



Beth Israel — The West Temple

BULLETIN

March 2000 * Adar I / Adar II 5760

Consultants: Building is in 'good shape' but upgrades needed

The building that houses Beth Israel is structurally sound but needs some upgrades, an outside architectural and engineering firm has reported.

The board of trustees had hired Acciari, Draeger and Associates to take a look at all the building's systems. Rick Keller, building and grounds chairman, reported its findings during the semi-annual congregational meeting Jan. 30.

Rick said the firm conducted "an analysis of where we stand." Its report indicates the building structurally is in "good shape," mechanically it's OK and the roof is good.

But some systems, such as the electrical, are at the limit.

To upgrade the building to look like new would cost about \$900,000, the firm said.

"That will bring us up to the Taj Mahal standard it was in 40 years ago," Rick said. That estimate is on the high side, he said.

What the temple must do now is decide which projects must be completed and which it can afford.

To be considered are upgrades to the electrical and plumbing system and replacement of windows.

Some members of the congregation have requested that an elevator be installed. But the temple's electrical system cannot handle the extra power load, Rick said.

"We would have to upgrade the electrical because we don't have enough power to even make it go up and down," he said. Cost of the elevator is estimated at \$85,000.

It also has been suggested that a handicapped rest room be constructed in what is now used as a storeroom. Rick noted that as a synagogue, the building is not required to be ADA compliant nor is a sprinkler system required. But if the building is ever sold to be used for another purpose, those upgrades would have to be in place.

Replacing windows might be another priority. Those in Ratner Hall are drafty. At the same time, the temple might consider an air conditioning system.

Co-President Maryellen Cudney said the report was a "starting point." She said the board would study the report in depth and then recommend which projects should have top priority.

"We'll have to see what gives the greatest benefit for the most people," she said.

Also at the congregational meeting, Paul Schwin said he had conducted an audit of the books. There are no problems but he recommended we develop a comprehensive accounting system. There is software especially designed for synagogues and he and treasurer Maria Bloom are researching that now.

In other reports from temple committees:

Library: Needs additional volunteers.

Adult education: Chair Eileen Korey would like a partner to help with this committee. Her former co-chair, Jack Telesman, moved out of the area.

Cemetery: There were 10 burials during the past year.

Religious school: Has 95 students. Rabbi Alan Lettofsky visits classrooms on a regular basis, teaches in the high school department and works with the confirmation class.

Camp: Judy Friedman reported that more students from Beth Israel apply for Jewish summer camps than any other temple in the Cleveland area.

Membership: We have 10 new members out of 50 inquiries. Membership packets are sent to anyone expressing an interest in joining. Mike Palnik follows that up with phone calls.

Ritual: The practice of donating \$5 to the temple to defray the costs of one's shabbats has been abandoned. The "to-doers" committee, which baked goodies for the one's has been disbanded. So when it's your turn to host an one's, bring in the baked goods and a challah.

Co-President Barbara Schwartz reported that the Lorain synagogue has approached Beth Israel about merging our Religious Schools. Agudath B'nai Israel is a Conservative congregation with a small Religious School of 40-45 students.

Barbara said the two boards did agree to get better acquainted.

"They feel somewhat isolated," she said. "They want their children to have more contact with other Jewish kids."

Barbara said we are considering a joint program with Agudath B'nai Israel and the Elyria congregation, B'nai Abraham, around Passover.

Maryellen said the board is putting together a Nominating Committee to select a slate of candidates for the board of trustees. Some members of the board will not be returning. Ritual Chair Scott Machol has said he will not run for re-election but will continue to serve on the committee. Anyone interested in serving on the Nominating Committee should contact Maryellen.

BULLETIN

Published 12 times a year by
Beth Israel - The West Temple

14308 Triskett Road, Cleveland OH 44111

Phone (216) 941-8882; FAX (216) 251-8444

Rabbi: Alan B. Lettofsky

Co-Presidents: Maryellen KohnCudney & Barbara Schwartz

Dir. Of Congregational and Family Education: Enid C Lader

Religious School Administrator: Rhoda Rosen

Editor: Linda Kramer

Production Coordinator: Pat Outlaw

Deadline for April issue: March 15, 2000.

