



RABBI  
MICHAEL UNGAR

In most families, we put aside our differences and realize that though we may disagree... there is still a bond that connects us.

## Can We Talk about Family?

Family gatherings are always a memorable time...mostly for good reasons, but sometimes for the less-than-perfect things that loved ones say or do. In most families, we put aside our differences and realize that though we may disagree with someone about politics or relationships or the right way to prepare the turkey, there is still a bond that connects us.

This month, we celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut — the 71st anniversary of Israel's founding. It is a miracle that after nearly two millennia, there is a Jewish state in the Land of Israel. As we all know, however, that the Jewish state (like our families) is not perfect. There are policies with which we may disagree, social attitudes that bother us, and misunderstandings on both sides. Many fear that the gap between Diaspora Jews and Israeli Jews is not closing, but rather getting wider. Because we are family (all descendants of Jacob), we should care and want to keep those ties strong even when we may not see eye-to-eye. Although there is frustration, on Yom Ha'atzma'ut there is much to celebrate.

This month, we will be meeting with our friends at Kol HaLev; there will be two sessions on Civil Discourse. The goal is to train ourselves to have productive, positive conversations about topics on which there may be disagreement. We will be focusing on the question of “choseness” — a topic about which we may have differing opinions. It is a theme that is relatively “low impact,” but once we learn the process, we can expand to issues such as Israel, religion in politics, the changing role of mainstream institutions in the Jewish community, etc.

Please look out for more information on these programs. Not only will they make us better communicators, but they have the potential to help us bridge the gap between ourselves and family members, community members, and our brothers and sisters in the Land of Israel.

Mazal Tov to Israel on reaching 71!  
Yasher Koach to BE-THS and Kol HaLev for finding a unique and meaningful way to celebrate this occasion.

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.

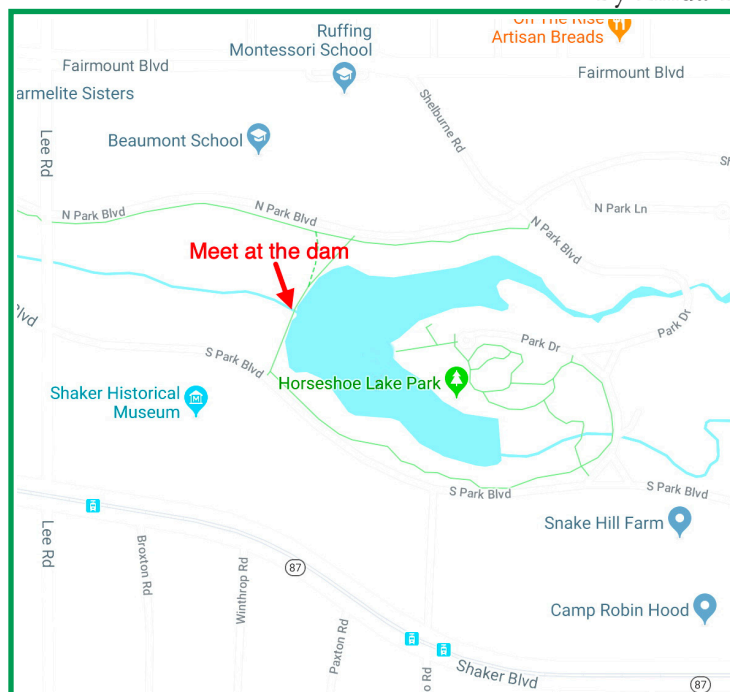
# Rosh Chodesh Walks

Rosh Chodesh Cleveland is a small group of hardy men and women, mostly from BE-THS, Kol HaLev, and Shaarey Tikvah, who have met on the first day of every lunar month for eleven years. Rosh Chodesh (literally “head of the month”) is the Jewish acknowledgement of the arrival of the new moon, marked on the first day of each Hebrew lunar month. Traditional prayers are said in the synagogue, and in Cleveland we meet outdoors to recognize the natural and agricultural world, the cycle of the Jewish year, and its place in our lives. You are most welcome to join us!

