



NETIVOT SHALOM

MARCH 2000

ADAR I / ADAR II 5760

I'm never quite sure why certain events are timed to occur simultaneously, or at least within a short time period of each other, but that's what happened to me at the beginning of February. My renewed driver's license appeared one morning along with a "Donor Dot" (red dot) which, if applied to the driver's license, says that my specified organs may be donated. Every time I get the card, it usually sits on my desk for a while, but this year finally decided to put the dot on my license.

Around the same time that the dot arrived, I learned that the Northern California Board of Rabbis had received a grant from the Jewish Community Newhouse Fund of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, to promote the mitzvah of organ donation. "If one is in the position to donate an organ to save another's life, it's obligatory to do so, even if the donor never knows who the beneficiary will be. The basic principle of Jewish ethics - 'the infinite worth of the human being' - also includes donation of corneas, since eyesight restoration is considered a life-saving operation." These words, written by Rabbi Moses Tendler, Chair of the Bioethics Commission of the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox), should serve as a primary assumption from which to build our belief system and our actions. Along with a bunch of supporting materials, came the suggestion that all congregations designate the Shabbat of March 3-4, 2000, Shabbat Shekalim, as the Shabbat on which we "inform the congregation that the giving of organs and tissue is a supreme mitzvah because this can save a life" (the words of the letter from the

Northern California Board of Rabbis.)

Frankly, I was disappointed that the Board of Rabbis took this rather mild position. Their statement reads like a recommendation, i.e., if you want to, then donate. Two years ago the Rabbinical Assembly was much more forceful in their statement:

RABBI'S COLUMN

by Rabbi Stuart Kelman

The Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled that one is OBLIGATED (my caps) to permit post-mortem transplantation of his or her organs in life-saving medical procedures and that withholding consent for such organ donation is contrary to Jewish Law". Simply put, it is an obligatory mitzvah to donate.

Five other statements underlie this position:

1. The body of an organ and/or tissue donor is always treated with care and respect (*K'vod ha-Met*)
2. There is no charge to the donor or to his or her family for donation
3. Organ and tissue donation will not delay funeral arrangements
4. Studies show that organ donation helps to shorten the time needed by members of a bereaved family to recover from their loss
5. The traditional Jewish belief in resurrection in no way precludes organ donation.

The donor card from the Rabbinical

Assembly, reads in part: "This is to inform you that I want to be an organ and tissue donor if the occasion ever arises. Please see that my wishes are carried out by informing attending medical personnel that I am a donor. In so doing, you will be acting as my partner and agent in the Mitzvah of *Pikuach Nefesh*, saving lives.



In keeping with the Jewish belief that the human body is God's creation, and is thus to be accorded sanctity even after death, please see that all appropriate steps are

taken on my behalf to maintain *K'vod ha-Met* (honor to the deceased). As soon as needed organs or tissues are retrieved in accordance with my instructions, see that the rest of my remains are buried in a Jewish cemetery, in accordance with Jewish law and custom."

So, I urge each one of us to participate in this most serious of mitzvot. I should add, that this in no way interferes with the work of our own Chevra Kadisha, in particular our Taharah Committee which prepares the body for burial.

Stop by the office or look in the information stand in the lobby on Shabbat; pick up a donor card; fill it out (two witnesses are needed); discuss this with your family; and attach it to any "living will" that you may have executed. As Rabbi Isaac Klein stated: "There is no greater *K'vod ha-Met* (honor to the deceased) than to bring healing to the living."

Questions? Concerns? Give a call.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Saturday Shabbat Services & Torah Study

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

Wednesday Morning Minyan

7:15 a.m.

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.

DONATION CARD

I/we wish to make a donation. Enclosed is my check payable to:

Congregation Netivot Shalom
 1841 Berkeley Way
 Berkeley, CA 94703

Please honor the following person/event:

NAME _____
 STREET _____
 CITY _____

This donation is intended for the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADULT EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> CAMP FUND |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING FUND | <input type="checkbox"/> LIBRARY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CUBA FUND | <input type="checkbox"/> RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL FUND | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUTH EDUCATION |
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 Friday 9:00-4:00 P.M.

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MILLENNIUM IN CUBA

By June Safran

I just got back from six weeks in Cuba, where I had the wonderful experience of meeting Cuban Jews all over the Island. We celebrated Chanukah, Shabbat, and even a bar mitzvah. I spent the first week in Santiago de Cuba with our friends at Comunidad Hebrea Hatikva where I lived in two different homes of members of the community. Services continue to be moving in this community even though most of their trained leadership made aliyah early in 1999.

We celebrated both Shabbat and Chanukah but, since there were no potatoes to be had on Friday night, we honored Chanukah by eating fried chicken instead of latkes. Of course, we ate fried chicken in honor of Shabbat, also, since that is the custom each Friday night. But this Shabbat was special because there was no gas in the synagogue, so all the food was prepared across the street in the home of Norma, the synagogue cook. Subsequently, I found out that there was gas for those willing to pay a higher price, so some of our donation money went for canisters of gas to take the community into the new millennium. Shabbat was a full twenty-six hours as we prayed together, studied together, and ate together. In other words, it was a usual Shabbat in Santiago. Monday night of Chanukah was a very joyous celebration with lots of dreidl gaming, food, and lively singing and dancing that was enhanced by the participation of Jewish members of a choral group from Seattle.

