



BETH EL

The Heights Synagogue

NEWSLETTER

February 2019
שבט / אדר 5779



RABBI
MICHAEL UNGAR

*Our tradition
teaches:*

Mi shenichnas

Adar, marbim

b'simcha!

“When Adar

begins, our joy

increases!”

“Adar...!

[Adar...!]

One of the characteristics of the Hebrew calendar is that in a 19-year cycle there are seven leap years. This in and of itself is not so unusual, as we are used to a 4-year cycle of leap years on the Gregorian calendar, albeit only an added day as opposed to an added month.

5779 is a leap year; in February we will begin the first of two *Adars*: *Adar Rishon* and *Adar Sheni* (sometimes called *Adar Alef* and *Adar Bet*). The reason for the added month is that the lunar cycle and the solar cycle do not match up; in order for our holidays to fall out at the same time (more or less) in the year, a correction needs to be interjected every few years. When this happens, it complicates matters a little bit—especially when it comes to *Yahrzeits* and birthdays; it is kind of like the kid whose birthday is on February 29.

The Talmud asks why, of all the months, *Adar* is the one that gets doubled. We might think that *Elul* (a mystically romantic time between God and the Jewish people) or *Nisan* (when we were taken out of Egyptian slavery) or *Sivan* (when the Law was given at Mount Sinai) might be doubled. (By the way, NO ONE would think to double *Tishrei*; no explanation needed.) Why *Adar*? The Talmud answers

Echo...!

[Echo...!]

that there are practical reasons. Passover needs to come out in the springtime; if we doubled *Nisan* and celebrated all the holidays in the second *Nisan*, the holiday could end up in early summer. If we doubled *Iyar*, the counting of the *Omer* would not work out correctly and the same is true of doubling *Sivan*. Other months would mess up the holidays as well. Only *Adar* seems to avoid this problem. It is before the counting of the *Omer*; there is nothing in the Torah telling us the time of year it must be celebrated so we have some wiggle room.

I like to think there is another reason why we double *Adar*. Our tradition teaches: *Mi shenichnas Adar, marbim b'simcha!* “When *Adar* begins, our joy increases!” This is a reference to *Purim*'s place in the month. *Purim* is the most fun holiday we have: costumes, *megillah* reading, *mishloach manot*, *hamantaschen*.... Judaism teaches us that we should not limit that joyous feeling to the day of the holiday alone. The moment the month begins we should sense that change is afoot; and on leap years, the “advent” lasts six weeks instead of two.

Our history is one of challenges and tragedies as well as triumph and beauty. Too often we get caught (*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



ROBIN DUBIN



BUD STERN

Contact Information

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?
COMMENTS? COMPLAINTS?

Please do not hesitate to contact the

Presidents by e-mail
president

@bethelheights.org

or telephone

Robin (216) 382-8848

Bud (216) 991-7383

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

Mick Miller,

mick@mickmill.com,

if you need help with

signing up.

Thanks to All of Our Generous Year-End Campaign Donors!

- Brian Aronson
- Sherry Ball and Marty Gelfand
- Kenneth Bardach
- Leonid and Mariya Baron
- Bill and Carol Bruml
- Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin
- Toby Bresky
- Janice Carrick, in honor of BE-THS' 20th anniversary
- Susan David and Bernard Sharfman
- Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck
- Larissa and Yakov Elgudin
- David and Nancy Falck
- Joel Falck and Julie Rabin
- Jacqueline Freedman
- Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles
- Joel Genuth
- Ilene Gertman
- Laura Gooch and David Kazdan
- Judith Goodman
- Stephanie Gordon
- Fern Grunberger
- Craig and Janet Hoffman
- Sharona Hoffman and Andy Podgurski
- Karen Katzman and Sammy Katzman-Williams
- Ari Klein and Ditte Wolin
- Lee Kohrman
- Martin and Nancy Kosmin
- Harvey and Karen Kugelman
- Claire and Matthew Lee
- Alan Lerner and Erica New
- Rabbi Alan and Jean Lettofsky
- Shirley Marks
- Deborah Michelson
- Antoinette Miller
- Esther Moss
- Judith Neuger
- David and Judie Perelman
- Philip Piccus
- Joanne and Richard Prober
- Annette and Burton Randell
- Gladys Reydman
- Bonnie and Mark Rosen
- Juliana Sadock Savino
- Jerry and Mina Sidel
- Menachem Shoham
- Jerry and Linda Shuck
- Devorah Silverman
- Dorothea (Dolly) Small
- Nina Sobel
- Rabbi Barry Starr
- Michael Steklof
- Bud Stern
- Arnold Stone
- Frederick and Joyce Tavill
- Leonard Tracht
- Beth and Scott Wachter
- Ieda Warshay
- Susan Wolpert
- Gerald Zahler
- Mary and Richard Zigmond

(*Adar! Adar!* continued from page 1) up in the difficult times, or we focus on the limitations that Judaism places on our lives. Our leap year and its doubled *Adar* remind us that we should not do so at the expense of remembering the fun, warmth, and joy that being a Jew has to offer as well.

