

**April 2011**  
**Volume 31**  
**Number 8**

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper



# BETH ADAM

JUDAISM WITH A HUMANISTIC PERSPECTIVE

## Rabbi's Message

*by Rabbi Robert Barr*

It was an enormous structure that rose from the desert. Bathed in the harsh light of the sun, it spoke of epic tales and hard labor. Up close, the Egyptian Hieroglyphics etched upon it reflected times long ago. The pyramid dominated the view from where I was staying and inspired me to write. Centered as it was in the middle of the window of my hotel, the pyramid was an extraordinary sight. With lights racing up and down its spine and the tip a cone of light, the pyramid will be one of my lasting impressions – of Las Vegas.

Yes, Las Vegas! For out of my hotel window, I was staring at the Luxor Hotel. Designed to look like an ancient Egyptian Pyramid, it even has a Sphinx like structure on the premises. Like most of the hotels in Vegas, the Luxor was overdone, larger than life, and contrived. It was a fake: it wasn't really an ancient pyramid. It wasn't set in Egypt any more than the canals in the Venetian were in Venice, Italy. Set in the desert, Las Vegas

## APRIL 2011

is much like the proverbial mirage: what you think you are seeing isn't real - it is an illusion. It is intended to give the impression of other times and other places, New York with its towering Statue of Liberty or Paris with its Eiffel Tower.

To be clear, my visit to Las Vegas was neither an architectural exploration, nor a gambling adventure. Rabbi Baum and I were invited to speak at a conference there called TribeFest, organized by the Jewish Federations of North America. The conference, designed for young adults (22-45), drew about 1,500 individuals from across North America. TribeFest was to provide participants the opportunity to "connect, explore, and celebrate the richness of Jewish music, food, art and culture." We gave two presentations at TribeFest – one about Judaism online and the other entitled "What does it mean to be Jewish in the 21st Century?" Our presentation about Judaism in the 21st Century drew about 150 individuals, a mixture of Jewish

professionals and active lay leaders. Given that we are known for pushing the envelope and raising challenging issues, we were prepared for an “energetic” response to our presentation. We assumed that we were going to ruffle a few feathers.

The response, however, was not what we anticipated; save for a handful of individuals, our presentation was well received. Those in attendance nodded their heads and asked questions that supported our position that the Judaism of the 21st century needs change. They embraced the fact that it is time to rethink old models and develop new paradigms that speak to a changing world and Jewish community. The notion that antiquated Jewish thinking no longer speaks to modern Jews and will fade away as more contemporary approaches are embraced didn't frighten those hearing our words, but rather met with approval. It was exciting to see a large group of Jewish leaders who valued innovation and understood that change isn't to be feared but rather is necessary if Judaism is going to speak to future generations.

Of course it goes without saying that we talked about how technology is redefining everything, including our understanding of community. Although there have been times when I have grown frustrated with the organized Jewish community for its reluctance to embrace change, this conference was different, or at least those who attended our session were.

While we didn't win at the gaming table (which was never our goal), we did win in the lecture hall.

## Community Connection

Rabbi Barr will teach a seminar on Ethics to the Ophthalmological Residents at University of Cincinnati Medical School. He has been conducting this seminar for the residents for over a decade. Rabbi Barr is committed to addressing the issues of ethics in as many venues as possible.

As noted above, Rabbi Barr's commitment to addressing ethics brings him to the Cincinnati Bar Association's Cincinnati Academy of Leadership for Lawyers (CALL). He speaks annually at this program which is designed to promote professionalism and leadership within the legal field.

Rabbi Barr will be giving the Shabbat Evening Sermon at Congregation Shaarey Zedek in East Lansing, Michigan. He will be speaking about Judaism in the 21st Century.

Rabbi Barr will be teaching a Brown Bag Lunch session at OLLI (Osher Life Long Learning) on Wednesday April 4. His topic will be “The Truth About Noah's Ark.” One must sign up through OLLI to attend this session.

Rabbi Baum will attend the fourth session of Rabbis Without Borders in New York City.