At the end of the week, I set out with two other people to visit most of the Jewish communities on the Island. The landscape was inspiring, the Cuban people were very nice, and the members of the Jewish communities were wonderful and very much involved with our heritage. We spent long hours talking and planning the future, as well as enjoying the present with each other.

We arrived back in Havana in time to celebrate Shabbat in the social hall of the Patronato. All activities now take place there, while the Patronato is being refurbished and classrooms are being built in the old balcony. Soon, teachers will no longer have to compete with the sounds of other classes sharing the same space, nor will any class have to sit on the floor of the sanctuary entranceway in order to have a space of their own.

With Sunday came the arrival of the twenty-one members of our tour group. We had a wonderful time visiting three Jewish communities in Havana and three in the countryside. We took members of the local communities with us almost everywhere we went, and shared meals with some of them almost every day. Thus, a lot of information was exchanged and a lot of friendships were made. We also attended the Havana Lodge B'nai Brith meeting. Warner Bein Oberndoerfer, president of the Golden Pacific Region and a member of our group, spoke about B'nai Brith projects in the U.S. and Dr. Robert Safran, a member of the Oakland Lodge, gave a talk on Prostate Cancer. Now, all Jewish men in Havana will want Vitamin E because Dr. Safran told them it was the only treatment proven to help in the fight against this disease.

One of the highlights of the trip was the bar mitzvah in Santiago of Alejandro

Aloma Farin, son of Julio Aloma, religious leader, and nephew of Eugenia Farin, president. It was a very joyous occasion with the parents and other relatives bursting with pride. We spent the afternoon studying and the evening celebrating. Our group hosted a party with dinner, lots of dancing, and even swimming. Yes, swimming! We had dinner around the pool at a restaurant that I found just outside of Santiago. Alejandro was raised in the traditional chair before we added to his ritual gifts with a gift to fit the tradition of being a Cuban male - a baseball glove, bat, ball, and even a cap that proclaimed in Hebrew that he is part of Berkeley.

I want to leave other tales of the trip for the future and tell you about our new project. The American Jewish Ballet Company is planning to travel to Havana this year for performances at the historic Lorca Theater on May 27th and 28th. They have been invited to participate in the Jewish community's program to commemorate the visit of the SS St. Louis to Havana Harbor in 1939. The AJB will present both a Holocaust piece and other pieces based on Jewish life and Biblical stories. Since the performances will be in the Lorca Theater, a popular public hall, non-Jewish Cubans and tourists will also be able to attend. This allows us to raise awareness of the Holocaust among all Cubans and to give tourists another (unexpected) venue for dealing with the Holocaust. In addition, such a public activity would serve to raise the stature of the Jewish community in the eyes of the Office of Religious Affairs and other government agencies with whom we will be dealing.

A Sponsors' Tour is being organized for those who sponsor a dancer in the "Send A Dancer To Havana" category at \$1,000 per dancer. Since there are only twelve dancers to sponsor, be sure to act soon. If you don't have an extra \$1,000 to spare, we will happily receive any contribution you would like to make to help with the project.

Finally, people often wonder if all this work is making a difference, especially since so many Cubans are making aliyah. Well, I can tell you that most of them are going to Israel with knowledge of their new homeland, some Hebrew, and a deep feeling of being Jewish. During the last week of our trip, several people told me that the individuals we bring to teach, and the Jewish materials we bring, are essential to their growth as Jews. Over and over again, I was told that they look forward to our groups coming because the extent of our involvement is unique.

I'll finish by telling you about a comment from my friend, Isaac Gelen that explains why I expend so much energy for these people. As we returned from our exciting day-long trip to Vinales with ten or more Cubans along, Isaac leaned over from across the bus aisle and said, "June, you don't bring people to Cuba, you bring love." Let's work together to fund the American Jewish Ballet in May, 2000. Send love.

For more information, please contact June Safran at 526-7173 or Cajm13@aol.com.

YOUNG JUDEA

By Andrea Altschuler and Claire Davidson, Youth Education Co-chairs

Young Judaea has been a very active participant in our community this year. Many people have asked why we have formed this partnership with Young Judaea. We hope the following answers some of your questions. If you want more information, please call Shari Rifas at 558-0455 or ask us.

Why does Netivot Shalom want a youth group?

Netivot Shalom has almost as many reasons for wanting a youth group as we have children. One of the main reasons is it is a great way for children from all segments of the congregation to form a kids' community. Religious school and day school students come together as one youth group with a focus on fun and Jewish learning.

What youth groups were available to Netivot Shalom?

We are often asked, "Why not USY (United Synagogue Youth)?" Because we are not members of United Synagogue, USY is not directly available to us. Some of our children have been able to participate in USY groups at other synagogues. However, it is a cumbersome arrangement and requires those kids to travel to another community. We want our own Netivot Shalom based youth group. We have tried administering our own youth group in-house. We lack the funding or the supervisory personnel needed to build a youth group from the ground up.

Why did we choose Young Judaea?

Young Judaea has 95 years of experience in running youth groups. They take responsibility for organizing and administering the clubs. They provide programming, paid staff and staff training. (Netivot Shalom provides space, announcements, and community support.) Young Judaea's western regional headquarters are two blocks from our offices. They are committed to making our youth group great. The price was right. Because Hadassah sponsors Young Judaea, the cost to our members is only \$25 per Young Judaea member per year.

