



BETH EL NEWSLETTER

The Heights Synagogue

October 2008
תשרי \ חשוון 5769



Rabbi Moshe Adler

With a Little Help from our Friends

Here are two Hasidic stories about the *mitzvah* of *sukkah*, cited by the late Rabbi Shmuel Yosef Zevin (of blessed memory). As background, we need to recall the kabbalistic recitation known as *ushpizin* (Zohar Aramaic for “guests”), with which a Jew invites seven spiritual guests into the *sukkah*, one each night of the festival: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, and David.

The first story is told by Rabbi Yechezkel of Shiniva, son of Rabbi Chaim of Zanz: In a village there lived a poor man who was unlearned but God-fearing. When the day before Sukkot arrived, he still had no branches with which to cover his *sukkah*, and could not afford to buy any. He and his wife went to the forest in order to pull down branches by themselves. It was getting late and, fearing that they hadn't enough time to finish pulling down all the branches they needed, they began biting off twigs and leaves with their teeth. They kept this up despite the scratches they suffered on their lips and faces. With these twigs and leaves they managed to patch the bare spots in their *sukkah* covering.

That evening, the poor man looked up and saw a stranger standing in his *sukkah*. Assuming that this was some unfortunate pauper in search of a place to eat, he said, “I'm sorry, sir, but I'm very poor and there isn't a mouthful of bread here to eat. I have an idea. Why don't you go across the road to that house over there? A rich man lives there, and I'm sure he'd serve you a square meal in honor of *yom tov*.”

“I didn't come to eat your bread,” said the

stranger. “I am your father Abraham, and I've come in person to visit you in your *sukkah*. I want to honor you for the self-sacrifice with which you fulfilled this *mitzvah*.”

And with that, he vanished.

The second story: Rabbi Pinhas of Koretz was so overwhelmed by the endless stream of people seeking his personal guidance and asking for his prayers that he scarcely had time for his personal service of God. One day, in desperation, the rabbi prayed that people might dislike him, so that he would no longer be disturbed.

From that day on, he secluded himself so that he could be alone with God. He lived austerely, and was never seen in company except when attending *shul* for community prayers.

When Sukkot drew near, no one wanted to help him build his *sukkah*, and so he had to hire a non-Jewish neighbor to do it for him. The neighbor did not have the necessary tools, but no one would lend the rabbi's wife tools because they disliked the rabbi.

Somehow, the *sukkah* was built, but on the first night of the holiday, when Rabbi Pinhas asked various people to be his *sukkah* guests, no one accepted his invitation. When he got home from *shul*, he entered his *sukkah* and recited the *ushpizin*, inviting the seven spiritual Guests. It was the first night of the festival, when the guest is Abraham. The rabbi looked up and saw the patriarch himself, standing outside the doorway of the *sukkah*. (Continued on page 3)

מועדים
לשמחה



Moadim
l'simcha

Beth El - The Heights Synagogue builds vibrant Jewish community.

We welcome all in participatory, traditional, egalitarian worship and learning.

Rabbi Moshe Adler ♦ Saturday Morning Services at 9:15, 3246 Desota Ave., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118 ♦ ☎ 216-320-9667



Jack Valancy

**QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?
COMMENTS?
COMPLAINTS?**

Please do not hesitate to contact your President by e-mail president@bethelheights.org or home telephone (216) 371-1439

HELP US

STAY IN TOUCH!

Please be sure we have your current contact information. Send changes to Blanche Valancy, database@bethelheights.org or call her at (216) 371-1439

JOIN THE DISCUSSION LIST!

See detailed instructions on page 3.

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER:

If you'd like to get the pdf e-mail version, contact news@bethelheights.org (You must have the free Acrobat Reader from Adobe in order to open the file.)

President's Perspectives, October 2008

Supporting our Shared Vision

This year we mark **Beth El - The Heights Synagogue's** tenth observance of the High Holy Days. We worshipped at the JCC for four years before moving to our synagogue in 2003/5763. Although our synagogue is our home, **Beth El - The Heights Synagogue** is not a building, but the fulfillment of our vision:

"Beth El - The Heights Synagogue builds vibrant Jewish community. We welcome all in participatory, traditional egalitarian worship and learning."

