



Beth Israel – The West Temple BULLETIN

January 2014, Tevet – Sh'vat 5774

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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from the Sustainability Committee...

Temple Board Takes Action To Launch 21st-Century Restoration Project

At the semi-annual membership meeting, the reconstituted Sustainability Committee and the Beth Israel – The West Temple Board reported on a series of actions under what is being called the “Beth Israel 21st Century Restoration Project.”

“We already have a Center for Jewish Life in Cleveland and the western suburbs,” said Matt Barratt, temple president, “and it’s right here in our current building. Our programs and services have a profound effect on our members and the entire Jewish community. We now need to make an investment to be able to sustain ourselves in the long haul.”

In the past six months, the Sustainability Committee revisited issues related to possible relocation, as well as what might be required to make the Triskett building “more accessible and comfortable” for as broad a cross-section of members as possible. The committee concluded that new construction would require approximately \$2.5 million that is currently not attainable by the congregation, and that suitable retro-fit buildings were either unavailable or were in locations which would not be acceptable to the temple membership.

This conclusion led to the following goals for a proposed Beth Israel 21st Century Restoration Project: repair of the current building’s basic infrastructure, making the sanctuary accessible and comfortable year-round, creating a building maintenance fund, and making the current building more energy efficient, aesthetically pleasing and inviting. In line with these goals, the temple board has taken action to create a Building Maintenance Fund, to be funded from an assessment on all members which will be phased in over the course of the next three years from the current level of \$50 by \$50 increments up to \$200 a year. This will ensure that the building stays in good repair going forward. *(continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1)

In addition, the Board authorized a first phase of building repair up to \$115,000. This first phase will be paid for using \$45,000 currently in the Isidore Warshawsky Fund and up to \$70,000 in the Center for Jewish Life Fund, the latter with the concurrence of a major donor to the CJL fund. In Phase One, priority will be given to repair of the roof, replacement of floor and ceiling tile, and making the sanctuary handicap-accessible and comfortable year-round. A second phase is also contemplated for refurbishment of various areas, including making the building and its aging heating system more energy efficient. In order to pay for the second phase of renovations, donations will be sought from temple members and outside parties, including foundations and philanthropic entities. The Board also authorized an appropriate naming opportunity to honor the generosity of the late Mr. Warshawsky, a long-time member of Beth Israel –The West Temple.

The time horizon for continued occupancy of the Triskett building would be extended by ten years, during which consideration of alternatives and capital and endowment funding will be explored. There are no plans to sell the 5.5 acre parcel of land which Beth Israel owns in North Olmsted.

Members of the Sustainability Committee are: Matt Barratt, Naomi Chase, Sylvia Cooper, Steve Edelstein, Luis Fernandez, Alan Finkelstein, Evan Fleisher, Judy Friedman, Larry Goodman, Rabbi Enid Lader, and Rhoda Rosen.

Steve Edelstein
sjedelstein0405@yahoo.com

from the Rabbi's Desk...

The Genesis of Our Future



Last month, the Union for Reform Judaism's Biennial was held in San Diego. Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the URJ, gave his keynote address. Rabbi Jacobs' address ([here is the full text](#)) is a passionate prayer, if you will, encouraging

us to look to the future with renewed energy and passion. He based his remarks using the Book of Genesis as a prism through which we can glimpse not only our past, but more importantly, our future. I share highlights with you:

"Bereisheit bara Elohim, in the beginning, God didn't create synagogues or rabbis or denominations or even Jewish people. No, God created a wondrous universe, teeming with beauty, complexity, and possibility. Within this incomplete world, God created human beings to be partners in shaping a world overflowing with shleimut (wholeness), rachamim (compassion), simcha (joy), and tzedek (justice).

Genesis teaches us the power of practicing audacious hospitality.

Early in Genesis, Abraham and Sarah set the standard. On a blisteringly hot day, Abraham runs after three desert wanderers, insisting they come inside for nourishment. What makes his act so memorable is that he doesn't wait for the wanderers to knock on his door; instead, he goes out to meet them where they are and invites them in.

... Audacious hospitality isn't just a temporary act of kindness so that people don't feel left out; it's an ongoing invitation to be part of a community where we can become all that God wants us to be - and a way to transform ourselves in the process. Audacious hospitality is a two-way street, where synagogue and stranger need each other. Hospitality is not just our chance to teach newcomers but, just as important, an opportunity for them to teach us.

(Rabbi's message continued on p. 3)

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February Deadline: Wednesday, January 15th

(Rabbi's message continued from p. 2)

Genesis teaches that all human encounters can reveal wisdom and holiness.

Throughout the first book of the Torah, God speaks to our ancestors through the people they meet, in the holy moments that unfold at every turn. Abraham is blessed by Melchizedek, Rebecca is the answer to Eliezer's prayer at the well, and an unidentified man called Ish guides Joseph to his brothers.

We, too, must be open to hearing truths from those we meet, remembering that we hold no monopoly on wisdom...

... The time is long overdue for us to stop using Orthodox Jewish practice as the baseline against which we define our own Jewish practice. We can affirm the authenticity of other Jewish practices without conceding Jewish authenticity to them alone. Our Judaism is appealing to everyone, those from more traditional backgrounds, no Jewish backgrounds, Jews by religion, Jews by culture, and Jews by affinity. We will amply nourish all who are hungry for meaning.

