



BETH EL NEWSLETTER

The Heights Synagogue

September 2017

אלול 5777 / תשרי 5778

CO-PRESIDENTS



ROBIN DUBIN



BUD STERN



To the entire
BE-THS family:
L'shanah tovah
tikatevu -
May you be
written down for
a good year.

The Incredible Shrinking Human Being?

As the month of Elul comes, and we begin our spiritual preparations for the High Holy Days, it can be instructive to look at Psalm 90, familiar to us as part of the Shabbat morning service.

In this psalm, entitled "A Prayer of Moses, the Man of God," we hear the greatest of the prophets expressing humankind's awareness of its own fragility and mortality. "You turn man back into dust, saying, 'Return, O mortals!'" (Psalms 90:3).

Our Sages, of blessed memory, also heard another message in these words, lingering there like an overtone: "You give human beings leave to shrink as small as dust, calling to them, 'Come back, O mortals!'" (Talmud, P'sahim 54a).

Our very humanness makes us prone not only to physical but also to moral and ethical degeneration. Awareness of our condition puts us in danger of despair – of thinking that we are unregenerate. As Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur approach, we may find ourselves saying, "Who am I kidding? I'll confess, I'll repent, and then I'll just go out and do the same thing again. It's all a charade."

That is when we need to listen to the

midrashic overtone in Moses' words: No matter how small you've shrunk, you can grow back to your full size: "Come back, O mortals!" The Hebrew for "come back" is "shuvu," from the same root as the word "v'shuvah," which means repentance, returning.

In the story of the spies sent by Moses to scout out the land, they return to camp and lament, "All the people that we saw in it are men of great size. We saw the titans there – veritable giants of the titan race – and we looked like grasshoppers to ourselves, and so we looked to them" (Numbers 13:33). They seem to be saying, "Because we looked so small to ourselves, they looked so big to us."

As the psalm that speaks in Moses' voice assures us, we can never shrink so small that God will stop calling us back. The struggle against our own pettiness, indifference, or despair can make those internal foes appear much bigger than they are, and thus make us appear much smaller than we are. But our Creator doesn't see us that way.

As we ready ourselves for a new year, we can resolve to stop getting small and to grow to our full moral and ethical (continued on page 6)

Beth El - The Heights Synagogue builds vibrant Jewish community.

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

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



Contact Information

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?
COMMENTS? COMPLAINTS?
Please do not hesitate to contact the Presidents by e-mail president@bethelheights.org or telephone
Robin (216) 382-8848
Bud (216) 991-7383

HELP US STAY IN TOUCH!
Please be sure we have your current contact information. Send changes to info@bethelheights.org or call (216) 320-9667

KEEP UP WITH THE NEWS!
JOIN THE BE-THS LISTS!
Send an e-mail to Mick Miller, mick@mickmill.com, if you need help with signing up.

Preparation for the High Holy Days

A book written by Alan Lew called “This is Real...”¹ begins, “You are walking through the world half-asleep.” You never question who you are or how or why you got here. “Suddenly conscious of your estrangement,” you hear a great horn sound, “calling you to remembrance, but all you can remember is how much you have forgotten.”

In this way, Rabbi Alan Lew begins his book about the long sequence of the Days of Awe. When we listen to the shofar “blasts” in the sanctuary, do we think about what a nice job the “blower” did, or how proud we are that David, or our grandson, or Shmuel has learned to do this? Or do we think of the message of these shofar calls?

Do I examine my life in terms of good vs. evil, or “I’m sorry for what I have done.” Or do I ask some big questions:

1. What do I value? – not the short answer version.
2. What is my life about?
3. Whose lives can I make better by what I do this coming year?
4. What experiences, what commitments, really matter to me?

Go ahead, Self, take a couple of weeks to think about this.

Shanah Tovah

Bud Stern, Co-President

¹ Alan Lew: *This is Real and You are Completely Unprepared*. Little, Brown. 2003.

