



C O N G R E G A T I O N

# NETIVOT SHALOM

SEPTEMBER 1999  
ELUL 5759 / TISHRI 5760

So, here we are. Right in the middle of the month of Elul - and very close (depending upon when you read this newsletter) to Rosh Hashanah. Beginning a full month before, Jews everywhere start to plan for the *Yomim Tovim* (*Yomtovim* for you purists). Where will we be for *yontif*? Who are we inviting for a meal? Tickets? Relatives coming to town? Will the kids be home? Given the ages of our child(ren), are we going to be able to go to shul? Maybe some of the time? Something new for the New Year? Clothes? Maybe even a new headcovering! That's an inventory of the usual, yearly questions. Well, this year, 5760, I'd like to propose another kind of inventory - a spiritual one. True, every July and August, Netivot Shalom conducts its own kind of inventory - we call it membership renewal - but I'd like to propose a different kind of planning for the upcoming *Yomim Noraim* (Days of Awe). Here are a series of questions (or subjects) to think about. Some of you may want to write out your responses, others may want to discuss them (with spouse, children, friend, parent); still others may just want to ponder quietly.

However you make your inventory, please take the time to do so before Rosh Hashanah rolls around. I'd also be happy to hear your reactions - to both the exercise

itself, and your results. Naturally, I'd welcome new questions. There are many versions of this inventory in circulation. Mine is a compilation. Remember, take time (not find time) and select those pieces of the inventory that



## RABBI'S COLUMN

by Rabbi Stuart Kelman

seem most appropriate.

### SPIRITUAL INVENTORY

#### 1. Personal (*bayn adam leatzmo*)

- I am feeling positive/good about the following areas in my life:
- I am having problems with/questions about the following areas in my life:
- The goals I am pursuing now are:
- A mistake of the past that I would like to correct is:
- Given another chance, I would change:

#### 2. Interpersonal (*bayn adam lechavero*)

- The most important relationship(s) in my life is/are with: (list key areas of satisfaction, dissatisfaction/problems)
- List qualities you like or admire and the ones you dislike in those relationships.
- Are there ways you would like to be differ-

ent in how you relate to others?

- I feel connected to our congregation. True or False? Explain.

- One new relationship I would like to develop is with:

- Do I have regular occasions to have fun, to laugh, to smile, to celebrate?

#### 3. Transpersonal (*bayn adam lamakom*)

- A time I felt close to God was when:
- A time I felt distant from God was when:

- The Jewish practices/teachings I especially value are:

- The Jewish practices/teachings I have trouble with are:

- How do Jewish teachings shape my values and actions?

- I share my religious/spiritual path with the following people:

- Here are my expectations for services in 5760:

Here are my concerns for services in 5760:

- One new area of Jewish/religious growth I would like to explore is:

When you've had a chance to work on these questions/issues, consider discussing the responses in a group (*bashechunah*, for example) or any other setting for that matter.

May you all have a sweet and spiritually enriching New Year. ☆

## SCHEDULE OF YAMIM NORAIM SERVICES

### SELICHOT

**Saturday, September 4**  
Maariv and Havdallah - 8:45pm  
Study Sessions - 9:00pm  
Selichot - 11:30pm

### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

**Friday, September 10**  
Kabbalat Shabbat and  
Maariv - 7:30pm

### ROSH HASHANAH DAY 1 AND DAY 2

**Saturday, September 11 and  
Sunday, September 12**  
Pesukei D'Zimrah - 9:00am  
Shacharit - 9:30am  
Torah Service  
(Shofar Day 2) - 10:45am  
Drash - 11:45am  
Musaf/Torah Study - 12:15pm

### ROSH HASHANAH DAY 1

**Saturday evening**  
Minchah/Maariv - 7:00pm

### EREV YOM KIPPUR

**Sunday, September 19**  
Kol Nidrei/Maariv - 6:45pm

### YOM KIPPUR

**Monday September 20**  
Persukei D'Zimrah - 9:00am  
Shacharit - 9:30am  
Torah Service - 10:45am  
Drash - 11:45am  
Yizkor - 12:15pm  
Musaf/Avodah/T'fillah Study - 12:45

Minchah - 5:30pm  
Neilah - 6:45pm  
Maariv/Havdallah 7:45pm

Congregation Netivot Shalom

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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### Saturday Shabbat Services & Torah Study

Torah Study – 9:00 am  
Services at 9:45 am  
BRJCC  
1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley

### Kabbalat Shabbat

First and third Shabbat of  
each month  
6:15 p.m. at 1841 Berkeley Way

### Wednesday Morning Minyan

7:15 a.m.  
1841 Berkeley Way

### Meditative Minyan

Third Shabbat of  
each month at 9:30 a.m.

