



# BETH EL NEWSLETTER

## The Heights Synagogue

August 2005

5765 סיון אב



*Rabbi Moshe Adler*

Notes from the Rebbe

## Radio Days

Like many people, I turn to public radio for timely, balanced news reportage and analysis. Yet, when I felt that NPR was exhibiting a distinct bias in favor of the Palestinians over Israel, I was among those who brought pressure to bear on it for the purpose of getting it to restore balance. What I wanted was not for NPR to replace the anti-Israel bias with an anti-Palestinian bias, but to present the viewpoints of both sides equally and articulately. For now, I'm satisfied that balance has been largely restored.

Certain spokespersons for America's conservatives feel that the media exhibit a distinct liberal bias. But rather than seek to ensure balanced presentation of both the liberal and the conservative viewpoints, they seek to turn NPR into the administration's house organ. If these people get their way,

public radio will speak uniformly with the self-righteous, bullying voice of the true believer.

If all the media supposedly exhibit a liberal bias, why do these spokespersons target NPR? It is because these particular spokespersons happen to be part of the current administration, and they control NPR's budget. An attempt to starve NPR into submission, and replace its staff with hand-picked ultra-conservatives, is clearly part of a larger plan to ensure that the voice of the far right is the only one heard over the air.

No political or religious group, of whatever stripe, must be allowed to put a lock-hold on all three branches of government and on the media. It sets the country on a course toward oligarchy. If we Jews have learned anything over the past two millennia, and particularly in the twentieth century, it is that when a society becomes monolithic, it becomes a dangerous place to live.

It is not a question of whether one is a liberal or a conservative. It is a question of whether pluralism will survive. Only in an atmosphere of pluralism can ideologies and religions hold the civil public discourse that characterizes freedom and makes possible a healthy and enriching exchange of ideas.

And that, by the way, is another thing we Jews have learned on our travels: nobody has a monopoly on truth.





*Jack Valancy*

# Celebration and Change

When Temple Beth El started in 1949, Rabbi Genuth and its founding members changed what had come before. When Heights Synagogue started almost 50 years later, its founding members changed what had come before. When the two congregations began worshipping together in the fall of 1998, and later merged to form **Beth El – The Heights Synagogue**, Rabbi Adler and our members guided our evolution, subtly changing what had come before.

permanent home for close to two years. We should be seeing a flood of new faces, a steady stream of new members, and a deep pool of established members. We can do this if we offer an experience that is both consistent with our shared core values and an attractive alternative for the greater Cleveland Jewish community. If we're so good, how come we're not better?

To learn how we must change, we are currently surveying our members. Our Board will consider its findings, develop recommendations, and present them to our members in a town hall meeting in September. Here is what each of us can do between now and September's town hall meeting:

1. **Volunteer your time.** Everybody can do something. As preparations for our Grand Opening celebration showed, many hands make light work.
2. **Pay your dues promptly.** You should have received your membership renewal statement in early July. We hope you completed and returned it by now. If not, please take a few minutes to do so today.
3. **Complete and return your membership survey.** Members received membership surveys with their membership renewal statements. Please complete and return it if you have not done so already.
4. **Bring your friends.** Think they might not like what we do? Then please return your member survey so we can learn how to do it better.

Let us continue to work together to make **Beth El – The Heights Synagogue** more attractive to more people by changing in ways consistent with our shared core values. Let us apply our creativity, energy, and judgment. Let us continue to work together to build our enduring home for worship, learning, and community. Let us celebrate what we have accomplished, and what we have yet to accomplish!

On June 26, we celebrated the Grand Opening of our new accessible front entrance. Together, we have accomplished a lot since our early days on folding metal chairs at the Mayfield JCC.

When we got padded chairs, we thought we had arrived! We learned how to:

- Conduct services every Shabbat morning
- Prepare a Kiddush every Shabbat morning
- Arrange babysitting
- Present adult education programs
- Organize children's programs
- Welcome the community to our High Holy Day Services
- Throw great parties!