Wishing everyone a doubly wonderful Adar and Adar!

Rabbi Michael Ungar

Beth El – The Heights Synagogue Newsletter, Vol. 21, No. 6, February 2019

Carol Bruml, Editor – Telephone 216-702-4514, E-mail: news@bethelheights.org

3246 Desota Ave., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

<http://www.bethelheights.org/>

© Beth El – The Heights Synagogue

Submittal deadline is the 7th of each month.

Published 11 times per year.

For address or mailing list change, call 216-320-9667

Please... Pleas...

Help the Chesed Committee

It has been said, “The world rests upon three things: Torah, service to God, and bestowing kindness.” (Pirkei Avot 1:2)

At Beth El – The Heights Synagogue, all who serve on the Chesed Committee, past and present, and those who support chesed, try always to meet the needs of the congregation. At BE-THS, we don't leave this up to our clergy. Both our members and our rabbi perform acts of chesed. The hybrid works well.

As most members are aware, the Chesed Committee works to organize minyans, shiva calls, and food trays for those in mourning. We want to make certain that we also extend our resources to meet the needs of those who are ill, whether in the hospital, in rehab, in a nursing facility, or at home.

The Chesed Committee will be meeting over the next month to determine better ways of reaching out for those who have other needs besides shiva or Yahrzeit minyans. We want to be more effective. For example, we don't want members and our Rabbi to both visit someone in the hospital on the same day, if it might be better for the patient to spread out the visits. We will be asking people to work with us in responding to needs – by scheduling and coordinating visits.

The Chesed Committee will propose a process to the Board for their approval. To make sure we're doing all we can, we are asking for input from each of you as to your personal experience with chesed, either positive or negative, and for ways you think we can make chesed even better.

Sometimes members of the congregation are aware of visitation needs of a congregant before the Chesed Committee learns of this. We ask you to inform us of these needs, in case we don't already know. Current committee members include:

Lenny Tracht, (Committee Chair), lennytracht@gmail.com

Scott Wachter, wachter@nacs.net

Fern Grunberger, fernette@aol.com

Honey Massey, honey_joy@sbcglobal.net

We ask that you contact any committee member by email or phone or contact Rabbi Ungar, rabbi@bethelheights.org.

Thanks!
The Chesed Committee

*The world
rests upon
three things:
Torah,
service to
God,
and
bestowing
kindness.*

Pirkei Avot 1:2



NEWS FROM BETHA EL

חדשות

Refuah Sh'lema to:

רפואה שלימה!

- Harvey Jacobs
- Marsha Katz
- Arnold Stone

Condolences to:

ביחום אבלים

- Frank and Jeanette Buchwald, Joe and Mia Buchwald Gelles, and their family, on the recent death of Frank's brother and Mia's uncle, Ed Buckwald z"l.

Farewell to:

שלום ולהתראות

- Menachem Shoham, who is moving to Israel this month, in order to spend more time with his grandchildren and to get involved with a biopharmaceutical company he founded in Israel with his eldest son, Yaron.

Thanks for Contributions to:

תודה!

- Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin, in memory of Dr. Philip Kazdan z"l
- Bill and Carol Bruml, in memory of Ed Buckwald z"l.
- Dena and Steven Cohen, in thanks for the use of the Chupah.
- Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck
- Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck, in memory of Joseph Dubin z"l, Charlotte Dubin z"l, and Marvin Dubin z"l.
- Adele Eisner, in thanks for High Holy Day tickets.
- Barbara and Barry Epstein, in honor of BE-THS' 20th anniversary and our new rabbi.
- Ilene Gertman
- Nathan Gordon, in honor of Rabbi Michael Ungar.
- Stephanie Gordon, in honor of Noam Gelles' college graduation.
- Barry and Joyce Hoffer, in memory of Rachel Hoffer z"l.
- Barry and Joyce Hoffer, in memory of Sadie Grossman z"l.
- Ruth Kurzbauer, to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, in memory of Robert and Lisa Kurzbauer z"l.
- Adam and Samantha Probst
- Juliana Sadock Savino, to the Kiddush Fund.
- Charlotte Saunt, in memory of Jim Saunt z"l.
- Eran Shiloh
- Arnold Stone, to the Chesed Fund.