### Tot Shabbat (Shabbat B'Yachad]

Second and Fourth Shabbat of  
each month at 11:00 a.m.

Newsletter deadline is the first of the preceding month. Items may be e-mailed to:  
live-mic@majornet.com  
Or submitted in writing at the shul office to Turi Adams, Publicity Chair.  
Submitted photos may not be returned.

The High Holy Days are here. As I look at the September calendar I realize, YIKES, is it going to be a busy month! How will I manage?? The Holidays, my job, my home life, my social life, my volunteer work.....and put up a Sukkah too???? Like many of you I ask myself "What can I put aside for now? What can wait until October?" Unfortunately the answer is --- NOTHING. So, for at least a month, I'll work a little harder, I'll pray a little longer, I'll cook a little faster and I'll be tired in October. The Shul needs you to do the same.

We need your time, energy and creativity. Please be a part of making The High Holy Days happen. Here is a partial list of events/jobs that need people. Call the office for more information.

<b>The Office</b>	<b>Usher For Services</b>
<b>Rosh Hashanah Picnic</b>	<b>Set-Up Or Clean-Up at Northbrae</b>
<b>Sukkah Matching</b>	<b>Children's Program</b>

**OTHER NEWS:**

At the August Board meeting, we will have appointed a new nominating committee. Their job will be to fill the Board positions being vacated this year. Board positions are a two year commitment, and I strongly encourage everyone to consider taking on the responsibility of serving on the Board of Directors.

bility of serving on the Board of Directors.

We all joined Netivot Shalom for many different reasons. Among those reasons (maybe) was a need for spiritual fulfillment and/or a need for a relationship with G-d. Sorry if I'm projecting. Whatever your reason for joining I can almost guarantee it was not to serve on the Board. It's hard to imagine how serving on a Board might get us closer to those aspirations, and in all honesty I don't know that it does. But service should be an important part of "giving something back". So if you have benefited from the community, please consider honoring it with your service. If the Nominating committee contacts you, say "yes."

I also want to congratulate Jonathan Heinsteins on his appointment to the Midrasha Board of Directors, as one of three Netivot Shalom representatives. Thanks go to our continuing representatives, Janet Harris and Ednah Freedman.

Debra and I hope that the New Year arrives in your home with sweetness and love.

LShannah Tova,

Pauline Moreno ☆

## DONATION CARD

I/we wish to make a donation. Enclosed is my check payable to:  
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- YOUTH EDUCATION
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[www.jfed.org/ntvt/netivot.htm](http://www.jfed.org/ntvt/netivot.htm)

## YOMIM NORAIM NOTES FROM THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

5760 is fast approaching and the ritual committee has been struggling to find ways to seat the growing numbers of members and guests for our Yamim Noraim services. We have arrived at a solution that we think will provide a spiritual experience for all without making anyone feel like second-class citizens. Our solution involves holding services once again at the Northbrae campus BUT running more concurrent, full services. We also eliminated color-coded tickets. This year, everyone will have the chance to sit in any of the locations in which services are being held. We anticipate that people may wish to choose their seats based on *davener*, not location. A separate announcement on the *davener* line-up is being prepared. Since seating is on a first come first serve basis, if you do have a particular service you want to attend, please come early. One of the harder decisions the committee had to make this year concerned the end of Yom Kippur. To accommodate our larger community, we will need to use Haver Hall for a second *Neilah*. This means that we will not have a space for a conventional break-the-fast. We are still working on some "lite" break-the-fast ideas. Please understand that none of these decisions were easy to make. The ritual committee welcomes your ideas and feedback for planning next year's Yamim Noraim. Meanwhile, we look forward to *davening* together on the holy days and throughout the year.