What is Young Judaea?

A Zionist, Hadassah-sponsored, youth movement. Their programs include local clubs for 3-12 graders, conventions (weekend retreats that focus on peer-led education and socializing), summer camps, and Year Course, a ten-month work/study program in Israel for high-school graduates. Young Judaea is not affiliated with any denomination of Judaism. Young Judaea is kosher and shomer shabbas.

Who can join Young Judaea?

Anyone can join. You do not need to be a Netivot Shalom member. But you do need to be in 3rd - 6th grade to join Ofarim, in 7th-8th grade to join Tsofim, or in 9th to 12th grade to join Bogrim.

Who is actually with our kids?

Young Judaea has three premier *madrichim* (advisors) this year. David Nusbaum is a freshman at Berkeley and former regional USYer of the year. David is happy to be a part of the Berkeley Jewish community. Adam Ganes many of you know from his years at Camp Kee Tov. Adam is a student at VISTA College and is excited about working with a new and older group of kids. Helene Hoenig, regional assistant director of Young Judaea, is also our Bogrim Madricha. Helene grew up in Young Judaea on the East Coast and is thrilled to now be a staff member of California-Nevada-Hawaii Young Judaea.

What do they do at meetings?

Make new friends. Learn more about Judaism and Israel in an informal setting. Every club meeting includes games and other fun activities that promote a sense of pride in our Jewish identity. Not to mention our trips to the bowling alley or dances. Singing Hebrew songs, learning new cheers and dances, also add to the spirit and culture of our clubs. All meetings are focused on fun and building Jewish friendships among the group.

No really, what do they do at meetings?

Lots of different and exciting activities take place at each Young Judaea club meeting. For example, take our Ofarim (3-6 grade) club. When Chanukah time came around this year, the group played trivia games, and ate sufganiot. Later in December, the Ofarim designed their own Israeli flags. In January, Ofarim made shrinky dink replicas of various Judaica. And most recently, the Ofarim club went bowling at Albany Bowl!

How often do they meet?

Once or twice a month. The month's meeting schedule appears in Netivot Shalom's Newsletter and in the weekly e-mail.

How do I get my child to try Young Judaea?

Tell him/her to bring a friend! Have your child talk to one of the kids who has been coming to meetings this year and having a great time.

May I try it out before joining?

Yes. Come to one or two meetings. We think you'll enjoy it and join.

How do I join?

Well, if you're in 3rd - 12th grade, you can join by calling the Young Judaea office and asking for a membership form. If you attend a Young Judaea club at Netivot Shalom and are not a member, you can ask a madrich/a (like David, Adam, or Helene) for a membership application, too! Annual dues are only \$25, which cover the cost of staff, insurance, newsletters, and more. The Berkeley office phone number is (510) 549-0260.

YOUTH EDUCATION

by Wendy Rosov

AMITIM 2002

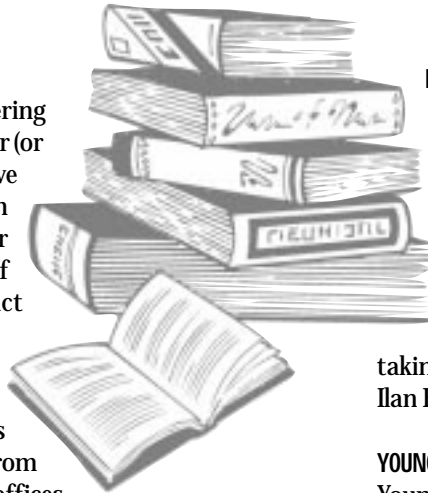
By now any family with a child entering 7th grade in the 2001-02 academic year (or turning 13 in the year 2002) should have received and returned their Amitim Fact Sheet. If you did not return your fact sheet, please do so immediately. If you never got one, please contact Wendy immediately at 549-9447 x105.

FAMILY PRESCHOOL

The next Family Preschool program is scheduled for Sunday, March 12th from 10:00 am-12:00 pm at the synagogue offices (1841 Berkeley Way). If you are not already registered for this exciting family program, please call Wendy at 549-9447 x105 to sign up!

FAMILY SCHOOL

The Kindergarten class meets on Sunday, March 19th from 1:00-3:00 pm at the shul offices (1841 Berkeley Way). If you are a First Grade family and would like to attend, please call Wendy Rosov at 549-9447 x105 to see if there's room. The final First Grade session is scheduled for May.



PURIM 2000

All 2nd through 6th graders (both Religious School and Day School students) are invited to participate in a Purim-based theatre workshop taking place in mid-March at the shul offices. Please call Masha at 549-9447 x104 for more information on this unique event.

WELCOME!

We'd like to wish a warm welcome to Miriam Seelig, who is taking over the First Grade class in the Religious School. We all wish Ilan Biederman a *refuah shelaimah*.

YOUNG JUDAEA

Young Judaea thanks Netivot Shalom families for their support in making this year a success! March 12, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Young Judaea Ofarim (3 - 6 grades) club meets at the Netivot Shalom office. March 24-26 All 3-8 graders are invited to the Ofarim and Tsofim Spring Convention at Camp Loma Mar in the Santa Cruz Mountains. April 13-16 High-school students are welcome at the Merchav Spring Convention in Oregon. For more information on any Young Judaea program, please call (510) 549-0260.

