



# BETH EL NEWSLETTER

## The Heights Synagogue

April 2005

אדר ב' \ ניסן 5765



Rabbi Moshe Adler

## All the Days of Your Life

In his book, *Exodus and Revolution*, Michael Walzer shows how the Exodus forms the classic Western paradigm for articulating the goal of political or social revolution.

The Exodus has also become a therapeutic paradigm for articulating the process of rehabilitation from addiction, and, indeed, for moving beyond any depressive state of mind to a state of self-possession and equanimity. The Exodus does play this role admirably, but what is the primary meaning of the Exodus as Judaism understands it?

The Exodus is not only the story of our political liberation but also, perhaps more importantly, the story of humankind's moral liberation, its difficult journey through the wilderness of moral backsliding, and its arrival in the promised land of moral redemption. That arrival has yet to occur, for if humankind were already in the promised land, our world would already have been transformed into one of universal love and cooperation.

The fact that this transformation has not occurred was our Sages' initial reason for making the study and practice of Torah the focus of our lives, and for counseling us to wait patiently for the Messiah's arrival. (One Hasidic master, in fact, put it a bit radically. When asked, "What if we learn Torah and do mitzvot, and the world

becomes good, and the Messiah still doesn't come?" he replied, "It won't matter.")

Nowhere is this sober view of redemption better expressed than in the Haggadah.

Here we find a talmudic discussion concerning, not Passover, but the Recitation of the Sh'ma:

Rabbi El'azar ben Azariah said: Here I am, a man of some seventy years, yet I was not able to find scriptural warrant for mentioning the Exodus in the evening Recitation of the Sh'ma, until Ben-Zoma [a colleague] interpreted a verse as follows: "So that you may remember the day you left Egypt all the days of your life" (Deuteronomy 16:3): Had the verse said simply "the days of your life," it would mean [that the Exodus need be mentioned only] during the daytime [Recitation of the Sh'ma]. Since, however, the verse says "all the days of your life," it includes the evening [Recitation] as well. The other Sages interpreted the verse as follows: Had it said simply "the days of your life," it would refer to the days of this [pre-messianic] world; since, however, it says "all the days of your life," it includes the days of the Messiah as well.

It is the words of the "other Sages" that make this piece of Talmud relevant to Passover.

*(continued on page 3)*

*(All the Days of Your Life, continued from page 1)*



Kabbalat Shabbat Services are held the first Friday evening of each month. Check calendar for summer times.

## Ahead of the Curve



*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 [benews@apk.net](mailto:benews@apk.net) (You must have the free Acrobat Reader in order to open the attachment.)

For the past month, I've been engrossed by *Jewish Cleveland 2004: A Demographic Profile of Our Community*. The Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland and Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs collaborated on this fascinating new study.

I've been reading it to understand our community, and to learn how our congregation might attract and retain members and friends. Some of the study's findings are challenging, some are interesting, and some are encouraging. First the challenging news: although Cleveland's Jewish population has been stable since 1996, more Jews have moved from Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, and University Heights than to the Heights.

Now the interesting news: Cleveland's Jewish population is graying. Almost three quarters of Cleveland's Jewish households do not have children under 18 at home.

The other quarter of households have children under 18. Roughly one third of these children attend, or have attended, Jewish day schools.

Now the encouraging news: more than 800 Jews move to the Cleveland area each year. The neighborhoods of the Heights communities are gateways. Beth El - The Heights Synagogue is slowing migration from the Heights by making it more attractive to both new and current residents. We're also part of a neighborhood revitalization in Cleveland Heights, among renovated properties and new upscale condos.

Our congregation is friendly to graying Jews (among whom I count myself - and we all look marvelous!). Our congregation is also friendly to younger individuals and to families with kids and teens. We're friendly to married people and to unmarried people. We're friendly to Jews by birth and Jews by choice. We're friendly to people who practice all levels of observance. We're friendly to people who are knowledgeable about Judaism, and to people who want to learn more about their faith. In fact, we're friendly to everyone.

Some of us live within walking distance and some of us live miles away. Some of our kids attend Jewish day schools, and some of them attend public schools. Some of us are Cleveland natives, some of us have been here for years, and some of us are new to the area.

The Jewish Community Federation recently announced plans for a major effort to attract young professionals by offering them an attractive Jewish lifestyle in the lively urban neighborhoods their parents knew.