Jerry

### A YOMIM NORAIM REMINDER:

The Solano Stroll is on September 12th, the second day of Rosh Hashannah. Just what we needed!! It will be a parking nightmare, to say nothing of the noise level around Northbrae. The Stroll starts at 10:00 AM, so we REALLY encourage everyone to be at Northbrae by 9:30. It may also be more difficult to get kids back and forth to Thousand Oaks through the madness of the stroll. Please plan accordingly.

Pauline

## MAZEL TOV

on the engagement of

# SHARON FRIEDMAN & LEO MEIER

## High Holy Days 5760/1999: Leave The Corners of Our Fields for the Poor and the Stranger

*This is the fast I have chosen ...to share your bread with the hungry...*  
(Isaiah 58)

Despite an era of unprecedented abundance, millions of Americans remain poor and hungry. We can help lift their burden. For the last two years, thousands of Jews have supported "The Corners Of Our Field," a High Holy Days appeal that seeks funds for MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and food for local charities. The last two appeals raised **more than \$1.46 million and almost three million pounds of food.**

Again this year, MAZON has united with the Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist movements in "The Corners Of Our Field." And again this year, we ask you to join in this extraordinary act of Jewish pluralism.

As we look inward during these High Holy Days, MAZON asks that you reach outward. Please give to MAZON what you would have spent to feed yourself and your family on Yom Kippur. Funds raised will support programs providing food, help and hope to hungry people in our own country, in Israel and worldwide. And please contribute to your congregation's food drive.

Together, we can share our bread with the hungry.

You, I/we will leave "the corners of our fields" for the poor and the stranger during the High Holy Days by giving money to MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and by bringing food to our congregation.

Enclosed is a check payable to MAZON for \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: MAZON, 12401 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 303, Los Angeles, CA 90025-1015

### SELICHOT

#### A Night of Preparation for the Days of Awe — Please Join Us!

Saturday, September 4, 1999 - 23 Elul 5759

9:15 pm: Maariv & Havdalah

9:30: Melodies for Rosh Ha-Shanah and  
Yom Kippur Schmooze and Nosh

10:15: Study (choose one)

- Esther Brass: Lshonot Selicha: Terms of Forgiveness.

- Sheila Jelen and Shachar Pinsker: Learning about Teshuva (repentance).

11:30: Selichot Service, led by Cantor Don Fischer.

Traditional prayers for forgiveness at a favorable hour (we will end around midnight) on the last Saturday night of the year.

At Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda.



FOR THOSE WHO WANT  
TO ADD TO THE SANCTITY  
OF THE EXPERIENCE  
AVOID LEATHER SHOES!  
CONSIDER ALSO  
WEARING A KITTEL!

# YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION

by Barbara Wezelman

**SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

**Selichot**

Please join us for all or part of the evening on Saturday, September 4, at Northbrae Church (Haver Hall) for study, song and prayer. The program will begin at 9:15 pm with *ma'ariv & havdalah* services led by Cantor Fischer, followed by a review of the common High Holiday *niggunim*. After a break for schmoozing and refreshments, two concurrent study sessions will begin at 10:15. The evening will conclude with the traditional *Selichot* service at midnight led by Rabbi Kelman and Cantor Don Fischer.

The first study session, led by Esther Brass, is entitled "*LShonot Selicha: Terms of Forgiveness.*" This session will include study of *selichot* liturgy and discussion of different facets of *selicha*, forgiveness: Torah sources in liturgy of *Yamim Noraim* (Days of Awe). How do the liturgical and biblical texts illuminate issues of *selicha*? Learning and singing a Sephardic *piyut* (liturgical prayer) Discussing *selicha* for wrongs *bayn adam lamakom*, between a person and G-d, and *bayn adam lihavairo*, between one person and another.

Esther Brass, Ph.D. is a psychologist and studies and teaches Torah as an avocation.

In second study session, Sheila Jelen and Shachar Pinsker (topic TBA but guaranteed to be seasonal) will lead guided *hevruta* study. *Hevruta* is a traditional way of learning Torah and Talmud by studying texts (in English translation, if desired) in pairs or very small groups. Leaders pick a topic, choose and prepare texts for study, introduce the topic and propose questions to ask in reading the texts, circulate among the groups to help when the going gets tough, and facilitate a plenary discussion at the end of the class. No special background or language skills are required.