Presidents' Message

We were very pleased with the turnout for the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on Jan. 30. For those of you who were not able to attend, it was apparent from the various reports that many vital activities have been going on over the past six months.

Our volunteer leaders have planned and carried out many programs and events that are spiritual, educational, fun, not to mention the day-to-day mundane tasks that keep us all going.

There were many who received, deservedly, our public thanks for their time, ideas and energy. At the end, Rabbi Alan Lettowsky reminded us that while our meeting and our efforts were focused on the structure, finances and operations of the temple, these are important means to an even more important end -- Torah. We create a Jewish community to carry on our spiritual, educational and religious traditions, and he was pleased to see so many people committed to the work.

Building on the efforts of the last six months, the meeting also helped to identify our tasks and goals for the next six months. Now that Maria Bloom, treasurer, and Paul Schwin, our new financial manager, with the help of Bernard Eckstein have completed the temple's audit, the board has charged the Finance Committee with three tasks: to finalize our purchase of temple software to help with data and financial management, to come up with systems for streamlining and more effectively managing our temple accounts and to make recommendations about our future financial health. These steps are the foundation to looking at

our long-range needs.

The building structural assessment recently completed by Acciari, Draeger and Associates also needs to be reviewed, digested and prioritized by a knowledgeable committee. A copy of the assessment report may be reviewed in the temple library and members' comments would be helpful.

In the next month, a nominating committee must select the candidates to fill board vacancies for the next two-year term, and our 45th anniversary committee is finalizing plans for our celebrations in March, April and May.

If you can contribute some time, ideas, energy or interest to any of these committees or projects, our community needs you, and we would welcome your help. Remember that we have an opportunity to do sacred work in building our Jewish community.

**Barbara Schwartz
Maryellen Cudney
Co-Presidents**



EDUCATION NOTES

K-3 Shabbaton on Friday evening, March 3rd. Students and their families will come together for a family-style Shabbat dinner at 6:15 p.m., which will be followed by a Family Shabbat Service for the congregation at 8:00 p.m. During the service, our students will share songs and dances celebrating Shabbat and Israel.

Community-wide Bar/Bat Mitzvah program on Sunday, March 5th for 5th through 7th graders and their parents. This is a very special program sponsored by Cleveland's

Jewish Family Education Network
and the Cleveland Board of Rabbis
and will take place at Temple
Emanu El, 2200 S. Green Road,
from 3:15-5:30 p.m. Featured
guest speaker will be Rabbi
Jeffrey Salkin, author of *Putting
G-d on the Guest List*. A program
you won't want to miss!

Parent Talk with Rabbi Lettowsky:

60-minute Megillah! Join Rabbi
Lettowsky on Sunday morning,
March 19th from 10:00-11:00 a.m.
for a review of the whole
Megillah in an hour and get
primed for Purim!

Purim is a time of laughter and
merriment for children of all
ages. I hope you will take
advantage of the fun and
celebration here at Beth Israel -
The West Temple.

Enid C. Lader, Director
Congregational & Family Education
Community Funded Position

TOT SHABBAT - MARCH 4TH - Families
and friends with infants and
toddlers are invited to spend
Shabbat morning with songs,
activities, stories, and a
festive Kiddush on March 4th from
10:30-11:30 a.m. RSVP to the
temple office.

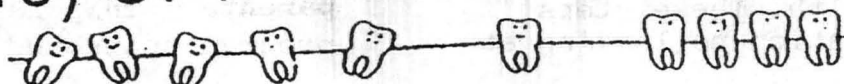
**MARCH 11-12 - FIRST CIRCLE OF
FRIENDS KALLAH.** You are invited
to join the women and friends of
Beth Israel on a kallah (retreat)
as we join together for
friendship, study, laughter and
song. The Kallah will feature
guest scholar and poet, Davi
Walders, as we explore the topic
of "Biblical Images of Women".
Jean Zarzour, actress and
comedienne will also join us.
The Kallah will take place at the
Clarion Hotel in Middleburg
Heights, and begins with 4:00
p.m. Registration on Saturday,
the 11th, and will end after lunch

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on Sunday, the 12th. Cost is \$65 for a double room and meals; \$75 for a single room. We will be accepting registration forms through March 3rd; call the temple office for more details.