Genesis teaches, in our contemporary terminology, that social justice is not a politically partisan concept, but a critical part of what God requires of all of us.

At the very beginning of Jewish history, Abraham can't abide injustice. When the rights of others are being trampled, Abraham cannot be silent, even if it means calling the Holy One to task: *hoshpeit kol ha'aretz lo ya'aseh mishpat*, "Will not the judge of all the earth deal justly?" This statement is arguably the most defining religious imperative of our ancient covenant.

... What have we done to advance that imperative? With the powerful leadership of our remarkable Religious Action Center, our Movement... has been at the forefront of the struggle for the freedom to marry, as well as to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would ban employment discrimination against those in the LGBT community - and which passed in the Senate last month. And in the wake of the horrific carnage in Newtown, CT, our Movement gathered religious communities together from across the entire religious spectrum to say God is weeping, not only at the death of innocent children and their teachers, but also because of our collective unwillingness to contain the epidemic of gun violence in America. These actions make our historic core values real in the world.

Genesis teaches us that no matter where we live, we are bound to the land of Israel.

In Genesis, our matriarchs and patriarchs lived part of their lives in the land of Israel and also sojourned outside the land. Were it not for Joseph's inspired public policy leadership in his elevated position in the superpower of the day, the Jewish people and our homeland might not have survived. There has been interdependence between the Diaspora and Israel from the start. In this current moment, the paradigm of Jewish life is moving toward a more globally interdependent world Jewish community that shares responsibility with the State of Israel for the preservation and regeneration of the Jewish people wherever they may live...

Genesis reminds us over and over again that we're not home yet.

We live in an unredeemed world that we are commanded to repair through small and large deeds of healing... [T]he work is ever ongoing.

Let's get busy igniting souls with the fire of our lived Torah and connect them to one another in vibrant communities as we shape a world of compassion, wholeness, joy, and justice. May that be the blessing of our gathering, the blessing of the work of our communities, and the blessing of our lives."

May each of us and the work of our congregation be ignited with the fire of our lived Torah as we journey to our future together.

All the best,

Rabbi Enid C. Lader
eclader@aol.com



Rick Jacobs speaking (photo courtesy of Tyler Crossland)



from the *Congregational Educator*...

Keva, Kavanna, and Kehilla, Create, Collaborate, and Congregate in December!



In December, our religious school hosted our first Grade Level Shabbaton with families of our 3rd and 4th graders. We gathered for an hour of rich dialogue about that week's parasha, Vayigash. The portion describes when our biblical ancestor, Joseph, reunites with his brothers who had sold him to Egyptian slave traders many decades prior. We explored the text for "if only..." moments when, had only one character said or done something differently, years of anguish and separation might have been avoided. This examination was aided by several other philosophical inquiry methods intended to use the narrative as a mirror on our own lives.

Also supporting our Torah study that morning were two books from our library that we hope our families will consult again: ***How To Talk So Kids Will Listen*, by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlich, and, *On Raising Kids*, by temple member, Sylvia Rimm.** Families rendered cartoons depicting their new understandings of the Torah portion which they shared at the service after our learning. On the evaluation of the program one parent wrote, "I wanted to tell you that we all really liked the "if only" teaching method and Judy and I use it in other situations with our children now. Great way to think about moral dimensions to decisions we all make. Very much appreciated that." The morning met the objectives of our new religious school paradigm, "***Keva, Kavanna, and Kehilla, Create, Collaborate, and Congregate!***" whereby participants learn in novel ways, partner with one another, and share with the rest of the congregation. We extend a hearty "todah rabah" (many thanks) to the Wright family, George, Judy, Lilah and Iris, who coordinated our Shabbat meal after services, and to teachers Allison Winokur, Ariella Payne, and Scott Machol, who prepared the students for participation in the morning worship.

What's the significance of the number eight? In Hebrew, the letter "chet" represents the numerical value of eight, but the name of the letter can also mean "target." We struck a bulls-eye on December 8th when eight of our Beth Israel The West Temple high school students were ably led by their Student President, Tyler Crossland and a chaperoning parent, Natalie Barratt, to an east side event for adolescent youth called, "Eighth Night of Chanukah." Teens assisted in a

Shared Shabbat in Nature!

*Celebrating January Birthdays
and Anniversaries and...
a kick-off to our
New Winter yoU...*

Friday, January 3, 2014

at the (nice and warm) Women's
Pavilion at Lakewood Park
14532 Lake Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107

5:45 p.m. – Appetizers and
Schmoozing

6:15 p.m. – Family-friendly Erev
Shabbat Service

featuring the music of Israel
7:15 p.m. – Shabbat

Potluck Supper

Bring a dairy or parave dish
or dessert

RSVP to the temple office
216-941-8882

Open to the community...
Jewish or not...

Taste of Judaism

***Explore Jewish Spirituality,
Ethics, and Community***

**3 Evening Classes here at Beth
Israel – The West Temple**

January 8, 15, 22

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Classes are free –

Registration is required

Contact **Sherri Kaufman**

Jewish Education

Center of Cleveland

216-371-0446

Save the date!!