Purim was a rocking good time at OurJewishCommunity.org. Rabbis Barr and Baum produced quite the Purim video, which people from around the world watched live-streamed during services as well as on Youtube. If you haven't seen it, find it on the OurJewishCommunity.org homepage – it's sure to make you laugh.

We are thrilled to be hosting our second annual Passover seder online. On Tuesday, April 19th at 5 PM Eastern Time, hundreds of Jews from around the world will log-in to celebrate Passover together. We'll use the Beth Adam Haggadah and people from around the world will read different pages. Check out OurJewishCommunity.org for details and invite your friends. It's a great way to celebrate Passover without geographic constraints!

We're also busy fundraising for OurJewishCommunity.org - which is an expression of Beth Adam's vision to be a Jewish and humanistic resource for people around the world. We have an offer of a \$25,000 matching grant, but it only matches gifts made from outside Cincinnati. If you know anyone who might be interested in supporting our contemporary Jewish voice, please encourage them to be in touch with us.

We hope you'll check out our wide array of Passover offerings online. In addition, Rabbi Barr's weekly podcasts and Rabbi Baum's blog are updated regularly on the site so visit our homepage often and if you're on Facebook follow us at [www.Facebook.com/OurJewishCommunity](http://www.Facebook.com/OurJewishCommunity).

## **Construction on Loveland-Madeira**

Be prepared: several periods of construction are expected to cause delays along Loveland-Madeira Road. The plans are to add left-turn lanes in both directions along Remington Road (State Route 126), a left-turn lane going northbound on Loveland-Madeira Road and a continuous right-turn lane on southbound Loveland-Madeira Road. Work to widen this intersection has already begun. Please keep this in mind as you plan.

## **Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, April 10 at 9:30 AM**

Join our Beth Adam community as we conclude the celebration of our 30th year. We will recap 2010-2011 together and discuss plans for the future. Your participation is important. In addition to the Annual Meeting business, we will finish with a fun celebration!

## **Host Families Needed**

Beth Adam will be providing host families for the Scouts (Tzofim) from Netanya, Israel coming to attend Camp Friedlander this summer. This is the ninth year of this program and we are excited about participating again. The Tzofim will arrive in Cincinnati Thursday, June 23rd and will be leaving Wednesday, July 12th. They will attend summer camp at Camp Friedlander from June 25th to July 9th.

Each host family would accommodate two Tzofim before and after summer camp.

There will be 8 scouts: 4 boys and 4 girls around the age of 14. This would be a great experience in particular for anyone who has Bar or Bat Mitzvah-age children. Past host families have found it to be a fun and exciting experience. If you are interested, please contact the office at 513-985-0400.

### **Beth Adam Film Club**

The Saturday night Beth Adam Film Club continues in 2011 to provide a variety of Jewish-themed films followed by lively discussions in the Beth Adam library.

Please join us at 7:00 PM on **Saturday, April 16** for the following film:

#### **Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi**

This quirky, feel good movie from Israel features 16-year-old Shlomi, who takes care of everyone in his family. Because his home is a battlefield, Shlomi runs between everyone to make peace. He also cooks each family member's favorite meal to keep them on an even keel. But no one in the family really sees Shlomi. Even Shlomi doesn't see Shlomi, until a math test at school catches the attention of Shlomi's teacher, who suspects that something unique lies behind that bland facade. The school principal becomes involved and Shlomi's life takes several not too surprising but wonderful turns. Israel 2003 NR, but contains explicit sexual language. 94 minutes

### **Evening with Rabbi Barr**

**Monday, May 2, 2011 7:00 PM**

Beth Adam is a unique congregation which gives expression to Judaism in the 21st Century. If you or someone you know wants to learn more about Congregation

Beth Adam, be sure to attend an "Evening With Rabbi Barr." Rabbi Barr discusses the philosophy and practices of our congregation. At these meetings he will place Beth Adam in the wider context of the Jewish experience and will allow plenty of time for spirited dialogue.