Torah Study continues Shabbat mornings, from 10:00-10:45 a.m.

March 4 - VaYakhel

Ex. 35:1-38:20 - Can you imagine a call for contributions going out and people over-responding?

March 11 - Pekudey

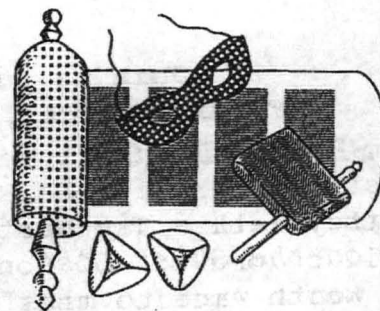
Ex. 38:21-40:38 - Making and erecting the Tabernacle is completed; Moses adds the finishing touches and the "glory of God filled the Dwelling". What is it that brings God's presence into our sanctuary?

March 18 - VaYikra

Lev. 1:1-5:25 - Everett Fox sees the Book of Leviticus as "... the Book of Separations, the book in which are set forth distinctions between a whole range of aspects of ancient Israelite experience and practice... and the strong urge to make order out of disorder."

March 25 - Tzav

Lev. 6:1-8:36 - In this portion is a constant use of the verb "make-holy". How can something be made holy?



חג פורים, חג פורים
חג גדול הו ליהודים

Chag Purim! Chag Purim!
Chag Gadol hu la-Y'hudim!

The festival of Purim is a great festival for the Jewish people!

Purim Festivities begin
Monday evening, March 20th
6:45 p.m. - Face Painting & Mask Making
7:15 p.m. - Congregational Purim Service and Megillah Reading with Rabbi Lettovsky
8:00 p.m. - Annual BITSY Purim Schpiel
followed by the annual Costume Parade and Hamantaschen Dessert

And don't forget...

BITSY Purim Carnival
Sunday, March 26th

Games

Prizes

Queen Esther's Café

Proceeds go to BITSY's Social Action Projects



**Join us on
Friday, March 31st for
SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA**

Beth Israel - The West Temple will be one of 750 congregations in North America that will simultaneously open its doors to practicing and non-practicing Jews alike, so they may join together to rejoice in a traditional and festive Shabbat meal and service. Led by Rabbi Alan Lettowsky, attendees will experience an interactive Friday night beginner's service and a traditional Shabbat dinner with all the rituals explained. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Erev Shabbat Service at 8:00 p.m. and a festive Oneg. Cost for the dinner is \$8.00/adult and teens, \$5.00/child 6-12. RSVP to the temple office (216.941.8882) by March 29th.



Beth Israel's Web Site

As many of you already know, the temple now has a Web site.

The easiest way to access the site is to go to www.uahc.org. Under "Find," double click on "Congregations." Then double click on "Select a State or Location." Double click on "Ohio." Double click on "Beth Israel - the West Temple."

This site contains information on the history of the temple, a photo gallery, a calendar of monthly events and information on the BITSY Youth Group.

This site was started by David Rosen and the BITSY Youth about a year and a half ago. The home page is under construction and will be continually updated. The next section is a history of Beth Israel. It starts with a basic overview and then follows

the temple from its founding to today, including a large section about the Soviet Jews and how Beth Israel was the first temple to speak up about this. Next, you can visit the BITSY page. It has a brief history of BITSY, as well as a summary of what we do and a listing of BITSY officers.

Finally, we have a calendar of events that shows the temple's planned activities for the month. We update it constantly.

While you look over the site, please e-mail Harry Lader at HJLader@aol.com with any comments, suggestions on what to add and any questions that you may have about the site.

