



# BETH EL NEWSLETTER

The Heights Synagogue

April 2006

ניסן | אייר 5766



Rabbi Moshe Adler



חג פסח  
כשר  
ושמח

Wishing you  
a kosher and  
happy Pesah!

## Hard and Easy Miracles

In our liturgy, the blessing after the recitation of the Sh'ma must mention both the Exodus from Egypt and the dividing of the Sea of Reeds. However, if the worshipper omits the dividing of the Sea of Reeds, he need not repeat the blessing, whereas if he omits the Exodus from Egypt, he must repeat the blessing.

“What is the difference,” asks the Midrash (Sh'mot Rabbah 22:3), “between the Exodus from Egypt and the dividing of the Sea of Reeds?” Why should the omission of the former require the repetition of the blessing when the omission of latter does not? The Midrash answers:

The Exodus from Egypt was more difficult, as it says, “Or has G-d ever ventured to go and take for Himself one nation from the midst of another by prodigious acts, by signs and portents, by war, by a mighty and an outstretched arm and awesome power, as HaShem your G-d did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?” (Deuteronomy 4:34)

What does it mean to say that the Exodus was more difficult than the dividing of the Sea of Reeds? Surely it was no more difficult for G-d to accomplish either feat than it was for Him to accomplish the other. Moreover, the fact that there was a greater number of miracles involved in the Exodus than in the dividing of the Sea is of no consequence, again because it is just as easy for G-d to work a large number of miracles as it is for Him to work only one. To reduce the miracles of either event to a matter of their quantity or of the “technical virtuosity” entailed by their execution is to reduce

G-d from the Creator of the Universe to the Headmaster of Hogwarts.

Rather, it was the nature and purpose of each miracle that made it more or less difficult. In the case of both the Exodus and the dividing of the Sea, G-d was involving Himself personally in our history rather than working through the laws of nature as He usually does. Yet the “difficulty” of accomplishing the Exodus lay in its goal of changing the way the Israelites and the Egyptians would come to view the world and its G-d. The relative “ease” of dividing the Sea of Reeds, on the other hand, lay in its being but a tweaking of the laws of nature for the purpose of removing a barrier before the escaping Israelites.

It is “harder” for G-d to reorder human affairs than to reorder the cosmos. G-d can teach human beings, He can guide them, He can cajole them with one hand while enticing them with the other, but He cannot reprogram them without taking away their humanity.

This is what the Midrash's biblical proof-text means when it asks the rhetorical question, “Has G-d ever ventured to go and take for Himself one nation from the midst of another by prodigious acts, by signs and portents, by war, by a mighty and an outstretched arm and awesome power, as HaShem your G-d did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?” (Deuteronomy 4:34). “To go and take for Himself one nation from the midst of another,” G-d had to use “prodigious acts, signs and portents, war, a mighty and an outstretched arm and *(continued on page 2)*



**Jack Valancy**

**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.)**

# We Welcome the Stranger

As I write this in early March, the weather remains chilly, but the first signs of spring are here: the first robins, a few hardy sprouts, and the stirrings of Passover plans. Our heads, hands, and hearts celebrate our liberation from generations of slavery.

At the Seder, we gather to retell the story of our exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land. We welcome guests to recreate the journey. With matzo and wine, blessings and songs, bitter maror and sweet charoset, we imagine that we, too, were slaves. The story unfolds, melding past, present, and future.

A different kind of remembering also takes place each Passover, one in which our memories are personal. We recall, often vividly, the many different seders we have attended over the years, both as children and as adults. Our earliest memories may include recitation of the Maxwell House Haggadah, later replaced with more colorful, informative, and participatory Haggadahs.

Although we might have been bored as children, we became more interested and engaged as we grew and matured. Even when we didn't understand what was going on, we looked forward to the Seder. It was comforting and predictable – the same relatives came each year and the same food appeared on the

table. We enjoyed amazing Passover delicacies throughout the years.

Many of us have been guests at many different seders. It is a comforting ritual, even when the faces are new and the dishes are different. But it is never a predictable experience. While the Haggadah is always the roadmap, each new seder takes different side roads on which we never traveled.

By opening our homes to others on Passover, we fulfill the appeal of the Haggadah liturgy: "Let all who are hungry, come and eat. Let all who are in need, come and share the Passover meal."