May 17, 2014

Larry Sheir's one-man show.
More information will be coming.

PJ On the Go Event

Saturday, January 11, 2014, 1-3 pm

A Rockin' Tu B'shvat

Rockefeller Park Greenhouse and Gardens, 750 East 88th Street Cleveland Oh 44108. Music, crafts, planting, stories, and "tree-ts" for pre-school aged children and their families.

Would the person who borrowed the book **IBM and the Holocaust** please send an email to the librarian Lee Haas haaslee@gmail.com

Get ready for the New Year with New Winter yoU! Watch for details!



making challah with Nancy Eilberg (photo courtesy of Naomi Chase)

variety of activities designed for early childhood participants and engaged with other Jewish Cleveland youth to spend one day of Chanukah giving—and getting—lots of camaraderie and learning. BITWT teen, Kathryn Fleisher, was joined by several of her BITWT teen peers at Ronald McDonald House on December 15 for a tzedakah project under her direction. And be sure to check out Kathryn's photography on an updated school bulletin board where she posted photographs she took to illustrate new activity in all of our classrooms! *Todah rabah*, Kathryn!

This past week, our Kindergarten through Grade 6 classes made challah with congregant Nancy Eilberg. This exercise corresponds to and supports Keva, Kavanna and Kehilla as it coalesces our teaching, our learning, and our sharing of it with the December 20th Shared Shabbat. Our students' baking will add to our celebration of that month's anniversaries, birthdays, and our Hebrew names, coinciding with the reading of the first portion of Exodus or *Shemot* (meaning names). Check out photos of our baking, and also, of our Kindergartners planting in their classroom by way of learning about Jerusalem and its JNF forests: Kindergartners are helping all of us get ready for Tu B'shvat, and are connecting their learning to our **New Winter yoU!** this month.

New Winter yoU! (formerly Winter University) launches on January 5th and invites the entire congregation to join our students in focused engagement with learning about Israel. January 5th is a trip to the Cleveland Jewish Federation building in Beachwood for a private viewing of the **Hanoch Piven art exhibit**. Piven, an Argentinian-born Israeli artist, uses unusual and creative media to depict famous people and events. Using his technique, we will render self-portraits of our relationship with our city. The following week, religious school students will create (Piven-esque) cities in Israel that their teachers will be teaching them about for a large scale map of Israel. Cilil Gross will speak to adults. January 19 will conclude the three-week series with Israeli-flavored activities for all ages. We hope you'll plan to join us!

L'shalom - towards peace and wholeness - Naomi Chase, Congregational Educator bitwteducator@gmail.com

new member profile

Eileen Kollins Brings Great Experience to Beth Israel



Eileen Kollins is a new member with a rich background in Reform Judaism. She has always been active in Reform congregational life, from her childhood in Cleveland, through her many moves, including time spent in Las Vegas and St. Louis. Most of her working years were in public school education, as a teacher and librarian. She also worked for the Reform movement as an Assistant Regional Director of the URJ Midwest Council

office for five years. In that capacity, she traveled to a variety of congregations in a multi-state area, mostly working with small congregations and serving as a pararabbinic fellow in Dubuque, Iowa, as well as St. Joseph and Joplin, Missouri. Currently she leads a monthly Shabbat service for senior Jewish residents at Judson Park, as well as leading their High Holiday services and Passover seder.

Eileen has three children, two daughters and their families in Cleveland, and a son and daughter-in-law in Seattle, Washington. Judy (Eileen's daughter) and Walter Wright and their two daughters are members here at Beth Israel. Eileen enjoys attending school and family events at the temple and has found the congregants to be warm and welcoming.

Lise Moulton, Volunteer Coordinator
lm1818@yahoo.com

Dear members of Beth Israel, once again, your compassion and concern for folks who are hungry enabled us to help our clients. As our Rabbi said to me when she came to SCAN to drop off the many bags of assorted food items, "what a wonderful and amazing congregation we are!" Special thanks to her for delivering the much needed items.

Please know how much I and my staff appreciate your ongoing support. lsgruber@aol.com

Lunch 'n Learn

with Rabbi Lader & Friends

Wednesday, January 29th, Noon

At the home of Joel & Linda Keller
 32723 Fallhaven Circle
 North Ridgeville 44039

Bring a side dish or dessert to share.
 RSVP to the Kellers: 440-748-4704
joelsk@oh.rr.com

**Come and celebrate
 Shabbat
 and the Chinese
 New Year!
 Friday, January 31st**



- 5:45 p.m. – Chinese Appetizers and Schmoozing
- 6:15 p.m. – Erev Shabbat Service with Rabbi Lader
- 7:00 p.m. – Catered Chinese Supper \$7 per person, no charge for children under 5
- 7:45 p.m. – Guest Speaker:
 Dr. Paul Weinstein
 Professor of History at Ashland University

In the spring semester of 2009, Dr. Weinstein taught in Keifeng, China. He returned with wonderful experiences in Keifeng and with the Jewish community there... and lots of pictures! Paul combines a scholarly approach and humor for a presentation that is most enjoyable – and informative.

