making annual trips to her grandparents' house to celebrate Passover. When the girls began to ask more questions and wanted to learn more about their Jewish heritage and the Hebrew language, Rebecca went online and discovered The West Temple. Lana and Lilly were eager to get on board.



A recent graduate of the Medical Assistant program at Sanford Brown College, Rebecca works as an information technology consultant for Alego Health. She works with doctors and allied staff at various Cleveland Clinic hospitals to help them make the transition from paper to electronic medical records. She enjoys meeting new people every few weeks, meanwhile establishing a rapport with them as she shows them how to use the new technology. Her medical background is of more importance to both her employers and the clients than the technical aspects, which she quickly learned. Now she's continuing her schooling online, working towards an Associate degree in Health Information Technology.

As for Lana and Lilly, both girls are good artists, according to their mother. Lana also likes acting, and is taking Rhoda Rosen's drama class at Winter University. Lilly likes to cook, especially making her own oatmeal. We welcome them to the Beth Israel family and wish them well as they continue their Jewish learning.

Judith Weiss, Public Relations Coordinator
jmwsop1@cox.net

Beth Israel's Membership Committee is launching a new project to welcome new members to our congregation by posting their photos and bios in the Temple building as well as in the Bulletin, so established members can get to know them. When you see these folks at Temple events and in Religious School, say hello and make them feel welcome.

Questions for the Rabbi

Q: *When congregants come to the Bima for an Aliyah, you ask them a question and they whisper answers. What are you asking them? Why does it matter? What are you saying when you look at us and 'announce' immediately thereafter?* –Peter Sackett

A: I am asking their Hebrew name. It is X son/daughter of Y (father) and Z (mother) so I can call them up to the Torah by their Jewish name. – Rabbi Lettovsky

Q: *Does God have a house?* – Helen Levy, Kindergarten

A: When King Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem about 3000 years ago, he asked the same question. God is everywhere, and isn't ever only in one place. But we people need to feel God's presence, so really the Temple in Jerusalem, and the synagogues that replaced it are more for people than they are for God. We come together at the synagogue to pray and to study the Torah and to sense God's presence and message to us - but God is everywhere. So I guess God isn't "home" in a specific place - His home is the entire universe.—Rabbi Lettovsky



Do you, your children, parents, friends, or co-workers have a question for a Rabbi? If so, please feel free to send the question directly to Rabbis Lettovsky or Lader, or to Beth Israel (bethisrael@nls.net).

“If it is true that Judaism reached the peak of its spiritual evolution in the prophetic era, in the eighth to sixth centuries B.C., the peak of Israel's effective contribution to the spiritual progress of mankind was still a thing of the future.” quoted from Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver's, **Where Judaism Differed.**

Q: *Do you think he is right? Why did he use BC and not BCE?* – Peter Sackett

A: Who am I to argue with Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver? When I used to go hear him preach on Sunday mornings at the beautiful landmark building in University Circle he was dressed in a tuxedo with tails and spoke like a prophet. The synagogue was packed like Yom Kippur week after week, and no matter what his subject was [other than American politics - he was a "Republican" and a supporter of Senator Taft!] he was absolutely brilliant!

By the way, at the City Club a number of years ago his son [not Rabbi Daniel Silver who succeeded him, but his brother] explained that his loyalty to the Republican party was due solely to his overwhelming desire to see the establishment of a Jewish state in the Land of Israel, and he correctly judged that President Franklin Roosevelt was not budging in response to his repeated efforts to convince him.

Apparently the president did not much appreciate Rabbi Silver's visits. When the book was written, the convention of replacing B.C. [before Christ] with B.C.E. ["Before the Common Era"] had not yet become common. Of course, A.D. stands for "Anno Domini" [Latin for "the year of our Lord"], for which we prefer C.E. ["Common Era"]. While I believe the movement to use less "Christian" terms for our dating was originated by Jews, it is now widely accepted, at least in scholarly circles.

–Rabbi Lettovsky

Purim

Purim is one of the holidays for which raucousness is essential. Outside of the basic story, how much do you really know about this holiday?