**Joe Machol
Eric Eilberg**

Temple Tidbits

Mazel Tov: Congratulations to Rhoda and Dick Rosen on the birth of granddaughter Claire Elizabeth Rosen at 4 a.m. Feb. 8. Claire weighed in at 6 pounds 3 ounces and was 20 inches long. Parents are Holly Robinson and David Rosen. We hope Grandma will show off little Claire to the Monday Lunch Bunch some day when she gets a little bigger.

Thanks: In the absence of Doris Rieff, who is sunning herself in Florida, the February Bulletin was copied by Shirley Iuliano and collated by Bob Roth and Scott Machol. Bob made sense of the convoluted bulk mailing regulations at the post office and was able to count and bundle the various ZIP codes very efficiently and quickly. Shirley took them to the post office on Orange Avenue which she does every month without fail. Todah rabah to all!

New Library Acquisitions



By Bob Roth

FOR CHILDREN

Until the Messiah Comes, by Kenneth Roseman. For ages 10-13.

Takes young readers on another grand trek back in time to the end of the 19th century. Readers explore Jewish history and make strategic decisions that still have an impact on Jewish life today, for example, how to respond to the rift between the different practices of Judaism in America and Europe.

Each decision creates a thrilling story line in this sixth volume in the adventure series.

Chocolate Chip Challah and Other Twists on the Jewish Holiday Table, by Lisa Rauchwerger. For ages 5-11.

What's for dinner tonight? Artist, author and cook, Rauchwerger serves up mouthwatering meals and memories in her delightful cookbook. Using the Jewish calendar as a framework, both parent and child can cook up tasty treats all year long.

This interactive text is complete with whimsical, four-color illustrations, an illustrated cooking dictionary, Hebrew vocabulary and charming anecdotes related to a particular holiday or food.

You Can Do a Mitzvah, by Katherine Janus Kahn. For ages 2-5.

Another of the popular "board books," nearly indestructible, which little ones will love to have Mom or Dad read, especially at bedtime.

A Journey to Paradise and Other Jewish Tales, retold by Howard Schwartz. For ages 8 and older.

The folktales in this remarkable collection are more than just enjoyable reading for children. They offer traditional Jewish answers to some of the age-old questions that children of all cultures ask their elders.

Children will eagerly read and re-read these stories, watching as each tale unfolds into a magic carpet upon which a child's imagination can soar all the way toparadise.

ADULT NON-FICTION

Words That Hurt, Words That Heal, How to Choose Words Wisely and Well, by Joseph Telushkin.

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never harm me." In our hearts, we know this is untrue. But do we really act as if we know how much damage our words can cause? When we speak about others, when we gossip about their lives, their character, whether they are public figures or intimate friends, can't our words cause irreversible damage? When we speak to our children, don't our words resonate throughout their lives, determining how well they will think of themselves and how well they will speak to others?

The wisdom to know how to choose our words so that they will build bridges, rather than erect barriers to understanding has been sought by writers, philosophers and religious leaders throughout history.

The David Story, a Translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel, by Robert Alter.

The story of David is the greatest single narrative representation in antiquity of a human life evolving by slow stages through time.

The beautiful, musical David, loved by all, resourceful slayer of Goliath, is revealed through his life to be a calculating political animal. To advance his own cause, he becomes a collaborator with the archenemies of Israel, the Philistines.

To Begin Again, the Journey toward Comfort, Strength and Faith in Difficult Times, by Rabbi Naomi Levy.

Naomi Levy was a spirited 15-year-old when her father was murdered in a senseless holdup that destroyed not only his life but her trust in a loving God. Yet from her struggles to heal, she gained the wisdom that made her a beloved rabbi...and that now makes her book a miracle of honesty, insight and compassion.

In the Light of the Menorah, Story of a Symbol, edited by Yael Israeli.

This beautiful volume of 212 pages speaks of the menorah from the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E. when the golden menorah was carried off to Rome by Emperor Vespasian.

Even if the temple menorah no longer exists, its presence remains strong as an idea and as a message for the State of Israel and for Jews everywhere. It was therefore a special challenge, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Israel, for the Israel Museum to prepare a comprehensive exhibition and book on the subject that is so familiar.