We're doing that now. We count plenty of early-career, mid-career, and retired professionals among our members and friends, as well as plenty of people from other walks of life. We offer unique, participatory experiences in our worship services, educational programs, and social events, as well as hands-on experiences behind the scenes. Our intimate congregation draws us closer to the heart of contemporary Jewish life.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Note, on Beginning Pesah at the end of Shabbat

The principle of oneg Shabbat (making Shabbat a day of delight) requires that three meals be eaten over the course of Shabbat. Usually, the first of these is eaten on Friday night, the second at Shabbat lunch, and the third (known as *s'udah sh'lishit*) in the late afternoon. Erev Pesah, on the other hand, requires that we finish eating and annulling hametz in the late morning. How do we balance these two sets of needs when Erev Pesah occurs on a Shabbat?

We eat the second and third Shabbat meals before the deadlines for eating and annulling hametz. To accomplish this, we begin the Shabbat morning service much earlier than usual. Afterward, we make Kiddush, wash, eat the second Shabbat meal, recite Birkat HaMazon, wait a few minutes, wash again, eat the third meal (*s'udah sh'lishit*), and recite Birkat HaMazon. We then clean up, dispose of all the crumbs, and make the final annulment of hametz. (See *Calendar entry for April 23, on page 7. Services start at 8:00 AM.*)

Here at Beth El – The Heights Synagogue, we can do this with our usual aplomb and not look like a silent film comedy (unless, of course, we choose to).

*(Ahead of the Curve, continued from page 2)*

What's more, membership is a terrific value. We welcome as members everyone looking for their first, second, or next Jewish home. We also appreciate friends who support our good work in other ways.

After studying *Jewish Cleveland 2004*, it looks like Beth El – The Heights Synagogue is ahead of the curve.

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They tell us that the Exodus from Egypt was but a prefiguring of our ultimate redemption from the "Egypt" of selfishness and destructiveness. When the whole of humanity will finally have been redeemed, that event will simply mark the final chapter in our people's Exodus story.

Nothing, not even the coming of the Messiah, will ever dwarf the story of the Exodus from Egypt or render Passover obsolete. The Messiah who presides over an age of world peace and harmony will eat matzoh, drink wine, and tell his children the age-old story.

And so will we.

Rabbi Moshe Adler



## You probably wouldn't like our shul.

REASON #16:

### **We have the wrong priorities.**

We're just finishing our building renovation.

Some of it was absolute necessity: we needed a new facade to replace the crumbling stairs out front.

But we made some other choices too. The biggest one, and our biggest expense, was to build a "Shabbat elevator" so that our 70-year-old building will be accessible to all. There were other things we wanted — but we made our choice.

Not everyone can climb stairs — but everyone should be able to count in a minyan.

If you think you might like this kind of place, give us a call.  
Beth El–The Heights Synagogue. 216-320-9667.

# Adult Education

## Upcoming Dates

March 26 – Learner’s Service. Begins at about 10:15 AM in library o balcony and rejoins the main service for the d’var Torah. All are welcome.

April 9 – Learners’ Service with Cheryl Birkner Mack – an in depth exploration of an element of Jewish prayer. Bring your questions. All are welcome. Begins at about 10:15 AM in library o balcony and rejoins the main service for the D’var Torah. All are welcome.

Lunch and Learn with Zev Garber, PhD, Rosenthal Visiting Fellow of the Samuel Rosenthal Center for Judaic Studies, Case Western Reserve University. “The 93 Beth Ya’akov Maidens-Martyrs: Jewish Martyrdom as a Historiosophy.” Join us for a warm, vegetarian-friendly lunch after services and stay to learn. Free to members and friends, no RSVP required. Babysitting provided.

April 10, 7:00 PM – Jewish Short Story Evening at the home of Sondra and Harvey Jacobs. Stories by E. L. Doctorow. Contact Sondra Jacobs at [sondrajacobs@sbsglobal.net](mailto:sondrajacobs@sbsglobal.net) for more information.

May 6-8 – Annual Shabbat Retreat  
See flyer for further information.