Early on, we decided that we needed a permanent home, and two years ago, we voted to acquire our building. Our building, our synagogue, has enabled us to accomplish so much more, so much more easily. Our sanctuary is bright, comfortable, and has good acoustics. We have a commercial kosher kitchen and social hall for simchas, educational programs, and social events.

Although we have accomplished much, we must continue to change in ways consistent with our shared core values. We need more members to balance our budget, hire staff, and expand our programs.

We have been worshipping together for close to seven years, as **Beth El – The Heights Synagogue** for more than five years, and in our

QUESTIONS?  
CONCERNS?  
COMMENTS?  
COMPLAINTS?  
As always, please do not hesitate to contact your President by e-mail [president@bethelheights.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:news@bethelheights.org) (You must have the free Acrobat Reader in order to open the attachment.)

# Thanks to Our Board

By Jack Valancy, President

Our elected Board members work together to guide our congregation. At our Annual Meeting on June 26, we thanked departing and continuing Board members for their service, and welcomed new Board members.

Please do not hesitate to contact individual Board members or me with your questions, comments, concerns, or complaints. Their telephone numbers and email addresses appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

## Departing Board Members

**Adi Gerblich**, At Large. We appreciate Adi's thoughtful participation. Adi was on our Board from its inception, and has well represented the views of "original" Beth El members.

**Karen Kugelman**, served as Chair of our Membership committee until stepping down earlier this year. Karen was present at the creation of Beth El - The Heights Synagogue. In fact, you could call her our congregation's midwife. She has been a true friend ever since.

## Continuing Board Members

**Laura Gooch**, Treasurer. Laura is moving from Vice President and the project manager of our building and construction activities. We appreciate her grasp of the details. For the past two years, Laura has been the Project Manager for our new accessible front entrance.

**Michael Bloom**, At Large. Michael's keen insights and sharp sense of humor make our Board meetings productive and fun. He's also a very hot piano player.

**Fern Grunberger**, Secretary. Fern prepares detailed minutes of our Board meetings and shares her perspectives on all matters that come before the Board. She also maintains the congregation's comprehensive schedule.

**Lisa Berusch**, Ritual. Lisa has done innumerable things for our congregation, including serving as Beth El - The Heights Synagogue's first president. For the past year Lisa has been organizing our services and, together with the Rabbi, has been taking care of all matters ritual.

**Mia Buchwald Gelles**, Adult Education. Mia has organized an extraordinarily effective committee that presents a wide variety of educational programs. The Board values her astute observations and thoughtful recommendations.

**Mark Davidson**, Child and Teen Programming. Mark and his committee have significantly expanded our children's programming this year. We enjoy having Mark on the Board.

**Emily Dennis**, Development. Emily thinks about Beth El - The Heights Synagogue night and day, often posting email messages in the wee hours of the morning. Emily gets things done, like organizing our Grand Opening celebration.

**Robin Dubin**, At Large. Robin actively participates in Board deliberations and decisions. She regularly sees novel solutions to our problems

**Jeff Halpern**, Membership. Jeff assumed responsibility for the

Membership committee earlier this year. He and his committee have organized and expanded our efforts to recruit and retain members. He brings energy and enthusiasm to our Board meetings.

**Celia Jennings**, Communications. Celia and her committee have organized, improved, and expanded our congregation's internal and external communications. Celia also facilitated our recent Board Retreat.

**Marilyn Malkin**, At Large. Marilyn actively participates in Board deliberations and decisions. She helps refine and polish our solutions, sometimes by applying her professional skills as a psychologist!

**Bill Schmitt**, At Large. Bill has volunteered his time since the early days of Heights Synagogue. Most recently, he has devoted untold hours on building repairs. Bill articulately and passionately participates in Board deliberations and decisions.

**Scott Wachter**, moves from chair of the Chesed committee to a new term filling an At Large Board seat. **Scott and Beth Wachter** have done a terrific job co-chairing the Chesed committee for the past several years. They quickly and sensitively respond to our members and friends in need. Most recently, Scott organized our Board Retreat.

**Ditte Wolin**, House and Operations. Ditte runs our building every day. She rolls up her sleeves and tackles the 1,001 jobs that need to be done. Ditte actively participates in Board deliberations and decisions.