WEB SITES

Aish Hatorah is an exciting, relevant and user-friendly international network of Jewish educational centers that outreach to those with little or no Jewish background.
www.aish.edu

The world's largest aggregator of news and information about Israel, the Jewish world and all things Jewish.
www.virtualjerusalem.com

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News You Can Use

HEAP: The Home Energy Assistance Program is a federally-funded program that can help families with winter heating bills.

HEAP is available to young families with children, seniors, homeowners and renters as long as income guidelines are met.

For example, a single person with an income no greater than \$12,360 would qualify as would a family of four with an income of up to \$25,050.

Submit applications plus proof of income and a copy of the most recent utility bill by March 31.

For more information, call the county auditor's office at (216) 443-7050.

SCHOLARSHIP: A new scholarship, the Stanley and Enid Rothenfeld Memorial Scholarship Fund, is available for Jewish students 25 years old or older who are pursuing undergraduate degrees or Jewish students of any age pursuing graduate studies in the U.S. or Israel. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average and exhibit financial need.

The Rothenfelds were active in the Cleveland Jewish community. Mr. Rothenfeld was chairman of the Jewish Welfare Fund.

The Rothenfeld Scholarship is offered through the Jewish

Community Federation and administered by the Jewish Family Service Association.

For more information, call (216) 378-3429. Applications are due in April.

FRIDAYS AT THE COLLEGE: The Cleveland College of Jewish Studies has scheduled a series of classes for older adults. Courses will include Israel Today, An Introduction to the Secrets of Jewish Mysticism and Jewish Stories to Study and Share with Family and Friends.

Classes will meet 9:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 24, March 31 and April 14. Cost is \$70, which includes lunch. Registration is due by March 15.

For more information, call (216) 464-4050 Ext. 107.

March

Student Birthdays:

- 11 Sarah Fox
- 12 Jillian Altus
- 14 Allison Morse
- 15 Douglas Eilberg
- Rachel Fahringer
- 29 Jonathan Levin

Wedding Anniversaries

- 18 Lori & David Shymske
- 25 Mort & Marion Epstein
- 27 Robert & Kati Roth
- Harold & Ruth Friedman