May 21 – Lunch and Learn with Alan Levenson, PhD, Professor of Judaic Studies at the Laura and Alvin Siegal College of Judaic Studies



## Short Stories by Jewish Authors Discussion Group

The Short Stories by Jewish Authors Group Presses On! The David Bezmozgis selections were greatly favored by the Short Stories by Jewish Authors Reading/Discussion Group. The author, an immigrant from Latvia to Canada, is quite young (early 30s), yet he is wondrously articulate in English, and able to inject subtle humor into his serious writings about Latvian Jewish life in Canada. His characters have depth and perception. No wonder Bezmozgis is acclaimed to be among America’s 100 best current authors! His stories fostered an enthusiastic offering of ideas and interpretations among the group members at their March meeting.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, April 10, at 7:00 PM. Stories by E.L. Doctorow will be discussed. Call Sondra Jacobs, 216-397-1481, or e-mail [sondrajacobs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sondrajacobs@sbcglobal.net), for any other information about this group.

## Learning Opportunities at Siegal College

Acquire or improve your Hebrew language skills:

An Intensive Summer Ulpan for people at all levels of proficiency will be offered July 11 through August 4, Mondays through Thursdays, 9:30 AM – Noon or 7:30 PM – 10:00 PM. Shorter courses are also available.

Become a Torah reader:

A course in learning how to chant the Torah will be offered five Tuesday evenings from May 31 through July 5.

Call Nili Adler at 216-464-4050 ext. 116.



# Recent Changes in Shabbat Morning Youth Activities

## – We Need Your Help!

Just as everything seemed in place for youth programming on Shabbat mornings, some changes came our way . . .

### Middle School (6th – 8th Grades):

1.) Harvey Kugelman will be unable to continue working with our middle school-aged children, so we once again need some volunteers. A few people have already volunteered to help occasionally, but we need more. Please call or write to me as soon as possible if you are willing to help out by leading a discussion or activity for our 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders on a weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or occasional basis.

2.) Over the past month or so, we have had either 5-6 kids – or no kids – show up from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade age group. It takes considerable time to plan discussions, activities, etc., so we need to implement a new policy:

\*Please call or e-mail to me by Tuesday each week if your 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade children are planning to attend Shabbat morning services. If we have a group coming, we will plan activities. If no one calls by Tuesday evening, activities for this group will be canceled that week. It is not being instituted to “guilt you” into coming to services; it’s just that it is disappointing for the adult leaders who may put work into planning and then have no one show up.

3.) Also, please make sure that you arrive by 10:30 AM so we can begin on time with a “critical mass” of kids.

### Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Ari & Joe are having a good time with the younger kids, but they need someone to

spell them sometimes. If you are interested in working with this age group, please call me as well.

B’Shalom,

Mark Davidson  
Chair, Children’s & Teen  
Programming Committee  
216-295-1715  
[markyosef@aol.com](mailto:markyosef@aol.com)



## You probably wouldn't like our shul.

REASON #3:

**We're way too traditional.**

You heard us right.

We do a full service every Shabbat and holiday morning. That means a full Hebrew service with lots of singing, and a full Torah reading. We're the first non-orthodox congregation in Cleveland in 30 years to do that.

We like to think that “traditional” doesn't mean stagnant. And that Jewish tradition and law don't “belong” to any one group.

If you think you might like this kind of place, give us a call.  
Beth El–The Heights Synagogue. 216-320-9667.

# NEWS FROM BETH EL חדשות

*To be grateful is to recognize the Love of G-d in everything.*

*omas Morton  
Thoughts  
in Solitude*

**Mazel Tov to:** מזל טוב!  
 > Miriam and Marvin Palevsky, whose daughter, Nicole Palevsky will celebrate her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 1.

**Yasher Koah to:** יישר כוח!  
 > Nili Adler, who had an article, “ *is Story Speaks to me: e Contribution of Audio Books to the Strengthening of Language Skills and Literary Understanding,*” published in the periodical *Hebrew Higher Education*.

- > Nili Adler, who conducted teacher training workshops in February on the use of the Total Physical Response method and on teaching Jewish Prayer at the Miami annual Yossi Haber Day School Conference.
- > Allie Jennings, who, with Akiva High School classmate Nehama Rogozen, led a Hebrew storytelling and sing-along at Borders at La Place on February 27.

**Refuah Sh'lema to:** רפואה שלימה!  
 > Mary Jane Dearmin, Stacia's mother  
 > Clara Dick  
 > Miriam Palevsky  
 > Jim Saunt

**anks for Kiddush Sponsorships:** תודה!  
 > April 2 – Shulamit Magnus, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of her son, Natan Kohn-Magnus.