Sheila Jelen and Shachar Pinsker are graduate students in modern Hebrew literature at UC Berkeley, have taught biblical and rabbinic texts in the community, and are active members of the GTU's Chevruta Project of the East Bay.

**SUKKAH BUILDING WORKSHOP**

Want to learn how to design and build a sukkah of your very own? It's easier than you think, and will add greatly to your enjoyment of them holiday. Details not yet in place as of press time -- please call Barbara Wezelman at 525-0730 or 643-5051 for more information.

**COMING UP!**

**Maimonides, with Nitzhia Shaked**

This continuing series, which we co-sponsor with Lehrhaus Judaica, will meet for 8 Monday evenings, beginning in October. Please see the related article elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Scholar in Residence with Rabbi Debra Orenstein**

Mark your calendars for this special event -- October 24 and 25. This will be our one and only scholar in residence weekend this year, and you won't want to miss it! Details to follow. Ongoing Classes and Study Groups

**ONGOING EVENTS**

**Torah Study, with Nitzhia Shaked and guest teachers**, meets every Shabbat at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4 at the JCC. Child care also begins at 9 a.m.

**Bnai Avraham vSarah, a chavurah for Jews by choice and their families**, meets monthly at various members' homes. For information call Denise Moyes-Schnur at 526-6445. ☆

## TORAH STUDY SCHEDULE

**SEPTEMBER**

**4th** Rabbi Art Gould  
**11th** Nitzhia Shaked  
**18th** David Winston  
**25th** Nitzhia Shaked

**OCTOBER**

**2nd** Open  
**9th** Nitzhia Shaked  
**16th** Robert Alter  
**23rd** Nitzhia Shaked  
**30th** Rabbi Art Gould

# STUDY SESSIONS

## MORE MAIMONIDES

### MAIMONIDES GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED

In this semester, we will continue selected readings in the Mishna Torah. In the second part of the semester we will be studying readings from Maimonides' Guide for the Perplexed focusing on topics such as the abstraction of the Divine, the tree of knowledge, good and evil, the problem of Job, and prophecies. The purchase of the Guide for the Perplexed is recommended for this class. It is available at local bookstores.

Monday, October 18

7:30 to 9:00 PM

8 sessions T108-NS-F99

tuition: \$55 Netivoth Shalom members; \$75 public

**NITZHIA SHAKED**, teacher of the Maimonides classes, holds a degree in Law from the Hebrew University and worked for the Israeli Supreme Court. She has a Master's Degree in Jurisprudence from Harvard and is a member of the California Bar. She is currently teaching at the Midrasha and has taught at the Tehiya Day School, and is a Wexner scholar. She has lectured extensively in the Bay Area on numerous topics in Judaica. Meets at: Congregation Netivot Shalom library, 1841 Berkeley Way (near Martin Luther King) ☆



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# MIDRASHA NEWS

by Diane Bernbaum

**W**hat do Midrasha directors do during the summer? Well, part of the answer is obvious: hire teachers, get registration materials in the mail, write college recommendations, prepare board and teacher handbooks, begin work on our fundraising appeal and silent auction, and clear off all the paperwork that had been clogging the office. However, it was the other part of the summer that emphasized to me what a wonderful community Midrasha is. I spent the best part of the summer at *simchas*...weddings and engagement parties...of Midrasha former faculty and students. And at each *simcha* I would run into other members of the Midrasha family and remember that the reason I love this job so much is the people. It is very heartening to sit around with former members of the Midrasha community: students, faculty and parents, and to rediscover what wonderful, wonderful people they are and how much positive influence Midrasha has had on their lives and conversely, they have had on mine. We are indeed a family.

Midrasha is set to begin, although the Jewish calendar has prescribed a strange beginning. Our first day is September 19, followed by two weeks of no school because of Succot and Simhat Torah. We then resume classes on October 10. Most of our faculty is returning. Three are Midrasha alumni, two new teachers have transferred from other Midrashot and only two are totally new to the system. There will be an orientation, primarily for new students and their parents on Wednesday, September 8 at 7:30 in the Beth El sanctuary. Anyone who completes their registration materials by that date will get a \$15 break on their tuition. We are trying to eliminate long lines on the first day of school and are willing to pay you to be cooperative! Last year was amazing in every way: numbers of students, strength of the faculty and smoothness of operations. Here's looking forward to another great year. ☆

### DID YOU KNOW . . .

There is now a Jewish auction site: [WWW.YIDBID.COM](http://WWW.YIDBID.COM)

It is new and has very little on it, but it's a start!