At **Beth El – The Heights Synagogue**, we open our home for worship, learning, and community throughout the year. We welcome friends and members to our inclusive and participatory congregation each Shabbat morning. Warm conversation flows at Kiddush, often over a warm lunch! During the winter months, we welcome friends and members to Kabbalat Shabbat services and dinner. We are delighted when old friends return to visit.

As we prepare for Passover, we remember to welcome the stranger, for we once "were strangers in the land of Egypt".

*(Hard and Easy Miracles, continued from Page 1)* awesome power," because only in that manner could He radically reorient the way human beings would view the world and its G-d.

The Israelites might lapse from that knowledge time and again, but they could also be brought back to it time and again because it would always be integral to their identity. It would take another eight centuries before the lesson would get from their brains to their innards, but it did get there, and there it has remained.

And that is how we came to be here discussing a *midrash* about the miraculous way G-d liberated us and made us His people.

Have a happy and kosher Passover.

Join members of BE-THS for

A special, private tour of

# The Maltz Museum of Jewish History

Sunday, May 7 at 1:00 PM

We will meet in the Museum lobby, 2929 Richmond Rd. Beachwood 44122

Program options include:

- **For Adults:** An overview tour of the Permanent Exhibit, including the building of Cleveland, the growth of the Jewish Community, WWII, The Holocaust, Modern Israel and The Temple-Tifereth Israel Gallery of world-renowned Judaica.
- **For Families:** A tour on immigration to America and the creation of the Cleveland Jewish Community, with a special focus on maintaining Jewish identity in the new world.

\$10 for adults ~ \$5 for seniors & college students ~ Children 12 & under are free

Please RSVP by April 21, along with your payment, to:

Mark Davidson, 3681 Winchell Road, Shaker Heights, OH 44122

Call Mark Davidson at 216-593-0593 for more information



Yes, we would like to participate in the private tour of

## The Maltz Museum of Jewish History

Number of Adults (at \$10 apiece) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Seniors or College Students (at \$5 apiece) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children 12 and Under (free) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Payments to: Mark Davidson  
3681 Winchell Road, Shaker Heights, OH 44122

# NEWS FROM BETH EL

# חדשות



**Yasher Koah to:** **יישר כוח!**  
➤ Zev Valancy who will appear as Warwick in St. Joan at Northwestern U. April 21-30

**Thanks for the contribution to:** **תודה!**  
➤ Rabbi Moshe and Nili Adler, who donated a new Israeli flag to BE-THS.

**Condolences to:** **ביחום אבלים**  
➤ The family of David Levine, a long-time member of Temple Beth El. David passed away early in March.

**Thanks for the help to:** **תודה!**  
➤ Robin Dubin, Sue Klein, Teri Tomberg and Blanche Valancy who made short work of processing the March Newsletter for mailing.  
➤ Nili Adler, Rabbi Moshe Adler, Nan Hecht, Ilana Schmitt, Laura Rabinowitz, Joe Buchwald Gelles, and Shulamit Magnus, who read Megillat Esther on Purim.  
➤ Shelley Costa Bloomfield and Stacia Dearmin for outstanding Lunch and Learn presentations in February and March.

**Refuah Sh'lema to:** **רפואה שלימה!**  
➤ Clara Dick  
➤ Harvey Jacobs

**Thanks for donations to:** **תודה!**  
➤ Michael Becker, in honor of Blanche, Jack and Zev Valancy.  
➤ Frank and Jeanette Buchwald, in honor of Adam Kugelman becoming Bar Mitzvah.  
➤ Hope and Jay Fromson in honor of Elana Berusch becoming Bat Mitzvah.  
➤ Louis Gray, in memory of Morris Gray.  
➤ Laura Gooch and David Kazdan, to the Chesed Committee.  
➤ Diane and Norman Lefstein, in honor of Elana Berusch becoming Bat Mitzvah.  
➤ Daniel Price and Bonnie Diamond, in honor of Adam Kugelaman becoming Bar Mitzvah and Elana Berusch becoming Bat Mitzvah.  
➤ Abby and Steve Sender  
➤ Marsha Weisberg, to the Capital Fund, in honor of Elana Berush becoming Bat Mitzvah.  
➤ Anonymous

**Thanks for Kiddush sponsorship to:** **תודה!**  
➤ David and Karen Shiffman, who sponsored Kiddush on March 25 in honor of Sam's Bar Mitzvah.

