

# BEHAR HAGILBOA

(Israel)

Translation: On Mount Gilboa  
Pronunciation: beh-HAR ha-geel-BOH-ah  
Choreographer: Sefi Aviv (1986)  
Meter: 4/4  
Formation: Circle of dancers. Hands free at sides.  
Notes: Begin dancing with the lyrics of the song. The first step is on the second syllable of the first word: ya-VESH.

Lyrics: Leah Naor  
Music: Yosef Hadar  
Singer: The Parvarim\*

## Meas

### **Part 1**

- 1 Sway R to R (ct 1); step L in place (ct 2); step on R in front of L (ct 3); step L in place (ct 4). [Note optional arm movements.]
- 2 Sway R to R (ct 1); step L in place (ct 2); step on R in front of L (ct 3) and pivot sharply to L a full 360° rotation to end facing center (ct 4).
- 3 Step L to L (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2); begin a grapevine step moving CCW: step L in front of R (ct 3); step R to R (ct 4).
- 4 Finishing the grapevine: step L behind R (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2); step L in front of R (ct 3); hold (ct 4). .
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

### **Part 2** Moving CCW around the circle

- 1 Step R to R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); pivot ½ to R face away from center (ct 4).
- 2 Step L to L (ct 1); step R next to L (ct 2); step L to L (ct 3); pivot ½ to R [note this is the same direction as meas 1; do NOT pivot to L] face away from center (ct 4).
- 3 Grapevine: Step R to R (ct 1); step L in front of R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); step L behind R (ct 4).
- 4 Full turn to R with three steps - R, L, R (cts 1-3); step L in front of R (ct 4).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Presented by Erica Goldman  
Statewide 2012

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\* Many individuals and groups have recorded this popular song. The Parvarim are often compared to Simon & Garfunkel.

Lyrics:

**BEHAR HAGILBOA**

Yavesh hakayitz be'ito  
BeHar haGilboa.  
Nish'an Sha'ul al chanito  
BeHar haGilboa.  
Rak na'ar ger imo,  
Rak na'ar mibnei Amalek.  
Yavesh vecham, yavesh vecham  
Hakayitz ba'emek.

Nifras ha'emek le'raglav  
BeHar haGilboa.  
Haya hakayitz kmo achshav  
BeHar haGilboa.  
Mineged haTavor  
VeHar haChermon bamerchak.  
Ke'ilu lo avru shanim  
BeHar haGilboa.

Otam sela'im, sela'im shchunim  
BeHar haGilboa.

Ulai haya sharav.  
Ulai zo hay'ta she'at shki'a.  
Ulai shki'at zahav -  
Kmo hayom be'ota hash'a'a

**ON MOUNT GILBOA**

Summer was dry in its time  
On Mount Gilboa.  
King Saul leaned on his spear  
On Mount Gilboa.  
Only a foreign boy was with him,  
Only a boy of the Amalek people.  
Dry and hot, dry and hot,  
Was the summer in the valley.

The valley spread out at his feet  
On Mount Gilboa.  
The summer was then as it is now  
On Mount Gilboa.  
Opposite is Mount Tavor  
And Mount Chermon is in the distance.  
As though no years have passed  
On Mount Gilboa .

Those same cliffs, very dry and hot  
On Mount Gilboa.

Perhaps there was a hot, dry heatwave.  
Perhaps it was at sunset.  
Perhaps a golden sunset -  
Like today at the same hour.



**Mount Gilboa**

Mount Gilboa is on the southeastern side of the Jezreel Valley. King Saul felt forced to commit suicide on these slopes when facing certain defeat by the Philistines. In light of Saul and Jonathan's deaths, David cursed the mountain: "O mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, nor fields that yield offerings" (2 Sam 1:21).