

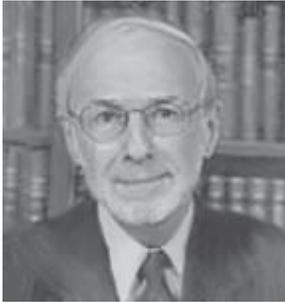


BETH EL NEWSLETTER

The Heights Synagogue

June-July 2005

אירוסיון תמוז 5765



Rabbi Moshe Adler

Notes from the Rebbe

Religion, Politics or What?

The place of religion in American political life is once again being debated. The religious right claims that it is not mixing religion and politics, but merely attempting to preserve moral values, while its opponents insist that what the religious right calls “moral values” are, in fact, religious beliefs. Nobody, it seems, wants to be perceived as mixing religion and politics.

But perhaps the question of whether or not to mix religion and politics is the wrong question. Perhaps the right question is: Does religion in fact have a role to play in the political life of a pluralistic democracy, and if so, what is that role?

As the religious right sees it, the role of religion in American politics is to write a particular interpretation of Christian doctrine into law – for example, categorically prohibiting abortion, refusing to fund stem cell research, and requiring public schools to teach a fundamentalist interpretation of Genesis in the guise of scientific theory – and to ensure a judiciary that is totally sympathetic with its views. This group characterizes those who disagree with its views as being “opposed to people of faith.”

There is, however, a different way to mix religion and politics. In the sixties and

early seventies, religious leaders like Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Dr. Martin Luther King were its chief practitioners. In the name of the G—d whom both Jews and Christians worship, they fought to have racial equality written into law, to keep workers’ rights from being written out of law, and to end a war whose purpose it was to keep a brutal but “friendly” dictatorship in power.

For religious leaders like Heschel and King, the role of religion in a democratic society is to move the state beyond “keep people from harming one another” to “justice, justice shalt thou pursue,” with emphasis on the word *pursue*.

For Jews, this goal translates into ethico-halachic terms. Religion means opposing entitlement cuts to the poor, the health-uninsured, and the elderly because the Torah makes it the community’s responsibility to keep people from being deprived of basic human needs.

Religion means opposing the weakening of pollution controls because the Torah prohibits people upstream from polluting the river and making it unfit for people downstream.

Religion means holding people like the Enron gang (remember them?) *(ctd. on p.3)*



Kabbalat Shabbat Services at 7:30 PM, the first Friday evening of each month during the summer: June 3, July 1, August 5.



Jack Valancy

President's Perspectives, June-July 2005

Opening the Door to Our Future

The Grand Opening of our new, accessible front entrance on Sunday, June 26 will celebrate more than just our building. We will be celebrating our commitment to our congregation, our faith, our neighborhood, and the Cleveland Jewish community. We demonstrate our commitment to our congregation with our time and our money. One of our congregation's founding principles is to welcome everyone to our home for worship, learning, and community.

When we considered the purchase of our building in the spring of 2003, we were concerned that many members and friends would have difficulty climbing the stairs to the sanctuary and social hall. From the beginning, our plans included an elevator. Despite the added cost, our members and friends made the financial commitment to build an accessible front entrance to our home. Our dedication impressed our friends at the Schnurmann Foundation, whose generous grant made it possible for us to obtain an elevator. Vice President Laura Gooch managed our construction project for close to two years, assuring that we received full value for every dollar.

We demonstrate our commitment to our faith with our actions. Every Saturday morning we say a prayer for all who establish synagogues and who come to worship, those who help fund the physical upkeep of our building, those who provide wine for kiddush, those who are sensitive to the needs of visitors, and those who perform acts of loving-kindness. We view each other as family, eager to share

in each other's celebrations and sorrows. Watching our children grow, caring for those in need, welcoming guests, and just enjoying each other's company strengthens our personal bonds. We are united to provide for the spiritual and administrative needs of our congregation as a whole.

We demonstrate our commitment to our neighborhood by improving our property. We replaced a Greek revival style structure grafted on to a Gothic style main building. The steep stairs were crumbling and the paint on the portico was peeling. This "front entrance" had not been used for years. We entered the synagogue through side doors. Our new, accessible front entrance is both functional and attractive. Major landscaping removed overgrown shrubs, planted new trees, and reseeded part of the lawn.

On Garden Day in mid-May, our members donated their plants and their time to landscaping our synagogue grounds. Donated materials included numerous hostas, daylilies, wood hyacinths, daffodils, ferns, bleeding hearts, fragrant hyacinths, bearded irises, ornamental grass, a lilac shrub, and lychnis. We saved thousands of dollars over having such material installed by a landscape contractor. The front of our synagogue is attractive to the eye, and the east side of the building has been transformed from an ugly pass-through to a delightful woodland path.