In the summer of 1998, we began building our Jewish community in our living rooms. We decided to lead our own services as an expression of our *kavanah*, (intention, from the Hebrew root meaning to direct, intend, focus).

We decided to conduct complete traditional services, including full Torah readings. We decided to be egalitarian, with women and men participating equally.

We decided to welcome all. We are a community of members and friends. If you are not a member of our congregation, you are a friend. We have never sold a ticket to our High Holy Day services. "You don't have to pay to pray" is one of our founding principles.

Join us in worship Shabbat mornings in our sanctuary. Our Junior Congregation welcomes families with school children, and our babysitting room welcomes little ones. Parents can bring their kids to services, too. We invite you to worship and celebrate holidays with us throughout the year.

Through next spring, our Shabbat Learner's Service meets twice monthly, we have monthly Lunch and Learn programs, and Rabbi Adler leads a regular discussion group about handling real life problems with the help of our great Jewish sages. In February 2009, we host

Scholar in Residence Noam Zion for an enlightening weekend.

We build our community over shared meals. We serve the best Shabbat kiddush in town, and our simcha catering is outstanding.

You can learn more about what we do in our newsletter and on our web site, <http://www.bethelheights.org>.

How can our small congregation of fewer than a hundred households do all this? Our strength lies in our relationships with each other. We are a participatory congregation.

We are members, not volunteers. We are a labor of love shared by many.

Last fiscal year, ending June 30, 2008, we balanced our operating budget... barely. We are making capital improvements to our synagogue: replacing the remaining old windows in our sanctuary and on the Desota stairwell. We will repair our synagogue's drainage and elevator, damaged by a severe storm in August 2007, when we resolve issues with various contractors and insurance companies. Our synagogue is our home.

Whether you worship, learn, or celebrate at **Beth El - The Heights Synagogue** regularly or occasionally, whether you are a member or friend, your generous financial support is a mitzvah that fulfills our vision of building Jewish community.



Beth El – The Heights Synagogue Newsletter, Vol. 11, No. 1, October 2008

Carol Bruml, Editor – Telephone 216-932-9155, E-mail: news@bethelheights.org
3246 Desota Ave., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

<http://www.bethelheights.org/>

© Beth El – The Heights Synagogue

General submittal deadline is the 8th of each month.

Published 11 times per year.

For address or mailing list change, call 216-320-9667

The Beth-El Discussion List

What is a "List"?

A "list" is a way for many people to communicate via e-mail, without each person having to manage the list of e-mail addresses for everyone else they want to talk to. Whenever one person sends an e-mail to the LIST e-mail address, everyone who is a member of the list gets the e-mail. If someone replies, everyone gets the reply. It's like an e-mail version of a telephone party line (but you are much too young to remember those, right?).

How to Sign Up

1. Create a Google account (if you don't already have one). Go to <https://www.google.com/accounts/NewAccount> and fill in the form.
2. Once your Google account is set up (or if you already have one) go to http://groups.google.com/group/beths_list.
3. You will need to sign into Google first (using the account you just set up).
4. You will be asked to create a "nickname" for yourself when you post messages to the group (yes, it can be your boring old regular name).

You can choose how often you will get e-mails from the group. To get an e-mail every time someone posts a message, you would choose the fourth option "E-mail". But read the other choices to see if they sound better to you.

That's it! You are all set up.

How to Use the List

Just send an e-mail to beths_list@googlegroups.com. It's that simple!

*(With a Little Help from Our Friends,
Continued from page 1)*

"Why don't you come in?" the rabbi asked.

Abraham replied, "It's not my custom to enter a *sukkah* where there are no guests."

From that day on, Rabbi Pinhas prayed that he might again find favor in the eyes of his fellow human beings.

Each of the seven *ushpizin* embodies a major virtue. The virtue embodied by Abraham is hospitality. Yet Abraham entered the *sukkah* of the poor man, who had not invited any guests, and refused to enter the *sukkah* of Rabbi Pinhas, who had invited guests. What was the reason for this seemingly strange behavior?