Jewish Family Service Association

## Holocaust Survivor Program

Provides support and services to Holocaust survivors. If you or someone you know needs help, please call

Ellie Shoag at JFSA  
216-378-3476

*All information will be kept confidential.*

## Learners' Services

Does the davening leave you in the dust? Come to our new and improved Learners' Service. Practice praying at a slow pace. Ask questions and get answers. Take-home study guides from the new Berhman House series for adults. Meet around 10:20 AM and rejoin the main service for the d'var Torah.

Join us for Learners' Services on Saturdays,  
April 1 and May 6.

# CALENDAR, APRIL 2006

April 2006

ניסן \ אייר 5766

Saturday, April 1, about 10:20 AM – Learners' Service. See page 4 for details.

Tuesday, April 11, 2006, 8:46 PM – B'dikat hametz (final search) בדיקת חמץ

Wednesday, April 12, 2006 – Erev Pesah

11:15 AM – Latest time for eating hametz

12:21 PM – Deadline for renouncing ownership of hametz

Before sunset – Establish *eruv tavshilin* (see below for further information)

8:04 PM (Sunset) – Laws of *yom tov* begin to apply

8:47 PM (Dark) – *Yom tov* candles are lit; first *seder* begins סדר ראשון

Thursday, April 13, 2006 – 1<sup>st</sup> day of Pesah

9:15 AM – Pesah I Morning Services

8:48 PM (Dark) – *Yom tov* candles are lit; second *seder* begins סדר שני

Friday, April 14, 2006 – 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Pesah

9:15 AM – Pesah II Morning Services

7:48 PM – Shabbat candles are lit

8:06 PM – Sunset

Shabbat, April 15 – Shabbat Hol HaMoed

8:50 PM (Dark) – Shabbat may be ended

Tuesday, April 18 – Erev *yom tov*

8:10 PM (Sunset) – Laws of *yom tov* begin to apply

8:54 PM (Dark) – *Yom tov* candles are lit

Wednesday, April 19 – 7<sup>th</sup> day of Pesah

9:15 AM – Pesah VII Morning Services

8:55 PM (Dark) – *Yom tov* candles are lit

Thursday, April 20 – Last day of Pesah

9:15 AM – Pesah VIII Morning Services

8:56 PM (Dark) – *Havdalah* may be recited and *yom tov* ended

Tuesday, April 25 – *Yom Hashoah* יום השואה

Sunday, April 30, 7:00 to 8:30 PM – Judaism and End of Life Issues, Session 2:

Decision Making. See page 6 for details.

Saturday, May 6 – Learners' Service – see page 4 for details.

Saturday, May 6, after services – Kiddush with Rashi. See sidebar for details.

Sunday, May 7, 1:00 PM – Private tour of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage.

Reservations required. See page 3 for details.

## I Can't Believe I Ate the Whole *Eruv*!

This year, the third day of Pesah falls on Shabbat. That calls for an *eruv tavshilin*. Here's what it is and how it works: The Sages limited baking and cooking on *yom tov* to what is necessary for that day, but they relaxed this limitation when Shabbat falls on the day after *yom tov*, in order to allow the preparation of Shabbat food on *yom tov*. This is accomplished by means of a ritual (found in the Haggadah and the Prayer Book) called "*eruv tavshilin*," which means "mingling of cooked foods."

Before *yom tov*, when you do your holiday cooking and baking, set aside a small portion of what you're cooking, along with a sheet of matzah, and recite the blessing found in the Haggadah or Prayer Book. Then declare: "By means of this *eruv* it becomes permissible for us — and for all Jews living in this town — to bake, cook, warm up food, light Shabbat candles, and prepare during the *yom tov* all that we need for Shabbat." Put the food and matzah away and eat them on Shabbat day. Then you can brag that you not only used an *eruv*, you ate one.



## Kiddush with Rashi

Wonder what Rashi, the famous Medieval commentators, made of the Five Books of Moses?