RSVP by January 28th to the temple office
 216-941-8882

My URJ Biennial 2013 Experience

by Tyler Crossland



Very early on December 12th, I woke up with a level of excitement I don't reach very often. I went over my list multiple times; my list of things to bring, of course. I was about to embark on a journey that would include six hours of flying across the country, a layover in Dallas, Texas, and a gathering of over 5,000 people that celebrate the same religion as myself, Reform Judaism. In just a few hours, I would be representing Beth Israel – The West Temple at the biggest **URJ - NFTY Biennial** to date, in San Diego, California.

The funny thing about me going to this Biennial 2013 is that I honestly had no idea what I would be doing. When registering we picked a few seminars we'd like to participate in, which led me to believe it was an educational-type event. But, Biennial is so much more than an educational event. Biennial in an essence is a place for reform Jews to come together to worship and learn from one another.

This year, Biennial immersed both young and older reform Jews into seminars together to learn. I thought this was very cool, because all of the speakers treated us as adults and made it seem almost like a college atmosphere. NFTYites were allowed to attend whichever seminars they wanted to. I attended seminars about congregational membership, board meetings, and social action events that were both great and inspirational (feel free to ask me about these). But, there were many other seminars that included NFTY's history, song-leading, LGBTQ, Jewish cooking, and much more!

There were so many amazing things that happened at Biennial 2013. Try engaging in Shabbat services with 5,000 reform Jews all in the same room! Try getting up and dancing to almost every song during Shabbat services with people you barely even know. Try video-conferencing with Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu! This was an event that would be tough to forget for anyone.

To say Biennial was one of the greatest experiences of my life would be very true. I'd put this up there with my trip to Israel. Being that the Biennial was in San Diego was a huge part of it being great! Obviously, it wasn't the only part. But, traveling all the way from snowy Cleveland made it was quite the experience. There was so much spirit and excitement at the event, and hearing multiple speeches from Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the President of the URJ, made me realize how great it is to be a part of Reform Judaism; we and the URJ are doing great things and planning for the future. It left me so encouraged and makes me want to do more, stick with this community, and see what we do in the future; all the great things we're going to accomplish.

For me to sit here, and tell you how amazing the URJ Biennial was, is something. But, I'd much rather you go to one of these and experience it yourself. These Biennials are open to Reform Jews of all ages and believe me, this is one of the beauties of this event. I saw adults meeting with their NFTY friends. Friends they met years ago, enjoying a lunch together, adventuring around the San Diego Gas Lamp District together. Between the old and the young NFTYites, the community is something you certainly can't really find anywhere else. The next Biennial is in 2015 in Orlando, Florida. But, if you visit the URJ site and look at all the great things that went down at this Biennial, hopefully it will help your and my anxiety until the next one.

I'd like to thank the North American Federation of Temple Youth organization (NFTY), my NFTY region Northeast Lakes (NEL), and our very own Rabbi Enid Lader for making it possible for me to attend the URJ Biennial 2013. Without help and support from these incredible organizations/individuals, I would never have even dreamed of attending this event. Thank you so much!

Tyler Crossland
tcrossland95@gmail.com

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More Jewish Summer Camp information....

We all enjoyed our morning with Mark Kovitz, from GUCI – Beth Israel’s long-standing choice for Jewish summer camp. But as I mentioned in December, the GUCI experience is not for everyone and many alternative camp experiences have become available for our kids. I want to tell you about a new camp program sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ).



Finally, we have a Jewish Science Summer Camp!

URJ’s 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy has robotics, video game design, and more. [6 Points Sci-Tech Academy](#), the Union for Reform Judaism’s new science and technology sleep away camp—is the first Jewish summer camp of its kind.

If your child is interested in science, this camp is definitely for them. Located in a former boarding school about 30 miles outside of Boston. Campers select concentrations in robotics, environmental science, digital media production, or video game design. “The camp is going to attract kids that wouldn’t otherwise consider attending an overnight Jewish camp,” said Greg Kellner, the camp’s director. “We did research on the amount of kids’ science programs around the country, and there’s a rising demand for it. The amount of STEM [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics] jobs around the country is also growing at a fast rate, and the camp will allow kids to learn the topic they are interested in.”

Campers will also choose two electives, selecting from courses in flight science, app creation, game theory, magic and illusion, audio lab and sound effects, or nutrition and food science. And while the camp may or may not breed the next Mark Zuckerberg, Kellner emphasizes that the applied sciences will be taught to coincide with Jewish values as well.

“There are abounding connections between Judaism and science,” Kellner said. “The kids will learn how to build a robot, and brainstorm how their robot can solve a world problem, like obstacle avoidance robots for the visually impaired. When they learn how to make a video game, we’ll stress the idea of telling a good story without the violence.”

Sci-Tech was funded by a \$1.1 million grant from the Foundation for Jewish Camps and is one of 14 URJ-run summer camps. Kellner said he expects 150 campers to sign up for the two-week sessions, which cost \$2,850 per camper. To reduce the cost, \$1000 is available to first-time campers from the One Happy Camper program. Five sessions are available:

	Start	End	# Days	Tuition
Session I	July 1	July 13	13	\$2,850
Session 2	July 15	July 27	13	\$2,850
Session 3	July 29	August 10	13	\$2,850
Inter-session 1	July 13	July 15	3	\$250
Inter-session 2	July 27	July 29	3	\$250

Enrollment is available for campers entering grades 5-9 in the fall of 2014.

