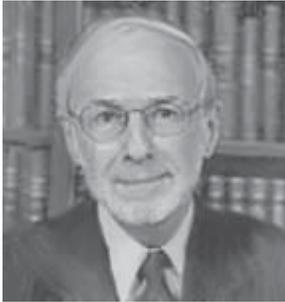




# BETH EL NEWSLETTER

The Heights Synagogue

April, 2007  
ניסן \ אייר 5767



Rabbi Moshe Adler

## Bread from Heaven, Bread from Earth

Once the Israelites had left Egypt, crossed the sea on dry land, and escaped the pursuing Egyptian army, they joined Moses and Miriam in a song of praise to G-d, exclaiming, "This is my G-d and I will enshrine Him – the G-d of my ancestor, and I will exalt Him!" (Exodus 15.2). But that was by no means the end of the story.

Why did the manna cease as soon as the Israelites ate of the produce of Eretz Yisrael? After all, what better way to demonstrate to the world G-d's power to provide than to have Israel live on manna from Heaven while pagan nations had to wrest their food from the earth? The answer lies in Moses' exhortation to the people toward the end of the forty years of wandering:

*Remember the long way that HaShem your G-d has made you travel in the wilderness these past forty years, that He might test you by hardships to learn what was in your hearts: whether you would keep His commandments or not. He subjected you to the hardship of hunger and then gave you manna to eat, which neither you nor your ancestors had ever known, in order to teach you that the human being does not live on bread alone, but that the human being may live on anything that HaShem decrees" (Deuteronomy 8.2-3).*

The manna was not only nourishment but also a test of the people's willingness to follow G-d. As the classic commentator Nachmanides (on Exodus 16.4) explains :

*G-d could have led them by way of the surrounding towns,* (Continued on page 3)

As the Israelites headed into the wilderness, they began to worry about what they would live on when their provisions had run out. In response to their need for water, G-d told Moses to strike a rock and bring forth water. In response to their need for food, G-d sent down manna, a crystalline substance that came with the morning frost and that nourished them completely.

The Bible tells us that "the Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a settled land; they ate the manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan" (Exodus 16.35). Once they entered the Promised Land, however, and "ate of the produce of the land, the manna ceased. The Israelites got no more manna; that year they ate of the yield of the land of Canaan" (Joshua 5.11-12).



חג פסח  
כשר  
ושמח

Wishing you  
a kosher and  
happy Pesah!

Beth El - The Heights Synagogue builds vibrant Jewish community.

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

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



**Jack Valancy**

# Our Slavery, Our Freedom

Gathering for our Passover Seder, we recall how we were slaves of Pharaoh, and how HaShem brought us from Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. Had our ancestors not been brought out, then we, our children, and our children's children might still be enslaved. It is our duty to tell the story of our departure from Egypt.

quest for freedom. I loved my grandfather's stories about the old country and how he came to America with his father. I imagined myself as a boy in Istanbul, enrolled in a military academy, as the Ottoman Empire was collapsing. My grandfather was soon to be conscripted into the Turkish Army, the same army Lawrence of Arabia fought during World War I.

My research led me to The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation web site (<http://www.ellisland.org>), where I searched the immigration records. Seeing my great-grandfather's and grandfather's names (spelled *Valansi*) on a 1913 "List or Manifest of Alien Passengers" sent a chill down my spine. Most of our families have similar freedom stories, many far more harrowing.

On January 6, 1941, in an address famously known as the Four Freedoms speech, President Franklin D. Roosevelt enumerated fundamental freedoms humans "everywhere in the world" ought to enjoy:

1. Freedom of speech and expression
2. Freedom of every person to worship in his own way
3. Freedom from want
4. Freedom from fear

The Four Freedoms inspired Eleanor Roosevelt in her work as a member of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights that drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 (<http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>). It recognizes "the inherent dignity and ... the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family (as) the

*(Continued on page 3, column 1)*

We are fortunate, most of us, that we can only imagine being slaves. Some of us were – or have loved ones who were – among the eight to twelve million enslaved by the Nazi war machine. Their stories tear our hearts and shock our sensibilities.