Satisfy your appetite, both of mind and body, during an engaging and accessible exploration during kiddush.

Lead by Cheryl Birkner Mack, who teaches at the Siegal College of Judaic Studies and Cuyahoga Community College and has a graduate degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Saturday, May 6  
– after services

The public is cordially invited to Beth El–The Heights Synagogue  
for an Adult Education Mini-Series on

## **Medical Ethics: Judaism and End-of-Life Issues**

*with*

**Rabbi Moshe Adler**  
of Beth El–The Heights Synagogue

**Dr. Stuart J. Youngner**  
Chairman of the Department of Bioethics  
at Case Western Reserve University

**Jessica Berg, JD**  
Professor of Law and Bioethics  
at Case Western Reserve University Schools of Law & Medicine

### **April 30 – End-of-Life Issues: Decision Making**

Dr. Youngner's presentation will include Clinical Ethics, Consultation, Medical Interventions, Choices, and the Moment of Death.

### **May 21 – How to Effectuate the Decisions**

**– Legally, Medically, and Religiously**

Rabbi Adler and Jessica Berg, JD, close the series with a focus on a pragmatic integration of legal, medical and religious approaches. This session will include a wrap-up, as well as questions and discussion.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** general public, consumers, doctors, nurses, social workers, etc.  
The format will be a 45 minute presentation followed by 45 minutes of questions and discussion.

Light refreshments will be served in the social hall following each session.

*There will be no charge. A donation is suggested.*

The sessions will be held at  
Beth El–The Heights Synagogue  
3246 Desota Ave in Cleveland Heights

**7:00 PM to 8:30 PM**

**Sundays March 19, April 30, and May 21**  
For information or directions, call 216-320-9667.



**BETH EL**  
The Heights Synagogue

# March and April Yahrzeits

## FEBRUARY 25 – MARCH 3 27 SHEVAT – 3 ADAR

Irving Bloom	29 Shevat
Emanuel Mills	29 Shevat
Phil Mishinsky	29 Shevat
Edith Bertman	30 Shevat
Dorothy Samuels	30 Shevat
Rabbi David L. Genuth	1 Adar
David Beckerman	1 Adar
Sam Buchwald	1 Adar
Mary Rachel Linden	1 Adar
Clara Miller	1 Adar
Rose Rock	2 Adar
Kurt Brandes	2 Adar

## MARCH 4 – MARCH 10 4 ADAR – 10 ADAR

Abe Hoicowitz	5 Adar
Julius Weinberg	5 Adar
Clara Adler	5 Adar
Isaac Wachter	6 Adar
Sonia S. Goldstein	7 Adar
Zali Schlesinger	7 Adar
Samual Taubman	8 Adar
Hannah Eifer	9 Adar
Bertha Pepper	10 Adar
Boris Kushner	10 Adar
Isidor Sobel	10 Adar II

## MARCH 11 – MARCH 17 11 ADAR – 17 ADAR

Harry H. Sobel	11 Adar
David Negin	13 Adar
Selma Chernikoff	13 Adar
Malke Bilkes	14 Adar
Jacob Chassis	14 Adar
Phyllis Sharpe	14 Adar
Morris Bloom	15 Adar II
Dora J. Horwitz	16 Adar
Abram Woolf	17 Adar II
Isadore Glanz	17 Adar

## MARCH 18 – MARCH 24 18 ADAR – 24 ADAR

Solomon Malkin	19 Adar
Louis Davis	19 Adar II
Mary Cernigoj	19 Adar II
Esther Hollander	20 Adar
Daniel Geddes	20 Adar
Barbara Becker	22 Adar
Frank Milinsky	22 Adar II
Norman Lynn	22 Adar I
Ida Weiss	23 Adar I
Harvey Mendel	23 Adar II

## MARCH 25 – MARCH 31 25 ADAR – 2 NISAN

Miranda Claire Bryant	25 Adar
Lawrence Sussman	26 Adar I
Leo Berman	26 Adar I
Joseph Fromson	27 Adar
Jacob Gerblich	27 Adar
Michael Chassis	27 Adar II
Jacob Fromson	27 Adar II
Celia Auerbach	28 Adar
Pauline Shamis	28 Adar
Max Brodman	28 Adar II
Leo Moskovitz	29 Adar
Lena Greenhut	29 Adar
Sam Zavelowitz	1 Nisan
Minnie Silverman	2 Nisan
Bertha Weisberg	2 Nisan