RAMAH DAY CAMP UPDATES

By Dan Alter



SITE

We have obtained our site for the summer, Padre in Tilden Park. The site has ample bathrooms and running water, two large picnic table areas, shade, a parking area, and a large field. Look for pictures of this lovely meadow to be posted soon at our website, <http://www.jfed.org/ramahday/>. Also stay tuned for details of our upcoming spring event at the site.

STAFF

We are delighted that Sarah Gill has agreed to be our assistant director. Sarah is completing her MA/teaching credential in early childhood education at Mills, and has broad experience in Jewish education. We are applying to the "Shlichim" program and will have one or more Israelis on our staff-let us know if you are interested in hosting a family. A number of enthusiastic young adults are excited to be counselors-most of our staff will be hired within the month.

TRANSPORTATION

Ramah Day Camp will be served by two buses, one coming from Walnut Creek and the other from Oakland and Berkeley. The subsidized cost to you will be \$25 per week per camper. We are currently finalizing arrangements with the bus company.

REGISTRATION

We are offering a limited number of early bird discounts. If you get your application and deposit to us by March 1st, you can deduct \$50 off the final balance due. If you have already signed up, don't worry, you already qualify for the discount.

Our Netivot Shalom Board members are Golda Blum, Rena Dorph and Carla Cassler. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can answer any questions for you.

The Rosenheimer Camp Scholarship fund is in memory of
Max & Celia Rosenheimer

The Arazim camperships are
in memory of
Billy Weitzner

ADULT EDUCATION

by Barbara Wezelman and Jonathan Heinstein

I am very pleased to be turning over the Chair of Adult Education to Jonathan Heinstein. He is already bubbling over with ideas and new directions for the committee and congregation to take in this area, and I know that we're all in for an exciting time under his leadership. All I have left to say at this point is one last thank you to everyone who has made the past two years so worthwhile -- the wonderful members of the Adult Education Committee, the many congregants who helped organize and teach our programs, and all of you who showed your interest and support for adult education by attending our classes. – *Barbara*

It is with some trepidation that I agreed to succeed Barbara Wezelman in chairing the Adult Education committee. Her personal touch in finessing all the exasperating details, her warmth and humor, and her active participation in so many classes and events will be sorely missed. Barbara exemplifies a mix of the Rabbinic ideals of Torah and *derekh erez*, learning and social grace.

I would like to use the Newsletter articles to raise some issues that I think deserve an expanded hearing at Netivot Shalom. Please check your e-mail, the shul calendar and our fliers for a more complete listing of our programs.

I hope to mediate the extension of private conversations about Judaism and our shul into projects for learning. The synagogue was, in its origin, an institution that balanced learning and prayer. I plan to present some proposals for projecting learning into our services at Netivot Shalom. To deepen our appreciation of the breadth of Judaic piety, additional alternative services could be programmed for occasional Shabbatot. The planning and execution of such services would entail both study and worship. One example is a service modeled on the synagogue of the late Second Temple, which featured the reading of Torah text, translation and explication. I have a number of ideas in this regard and look forward to a continuing conversation with our membership.

There is, in addition, a need to revisit the flawed structure of Diaspora communities. Across the board, from unaffiliated to Chabad, there seems to be a disaffection from the manner in which our institutions interact. I have spoken with a number of rabbis and lay individuals about creating a community-wide forum for studying the issues of the day. The success of the *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* should embolden us to dispense with preconceptions about the orientation of any Jew, regardless of background or affiliation. I want to recommend a Passover series on four Thursday evenings starting immediately after Purim, which will feature Tsipi Gabay and Rachel Heinstein co-hosting a program on Sephardic and Moroccan traditions; Chabad Rabbi Yehuda Ferris; Anshey Sfarad Rabbi Michael Benchlouch; and an evening on how to kosher your *Pesach* (speaker to be announced).

I also look forward to the opportunity to do some programming in Hebrew. A significant number of non-Israeli Netivot Shalom members are fluent enough to understand a Hebrew talk and are a constituency for Hebrew language events. It is always assumed that Israelis have a different take on Jewish culture. Let's try it in Hebrew. On the subject of Hebrew language: For those eternal beginner and intermediate students I want to set up a program for consultation, *chavruta* learning, and expanded classes. The attainment of siddur level knowledge is a realistic goal. I will continue to lobby for Hebrew language as the primary vehicle for advancing your own response to Judaism.

I support all of our diverse programs for Adult Education, with the caveat that I would like to see them stand autonomously on the efforts of those who advance them. There is some budget help, but I will oppose any programming that charges membership a learning fee. The committee will be hard pressed, in my view, to meet the obligations already in place and those entailed in present initiatives. A number of issues need a forum for focus and debate at Netivot Shalom and in the community at large. The process is called *'machloket lshem shamayim'*, dispute which serves both divine purpose and the common good. – *Jonathan*

VASHTI REVISITED: FEMINIST INTERPRETATION OF RABBINIC COMMENTARIES

Dr. Leora Lawton will join us in our library for a pre-Purim look at Vashti, on Sunday evening, March 5 at 7 p.m. Vashti is vilified in rabbinic commentaries, while in recent years she has been glorified by feminists as being someone who fought against sexism. This seminar will look carefully at the text of Megillat Esther and the commentaries and find out whether she is more than just the victim or the crime. In doing so we will get to the core of misogyny and anti-Semitism. Co-sponsored with Lehrhaus, this event will be FREE for Netivot Shalom members.