### **Social Media classes**

Feeling overwhelmed by social media? Do words like Facebook and Twitter make your head spin? Join Rabbi Baum as she demystifies social media. Known for her social media savviness, Rabbi Baum will open this extraordinary world for you. Invite your friends as this is open to non-members. For non-members; the classes are \$8 each/ \$18 for the entire series. Of course, participation is free for members. Please RSVP to [admin@bethadam.org](mailto:admin@bethadam.org). All classes meet at **7 PM**.

**Wednesday, April 20th:** Facebook for beginners and intermediate users

**Wednesday, April 27th:** Twitter and Groupon

**Wednesday, May 4th:** LinkedIn and Foursquare

### **Passover Experience for Young Children**

**Friday, April 15, 2011 at 4:00 PM**

Children ages 6 and under and their adults are invited to attend our Passover program for young children. We'll include singing, a story, an art project and a snack. This is open to members and non-members, so invite your friends!

## An Afternoon Tea Party at Beth Adam

Sunday, May 15, 2011

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Presenting "Afternoon Tea 101" with Tracy Mosen of Essencha Tea House in Oakley. This is our 4th year of hosting a charming afternoon tea. Our girlfriends, mothers, grandmothers, and daughters are invited to spend a fun and elegant afternoon at Beth Adam. There will be door prizes and we'll have a variety of hats available to wear for the afternoon to add to the fun.

We need volunteers to help bake and to help set up on Friday May 13th at 10:00AM. Please contact the office at 513-985-0400.

Send completed reservation form below by **Friday May 6th**. *Seating is limited.*

The cost is \$5.00 per person plus we ask that you bring 2 nonperishable food items for the Loveland Inter Faith Effort.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# Attending @ \$5.00: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail reservation and check made payable to:

**Congregation Beth Adam**  
10001 Loveland-Madeira Road  
Loveland, OH 45140

## Congregational Seder

We hope you will join your Beth Adam family for our annual Congregational Seder!

**Date:** Friday, April 22nd

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Place:** Congregation Beth Adam

**Cost:** Adults \$15; Children (12 + under) \$10

**Meal:** Individual Seder plate with charoset, egg, parsley, and matzah. Tuna salad, tossed salad, and baked potato buffet. Assorted salads, side dishes, and Passover desserts from members. Coffee, tea, and grape juice are provided; wine is "bring your own."

**Please return your reservation form by**

**Monday, April 18th.** We need help with decorations, food preparation/serving and clean up. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call the office.

## Publications Order Form

**The Seder: Beth Adam Haggadah**

Complete Seder Service

Member Prices:

1-9 copies	\$8.00 each
10-15 copies	\$7.00 each
16+ copies	\$6.00 each
Passover Pkg 8 copies	\$50.00

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Shipping and Handling:**

Add 25% \$: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total:** \$: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail check made payable to:

**Congregation Beth Adam**  
10001 Loveland-Madeira Road  
Loveland, OH 45140

**For Credit Card Payments & Volume Orders:  
Please call the office: (513) 985-0400**

## Social Action

### **Hoxworth Blood Drive Sunday, April 3 at 8:00 AM**

Forty-five minutes of your time can help save up to three lives. The Hoxworth Blood Center's mobile unit will be at Beth Adam from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM on April 3rd. Appointments take roughly 45 minutes and will be scheduled in 15 minute increments through Beth Adam's office. Please call 985-0400 or email [execdirector@bethadam.org](mailto:execdirector@bethadam.org) to schedule your appointment today. Each blood donor will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card.

### **Neighbor To Neighbor Food Drive**

If you are unable to donate blood, you can still donate! Beth Adam is participating in the Jewish Federation's "Give A Day" program this year. Please bring non-perishable food items for the Loveland Inter Faith Effort (L.I.F.E.) from April 3rd through April 10th. The pantry shelves at L.I.F.E. are often depleted this time of year though the need continues. Your donation will help L.I.F.E help our neighbors.

### **Macaroons for Passover**

We are collecting packages of Kosher for Passover macaroons for Jewish Family Service. The macaroons are part of the baskets of food for Passover distributed to families in need in the Cincinnati area. Bins are located in the foyer and Religious School lobbies through April 11th.