- Leonard Tracht
- Michael Steklof
- Bud Stern
- Blanche and Jack Valancy, in honor of Karen Kugelman's dedicated service to the congregation.
- Blanche and Jack Valancy, in memory of Blanche's parents, Rosalyn Louise and William Berkman z"l.
- Beth and Scott Wachter

Thanks for Kiddush sponsorships to:

תודה!

- January 5 – Lenny Tracht, in memory of his parents, Dora and Joseph Tracht z"l.
- January 12 – Bruce and Judie Amsel, in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary.
- January 19 – Menachem Shoham, in honor of his retirement from Case Western Reserve University, his 75th birthday, and his upcoming move to Israel.
- February 9 – Leonid and Mariya Baron, in memory of their daughter, Yevgenia Baron Probst z"l.

Thanks for Simcha Kiddush sponsorships to:

תודה!

- Marty Gelfand and Sherry Ball, in honor of Marty's birthday and their daughter Eden's birthday.
- Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck, in honor of Richard's birthday.
- Rabbi Barry Starr, in honor of his son Uri's graduation from college.
- Rabbi Michael and Michele Ungar, in honor of Rabbi Ungar's installation.

Thanks for help with the Pancake Breakfast to:

תודה!

- Bill Bruml
 - Deborah Bruml
 - Oren Bruml
 - Mark Davidson
 - Joel Genuth
 - Mick Miller
 - Yakov Miller
 - Izik Mishan
 - Marvin Palevsky
 - Becky Schur
- ...with apologies from Scott, if he inadvertently left someone out. Everyone's help was appreciated!

Thanks for help with the January newsletter mailing to:

- Bud Stern
- David Tomberg
- Teri Tomberg
- Lenny Tracht
- Blanche Valancy
- Beth Wachter

CALENDAR, FEBRUARY 2019

5779 אדר / שבט

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2: Parashat Mishpatim; Michael Steklaf will give the d'var torah.
ABOUT 10:20 AM – The Learners' Torah Discussion Group will meet in the Community Room to discuss the *parsha*.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9: Parashat Terumah; Rabbi Ungar will give the d'var torah.
AFTER SERVICES – Leonid and Mariya Baron are sponsoring Kiddush in memory of their daughter, Yevgenia Baron Probst z"l.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16: Parashat Tetzaveh; Sharona Hoffman will give the d'var torah.
AFTER SERVICES – Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Barry Starr, "Male-Female Relationships in Jewish Law and Lore: Expected Norms and Mores."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

6:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat services with learning, followed by a vegetarian-friendly pescatarian dinner. Cost \$10/person. *See flyer for further information.*

AFTER THE KABBALAT SHABBAT – Join us at Miriam Giardina's house for an oneg Shabbat with ice cream, games, and singing. Miriam's house is a short walk around the corner from the shul at 1837 Cumberland Road.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23: Parashat Ki Tissa; Rabbi Ungar will give the d'var torah.
ABOUT 10:20 AM – The Learners' Torah Discussion Group will meet in the Community Room to discuss the *parsha*.

Social Action Committee Update

As we head into 2019, we hope to explore possibilities for our social action efforts by continuing some worthwhile projects we have done in the past, as well as considering a few new ones. We welcome any and all ideas. There will be more details in a future Survey Monkey, where everyone can give input as to which projects we might like to tackle. In the meantime, here is one item we wish to share:

Our neighboring Boulevard School still welcomes help on the first Tuesdays of each month, when they hold their School Market. The next ones are February 5, March 5, April 2, and May 7. Volunteers can just show up at the school on those days, any time after 1:30 PM, and can stay as long as they wish. The Market is run through the Cleveland Food Bank, and is a way to distribute needed items to area residents. Volunteers would mainly assist in packing food.

There is also a continued need for tutoring, and the school social worker is going to give us more details about what may be involved and what the time commitment might be.

Stay tuned for further information.

Beth Wachter
Social Action Committee Chair



Shabbat Playdate



Now Weekly!

11:00-11:45 am

in the
Childcare Room

Jewish-themed
singing
and stories
for children
7 and younger.



Learners' Torah Discussions Open to All

Triggering happiness
is no easy task.
That's why this
month is called
"strength". It is
something that
requires hard work
and dedication.

We give lots of our
time and attention to
enough things that
don't make us happy.
With determination
we can choose to put
our focus on thoughts
that will actually
make us happy.

Imagine if we
expressed thanks
for everything that
happens to us, all
day, all the time.
How much happier
we would be?

<http://www.aish.com/sp/pg/The-Happy-Month-of-Adar.html>

Join us to study and discuss selections from the weekly Torah portion. We consider commentaries, raise questions, and share tips for using the *Chumash*. Each week's lesson is self-contained, so come as your schedule permits. The sessions are accessible for non-Hebrew speakers or readers and open to people at all levels of experience. We meet in the Community Room, after the Torah is taken out and the portion is introduced (about 10:20 am to 10:30 am), and rejoin the service in time for the *d'var Torah*.

