

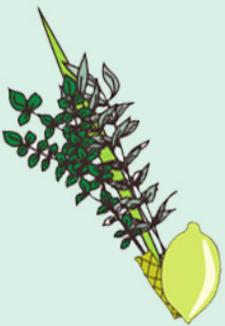


Putting our Vulnerability on Display



RABBI
MICHAEL UNGAR

מועדים
לשמחה



Moadim
l'simcha

Don't get me wrong, I love Sukkot, but it is a strange holiday.

It commemorates the forty years our ancestors wandered in the wilderness between Egyptian slavery and the conquest of Eretz Yisrael. What makes it strange is that those years of wandering were a punishment for the people's lack of faith in God and the Divine Plan. Why would we make a holiday to remember a punishment... and furthermore refer to it as the "time of our joy?" The oddity of it is deepened by the construction of Sukkot, flimsy dwellings to remind us of how our ancestors had to survive on their journeys; it is a symbol of vulnerability—open on the top to the elements. This we celebrate!?

This year during a pandemic and civic unrest, do we really need a reminder of our vulnerability? Have we not all experienced at some level a sense that things were not under control? Hundreds of thousands have gotten sick and died. Millions lost their jobs...and often health insurance

along with it. There is food and housing insecurity. These "punishing" effects have disproportionately hit communities of color and the poor. Vulnerability is all around us. Can we truly have a "time of our joy?"

The sages preferred to put a different spin on Sukkot, noting that the holiday is not as much about the punishment as it is about how God helped us to survive and grow during those years. Their approach asks us to not only "get over" the punishment, but to give thanks for it. In fact, many have observed that the American Thanksgiving Holiday is a close cognate to Sukkot. We should be grateful that we made it through those 40 years and grew into a mighty people who were able to take their place in the land promised to our ancestors.

Likewise, today, if we make the effort, we can find reason to be thankful. Neighbors and friends have looked out for each other. A broad coalition of Americans has come together to protest racial injustice in our country. Many, many good people have risen to the

(Continued on page 2)

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

Co-PRESIDENTS



JOEL GENUTH



BUD STERN

Contact Information

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COMMENTS? COMPLAINTS?
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if you need help with
signing up.

The Mahzor Pick-up Project

On Sunday, September 13th, Beth El- The Heights Synagogue implemented the Mahzor pick-up project, an essential service for those who will be davening with us remotely during the High Holy Days this year.

Our community made sure Mahzors were available for all of our members and friends who have elected to attend High Holy Day Services at Beth El –The Heights Synagogue via Zoom.

Many came to the Synagogue that day and received not only Mahzors, but a Jewish calendar, the Beth El —The Heights Synagogue High Holiday program guide, and a nice jar of organic honey.

At Beth El - The Heights Synagogue, an international pandemic won't stop us from being on the same page. Grant you, we may have different interpretations of that page, but the key is we're on the same page.

Plans are also in place for the Mahzors to be returned.

It took a group effort to make this a success; there are many people who need to be acknowledged. Thank you to:

Brian Aronson

Bill Bruml

Joe Buchwald Gelles

Mia Buchwald Gelles

Fern Grungberger

Sharona Hoffman

Nina Sobel

Beth Wachter

Scott Wachter

(Putting our Vulnerability on Display, continued from page 1)

occasion and done ordinary and extraordinary things to lighten the burden of those around them. The times are punishing, but we must look for the ways in which we cannot not only survive, but also thrive.

Wishing you and your family all the best for Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simhat Torah. May we all find reasons to make this year (despite it all) “the time of our joy!”

Rabbi Michael Ungar

Scheduling in the Time of COVID-19

Fear not, friends. This newsletter article will not be written in the style of Gabriel Garcia-Marquez. Joel just enjoys an apt title that evokes one of his all-time favorite novels (*Love in the Time of Cholera*).

Your Board and its Ritual Committee and Task Force on Building Use were feeling pretty good about themselves for coming up with plans for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The smart thing, we all figured, would be to get through those holidays, assess how things went, and then make plans for the holidays and Shabbats to follow. Well that would be smart, but that's not how the calendar works. This article is being drafted before Rosh Hashanah, but after the usual deadline for the October newsletter, which should at minimum include information for Sukkot, Sh'mini Atzeret, and Simḥat Torah. So officers and the most relevant Board members quickly arranged a Zoom conference and made some executive decisions about the October holidays. That's not the way we like to do business; we may very well have failed to take into consideration something that someone will later bring to our attention. Please double check the definitive statements made here with information on the web site or by calling an officer.