In the United States, we are just a few generations removed from the slavery that stains our nation's history. In February, the news broke that the Reverend Al Sharpton's great-grandfather was a slave owned by relatives of Senator Strom Thurmond, the longtime arch-segregationist who ran for president as a Dixiecrat in 1948. New York Times columnist Bob Herbert reported that "Mr. Sharpton seemed a little shaken by the revelation. 'You're always kind of thinking that your ancestors were slaves... but this was my grandfather's father. I knew my grandfather. It's eerie when it becomes so personal.'"

Although we were slaves in Egypt many generations ago, during our Seder our slavery becomes personal. As it is written, we shall tell the child who does not know how to ask a question, "This is done because of that which the Eternal did for *me* when *I* came forth from Egypt."

Researching this column, I had an eerily personal experience about my family's

**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.)

*(Our Slavery, Our Freedom, continued from page 2)*

foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.” Following this historic act, the General Assembly called upon all Member countries to publicize the Declaration “without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories.”

At Passover, we remember our slavery and we celebrate our freedom. As we work for the human rights of others, we affirm our own liberty, dignity, and humanity. For this, HaShem brought us from slavery in Egypt!



*(Bread from Heaven, continued from page 1)*

*but led them instead through a “wilderness with its seraph serpents and scorpions” (Deuteronomy 8.15), where the only food they had would be bread sent from Heaven day in and day out. This test would prove in the end to have benefited them by giving them a lasting faith in G–d.*

G–d showed the Israelites that He could provide for them anywhere, by any means. Once they ate of the produce of the Promised Land, the manna ceased because it had served its purpose. They now understood that, just as it was HaShem who had fed them heavenly bread, it was HaShem who was now feeding them earthly bread.

But this important lesson had even farther-reaching ramifications. First, if the Israelites could remember that the G–d who performs occasional miracles is the same G–d who regularly works through nature, they might be less likely to make Him part of a pantheon of sky gods and earth goddesses. Second, they might eventually come to realize that reliance on recurring miracles for maintaining faith can become a kind of psychological drug – that it can take more and more miracles to maintain the same level of faith.

The Bible attests that the first of these ramifications was mostly not in evidence

during the biblical period. The prophets had to keep opposing the people’s continual syncretism and their loss of the connection between worshipping HaShem and living ethical and caring lives. Only during and after the Babylonian exile does fidelity to HaShem and His commandments begin to be the norm rather than the concern of a prophetic elite.

As for the second ramification – the realization that G–d can indeed work open miracles but prefers to work through nature – not until the time of Maimonides, who wrote in the late tenth and early eleventh centuries of the Common Era, do we find the principle stated clearly and unequivocally. Maimonides’ teaching on miracles and faith has since become integral to faith, though it is all but forgotten in our day, when people pit G–d and nature against one another as they do in contrived controversies like “evolution vs. intelligent design.”

At the *seder*, when we recall how G–d liberated us and took us as His own, let’s renew our commitment to a mature, nuanced, and abiding faith in G–d. Let’s remember that, in feeding us bread from Heaven, G–d was teaching us to find His love in the bread that comes from the earth. ...*Ha-motzi lehem min ha-aretz.*

Nili and I wish you a happy and kosher Pesah. Rabbi Moshe Adler



Miriam Rabinowitz and Nan Hecht, reading the Megillah, with Rabbi Moshe Adler and Nili Adler assisting.



## Reminder: Power of Attorney for the Sale of Hametz Forms

Rabbi Adler requested that all Power of Attorney for the Sale of Hametz forms be in his hands by March 27.