We demonstrate our commitment to the Cleveland Jewish community through

(continued on page 3)

QUESTIONS?
CONCERNS?
COMMENTS?
COMPLAINTS?

As always, 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: phone number and home and e-mail addresses. Send changes to Blanche Valancy, blanche@valancy.com or call her at (216) 371-1439

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 in order to open the attachment.)

(Religion, Politics or What? ctd. from page 1)

responsible for paying back the workers whose life's savings they wiped out when, knowing that the company was going belly up, they forbade them to roll their pension funds over. The Torah indentures a robber to his victim for up to six years or until he works off the loss he caused. Instead of letting the Enron gang sit in jail while their ill-gotten gains earn interest, why not force them to repay their workers or be indentured to them until the debt is worked off?

Religion means separating church and state, if for no other reason than that doing so creates a healthier climate for the exercise of religion itself. If religion's role in politics is to move the state from toleration to the active pursuit of justice, then religion's power must be not coercion, but what Heschel called "moral grandeur and spiritual audacity."

So the question is not, "Should I mix religion and politics?" The question is, "When I mix religion and politics, whose company would I rather be in, that of Abraham Joshua Heschel and Martin Luther King, or that of Meir Kahane and Pat Robertson?"

Those who choose the first option need to organize and do some effective lobbying. The sage Hillel (Mishnah Avot 1.14) said it best some two millennia ago:

If I'm not for myself, who'll be for me?
If I'm for myself alone, what am I?
And if not now, when?

P. S. If ever the secular left comes into power and begins to espouse the tactics currently used by the religious right, this particular Jew, for one, will be just as vocal in his opposition.

(Opening the Door to Our Future, ctd. from page 2)

our participation in a broad range of institutions and activities. Many of our members have deep roots here. Some of us were privileged to be part of Temple Beth El during the years it was led by beloved Rabbi David Genuth. Others of us had (and some still have) long associations with other congregations in the Heights and beyond.

When we celebrate our new, accessible front entrance, we will be opening the door to our future commitment to our congregation, our faith, our neighborhood, and the Cleveland Jewish community. Please join us for our Grand Opening on Sunday, June 26, at 2:00 PM.



You probably wouldn't like our shul.

REASON #16:

We have the wrong priorities.

We're just finishing our building renovation.

Some of it was absolute necessity: we needed a new facade to replace the crumbling stairs out front.

But we made some other choices too. The biggest one, and our biggest expense, was to build a "Shabbat elevator" so that our 70-year-old building will be accessible to all. There were other things we wanted — but we made our choice.

Not everyone can climb stairs — but everyone should be able to count in a minyan.

**If you think you might like this kind of place, give us a call.
Beth El—The Heights Synagogue. 216-320-9667.**

May 14, 2005

Gardening Day



*Carol Bruml, Emily Dennis, Laura Gooch,
Bill Bruml, Lise Moulton*

Day



Teri Tomberg plants irises.



Laura Gooch edges the beds.



*Allegra Steiger and mom, Debbie
Michelson, plant shade-loving ferns.*

Thanks for plant donations to:

- Bill and Carol Bruml
- David and Emily Dennis
- Eric Fryxell
- Linda Malik
- Debbie Michelson
- Lise Moulton
- Teri Tomberg
- Blanche and Jack Valancy

Thanks for help on Gardening Day to:

- Bill and Carol Bruml
- Frank and Jeanette Buchwald
- Mark Davidson
- Emily Dennis
- Joe, Mia and Noam Gelles
- Laura Gooch and David Kazdan
- Debbie Michelson and daughter,
Allegra Steiger
- Lise Moulton
- Teri Tomberg
- Jamie Saunt

Emily Dennis estimates that we installed several hundred dollars worth of plants on May 15. Everyone did a wonderful job to transform that completely ugly area along the east side of the building and to accent areas landscaped last fall. Huge toda rabah to all, especially to Emily for planning and organizing this event.



Jeanette Buchwald pulls weeds.



Mia Buchwald Gelles plants hostas.

Photos by David Kazdan.

Membership Notes

Stand Up and Be Counted

Your involvement, leadership, participation, and membership in **Beth El – The Heights Synagogue** are key in our blossoming congregation.