*Shirah Bell*

# LOOKING AHEAD TO SUKKOT AND BEYOND

notes from Rabbi Kelman

It's time to consider the building of a sukkah. Expert advice is available as are sukkah kits. (Call Jerry or John at Afikomen for more information.)

## LULAV and ETROG

*Etz peri hadar* - the fruit of the beautiful tree - that's how the *etrog* is described in classical literature. So great is the love that Jews have for this *chag*, that only the choicest of *etrogim* were selected for ritual use. The use of one's own *lulav* and *etrog* during Sukkot was a primary expression of celebrating the joy of the holyday. So, you can still order a set from Afikomen (our local dealer, until September 7. Price is the same as last year: \$44. For those of you who can not afford to purchase a set, we will have a few sets available at services (though not on Shabbat) and at the shul offices. Come by and 'bentshe lulav' - we'll provide the words and instructions! *Chag sameach*.

**TALMUD RESUMES** - every Tuesday evening beginning August 31. 7:30-9 (Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28) These weekly sessions are for both beginners and more advanced people. A decoding ability in Hebrew is all that's needed. Come see and learn the genius of the classical rabbis - and how their teachings can be applied to our lives. We are currently studying the tractate *Berachot* (blessings) - essentially, addressing the question of how to be religious in a secular world (sound familiar?). We'll be looking at the Babylonian Talmud (first in English, then in Hebrew) and then comparing that text to the Jerusalem Talmud. Come join or just drop in.

## ZEMIROT

**SHABBAT SHIUR TO RESUME ON OCT. 16, 1999** (at the Kelmans, 4:30-6) This year, each month, we'll be focusing on a particular *zemi-rah*, a song that was composed specifically to be sung on Shabbat. These classic compositions are often filled with allusions based on parts of traditional literature and liturgy - at times quite obscure! Come learn what we've been singing about for years. We'll study one *zemi-rah* each week - and learn a tune for it as well. Translations and transliterations and Hebrew provided! Good tea also! ☆

# IMAGES OF SUCCOT



# SEPTEMBER 1999

# ELUL 5759 / TISHRI 5760

**saturday**

**friday**

**thursday**

**wednesday**

**tuesday**

**monday**

**sunday**

5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			7:15 am Minyan		Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv	Rosh Ha Shanah 9:00 am Torah Study 9:45 am Shabbat Services
			20 Elul	21 Elul	22 Elul	23 Elul
			1 7:15 am Minyan	2	3 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Candle Lighting Time: 7:18 pm	4 9:00 am Torah Study 9:45 am Shabbat Services
						8:45 pm Maariv and Havdallah 9:00 pm Study Sessions Selichot - 11:30 pm (NORTHBRAE COMMUNITY CHURCH)



NETIVOT SHALOM

SEPTMBER 1999  
ELUL 5759 / TISHRI 5760

C O N G R E G A T I O N



24 Elul	25 Elul	26 Elul	27 Elul	28 Elul	29 Elul	1 Tishri
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Rosh Ha Shanah (2nd Day)  Tashlich and Pot Luck Picnic		7:30 pm Talmud Shiur	7:15 am Minyan		6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  Candle Lighting time: 6:57 pm	9:00 am Torah Study  9:30 am Meditative Minyan  9:45 am Shabbat Services Parsha: Ha'Azinu Shabbat Shuvah
2 Tishri	3 Tishri	4 Tishri	5 Tishri	6 Tishri	7 Tishri	8 Tishri
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Kol Nidre  6:45 pm Kol Nidrei/Maariv	Yom Kippur Yizkor 9:00 am Persukei D'Zimrah 9:30 am Shacharit 10:45 am Torah Service 11:45 am Drash 12:15 pm Yizkor 12:45 pm Musaf/Avodah/Tillah Study  5:30 pm Minchah 6:45 pm Neilah 7:45 pm Maariv/Havdalah	7:30 pm Talmud Shiur	7:15 am Minyan		Erev Sukkot  Candle Lighting time: 6:46 pm	Sukkot  9:00 am Torah Study  9:45 am Shabbat Services  11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad
9 Tishri	10 Tishri	11 Tishri	12 Tishri	13 Tishri	14 Tishri	15 Tishri
26	27	28	29	30		
Sukkot (2nd Day)  Services to be announced	Chol Hamaed	Chol Hamaed  7:30 pm Talmud Shiur	Chol Hamaed  7:15 am Minyan	Chol Hamaed		
16 Tishri	17 Tishri	18 Tishri	19 Tishre	20 Tishre	<b>OCTOBER 2</b> Shemini Atzeret - Yizkor and the reading of Kohelet (JCC)  <b>OCTOBER 2</b> Erev Simchat Torah (JCC) - 7:30 (Maariv and Hakafot)  <b>OCTOBER 3</b> Simchat Torah - JCC, 9:45 am	

