



Rabbi Moshe Adler



חג פסח
כשר
ושמח

**Wishing you
a kosher and
happy Pesah!**

Can't Have One without the Other

On the second night of Pesah, toward the end of the seder, we begin counting forty-nine days, and the fiftieth day is the holiday of Shavuot. This practice is called the counting of the *omer*, a term referring to a measure of newly harvested barley that we were commanded to bring to the Temple on the second day of Pesah. Even though we can no longer bring our *omer* to the Temple, the counting remains a *mitzvah*.

Counting the days and weeks between Pesah and Shavuot establishes an intimate link between them. The Talmud calls the holiday of Shavuot *atzeret*, which usually means a festive gathering. However, because the root of the word literally means “stop,” calling Shavuot *atzeret* implies that it is a cessation of some sort – that the period beginning with Pesah and ending with Shavuot constitutes a special season of the year. What is the significance of that season?

Without the freedom that we were given on Pesah, we could not have accepted the Torah because as slaves we could not give consent, much less take HaShem as our true Master. Conversely, without the

Torah that we were given on Shavuot, freedom would merely have made us a clone of Egypt rather than a people with a divine mandate to change the world. Freedom and responsibility go hand in hand, or they go nowhere.

On a deeper level, Hasidic insight regards the counting of the days and weeks as a gradual ascent through successively higher levels of consciousness. Just as we re-live the Exodus on Pesah, and the giving of the Torah on Shavuot, we re-live our people's ascent from spiritual bondage to spiritual freedom during the counting of the *omer*. Viewed this way, the Pesah–Omer–Shavuot season is not only a historical and political commemoration but also a microcosm of our people's social and spiritual growth. (We were able to learn the tune in just seven weeks plus forty days, but it took us centuries to learn to play it correctly.)

In short: Pesah makes Shavuot possible, and Shavuot gives Pesah meaning. You can't have one without the other.

Nili and I wish everyone a happy and kosher Pesah!

**Beth El - The Heights Synagogue builds vibrant Jewish community.
We welcome all in participatory, traditional, egalitarian worship and learning.**



**Scott Wachter,
President**

President's Perspectives, April 2012

The Independent Shul

Over the last few years, there has been a strong undercurrent across the country against chain stores, restaurants, and fast food restaurants. Many books and articles have been written about the disappearance of unique, local businesses and eateries. For better or worse, big box stores are making their mark across the American landscape, along with restaurants you can find in any city or country.

Some people like the familiarity of the chain stores and the predictability of the big name fast food restaurants. This is understandable; we all tend to gravitate to what we know. This month's article is about the independents. If you're of the mind-set that the local independent stores and restaurants are more attractive because they are off the beaten path you may want to consider membership at **Beth El – The Heights Synagogue**. In many respects, **Beth El – The Heights Synagogue** is the exact opposite of a chain.

First, we are land-locked in a residential neighborhood. While many synagogues are built near highway access, we are smack in the middle of a neighborhood. It's easy to get to us by car (albeit, a bit of a drive from the highway), but one can easily walk or bike. Sidewalks surround us. Regardless your source of transportation, we're situated where the infrastructure is in place to support your transportation preference.

Because we're in the middle of a multitude of homes, at the end of a service during the spring or summer it's not too unusual to see kids of all kinds playing outside. Surrounded by green and trees, it's especially pretty. Nothing beats the beauty of fall as

the colors start to show while we observe the High Holy Days.

One of the most interesting and challenging aspects of our makeup is that we're not affiliated. We're not Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, or Reform. We stand on our own as traditional/egalitarian. We determine on our own accord what prayers to add and revise. This makes our service unique in many respects. We use more than the *Chumash* for our Torah service, which allows for diversity and discussion about the week's *Parsha*.

Our building is old, and it's not fancy, but it has its own distinctiveness. Built with red brick, it has doors in strange places. Our building has offices in locations where you don't typically find offices. This only adds character. We have a social hall that isn't fancy, but we've hosted weddings and many a *simcha*. It's not all old-fashioned either. We were able to retrofit an up-to-date *shomer Shabbat* elevator.