We meet in the early morning and consider some aspects of the mystical, historical, liturgical, natural and/or agricultural cycles that influence our lives this month. Then we walk in meditation, close with a blessing, and head off into our daily routines. This simple, short practice has grown on us, and we have found we are more aware of the cyclical nature of life, the seasons of the year, the phases of the moon, and the changing of our inner lives in response to it. We hope that you enjoy the practice, and that it grows on you as well.

Meetings: We meet at the dam at Horseshoe Lake in Shaker Heights, Ohio (red arrow on map), at 7:30 AM, rain or snow or shine, usually on the first day of each Hebrew month (check the web site, below, to confirm the date), according to standard Hebrew calendars. In eleven years we have not missed a month – even in 10 degree weather, in the middle of a blizzard, and in pouring rain. We start on time, and try to finish within 45 minutes to an hour, less if the weather is not agreeable. Everyone is welcome – contact Linda Tobin, [Lindia00@gmail.com](mailto:Lindia00@gmail.com), if you would like more information. More information and photos of the area may be found at <https://roshchodeshcleveland.wordpress.com/>. The next Rosh Chodesh walk, on Rosh Chodesh Iyyar, will be on Sunday, May 5, at 7:30 AM.

By Linda Tobin Pepper



Beth El – The Heights Synagogue Newsletter, Vol. 21, No. 9, May 2019

Carol Bruml, Editor – Telephone 216-702-4514, E-mail: [news@bethelheights.org](mailto:news@bethelheights.org)

3246 Desota Ave., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

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

© Beth El – The Heights Synagogue

Submittal deadline is the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Published 11 times per year.

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

# CALENDAR, MAY 2019

## ביסון / אייר 5779

THURSDAY, MAY 2: Yom HaShoah

SATURDAY, MAY 4: Parashat Ahare Mot – 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.

SUNDAY, MAY 5

7:30 AM – Rosh Chodesh walk at Horseshoe Lake. (See page 2 for details.)

9:30 AM – Shahrarit service prior to the Brunch and Learn.

10:00 AM – Brunch and Learn with Yehudit Shamir, "He who saves a soul... one child's story." Free and open to all. A light brunch will be served.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8: Yom HaZikaron

7:00 - 8:30 PM – Discussing difficult subjects in an open, sensitive, tolerant manner, part 1. Group discussion to be held jointly with BE-THS and Kol HaLev. We will use the Jewish concept of being the chosen people as an example.

THURSDAY, MAY 9: Yom Ha'atzma'ut

SATURDAY, MAY 11: Parashat Kedoshim – Linda Tobin will give the d'var torah.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

7:00 - 8:30 PM – Discussing difficult subjects in an open, sensitive, tolerant manner, part 2. Group discussion to be held jointly with BE-THS and Kol HaLev.

FRIDAY, MAY 17

6:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat services with learning, followed by a vegetarian-friendly pescatarian dinner. Doron Kalir will speak on "Following Netflix's *Come Sunday*: What is the Meaning of All This?" He recommends that we all view the movie prior to this evening's talk.

SATURDAY, MAY 18: Parashat Emor – 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.

AFTER SERVICES – Lunch and Learn with Dr. Erin Rocchio and Anna Wachter, "The Big Brother Big Sister Program." The Probst and Baron families are sponsoring Kiddush in loving memory of Yevgenia Baron Probst z"l.

SUNDAY, MAY 19

1:30-2:45 PM – Book discussion with Rabbi Ungar at Mac's Backs on Coventry: The selected book is Harold Kushner's "Nine Essential Things I've Learned about Life" (2015). We plan to discuss chapter 3 at this session.

THURSDAY, MAY 23: Lag BaOmer

SATURDAY, MAY 25: Parashat B'har – Shlomo Shuck will give the d'var torah.