## Shabbat Services

*Those who are unable to attend Beth Adam's services on a particular night or wish to participate in services on a night when one is not scheduled at the congregation, please visit [OurJewishCommunity.org](http://OurJewishCommunity.org). Rabbis Barr and Baum video stream Shabbat Services every Friday evening at 6:00 PM.*

### **Friday, April 8, 2011**

#### **8:00 PM – Kiddush**

#### **8:15 PM – Shabbat Service**

Rabbi Barr will lead the service and a discussion about Dan Abram's book *Man Down* about women being better than men. Michelle Rothzeit will sing.

### **Friday, April 22, 2011**

#### **Congregational Seder**

See page 5 for further details and costs.

### **Saturday, April 30, 2011**

#### **5:30 PM – Havdalah Service and Bat Mitzvah of Jamie Weiss**

### **Friday, May 6, 2011**

#### **Shabbat Service for All Ages**

#### **6:30 PM – Pizza Dinner**

RSVP to [admin@bethadam.org](mailto:admin@bethadam.org)

#### **7:15 PM – Shabbat Service**

Participation by kindergartners and first graders.

### **Saturday, May 7, 2011**

#### **10:30 AM – Shabbat Service and Bar Mitzvah of Dylan Plummer**

**Friday, May 20, 2011**

**8:00 PM – Kiddush**

**8:15 PM – Shabbat Service**

Michelle Rothzeid will sing.

**Saturday, May 21, 2011**

**10:30 AM – Shabbat Service and  
Bat Mitzvah of Avery Samuels**

**Saturday, May 28, 2011**

**10:30 AM – Shabbat Service and  
Bar Mitzvah of Michael Heyn**

### Religious School

The highlight of March was definitely Purim. Our 4th and 5th graders presented a Disney Purim shpiel (telling of the story) and it was quite entertaining. From Sebastian the crab (Little Mermaid) with a Jamaican accent to Mrs. Potts (Beauty & the Beast), we had a range of characters. Great singing by everyone!

We also had our Purim carnival, which was organized by our teen group. Thanks to Joy Weinberg and the teens for creating such a fun event for the rest of the school.

In April we're looking forward to Passover. The highlight of that is our chocolate seder, which will be at **10:45 on Sunday, April 17th**. Students will enjoy 4 cups of chocolate milk, chocolate dipped strawberries, and chocolate graham crackers with chocolate frosting!

For children 6 and under and their adults, we're hosting a special Passover program on Friday, April 15th at 4PM. Members and non-members are welcome, so it's a great opportunity to invite your friends. We'll have songs, a story, an art project, a snack, and lots of fun!

Our teens will meet at Beth Adam on Sunday, April 3rd and will be heading to the Miami University ropes course on Sunday, April 17th.

We're already busy planning for next year. We'll have a couple of openings for teachers so if you have any interest in teaching, please speak to Rabbi Baum.

Next year we also hope to welcome several new families into our Religious School. If you know anyone who is interested in our Beth Adam Religious School, please let them know that they can enroll their children in Religious School for one year without committing to membership dues for that year. If you have any questions about this special program, please give us a call. We're always looking for ways to expand our community.



## Adult Education

**April 3** – Rabbi Barr will lead an informational conversation.

**April 10** – Annual Meeting

**April 17** – Passover : Myths, Realities and Ritual

Rabbi Robert Barr will discuss Passover and explore how it became the holiday that we know.

**April 24** – NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**May 1** – LAST DAY OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

There will be special schoolwide programming at 10:30. Rabbi Barr will teach Adult Ed from 9:30-10:30.

**April Angst**

**Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00 PM**

In anticipation of Passover and Easter, Rabbi Barr will be leading a discussion geared towards interfaith families. He will talk about how to handle these two very significant holidays in families that celebrate *both*.

## Membership Matters

**Beth Adam extends our sympathy to:**

Judy Carter, on the death of her father, Robert Freed.