Ice Cream Social

Each year, at the end of the summer, we have been hosting an ice cream social, free to the surrounding residential community. Why? It is essential that the Beth El – The Heights Synagogue community reach out and maintain, refresh, and make new friendships with our neighbors. This year, the ice cream social will be on Sunday, August 27, 2:00 to 4:00 PM.

Are you willing to help with this P.R. effort? We can use volunteers to help with preparing for the social, and/or with the clean up afterward. Contact Scott Wachter, at 216-932-5964 or wachter@nacs.net, if you’re willing to assist. It would be greatly appreciated!

High Holy Day Tickets

By now all members should have received their tickets in the mail. If for some reason you did not receive them, please call or email the synagogue office. Make sure to leave your mailing address as well as your phone number and email if they have changed. Remember that complimentary tickets are available to your friends, guests, and family. They need only call or email the synagogue to request them: (216) 320-9667 or info@bethelheights.org.

Polly Wilkenfeld

NEWS FROM BETH EL

חדשות

Yasher Koah to:

- **Joel Genuth and Saul Genuth** – Joel's daughter and Saul's granddaughter, Miriam Genuth has earned a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of California at San Francisco.
- **Ieda Warshay and Marvin Warshay z"l**, whose grandson Ari Ross, son of Susan Warshay and Jay Ross, graduated from Northwestern University on June 16 with a double major in Sports Journalism and Economics.

Thanks for Contributions to: **תודה!**

- **Rabbi Moshe Adler**, in honor of Rabbi Alan Lettofsky's milestone birthday.
- **Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand**, in thanks for an Aliyah on July 22.
- **Deborah and Howard Bobrow**, in thanks for helping them celebrate her father, Rabbi Alan Lettofsky's, milestone birthday.
- **Molly Brudnick**, in honor of the marriage of Erin Rocchio and Becky Schur.
- **Molly Brudnick**, in memory of her brother, Hyman Morris Brudnick z"l.
- **Molly Brudnick**, in memory of her mother, Mary Feingold Brudnick z"l.
- **Bill and Carol Bruml**, towards our membership in Greater Cleveland Congregations.
- **Bill and Carol Bruml**, in memory of Marvin Warshay z"l.
- **Cedars Legacy Fund**, toward repayment of BE-THS' loan from the city of Cleveland Heights.
- **Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck**, in memory of Joseph Dubin z"l.
- **Roberta Feinstein**, in honor of Lenny Tracht's milestone birthday, from his Yiddish class.
- **Ilene Gertman**
- **Laura Gooch and David Kazdan**, in honor of the marriage of Erin Rocchio and Becky Schur.

- **Craig and Janet Hoffman**
- **Sharona Hoffman and Andy Podgurski**
- **Alan Lerner and Erica New**
- **Cheryl Birkner Mack and Eric Mack**, in memory of Marvin Warshay z"l.
- **Gary and Marilyn Magden**, in memory of Joseph Magden z"l.
- **Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin**, in memory of Marvin Warshay z"l.
- **Adam and Samantha Probst**
- **Juliana Sadock Savino**, to the Kiddush Fund
- **Arnold Stone**, in memory of his mother, Helen Sonnenstein z"l.
- **Betty and Kevin Trangle**, in memory of Bronia Gerblich z"l.
- **Blanche and Jack Valancy**, in memory of Marvin Warshay z"l.
- **Beth and Scott Wachter**

Thanks to: **תודה!**

- **Jack Valancy**, who used his photography skills to provide us with a new and much-improved photo of co-president Bud Stern for the newsletter.

Thanks for Kiddush Sponsorship to:

- **AUGUST 12** – **Bill and Carol Bruml and Bruce and Judie Amsel**, in honor of the Brumls' 45th wedding anniversary.
- **SEPTEMBER 2** – **Elyse Sloane Felber and Steve Felber and Pam Kitts**, in honor of the Aufruf for Cayce Felber and Nathan Kitts and their wedding the next day.

Thanks for July Simcha Kiddush Contributions to: **תודה!**

- **Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck**, in honor of their July anniversary.
- **Lowell and Marsha Katz**, in honor of a July birthday.
- **Juliana Sadock Savino**, in honor of Fred Cumberworth's July birthday.