The Membership Committee's "Stand Up and Be Counted," campaign aims to increase the membership and involvement of our synagogue. It will continue through Sukkot. What does it mean to Stand Up and Be Counted? (1) We invite our friends to become members. (2) We invite our members to contribute their ideas. (3) We encourage new members to shape our congregation.

The Membership Committee has formed three subcommittees that are recruiting volunteers: (1) **New membership:** actively recruiting prospective members to join our synagogue. (2) **Welcoming:** integrating new members and encouraging them to be involved. (3) **Reinstituting:** assuring that our members' needs are being met.

I am excited about the direction of our synagogue, and the promise and efforts of the Membership Committee. We ask each person to get involved by asking a friend to attend a service, an event, or our Grand Opening celebration.

If you are interested in getting more involved with the Membership Committee or have any questions, concerns, and/or suggestions, please contact me by phone or e-mail. I look forward to meeting and getting to know you better.

Thank you,

Jeffrey Halpern
Membership Chair
jmh12@case.edu
216-321-5009

As we
express our
gratitude, we
must never
forget that
the highest
appreciation
is not
to utter
words,
but to live
by them.

John Fitzgerald
Kennedy

Adult Education at Siegal College

Summer is a Good Time to Learn Hebrew:

- Choose from a variety of courses including **learning how to read**, **conversational Hebrew**, a **study of biblical narrative**, and **learning to chant the Torah**. Classes begin on May 31.
- **Intensive Summer Ulpan** for all levels: Morning or evening hours - July 11 to August 4.
- **Hebrew on One Foot:** A six-hour Hebrew reading program on Sunday, August 23.

Call Nili Adler at 216-464-4050 ex. 116 or send e-mail to nadler@siegalcollege.edu



Sophie Ness Shiloh Will Become Bat Mitzvah



Who is Sophie Ness Shiloh? Sophie is a unique, beautiful, and spirited young woman who loves... making jewelry, sleep-overs, being vegetarian, music, animals, Judaism, babies, beaches, science, her family, Israel, gems and minerals, anatomy/physiology/biology, helping others, art, swimming, holidays, being with her friends, *Hashem*, learning new things, chocolate, facing and overcoming challenges, *lashon hatov*, Ikea, traveling, rock climbing, canoeing, horseback riding and jumping, reading, going to the movies, creativity, and the Jewish People and our Traditions.

In a beautiful act of synchronicity and *kavannah*, Sophie's love of horses, vegetarianism, and jewelry making have all come together for her Bat Mitzvah Tzedakah Project. Sophie is using her talents and energy to support the farm animal rescue and refuge, Happy Trails Farm Animal Rescue, Inc. in Ravenna, Ohio.

Happy Trails rescues abused and unwanted farm animals, including horses, cows, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, geese, ducks, etc. (They even go to horse auctions and try to outbid the slaughterhouses on horses that they believe have a good chance for rescue and adoption.) The animals receive excellent medical care, they are retrained and rehabilitated, and are adopted out to new and loving homes.

In order to raise awareness about the plight of these animals, Sophie has developed beautiful, peacock pearly bracelets with horse charms on them as gifts for her Bat Mitzvah guests. These bracelets will also be available for purchase (after Saturday) for a suggested donation of \$3.00 each (or the donation amount of your choice) and the proceeds will be donated to Happy Trails. We only have a limited number of Sophie's custom-made bracelets available; so don't miss your chance to help Sophie perform this act of *Tikkun Olam*, and raise as much money as possible for the rescue of these wonderful, loving animals!



Sophie and Travis

Please come and join us as we celebrate our simcha of Sophie Ness Shiloh becoming a Bat Mitzvah on Erev Shabbat, July 1, and on Shabbat, July 2, 2005 (24 and 25 Sivan, 5765). We wish to invite our entire Beth El-The Heights Synagogue community to join us in gratefully celebrating Sophie's embrace of the Mitzvot.

First, we'll daven Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:30 PM on Friday evening. The service will be followed by a festive Oneg Shabbat dinner in Sophie's honor.

Then, join us on Saturday morning, as Sophie and friends lead us in davening and Torah / Haftarah reading. After services on Shabbat morning, we invite everyone to join us in a celebratory extended Kiddush in honor of Sophie's Bat Mitzvah tutor, Dr. Laura Rabinowitz.

So, dear friends, come and discover new insights into the mysteries of Parashat Korach! Come and find out about Sophie's heart-warming Tikkun Olam project! Come and see the Shiloh family arrive at shul on time for Shabbat services! (Well, two out of three ain't bad!)