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

Upcoming Learners Torah Discussion Dates (every other week in early spring):

February 2 – *Parashat Mishpatim*

February 23 – *Parashat Ki Tissa*

Yahrzeits, February 2019

Sh'vat ~ שבט

Rae Beckenstein	27 Sh'vat	5753
Sarah Starr	28 Sh'vat	
Irving Bloom	29 Sh'vat	5753
Emanuel Mills	29 Sh'vat	
Phil Mishinsky	29 Sh'vat	
Eleanor Gelfand	30 Sh'vat	5773
Edith Bertman	30 Sh'vat	
Dorothy Samuels	30 Sh'vat	

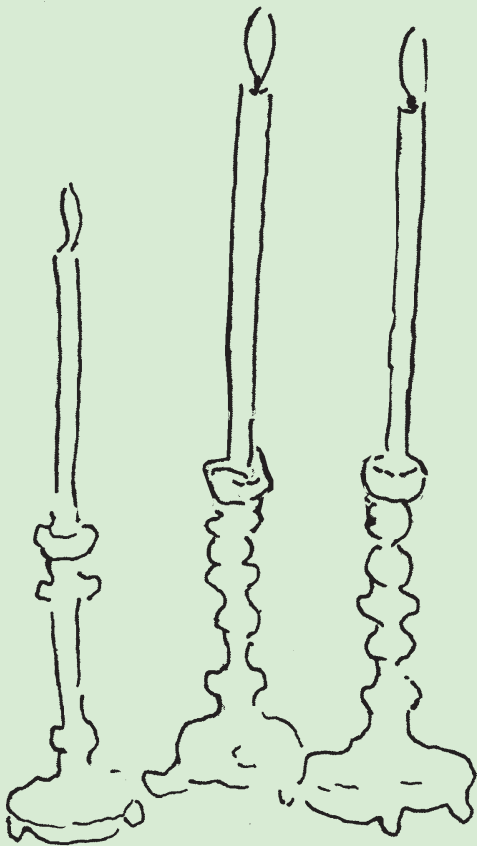
Adar ~ אדר

Rabbi David Genuth	1 Adar	5734
Sam Buchwald	1 Adar	
Sol Goldstone	1 Adar	5722
David Beckerman	1 Adar	
Mary Rachel Linden	1 Adar	
Clara Miller	1 Adar	
Rose Rock	2 Adar	
Kurt Brandes	2 Adar	
Frances Goldberg	3 Adar	5770
Sylvia Protus	4 Adar	5731
Molly Glazer	4 Adar	
Clara Adler	5 Adar	
Abe Hoicowitz	5 Adar	
Julius Weinberg	5 Adar	
Marilyn Savino	6 Adar	
Isaac Wachter	6 Adar	

Sonia Goldstein	7 Adar	5755
Saul Kammen	7 Adar	5771
Zali Schlesinger	7 Adar	
Dr. Lawrence Katz	8 Adar	5773
Samual Taubman	8 Adar	
Evelyn Century	9 Adar	5777
Hannah Eifer	9 Adar	
Boris Kushner	10 Adar	
Bertha Pepper	10 Adar	
Harry H. Sobel	11 Adar	
David Negin	13 Adar	
Selma Chernikoff	13 Adar	
Jacob Chasis	14 Adar	
Sharlene Ungar	14 Adar	5768
Malke Bilkes	14 Adar	
Phyllis Sharpe	14 Adar	
Dora J. Horwitz	16 Adar	
Rosa Kaufman	16 Adar	5744
Sue Klein	17 Adar	5777
Clarence Libman	17 Adar	5743
Isadore Glanz	17 Adar	
Bernice Shanker	18 Adar	5776
Solomon Malkin	19 Adar	
Illane Klein	20 Adar	5776
Esther Hollander	20 Adar	
Daniel Geddes	20 Adar	
Barbara Becker	22 Adar	5739
Ida Weiss	23 Adar	



INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE
SHABBAT
WITH A SERVICE AND DINNER.



Friday, February 22, 6:30 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat services begin at 6:30, and include learning. Dinner about 7:40 p.m. includes fish and is vegetarian-friendly.

Price: \$10.00 per person.

RSVP: <http://www.bethelheights.org/kabbalat-shabbat/>

Or you can call Joe 321-6734.

Prepaid reservations requested by Monday, February 18.

Location: Beth El–The Heights Synagogue

3246 Desota Avenue

Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

This is a membership event — a great time to introduce potential members to our community, a little less formal and a lot shorter than Shabbat morning. So bring a friend — don't be shy about asking!