



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

NETIVOT SHALOM

MAY 2000
NISSAN/IYYAR 5760

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Many of you know that I have been selected to be part of a committee of the Rabbinical Assembly which has been charged with the task of writing a new Mahzor for the High Holydays. Why, you may ask, is it necessary for the Conservative Movement to create a new Mahzor when the old one is still fairly new? Good question! In response, I want to turn your attention to the copy-

right date of the Harlow Mahzor (the one that we use on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur). The date of publication is 1972. So it has been 28 years since this Mahzor was published, which means that it was created more than 30 years ago. In biblical terms, 40 years (roughly) was considered to be a generation (think about the 40 years of wandering in the desert). For us at the beginning of the 21st century, 30 years is almost a lifetime! Thirty years ago, few of us were sensitive to the nature of language the way we are today. Witness the discomfort many of us have for the gendered language in the Harlow. Hopefully, this new Mahzor will be gender sensitive and reflect the values of our generation. Yes, it will include the matriarchs, and no, it will not use the purple color! It has been said (or at least many of us would like to believe) that each generation needs its own book of worship, its own liturgy. It is not one in which the past is forgotten or overturned;

it is to be one in which the past meets the present so that we, who rely on the printed word as the basis for our relationship to our Creator, can fashion our approach to the Holy One. This new Mahzor will, at least so the current thinking goes, have four columns when you open any page. One column will contain the Hebrew. Next to that will be a new translation and some transliteration. One of the outside columns will

MACHZOR PREVIEW

By Rabbi Stuart Kelman



contain explanations and commentaries, while the other outside column will have alternate readings, meditations and *kavannot*. Timetable: we are preparing a booklet that will contain the whole Erev Kol Nidre service which will be ready, with God's help, by the High Holydays one year from now, i.e., for 2001 (5762). I want to add a personal thank you to Netivot Shalom for allowing me the time each month to participate in these meetings. They are an opportunity to study our liturgy with a few colleagues who are extraordinarily attuned to both the sources and congregants. This new Mahzor will not be a revision of the Harlow, but a unique product of our movement at the beginning of this new century.

With this in mind, I'd like to share with you a first draft of a prayer all of us are familiar with: the Kaddish. The form of the Kaddish is that of the Kaddish Shalem, the full Kaddish used at the end
continued on page 4



Tefillah Schedule

Saturday Shabbat Services &
Torah Study
Berkeley-Richmond
Jewish Community Center
1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley
9:00 am - Torah Study
9:45 am - Services
11:00 am - Tot Shabbat & Family Program

Wednesday Morning Minyan
1841 Berkeley Way, Berkeley
7:15 am

Meditative Shacharit

Saturday, May 20 - 9:30-10:30 AM

Join K'vod Wieder and others, on the third Shabat of the month, for 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.
Next Month: June 17

Torah Study Schedule

MAY

6 *Kedoshim* • Nitzhia Shaked

13 *Emor* • Art Gould

20 *B'har* • Nitzhia Shaked

NOTE: On May 20 ONLY, Torah Study will start at 8:00 am. This is a one-time change.

27 *Bechukotai* • Open

JUNE

3 *B'Midbar* • Nitzhia Shaked

10 *Yizkor* • Naomi Seidman

17 *Naso* • Nitzhia Shaked

24 *B'Halotecha* • Open

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RENEWING JUDAISM IN BULGARIA

By Hadara Stanton

I celebrated my Bat Mitzvah at Netivot Shalom ten years ago this March, (the second Bnai Mitzvah of the new congregation). Within the past half year that occasion has taken on an entirely new meaning. I now understand it as part of the Jewish life I have always taken for granted. When I applied to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for a volunteer position with their Jewish Service Corps, one of my intended objectives was to enable others to benefit from my Jewish education. I never imagined that only a few months of working with the Jewish community in Bulgaria would challenge and expand my understanding of Judaism to such an amazing extent.