- The word *purim* is Hebrew for lots (as in one of a set of objects, as straws or pebbles, drawn or thrown from a container to decide a question or choice by chance).
- This term refers to Haman casting lots to determine when he wanted to kill all of the Jews in Persia. There are four *mitzvot* associated with Purim:
 - Listening to a public reading of the *megillah*. The Talmud regulated this act and added that women were obligated to attend since it was a woman, Esther, who won the deliverance of the Jews.
 - *Mishloach manot*, or sending food gifts to friends. The *megillah* (chapter 9, verse 22) prescribes “the sending of portions one man to another, and gifts to the poor.” The giving of these gifts has evolved into a major event for some people.
 - *Matanot la’evyonim*, or giving gifts to the poor. Again, this comes directly from the *megillah*. To fulfill this *mitzvah*, one can give either food or the monetary equivalent.
 - Eating a festive meal or *seudah*.
- Haman’s name is mentioned 54 times. Each time, the congregants are required to blot out his name. This tradition traces back to Deuteronomy 25:19 (“Thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek”) because Haman is a descendant of Amalek.
- There are a variety of traditional foods associated with Purim:
 - Hamantaschen or *oznei Haman* (Haman’s ears) are the most common. These triangular-shaped pastries are traditionally filled with prune, but more mainstream fillings like cherry, blueberry, or chocolate chips are favorites of kids today.
 - To keep kosher in King Ahasueros’ court, Esther ate seeds and nuts. Prunes, dates, and apricots have been added to this list for many Jews today.
 - Kreplach, a Jewish version of the wonton, are traditional for Ashkenazi Jews.
 - If your family hails from Hungary or Romania, you might eat aranygaluska, desserts of fried dough balls with vanilla custard.
 - Would it surprise you to know that God is never mentioned in the *megillah*? In Hebrew, Esther means hidden. Some have surmised that God is hidden in Esther.
- The Talmud says that on Purim, Jews are supposed to drink until they cannot tell the difference between the phrases “cursed be Haman” and “blessed be Mordecai”. How much wine is that for you?
 - The *megillah* contains the longest verse in the entire Bible.



Purim is celebrated on 14 Adar, which coincides his year with March 8, 2012. Chag Sameach!

Josh Levy, Ph.D. Medieval Jewish History
josh.l.levy@gmail.com

**ADULT HEBREW
LANGUAGE CLASSES**

Beth Israel offers instruction in Hebrew at beginning and intermediate levels. Please contact the instructors if you are interested in taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity!

Aharon Resh Lakish has volunteered to teach Beginning Hebrew Sundays from 11:15 to 12:15.
aharonlakish@yahoo.com

Shosh Ault teaches Intermediate Hebrew on Sundays from 11:15 to 12:15.
shosh2@cox.net



**Spring Tot Shabbat
Dates**

10 a.m. on March 24,
April 21, May 12

From Bela's Basket....

Winter U. was a big success. Everybody was able to find a niche and either learned something they had wanted to learn, or learned something they did not even know they wanted to learn. Mah Jong came back to BITWT, and the sound of the tiles are still in the air. Placido Domingo visited us... not really, but we enjoyed listening to him singing the opera of Samson and Delilah. Chocolate was tasted—what yummy treats! The drama club had its first time performance, and by the applause, it was enjoyable. It was hard to stop the poker players; the chips were flying. And last but not least, the “art show” of our Kindergartners, First, and Second graders was well received and every art piece went to a supporting home.

So with that in the past only forward we go. Parents should have received the mid year reports, and I hope you enjoyed reading them as much as I did. These kids are really learning a lot!

Tu B'shvat came at the beginning of February, and the students learned about the different food we traditionally eat, which help us connect to the land of Israel. These food are figs, dates, grapes, olives, pomegranates, wheat, barley (the Seven Species) as well as almonds (the first tree that blooms in Israel) and oranges (which grow so richly in the Israeli soil).