AFTER SERVICES – Monthly Simcha Kiddush, when we will recognize many of the happy events from both April and May that our members have shared with us.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1: Parashat B'hukotai – Alan Lerner will give the d'var torah.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

9:30 AM - 12:00 NOON – Congregational annual meeting (members only). We will vote on the proposed slate of officers and board members for the coming year, and hear about the State of the Congregation, from our co-presidents. A light brunch will be served.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

4:00 - 7:00 PM – Annual Musicale and Potluck Dinner (details to come in June newsletter)

# NEWS FROM BETHA EL

# חדשות

## Refuah Sh'lema to:

- David Bardenstein
- Harvey Jacobs
- Marsha Katz
- Honey Massey
- Arnold Stone

רפואה שלימה!

- Juliana Sadock Savino, to the Kiddush Fund.
- Eran Shiloh, to the Presidents' Discretionary Fund.
- Michael Steklof
- Beth and Scott Wachter

## Thanks for Contributions to:

תודה!

- Matthew and Natalie Barratt, toward the balloon payment on our loan from Cleveland Heights.
- Bill and Carol Bruml, to the Year-End Appeal.
- Bill and Carol Bruml, toward the balloon payment on our loan from Cleveland Heights.
- Bill and Carol Bruml, in gratitude for Bruce and Judie Amsels' thoughtfulness.
- Bill and Carol Bruml, towards the Purim celebration.
- Frank and Jeanette Buchwald, in memory of Sam and Sylvia Auerbach z"l.
- Lee Kohrman, toward the balloon payment on our loan from Cleveland Heights, in honor of Marvin Palevsky and Joe Buchwald Gelles.
- Carole and Daniel Litt, in loving memory of Judge Nahum Litt z"l.
- Adam and Samantha Probst

## Thanks to our Purim Megillah readers:

תודה!

- Joe Buchwald Gelles
- Shani Gelles
- Nan Hecht
- Miriam Palevsky
- Becky Schur
- Rabbi Barry Starr
- Rabbi Michael Ungar

## Thanks for Simcha Kiddush Sponsorships to:

תודה!

- March – Ruth Cantleberry

## Thanks for April newsletter mailing help to:

תודה!

- Joe Buchwald Gelles
- Marsha Katz
- David Tomberg
- Teri Tomberg
- Lenny Tracht
- Blanche Valancy
- Beth Wachter

---

## Learners' Torah Discussions

### Open to All

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](mailto:miabgelles@gmail.com).

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

May 5 – *Parashat Ahare Mot*

May 18 – *Parashat Emor*

By Mia Buchwald Gelles



Lunch and Learn May 18

# The Big Brother Big Sister Program

Anna Wachter and Erin Rocchio will do a short presentation on the Big Brother Big Sister program, which Yevgenia Baron Probst z"l was passionate about.

There are two arms of the organization, secular and Jewish. Erin participates in the secular one and Anna, in the Jewish one. (The difference is that the kids are either Jewish or not). Other than that delineation, the activities we do with our "littles" are similar. The Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters Association is celebrating its 100th anniversary with a JBBSA Family Reunion at Bellefaire JCB from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on May 19; they welcome all who have ever been involved with the program.

By Erin Rocchio

## Yahrzeits, May 2019

### Nisan ~ ניסן

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Harry Katz              | 26 Nisan 5765 |
| Pearl Gelfand           | 26 Nisan      |
| Esther Markowitz Kazdan | 26 Nisan 5773 |
| Albert Paige            | 26 Nisan      |
| Abe Fromson             | 27 Nisan      |
| Bessie Wasserman        | 27 Nisan      |
| Avis Dolgoff Meyers     | 27 Nisan 5753 |
| Zev Peretz Bloom        | 28 Nisan      |
| Leo Goldstein           | 28 Nisan      |
| Herman Givertz          | 28 Nisan      |
| Sylvia Auerbach         | 29 Nisan      |
| Jennie Friedler         | 29 Nisan      |
| Dean Winslow Freed      | 29 Nisan 5773 |