If you need a copy of the form, see the March newsletter, or download one from the BE-THS web site, <http://www.bethelheights.org/>

The forms should be delivered directly to:  
Rabbi Moshe Adler  
4083 Bushnell Road  
University Heights  
OH 44118



Laura Rabinowitz and Karen Kugelman



Didi Shiloh, Maya and Anna Wachter



Aviva Klein

# Adult Education

Saturday, April 14 – Learners’ Service – Does the davening leave you in the dust? Or do you leave services with more questions than answers? Come to our break-out Learners’ Service. Practice praying at a slow pace. Ask questions and get answers. Meet around 10:20 AM and rejoin the main service for the d’var Torah.

Saturday, April 21 – Learners’ Service

Sundays, April 29, May 6 and May 13, 7:30 PM – Rabbi Moshe Adler will present a mini-series, “Holy Chutzpah: The Thought of Abraham Joshua Heschel.” See below left for details.

Saturday, May 5 – Learners’ Service

## HOLY CHUTZPAH: THE THOUGHT OF ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL

Read and study the thought of this powerful thinker and activist with Rabbi Adler on three consecutive Sunday evenings at 7:30 PM.

April 29 – “Radical Amazement: Responding to God’s Call”

At the home of Eric Fryxell, 3189 Oak Road, Cleveland Hts.

May 6 – “Twin Suns in Heschel’s System: Halacha (law) and Agadah (narrative)”

At the home of Honey Massey, 2832 Hampshire Rd. Cleveland Heights

May 13 – “No Religion is an Island: Bridging the Chasm, Repairing the World”

At the home of Linda Tobin and Stephen Pepper 2440 Euclid Heights Boulevard, Cleveland Heights

We will read from *God in Search of Man* and *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity*. If you would like to order either of these books or if you need directions to the class locations, please call Eric Fryxell at 216-374-0905.

# Member Shelley Costa Bloomfield Writes and Directs a Musical

*These People*, produced by the Black Box Theater Project, will be presented at the 55-seat, “black box” River Street Playhouse at 56 River Street in Chagrin Falls, from April 12-29, 2007.

Shelley wrote the book for this new work that features all original music. A group of people who live and work in a rundown waterfront district learn the neighborhood is being razed for a soccer stadium and a series of upscale shops. The young developer can’t understand their decision to fight the destruction of the funky old bar, the local food bank, and the secondhand clothing store, but the district is where *These People* hide out from the little failures in their own lives. Will they sell out? Or will they stop the development? They have to reach out to each other in new ways, and what “develops” is better in the long run than the soccer stadium.

Evening performances are April 12, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, and 29 at 8:00 PM. Matinees are April 15 and 22 at 2:00 PM. All seats are \$16.00 and may be reserved by calling the Box Office at 216-233-0521 or online at <http://www.ticketspigot.com> (click on “Events”).

## Short Stories by Jewish Authors Mini Series Will Continue

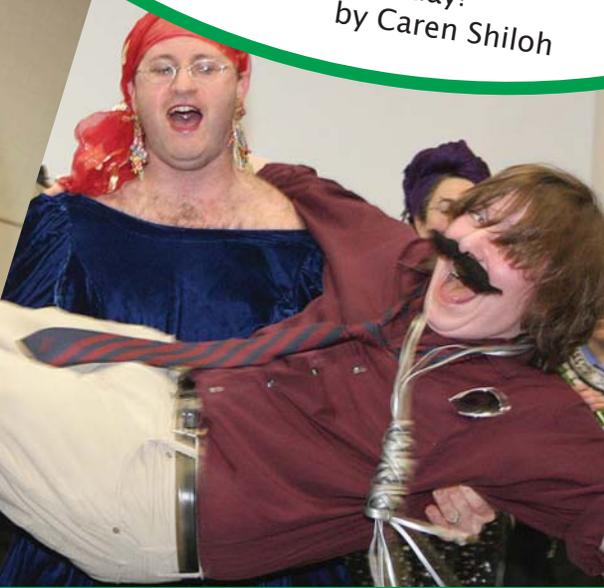
The Short Stories by Jewish Authors Reading and Discussion Group will meet on March 25. New participants are welcome to join this discussion. For information, please contact Sondra Jacobs, 216-397-1481, or [sondrajacobs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sondrajacobs@sbcglobal.net). An April meeting date will be decided upon at that time; watch your e-mail for further details.