ONGOING CLASSES AND GROUPS

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.

TALMUD STUDY, WITH RABBI KELMAN, meets every Tuesday evening from 7:30 - 9:00 pm., at the synagogue office.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP FORMING

Havdalah, dinner and planning meeting Saturday, March 18, 8:00 pm at Rabbi Kelman's home. Interested? RSVP to Naomi Horowitz, Membership Chair, at 663-3558 or horowitz@slip.net.

ANYONE FOR A GOOD READ?

Carol Dorf would like to start a book group that would focus on contemporary Jewish life, sociology, and history (from the 18th century to the present) with perhaps an occasional novel thrown in. Sunday evenings at the synagogue office. For more information, please call Carol at 848-4701.

B'NAI AVRAHAM V'SARAH, A CHAVURAH FOR JEWS BY CHOICE AND THEIR FAMILIES Meets bi-monthly at various members homes. For information contact Carol Cunradi at 234-1003.

JUDAISM REVEALED, A GROUP FOR JEWS AND THEIR NON-JEWISH PARTNERS, meets monthly. For information call Rose Levinson at 526-1322.

TIFERET: A PROGRAM FOR INTERMARRIED FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Tiferet's goal is to provide education and support for intermarried families who wish to raise their children as Jews. There's no expectation that the non-Jewish partner who takes part in this project will convert. We're looking for couples with children under the age of 11. We will have discussion groups, which will meet approximately every three weeks. Childcare will be provided.

We'll complete these discussion groups at the end of May, and on the weekend of June 16, have a Shabbat retreat at Pt. Bonita in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Discussions and the retreat will include families from each of the seven participating synagogues. If you'd like further information, please contact Rose Levinson, Project Coordinator at rosel@wellcom or at 526-1322.

FREE CLASSICAL HEBREW LESSONS

with Ethelyn Simon. Call 530-7970 for additional information.

IN PROGRESS!

ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PRAYER, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

No topic will be off limits in this hard-hitting four-part series taught by Rabbi Kelman. He will address such hitherto taboo subjects as petitionary prayer, *keva* and *kavanah*, and comparative *siddurim*. Banned in Boston, this program could only be possible in a community like ours. The classes are held Sunday mornings, from 10 - 11:30 at the office. The final two sessions will be on March 5th and 19th. Look in the March email and Shabbat announcements for the confirmed schedule, or contact Rabbi Kelman.

TORAH STUDY SCHEDULE

MARCH

Mar. 4 Open
 Mar. 11 Nitzhia Shaked
 Mar. 18 Yehuda Sherman
 Mar. 25 Nitzhia Shaked

APRIL

Apr. 1 Diane Bernbaum
 Apr. 8 Nitzhia Shaked
 Apr. 15 OPEN
 Apr. 22 Nitzhia Shaked
 Apr. 29 OPEN



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MARCH 2000

ADAR I / ADAR II 5760

saturday

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday



5	11:30 am Kashrut Meeting with Rabbi Kelman @ 1841 BW	3 pm Tiferet Meeting @ 1841 BW
6	7:30 pm Maimonides class @ 1841 BW	
7	7:30 pm Talmud Shiur with Rabbi Kelman @ 1841 BW	
8	7:15 am Morning Minyan @ 1841 BW	• Beginning
9		
10	6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat at the home of the Bells	
11		9:00 am Torah Study
12		
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24	7:15 am Morning Minyan @ 1841 BW	
25	7:30 pm • Workshop on coping with grief @ 1841 BW	
26	• Beginning Hebrew class @ 1841 BW	
27		
28		
29		
30		
31		
4	9:00 am Torah Study	
5	9:45 am Shabbat Services Vayak'heil	
6		Gretchen Stern becomes a Bat Mitzvah

Pre Purim look at Vashiti with Dr. Leora Lawton @ 1841 BW	28 Adar I	1841 BW						11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad
10 am Family Pre School @ 1841 BW 1 pm Kindergarten School @ 1841 BW Family room location TBA Purim Workshop @ 1841 BW	29 Adar I	30 Adar I	1 Adar II	2 Adar II	3 Adar II	4 Adar II		
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	7:30 pm Maimonides Class @ 1841 BW	7:30 pm Talmud Shiur @ 1841 BW	7:15 am Morning Minyan @ 1841 BW	7:15 am Morning Minyan @ 1841 BW		Mishpacha Kabbalat Shabbat (location TBA)	9:45 am Shabbat Services Drash by Nathan Martin Va-Yikra	
	6 Adar II	7 Adar II	8 Adar II	9 Adar II	10 Adar II	11 Adar II		
9 am - Pick up Mishloach Manot Baskets @ 1841 BW 10 am - Shabbat B'Yachad Purim Party @ BRJCC 1pm - First Grade Class @ 1841 BW 8pm- Young singles Meeting at the Home of the Kelman's	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	9:00 am Torah Study Learner's Minyan with Cantor Pam Sawyer 9:45 am Shabbat Services Zav 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad Young Judea Convention
	12 Adar II	13 Adar II	14 Adar II	15 Adar II	16 Adar II	17 Adar II	18 Adar II	
	26	27	28	29	30	31		
10 am Adult Education Branch Young Judea Event		7:30 pm Maimonides Class @ 1841 BW	7:30 pm Talmud Shiur @ 1841 BW	7:15 am Morning Minyan @ 1841 BW	7:30 pm Passover Workshop @ 1841 BW			
	19 Adar II	20 Adar II	21 Adar II	22 Adar II	23 Adar II	24 Adar II		

PROGRAM UPDATES

BY: IRIS GREENBAUM, MSW

SHABBAT SHIRA was great fun! We tasted the sweetness of Tu B'Shevat fruits and relished singing Hebrew favorites! Our children had a great time with our teenagers, Gilad Gressel, Madelyn Knaster, and Sarah Zimmer. We've had many requests for an encore evening! Many thanks to Rabbi Stuart & Vicky Kelman for hosting.