We had a visitor from Israel, Gal Grinberg who delighted us with his music. Many of the participants could not stay seated and broke up in dance. Thanks to the Alterovitzes (Dalia and Samuel) for bringing him to us.

Jen Glaser from the JECC/Siegal spoke with parents and teachers on the philosophy of helping kids with deep Jewish thoughts.

And if this is not enough, we are embarking on a few weeks of study about Purim and getting ready for our Purim Carnival which will take place on March 11. So, dust off your costumes, don't oil your grogger up too much, and be ready to make it sound when you-know-who's name comes up! Do you need a clue...? It starts with an H_____N!!!!

Have a good month.

Bela Fischer, Director of Congregational Programming
belafischer@gmail.com

Notes from the Educator

The 2011-2012 school year continues with opportunities to build community between our students, within our membership and with the greater Cleveland Jewish community. In February, our 5-6-7 graders participated, with approximately 150 of their Jewish peers, in the “Count Me In” retreat, organized and run by the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland and the Retreat Institute, and funded by the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. The retreat was held at B’nai Jeshurun Congregation and was attended by students from 10 Cleveland-area congregations. In addition, our high school spent two sessions in collaborative learning about homelessness in Cleveland with the high school from Suburban Temple. Programs such as these help our students build Jewish connections, and live the following from Tanchuma N’tzavim, ‘*The Jewish people is like a reed: alone it can be easily broken, but together it stands strong.*’

It is time to plan for another opportunity to connect – summer camp! Every summer our Beth Israel students have wonderful opportunities to be involved in Jewish camping. Beth Israel has its own week-long Camp Kee Tov. Our students also attend [Camp Wise](#) in Chardon, and Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI) in Zionsville, Indiana. GUCI is an official camp of the Reform Movement and offers three programs: a 13-day program for rising 3rd and 4th graders, a four-week program for grades 4 through 10, and avodah, an intensive eight weeks of work, study and camping fun, for rising seniors. This coming summer we are thrilled that our own Mara Atzenhoffer will be an ‘avodah-nik’.

Why would any high schooler want to spend eight weeks working? Just ask Mara!!!

The Jewish Federation of Cleveland knows camping can be expensive, and they offer \$1000 grants for first-time campers. Information and registration for these grants are available at www.onehappycamper.org. Want to talk about the summer camp options? Please give me a call or email.

Tina Keller, Director of Religious Education

tinabk803@sbcglobal.net

This position is funded through the Jewish Federation of Cleveland’s Fund for the Jewish Future and is supported through the educational resources of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland and the Laura and Alvin Siegal College of Judaic Studies

Depth and Breadth!!!: Excerpts from the Religious School’s Mid- Year reports:

We brought to life Israel’s skyline with buttons (kindly donated to us by Rhoda Rosen), and any other media the students decided would make their skyline alive. (Kindergarten)

We have focused on beginning Hebrew, learning a great deal. We are learning the Hebrew letters and their sounds, and the students have begun to put together simple Hebrew sentences. We identified some of our classroom objects, weather, and movement in Hebrew and each student comprehends and responds with enthusiasm. (Grades 1-2)

Natalie Barratt came in and taught the kids about agriculture in Israel. She showed them how Israel is a forerunner in developing new ways to make the desert bloom. The kids then created their own drip irrigation system. (Grades 3-4)

We worked through the Chai Curriculum covering sections in Torah and G’milit Chasadim (living Jewishly). We explored the prophet Joshua. We started the G’milit Chasadim lessons discussing K’hilah, the Jewish Community. We also had a lesson on conversion and becoming part of a Jewish community. (Grades 5-6-7)

Our focus this year is on Social Action; our theme is “What Will YOU Do?” Our in-class discussions focus on issues current to our kids, approached with a combination of group discussion, introspection and historical grounding in Jewish thought and philosophy. (High School)

Help Ronald McDonald House Turn Aluminum into Gold

Barbara Feldmar, Dee Lazarus, and Laurie Levinson volunteered at the [Fairview Hospital Ronald McDonald House \(RMH\) Family Room](#) on Monday, February 13th. They served family members of hospital patients a wonderful meal donated by Stancato's Restaurant in Parma. This was the first month of a 12-month commitment that Beth Israel has made to provide volunteers to help serve the donated meal on the second Monday of each month. Things went quite smoothly - especially given that this was our first month. One thing we did learn, however, is that the time period originally described was not really optimal. While we had been told that volunteers were needed from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, the actual time during which volunteers are most needed is from approximately 4:45 to 7:45 PM.