The poor man could not invite guests because he could hardly feed his own family. Putting up the *sukkah* with such fierce devotion was the most he could do to honor the festival. The rabbi, on the other hand, could invite guests,

and tried to do so, but he had alienated the people who once would gladly have accepted his invitation.

Though Rabbi Pinhas had secluded himself in order to work on his own spirituality, that very spirituality had diminished by his having withdrawn from the people who needed him. (Rabbi Pinhas of Koretz learned this lesson so well that he went on to become one of the great *Hasidic* masters.)

Just as Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur teach us to look within ourselves and improve our lives, Sukkot teaches us to look outward to our fellow Jews, especially those who need us most, because they form an integral part of our own spirituality. Our festival joy is increased by their presence, and by the knowledge that we have played a part in their well being.

May HaShem spread the *sukkah* of His peace over us and over all Israel. *Hag sameah!*

Learners' Services

The 2008-2009 Learners' Service series is set to begin at Beth El - The Heights Synagogue.

Practice praying at a slow pace. Ask questions and get answers. Find out the history and meanings of customs, expressions and prayers. Learn your way around the prayer book. Become more familiar with the Shabbat morning service.

We'll kick off our sessions on November 1 and will meet on the first and third Shabbat of each month.

Looking ahead through the end of the year, that works out to November 1 and 15, December 6 and 20.

We meet in the library off the balcony about 10:20 AM (when the Torah service begins). We rejoin the main service for the d'var Torah.

Your Turn: Our Members Write

Judie Amsel shares an adaptation of her September 6 d'var Torah, on the issue of organ donation.

Accepting Responsibility

Wednesday, August 20, was a day of extremes for me.

In the morning, I was at a friend's home, praying for successful operations for two other friends. Some of you may have heard me add the name of Brian Zoldessy (Baruch ben Sarah) to the list of names for healing. More recently, I added the name of Jacqi Loewy (Tamara bat Sarah).

Some of you may know Brian, a local actor, director, acting teacher, and chairman of the Tri-C East Theater Department. He acted in the JCC productions of *To Know Him* and *Modern Orthodox*. Brian has been ill for quite a while and was desperately in need of a kidney transplant. I wanted very much to be his donor, but was beyond the maximum age for donation.

Recently, Jacqi, artistic director of the Charenton Theater as well as a professional actor, director, and stage manager – she directed *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* for the JCC Halle Theater and staged managed *Tony 'n Tina's Wedding* and *We Gotta Bingo* – decided to be tested and was a good match for Brian. She didn't do it to be a hero. She saw it as a way to show her appreciation for her excellent health and the opportunity to save someone's life.

Their surgeries began that morning and were successful, though Brian has had some difficult days. Jacqi is doing fine.

On the way home from my friend's house, I heard the radio report about Stephanie Tubbs Jones' aneurysm and, later, her sudden and untimely death. I'd met Stephanie several times and my daughter Carol, who lives in DC and is the Senior Legislative Director for an agency which advocates for policies that expand economic opportunity for people with lower incomes, has worked with Stephanie. Stephanie has co-sponsored several bills for her and Carol considers her a hero.

The next day, when the reports dealing with Stephanie's death were published, one of the first things I noticed was that she was an organ donor.

The Congresswoman was an advocate for health while she was living. Her legacy of life continues through organ and tissue donation. Before her sudden death, she registered to become an organ and tissue donor. As many as 58 people benefited from her gift.

According to Gordon Bowen, the CEO of LifeBanc, close to 100,000 children, women, and men are waiting for organ transplants nationwide. Nearly 3,000 Ohioans are among them, but they expect only 100 donors in Northeast Ohio this year. An average of 19 people die every day while waiting for an organ donation.

One person can help save up to eight lives through organ donations, and help another 50 people through tissue donations. Body parts that can be transplanted include kidneys, lungs, heart, liver, pancreas, intestines, skin, bone, eyes, ligaments, tendons, and heart valves. Most are harvested from newly deceased individuals; kidneys, bone marrow, and stem cells can be taken from a live donor. Carol had a severe knee injury twenty years ago. She was helped by a ligament transplant, donated by a young man who died in a biking accident.