Want more information? Contact me by phone (440-899-9288) or email tinabk803@sbcglobal.net Want to hear about this and other Jewish Camp options? Join me for NOT YOUR TYPICAL CAMP FAIR! ([here's the flyer!](#)) Event on Sunday, January 12 from 2:30-4:30 at Whirly Ball, 5055 Richmond Road, Bedford Heights... see the information below!

Tina Keller
tinabk803@sbcglobal.net

Holiday greetings from Uganda

Holiday greetings to my Temple friends from Uganda, a landlocked nation the size of Oregon, with a total population of 37 million, and where half the population is under the age of 15. I am halfway through my one year's service here as a Peace Corps volunteer. The Peace Corps, in collaboration with SEED Global Health, have united for the first time to initiate a kind of 'medical Peace Corps.' There are six such volunteers here and four others in northern Uganda, as well as 11 in each of Malawi and Tanzania. All of us have the same general assignment: to strengthen the teaching programs - or even to create them, if none existed - in the various medical schools in these countries.

I have been in the city of Mbarara, population 65,000, since the beginning of August. I teach 3rd and 5th year medical students at Mbarara University School of Technology (MUST) and also serve as a consultant to the hospital interns and pediatric residents (house staff). My duties include bedside teaching, lectures, tutorials and frequent help to the house staff.

My work is unlike any I have done before. I have never treated a single case of malaria in America, yet here we have ten new malaria patients daily. I have never worked with children with HIV/AIDS, yet here I treat them daily. My last American patient with TB (tuberculosis) was when I was a medical student, in 1974. Here I see them at least once a week. Malnutrition is a constant, and death their companion. Dealing with dying (and dead) children is a completely new and difficult experience for me, yet I have learned much about coping with this ultimate challenge from my Ugandan colleagues. It upsets us all alike, but I have learned how to draw on inner strength - and faith - from these Ugandan physicians. In many ways I feel my entire medical career has been preparation for this experience.



Moreover, the intensity of our service and care are a new reality for me, one which I find immensely exciting. Stressful, heart-breaking, but also exhilarating when the children recover from their critical illnesses and can go home.

The house staff are the hardest working physicians I have ever met. I am humbled by the way in which they accept burdens of care and disease that would easily overwhelm this American - and how they come in the next morning smiling, with positive attitude, ready to start again. My simple words of praise to them feel inadequate but truly come from my heart.

It's the middle of December. Here in Uganda you have to look at a calendar to know this, since the weather is nearly constant year round - 28° C (82° F) during the day, and 18° C (66° F) at night - and the day and night are also equal. After all, we are on the Equator! You can tell time by the position of the sun: sunrise, 6 AM. Twilight, 6:40 PM. And when it's midday, it's hot! Even though it's only 28° C it is brutal. We're now in the rainy season. There are strong storms most days, followed by return to sunshine and high humidity. Walking to market is a challenge: no pavement exists, and the roads become muddy rivers after the rains. But everyone accepts this in good humor - and there are plenty of vendors to reshine your shoes before you return to work!

The Ugandans are a friendly and welcoming people. Courtesy is the rule, and speaking quickly or 'coming to the point' too soon are discourteous. So you learn to greet someone, ask about their night (if it's morning) or their day (if it's after midday), and their family, if you know them well - and only then you get to the business at hand. Leaving directly after business is also rude. You have to have many courteous parting words, a lingering handshake, and only then can you part ways. My work so far has been a great challenge, but also a great pleasure. Knowing that I am helping the teaching program here and learning about these tropical diseases have been an unforgettable experience.

Robert Weiss
robert.weiss.44116@me.com

Note: The views expressed by the author in no wise reflect the opinions of the Peace Corps, SEED Global Health, or of the United States Government.

from the High School Youth Group...

Mitzvahs throughout the Year

by Tyler Crossland

On December 8th, instead of having our regular Sunday school class at Beth Israel, our High School students volunteered at the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. The Federation hosted an 8th Night of Hanukkah Event for the little ones in our vibrant Cleveland Jewish community. The fun began at 9 a.m. when hundreds of children came to donate tzedakah and take part in a morning full of fun activities and mitzvahs. The main point of the event is to teach young children to care about others. As volunteers, my fellow classmates and I greeted the children, gave out stickers, helped them with mitzvah arts and crafts, read PJ Library books, painted faces and added spirit to an already fantastic event.

Obviously at this event, the little kids weren't the only ones having a great time. The Beth Israel high school students that volunteered also had a great time. I personally loved the event. Seeing all of the young children donating tzedakah and all the smiling faces was a great way to start the day. Daniel S., a 9th grader in our class had this to say, "I loved meeting new people and helping kids during the tzedakah event." We were not the only teen volunteers there, so we were also given the opportunity to volunteer with people our age. This gave us an opportunity to meet with other Jewish teens in the Cleveland area which only added to the joy of the event.