In addition to serving the meal, Laurie dropped off a large bag of pop can tabs that had been collected at the Temple and that she had been carting around in her car, waiting for an opportunity to drop them off. RMH collects the tabs as a fundraiser. They turn the tabs into a recycling center and use the resulting money to help those in need cover the cost of their stay at RMH. When the RMH staff member saw the large bag of tabs from the Temple, she was absolutely THRILLED, saying, "these are like gold to us," before locking them away in a cabinet for safekeeping!

So, to all our members... please remember to **pull off your pop can tabs before throwing away the empty can, and bring any tabs you've collected to the Temple**, where you'll find marked containers for them. It's so easy to do—it really is virtually effortless—but it can make a huge difference to a family in need!!! Our goal is to donate a large bag of tabs at least every other month (if not every month) when we go to serve the meal at Fairview Hospital. If everyone remembers to save their tabs and bring them to Temple, we're sure we can make that happen!

Thanks for all your help!

Barbara Feldmar and Laurie Levinson,
Social Action Co-Chairs
barbaraf@oberlin.net
lhlevinson@oh.rr.com

Shalom Beth Israel -
The West Temple
Friends -- The March 6
Election brings with it
the renewal of the
Health and Human
Services Levy (Issue
15) -- It is so important
that this levy be
renewed so that so
many who need so
much can continue to
receive care and
programming.

All the best,
Rabbi Enid
eclader@aol.com



**Remembering
(from a transcription of 7-
8 year olds, provided by
Dr. Glaser)**

Fiona: I think a memory is something that's happened to you, and you've got a sort of like a diary in your head, and um, you keep your memories in there and they sort of somehow get out of there.

Richard: Like, sometimes the wind blows the pages away and then you forget them.

Meg: When you're not remembering your memories you're just... there in a big room with a locked door and the... when you remember back it's your key and you open the door and... and your memory comes out and you remember it.

Terence: But sometimes you can't find the door and even if you do it you can't always unlock it.

Ariel: I disagree with the doors and diaries, and stuff like that, because it's sort of like your memories are separate things, and I don't really think that because they're all one long page of things because they are all done in one life-time. Your memories are happening all the time even when we are speaking now.

Jen Glaser Illuminates Children's Deep Thoughts

A multi-generational audience of about 30 people attended Dr. Jen Glaser's presentation at temple, "Do Young Children Think Deep Thoughts?" on February 12, 2012. Dr. Glaser is co-director of the Israel Centre for Philosophy in Education – "Philosophy for Life." This past academic year she was on Sabbatical as a visiting scholar in the Graduate Program for Philosophy and Education at Columbia University, Teachers College and in the Davidson School of Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. She serves as adjunct faculty of the Melton Center at Hebrew University and at the Siegel College of Jewish Studies, Cleveland.

Dr. Glaser opened by having us rearrange our seats into a circle to promote discussion. In small groups, we shared anecdotes of questions from children that surprised us. Then, to prepare us for the childrens' dialogues she wanted to share, she quickly brought us up to date on some current thinking about child development and the social and cultural position of the child (Click [here](#) to see her handout).

The crux of her presentation were video clips from an educational television program in Australia that took recorded dialogues of children who attended a school with a strong philosophy curriculum and animated or otherwise produced it. The children, from Primary schools in Australia, were seven-to-nine years old. We were all blown away by their ability to have a conversation (which entails listening and articulating their response) about deep matters. She closed by encouraging us all to have "real"

conversations with children about potentially difficult topics. In particular, she encouraged us to share our thinking and opinions with the children in our life rather than giving them a clear factually-based answer or replying to their question with another question.