## Incoming Board Members

**Leon Gabinet**, Vice President. Leon is a pillar of our congregation. He served as President of Temple Beth El for many years, is a past Vice President of our Board as well. Leon's knowledge and wisdom will continue to guide our congregation.

**Cheryl Birkner Mack**, Chesed. Cheryl is returning to the Board after a one year absence. We welcome the return of her warm sense of humor and perspectives at our Board meetings

**Merry Lugasy**, Social. Merry has volunteered her time since the early days of Heights Synagogue. She is a long-standing member of the Beth El Usher Corp. Where there's work to be done, you'll find Merry at work with a smile on her face. We look forward to working with her as a member of our Board.

Finally, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as our congregation's President. It is truly a labor of love.

# NEWS FROM BETH EL

# חדשות



With help from daughter Didi, Caren Shiloh puts the finishing touches on the Tree of Life that graces the new entrance to the sanctuary, and on the Donor Recognition Tree, which recognizes the over 145 donors to the synagogue's capital fund. Hundreds of hours went into these artistic creations, which Caren donated in honor of daughter Sophie's recent bat mitzvah, and in honor of Sophie's tutor for the occasion, Dr. Laura Rabinowitz. Read more in the September newsletter about how Caren created this beautiful addition to our new entryway!

## Condolences to:

ביחום אבלים

- Laura Gooch and family. Laura's father, Robert Sheafe Gooch Z"L, recently passed away.

## Thanks to:

תודה!

- Nili Adler, for coordinating the lovely dinner that followed Kabbalat Shabbat services on June 3.

## Mazel Tov to:

מזל טוב!

- Bonnie Diamond and Dan Price, whose aufruf will be held during Shabbat morning services on August 6.
- Naomi Klarreich and Daniel Shapiro on the birth of their daughter, Ida Levana Shapiro, who was born June 17.

## Yasher Koach to:

י"שר כוח!

- Kate Fairman, our congregational babysitter, who graduated from Beaumont High School. Kate plans to attend Cleveland State University next year. We will miss her pleasant manner and excellent care of our children.
- Sara Greenberg, daughter of Mickey and Sue Greenberg, who graduated from Beachwood High School. Sara plans to spend the coming year in Israel.
- Abigail Lee, who recently earned dual B.A.s from Columbia University in Art History and Visual Arts and from Jewish Theological Seminary in Jewish Art and Visual Culture.

## Thanks for Kiddush Sponsorships to: תודה!

- July 2 – Caren and Eran Shiloh, in honor of daughter Sophie's Bat Mitzvah tutor, Dr. Laura Rabinowitz.
- July 9 – Frank and Jeanette Buchwald co-sponsored Kiddush in honor of Shani Gelles' birthday.
- July 9 – Naomi Klarreich and Daniel Shapiro co-sponsored Kiddush in honor of daughter Ida Levana Shapiro's baby naming.
- July 16 – Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck
- August 6 – Charlotte Price will sponsor Kiddush in honor of the aufruf of her son, Daniel Price, and his fiancée, Bonnie Diamond.

## Thanks for help with general cleanup for the Grand Opening to: תודה!

- Bill Bruml
- Connie Friedman
- Marty Gelfand
- Laura Gooch
- Merry Lugasy
- Marilyn Malkin
- Debbie Michelson
- Marvin Palevsky
- Lisa, Joe and Maggie Berusch
- Frank and Jeanette Buchwald
- Mia Buchwald Gelles
- Ari Klein and Ditte Wolin
- Karen and Sonny Kugelman