This project was just one of many mitzvahs that our High School class has been a part of this year. We've continued our weekly tzedakah program and donated to Carl Cook, who manages men's homeless shelters in the Cleveland area and to The Miracle Kids Medical and Rescue Fund set up at Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI) in honor of the three children injured in a lightning strike at camp this summer. We've also volunteered at St. Herman's, which is a shelter that helps feed the poor and homeless earlier in the year. Mitzvahs on the holidays are special, but mitzvahs year round are what truly make an impact.

Tyler Crossland
tcrossland95@gmail.com

Letter to the Editor...

VOLUNTEERING TO MAKE A BETTER COMMUNITY

In last month's Bulletin, Rabbi Lader made a profound case for the importance of all our members to participate in fulfilling our Mission of being a center of worship and vital community life for West Side Jews. We are invited to offer our talents to strengthen our temple life--as we are a volunteer congregation, dependent upon member involvement. Now is the time for all--especially those of you who want to contribute, but are not sure how to share your ideas and energy--to step forward.

Beth Israel the West Temple is looking for your contribution. Please contact any temple leader, Rabbi Lader, or Lise Moulton (Volunteer Coordinator, helping match volunteers with tasks). When you are in the temple, feel free to step in and help with whatever activity is occurring, which could be as simple as helping in the kitchen that day.

Your involvements will greatly enhance your own life, as well as our religious community. And thanks to all the many, many active volunteers who help us every day.

Lise Moulton, Volunteer Coordinator
lm1818@yahoo.com | 440/683-1313



Religious school eats its own challah at Shared Shabbat on December 22nd (photo courtesy of Naomi Chase)

*from the Library***MAKING THE LIBRARY MORE USER-FRIENDLY**

There is now a library book return box under the large table in Ratner Hall. If you checked out an item from the library and you are unable to climb the steps to the library to return it or you do not wish to do so, you may now return books on the first floor. Library borrowers should not put return items on the display table. The books on the table are for checking out.

Occasionally, someone checks out a library book and then “returns it” by leaving it on top of the table in Ratner Hall. Then, another person sees the book and “borrows it.” The person who originally checked out the book is still responsible because the book was never checked in by the library staff, and the circulation card was never put back into the book. Moreover, the librarian now does not know who has the book and has no way of finding it if the book is overdue. So please, use the book return box for books checked out downstairs or upstairs if you wish. You can still use the upstairs book return box too.

Lee Haas, Librarian
haaslee@gmail.com



On November 29th, the Ross family added a significant contribution to our Shabbat and Chanukah Service.

Julian, on violin, Carol, on viola, and both Hannah and Cecilia Ross on cello, performed Julian's arrangement of “Oseh Shalom” for the congregation, after the silent meditation. What a treat!

You can see and hear the arrangement [here](#).
(photo courtesy of Harry Lader)

The Congregation is pleased to pleased to share good news:

Grace Audrey Garner

born November 20, 2013
9 lbs., 14 oz., 20-1/2”

the delighted parents are
Danielle Kolesar and Robert Garner.

The proud grandmother is Renee Kolesar.

from the Social Action Committee...

Winter Update



We want to thank all of our members once again, for their donations of food items for the S.C.A.N. Hunger Pantry in Berea during the holiday season. We know the number of needy families has grown, and our donations can make a big difference in helping those in our community.

We have also started a collection of Toiletry and Personal Care Items such as bath tissue, deodorant, lotion, shampoo, etc., especially the small "travel-size" bottles brought home from hotels and motels. These items will be donated to the Gunning Park Golden Age Recreation Center on Puritas Drive for low-income Seniors in need. Please bring any items you have to donate to the Temple over the next several weeks and place them in the marked bin in the entryway.

The **Gunning Park Golden Age Center** is open weekdays and hosts many activities for Seniors, and we look forward to joining and participating in these activities as an important opportunity for volunteering our time. Please contact Barbara Feldmar, Social Action Co-Chair, if you are available weekdays and would like to get the schedule and/or discuss how your interests might be put to use, and make a difference again in our community.

Also, the collection of winter clothing items is continuing for Operation Warm-Up. Look for this bin in the entryway at the Temple as well.

And last but not least, the **Greater Cleveland Congregations** is continuing to work to improve education, health care, food sustainability and criminal justice in Cuyahoga County. There will be an important Strategy Team Meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 7:00 pm, to inform all the involved congregations of many faiths about current efforts and legislative actions. Please consider coming, as we would like to have many of our members present to be part of the planning, as well as to build our power and deepen our relationships with other congregations at such an important time. Place for the meeting still to be announced. We can arrange to carpool from the Temple, if people would like to go as a group, or would prefer not to drive themselves.



And to all, a wonderful and fulfilling New Year for family, friends and our community,

Barbara Feldmar and Laurie Levinson Co-Chairs of Social Action Committee

barbaraf@oberlin.net lhlevinson@oh.rr.com



Fun at the URJ Biennial Photo Booth (photo by Tyler Crossland)



Netanyahu (from Israel) addresses participants at the URJ Biennial (photo courtesy of Tyler Crossland)

Table of Contents

from the Circle of Friends...