- anks for Donations to:** תודה!
- > Jeanette and Frank Buchwald, in honor of Frank's recovery.
  - > Emily Dennis for the General Fund, with gratitude to HaShem for a safe journey.
  - > Emily Dennis, for the Capital Campaign Fund.
  - > Mrs. Clara Dick, in memory of her father, Isak Wächter Z”L.
  - > Italo Gonzalez and Alisa Warshay, in memory of Laille Cabinet and in memory of Nechama Schultz Shalit Z”L.
  - > Louis Gray
  - > Naomi Klarreich and Daniel Shapiro
  - > Joanne and Richard Prober, in honor of Italo Gonzalez passing the engineering exam.
  - > Baruch & Betty Zaremsky, in memory of Harold and Ellen Ticktin's son, Philip Z”L.

**anks for Your Help:** תודה!  
**February Learner's Service:**

- > anks to Cheryl Birkner Mack and Nili Adler for inspiring teaching.
- February and March Lunch and Learns:**
- > anks to Carole Zawatsky and Shelley Costa Bloomfield for wonderful programs.
  - > anks to Marilyn Malkin, Marvin Palevsky and Joe Buchwald Gelles for cooking.

**Kabbalat Shabbat on March 4:**

- > anks to Nili Adler who again led a lovely Friday night service with melodies both new and familiar.
- > anks to Marvin Palevsky for cooking a scrumptious dinner – and to those who helped with cooking, set up, and, yes, even dishwashing – Eric Fryxell, Merry Lugasy, Marilyn Malkin and Beth Wachter.

## Kabbalat Shabbat on April 1

Please join us for Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:30 PM on April 1. (Note change of time; the sun is setting later!). No dinner will be served this month.

Kabbalat Shabbat services are held on the first Friday evening of every month.

If you have ideas for services, or would like to participate in the planning or leading of these services, please call or e-mail Lisa Berusch at:

216-397-9060 or [lberusch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lberusch@sbcglobal.net).

# CALENDAR, APRIL 2005

אדר ב' \ ניסן 5765

Saturday, March 26, about 10:15 AM – **Learners' Service** in library or balcony and rejoins the main service for the d'var Torah. All are welcome.

Friday, April 1, 6:30 PM – **Kabbalat Shabbat services**

Saturday, April 2 – **Natan Kohn Magnus will become Bar Mitzvah.** Shulamit Magnus will

sponsor Kiddush in Natan's honor.

Saturday, April 9 – **Learners' Service** with Cheryl Birkner Mack

**Lunch and Learn with Zev Garber, PhD**, Rosenthal Visiting Fellow of the Samuel Rosenthal Center for Judaic Studies, Case Western Reserve University

Sunday, April 10 – **Jewish Short Story Evening** at the home of Sondra and Harvey Jacobs. Stories by E. L. Doctorow. Contact Sondra Jacobs at [sondrajacobs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sondrajacobs@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

## Passover Calendar

Friday, April 22, 7:57 PM – **Candle lighting.**

Saturday, April 23 – Shabbat HaGadol and Erev Pesah

**8:00 AM – Morning Services.** This is earlier than usual, in order to permit the consumption of the day's two Shabbat meals with hallah before the time hametz becomes prohibited (*see detailed note, top of page 3*). Kiddush will be at 10:15 AM.

11:09 AM – **Latest time for eating hametz.**

12:18 PM – **Last time for annulling hametz.**

8:58 PM – **Yom Tov Candle-lighting, first seder may begin** סדר ראשון

Sunday, April 24 – First day of Pesah –

9:15 AM – **Morning Services**

8:59 PM – **Yom Tov Candle-lighting, second seder may begin** סדר שני

Monday, April 25 – Second day of Pesah –

9:15 AM – **Morning Services:** Shaḥarit and Musaf

9:00 PM – **Yom Tov may be ended and Havdalah recited.**

Friday, April 29, 8:04 PM – **Shabbat candle lighting.**

Saturday, April 30 – Seventh day of Pesah –

9:15 AM – **Morning Services**

9:05 PM – **Yom Tov candles may be lit and Kiddush recited.**

Sunday, May 1 – Eighth day of Pesah

9:15 AM – **Morning Services:** Shaḥarit, Musaf, Yizkor

9:06 PM – **Passover may be ended and Havdalah recited.**

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

Thursday, May 5 – **Yom Hashoah** יום השואה

Friday, May 6, 7:30 PM – **Kabbalat Shabbat services** (*Note time!*)

May 6-8 – **Annual Shabbat Retreat** – See enclosed flyer for further information!