**Thanks for Donations to:** תודה!

- Kenneth Bardach, in honor of Jack and Blanche Valancy
- Bill and Carol Bruml, in memory of Laura Gooch's father, Robert Sheafe Gooch Z"L
- Frank and Jeanette Buchwald, in memory of Sam and Sylvia Auerbach Z"L
- Laura Gooch, for landscape maintenance items
- Gabi Hays
- Claire and Matthew Lee, in honor of wedding of Abigail Lee and Jeffrey Halpern
- Thelma Oshuns
- James Saunt, in honor of Charlotte Saunt
- Arielle, Avi, Eva Small, in memory of Meyer Goldberg Z"L
- Debbie and Ed Small, to the Rabbi's discretionary fund
- Blanche and Jack Valancy, in memory of Shirley Katz Z"L
- Beth and Scott Wachter, to the Chesed Committee
- Ieda and Marvin Warshay, in honor of Gerson Carr's birthday
- Ieda and Marvin Warshay, in appreciation of the Adult Education program and in thanks for the Lunch and Learn sessions
- Ali and Mark Weber
- Patricia and Stuart Zolten, for the gift of daffodils for our garden

**Thanks for Donations in Memory of Leslie Kazdan Rolle Z"L to:** תודה!

- Joel and Julie Rabin Falck
- Adi and Judith Gerblich
- Esther and Philip Kazdan

**Thanks for help with painting the front stairwell floor to:**

- Bill and Carol Bruml
- Nissim Lugasy
- Laura Gooch
- Marvin Palevsky

**Thanks for help with yard care and with watering and weeding our plantings to:** תודה!

- Bill Bruml
- Lise Moulton
- Emily Dennis
- Ditte Wolin
- Connie Friedman and David Shutkin
- Laura Gooch

**Thanks for help with food preparation for the lunch that followed the Annual Meeting and also for the Grand Opening Dessert Reception to:** תודה!

- Shelly Costa Bloomfield
- Merry Lugasy
- Aaron Dennis
- Marvin Palevsky
- Judith Gerblich

**Thanks for Grand Opening Photography to:** תודה!

- Carol Bruml
- David Kazdan
- Laura Gooch
- Blanche Valancy

**Thanks with help with Grand Opening children's activities to:**

- Steve Rejack/Big Zev (Valancy)
- Beth, Scott, and Finia Gellman (Wachter)
- Mark Davidson
- Debbie Michelson
- David Dennis
- David Shutkin
- Joe Buchwald Gelles
- Zev Valancy
- Karen Kugelman
- Laura and Marty Rabinowitz

**Thanks for Grand Opening entertainment to:** תודה!

- Nili Adler, Abigail Lee and the Beth El Children's Choir
- Michael Bloom

**Thanks for staffing the Membership Table at the Grand Opening to:** תודה!

- Jeff Halpern
- Marilyn Malkin

**Thanks for after-Grand-Opening cleanup help to:** תודה!

- Connie Friedman
- Karen Kugelman

**Special thanks to:** תודה רבה!

Marvin Palevsky for buffing the floors and for catering.



*Sophie Shiloh adds leaves to the mural in the foyer.*

# Yahrzeits

## JUNE 4 TO JUNE 10 26 IYAR TO 3 SIVAN

Aaron Schneider 26 Iyar  
Nathan Valancy 26 Iyar  
Miriam Zaremsky 27 Iyar  
Mollie Davis 28 Iyar  
Rachel Barazone 28 Iyar  
Bessie Stashower Fredman 29 Iyar

Anna Weinberger 29 Iyar  
Clara Kord 29 Iyar  
Isaac Genuth 29 Iyar  
Elka Genuth 29 Iyar  
Goldie Lederer 9 Iyar  
Ernest Gelfand 9 Iyar  
Anna Krasny 2 Sivan  
Anna Gutentag 2 Sivan  
Celia Jacobs 3 Sivan  
Sadie Rocker 3 Sivan

## JUNE 11 TO JUNE 17 4 SIVAN TO 10 SIVAN

Violet Saunt 4 Sivan  
Anna Davidson 4 Sivan  
Abe Morris Abelkop 4 Sivan  
Reuben Schutz 7 Sivan  
Clara Newman 10 Sivan

## JUNE 18 TO JUNE 24 11 SIVAN TO 17 SIVAN

Adolph Stern 11 Sivan  
Esther Frumker 11 Sivan  
Arnie Swertloff 11 Sivan  
Anna Miliniski 12 Sivan  
Naomi Wolin 12 Sivan  
Lester Sender 13 Sivan  
Henry Lipoff 14 Sivan  
Jennie Zavell 15 Sivan  
Max Naiman 15 Sivan  
Minnie Russack 16 Sivan  
Jacob Haskell 17 Sivan