Beth Israel's Women's Rosh Chodesh Group Celebrates Chanukah and Plans Next Event

Our last wonderful evening was celebrating Chanukah at the Atzenhoffer home. Under Eli's guidance we made no-sew fleece blankets to donate to a homeless shelter, adding some warm hats, gloves, and socks. We lit all of our menorahs and enjoyed singing and celebrating for a "ninth" night. Check the photos to see our festive and productive evening.

Our next Circle of Friends evening will be at Artist for a Day on Wednesday evening, February 5, 2014 from 5 – 8 PM. This will be a very special chance to let our creative genius flow. Artist for a Day provides a paint-it-yourself pottery experience. You can choose to keep your pottery or donate it to the Women's Seder Tzedakah raffle in April. They have a



great variety of items to choose from, including some Judaica. You might want to make a visit before the 5th just to look around and think about what you would like to make. You can also check out their website for directions and more information. We will each need to pay a fee, which we will collect that evening: \$6 per person for materials (it is \$8 after 6 PM) including glazing and firing, and then the cost of the item(s) that you choose, which range from \$8 to \$80. Our items will be ready for pick-up a week later. We can coordinate pick-up and bring them to Beth Israel if that is easier for you. We will need to know by Wednesday, January 22nd, who is coming so we know how many places to reserve. We will be on the main floor, but we will have a table set aside for drinks and food. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Call Barbara Schwartz: 216-228-5246 or baschwartz@cox.net or Susan Wagner: 216-221-6660 or susangwagner@gmail.com to let us know if you will join us or if you need a ride.

Barbara Schwartz and Susan Wagner
baschwartz@cox.net
susangwagner@gmail.com
 (photos courtesy of Susan Wagner)

February 5, 5-8pm
Artist for a Day
28649 Lorain Road
N. Olmsted, OH 44070
440-777-7500

www.artistforaday.com

Artist for a Day is east of Stearns Rd. on the south side of Lorain Rd. in a shopping center.



Celebrations

January Birthdays – Adults

Joseph Tate	January 9	Dr. Neal Kaufman	January 23
Brian Greenfield	January 10	Dr. Charles Levin	January 24
Diana Strongosky	January 10	Sonia Horvitz	January 26
Steve Basiewicz	January 14	Mitchell Gruber	January 28
Scott Grauel	January 19	Dr. David Stout	January 29
Alice Mark	January 21	Dalia Alterovitz	January 31
Michael Palnik	January 21	Kimberly Griffith	January 31
Dr. John Heimke	January 22		

January Birthdays – Children

Sarah Greenberg	January 21	15 th
Ava Melott	January 28	5 th

January Wedding Anniversaries

Robert & Eileen Korey Kaplan	January 8	36 th
Sylvia & Alfred Rimm	January 27	57 th

Calendar of Events

*(Please call the Temple Office for more information. 216.941.8882);
important information on services can be found on [page 16](#))*

Friday, January 3	Shared Shabbat in Nature! (p. 4, p. 16), RSVP to temple office.
Sunday, January 5	Winter yoU Launch (p. 5), Cleveland Jewish Federation Building (Beachwood)
Wednesdays, January 8, 15, 22	Taste of Judaism , 7:30–9:30 p.m. (p. 4), Register through JECC.
Saturday, January 11	PJ on the Go , 1:00–3:00 p.m. (p. 5), Rockefeller Park Greenhouse and Gardens.
Sunday, January 12	Not your typical Camp Fair! (p. 8), flyer here .
Sunday, January 12, 19	Winter yoU continues (p. 5), Beth Israel – The West Temple.
Thursday, January 23	Greater Cleveland Congregations Strategy Team Meeting (p. 12).
Wednesday, January 29	Lunch 'n Learn with the Rabbi and Friends (p. 6), RSVP to the Kellers.
Friday, January 31	Celebrate Shabbat and Chinese New Year (p. 6), RSVP to temple office.
Wednesday, February 5	Circle of Friends meeting (p. 13), RSVP to Barbara Schwartz or Susan Wagner.

Perpetual Yahrzeits

WEEK ENDING

JANUARY 4

Donald Bogart
Edmund Button
Anatoly Favinsky
Ruth Igoe
Elizabeth Rimm

WEEK ENDING

JANUARY 11

Molly Lader
John F. Paliyan
Louis Beral
Mary Brehm
Eunice Levit

WEEK ENDING

JANUARY 18

Evelyn Ungar
Rose Kantor
Sarah Schwartzenfeld
Marty Chinsky
Linda Smilgoff
Richard Smilgoff
Louis Hertz Albert
Ed Heller
Hyman Miller
Gertrude Sackett

WEEK ENDING

JANUARY 25

Jack Ackerman
Marc F. Greenbaum
Nickolis Turczyk
Robert Pearlman
Irving Karp
Abraham Clymer
Janet Feigenbaum
Frances Feldmar
Arie Isaac
Fannie Mesiboff
Gustavo Schliserman
Christine Spear

WEEK ENDING

FEBRUARY 1

Harold Friedman
Elias Schochet
Nita Zisser
Herman Provder
William Winokur
Jeana Mandel
Alfred Zisser
Sidney Berns
Charlotte Ryan
Sara Brecher
Joann Zabarsky Jessup
Morris Schwartzenfeld
Shepsel Grinberg

The congregation extends its condolences to Dr. Roger Friedman, Judy Friedman, Matthew Friedman and Shaina Friedman Wright on the death of Roger's mother, Sue Friedman, who died on December 13, 2013 in San Diego. May her memory be for a blessing.