In this day and age, when one travels from one city to another and sees only repetitions of the same chain stores and restaurants, the independent business or locality seems to be a remnant of the past. For better or worse, some synagogues have gone that route, as well. At **Beth El – The Heights Synagogue**, it's very much the opposite. We're a different place, with our own service, building, and location. We're out of the way, in a good sense. If you're looking for a synagogue with these types of qualities (and many others) please consider stopping by on any Shabbat. We look forward to greeting you, in our one of a kind **Beth El – The Heights Synagogue** fashion.

**QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?
COMMENTS?
COMPLAINTS?**
Please do not hesitate to contact the President by e-mail president@bethelheights.org or home telephone (216) 932-5964

**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 Leon Adato, leon@adatofamily.com if you need help with signing up.

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER:
If you'd like to get the pdf e-mail version, contact news@bethelheights.org

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Carol Bruml, Editor – Telephone 216-932-9155, E-mail: news@bethelheights.org
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The New Monthly Yahrzeit Kiddush

On the last Shabbat of each month our congregation celebrates a Simcha Kiddush, a public celebration of happy events that have occurred that month. For as little as a \$36 donation, members can join in sponsoring the Kiddush that week. We celebrate the monthly event with a cake and a sign listing the donors' names and events.

It is traditional to make a donation or sponsor a kiddush in memory of a loved one around the time of a Yahrzeit, but some may not wish to sponsor a full kiddush. We plan to begin holding a special Yahrzeit Kiddush on the first Shabbat of each month for those who wish to share in a jointly-sponsored kiddush in memory of their loved ones. A special cold dish, such as gefilte fish, will be added to the kiddush on these occasions.

Members who will be observing Yahrzeits in the coming month may contribute \$36, and will be recognized on a sign on the kiddush table, along with the name(s) of the person(s) whose memory they are honoring.

Contact the shul at 216-320-9667 or info@bethelheights.org or download the Kiddush sponsorship form from the web site, www.bethelheights.org.

Teen Torah Study

Jeff Halpern and Jillian Rosales are pleased to announce that Teen Torah Study is transitioning to meeting every Shabbat in the teen lounge to study *Perkei Avot*. They will continue to progress through the *Mishnah* until completed. They still welcome special guests to teach different subjects and new facilitators to assist in the study of *Perkei Avot*. Please contact Jeffrey Halpern at jmh12@case.edu if you would like to help.

Teen Torah Study will meet on both Shabbatot during Pesach.

First Aid Kits Updated

The first aid kits in the room off the sanctuary and in the kitchen have been updated. Members should be aware that items such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen (both adult and pediatric dosages) and throat lozenges, are available, in addition to rudimentary first aid supplies for treatment of cuts, burns, and scrapes. Eye wash solution is in the kitchen kit only.

Short Stories by Jewish Authors Reading and Discussion Group

Maya Arad and Nathan Englander – Two Distinct Literary Voices

Omsk, a city in Siberia, is the destination of a 43-year-old Israeli woman who seeks to adopt a Russian orphan. We are confronted with her every concern and anxiety about the experience, from her past failures to find a mate or a sperm donor, to the trip to meet the child. She worries about everything, and analyzes, analyzes, analyzes. The writing is very intense and we find ourselves worrying right along with her. Arad's style is straightforward and appealing, but this is a tough subject to manage. Arad writes in Hebrew although she has lived in the U.S. for over 20 years. *Omsk* is her only story that has been translated into English.

Nathan Englander, a contemporary short-story author, is more playful with his works, more imaginative, or fanciful, you might say. The four stories that we read in *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank* were decidedly different. He uses exposition in some unusual ways that led us to speculate on his intentions. His stories are compelling---boys dealing with a neighborhood bully; his own sorrow over a lost love (undoubtedly autobiographical); the projected decline of interest in a once-prominent author (is he speculating about his own future?); and, finally, a story that covers a variety of scenarios---the Sinai War in 1956, a Holocaust survivor returning to his childhood home, a modern-day Israeli father and son who provide the narrative---all of which offered our group another stimulating evening of discussion.