## JUNE 25 TO JULY 1 18 SIVAN TO 24 SIVAN

Louis Noll 18 Sivan  
Max Krasny 18 Sivan  
Wendy Kushner 19 Sivan  
Nathaniel Starkman 19 Sivan  
Ann Shalwitz Bloom 19 Sivan  
John Samuels 19 Sivan  
Harry Rock 19 Sivan  
Samuel Booker 20 Sivan  
Frieda Gavurin 20 Sivan  
Sarah Horwitz 21 Sivan  
Joseph H. Klein 23 Sivan

## JULY 2 TO JULY 8 25 SIVAN TO 1 TAMMUZ

Sadie Strayer 27 Sivan  
Herman Brody 27 Sivan  
Ida Abrams Lewis 28 Sivan  
Penina Bloom 30 Sivan

## JULY 9 TO JULY 15

### 2 TAMMUZ TO 8 TAMMUZ

Max S. Brown 5 Tammuz  
Max Eisenbert 5 Tammuz 5727  
Morris Greenstein 6 Tammuz  
Hyman Kirschner 6 Tammuz  
Pauline Lipoff 7 Tammuz  
Sally Noll 7 Tammuz 5733  
Norton Noll 8 Tammuz

## JULY 16 TO JULY 22

### 9 TAMMUZ TO 15 TAMMUZ

Jaqueline Bruder Zucker 9 Tammuz 5728  
Sam Math 9 Tammuz 5727  
Bernard D. Friedlander 11 Tammuz 5733  
Samuel Lederman 15 Tammuz 5737

## JULY 23 TO JULY 29

### 16 TAMMUZ TO 22 TAMMUZ

Elsie Frank Birkner 17 Tammuz  
Blume Zavelowitz 17 Tammuz 5685  
Rose Schenkelman 18 Tammuz 5725  
Sara Gabinet 19 Tammuz  
Esther Zavelowitz 19 Tammuz 5727  
Rose Maremont 20 Tammuz  
Jeffrey Landis 20 Tammuz  
Pearl Siegler 22 Tammuz  
Wolf Sender 22 Tammuz

## JULY 30 TO AUGUST 5 23 TAMMUZ TO 29 TAMMUZ

Goldie Malamud 23 Tammuz 5726  
Siegfried Dick 24 Tammuz 5724  
Abe Kaplan 24 Tammuz 5729  
Irene Friedlander 24 Tammuz 5728  
Laille Gabinet 25 Tammuz 5764  
Isaac Keller 25 Tammuz 5715  
Fannie Kritzer 25 Tammuz 5735  
Tillie Bertman 28 Tammuz 5740  
Morley Glin 28 Tammuz 5736  
Harry M. Newman 29 Tammuz 5726  
Harry Soliton 29 Tammuz 5721

## AUGUST 6 TO AUGUST 12 1 AV TO 7 AV

Michael Sidney Lampel 1 Av 5729  
Gutel Simon 2 Av 5723  
Louis Sobel 3 Av 5710  
Joseph Meyer Dubin 5 Av  
Fanny Wachter and Children 6 Av 5704

## AUGUST 13 TO AUGUST 19

### 8 AV TO 14 AV

Joseph Oshuns 10 Av 5756  
Joe Neuger 11 Av 5754  
Hanna Tepper 11 Av 5700  
Sarah Fried Weiss 12 Av 5723  
Marcia L. Jacobs 14 Av 5734

## AUGUST 20 TO AUGUST 26

### 15 AV TO 21 AV

Harry Tinman 15 Av 5729  
Norman Paul Glanz 16 Av 5723  
Sarah Blume Levine 16 Av 5737  
Ida Greenstein 18 Av 5728  
Lena Freed 19 Av 5726  
Morris Ginsberg 19 Av 5732  
Esther Ann Farachi 20 Av 5739

## AUGUST 27 TO SEPTEMBER 2

### 22 AV TO 28 AV

Joseph D. Klein 23 Av 5718  
Samuel Messerman 24 Av 5748  
Sadie Landesman 27 Av 5720  
Dr. David Russack\* 27 Av 5743

# CALENDAR, AUGUST 2005

5765 סיון אב

Friday, August 5, 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat services

Saturday, August 6 – Bonnie Diamond and Dan Price celebrate their **aufruf**, in honor of their forthcoming marriage. Kiddush will be sponsored by Charlotte Price in their honor.