If you have not yet already received a questionnaire about your plans for *these* holidays, you will shortly be receiving one by email. Please fill it out promptly and return. If you do not use email, please call Joel or Bud to tell us your plans. As with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, some services will be conducted on Zoom and some in the sanctuary. We will send the Zoom link only to those who plan to attend a Zoom service; only those who state they will attend sanctuary services will be admitted into the building. These deviations from our pre-pandemic informal, relaxed norms will improve the security of the Zoom services and facilitate contact tracing should anyone who attends a sanctuary service become ill or test positive for COVID.

Admission to sanctuary services will be from 15 minutes before until 15 minutes after the stated start of the service. Then the doors will be locked. Everyone entering the sanctuary should be screened for fever, and our Gentile volunteers, who will be wielding an infrared thermometer, will be leaving to go about their days. Zoom service attendees are likewise requested to be prompt so that the "meeting host" can be attentive to the service rather than to admitting late arrivals.

Sanctuary windows will be open to facilitate turnover in the air and prevent the buildup of virus should any attendee turn out to be an asymptomatic virus carrier. **DRESS FOR THE WEATHER!** **Masks and social distancing will be required at all times.**

The first day of Sukkot is Saturday, October 3. We will hold services in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. There will be no Zoom services.

The second day of Sukkot is Sunday, October 4. We will hold Zoom services at 10:15 a.m. There will be no Sanctuary services.

Shemini Atzeret is Saturday, October 10. Services, including Yizkor, will be held in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. A stand-alone Yizkor service will be held on Zoom that afternoon at 1:30 p.m..

There will be **no Erev Simḥat Torah services** on the evening of October 10.

On Sunday, October 11, there will be parallel Sanctuary and Zoom Simḥat Torah services at 10:15 a.m. Each will include Hallel and the finish and start of the Torah scroll.

Co-President, Joel Genuth

NEWS FROM BETH EL

חדשות

Condolences to:

ביחום אבלים

- Jaymie Shanker, on the recent death of her father, our member Morrie Shanker z"l.

Refuah Sh'lema to:

רפואה שלימה!

- Molly Brudnick
- Marsha Katz
- Marvin Palevsky
- Miriam Palevsky

Congratulations to:

מזל טוב!

- Michael and Shelley Bloomfield on the recent birth of their new grandson, Gavin Daniel Adams. Gavin's parents are the Bloomfields' daughter, Liza, and her husband, Brian Adams, who live in Twinsburg.

Thanks for Contributions to:

תודה!

- Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand, in honor of BE-THS members' participation in the rally to save the U.S. Postal Service on August 22, which was also their anniversary.
- Stephanie Berger and Alan Mintz
- Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin, in honor of an anonymous helper.
- Frank and Jeanette Buchwald, in honor of Shani Gelles' graduation.
- Ilene Gertman
- James Hale
- Lee Kohrman, in memory of Dr. Saul Genuth z"l.

- Alan Lerner and Erica New

➤ Gabrielle Millas, in honor of all who have worked so hard to make our celebration of the High Holy Days possible this year.

- Gabrielle Millas

➤ Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin, in memory of David Russack z"l.

- Adam and Samantha Probst

- Aaron Starr and Idit Zehavi

- Barry Starr

- Leonard Tracht

➤ Beth and Scott Wachter, in memory of Ira Marks z"l.

➤ Mary and Richard Zigmond, to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

➤ Mary and Richard Zigmond, to the Lunch and Learn Fund.

➤ Mary and Richard Zigmond, to the Scholar in Residence Fund.

➤ Mary and Richard Zigmond

Thanks for High Holy Days Contributions to:

- Michael and Wendy Lazarus

- Carole and Daniel Litt

- Ezra and Susan Rahamim

- Dorothea (Dolly) Small

- Rachel Tschantz

Timeliness Is Not Just Courtesy – It's Necessary!

Please arrive on time for in-person services. The shul doors will be opened 15 minutes prior to the scheduled service time, and will be locked 15 minutes after the scheduled time. If you arrive late, you will not get into the building. If you leave the building during services, you will not be able to reenter.