# YAMIM NORAIM L'YELADIM SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

ROSH HASHANAH DAY 1: Saturday, September 11  
YOM KIPPUR: Monday, September 20 (extended care until 3pm)

GRADES	EXTENDED CARE 9 - 10am	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM 10am - 1 pm	EXTENDED CARE 1 - 2pm
Up to 1st grade	Northbrae	Northbrae	Northbrae
2nd - 6th grade	Northbrae	Thousand Oaks	Northbrae

ROSH HASHANAH DAY 2: Sunday, September 12

GRADES	EXTENDED CARE 9 - 10am	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM 10am - 1 pm	EXTENDED CARE 1 - 2pm
Up to Kindergarten	Northbrae	Northbrae	Northbrae
1st - 6th grade	JCC	JCC	JCC

**KOL NIDRE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**  
Childcare: 6:30 - 9pm, all grades: Thousand Oaks  
Toddler Hang Out Rooms: Northbrae and Thousand Oaks

**NEILA: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**  
Childcare: 6 - 8:30pm, all grades: Northbrae

## COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR HIGH HOLY DAYS AT NETIVOT SHALOM

**Tashlich and  
Pot Luck Picnic**  
Sep. 12  
Following  
Musaf service  
on the 2nd day  
of Rosh  
Hashanah get  
together for a  
wonderful com-  
munity (dairy)  
picnic at Live  
Oak Park,  
followed by  
Tashlich.

**Sukkah Sharing**  
Sep.24 - Oct. 1  
Host a meal in  
your sukkah or  
be someone's  
guest in their  
sukkah.

For information  
contact  
Julie Weissman,  
849.9505

**Yom Kippur  
"Rest Stop"  
Matching**  
Sep. 20  
Host a "Rest  
Stop", if you  
live within walk-  
ing distance of  
Northbrae  
Community  
Church. If you  
need a place to  
relax between  
services you  
can find it here.

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### CARS IN BERKELEY? **YES INDEED!**

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or RV to Netivot Shalom to sell

You give us the registration or pink slip and  
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Sometimes it is good to review the situation of the Jews of Cuba, especially when it can be done in the voices of those living the experience. To that end, I am including a letter from Isaac Gelen, President of the Maimonides Lodge of B'nai Brith in Havana to the editor of *B'nai Brith Today*. I am also excerpting a letter from the president of the small struggling community of Santa Clara. Finally, I want to remind you that we do have a trip planned for December 19th to January 3rd during which we will visit several communities. Donations may be made to the synagogue or directly to The Cuba-America Jewish Mission, 444 34th St., Oakland CA 94609

FROM ISAAC GELEN, PRESIDENT

LOGIA B'NAI BRITH MAIMÓNIDES June 9, 1999

Dear Brother Dan:

I read with much interest your article which appeared in the January/February issue of *B'NAI BRITH TODAY*... Still, I feel the lines which refer briefly to the religious situation of Cuban Jewry in Cuba may be somewhat misleading, and I want to explain why — according to my views, which are those of a person not so deeply observant but who has been respected all his life as a Cuban citizen of Jewish descent.