### Iyyar ~ אייר

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Adolph Amsel       | 1 Iyar      |
| Yetta Leah Singer  | 1 Iyar 5765 |
| Ralph Lerner       | 3 Iyar 5771 |
| Maurine Berman     | 3 Iyar 5762 |
| John Berger        | 3 Iyar 5733 |
| Jesse Cantleberry  | 3 Iyar      |
| Helen Podgurski    | 4 Iyar 5774 |
| Earon Rein         | 4 Iyar      |
| Dorothy Katz       | 5 Iyar 5758 |
| Sam Hemple         | 5 Iyar      |
| George Friedlander | 7 Iyar      |

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Sam Neuger               | 8 Iyar       |
| Sam Auerbach             | 9 Iyar       |
| David Shamis             | 9 Iyar       |
| Sarah Frumker            | 9 Iyar       |
| Annie Keller             | 10 Iyar      |
| Shirley Markowitz Katz   | 11 Iyar 5765 |
| Max David Fredman        | 11 Iyar 5765 |
| Chaim Gabinet            | 12 Iyar      |
| Rose Hemple              | 12 Iyar      |
| Sarah Friedman           | 17 Iyar      |
| Bernard Century          | 17 Iyar 5777 |
| Edith Piccus             | 17 Iyar 5778 |
| Sari Rivkah Herzig       | 18 Iyar 5771 |
| Yevgenia Probst          | 19 Iyar 5773 |
| Sylvia M. Lavine         | 19 Iyar 5735 |
| Stanley Donald Stone     | 19 Iyar 5776 |
| Yevgenia Probst          | 19 Iyar 5773 |
| Ethel Eisman             | 19 Iyar      |
| Jacob Gutterman          | 19 Iyar      |
| Shmul ben Zavel Ha Cohen | 19 Iyar      |
| Jerome Wachter           | 21 Iyar 5770 |
| Samuel Herman Katz       | 21 Iyar      |
| Harold Saul Neuger       | 22 Iyar      |
| Florence Schlinger       | 24 Iyar      |
| Gerson Carr              | 24 Iyar 5770 |
| Al Glaser                | 25 Iyar      |
| Aaron Schneider          | 26 Iyar      |
| Nathan Valancy           | 26 Iyar      |



## Shabbat Playdate



Now Weekly!

11:00-11:45 am

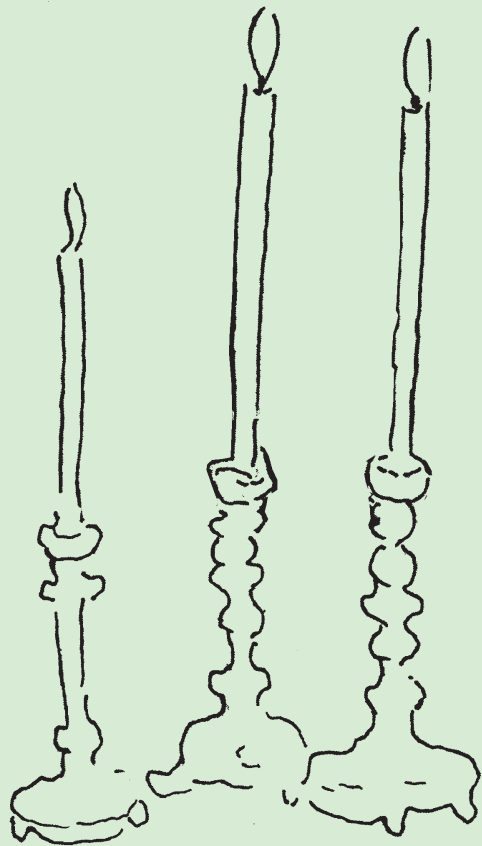
in the  
Childcare Room

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





INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE  
**SHABBAT**  
 WITH A SERVICE AND DINNER.



**Friday, May 15, 6:30 p.m.**

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 p.m.  
 Service and Dinner  
 at Beth El The Heights Synagogue  
 3246 Desota Avenue  
 Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

**Price:** \$10.00 per person.

**RSVP:** [www.bethelshabbat.com](http://www.bethelshabbat.com)

Or you can call Joe 321-6734.  
 1501 Desota Avenue

**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!*