# There's No Haman Like Our Haman!

There's no Haman like our Haman,  
There's no Haman we know  
Everything about him's unappealing,  
Even his own mother hates his guts,  
His evil plans will leave the Jews all reeling,  
Let's hope the king knows,  
That Haman's nuts!

You're bad Haman, a cad Haman,  
You smile when we are down.  
Even though you see that Mordechai will win  
You're still trying to do us in.  
Messing with our Esther is a mortal sin  
We want to see Haman sway,  
Let's hang Haman today!  
by Caren Shiloh



# NEWS FROM BETHEL

# חדשות

## Refuah Sh'lema to:

- Lance Colie
- Miriam Palevsky
- Ellen Ticktin
- Harold Ticktin

## Welcome, new members:

- Menachem Shoham and Deborah Smith

## Mazel Tov to:

- Louis Gray, a good friend of the congregation, who was recognized March 27 by the Ohio State Bar Association for his 65 years of legal practice.

## Yasher Koah to:

- Stacia Dearmin and Jack Valancy, who were quoted in the Plain Dealer, which ran this story: <http://www.newhouse.com/wanted-opportunities-for-career-minded-part-timers-4.html>
- Jacob Dennis, who competed in the Reader's Digest National Word Power competition at the state level in Columbus on March 19.
- Shulamit Magnus, who was invited to give a paper at the University of Chicago, in a conference on "Modernity's Other: Studies on Jewish Women," in February. Her paper, introduced by Paul Mendes-Flohr, was entitled, "Pauline Wengeroff on Modernity's Other: Men."
- Didi Shiloh, who is one of only 125 students from across Ohio whose artwork is exhibited in the 2007 Youth Art Month Art Exhibition in Columbus.
- Sophie Shiloh, who will be competing in the Power of the Pen Regional Competition in Hudson, Ohio, on April 14.
- Menacham Shoham, one of whose photographs will be exhibited in the JCC Annual Photography Show, April 25–June 3.

## Upcoming Performances:

- Congregation member Daniel Shapiro will be performing a piano recital in Kulas Hall at the Cleveland Institute of Music, 11021 East Boulevard, Cleveland, on Wednesday, April 11, at 8:00 PM. The program will consist entirely of the music of Franz Schubert. Also appearing on the program will be violinist Paul Kantor and Cleveland Orchestra principal cellist Desmond Hoebig. The concert is free.

## Thanks for Kiddush sponsorship to:

- March 10 – David and Teri Tomberg in memory of Teri's cousin, Evelyn Schliefer Lakoff Z"L.
- March 17 – Bronia and Adi Gerblich and Judith Chassis-Gerblich, in memory of Adi's father, Jacob Gerblich Z"L, and Judith's father, mother, and brother, Jacob, Buzia, and Mickey Chassis Z"L.

## Thanks for helping us smile on Comedy Night to:

- Scott Wachter, who organized and MC'd the event.
- Bill Bruml, who played the piano.
- Julie Rabin, who played piano for "The Elements."
- Merry Lugasy and Marvin Palevsky, who provided the refreshments.
- Thanks to all who stepped up and performed comedy routines for our enjoyment.

## Thanks to the following stalwart volunteers who prepared the March newsletter for mailing:

- Sue Greenberg
- Sue Klein
- Lynda Siff
- Blanche Valancy

## Thanks for help with the March 17 Lunch and Learn to:

- Jeanette Buchwald
- Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles
- Noam and Shani Gelles
- Judith Gerblich
- Marilyn Malkin
- Marvin Palevsky
- Nina Sobel
- David Tomberg

## Thanks for donations to:

- Frances Goldberg, in memory of her husband, Meyer Goldberg Z"L.
- Eric Fryxell, toward the Wine Tasting.
- Gabi Hayes, in memory of Julius Weil and Helen K. Weil Z"L.
- David Kazdan and Laura Gooch, toward replacement of the sanctuary windows and toward the Chesed fund.
- Abbie and Steve Sender, toward replacement of the sanctuary windows.
- Menahem Shoham, toward Israel reforestation.
- Lisa and Paul Veregge, in memory of Laille Gabinet Z"L.