Certainly, there was a general increase in religious practice of all denominations (Catholic, Protestant, Afro-Cuban, Jewish...) in Cuba since the publication in 1985 of the book *Fidel and Religion* (a very long interview with a Catholic priest from Brazil), and especially after 1991 when strict adherence to Marxist philosophical principles was dropped as a requirement for belonging to the Cuban Communist Party. But churches or synagogues were never closed by the government. As Jews, we were able to follow our tradition subject only to the limitations of the general economic situation of the country. Curiously enough, we even enjoyed sort of an unexpected privilege when, as a consequence of the downfall of the Soviet block compounded with a harsher US embargo, the kosher meat rations allocated to the Jewish community were kept untouched while the rest of the population had them reduced, a situation which exists to this day. On the other hand, in spite of the impossibility for our 1,500 strong Jewish community remaining in Cuba of buying any goods abroad for lack of hard currency, Passover celebrations, albeit in a modest way, never stopped, thanks, mainly, to a mitzvah of the Jewish Canadian Congress, who have provided the traditional products required every year since 1960.

I recall Castro, himself, complaining in a TV speech about having been taught that "Jews were the killers of Jesus" at the Catholic school where he did his high school. That was in preparation for the visit of the Pope to Cuba. Not long ago he accepted an invitation from the Head of our Community in Vedado, which he visited during last Chanukah, and very friendly addressed some 300 people who were present. It was the first time that a President of this country paid a visit to Cuba's Jewish Community...

FROM DAVID TEACHER, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNITY OF SANTA CLARA:

Dear June,...We continued going in our community which gives us much satisfaction and offers us the opportunity to be better Jews and consequently better human beings, with the happiness that gives us to have new friends who have entered our life in a beautiful way and have occupied a very special place.

## CUBAN VOICES

June Safran, Cuban Affairs  
*Some words from our friends in Cuba and Israel*

The community, although small, requires of much dedication and understanding of the problems of their members — look after the medications in order to give them in the opportune moment, prepare the foods for the Kabbalat Shabbat, distribute the nutritious or

other products so kindly sent us, and above all to keep the unity among us in order to be a "family."

The holiday of Purim was very pretty with all the communities of the center of the country. The Seder of Pesaj was beautiful and was carried out with great love. The products for the Seder arrived on time; we count with the good will of Adath Israel Congregation of Havana who always send them to us. We rented a place and invited the community of Caibarien as well as two *madrichim* of the Patronato.

Thank you for sending the Hebrew-Spanish dictionary as well as Ana Frank's Diary, pictures, and letters that are a testimony of the friendship that was born among us and will never end.

In your last visit I told you that we were preparing in order to remember the victims of the Genocide of our People in the hands of the Nazis. A member of our community that studied in Poland and visited the different places where death took place prepared a conference that day. I will tell you that it was something unforgettable for all. I want to express my gratitude for the help you have given us as well as the work done to fulfill this objective. We won't forget all the things you have done for us. Say hello to all for me. Expecting to hear from you soon.

FROM EUGENIA FARIN, PRESIDENT OF OUR SISTER CONGREGATION, HATIKVAH IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

Dear June,


I take this opportunity to greet Netivot Shalom on its tenth anniversary in the name of all the members of Hatikva. We are two sister communities and we have much to be grateful for. We hope to help each other in our future development. May we always be together. God permit that it will always be this way! I tell you that today we were in the temple commemorating the 9th of Av. Some of us were fasting for 24 hours and others for 19 hours. It was an interesting journey and we had good attendance in spite of it being a work day



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# THANK YOUS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TORAH STUDY

- Seymour and Rebecca Fromer
- Jacob and Rena Harari
- David Bradford
- Baysa Gale
- Judith and Stan Taubman
- Lois Silverstein, in memory of Abraham and Ethel Silverstein

## GENERAL FUND

- Ariel Bloch
- Joseph and Lois Wolf in honor of Don Fisher on the 50th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah
- Jerry and Debbie Isaak Shaprio
- Laurie Holtzberg in honor of the wedding of Rachel Brott
- Phyllis Maslan

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- Mark and Estie Hudes and Family in honor of the adult Bnai Mitzvot of Hope Alper and Ellen and Chuck Wunderlich
- Carol Delton and Steve Zolno and family in memory of Sandy Schneider

## BUILDING FUND

- Bruce Starkman in memory of Madeline Starkman's yahrzeit

## MAZEL TOV

- Rebecca Landes on the birth of her daughter
- Scott and Turi Adams on the birth of their son, Colman Henry (El Chanan)
- Dan and Tracy Siegel on the birth of their son, Samuel
- Ari & Sheila Braufman on the birth of their 4th grandchild Cassidy Richelle

## THANK YOU

- Mrs. Esther Kelman for her generous donation of a breast plate for our new Torah
- Debbie Graudenz and Rom Rosenblum for their generous donation of *Rishonim* for our new Torah

## CONDOLENCES

- Gladys Weitzner on the death of her son William Levine

## BIKKUR CHOLIM:

*Being the Messengers G-d Sends to Comfort the Hurting\**

As I fairly often find myself in the Alta Bates neighborhood, I've wondered what it might be like to visit someone. There must always be people who would welcome this, but how does one go about it? I shouldn't just walk into a stranger's room, should I? What's the mechanism?