Jan Miyake, Bulletin Co-Editor
jan.miyake@gmail.com

**Photographs from February 12, 2012 with Special Guest,
Gal Grinberg, musician**



Photographers Needed! Please help us print photographs in our bulletin by sending pictures of temple events to Jan Miyake (jan.miyake@gmail.com)

One of the important aspects of communication is to let our congregants know who are the board members and their committees, as well as our staff members, and what do they do. Thank you to this amazing slate of volunteers and staff for responding to our requests for information and—more importantly—for providing such strong leadership to our community.

Rabbi

Alan Lettofsky (abl5@roadrunner.com)

Conduct services on the following holidays: Selichot, Rosh Hashanah (eve and morning), Yom Kippur (eve and morning), Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Hanukkah, Purim, Shavuot. Cemetery visit between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Programs for Yom HaShoah and Yom HaAtzmaut. Conduct Shabbat services 27 times a year, including B'nai Mitzvah, four Celebrate Shabbatot, and monthly Shared Shabbat services. Participate in Sunday School 23 times a year, and all Shabbatonim, biennial Bar/Bat Mitzvah Retreats, and High School NYC trip. Monthly Lunch with the Rabbi. Weekly planning meetings with educational and office staff and officers. Available for phone and in-person counseling as needed. Write newsletter article 6 times a year. Available for life-cycle events on a fee basis. Teach adults biblical and prayerbook Hebrew and prepare them for Ben/Bat Torah celebrations; additional Shabbat services and Sunday School activities. Teach Confirmation class.

President of the Board

Luis Fernandez (luisf@oberlin.net)

According to the constitution, the President is the presiding officer of the congregation and the chairperson of the Board of Trustees. The President: Speaks on behalf of the congregation; Makes contact with other congregations and organizations; Is ex officio member of all committees and sub-committees; Signs on behalf of the congregation, after approval of the board, all official documents, deeds, mortgages, etc.; Calls special meetings of the congregation when warranted; Fills, with Board approval, Board vacancies; Appoints special committees as warranted.

Vice President of the Board

Sandy Kahn (sanfordkahn@hotmail.com)

Help with fundraising and special events. My current project is Rabbi Lettofsky's retirement gala to be held at the Greater Cleveland Aquarium followed by dinner at Windows on the River.

Secretary of the Board

Charlotte Feldman (charwilner@yahoo.com)

Take accurate minutes of all board meetings and forward them to the board for accuracy checks, keep copies of the minutes for referral of business of past meetings, write any correspondence that the board deems necessary to acknowledge donations or thank individuals for their efforts or to congratulate anyone for some achievement.

Treasurer of the Board

Robin Kaufman (kaufman1111@gmail.com)

Work with the finance committee to present a budget for the board to approve. Send out dues statements, collect and record all dues, and deposit dues into the bank. Pay all the bills and prepare financial statements for the monthly board meetings. Maintain separate records of the investment accounts of our special funds.

Office Manager

Pat Outlaw (bethisrael@nls.net)

Responsible for the smooth running of the office. Respond to phone calls and email requests, prepare special mailings, special program booklets, and Shabbat announcements. Update the congregation database information, send out Yahrzeit and Shared Shabbat notices, and serve as co-editor of the monthly Bulletin.

Director of Religious Education

Tina Keller (tinabk803@sbcglobal.net)

Manage the policies, regulations, and procedures to ensure that all students are supervised in a safe learning environment that meets the approved curricula and mission of the school. The Director is responsible for recruiting, directing and nurturing all members of the school staff; collaborating with the Education Committee; and communicating with parents. Inherent in the position are the responsibilities for scheduling, curriculum development, and extracurricular activities for all grades. Additional responsibilities include participation in the Education Director's Network of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, ensuring our school's connection to and participation in the Jewish educational community of Greater Cleveland.