The future is not some place we are going, but one we are creating.

The paths are not to be found, but made.

And the activity of making them changes both the maker and their destination.

John Schaar

CALENDAR, SEPTEMBER 2017

5778 תשרי / 5777 אלול

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

AFTER SERVICES: Monthly Simcha Kiddush: Celebrate with us some of the happy events that our members have shared this month.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

2:00 TO 4:00 PM – **Neighborhood Ice Cream Social:** All are welcome to partake, or to help. Contact Scott Wachter, wachter@nacs.net or (216) 256-3723, if you would like to volunteer.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Aufruf for Cayce Felber and Nathan Kitts, whose wedding will take place the following day.
Nathan Kitts will give the d'var Torah.

AFTER SERVICES: Kiddush will be sponsored by Elyse Sloane Felber and Steve Felber and by Pam Kitts, in honor of the Aufruf for Cayce Felber and Nathan Kitts and in honor of their wedding the next day.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

12:00 NOON TO 4:00 PM – **Gross Schechter Totally Kosher Rib Burn-Off** at the Gross Schechter Day School campus, 27601 Fairmount Boulevard, Pepper Pike 44124. BE-THS will have a booth there.
(See page 6 and contact Sherry Ball, if you are willing to volunteer at our booth!)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

6:30 PM – **Kabbalat Shabbat** services will begin a two-part series of sessions designed to Make Your Days of Awe Awesome! The services will include learning with Barry Starr, “Not Perfect, but Awakened: The Liturgy of Rosh HaShanah.” Services will be followed about 7:40 pm by a pescatarian (vegetarian-friendly) dinner, bentsching, continued learning with Barry, and singing. Prepaid reservations requested by September 5.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Polly Wilkenfeld will give the d'var Torah.

After services: Lunch and Learn with Barry Starr, will continue the “Make your Days of Awe Awesome!” theme. Topic is: “Not Perfect but Forgiven: The Liturgy of Yom Kippur.”

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

9:30 TO 11:30 AM – **Jewish Federation of Cleveland's Fall Cemetery Cleanup.** *See page 5 for details.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Alan Lerner will give the d'var Torah

11:00 TO 11:45 AM – **Shabbat Playdate:** Songs and stories for children ages 7 and under in the Childcare Room.
9:00 – **Selihot, at the home of Zachary Lerner**, 1808 Radnor Road, Cleveland Heights 44118.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 THROUGH SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

SEE HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE FOR SCHEDULES OF SERVICES AND CANDLE-LIGHTING TIMES.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

AFTER SERVICES – Monthly Simcha Kiddush: Celebrate with us some of the happy events that our members have shared this month.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:30 AM TO 12:00 NOON – **Sukkah Frame Construction.** Help needed, but adults only, please. Bring work gloves and tools such as power screwdrivers, short ladders.

Jewish Federation of Cleveland Fall Cemetery Cleanup

A meaningful volunteer event for all ages! Bring your weed trimmers, shovels, clippers, hedgers, gloves, wheelbarrows, and other gardening tools. Together, we will rake, prune, and spruce up the cemetery grounds in time for the Jewish holy days.

Shaimos (holy writings, words of Torah, and Holy Objects) will be collected at the cemetery during the Cemetery Cleanup and subsequently buried at the cemetery as a sign of reverence and respect, according to Jewish law.