Short Stories by Jewish Authors Reading & Discussion Group will next meet on Sunday evening, April 29, 7:00 PM. For other information, please contact Sondra Jacobs, 216-397-1481 or sondrajacobs@sbcglobal.net.

Meet Maureen Barasch

A native of Dayton, Ohio, Maureen moved to Cleveland eight years ago. She lives in South Euclid and is the mother of Dr. Dafna Barasch, who is a family physician; she is also the grandmother of three-year-old Gavriella. Maureen is an artist who works primarily in oil painting and loves theater. She is an avid student of Hebrew literature and Bible at Siegal College and is a member of Great Books Foundation, where she reads and discusses classical works recommended by the University of Chicago. She has two Chihuahua dogs, Tango and Samba, and enjoys taking care of young children.



Maureen is highly impressed by the liturgical skills, commitment, and welcoming spirit of the **Beth El –The Heights Synagogue** community. She is especially grateful to Miriam Palevsky who taught her how to chant the *haftarah*.



Thanks to Miriam Palevsky
for Photos of Purim 2012.

Learners' Services

Are you interested in: Becoming more comfortable with the Shabbat morning service? Building your prayer vocabulary? Delving into the meaning of prayers? Join us for the Learners' Service! Each session is a self-contained unit so you can drop in as your schedule permits. We meet twice a month, on the first and third Shabbats, in the library adjacent to the balcony, when the Torah service starts (about 10:30 AM) and rejoin the service in time for the d'var Torah. Our text is *Hi'neni: Prayerbook Hebrew for Adults*, by Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin; it is available through Joe Buchwald Gelles, jbgelles@gmail.com or 216-321-6734 at cost.

Questions? Contact Mia Buchwald Gelles, miabgelles@gmail.com or 216-321-6717.

Upcoming topics:

April 7, 2012 – Meet after Hallel - questions about Hallel, Seder, Passover

May 5, 2012 – Havdalah

May 19, 2012 – Havdalah

June 2, 2012 – Wrap-up for the season

Topics may change, depending upon how quickly the group moves through the material. (Note that we will resume the usual first and third Shabbatot schedule for May and the first week of June.)

Pre-

Need a night out before the Passover holiday begins?

Passover

Want the kids out of the kitchen, so you can prepare for Pesah?

Pasta

Your house is already hametz-free, and you want to keep it that way?

Palooza

Need an hour to catch your breath and rest from all the preparations?

Come to the Pre-Passover Pasta Palooza!

Thursday, April 5, 2011 – Serving from 5:30 to 7:00 PM, in the Social Hall

Cost: \$10.00 per person, \$30 for four or more (children under 5 free)

Last chance to sell your hametz to the Rabbi before Pesah!



Beth El
The Heights Synagogue

3246 Desota Avenue
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

216-320-9667, info@bethelheights.org
www.bethelheights.org

Questions? Contact Scott Wachter
wachter@nacs.net or
216-932-5964

Beth El –The Heights Synagogue builds vibrant Jewish community.
We welcome all in participatory, traditional, egalitarian worship and learning.

Yes, we would like to attend the Pre-Passover Pasta Palooza on April 5!

Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$10/person; \$30 for four or more people) (under age 5 free)

For _____ adults/children 5 and over, and _____ children under 5 years (free)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Prepaid reservations requested by April 2. Walk-ins welcome.

Please make checks payable to Beth El-The Heights Synagogue, and mail to
3276 Desota Avenue, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

_____ I will help set up (4:00 PM) _____ I will help clean up afterward

NEWS FROM BETH EL

חדשות

Refuah Sh'lema to:

- Carol Bruml
- Philip Kazdan

Yasher Koah to:

- **Leon Cabinet**, whose daughter-in-law, Christina Hull Paxson, currently the dean of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton, will become the president of Brown University on July 1. The full news release may be found at < <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/03/education/christina-hull-paxson-to-lead-brown-university.html> >
- **Teen members Maggie Berusch, Mariah Steiger, and Anna and Maia Wachter**, who appeared in the Cleveland Heights Swim Cadets annual show in March. Maggie and Mariah will travel to Israel together, with NCSY, this summer.