## Donations & Tributes

**The Congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:**

### General Fund

*Donations help to offset the costs of operating the Congregation and help to supplement funds for members unable to meet their financial commitment*

From: Allen A. Cooperstein  
To: Congregation Beth Adam

From: Julian H. Hymson  
To: Congregation Beth Adam  
In memory of Anita Hymson

From: Thomas Heirmann  
To: OurJewishCommunity.org

From: Zuckerman Family Foundation  
For: OurJewishCommunity.org  
To: Rabbi Sherre Hirsch  
In memory of Barbara Scolnick

From: Nancy Groves-Baum  
For: OurJewishCommunity.org  
To: Joshua and Shana Baum  
In celebration of the birth of Nolan Blake Baum

From: Mona Rienhardt  
For: OurJewishCommunity.org  
To: Harry Durst and Rochelle Durst  
Laznow  
In memory of Rose Durst

From: Auvie Malkin  
To: OurJewishCommunity.org

### **Rabbis' Discretionary Fund**

*This fund is used by the rabbis to further the goals and mission of Congregation Beth Adam*

From: Jeff and Linda Lazar  
To: Rabbi Barr  
In appreciation for officiating the funeral of Sue Ostrow

From: Patty and Steve Bonem and Kathy and TJ O'Connell  
To: Rabbi Barr  
In appreciation for officiating the wedding of Kathy and TJ O'Connell

### **Library Fund**

*Donations go to purchase books and other materials for our library*

From: Richard and Lisa Kagan  
To: Andy Blazar and Family  
In memory his mother

## **March Life Cycle**

If one of your lifecycle dates has been omitted, please contact the Congregational Office at 985-0400.

**We apologize for any mistakes.**

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3 Susan and William Friedlander
- 8 James and Joyce Salinger
- 20 Phillip and Wanda Green
- 22 Rita and Sam Robertson
- 24 Lisa and Tom Oeters
- 30 David Dukart and JoAnne DeGreg

### **BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Nate Westheimer
- 2 Dylan McBride  
Robert Smith
- 3 Leilah Mooney
- 4 Fred Rothzeit  
Alex Donath  
Eleanor Payton  
Julia Crisenbery
- 5 Sara Coyle  
David Sams
- 6 Mike Crisenbery
- 7 David Drachman  
Joseph Levinson
- 9 Richard Lowenburg
- 10 Roy Kaufman  
Sam Rosenthal
- 11 Sam Coyle  
Aiden Callahan
- 12 Annie Coyle  
Martin Levy
- 13 Dean (DJ) Drachman
- 14 Suzanne Bonem
- 15 Denise Weinstein  
Richard Jolson  
Rachel Davis  
Katherine Bonem
- 16 Nancy Green  
David Cooker
- 17 Rachel Burton
- 18 Andrew Korn
- 19 Lisa Braverman
- 20 David Sacks  
Paul Levy
- 21 Gretchen Serota
- 22 Peter Levin  
Mark Heiman
- 24 Emma Bernay  
Cyrus Arjmand

- 25 Robert Bloom  
Michele Gildenblatt  
Rita Robertson  
Liz Singer
- 26 Mary Levin  
Shelby Reising
- 27 Bennett Heyn
- 28 Carrie Cooker
- 29 Lauren Rosenston
- 30 Nora Dukart  
Bridgett Singer

**Yahrzeits**

- 1 Louise Marks  
*Sister of Allan D. Marks*
- 1 Mark Graff  
*Brother of Donna Rothman*
- 2 James E. Applegate  
*Father of John Applegate*
- 2 Aviva Wiseman  
*Sister of Myfanwy Smith*
- 4 George Veser  
*Brother of Mary Rinsky*
- 4 David W. Ellis, Jr.  
*Husband of Jane Ellis*  
*Father of David W. Ellis III*  
*Uncle of Barbie Stern*
- 4 Edna Pollack  
*Grandmother of Gary Goldman*
- 5 Harry Frolich  
*Father of Rita Klein*
- 6 Lucille Rinsky  
*Mother of Mark Rinsky*
- 6 Irving Rothman  
*Father of Warren Rothman*
- 7 Mimi Levinson  
*First Wife of Joseph Levinson*
- 7 Elizabeth Nabholz  
*Mother of Cathy Rodner*