ETZLEINU

Experience the joy of welcoming Shabbat with others who love Shabbat. Come join other members in Kabbalat Shabbat services and pot-luck, kosher vegetarian dinner at a neighborhood host home.

Friday, March 3 - hosted by Ellen Peskin & Ben Donohue (Rockridge)
RSVP 658-8024

Friday, March 10 - Hosted by Shira & Chauncey Bell (Alameda)
RSVP 523-7709

Friday, March 24 - Hosted by Julie Weissman (North Berkeley)
RSVP Julie 849-9505 or Iris 524-8548

SHABBAT B'YACHAD

The festive spirit of Purim has infused our youngest members with joyful anticipation! Come hear the story of Queen Esther at our Purim celebration for families with children under 5 years old. Join us for tasty treats, songs, and Purim fun. Sunday, March 19 from 10 am to 12 noon at the JCC Room 14.

(\$5 donation per family) RSVP to Iris 524-8548.

WANTED: CELEBRANTS

For our June 1 issue, we would like to publish a list of those who are graduating from day school, high school, college (undergrad and graduate), and any other such personal *simchas*.

Call the synagogue office by the middle of April so we can congratulate those who give you *nachas*.

MIDRASHA

BY: DIANE BERNBAUM

T This is a relatively quiet time of the year at Midrasha. The second semester has begun. We have not yet begun working on our garage sale (because we don't have a space. Do YOU know of any 2000 square foot empty spaces we could have for six weeks? We are an insured, 501(c)3 organization and would gratefully document your donation of space.) It's not time yet to gear up for graduation, which is May 21. (Mark your calendars. Don't miss it.)

During this quiet time, I actually get to read some of the material that comes across my desk. Recently I read two great articles in the "Jewish Education News," a publication of CAJE (Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, my professional organization) that suggested rituals for students leaving high school and going off to college. I am very aware of this population, not only as the director of Midrasha but as the mother of a 17 year old.

We are lucky enough to live in an age, and in a community, where new and meaningful Jewish rituals are constantly being created and refined. I discovered this a few weeks ago when I planned a commemoration of the end of the *shloshim* period of mourning for my father. With help from both rabbinic and lay friends, I was able to create a beautiful ceremony that was meaningful to me. I was amazed that there were few, if any, rules or models to follow, but the process of creating and claiming a Jewish ritual as my own was so empowering.

So what do these two articles tell us about sending our children off to college? Alice Weinstein, in "Leaving for College: A Jewish Separation," suggests first sending our children off fully prepared: Along with the blankets and alarm clock, pack a Tanakh, Shabbat candles and candlesticks, a Kiddush cup, havdallah set, *chanukkia* and candles siddur, *kip-pah*, *tallit* and *mezuzah*. Put in audio tapes of Jewish music, lists of synagogues in the area and family pictures from Jewish celebrations.

She includes a parents' blessing for their children and a child's prayer back to their parents. She suggests reciting the blessings during a final Shabbat or other quiet moment, rather than at the last rushed moment when one is leaving the house. Once they leave, she reminds us to phone and e-mail on Jewish holidays. (This year I e-mailed my son who lives in China, to remind him it was Rosh HaShana. He wrote back that he had been unaware of the day, but had eaten a honey drenched Chinese confection, so the day was celebrated in at least one way.)

In a second article, "Two-part Ceremony for a Son or Daughter Leaving for College," Paula Petterstone suggests first having a havdallah ceremony at home soon before departure, to mark the transition from childhood to young adulthood. She suggests using a new candle and then sending it off to college with your child. The second ceremony, after arriving at college, is affixing a mezuzah on a dorm room doorpost. (Midrasha, by the way, gives our graduates a choice of a mezuzah or a Tanakh to take to college with them, as a graduation gift.)

If any of you are interested in copies of these articles, please let me know. In the meantime, I encourage you to create your own new rituals by adapting our rich tradition to your needs.



COMMUNITY BUILDING

By Julie Weissman

PURIM PLEASURES

What do community building and *Mishloach Manot* deliveries have in common? **TEAMWORK!** (*Mishloach Manot* are packages of food which are traditionally given on Purim.)