The Congregation extends condolences to
Ted Provder on the death of his father,

HERMAN PROVDER

The Congregation extends condolences to
Scott Lazarus on the death his uncle,

MORTON LAZARUS

CONTRIBUTIONS

We Gratefully Acknowledge the
Following Contributions

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YAHREZEITEN

Civil dates correspond to Hebrew
calendar, unless followed by ***

Saturday, March 4 - 27 Adar I

3/1 Pepi Weiner

3/2 Pauline Miller

3/4 Lillian Wieder

Saturday, March 11 - 4 Adar II

3/5 Lila Traub

3/6 Fred Feigenbaum

3/9 Esther Grobman

Saturday, March 18 - 11 Adar II

3/12 Alex Kimmelman

Ben Gruber***

3/13 Estelle E. Grey

Louis Schwartzfeld

3/16 Marvin Goldberg

3/18 Vivian Tamarkin

Saturday, March 25 - 18 Adar II

3/21 Benny Salamon

3/25 Otto Eckstein

Saturday, April 1 - 25 Adar II

3/26 Herbert Gruber***

3/27 Aron Altchouler

Clara Altchouler

3/30 Vera Wharton

Annie Epstein

Boris Bruckman


David Slone

4/1 Leroy Welch

4/2 Minnie Robinson

MARCH 2000

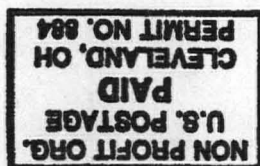
ADAR I—ADAR II 5760

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
			1	2	3 K-3 Shabbaton Family dinner 6:15 p.m. Family Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	4 10:00 a.m. Torah Study 10:30 a.m. TOT Shabbat 10:45 a.m. Torah Service
5 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program at Temple Emanu El 3:15-5:30 p.m.	6 Feast of Judaism 7:30 p.m.	7	8 Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.	9	10	11 10:00 a.m. Torah Study 10:45 a.m. Torah Service – Rabbi Lettotsky ☆ ☆ ☆ Circle of Friends Retreat – Clarion Hotel Starts at 4:00 p.m.
12 Dad's Day at Religious School ☆ ☆ ☆ Circle of Friends Retreat 2nd day	13 Feast of Judaism 7:30 p.m.	14	15	16	17 Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 p.m.	18 10:00 a.m. Torah Study 10:45 a.m. Torah Service ☆ ☆ ☆ 45 th Anniversary – Beck Center 7:00 p.m.
19 Parent Talk with Rabbi Lettotsky –Review Megillah 10:00-11:00 a.m.	20 Face Painting 6:45 p.m. Purim Service & Megillah Reading with Rabbi Lettotsky 7:15 p.m.	21	22	23	24 ErevShabbat Service 4th Friday-Service in Ratner Hall 8:00 p.m.	25 10:00 a.m. Torah Study 10:45 a.m. Torah Service
26 BITSY Purim Carnival	27	28	29	30	31 Shabbat Across America – Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 p.m. Festive Oneg.	

SHABBAT PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE MARCH 2000

DATE	SERVICE LEADER	USHERS	CANDLES	HAGBAH	ALIYAH	GALILAH	ONEG HOSTS
Fri. 3/3	Rabbi Lettofsky	Samuel Jacobson	Shirley Iuliano				Paul & Linda Schwin Robert & Shellie Sedlak
Sat. 3/4	Lou Rosenblum	Sarah Brehm		Michael Palnik	Robert Brehm	Beryl Palnik	The Brehm Family
Fri. 3/10	Enid Lader	Paige Goodworth	Ona Griswold				Lori & David Shymske Stuart & Kelly Bandel
Sat. 3/11	Rabbi Lettofsky	Ken Robinson		Richard Feigenbaum	Barbara Schwartz	Lila Robinson	The Robinson Family
Fri. 3/17	Enid Lader	Leslie Pendery	Valerie Tate				Mark & Lolita Spiro Mark & Lynn Atzenhoffer
Sat. 3/18	Shosh Ault	Bethany Rudolph		Susan Wagner	Laura Stout	Lona Gruber	The Rudolph Family
Fri. 3/24	Enid Lader	Joshua Grossman	Melanie Wax				Drs. Laura & David Stout David & Robin Shapiro
Sat. 3/25	David Bamberger	Jason Abady		Myrna Pendery	Bernard Eckstein	Sheila Eckstein	The Abady Family
Fri. 3/31	Rabbi Lettofsky	Alex Pankiw	Sandy Pankiw				Stephanie Gottlob & Yuji Oka Richard & Donna Sweet

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CLEVELAND OH 44111



SERVICE SCHEDULE

Fri., March 3, K-3 Shabbaton. Shabbat Dinner 6:15 p.m. for students & families. Erev Shabbat Service for congregation at 8 p.m. (Rabbi Lettofsky)

Sat., March 4, Torah Study 10 a.m., Tot Shabbat 10:30 a.m., Torah Service 10:45 a.m. (Lou Rosenblum)

Fri., March 10, Erev Shabbat Service 8 p.m., (Enid Lader)

Sat., March 11, Torah Study 10 a.m., Torah Service 10:45 a.m., (Rabbi Lettofsky)

Fri., March 17, Erev Shabbat Service 8 p.m. (Enid Lader)

Sat., March 18, Torah Study 10 a.m., Torah Service 10:45 a.m. (Shosh Ault)

Sun., March 19, 60-minute Megillah for Parents. Join Rabbi Lettofsky from 10 to 11 a.m.

Mon., March 20, Mask Making & Face Painting 6:45 p.m., Purim Service & Megillah Reading 7:15 p.m. (Rabbi Lettofsky) BITSY Schpiel 8 p.m.

Fri., March 24, Erev Shabbat Service 8 p.m., 4th Friday - Service in Ratner Hall (Enid Lader)

Sat., March 25, Torah Study 10 a.m., Torah Service 10:45 a.m. (David Bamberger)

Fri., March 31, Shabbat Across America, Dinner 6:30, Erev Shabbat Service 8 p.m., (Rabbi Lettofsky)