This position is funded through the Jewish Federation of Cleveland's Fund for the Jewish Future and is supported through the educational resources of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland and the Laura and Alvin Siegal College of Judaic Studies.

Director of Congregational Programming

Bela Fischer (belafischer@gmail.com)

Plan and organize the grade-level Shabbatonim, Camp Kee Tov, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah retreat, monthly Tot Shabbat, and the consecration study session and ceremony. Write a column "From Bela's Basket" for the BITWT bulletin. Help implement holiday events (e.g., Hanukah, Pesach, Tu B'Shvat).

Adult Education Committee

Co-chairs: Judy Friedman (judy.friedman1@gmail.com) and Laura Green Stout (LAGPhD@aol.com)

Plan and schedule Adult Ed opportunities, such as authors and speakers that are relevant to our congregational community.

Building & Grounds Committee

Chair: Matt Barratt (msbarratt@gmail.com)

The Beth Israel community owns the last full-time synagogue in the City of Cleveland, with a one hundred twenty-five seat sanctuary, social hall with kitchen, lending and study library, and religious school serving pre-kindergarten through high school. The Building and Grounds Committee works with the congregation to improve these important resources. In addition to assisting the many volunteers that contribute to making Beth Israel the great place that it is, this committee manages maintenance of the physical plant, reviews and approves utility invoices, arranges for emergency repairs, and assists congregants and other committees in event planning.

Membership Committee

co-Directors: Mike Palnik (beckersupplyco@yahoo.com) and Sandra Pankiw (Sandy.Pankiw@polyone.com)

Attract new members and retain existing ones. Maintain a protocol with the Temple office and other team members to follow up on membership inquiries and applications received. When someone joins, they receive a small welcome gift from the temple and their photo and biography are displayed on a “new membership” board in the back foyer of the temple. If someone inquires but does not join, they receive regular mailings from the Membership committee about upcoming social events and are encouraged to attend. When someone resigns as a member, we also follow up with phone calls to inquire about the reason they left. On occasion, this has encouraged people to rejoin the temple as members.

Public Relations Subcommittee (of Membership)

Coordinator: Judith Weiss (jmwsop1@cox.net)

Act as a conduit for all communications, whether internal or external, regarding Temple activities. This will include, but may not be limited to: working with the website committee to redesign the site and keep it updated in a timely manner; submitting articles to the Bulletin and remaining in contact with the Editor; coordinating photography and written coverage of events; and media contacts including phone calls, email, press releases and photos sent to appropriate media outlets.

Ritual Committee

Chair: David Neumann (neuveld@sbcglobal.net)

The focus of the Ritual Committee is to meet the ritual and spiritual needs of those who attend services for the holidays and Shabbat. We coordinate the participation of congregants in services. We also integrate ritual with educational programming, social action, and membership development.

Safety and Security Committee

Chair: Alan Finkelstein (afink1953@yahoo.com)

Ensure that our temple meets the fire and life safety codes. Maintain security for our building as well as other buildings that the congregation may use for activities that we may participate in.

Social Action Committee

Co-Chairs: Laurie Levinson (llevinson@oh.rr.com) and Barbara Feldmar (barbaraf@oberlin.net)

Identify, coordinate, and/or facilitate opportunities for congregants to perform “tikkun olam” within the surrounding community, i.e., opportunities where our members can help to make our community a better place in which to live, to work, and to bring up our families. We collect food during the High Holidays for local food pantries (including the S.C.A.N. Pantry in Berea); provide volunteers to help out at MedWorks Health Clinics, which offer free medical and dental care for those in need; and collect clothing and personal items for donation during the Homeless Stand Down. In the past few years, we have also prepared and served dinners at the Community Women's Shelter in downtown Cleveland, served lunch to and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity workers, and coordinated an effort to ensure that our voices were heard during the national Health Care Reform debate. We are currently participating with the Greater Cleveland Congregations, a coalition of religious congregations and community organizations working together to improve our region, and have also begun a commitment to provide volunteers to serve a meal once a month at the Fairview Hospital Ronald McDonald House Family Room.