Saturday, August 13, 9:30 PM – Erev Tisha B'Av services, with reading of Eicha (Lamentations)

Sunday, August 14 – Fast of Tisha B'Av צום תשעה באב

9:00 AM – Tisha B'Av minyan

Friday, September 2, 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat services

Sunday, September 11 – Congregational Picnic – Time and Location TBA

Tuesday, October 11 – Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage grand opening community-wide celebration

## Welcome, New Members! ברוכים הבאים

New members, Sue and Mickey Greenberg have come to BethEl–The Heights Synagogue because they “liked the service.” They were looking for a traditional service where the Hebrew was easily understandable and easy to follow, “where people don’t mumble.” They are always looking for opportunities to learn and at their old synagogue, they participated in a study group for 10 years, both leading and learning from others. Over the years, they have become more traditional and observant, which led them to look for a more traditional and participatory service. They are looking forward to becoming involved in the learning opportunities at BE-THS.

Sue is a pharmacist who is interested in alternative medicine and Mickey is a trained chemical engineer who has managed technical businesses. He is presently looking to buy a business. They have two children: Jacob, who is married and lives in Kansas City; and Sarah, who just graduated from Beachwood High School and is going to Israel for a year to study, prior to entering college. Mickey is a passionate bike rider who rode 50 miles the morning of the grand opening of our building and still didn’t fall asleep during any of the speeches. They are looking forward to meeting everyone.



Nili Adler rehearses the Children's Choir Before the Grand Opening Ceremonies.

*At first*

*dreams*

*seem*

*impossible,*

*then*

*improbable,*

*then*

*inevitable.*

Christopher Reeve

**Beth El – The Heights Synagogue  
Board and Committee Contacts  
August 2005**

Name	Position	E-Mail	Phone
<b>Board Members</b>			
<b>Officers:</b>			
Jack Valancy	President	president@bethelheights.org	216-371-1439
Leon Gabinet	Vice-President	lxg5@po.cwru.edu	216-751-7444
Fern Grunberger	Secretary and Scheduling	fernnette@aol.com	216-321-8570
Laura Gooch	Treasurer	lgooch@alum.mit.edu	216-932-1002
<b>Committee Chairs:</b>			
Lisa Berusch	Ritual	lberusch@sbcglobal.net	216-397-9060
Mark Davidson	Child and Teen Programming	markyosef@sbcglobal.net	216-295-1715
Emily Dennis	Development	glendennis@rmrc.net	216-589-0663
Mia Buchwald Gelles	Adult Education	miabgelles@gmail.com	216-321-7134
Jeff Halpern	Membership	jeffrey.halpern@case.edu	216-321-5009
Celia Jennings	Communications	celiakjenn@aol.com	216-991-6704
Cheryl Birkner Mack	Chesed	cbm55@juno.com	216-932-2579
Ditte Wolin	House and Operations	adwolin@dasa93.net	216-932-9907
Merry Lugasy	Social	mlugasy@core.com	216-397-9305
<b>At-Large:</b>			
Michael Bloom	At-Large	mbloom4@adelphia.net	440-442-1359
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Marilyn Malkin	At-Large	mxm74@po.cwru.edu	216-932-1949
Bill Schmitt	At-Large	schmittcle@aol.com	216-595-0003
Scott Wachter	At-Large	wachter@nacs.net	(216) 932-5964
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Rabbi Moshe Adler		moshetzvi@earthlink.net	216-381-4480
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Carol Bruml	Newsletter	news@bethelheights.org	216-932-9155
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Open	Sponsored kiddushes		

*Please save this list for future reference.*