In my last year at The Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University (The Joint undergraduate program), I applied for the JDC position. It seemed to me, to be an ideal opportunity. I would be able to do something with both the degrees I had obtained - one in Modern Jewish Studies and the other in Political Science, with a concentration in International Relations - and I would be able to put off "the real world" for another year. The application and screening process took many months, with a great deal of consideration towards where I would be sent. The options for JDC volunteers were Bulgaria, India, Poland and Romania. I spoke to former volunteers in Bulgaria and heard nothing but good things. Attracted by the challenge of this position, I accepted the offer from the country director. A month after I graduated from college, I was flying to a country that had meant nothing to me a year before, and yet would be the setting for changing my life, as I began to learn what I had been taught for the past 22 years. Bulgaria is a former Communist country in the Balkans with a fascinating Jewish history. Only recently is the world becoming aware that the Jews of Bulgaria were saved from extermination during the Holocaust. In fact, the Jewish population of Bulgaria increased during World War II. However, the majority of those 50,000 Jews made *aliyah* following the war. By the early 1950s there were 5,000 Jews remaining in Bulgaria, where Jewish life was suppressed under communist rule. The current estimate of the Jewish population is 4,000- 6,000, with the majority concentrated in the capital of Sofia, where I am living for the year.

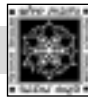
The Jewish community of Bulgaria is Sephardic. Many of the elderly speak Ladino as well as Hebrew, and some of the prayers sung in the synagogue contain verses in Ladino. There are two synagogues in Bulgaria where services are held every Shabbat and on holidays. The synagogue in Sofia is of Spanish-Moorish architecture, and was opened in 1909. The synagogue in Plovdiv dates back to the nineteenth century. Both are in the process of restoration. Since 1994 an Israeli Rabbi has been serving as the rabbi for Bulgaria. For the past two years a young Bulgarian Jew has been studying in Israel to assume the position of Chief Rabbi of Bulgaria for the first time in decades.

I work in the Beit HaAm, the center of Jewish cultural and educational programming, on informal education for youth, the middle generation, and pensioners. One of my primary responsibilities is to travel across the country and work with the Jewish communities in the provinces. The Organization of Jews in Bulgaria, "Shalom," is represented in fifteen towns, and there are Sunday schools in Sofia and the towns of Ruse, Bourgas, Plovdiv and Varna. They are run by volunteer members of the Jewish communities for youth between the ages of five and eighteen. It is the commitment of the leaders of these communities, as well as the enthusiasm of the youth to learn about being Jewish, that makes evident the fact that Bulgarian Jewry does not only contain a rich history, it also contains a vibrantly alive community of Jews, striving to learn and reclaim their religion, way of life, and identity.

We can contribute to this process of Jewish renewal by making available to the Bulgarian Jewish Community the simple ritual objects of daily life which we take for granted. Havdalah candles and spice boxes, candle sticks, kiddush cups, mezzuzot, channukkiot, kippot, etc. are not available in Bulgaria and are highly prized by the local community as a visible connection to Jewish life and Jews throughout the world.

Please contact Rivka Greenberg or Ken Stanton 524-9196 if you can help. You are welcome to bring your contributions to the CNS offices.





RABBI'S COLUMN

(continued from front page)

of Shacharit and Musaf. I chose to use this form since it the fullest expression of the Kaddish. Just from our attempting to translate it, I was able to gather some new learnings as I hope you will when you read it. Remember, it is a prayer that is voiced between the reader and the congregation (which explains its form). I hope that you will study it, and share with me any comments you may have.

KADDISH SHALEM

May God's great name be exalted and hallowed, as is God's wish, throughout the created world. And so, may God's sovereignty soon be established, in your lifetime and in your days, and in the days of all the house of Israel; and respond with: Amen. May God's great name be acknowledged forever and ever.

May the name of the Holy One, who is blessed, be acknowledged and celebrated, lauded and worshipped, exalted and honored, extolled and acclaimed though God is truly far beyond all acknowledgement and praise, expressions of gratitude or consolation ever spoken in the world. And respond with: Amen.

May the prayers and pleas of all Israel be accepted by their Creator in heaven. And respond with: Amen.