## APRIL 1 – APRIL 7 3 NISAN – 9 NISAN

Samuel Chernikoff	3 Nisan
Edward Einhorn	4 Nisan
Ida Grossman	4 Nisan
Rose Kushner	4 Nisan
Julius Weil	4 Nisan
Gloria Horwitz	4 Nisan
Louis Levine	5 Nisan
Isadore Einhorn	7 Nisan
Ben Engel	7 Nisan
Ida Glanz	8 Nisan
Gregory Reimer	9 Nisan

## APRIL 8 – APRIL 14 10 NISAN – 16 NISAN

Max Newman	10 Nisan
Israel David Margolin	11 Nisan
Leonora Katz	12 Nisan
Hyman Fromson	13 Nisan
Barbara Joyce Gilden	13 Nisan
Morris Schwartz	14 Nisan
Elinor Orche	15 Nisan
Clara Soffer	15 Nisan
Samuel Rottman	15 Nisan
Celia Davis	16 Nisan
Louis Widzer	16 Nisan
Leslie Rolle	16 Nisan

## APRIL 15 – APRIL 21 17 NISAN – 23 NISAN

Rabbi Samuel Fredman	17 Nisan
Irwin Horowitz	20 Nisan
Louis Carr	22 Nisan
Morris Harry Haskin	23 Nisan
Doris Silver	23 Nisan
Herman Eiffer	23 Nisan
Rachel Gooch	23 Nisan

## APRIL 22 – APRIL 28 24 NISAN – 30 NISAN

Jack Zollett	24 Nisan
Pearl Gelfand	26 Nisan
Albert Paige	26 Nisan
Abe Fromson	27 Nisan
Bessie Wasserman	27 Nisan
Leo Goldstein	28 Nisan
Herman Givertz	28 Nisan
Zev Peretz Bloom	28 Nisan
Jennie Friedler	29 Nisan

**POWER OF ATTORNEY  
FOR THE SALE OF HAMETZ**

**Passover 2006/ Pesah 5766**

I, the undersigned, fully empower and permit Rabbi Moshe Adler to act in my place and stead, and in my behalf, to sell all hametz possessed by me (knowingly or unknowingly), as defined by Torah and Rabbinic law (i.e., known hametz, substances of doubtful hametz status, and all kinds of hametz mixtures); hametz that tends to harden and to adhere to the inner surfaces of pans, pots or cooking and utility vessels; and all kinds of live animals that have been eating hametz or mixtures thereof. I further authorize Rabbi Moshe Adler to lease all places wherein the hametz owned by me may be found, especially at the premises located at:

\_\_\_\_\_ .

Rabbi Moshe Adler has the full right to sell and to lease by transactions, as he deems fit and proper and for such periods of time as he believes are necessary for the halachically effective disposal of my hametz as defined above.

I further give Rabbi Moshe Adler full power and authority to appoint a substitute in his stead with full power to sell and lease as provided herein. The above given power is in conformity with all Torah and Rabbinic laws, and in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and of the United States of America.

I hereby affix my signature on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year \_\_\_\_\_, as reckoned in the United States of America.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

***Please see that your authorization reaches the Rabbi by April 7, 2006. Thank you.***

Selling the hametz is a free service, and donations are entirely voluntary.  
Should you wish to make one, please make it to the order of BETH EL – THE HEIGHTS SYNAGOGUE  
and earmark it “Maot Hittin.” This is a fund for purchasing Passover food for needy Jews.

Please mail your forms directly to Rabbi Moshe Adler  
4083 Bushnell Road, University Heights, OH 44118





# Please Help Us with Spring Cleaning!

Have we made a deal!

We can get all of our tallitot clean, and no,  
you don't have to take them home to wash!

We have made a deal with Fairmount Cleaners  
to clean them for \$2.00 apiece. But we need your help:

You can sponsor as many clean Tallitot as you wish, just send your  
earmarked donation to Treasurer Laura Gooch at the BE-THS office,  
3246 Desota Avenue, Cleveland Heights, 44118.