The congregation extends its condolences to Ariella, Shawn, and Evelyn Payne on the death of Ariella's mother, Barbara Margelefsky, who passed away on December 19th, 2013 in Israel, where she had made her home for the past number of years. Contributions in her memory be made to American Friends of Laniado Hospital, 261 W. 35th St., Suite 03, NY, NY 10001. (<http://www.laniadohospital.org/>)

May Ariella and her family be comforted at this time,
and may her mother's memory be for a blessing.

Service Schedule

Friday Evenings

Services at 8:00 p.m.
(except where noted)

Saturday Mornings

Torah Study 10:00 a.m.
Service 11:00 a.m.
Kiddush: 12:15 p.m.
(except where noted)
Call the temple office for more information.

January 3 – Shared Shabbat

Women's Pavilion at Lakewood Park

5:45 p.m. Appetizers & Schmoozing
6:15 p.m. Family-Friendly Erev
Shabbat Service
7:15 p.m. Dairy Potluck Supper
Service Leader: Rabbi Lader

January 4

Service Leader: Rabbi Lader

January 10

Service Leader: Matt Barratt

January 11

Service Leader: Luis Fernandez

January 17

Service Leader: Rabbi Lader

January 18

Service Leader: Rabbi Lader

January 24

Service Leader: Scott Machol

January 25

Service Leader: David Bamberger

January 31 – Rosh Chodesh &

Chinese New Year

5:45 p.m. Chinese Appetizers & Schmoozing
6:15 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service
7:00 p.m. Catered Chinese Supper
(\$7 per person, no charge for children under 5)
7:45 p.m. Guest Speaker: Dr. Paul Weinstein
Service Leader: Rabbi Lader

February 1

Service Leader: Rabbi Lader

Contributions – December 2013

General Fund

In Honor Of

Sumner Alpert on his continued recovery, and in honor of Dr. Schreiber (Sarasota) who was instrumental in his successful heart surgery.

Sandy Pankiw
The Friedman Family
David P. Stout, M.D.
Jonathan Stout

In Loving Memory Of

Mort Epstein

Irving Bayer
Florence M. Sable
Stanley & Luane Lasky
Edith Isaacs
Carole & Dan Litt
Esther Korey
Robert Kaplan & Eileen Korey
Kaplan
Alex Pankiw
Sandy Pankiw & Family
Arline Alpert
Sandy Pankiw
Minnie Kimmelman
Ruth Schochet
Melvin Schochet
Ruth Schochet
Sue Friedman
David P. Stout, M.D.
Jonathan Stout
Lois Butler
Pat Outlaw
Susan & Tom Wagner
Henry Caro
Evan Fleisher

The Tree of Life Fund

In Loving Memory Of

Sue Friedman
Shosh Ault

Rabbi Lader's Discretionary Fund

We acknowledge a donation from Ruth Finley in appreciation of the Taste of Judaism classes.

In Loving Memory Of

Phil Mason
Carole Mason
Mort Epstein
Marilyn Bogart
Les & Leona Ackerman
Sue Friedman
Steve & Elaine Edelstein
Les & Leona Ackerman

Rabbi Enid C. Lader Music Fund

We acknowledge a donation from Dorothy & Karl Lubitz.

In Honor Of

Sydel Coslow's Milestone Birthday
Beryl & Michael Palnik
Pat Outlaw
Birth of Seth Alterovitz, Grandson of
Dalia & Sam Alterovitz
Pat Outlaw

Library Fund

In Honor Of

Birth of Grandson, Seth Alterovitz
Dalia & Sam Alterovitz

In Loving Of

Ralph Blecker
Rhoda Rosen

The Harold & Ruth Friedman Camp Fund

In Loving Memory Of

Ruth Friedman
Penny Friedman
Mort Epstein
Penny Friedman

The Alan B. Lettovsky Fund for the Center for Jewish Life

We acknowledge a gift from Steve & Elaine Edelstein.

In Loving Memory of

Bertl Loeb
Rabbi Alan & Jean Loeb Lettovsky
Eleanor Neumann
David & Holly Neumann & Family
Mort Epstein
Rabbi Alan & Jean Lettovsky

The Lou & Evy Rosenblum Fund For Education & Social Justice

We acknowledge a gift from Judy & Walter Wright.

In Loving Memory Of

Evy Rosenblum
Valerie Bogart
Edith Benjamin

Religious School Fund

In Honor Of

The birth of Noah Samuel Hochman, Grandson of Ellen & John Goodworth
Shosh Ault
The birth of Seth Alterovitz, Grandson of Dalia & Sam Alterovitz
Shosh Ault

In Loving Memory Of

Philip Hertzberg
Rose Hertzberg
Thelma Goldberg

Lenore Singer Music Fund

In Loving Memory Of

Mort Epstein
Phyllis Seltzer