May abundant peace from heaven, and life, come to us and all Israel: And respond with: Amen.

May the One who brings harmony on high, bring harmony to us and to all Israel (some congregations add: and to all the inhabitants of the world). And respond with: Amen.



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RITUAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERS NEW CHUMASHIM

By Jerry Derblich & Josh Gressel

The Conservative Movement is publishing a new chumash, *Etz Chayim*, with English translation and commentary. Rabbi Kelman brought a sample to the March Ritual Committee meeting for members to review. The tentative publication date is Shavuot 2001. However, to enjoy a pre-publication discount, the committee would need to place orders for the synagogue by December 31, 2000. The opportunity to purchase the first Conservative chumash at a discount has prompted the committee to evaluate what we are currently using and at least consider the possibility of changing or supplementing the Hertz chumash.

The Hertz edition has been a staple of Conservative synagogues everywhere for many years. Congregants are very familiar with them and they are half the price of the competition (approximately \$20 per copy vs. \$40 for the Plaut). Because the synagogue needs 400-500 copies, price is an important consideration. However, many on the committee feel the Hertz translation is stilted and the commentary not particularly enlightening.

At this stage, new committee members Rena Fischer and Nathan Martin have volunteered to review the new Conservative edition, compare it to the Plaut, Hertz, and ArtScroll editions, and bring a recommendation to the committee. Because of the heavy expense involved in switching and people's personal preferences, one option could be to have different editions available for people to choose from as they enter on Shabbat morning. If you have any opinions on this decision, feel free to voice them to Rena, Nathan or any other member of the Ritual Committee. ☆

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Netivot Shalom references available!

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Judy Kunofsky

Bursting with renewed energy (and four new members), thirteen members of Netivot Shalom met as the Building Committee on April 4th. Here are some highlights:

- We are continuing to seriously examine all possible new locations for our new building. So don't panic if you hear we are looking at a place you're not crazy about. Keep in mind that if it's 15,000 square feet and around here, we're going to consider it! And let us know if you notice a building or site that "you" think would be suitable.

- We cannot be serious contenders for the right site when it appears unless we are able to show suitable financial resources. That's why we will need to start fundraising even before finding a building. Our committee has started interviewing several consultants who offer different kinds and styles of assistance for the many stages of this process. Our goal is to initiate a full campaign by the fall of this year.

- The sixteen committee members plus advisors have a wealth of in-house expertise in project management and fundraising. You can check out who we are by visiting the Netivot Shalom Website at www.netivotshalom.org!

- Have any questions? ideas? concerns? Call Mike Irwin, Chair, at 527-3457 or contact the committee via E-mail through the Website. ☆

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LET'S GO TO CUBA!

By Rabbi Margaret Holub, Mendocino Coast Jewish Community

Well, it all started, as such shenanigans often do, with a walk in the woods with Steve Antler. You have to watch out when you talk to that guy! We were actually having the latest installment of an ongoing conversation about the world, all its need; and how any of us can make a difference for the good. The talk moved along to Cuba. "Let's go to Cuba!" said Steve, and now here we are with a sister Jewish community in Santa Clara and forty pounds of medicines and school supplies and Shabbat candles on their way south as I write.

There were, needless to say, a few (though not so many; actually) intervening steps, and way more yet to come. As Steve and I talked that day, we each expressed our personal horror at the US embargo that is choking and starving the people of Cuba, and we fantasized traveling there with boxes of food and medicines. We had also seen *The Buena Vista Social Club*, the glorious documentary about Cuban musicians, and so we were samba-ing up the trail. Somewhere in the back of my dim memory bank I recalled that my friend and teacher Rabbi Stuart Kelman, of Congregation Netivot Shalom in Berkeley, had been to Cuba in some kind of Jewish connection. A quick e-mail to Stuart led me to a fountain of information and ideas in the person of June Safran. I don't remember all the exact details of June's story, but basically some years ago she went to Havana, part of an effort to set up a Hadassah (!) chapter there (which was successful- in fact Hadassah now runs a pharmacy, among other projects there). While there she traveled the country; loved it, and in particular met the Jewish community in Santiago de Cuba. This little Jewish community moved her heart very much, and "the rest is history." She went back, brought others, and now regularly travels to Santiago and to other Jewish communities, bringing friends, rabbis, and all the supplies she can. As this project got bigger and bigger, June started the Cuban American Jewish Mission which she runs out of her living room. (Netheads can check out www.jewishcuba.org/cajm for more info on her efforts.)