Here are some suggestions for things you can do to join in this Purim mitzvah and also meet other Netivot Shalom members:

1.SHOP - Plan an expedition to Costco with a friend to buy plates, candy, dried fruits, and plastic wrap to make the packages. (Week of March 6)

2.ASSEMBLE - What better way to get to know people than to put together 380 Purim treat packages with them? (Week of March 13)

3.DELIVER - Everyone loves to get presents! Be the bearer of Purim treats to ten of your neighbors! (Sunday, March 19)

Join the fun! Volunteer for at least one of these activities by calling Julie Weissman at 849-9505, or Iris Greenbaum at 524-8548. Alternatively, if someone calls you and asks for help, please say yes! Your community is counting on you! ☆

**CHARLOTTE TOOTHMAN &
BARRY & KATE AUGUS**

invite the congregation to join them on
March 11, 2000, when their daughter,

ABBY AUGUS

**WILL BE CALLED TO THE
TORAH AS A BAT MITZVAH.**

**RISA KAGAN &
RICHARD STERN**

invite the congregation to join them on
March 4, 2000, when their daughter,

GRETCHEN STERN

**WILL BE CALLED TO THE
TORAH AS A BAT MITZVAH.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPPORTUNITIES TO OFFER *TZEDAKAH* TO NETIVOT SHALOM

YOUR CHANCE TO DO MITZVOT

We need Shabbat Greeters. Volunteer to greet for one Shabbat. Call Allen Samuelson 527-1126. We need Kiddush sponsors. For information call Ronna Kabatznick, 848-6812.

REVIEWERS NEEDED

Many of our library volumes are sent to us for review purposes. Many of the reviews need only be a one paragraph description while some require a bit more. In order to keep these books coming to Netivot Shalom, please contact Rabbi Kelman at 549-9447 x 103 if you can do some limited reviewing.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have a few hours to volunteer in our library. We need volunteers to re-shelve books, keep track of books that are borrowed and process new books. If any of these "jobs" sound like they interest you, please contact Rabbi Kelman at 549-9447 x 103.

E SCRIP DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR E-SCRIP

The congregation will get a % of your purchases at Safeway, Andronico's and many other stores in the Bay Area. But, you must register. Need an extra copy of the registration form, just call the office. Albertson's shoppers: Albertson's Community Partner Cards are available through the office. The cards are free and you don't have to do anything except request one from the congregation office. Each time you shop at Albertson's, and use the Community Partners card Netivot Shalom will get a % of your purchases as a donation from Albertson's.

CARS IN BERKELEY?

Donate your old car, motorcycle, truck or RV to Netivot Shalom. Call Claudia Valas at 558-9200 for information.

SHORASHIM CONCERT AT NETIVOT OFFICES

All Netivot Shalom members are invited to hear a complimentary concert given by Shorashim East Bay Jewish Chorus on Sunday, April 2 from 7:00pm-8:30pm at the Netivot Shalom office. The concert is Shorashim's way of saying thank you to the Netivot Shalom community for the shul allowing Shorashim to rehearse at their offices. Shorashim's repertoire is broad, and includes liturgical arrangements, ladino and yiddish, and modern Israeli songs as well. Mark your calendars and join us if you are able.

FREE TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE JEWISH BULLETIN

Congregation Netivot Shalom members are offered a six-week trial subscription to the Bay Area's only weekly Jewish newspaper. If interested, e-mail your name and address to jen@jbnc.com

MEDITATIVE SHACHARIT (MORNING SERVICE)

Saturday, March 18 - 9:30-10:30 am
Join K'vod Wieder and others to participate in a morning service opening the door to traditional Shabbat liturgy through meditation and chanting. This is a special opportunity to sink deeply into Shabbat prayer and silence before joining the rest of the community for the Torah service.
Future Dates: April 15, May 20

HIGH HOLIDAYS TO REMAIN AT NORTHBRAE

By Josh Gressel

The Ritual Committee decided during its January meeting to remain at Northbrae for High Holiday services. The vote was 7 to 1, with one abstention, and came after more than two hours of discussions spanning two months. The Ritual Committee would like to thank all members of the congregation who took the time and trouble to e-mail, call or talk with them and provide their input into this highly important decision. Congregation members seemed about equally split on the proposal, although there was "passion" among those wanting to stay at Northbrae vs. "willingness" for those voting to go to St. John's. Please feel free to talk with any member of the Ritual Committee if you would like further information.

The reasons for staying included the following: (1) a better site for childcare was located nearby which removed one of the main shortcomings of Northbrae as a site, (2) many Netivot members were passionate about remaining at Northbrae,

saying they would be unable to attend services at St. John's, (3) there was widespread enthusiasm about last year's services, with many congregants appreciating the smaller size and greater intimacy of some of the services, and (4) Northbrae allows us to use their sanctuary on Sunday, and in two of the next three years Second Day *Rosh HaShana* falls on Sunday.

The dissenting member of the committee felt services should be moved to St. John's for the following reasons: (1) there is great value in having the congregation worship together in one space, something which is possible at St. John's for all but *Kol Nidre* services, (2) any new site, because it is unfamiliar, will appear to have more potential problems than the problems with which we are familiar at Northbrae, (3) the committee's vote simply delays the inevitable, because the congregation long ago outgrew Northbrae and the logistics involved in staying there are increasingly burdensome.