## Thanks to our Purim Photographers:

- David Kazdan and Laura Gooch

**Thanks for reading or enhancing the reading of the Megillah to:**

- 1 - slides Adam Kugelman, reading Shulamit Magnus
- 2 - reading Nili Adler
- 3 - slides Aaron Rabinowitz, reading Miriam Rabinowitz
- 4 - slides Gabe Schmitt, reading Ilana Schmitt
- 5 - slides Sophie Shiloh, reading Joe Gelles
- 6 - pantomime, Buchwald Gelles family reading Nan Hecht
- 7 - slides Miriam and Aaron Rabinowitz, reading Joe Gelles
- 8 - slides Noah Schmitt, reading Rabbi Adler
- 9 - pantomime David Tomberg, Eric Fryxell, reading Nan Hecht
- 10 - reading Laura Rabinowitz
- Thanks to Ilana Schmitt for coordinating our Megillah readers.

**Thanks for all the work to produce the wonderful 2007 Purim Shpiel to:**

- The Cast:
- Esther - Peggy Sullivan
  - Mordechai - Ilana Schmitt
  - Ladies-in-Waiting (Back-up Singers)- Stacia Dearmin and Merry Lugasy
  - King Ahashuerus - Adam Kugelman
  - Haman - Noah Schmitt
  - The King's Would-Be Assassins - Ari Klein and Mia Buchwald Gelles
  - The King's Drinking Buddies - Sonny Kugelman, Noam and Shani Gelles, Gabe Schmitt, Will Bloom
  - Queen-to-Be Contestants - Sophie Shiloh, Grace Bloom, Shani Gelles, Sonny Kugelman
  - Queen Vashti - Eran Shiloh
- Cue Cards Held By:
- Emily Jennings and Didi Shiloh
- Music by: Bruce Jennings
- Written, directed and produced by:
- Caren Shiloh

**Yahrzeits, April 2007**

5767 **ניסן \ אייר**

NISAN		IYAR	
Hyman Fromson	13 Nisan	Bessie Wasserman	27 Nisan
Barbara Joyce Gilden	13 Nisan	Leo Goldstein	28 Nisan
Morris Schwartz	14 Nisan	Herman Givertz	28 Nisan
Abraham Gordon	14 Nisan	Zev Peretz Bloom	28 Nisan
Elinor Orche	15 Nisan	Jennie Friedler	29 Nisan
Clara Soffer	15 Nisan		
Celia Davis	16 Nisan	Maurine Berman	3 Iyar
Leslie Rolle	16 Nisan	John Berger	3 Iyar
Louis Widzer	16 Nisan	Earon Rein	4 Iyar
Rabbi Samuel Fredman	17 Nisan	Sam Hemple	5 Iyar
Mike Michelson	17 Nisan	George Friedlander	7 Iyar
Irwin Horowitz	20 Nisan	Sam Neuger	8 Iyar
Louis Carr	22 Nisan	Sam Auerbach	9 Iyar
Rachel Gooch	23 Nisan	David Shamis	9 Iyar
Morris Harry Haskin	23 Nisan	Sarah Frumker	9 Iyar
Doris Silver	23 Nisan	Annie Keller	10 Iyar
Herman Eiffer	23 Nisan	David Fredman	11 Iyar
Jack Zollett	24 Nisan	Shirley Markowitz Katz	11 Iyar
Pearl Gelfand	26 Nisan	Chaim Gabinet	12 Iyar
Albert Paige	26 Nisan	Rose Hemple	12 Iyar
Abe Fromson	27 Nisan		



James Johnson and Eric Fryxell

**Thanks to the Congregation for such a warm and enthusiastic response to our Shpiel,**

**and a special note from me applauding the cast, crew and music man on doing such a FABULOUS, AWESOME, BEYOND-MY-WILDEST-DREAMS job on the Shpiel!!**

**- Caren Shiloh**



Some of the young women of Shushan (aka Sophie Shiloh, Grace Bloom, and Sarah Moritz) watch the Purim Shpiel after their part is over.