Sustainability and Implementation Committee

Co-Chairs: Steve Edelstein (sjedelstein0405@yahoo.com), Harry Lader (harry.lader@sbcglobal.net), and Evan Fleisher (evanfleisher@roadrunner.com)

Develop specific recommendations for ensuring the long-term viability of Beth Israel –The West Temple. Recommendations cover a broad spectrum of congregational activities such as membership, programming, worship services, refurbishing the building, and fund-raising. The Implementation Committee is responsible for execution of those recommendations.

Celebrations

Birthdays

Avital Shmois	March 15	6 th
Hannah Cutrona	March 25	13 th
Isabella Brashear	March 26	6 th
Talon Basiewicz	March 27	9 th
Jonathon Levin	March 29	17 th
Lana Judith Skory	March 29	9 th

Anniversaries

Linda Kroll & Jack Kellackey	March 2	6th
Robert & Kati Roth	March 27	64th

The entire congregation is invited
To join in celebration and worship as

HANNAH CUTRONA

Daughter of Gloria & David Cutrona
is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah
10 a.m. Saturday, March 31



A Kiddush will follow in Ratner Hall
after the Service.



Calendar of Events

(When available, more information can be found by clicking on the event)

Friday, March 2 - Shabbat Across America –
Dinner 6:30 p.m.; Service 8:00 p.m.

Friday, March 9 – Family Shared Shabbat
Service – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10–K-2 Shabbaton–9:45 a.m.

Sunday, March 11 – Purim Carnival, Purim
Schpiel, Megillah Reading.

Wednesday, March 14 – 12:00 NOON – Lunch
with the Rabbi at Deagan’s in Lakewood. RSVP
to the temple office by Monday, March 12, if
you would like to attend.

Wednesday, March 14 – 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Feast of Judaism classes taught by Rabbi
Enid Lader. Series of six free classes. Call
the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland
(216-371-0446) to register.

Sunday, March 16 – 4:00 p.m. – Wedding
of Lillian Davis-Starr and Jeremy Sanvido.

Saturday, March 24 –
10:45 a.m. Celebrate Shabbat;
10:00 a.m. TOT Shabbat.

Saturday, March 31 – 10:00 a.m. –
Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Cutrona.

Perpetual Yahrzeits

Week Ending

March 3

David Finkelstein
Blanche Levit
Benjamin Rimm
Naomi Sharman Ault
William J. Kahn
Rose Morgenstern
Alex Kimmelman
Michael Kornhauser
Estelle Edman Grey
Shirley Katz
Jerome Metzel
Louis Schwartzenfeld
Rodgers Gerhardt
Rachel Diane Landy
Catherine Diamond
Marvin M. Goldberg

Week Ending

March 10

Hyman Cohen
Nanette Dreshfield
Dorothy Pearlman
Henry Wolotsky
Bertha Brown
George Katz
Vivian Tamarkin
Samuel Gartner
Hilda Mailman
Harry Grossman

Week Ending

March 17

Otto Eckstein
Benjamin Gruber
Aron Altchouler
Clara Altchouler
Daniel Barnes
Harry Goldstein
Bernice Singer
Leroy Welch
Tino Fernandez
Sonia Keller
Annie Epstein
Morris Krissoff
Elanor Shapiro
Paula Williams
Ida M. Wissman

Week Ending

March 24

Boris Bruckman
Joshua Fernandez
Steven Hill
David Slone
Pepi Weiner
Ruth Himmel
Pauline Miller
Rose Eigen
Shirley Krissoff
Elly Beral
Benjamin Friedman
Lillian Slone Wieder
Earl Armbruster
Michael Kaplan
Ada Ludwig Moyer
Lila Traub
Myron F. Kramer
Katie Blecker

Week Ending

March 31

Adolfo Margulis
S. Herbert Gruber
Kenneth Bogart
Sarah Lewis
Mimi Caro
Samuel Mull
Toba Grossman
Harold Paul Conrady
Lucille Velardo
Hyman Lader

The congregation
extends its sympathy
to the family of
Irving Karp,
a long-time member,
who passed away on
February 13, 2012

Honors Schedule

Friday Evenings

Services at 8:00 p.m., except where noted.