Blood, the most common transplant, is also the easiest, but only about 10% of us are blood donors. Northern Ohio currently has less than a two day supply of blood available for transfusions. One donation can help at least three people.

A few years ago, I attended a workshop at the Cleveland College of Jewish Studies. One of the speakers said that, based on their percentage, Jews receive more organ donations but donate fewer organs than other groups.

Some Jews believe that it is halachically forbidden to donate organs after death because it would constitute desecration of a body. While that might have been true at one point, today most rabbinical authorities have concluded that the preservation of life (pekuah hanefesh) takes precedent and organ donation is considered a mitzvah.

But this d'var isn't about Brian, Jacqi, Stephanie, or Carol. It's about all of us, collectively and individually. The thought behind transplants and transfusions is implied in today's the final chapter in today's *parsha*, as revealed in the following responsive reading by Rabbi Michael Hecht from his 1972 book, *The Fire Waits*.

Shofetim

THE UNKNOWN DEAD

On a blustery cloud-heavy day
A sad procession winds
Down to a rocky valley.
Priests and elders stand
On the barren shore of a shallow stream
To offer expiation,
For they have found an unknown dead man,
Murdered in their midst.
They wash their hands
In flowing water
And cry out to God:
"Our hands have not shed this blood!
We did not see the deed!
God, forgive Your people,
Do not let this innocent blood
Stain Your people Israel!"
But that was long ago.
When murderers multiplied
The rite fell into disuse.
Today we do not cry,
"Our hands have not shed this blood!"
Our elders would be always
Washing hands.
There are not rivers in the world
Nor are there tears
To wash away the blood.
Our hands have shed this blood!
Our eyes did see
But looked aside.
We are used
To finding the unknown dead.
We read it in the papers.
We sigh. We turn the page
To see what else is new.
Nothing else is new.
When blood is cheap,
What else can matter?

Deuteronomy 21:1-9 Sifre

(Responsive reading from Rabbi Michael Hecht,
reprinted with permission.)

Adult Education at Beth EI

In the Power of the Tongue

Death and life are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21). Join us for a series of three **KIDDUSH WITH THE RABBI** sessions dealing with *l'shon ha-ra* ("the tongue of evil" – gossip and slander) and *ona'at d'varim* (hurtful speech). What are they? What do Jewish source texts teach us about them? Is talk about others always wrong? When are *l'shon ha-ra* or *ona'at d'varim* likely to arise? How can we avoid them, or stop them once they've started? If we can't talk about other people, what is there to talk about?

First session, October 18: What are *l'shon ha-ra* and *ona'at d'varim*?

Second session, November 1: *L'shon ha-ra* and *ona'at d'varim* among family and friends.

Third session, November 15: *L'shon ha-ra* and *ona'at d'varim* in school, the workplace and the public sphere.

Thanks for the September 3 Lunch and Learn

Lynda Siff extends her thanks to everyone who helped make our first Lunch and Learn so successful on Saturday, September 13:

➤ Eric Fryxell, who sponsored Eric Small's appearance as Golda Meir and brought Ms. Meir here all the way from California.

➤ Joe Gelles, Harvey Jacobs, Jeanette Buchwald, Frank Buchwald and Ditte Wolin who created a scrumptious meal.

➤ Ari Klein, Sue Klein, Marilyn Malkin Mia Buchwald Gelles, Jeanette Buchwald and Sue Greenberg who did the most unglamorous work of cleaning up.

We had an excellent history lesson that spanned 100 years, and the presentation was both informative and interesting.

Kristallnacht Remembered

Sunday, November 9, 3:00 to 4:30 PM – Community-wide commemoration of the 70th anniversary of The Night of Shattered Glass at Congregation Shaarey Tikvah, 26811 Fairmount Blvd., Beachwood 44122.



Decorate the Sukkah

Come help complete the congregational Sukkah and decorate it.