# CALENDAR, APRIL 2007

ביסן \ אייר 5767

Sunday, March 25, 2007, 1:30 PM – **Holocaust Program: “The Project to Reconstitute the Destroyed Communities of Europe,”** Sallyann Amdur Sack, PhD, Editor, Avotaynu, The International Review of Jewish Genealogy. The program will be held at Menorah Park, 27100 Cedar Road, and is free. Contact: Richard Spector, Jewish Genealogy Society of Cleveland, 216-378-9353, [1stVP@clevelandjgs.org](mailto:1stVP@clevelandjgs.org)

Sunday, March 25, 7:00–8:30 PM – **Short Stories by Jewish Authors** Reading and Discussion Group will meet at the home of Harvey and Sondra Jacobs. See page 4 for further information.

Sunday, April 1, 2:00 PM – **“Brave Old World: Song of the Lodz Ghetto.”** Song of the Lodz Ghetto is a unique musical-theatrical work, a song cycle in which memory and imagination freely interact to create a musical and spiritual journey of resistance, love, and reconciliation ([www.braveoldworld.com](http://www.braveoldworld.com)). The program will be held at The Temple-Tifereth Israel, 26000 Shaker Boulevard. Tickets: \$13-26. Contact: JCC Arts & Culture Dept., 216-593-6258. [ssellers@clevejcc.org](mailto:ssellers@clevejcc.org)

APRIL 2–10 – **PESAH** – SEE THE 2007 PASSOVER GUIDE OR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER FOR THE FULL PESAH CALENDAR. THE PASSOVER GUIDE MAY BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE BE-THS WEB SITE, <http://www.bethelheights.org/>

Saturday, April 14, 10:20 AM – **Learners’ Service** – See page 4 for further details.

Sunday, April 15 – **Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day** יום השואה

Saturday, April 21 – **Learners’ Service** – See page 4 for further details.

Monday, April 23 – **Yom Ha’Atzmaut – Israel Independence Day** (ה' אייר) יום העצמאות

Sundays, April 29, May 6 and May 13, 7:30 PM – Rabbi Moshe Adler will present a mini-series, **“Holy Chutzpah: The Thought of Abraham Joshua Heschel.”** Locations vary. See page 4 for details.

Saturday, May 5 – **Learners’ Service** – See page 4 for further details.

*How far you go  
in life depends  
on your being  
tender with  
the young,  
compassionate  
with the aged,  
sympathetic  
with the  
striving, and  
tolerant of the  
weak and strong.  
Because someday  
in your life you  
will have been  
all of these.*

George  
Washington  
Carver

## New Option: Get the Newsletter Via E-Mail Only

There have been a lot of positive comments about the full-color version of the monthly newsletter, which can only be sent out electronically. A number of members have also requested to receive only the electronic version (no paper copy), both to save paper and printing costs, and to be able to file the newsletter some place where they can find it. Another benefit: the electronic newsletter is usually available about a week sooner than the paper copies are delivered.

As a consequence, we will be offering the option to receive the newsletter electronically only, if you would like. Please send an e-mail message to [news@bethelheights.org](mailto:news@bethelheights.org), to let your editor know if you prefer this format, and less paper in your mailbox. Please specify whether you would like to receive the newsletter as an attachment (usually less than one MB), or whether you’d prefer to simply receive notification when the newsletter is available for one-click download from the BE-THS web site.

Carol Bruml