Please be courteous to the Zoom hosts. Arrive on time for services held via Zoom, so the host does not have to continually interrupt his/her davening to let more people in.

CALENDAR, OCTOBER 2020

תשרי / חשוון 5781

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 – **Erev Yom Kippur** (candle-lighting 6:40 PM, at home, or at shul before the service)

6:45 PM – **Kol Nidre**, in person or via Zoom. (Only the Kol Nidre prayer will be Zoomed from the in-person service, before *chag*.)

7:13 PM – **Ma'ariv**, in person or via Zoom.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 – **Yom Kippur**

יום כפור

10:15 AM – **Torah reading, Yizkor, Musaf**, in person or via Zoom.

5:55 PM – **Minhah service with Torah reading, followed by N'ilah service**, in person or via Zoom.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 – **Erev Sukkot**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 – **Sukkot I**

סוכות

10:15 AM – **Torah Reading and Musaf**, in-person

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 – **Sukkot II**

10:15 AM – **Torah Reading and Musaf**, via Zoom

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 – **Sh'mini Atzeret**

שמיני עצרת

10:15 AM – **Torah Reading, Yizkor, and Musaf**, in-person

1:30 PM – **Yizkor only**, via Zoom

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 – **Simhat Torah**

שמחת תורה

10:15 AM – **Torah Reading and Musaf**, in-person OR via Zoom. Each will include *Hallel* and the finish and start of the Torah scroll.

Watch your email for news regarding Shabbat services for the remainder of October.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 – **Parashat Bereshit**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 – **Rosh Chodesh Heshvan**

7:30 AM – **Walking meditation**. Meet at Shaker Lakes Nature Center.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 – **Parashat Noah**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31 – **Parashat Lech-Lecha**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 – **Daylight Savings Time ends**. Move clocks back one hour.

Watch your email for potential changes in plans and schedules!

Be sure to sign up for the services you want to attend!

You won't be admitted to the sanctuary for in-person services, if you have not signed up.

You won't receive the Zoom link for Zoom services, if you have not signed up.

Dress for the weather! Sanctuary may be either cool or hot!

Yahrzeits, October 2020

תשרי ~ Tishri

Hyman Goldberg	14 Tishrei 5771
Irene Cowan	15 Tishrei 5732
Harry Dolusky	15 Tishrei 5694
Pearl Rabinowitz	17 Tishrei 5764
Robert Mendel	19 Tishrei 5771
Carola Jacobs	19 Tishrei
Esther bat Aaron HaCohen	19 Tishrei
Jared B. Klein	20 Tishrei 5761
Myrtle Wish	20 Tishrei 5772
Bertha Shifrin	21 Tishrei 5721
Esther Mintz	22 Tishrei 5767
Maurice Tavill	22 Tishrei
Isaac Warshay	22 Tishrei
Pearl Peninah Pasternak	22 Tishrei
Herbert Oppenheimer	22 Tishrei
Lenore Singer	23 Tishrei 5760
Blema Beitman	24 Tishrei 5706
Eva Naiman	24 Tishrei 5713
Sadie Kammen	25 Tishrei 5744
Freida C. Brody	26 Tishrei 5701
Leo Guzik	26 Tishrei 5735
Charlotte Dubin	27 Tishrei 5768
Mirmie Ginsburg	27 Tishrei 5734
Frances E. Goldberg	28 Tishrei 5778
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
Roger Wilkenfeld	30 Tishrei
Marvin Dubin	30 Tishrei
Sam Dworkin	30 Tishrei 5732

חשוון ~ Heshvan

James Saunt	2 Heshvan 5766
Ben Tepper	2 Heshvan 5718
Harry Mayzel	4 Heshvan 5761
Rose Zeisler	4 Heshvan 5723
Louis Brody	5 Heshvan 5713
Dotty Dannhauser	8 Heshvan
Rashe Sobel	8 Heshvan 5716
Joseph Weiss	8 Heshvan 5747
Herbert Goldstone	10 Heshvan 5766
Rose Goldstone	10 Heshvan 5749
Barney Krasny	10 Heshvan 5705
Harry L. Miller	10 Heshvan 5728
Blanche Carr	10 Heshvan
William Schenkelman	10 Heshvan 5724
Rose Rogul Gelles	12 Heshvan
Samuel Protus	12 Heshvan 5757
Sarah Dolin	12 Heshvan
Yoav Borshtein	13 Heshvan 5772