Thanks for donations to:

- **Rabbi Moshe and Nili Adler**, in gratitude to HaShem for continued good health.
- **Rabbi Moshe and Nili Adler**, thanking the Halpern family, the Rosales family, Honey Massey and Bud Stern, the Gelles family, the Rabinowitz family, and the Miller-Saunt family for mishloach Manot on Purim.
- **Leah Austin**, for a matching gift from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.
- **Leonard and Sue Bernstein**, in honor of Ieda and Marvin Warshay's 50th wedding anniversary.
- **Betty and Dick Bloomfield**, in memory of Betty's mother, Selma Mayzel Z"l.
- **Bill and Carol Bruml**, in honor of Joe and Mia Gelles.
- **Bill and Carol Bruml**, for facilities improvements.
- **Deborah Cahan**, in memory of her father, Leo Smith Z"l.
- **Vicki Spalding-Rosales**, in memory of Dalia Kutnick's father, Yoav Burshtein Z"l.
- **Vicki Spalding-Rosales**, in memory of Sherry Ball's mother, Mary Lucita Ball Z"l.

Mazel Tov to:

- **Adi and Judith Gerblich**, who just became grandparents to a new granddaughter, Ella, born to their son, Jonny, and Dafna Gerblich, who live in Tel Aviv.

Thanks to all who donated for Matanot La-Evyonim on Erev Purim. The money was given to Matan B'Sayser, a local fund for aid to the poor, on Purim.

Thanks to all who read chapters of the M'gillah on Purim:

- 1 Shulamit Magnus
- 2 Miriam Palevsky
- 3 Miriam Rabinowitz
- 4 Nili Adler
- 5 Moshe Adler
- 6 Joe Gelles
- 7 Shani Gelles
- 8 and 9 Nan Hecht
- 10 Noam Gelles

Miriam Palevsky videotaped each individual reader and can make copies for anyone who wants it, or can make one CD with the whole M'gillah/all of the readers, in case anyone wants to learn how to read. Contact Miriam at 216-382-7622 or mpalevsky@mybunnies.com if you want a CD.

Thanks for Kiddush Sponsorship to:

- March 31 – **Leonid and Mariya Baron** (Yevgenia Probst's parents), in memory of Mariya's mother, Klara Finkel Z"l.

Thanks to the members who helped process and mail the March newsletter:

- Sherry Ball
- Margaret Conti
- Sondra Jacobs
- Sue Klein
- Honey Massey
- Erica New
- Nina Sobel
- Bud Stern
- Terri Tomberg
- Blanche Valancy
- Ditte Wolin

CALENDAR, APRIL 2012

ניסן / אייר 5772

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, AFTER SERVICES – Leonid and Mariya Baron will sponsor **Kiddush**, in memory of Mariya's mother, Klara Finkel Z"L.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, SERVING 5:30 TO 7:00 PM (You can keep on eating, later!) - **Pre-Passover Pasta Palooza.** (See page 5 for details.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 6 – Passover begins at sundown. (See the Concise Pesah Calendar for details.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, AFTER HALLEL – **The Learners' Service** will convene in the library, adjacent to the balcony. **Topic:** questions about Hallel, Seder, and Passover.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 7:00 PM – **Short Stories by Jewish Authors Reading and Discussion Group.** (See page 3 for details.)

Passover Guides Available

The **BE-THS Passover Guide** is a colorful guide to the meanings of the objects and procedures connected with Passover, as well as the preparations for the holiday and the calendar. It may be downloaded from the shul web site, www.bethelheights.org

The **OU Passover Guide for 2012** can be downloaded from this site:

<http://www.oukosher.org/index.php/passover>.