Thursday, May 12 – **Yom Hazikaron, Israel Independence Day** יום העצמאות

May 21 – **Lunch and Learn with Alan Levenson, PhD**, Professor of Judaic Studies at the Laura and Alvin Siegal College of Judaic Studies.

Friday, May 27 – **Lag Ba Omer** ל"ג בעומר

## Pesah Guide

Our

5765/2005

Pesah Guide

has been

mailed

separately to

all members.

Friends may

obtain a

complimentary

copy by calling

the synagogue

office at

216-320-9667

before April 16.

Please leave

your full name,

address, and

phone number.

The guide

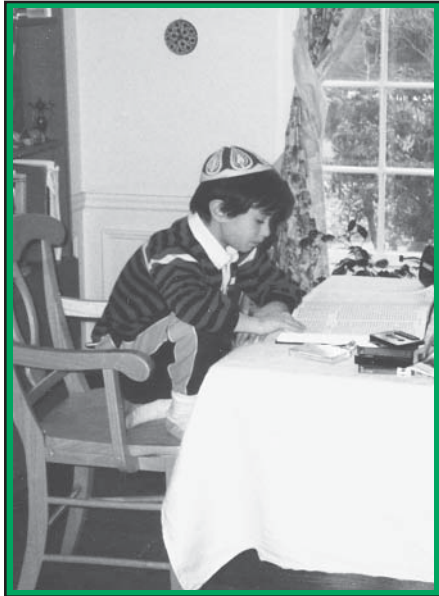
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promptly.



# Natan Kohn-Magnus Will Become Bar Mitzvah

Natan Judah Kohn-Magnus will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah at Beth El – e Heights Synagogue on Saturday morning, April, 2, 2005, Parshat Shemini/ Parah. Natan is the son of Roger S. Kohn and Shulamit Magnus.



Natan is in seventh grade at Gross Schechter Day School, where his favorite subjects are Hebrew, math, science, and language arts, and where he serves on the Student Council. His favorite hobbies are baseball, reading, and playing xbox. He loves his three cats (and they love him). He was born in Palo Alto, California and loves going back there to visit family and friends and enjoy the wild beauty of Pt. Reyes. He has loved studying Mishnah and his parsha with Rabbi Adler in preparation for his bar mitzvah, which he looks forward to sharing with family and friends from as far as Israel, France, the East Coast, and California.

## Yahrzeits, April 2005

5765 אדר ב' \ ניסן

### APRIL 2 – APRIL 8

22 ADAR II – 28 ADAR II

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Frank Milinsky  | 22 Adar II |
| Michael Chassis | 27 Adar II |
| Jacob Fromson   | 27 Adar II |
| Max Brodman     | 28 Adar II |

### APRIL 9 – APRIL 15

29 ADAR II – 6 NISAN

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Sam Zavelowitz   | 1 Nisan |
| Minnie Silverman | 2 Nisan |
| Bertha Weisberg  | 2 Nisan |
| Samuel Cherniko  | 3 Nisan |
| Edward Einhorn   | 4 Nisan |
| Ida Grossman     | 4 Nisan |
| Julius Weil      | 4 Nisan |
| Gloria Horwitz   | 4 Nisan |
| Louis Levine     | 5 Nisan |

### APRIL 16 – APRIL 22

7 NISSAN TO 13 NISSAN

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Isadore Einhorn       | 7 Nisan  |
| Ben Engel             | 7 Nisan  |
| Ida Glanz             | 8 Nisan  |
| Gregory Reimer        | 9 Nisan  |
| Israel David Margolin | 11 Nisan |
| Leonora Katz          | 12 Nisan |
| Hyman Fromson         | 13 Nisan |
| Barbara Joyce Gilden  | 13 Nisan |

### APRIL 23 TO APRIL 29

14 NISSAN TO 20 NISSAN

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Morris Schwartz      | 14 Nisan |
| Elinor Orche         | 15 Nisan |
| Clara So er          | 15 Nisan |
| Celia Davis          | 16 Nisan |
| Louis Widzer         | 16 Nisan |
| Rabbi Samuel Fredman | 17 Nisan |
| Irwin Horowitz       | 20 Nisan |

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

Passover 2005/ Pesah 5765

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 17, 2005. 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