Join us on Sunday, October 12, from 12:00 to 3:00 PM, on the patio.

Sukkah Hop

Our annual Sukkah hop will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2:00 to 5:00 PM.

Would you like to have your sukkah be one of our 2008 Sukkah Hop stops? Please contact Merry Lugasy at 216-337-4761 or mlugasy@gmail.com

The host families' names and addresses will be published on the Discussion List – Be sure you are signed up! (see page 3 for instructions)

CALENDAR, OCTOBER 2008

תשרי \ חשוון 5769

- Tuesday, Sept. 30 – First day Rosh HaShanah** ראש השנה
 8:30 AM – Morning services
 5:30 PM – Tashlikh תשליך – Meet at the Kugelmans', 2904 Washington Boulevard, and proceed together to Coventry School ravine.
 7:30 PM – Evening service, followed by candle lighting (*no earlier than 7:52 PM*)
- Wednesday, October 1 – Second day Rosh HaShanah** ראש השנה
 8:30 AM – Morning services
 No earlier than 7:50 PM – Havdalah (at home)
- Thursday, October 2 – Fast of Gedaliah** (sunrise to dark) צום גדליה
- Saturday, October 4 – Shabbat Shuvah** שבת
 9:15 AM – Morning services
 No earlier than 7:45 PM – Havdalah (at home)
- Wednesday, October 8 – Erev Yom Kippur** ערב יום כפור
 6:30 PM – Candle lighting, followed by Kol Nidre כל נדרי
- Thursday, October 9 – Yom Kippur** יום כפור
 8:30 AM – Morning services (*with Yizkor*) יזכור
 5:00 PM – N'ilah Service begins
 Approximately 7:37 PM - Blowing of the Shofar (light break-fast to follow)
- Sunday, October 12**
 12:00 to 3:00 PM – Sukkah building and decorating. All skill levels welcome!
 Meet on the patio.
 7:00 to 8:30 PM – Short Stories by Jewish Authors Reading and Discussion Group will meet to discuss stories from *Adventures of Mottl, the Cantor's Son*, by Sholom Aleichem. Further details on page 7.
- Monday, October 13 – Erev Sukkot** ערב סוכות
 6:31 PM – Candle lighting (at home)
- Tuesday, October 14 – First Day Sukkot** סוכות
 9:15 AM – Morning services
 7:29 PM – Candle lighting (at home)
- Wednesday, October 15 – Second Day Sukkot** סוכות
 9:15 AM – Morning Services
 No earlier than 7:27 PM – Havdalah (at home)
- Saturday, October 18 – Shabbat Hol HaMoed** שבת חול המועד
 9:15 AM – Morning service
 After services – Kiddush with the Rabbi, session one: On the Power of the Tongue: What are *l'shon ha-ra* and *ona'at d'varim*? Further information on page 5.
 No earlier than 7:23 PM – Havdalah (at home)

Sunday, October 19, 2:00 to 5:00 PM – **Sukkah Hop**. See the October newsletter and the Google Groups List for information about host families, closer to the date.

Monday, October 20 – **Hoshana Rabbah** (last day of Hol HaMoed) **הושענא רבה**
6:20 PM – **Candle lighting** (at home)

Tuesday, October 21 – **Sh'mini Atzeret** **שמיני עצרת**
9:15 AM – **Morning service (with Yizkor)** **יזכור**
7:15 PM – **Candle lighting, followed by evening service with Hakkafot** **הקפות**

Wednesday, October 22 – **Simhat Torah** **שמחת תורה**
9:15 AM – **Morning service with Hakafot** **הקפות**
No earlier than 7:17 PM – **Havdalah** (at home)

Saturday, October 25 – **Shabbat B'reshit** **שבת**
9:15 AM – **Morning service**
After services – **Monthly Simcha kiddush**, in honor of all members who celebrate special events or accomplishments in October.
No earlier than 7:13 PM – **Havdalah (at home)**

Saturday, November 1 – **First Learners' Service of the 2008-2009 season.**
Meet in the Libraray about 10:20 AM and return to the main service in time for the d'var Torah. *Further details on page 3.*

Saturday, November 1, After services – **Kiddush with the Rabbi**, session two: On the Power of the Tongue: *L'shon ha-ra* and *ona'at d'varim* among family and friends. *Further information on page 5.*

Friday, November 6, 6:00 PM – **Kabbalat Shabbat sservices, followed by dinner.**
(Prepaid reservations required, if you plan to stay for dinner.) See flyer on back page.