SEPTEMBER 10, 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Chesed Shel Emeth, 3740 Ridge Road, Cleveland, OH 44114

Learn More and Register (please register by September 6):

http://www.jewishcleveland.org/news/upcoming-events/2017_fall_cemetery_cleanup

Yahrzeits, September 2017

Elul ~ אלול

Kimberly Carr	11 Elul 5771
Sylvia Jane Starkman	11 Elul 5743
Regina Stern	11 Elul 5712
Zelda Muszynski	12 Elul 5702
Fannie Sussman	12 Elul 5729
John Date	12 Elul
Samuel Henry Stroom	13 Elul 5729
Frank Katz	13 Elul 5749
Alan Maremont	17 Elul 5734
Edwin Carr	17 Elul
Mark W. Cooper	18 Elul
Rochelle Claunch	18 Elul
Eva Seidman	18 Elul 5747
J. Marianne Simon	18 Elul 5747
Louis Gilden	19 Elul 5718
Henry Goldhirsch	19 Elul 5771
Sylvia Haskin	19 Elul 5729
Samuel Holtz	19 Elul 5737
Gertrude Katz	19 Elul 5771
Henry Lederer	19 Elul 5730
William Linderman	19 Elul 5732
Benzion Broner	20 Elul 5732
Adele Reiss	20 Elul 5741

Stanley Rabinowitz	20 Elul 5761
Meyer Siff	20 Elul
Milton Collin	22 Elul 5736
Martin Simon	22 Elul 5729
Freda Wilkenfeld	22 Elul
Mildred Fromson	23 Elul 5737
Ida Olshansky	23 Elul 5724
Margaret Buchwald	26 Elul
Isaac Mendelow	26 Elul
Chester Gordon	28 Elul 5772
Berton (Baruch) Michael Kutnick	29 Elul

Tishrei ~ תשרי

Pincus Newman	1 Tishrei
Albert Weinstein	2 Tishrei 5730
Joseph Newman	3 Tishrei 5774
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



Memorial Plaque

Space remains available on our memorial plaque.

Each bronze name plate has room for three lines of text; you will be able to preview the design before it is cast in bronze.

Donation for each name plate is \$324 (Chai², or \$18 x \$18).

If you have questions or need a copy of the form, contact **Karen Kugelman, 216-932-5562.**



Shabbat Playdate



SEPTEMBER 16

11:00-11:45 AM

in the
Childcare Room

Jewish-themed
singing
and stories
for children
7 and younger.



Make Your Days of Awe Awesome!

Two Events to Prepare for the High Holy Days

On the weekend of September 8 and 9, we will present two programs. Both will look at the Mahzor — the rich, but often bewildering, prayer book for the High Holy Days.

Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:30 PM on Friday night will feature teaching by Barry Starr, “Not Perfect, but Awakened: The Liturgy of Rosh HaShanah.” A tasty vegetarian-friendly dinner will follow about 7:40 PM. \$10/person. Make reservations at bethelheights.org by September 5.

The next day, Saturday, September 9, we will have a Lunch and Learn. Lunch will start about 12:15 pm, after services. The teacher (starting about 1:00) again will be Barry Starr, on “Not Perfect but Forgiven: The Liturgy of Yom Kippur.” This program is free; no need to register, but we ask non-members to please call the shul to make luncheon reservations (216-320-9667)

Help Needed: Rib Burn-Off

The Gross Schechter Rib Burn-Off is Monday, September 4. Our ribs took third place last year and second, the year before. And we’re at it again! But we’ll need help with set up from 9:00 to 12 noon, with staffing the booth from noon to 4:00, and with clean up and tear-down after 4:00. Please contact Sherry Ball, ball.sherry@gmail.com or (216) 650-3075, if you can pitch in and support BE –THS at the Burn-Off for a couple of hours any time during the day.

(The Incredible Shrinking Human Being, continued from page 1.)

stature. And should we, after the Holy Days, find ourselves getting small again, we can heed God’s unending call and begin to grow once more. “Seven times the righteous person falls and gets back up” (Proverbs 24:16). That’s Biblical for “Get back in the saddle before you lose your nerve.”

L’shanah tovah tikatevu v’tहतatemu— may you be written down and sealed for a good year.

Rabbi Moshe Adler

Thanks to All Who Have Given D’vrei Torah!