- 7 Rachel Gafvert Dillion  
*Sister of Peter Gafvert*
- 8 Eva Franks Rodner  
*Mother of Sam Rodner*
- 8 Helen M. Banerjee  
*Mother of Lila Marcus*
- 8 Dora Dukart  
*Mother of David Dukart*
- 9 Marion E. Stout  
*Father of Irv Stout*
- 9 Marcia Rothman  
*Sister of Marilyn Wander*  
*Sister of Natalie Stout*
- 12 Jane Munick  
*Wife of Leo Munick*
- 13 Harry Schaen  
*Father of Michael Schaen*
- 15 Jean Simon Levine  
*Grandmother of Lois Jolson*
- 15 Bessie Margolis  
*Mother of Charles Margolis*
- 15 Carl Ganz  
*Father of Sharon Plummer*
- 16 Irene Florman  
*Aunt of Merle Coyle*
- 16 Jack Florman  
*Uncle of Merle Coyle*
- 16 William Marmer  
*Grandfather of Michele Gildenblatt*
- 16 Alan Jay Davis  
*Brother of Mark Davis*
- 18 Herman Brown  
*Grandfather of Alan Brown*
- 19 Bertha Miller  
*Grandmother of Lisa Oeters*
- 20 Sylvia T. Stout  
*Mother of Irv Stout*
- 20 Ida Alperin  
*Grandmother of Carrie Cooker*

- 21 Robert Klatch  
*Stepfather of Ken Weiss*
- 21 Jill Klein Van Straaten  
*First cousin of Lois Jolson*
- 21 Burton D. Goldman  
*Father of Gary Goldman*
- 21 Stanley Steinharter  
*Father of Susan Friedlander*
- 22 Leah Erin Vice  
*Niece of Mary Gilbert*
- 23 Lucille Berger  
*Mother of Carole Beere*
- 24 Virginia Ruhling  
*Mother of Mary Gilbert*
- 25 Marjorie Leffler Rukyser  
*Grandmother of Carrie Cooker*
- 25 Ruth Welling Westheimer  
*Mother of Dick Westheimer*  
*Mother of Sallie Westheimer*
- 27 Dena Bloom Jolson  
*Mother of Dick Jolson*
- 28 Harriet Wolf  
*Aunt of Carolyn Gilbert*  
*Great Aunt of Russell Gilbert*
- 28 Carol Ann Rosenthal  
*Sister of Betty Rosenthal*
- 29 Helen Herschler Kaufman  
*Grandmother of Michael Crisenbery*
- 29 Allen David Schwarz  
*Father of Joshua Schwarz*
- 29 Robert A. Bowman, Jr.  
*Father of Barbara Tobias*
- 30 Harry Alperin  
*Grandfather of Carrie Cooker*
- 30 Annette Weinstein  
*Mother of Steven Weinstein*
- 30 Saul Halper  
*Father of Steven Halper*

## Congregation Beth Adam

10001 LOVELAND-MADEIRA ROAD  
LOVELAND, OH 45140

PHONE [513] 985-0400  
 FAX [513] 686-2672  
 WEB [www.BethAdam.org](http://www.BethAdam.org)  
[www.OurJewishCommunity.org](http://www.OurJewishCommunity.org)  
 TOLL FREE 866-918-ADAM[2326]

**Rabbi Robert B. Barr**  
[rabbi@bethadam.org](mailto:rabbi@bethadam.org)  
 [513] 985-0400

**Rabbi Laura A. Baum**  
[rabbibaum@bethadam.org](mailto:rabbibaum@bethadam.org)  
 [513] 985-0400

**Roberta Veleta**  
 Executive Director  
[execdirector@bethadam.org](mailto:execdirector@bethadam.org)  
 [513] 985-0400

**Jennifer Winegeart**  
 Communications Coordinator  
[admin@bethadam.org](mailto:admin@bethadam.org)  
 [513] 985-0400

**Maureen Cash**, President  
 [513] 985-0400

**Ken Weiss**, Vice President  
 [513] 985-0400

**Jay Avner**, Treasurer  
 [513] 985-0400

**Pam Van Hart**, Board Secretary  
 [513] 985-0400