Saturday, November 15
After services – **Kiddush with the Rabbi**, session three: On the Power of the Tongue: *L'shon ha-ra* and *ona'at d'varim* in school, the workplace and the public sphere. *Further information on page 5.*
7:30 PM – Plan ahead for **Movie Night!** – Watch for details in the November newsletter.

Short Stories by Jewish Authors Reading and Discussion Group

Discussed Alice Hoffman's *Local Girls*

Alice Hoffman's two "local girls" evolve into young women with lives very different from each other. Gretel loses her mother and her brother but she gains an education and a career. Jill marries her high school sweetheart and has three children. The second half of the book, *Local Girls*, took a far more serious turn from the first half which offered some very humorous prose – but Hoffman's style of employing "mystical realism" in her stories prevailed throughout and her stories were interesting and very contemporary.

Group Plans to Diversify This Fall

Short Stories by Jewish Authors' next meeting date will be on Sunday, October 12, 7:00-8:30 PM. Stories will be from *Adventures of Mottl*, *the Cantor's Son*, by Sholom Aleichem. SBJA will also be viewing the Charlie Chaplin movie, *Monsieur Verdoux*, in the very near future. Anyone who is interested in participating either in the stories discussion or the movie viewing, please contact Sondra Jacobs, 216-397-1481 or sondrajacobs@sbcglobal.net.



Kabbalat Shabbat

Join us for Kabbalat Shabbat the first Friday of most months between the fall Holy Days and Pesah.

Services 5:30 PM
Dinner 6:30 PM

Reservations and prepayment required, if you would like to stay for dinner. No reservations needed for the service alone.

The first Kabbalat Shabbat of the season will be on Friday, November 7. See flyer for details.



NEWS FROM BETHEL

חדשות

Simcha Celebration

Join us in celebration of all of our September simchas at Kiddush on October 25.

We celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, engagements, accomplishments, and more.

Become a Simcha Kiddush honoree

Donate \$36 per simcha celebrant to the Kiddush Fund, using the form available online at <http://www.bethelheights.org/simcha.php>.

Your contribution supports our synagogue.

Welcome, new member:

- Miriam Steigman

Refuah Sh'lema to:

- Nili Adler
- Marty Rabinowitz

Thanks for Kiddush sponsorships to:

- August 23 – Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand, in honor of their marriage.
- August 30 – Harvey and Karen Kugelman, in celebration of Sonny's bat mitzvah.
- September 6 – Bruce and Judie Amsel, in celebration of their tax refund stimulus check.
- September 13 – Ari Klein and Ditte Wolin in honor of their anniversary.

Thanks for September newsletter mailing help to:

- Gerson Carr
- Kimberly Carr
- Sue Klein
- Marilyn Malkin
- Erica New
- Blanche Valancy

Thanks for contributions to:

- Nili Adler, toward the August Simcha Kiddush.
- Abby and Jeff Halpern, in honor of the marriage of Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand.
- Barry and Joyce Hoffer, in honor of Nili Adler's birthday and in memory of Rachel Fay Hoffer Z"l.
- Ari Klein and Ditte Wolin, toward the September Simcha Kiddush and toward sanctuary window replacement.
- Carole and Daniel Litt
- Joe and Lila Newman, in memory of Sarah Rottman Z"l and Pinkus Newman Z"l.
- Bernice and Morris Shanker, toward sanctuary window replacement.
- Gary and Rosalind Simson
- Linda Tobin and Stephen Pepper, in honor of the marriage of Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand.
- Blanche and Jack Valancy, in honor of the marriage of Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand.