CHAI FOR CHANUKAH

March

FRANCES QUITTEL
Morton Quittel
Hannah Fogelson
Janet Bleckner
George Spart
Mae Perlow
Dick Lesser
Diane Beck
Blance Rose Cohen
Irene Levin
Sarah and Morris
Berman
Lou Berman
Nathan and Celia
Quittel
Harry Levin
Leon Meyerson
Harry Katz

DIANE LIPTON
Rachel Zelman
Frank Krulik

DEBBIE AND JERRY
ISAAK SHAPIRO

JEAN BRASS
BRADMAN

ANDREA
ALTSCHULER AND
DAVID FINN

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MARCH 1 TO APRIL 15

IF YOU'D LIKE TO ADD
A NAME(S) TO THE
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FILL OUT THE
INFORMATION BELOW AND
MAIL, E-MAIL OR FAX

*(include only names of departed
parents, spouses, siblings and
children)*

MAIL TO:

Congregation Netivot Shalom
1841 Berkeley Way,
Berkeley, CA 94703

E-MAIL TO: ntvt-office@eb.jfed.org

FAX TO: 510.549.9448

NAME OF DECEASED:

(ENGLISH NAME)

(HEBREW NAME - IF POSSIBLE)

DATE OF DEATH:

(CIVIL DATE)

(HEBREW DATE - IF POSSIBLE)

YOUR NAME:

RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED:

date entered: (office use only)

3/1/00	James Bloom	24 Adar	3/21/00	Morris Lifschitz	14 Adar II
3/1/00	Warren Oscar Smith	24 Adar	3/25/00	Wilson Kelfman	18 Adar II
3/2/00	Benjamin Sutz	25 Adar	3/29/00	Sylvia Jacobson	22 Adar II
3/2/00	Marjorie Alper	25 Adar	3/31/00	Robert Finegold	24 Adar II
3/2/00	Rachel Press	25 Adar	4/9/00	Frances Skoler Gerson	4 Nisan
3/3/00	Leah Jacobson Reingold	26 Adar	4/10/00	Barbara Strauss	5 Nisan
3/3/00	Pearl Pripstein	26 Adar	4/10/00	Molly S. Gewertz	5 Nisan
3/3/00	Esther Redel	28 Adar	4/12/00	Frances Keller	7 Nisan
3/3/00	Nathan Brandwynne	28 Adar	4/13/00	Sadie S. Kulakofsky	8 Nisan
3/11/00	Milton Weintraub	4 Adar II	4/14/00	Jack Berger	9 Nisan
3/13/00	Norman Schachter Avers	6 Adar II	4/15/00	Morton Berger	10 Nisan
3/17/00	Susan Shackman	10 Adar II			

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DONATION OF TWO COPIES OF THE FIRST HEBREW READER BIBLE
• Claudia Valas - EKS Publishing

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- Paul and Celia Concus in memory of Marissa Moss's grandmother, Pat Hellman's father, David Hellman
- Michael Bubiensky in memory of his father Bernie Buniansky

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- The Brosbe Family in honor of Dr. Rena Dorph, Dr. Debbie Findling and in memory of Debbie Isaak Shapiro's mother, Ellen Isaak
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- Gwenda & Bernard Wasserman in honor of their daughter Ilana Sashi Wasserman, and Aleza Hilary Wasserman and her fiance Ryan Toncheff, granddaughters of Florence and Samuel Marson
- Simon Gundelman
- Alison Jordan
- Dr. Rivka Greenberg and Dr. Ken Stanton in memory of Pat Hellman's father, David Hellman, and Ruth Morris's father

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- Claudia Valas - EKS Publishing
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- Diane and Edwin Bernbaum in memory of Diane's father, Irving Lowe
- Samuel and Kathryn Scheffler in honor of Gabe Scheffler's Bar Mitzvah
- Glenn Karonsky in memory of Diane Bernbaum's father, Irving Lowe
- Scott and Turi Adams

- in memory of Louis Robinson, father of Carol Robinson
- Bruce Starkman
- Carol Whitehurst
- Betty Martinez in memory of her mother, Goldye Spilky
- Miron Goldgeil
- Andrea Altshuler and David Finn in honor of Rabbi and Vicky Kelfman

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

- Elliot and Shelley Fineman for children with language based learning disabilities
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- Seth Himelhoch and Sheila Jelen in memory of Diane Bernbaum's father Irving Lowe and Debbie Isaak Shapiro's mother, Ellen Isaak
- Laura and Knut Grossman in honor of Tsipi Gabai and Jessica Yael Grossman's Bat Mitzvah

DINNERS FOR THE HOMELESS FUND

- Samuel and Kathryn Scheffler in honor of Gabe Scheffler's Bat Mitzvah

TORAH STUDY

- Catherine Winter

THANK YOU FOR HELPING IN THE OFFICE STAMPING ENVELOPES

- Lucy Kahn
- Shaina Rappaport

- Ethan Kimball
- Ian Faquini
- Rachel Finn
- Ruth Rosenblatt
- Marsha Rosenblatt

THANK YOU TO AFIKOMEN :
For paying for the repair of Rachel Brott, Ritual Coordinator's computer and the purchase of a new printer

THANK YOU TO FRANK OKEN:
For donation of Jewish magazines to our library

MAZEL TOV

- Claudia Valas on EKS Publishing's publication of the First Hebrew Reader Bible by Jessica Goldstein
- Laurie Irwin, daughter of Mike Irwin and Charlene Stern on her forthcoming marriage.
- Steve and Angela Bileca on the birth of their son Daniel Solomon

CONDOLENCES TO:

- Debby Isaak Shapiro on the death of her mother Ellen Isaak
- Pat Hellman on the death of her father
- Menahem Sendowski on the death of his father
- Marissa Moss on the death of her grandmother
- Betty Martinez on the death of her mother Goldye Spilky.

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