June told me a bit about the Jews of Cuba. As you may know, there have been Jews there since 1492, and a significant number since the turn of the century. Many Jews went to Cuba fleeing the holocaust as well. In the earlier years following the revolution it was difficult to be publicly religious, and one outcome is that Jewish learning and observance more or less skipped a generation. Now things are changing, and it is more possible to build Jewish community there. And so June and others have gone there and taught local Jews to read Hebrew and helped them to celebrate holidays and life cycle events. They have brought siddurs in Spanish and Hebrew, a Spanish Tu B'shevat Haggadah and so on. Rabbi Kelman brought a damaged Torah scroll back to the States to be repaired. There has been at least one Bar Mitzvah recently in Santiago, and four people from Berkeley flew back down there to be part of the simcha. At the same time (like here) it is not easy for young people to find jobs, and many, are moving to Israel and elsewhere. Most Jewish families are intermarried with other Cubans, which June hopes will root at least some of the Jewish community in Cuba for generations to come. Still, she says, her goal is simple: to "make people be as Jewish as they can possibly be," so that, wherever they end up living, they can live as Jews.

As June talked, I couldn't help thinking about my first visits to the Mendocino coast, meeting the Jews here. It sounded in some ways remarkably similar. I certainly traveled the roads of Mendocino County with paperback siddurs in the back of my Hyundai, schlepping the Torah (or usually delegating that job to someone with a pickup truck!) in its plywood box. And my amazing predecessor, Rabbi Hanan Sills, could surely identify way more so than I with the stories June was telling. He really did bring the first opportunities for Jewish life down many a back road here. As did Adele Saxe and Dr. Herb Weissberg and many others in the congregation.

One huge difference between our Jewish community and those in

(continued on next page (7))



(continued from previous page (6))

Cuba is that the Cuban Jews are terribly impoverished. A big obstacle to celebrating Hanukkah was being unable to afford oil for the menorah. They don't have paper and pencils, band-aids, soap. It's not just that you can't get good pastrami there, they lack the basics for a decent life, thanks in good measure to U.S. policy that is systematically starving Cuba (this is me talking here June is carefully not very partisan in order to keep being able to do what she does).

As formidable as June Safran is, she is still one person. And she expressed to me that it takes most of her immense energy to keep up the connection with the Jewish community in Santiago. If she had more resources, she said, she'd love to reach out to the Jewish community in Santa Clara, which is smaller than Santiago and a little more Jewishly isolated still. This excited me. "How about if the Jews in Mendocino and in Santa Clara try to connect?" I asked her. It's not like she runs a sister city project or anything, but the idea emerged from June's support and enthusiasm.

A week or so after I talked with June, Steve and I traveled to her house in Berkeley (my trunk full this time with sample medications from Jeff Berenson) where her next delegation was going to be packing up medicines to take: We walked in with our boxes and set them next to big garbage bags full of asthma inhalers and heart medications and antibiotics. We spent the entire afternoon methodically taking the two pills out of the bubble wrap inside the bottle inside the cardboard box. Amazing to see a room full of medicine shriek to fit on a breakfast tray, but that's another story.

Along with Jeff's gifts we brought a letter to the president of the Jewish community, in Santa Clara and some money from our tzedaka fund. In the letter I introduced our Jewish community and said that our background was not so different from theirs. I said that we are interested in extending a hand of friendship, learning more about them, being supportive of their Jewish life, maybe even traveling there... (I did say we are not a rich community but a friendly one...) I included six or seven snapshots of our shul, a purimshpiel, all our hands on a giant challah, a few things like that. June was bringing a group down for the millennium and

offered to hand carry our letter and gift to Santa Clara while she was there.