If the weather cooperates, there will also be an informal, vegetarian / dairy / kosher potluck picnic party at the Shiloh family home on Sunday July 3 from 4:00 PM until ??? The address is 9165 Fairmount Road in Novelty. Parking is around the corner on Watt Road, and then you'll follow the path through the woods to the Shiloh's pond. Be sure to bring yummy veggie food to share, kosher marshmallows for roasting on the fire after dark, and don't forget your bug repellent!~ Caren Shiloh



Sophie and Didi

Shavuot שבועות

On Sunday evening, June 12th we will celebrate Tikkun Leyl Shavuot together: Stay up late, drink coffee, study Torah! This year Beth El—the Heights Synagogue and Kol HaLev – the Reconstructionist Community of Cleveland are joining forces for an extraordinary Tikkun Leyl Shavuot. The study sessions begin at 7:30 PM at Beth El and continue through the night, with a break for services and dairy dinner at 9:30 PM. We will finish with a dawn Shaharit service at 5:00 AM.

Teachers include: Rabbi Moshe and Nili Adler, Rabbi Steve Segar, Rabbi Jeffrey Schein, Michael Bloom, Simcha Leavitt, Cheryl Birkner Mack, and Mark Davidson.

Dinner is free, but reservations are required. Please call Lisa at 216-397-9060 or e-mail her at lberusch@sbcglobal.net to reserve your spot or have your questions answered.

תודה!

Thanks for Maot Hittin Donations to:

Rabbi Moshe and Nili Adler
Shelley Birkner
Bill and Carol Bruml
Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck
Martin Gelfand
Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles
Laura Gooch and David Kazdan
Arthur and Susan Greenberg
Harvey and Karen Kugelman
Marilyn Malkin
Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin
Solomon Rabinovich
Nina Sobel
Ieda and Marvin Warshay
Marsha Weisberg

Your generosity helped Rabbi and Mrs. Kazen of Zemach Zedek serve Passover meals to those in need.



You probably wouldn't like our shul.

REASON #15:

We raise money the wrong way.

We've just concluded a major fundraising campaign to renovate our new/old building.

And we did it the "old-fashioned" way: we asked people to help just because it needed to be done.

No "naming opportunities." One plaque listing everyone who helped, A to Z. And a lot of people did help to make a place where we can worship together.

And a lot of pride that we did it that way.

If you think you might like this kind of place, give us a call.
Beth El—The Heights Synagogue. 216-320-9667.

NEWS FROM BETH EL

חדשות

Thanks for Donations to:

תודה!

- Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin, to the Chesed/Life Cycle Fund.
- Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin, to the General Fund.
- Michael and Shelly Bloomfield, to the Rabbi's discretionary fund.
- Michael and Shelly Bloomfield, to the kiddush fund.
- Bill and Carol Bruml, in memory of Leslie Kazdan Rolle.
- Bill and Carol Bruml, to the General Fund.
- Cedars Legacy Fund
- Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck
- Valeriy Elnatanov
- Barbara Finnemore, to the Capital Fund.
- Connie Friedman and David Shutkin, in memory of Leslie Kazdan Rolle.
- Martin Gelfand, in recognition of his Pesah Aliyah.
- Adi and Judith Gerblich, to the Chesed/Life Cycle Fund.
- Louis Gray, in memory of Esther Gray.
- Philip Marc Kirshtein, in appreciation for the wonderful hospitality of the congregation during his visit to Cleveland.
- Ari Klein and Ditte Wolin
- N.L. Klein, in memory of Naomi Wolin.
- Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin, in memory of Leslie Kazdan Rolle.
- James Saunt, in honor of Charlotte Saunt.
- Abby Nagler Sender and Steve Sender, in memory of Leslie Kazdan Rolle.
- Linda Tobin and Stephen Pepper, to the Chesed/Life Cycle Fund.
- Blanche and Jack Valancy, in memory of Leslie Kazdan Rolle.

Thanks to:

תודה!

- Nili Adler and Esther Mack for leading Kabbalat Shabbat services and Ma'ariv on Friday, May 6.

Thanks for Kiddush Sponsorships to:

תודה!

- April 6 – Andy Stone sponsored a delicious kosher l'Pesah kiddush in honor of his son, Aaron's, sixth birthday on the final day of Pesah.
- July 2 – Caren and Eran Shiloh, in honor of Sophie's Bat Mitzvah tutor, Dr. Laura Rabinowitz.