Thanks for Simch Kiddush contributions to:

- Adi and Judy Gerblich

Yahrzeits, October 2008

TISHREI - תשרי

Albert Weinstein	2 Tishrei 5730
Sara Weinstein	3 Tishrei 5726
Eric Falck	5 Tishrei 5758
Elias Greenhut	7 Tishrei 5718
Carl Wasserman	7 Tishrei 5720
Blossom Levit	9 Tishrei 5721
Marcella Wachter	10 Tishrei
Harry Abrams	12 Tishrei 5716
Irene Cowan	15 Tishrei 5732
Harry Dolusky	15 Tishrei 5694
Carola Jacobs	19 Tishrei
Jared B. Klein	20 Tishrei 5761
Bertha Shifrin	21 Tishrei 5721
Esther Mintz	22 Tishrei 5767
Pearl Peninah Pasternak	22 Tishrei
Herbert Oppenheimer	22 Tishrei
Isaac Warshay	22 Tishrei

Lenore Singer	23 Tishrei 5760
Blema Beitman	24 Tishrei 5706
Eva Naiman	24 Tishrei 5713
Freida C. Brody	26 Tishrei 5701
Leo Guzik	26 Tishrei 5735
Charlotte Dubin	27 Tishrei 5768
Mirmie Ginsburg	27 Tishrei 5734
Henry A. Hollander	28 Tishrei 5725
Mary Ann Gordon	29 Tishrei 5731
Albert Greenberg	29 Tishrei 5753
Ethel Neuger	29 Tishrei 5734
Sam Tepper	29 Tishrei 5703
Sam Dworkin	30 Tishrei 5732
Marvin Dubin	30 Tishrei

HESHVAN - חשוון

Ben Tepper	2 Heshvan 5718
James Saunt	2 Heshvan 5766

A Little Taste of Nirvana

I have never won anything in a drawing, so when I won the overnight at the Shiloh's tree house in the drawing for Didi Shiloh's Bat Mitzvah, I was thrilled. I had contributed for the charity she was sponsoring, and as an afterthought, filled out the form for the drawing. I was truly amazed when she called me to tell me that my husband and I had won an overnight in their tree house.

John and I went out to their home in the country when it was dark, and just finding the driveway would have been a challenge, except that they were in front of us to light the way. Eran lit a roaring bonfire, and we gathered around it, with just the stars overhead and the candles that Caren lit for light. Sophie played the guitar, and we roasted marshmallows and relaxed until after midnight.

The tree house is accessed by winding stairs that go around a huge tree. There is a rope ladder with a trap door for the younger set, but we used the stairs. Once inside, you are surrounded by windows. One side looks over a pond, the other sides are in the treetops. The Shiloh sisters, Didi and Sophie, designed the tree house with the help of their parents. They all built it from scratch, and Eran put in electricity for lights. There are windows in case of rain.

Sleeping was very easy in the tree-house. We listened to crickets and a neighbor's rooster, and drifted off to sleep. There was a nice chill in the air, and we slept late into the morning.

Eran whipped up a wonderful breakfast for us of blueberry pancakes with blueberries that he picked that morning from their blueberry bushes, omelets to die for, vegan bacon, apples from their apple trees, and coffee.

After that, we went for a five mile hike to work it off.

Our overall impression was that the Shilohs have created a very healthy and welcoming family environment. They all appreciate and enjoy each other, and are a pleasure to be with. They are relaxed and create a relaxing and hospitable environment. We had a wonderful time, and were reminded of how much difference a warm and friendly attitude can make in bringing a bit of Shabbat perfection here on earth.

Addendum, from Caren Shiloh: The tree house raffle was a tremendous success. Didi raised about \$600.00 for the Redlight Children Campaign, which "seeks to generate conscious concern and inspire immediate action against child sexploitation. It is a worldwide grass-roots initiative whose mission is to reduce the number of children sold to the sex industry and exploited on the internet."



Eran and Sophie Shiloh, John and Lynda Siff, Didi Shiloh

Lynda Siff writes about their stay in the Shiloh's tree house.

Your Turn: *Our Members Write*