Yahrzeits, April 2012

Gregory Reimer	9 Nisan	Jack Zollett	24 Nisan
Iris Bergsman	11 Nisan 5766	Pearl Gelfand	26 Nisan
Israel David Margolin	11 Nisan	Harry Katz	26 Nisan 5765
Leonora Katz	12 Nisan	Albert Paige	26 Nissan
Hyman Fromson	13 Nisan	Abe Fromson	27 Nisan
Barbara Joyce Gilden	13 Nisan	Bessie Wasserman	27 Nisan
Morris Schwartz	14 Nisan	Leo Goldstein	28 Nisan
Abraham Gordon	14 Nisan	Herman Givertz	28 Nisan
Elinor Orche	15 Nisan	Zev Peretz Bloom	28 Nisan
Samuel Rottman	15 Nisan	Sylvia Auerbach	29 Nisan
Clara Soffer	15 Nisan	Jennie Friedler	29 Nisan
Celia Davis	16 Nisan	Adolph Amsel	1 Iyar
Leslie Rolle	16 Nisan 5765	Yetta Leah Singer	1 Iyar 5765
Louis Widzer	16 Nisan	Maurine Berman	3 Iyar 5762
Rabbi Samuel Fredman	17 Nisan 5701	John Berger	3 Iyar 5733
Mike Michelson	17 Nisan 5766	Jesse Cattleberry	3 Iyar
Bessie Falck	20 Nisan 5767	Ralph Lerner	3 Iyar 5771
Irwin Horowitz	20 Nisan	Earon Rein	4 Iyar
Louis Carr	22 Nisan	Sam Hemple	5 Iyar
Rachel Gooch	23 Nisan 5764	Dorothy Katz	5 Iyar 5758
Morris Harry Haskin	23 Nisan	George Friedlander	7 Iyar
Doris Silver	23 Nisan	Sam Neuger	8 Iyar
Herman Eiffer	23 Nisan	Sam Auerbach	9 Iyar



Concise Pesah Calendar 2012

Thursday, April 5

8:38 PM – *B'dikat hametz* (final search)

בדיקת חמץ

Friday, April 6 - Erev Pesah

7:30 AM – Weekday morning service, followed by *siyyum*
(completion of a *talmudic* tract)

11:19 AM – Latest time for eating *hametz*.

12:24 PM – Last time for annulling (renouncing ownership of) *hametz*.

7:39 PM – *Shabbat / Yom Tov* Candle-lighting

7:57 PM – Sunset

8:39 PM – Nightfall, First *seder* may begin

ערב פסח

סדר ראשון

Saturday, April 7 – First day of Pesah

10:00 AM – *Pesah* I Morning Services: *Shaharit* and *Musaf*

8:40 PM – *Yom Tov* Candle-lighting, second *seder* may begin

Tonight we begin counting the *omer* (see *Haggadah*)

סדר שני

Sunday, April 8 – Second day of Pesah

10:00 AM – *Pesah* II Morning Services: *Shaharit* and *Musaf*

8:41 PM – Nightfall, *Havdalah* may be said

(“*borey p'ri ha-gafen*” and “*ha-mavdil beyn kodesh l'hol*” – no candle or spices)

Thursday, April 12 – Erev Yom Tov

7:45 PM – *Yom Tov* Candle-lighting (8:03 PM – Sunset)

Friday, April 13 – Seventh Day of Pesah

9:15 AM – *Pesah* VII Morning Services: *Shaharit* and *Musaf*

8:46 PM – Nightfall, *Shabbat / Yom Tov* candles may be lit

Saturday, April 14 – Last (eighth) day of Pesah

9:15 AM – *Pesah* VIII Morning Services: *Shaharit*, *Musaf*, and *Yizkor*

8:55 PM – Passover may be ended and *Havdalah* recited

(“*borey p'ri ha-gafen*” and “*ha-mavdil beyn kodesh l'hol*” – no candle or spices)

יזכור

(Please allow the Rabbi an hour to buy back your *hametz*
before you use it.)

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

Pesah 5772 (Passover 2012)

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 but not exclusively on the premises located at:

_____ .
(full address, including city and state)

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 Tuesday, April 3, 2012. Thank you.

Selling the hametz is a free service, and donations are entirely voluntary. Should you wish to make one, please make your check payable 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**