Condolences to:

ביחום אבלים

- Judy Bergman, and family. Judy's brother, David Fredman, recently passed away.
- Members Esther and Philip Kazdan, and David Kazdan and Laura Gooch who lost their dear daughter, sister, and sister-in-law, Leslie Rolle, a remarkable woman who touched many lives. Our hearts go out to our dear friends.
- Members Esther and Philip Kazdan, and David Kazdan and Laura Gooch who recently lost Esther's sister and David's aunt, Shirley M. (Markowitz) Katz.

Congratulations to:

מזל טוב!

- Abigail Lee and Jeffrey Halpern, whose aufruf will be held during Shabbat morning services on June 25. Their wedding will take place on July 17 at North Hills Synagogue in Cincinnati.
- Karen and Harvey Kugelman, on the recent marriage of Karen's daughter, Natanya Rubin, to Kyle Bice, in Champaign, Illinois.

Yasher Koah to:

ישר כוח!

- Jacob Dennis, son of Dave and Emily Dennis, whose entry in a national youth poetry contest has been selected for publication in *A Celebration of Young Poets*.
- Debby Rosenthal and Glenn Starkman, who each won one year fellowships to Oxford University. Debby was elected a Visiting Fellow to St. Catherine's College. Glenn won a Guggenheim Fellowship to Queen's College. Debby, Glenn, and their children, Nathaniel and Ariana, leave for England in July.

CALENDAR, JUNE-JULY 2005

אייר־סיון תמוז 5765

- Friday, May 27 – Lag Ba Omer ל"ג בעומר
Friday, June 3, 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat services, followed by an Oneg Shabbat Kiddush and dessert.
Monday, June 6 – Yom Yerushalayim יום ירושלים
Sunday, June 12, 7:30 PM – Tikkun Leyl Shavuot תקון ליל שבועות
(see page 7 for details). RSVP required if you plan to join us for dinner at 9:30 PM. Ends with dawn Shaḥarit at 5:00 AM.
Monday, June 13, 9:15 AM – Shavuot services שבועות
Tuesday, June 14, 9:15 AM – Shavuot services (Yizkor) שבועות
Saturday, June 25 – Abigail Lee and Jeffrey Halpern celebrate their **aufruf**, in honor of their forthcoming marriage.
Sunday, June 26, 12:00 Noon – **Annual Meeting** (members only) followed by light lunch.
2:00 PM – **Grand Opening Celebration** (see back page for details).
6:00 PM – **Yiddishe Cup** will perform at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, www.maltzjewishmuseum.org.
Friday, July 1, 7:30 PM – **Kabbalat Shabbat**, followed by an Oneg Shabbat dinner, sponsored by the Shiloh family, in honor of Sophie Ness Shiloh's Bat Mitzvah.
Saturday, July 2 – **Sophie Ness Shiloh will become Bat Mitzvah**. Kiddush will be sponsored by the Shiloh family, in honor of Sophie's Bat Mitzvah tutor, Dr. Laura Rabinowitz.
Sunday, July 24 – **Fast of 17th of Tammuz**.
Friday, August 5, 7:30 PM – **Kabbalat Shabbat** services, followed by an Oneg Shabbat Kiddush and dessert.
Saturday, August 6 – **Dan Price and Bonnie Diamond will celebrate their aufruf**, in honor of their forthcoming marriage.
Saturday, August 13, 9:30 PM – **Erev Tisha B'av**, reading of Eicha (Lamentations)
Sunday, August 14, 9:00 AM – **Tisha B'av minyan** צום תשעה באב

Annual Meeting

Members are cordially invited to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 26, at 12:00 Noon. A light lunch will follow. Baby sitting will be provided.

Paid-up members in good standing have received the slate of Officers and Board Members in the mail. Please call the synagogue office at 216-320-9667 if you have questions about your membership status.

We hope all members will stay for the Grand Opening of our new, fully accessible front entrance at 2:00 PM.

Volunteer to Help Make Our Grand Opening Grand!

Volunteers are still needed to make our grand opening a success.

In particular, we need teens or adults who would be willing to help with children's activities, and others willing to act as hosts to non-member guests.

Please contact Emily Dennis at 216-589-0663 or glendennis@rmrc.net if you are able to help.

What's Going On?

June-July 2005

איר סיון תמוז 5765

BETH EL
The Heights Synagogue



GRAND OPENING

SUNDAY, JUNE 26 2:00 PM

The ceremonies will be held outdoors,
by the new entrance to the shul
(unless it rains, in which case we will retreat to the sanctuary).

Brief speeches from the Rabbi and a few Board
members, will be followed by
a gala dessert reception in the social hall.

Children's activities will include:
face painting, games, and crafts.