I brought these questions to Rabbi Kelman recently, and...ta da! I am now the Bikkur Cholim coordinator, following in the fine footsteps of Allison Jordan. Here's what it means:

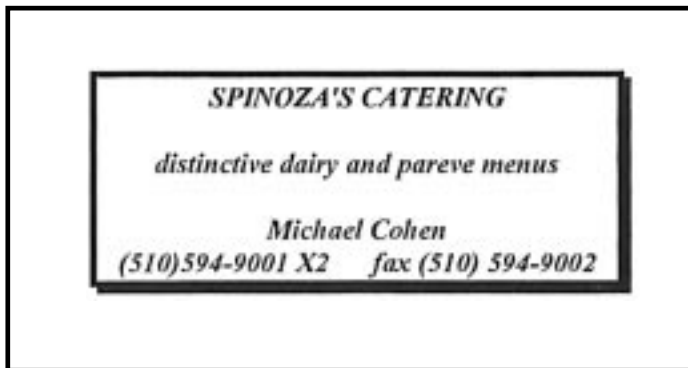
1. The synagogue receives a phone call about a person who is ill.
2. Rabbi Kelman assesses the situation, and if appropriate, passes the information on to me.
3. I figure out how best to meet the needs of the person or family involved, and either arrange to visit or contact the *merakez* (organizer) of the relevant *shchuna* (neighborhood, divided by zip code).

I am excited to do this, on a purely personal level, since it is a mitzva in which I have always been interested. Are you interested too? If there is a demand, we will organize some training on how one goes about it. Our tradition has much to say in this area. There is a booklet and diskettes available from the shul on the topic as well (Give Me Your Hand). Let us merit the doing of mitzvot together;

Judy Massarano (510) 644 0654 massaran@lmi.net

P.S. There are many ways to get involved, in addition to actually visiting someone. Can you make cards or paper flowers? Rabbi Kelman brings these along on such visits. Please let me know how you can connect to Mitzvat Bikkur Cholim.

\*Paraphrased from a quote by Rabbi A.D. Miller, from an article entitled *Building Community When Living Hurts* (available from Rabbi Kelman)



# KIDDUSH LIST

The following dates are available through 12/31/99:  
September 18, 25; Oct. 2, 16, 30; November 13; and all of December.

If you would like to sponsor a Kiddush in the next few months, please contact Mary Kennedy Breiner at 848-3367 during the month of August, or the Kiddush coordinator, a woman called Sam, after that.

9/4/99 In honor of Seth Rosenthal's Bar Mitzvah,  
Sherrin and Phil Rosenthal

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE ABOUT SCRIP

For over a year, we have been offering scrip to the congregation as one of our fund-raising efforts. We need your help to make this program a big success. As you probably know, as a non-profit organization, we can buy scrip at a 4-6% discount from local stores, and re-sell it to shul members at face value. It costs you nothing to participate, so you can help Netivot Shalom in a painless way.

We are now selling scrip for: Andronico's, Berkeley Bowl, Lucky's and Safeway. If you want to start a monthly order, just send a check marked VOID to the Netivot Shalom office, with the coupon and indicate whether you want to have the scrip mailed to you or whether you will pick it up at the office each month.

If you want to purchase scrip on a one-time basis, please send a check, payable to Netivot Shalom, along with the coupon. If you have any questions, please call David Levine (653-0679). Thanks for helping our shul! ☆



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- I will pick up scrip at the office  
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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: Netivot Shalom Scrip Program  
1841 Berkeley Way • Berkeley 94703

Your account will be charged on about the 20th of each month and the scrip will be mailed a few days later. Thank you!

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parents, spouses, siblings and  
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