Preparing a d’var takes a lot of thought, study, and effort. We’d like to thank all of those who have shared their thoughts with us this summer:

- May 13 – Bruce Wilkenfeld
- May 20 – Alan Lerner
- May 27 – Karen Kugelman
- June 3 – Barry Starr
- June 10 – Michael Steklóf
- June 17 – Sharona Hoffman
- June 24 – Linda Tobin
- July 1 – Charlotte Glass
- July 8 – Cheryl Stone
- July 15 – Juliana Sadock Savino
- July 22 – Marty Gelfand
- July 29 – Joe Gelles
- August 5 – Joel Genuth
- August 12 – Michael Steklóf
- August 19 – Molly Brudnick
- August 26 – Bruce Wilkenfeld
- Sept. 2 – Nathan Kitts
- Sept. 9 – Polly Wilkenfeld
- Sept. 16 – Alan Lerner

Neighborhood Ice Cream Social



Sunday, August 27
2 to 4 in the afternoon
on the BE-THS lawn
(free!)

Volunteers are needed to help with both events. Contact Sherry, <ball.sherry@gmail.com> if you can pitch in!

Monday
September 4
12 noon to 4 p.m.
Gross Schechter Day School
27601 Fairmount Boulevard
Pepper Pike, OH 44124

Marvin Palevsky will cook for BE-THS
– He took the Burnoff's 2015 2nd prize!
It's sure to be great food, and great fun!

Your help is needed
to staff the BE-THS booth.
Contact Sherry <ball.sherry@gmail.com>



**TOTALLY
KOSHER
RIB
BURNOFF**



BETH EL
The Heights Synagogue



INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE
SHABBAT
WITH A SERVICE AND DINNER.

Friday, Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30, Dinner at about 7:30. Dinner includes fish, vegetarian-friendly menu. Learning with Barry Starr: Make your Days of Awe... Awesome! *(topic will be continued at the Lunch and Learn on September 9)*

Price: \$10.00 per person.

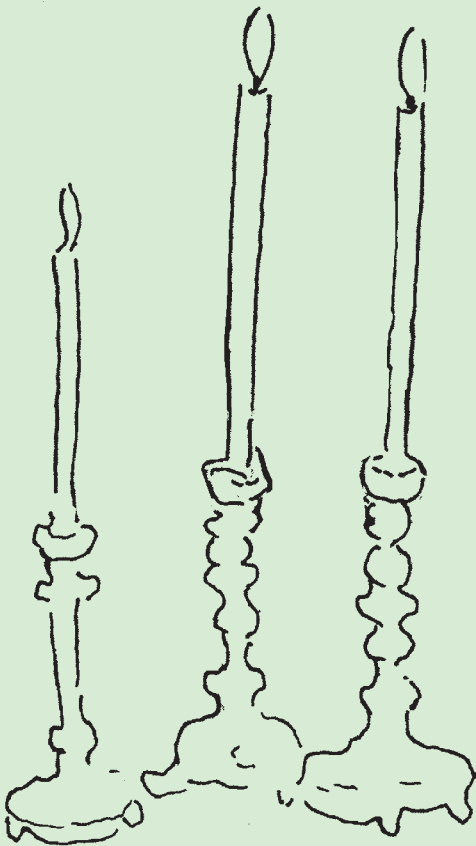
Prepaid reservations requested by Sept. 1

RSVP: go to BethElHeights.org and click on the link. Or, call Joe at 216-501-2761.

Credit cards and PayPal accepted.

Location: Beth El—The Heights Synagogue
3246 Desota Avenue
Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

This is a membership event — a great time to introduce potential members to our community, a little less formal and a lot shorter than Shabbat morning. So bring a friend — don't be shy about asking!





Fall Holiday Dates and Times 2017

Saturday, September 16 9:30 PM – S’lihot will be held at the home of Zachary Lerner, 1808 Radnor Road, Cleveland Heights 44118. Havdalah will be followed by the **S’lihot service**. (Havdalah is no earlier than 8:16 pm.)

Wednesday, September 20 – Erev Rosh HaShanah

7:09 PM – Candle lighting (Add a 24-hour flame from which to light on the next night. Before lighting, say the special declaration that allows for cooking for Shabbat on the holiday; this is called Eruv Tavshilin -- p. 586 in Birnbaum or at the beginning of many haggadot.)