Saturday Morning

Torah Study 10:00 a.m.; Service 11:00 a.m., except where noted.

March 2

Shabbat Across America

Service Leader: Rabbi Lettovsky

Candles: Susan Wagner
Usher: Shane Strongosky
Oneg: Diana & Steven Strongosky

March 3

Service Leader: Luis Fernandez

Aliyah: Alan Finkelstein
Hagbah: Sanford Kahn
Galilah: Robyn Kahn
Usher: Sarah Greenberg
Kiddush: Garik & Melanie Shmois

March 9 – 7:30 p.m.

Family Shared Shabbat Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Lettovsky

Candles: Linda Schwin
Usher: Joseph Greenfield
Oneg: Paul & Linda Schwin

March 10

K-2 Shabbaton (9:45) – Rabbi Lettovsky

Torah Study (10:00) – Rabbi Lader

Service (11:00): Rabbi Lettovsky

Aliyah: Steve Wolotsky
Hagbah: Jay Mattes
Galilah: Donna Sweet
Usher: Haylee Mattes
Kiddush: Richard & Donna Sweet

March 16

Service Leader: Shosh Ault

Candles: Renee Kolesar
Usher: Hannah Cutrona
Oneg: Joseph & Linda Tanenbaum

March 17

Service Leader: Rabbi Lader

Aliyah: Lillian Davis-Starr
Hagbah: Jeremy Sanvido
Galilah: Saragene Davis
Usher: Macey Helbig
Kiddush: George Thornton

March 23 – 8:00 p.m.

Service Leader: Scott Machol

Candles: Judy Fox
Usher: Jason Morgenstern
Oneg: Susan & Thomas Wagner

March 24 – Celebrate Shabbat (10:45)

Study with Rabbi (9:45)

TOT Shabbat (10:00)

Service Leader: Rabbi Lettovsky

Honors: Members of the Congregation
Kiddush: Members of the Congregation

March 30 – 8:00 p.m.

Service Leader: Rabbi Lader

Candles: Gloria Cutrona
Usher: Morgan Kahn
Oneg: Steven & Mary-Helen Wiesen

March 31 – Bat Mitzvah of

Hannah Cutrona (10:00)

Service Leader: Rabbi Lettovsky

Honors: Cutrona Family
Kiddush: Cutrona Family

Contributions – February 2012

General Fund

*In Loving Memory of
Philip Mason*

Debi Salzman
Nancy Plain
Sue Sheets
Amy Bernstein
Sheila Heyman
John & Patricia Scharer
Ropes & Gray LLP
Lori Hyman Horwitz
Sally N. Morgan
Leo & Nicole Arnaboldi
Beverly Starek
Ellen & Ken Adler

Irving Karp

Anthony A. Cox
Charles C. Giamati

Henry Caro

Evan W. Fleisher

Herbert Lazarus

Frank & Nancy Eilberg

In Honor of

Rabbi Dan Litt

Eileen Karp

Bat Torah of Jennifer Rinehart

David Ashenhurst
Elaine & Steve Edelstein

Harold & Ruth Friedman Camp Fund

*In Loving Memory of
Marty Chinskey*

Lynn & Mark Atzenhoffer

Tree of Life Fund

*In Loving Memory of
Irving Karp*

Harry Lader & Rabbi Enid Lader

Center for Jewish Life

*In Loving Memory of
Janet Feigenbaum*

Richard Feigenbaum & Judy, Roger,
Matt & Shaina Friedman

Religious School Fund

In Honor Of

Gabriel & Samuel Eckert

Stephen & Lynnda Kaplan

In Loving Memory of

Gertrude Sackett

Peter & Jessica Sackett

Library Fund

*In Loving Memory of
Molly Lader*

Harry Lader & Rabbi Enid Lader

Phil Mason

Adrienne Apar