7:15 PM – Evening service

Thursday, September 21 – First day Rosh HaShanah

8:30 AM – Morning service

6:20 PM – Meet at Beth El - Heights for Tashlich. We will walk from the synagogue to a nearby stream and return to shul for 7:00 PM Minhah and Ma’ariv service, followed by candle lighting (8:06 PM – lighting with 24-hour flame that was lit the day before. Also transfer light from a flame that was lit the day before to a 24-hour flame with which to light Shabbat candles on the next night).

Friday, September 22 – Second day Rosh HaShanah

8:30 AM – Morning service

7:05 PM – Candle lighting with a flame that was lit before Rosh HaShanah (lighting is for Shabbat only: “...l’hadlik ner shel Shabbat”)

Saturday, September 23 – Shabbat Shuvah

9:15 AM – Morning service

No earlier than 8:04 PM – Shabbat ends; Havdalah (at home)

Sunday, September 24 – Fast of G’daliah

Fast begins at 5:55 AM daybreak, or 7:16 AM sunrise, and ends after dark 8:02 PM

9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon – Sukkah Construction: Bring your tools and help us erect the frame and walls of our sukkah. **** No children under ten, please! ****

Friday, September 29 – Erev Yom Kippur

6:45 PM – Candle lighting at the synagogue, followed by Kol Nidre at 7:00 PM (lighting is for Shabbat and Yom Kippur combined: ..l’hadlik ner shel Shabbat v’shel Yom HaKippurim”)

Saturday, September 30 – Yom Kippur

8:30 AM – Morning service (with Yizkor)

4:45 PM – Minḥah service, followed by N’ilah service

No earlier than 7:52 PM, the Shofar is sounded, followed by weekday Ma’ariv service, Havdalah and a light break-fast.

Sunday, October 1 – 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon – Congregational Sukkah completion and decoration.

All ages are encouraged to come and participate!

Wednesday, October 4 – Erev Sukkot

6:46 PM – Candle lighting (at home. Add a 24-hour flame for lighting on the next night. Before lighting, say the special declaration that allows cooking on the holiday for Shabbat; this is called Eruv Tavshilin – found on p. 586 in Birnbaum, or at the beginning of many haggadot.)

Thursday, October 5 – First Day Sukkot

9:15 AM – Morning service

7:44 PM – Candle lighting (at home – lighting with flame that was lit the day before. Also transfer light from a flame that was lit the day before to a 24-hour flame with which to light Shabbat candles on the next night).

Friday, October 6 – Second Day Sukkot

9:15 AM – Morning service

6:42 PM – Candle lighting (with a flame lit before Sukkot; lighting is for Shabbat only)

Saturday, October 7 – Shabbat Ḥol HaMoed

9:15 AM – Morning service

No earlier than 7:42 PM Shabbat ends; Havdalah (at home)

Wednesday, October 11 – Erev Sh’mini Atzeret

6:34 PM – Candle lighting (at home. Add a 24-hour flame from which to light on the next night. Before lighting, say the special declaration that allows cooking on the holiday for Shabbat; this is called Eruv Tavshilin – found on p. 586 in Birnbaum, or at the beginning of many haggadot.)

Thursday, October 12 – Sh’mini Atzeret and Erev Simḥat Torah

9:15 AM – Morning service (with Yizkor)

7:30 PM – Candle lighting at the synagogue (lighting with flame that was lit the day before. Also transfer light from a flame that was lit the day before to a 24-hour flame with which to light Shabbat candles) and Kiddush, followed by evening service with Hakkafot

Friday, October 13 – Simḥat Torah

9:15 AM – Morning service with Kiddush and Hakkafot

6:30 PM – Candle lighting (with a flame lit before Sh’mini Atzeret; lighting is for Shabbat only)

Saturday, October 14 – Shabbat B’reshit

9:15 AM – Morning service

No earlier than 7:59 PM – Shabbat ends; Havdalah (at home)

Beth El –The Heights Synagogue

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