By the time Steve and I went to Berkeley, we already started hearing about local friends who are planning travels in Cuba. The Boy Farm put out the word for their triple Bar/Bat Mitzvah that they were collecting medicines and school supplies for Santa Clara. And just yesterday I delivered a huge box of those gifts to Garnish and Gail Daly, who have enthusiastically offered to bring them to the Jews of Santa Clara (this though the only concrete info I could give them is the community president's name and an e-mail address which, of course, turned out to be wrong!)

Meanwhile June and her delegation have returned from Cuba, and I got a note from her saying that she has several letters and a gift too heavy to mail from our new friends in Santa Clara. We know that we've connected, and warmly so. Lots of MCJC'niks [Mendocino Coast Jewish Community] have been saying that they'd love to travel together to our new sister city. No firm plans yet, but you might tell Steve or myself if you're interested. Let's see what happens. ✡

Reprinted with permission from the Mendocino coast Jewish Community Newsletter.

SPINOZA'S CATERING

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CLICK <HERE> FOR A BETTER WORLD?

SOCIAL ACTION REPORT By Mark Priven

Does anyone remember the days before computers? You know, when a "program" was a TV show, a "keyboard" was a piano and a "3-inch floppy" was...uh...well you get the idea. Now the rage is the internet, at times maligned for putting incredible financial pressure on local retailers, squeezing our local governments by not paying taxes, and spawning dot com millionaires with little desire to give tzedakah (by the way, if you are one of those dot com millionaires, please talk to our building committee: they have a special job for you).

Anyway, since I'm a committed mouse-potato, and that's not gonna change soon, I decided to compile a list of some "good" things that can be done online.

"FREE" DONATIONS

At some sites simply clicking a button generates donations that you don't even pay for. Advertisers foot the bill. I have to admit that when I first started using these sites I really didn't feel like I was doing a mitzvah. It just didn't give me that old warm, fuzzy feeling. But then I'm reminded that the sages taught that it is better to give out of obligation than from the heart. Giving from the heart usually involves a certain amount of self-satisfaction and ego-boosting as a result of the mitzvah. On the other hand, it's tough to take too much credit for simply doing what one is obligated to do.

Three sites that offer these types of "free" donations are :

www.hungersite.com: Since its inception on June 1, 1999 this site has sent enough money to the United Nations' World Food Program to pay for more than 9 million pounds of dietary staples. Once you are on this site you will see a big button in the middle: each click of the button pays for a quarter cup of food.

www.endcancernow.com: Each click on this site sends \$0.05 to the American Cancer Society.

www.peaceforall.com: The goal of this website is to promote peace through the U.S. Association for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.


One easy way to make using these sites a daily habit is to make one of them your "home" page (i.e. the initial page that comes up when you open your browser).

BUY HERE!

Another painless way to "donate" is to buy goods in such a way that a percentage of the dollars spent on each purchase finds its way to a non-profit of your choice. A classic example of this is Scrip, but I won't go into that one because I KNOW you're already signed up. If you're not signed up then please put down this newsletter and immediately call Claudia Valas at 848-6536. Even if someone should tell you that the Messiah has arrived, call Claudia first and then run out to greet the Messiah (the Messiah will understand, she and Claudia go way back). Alternatively, point your browser to www.escripinc.com and subscribe using Netivot Shalom's ID #128330637.

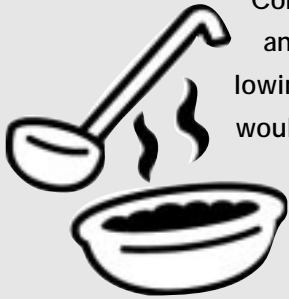
Greatergood.com: Through this website, a percentage of each of your purchases at a variety of e-tailers such as amazon.com, eToys.com and Gap.com will be donated to a non-profit of your choice. Possible non-profits include Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Special Olympics, World Wildlife Fund and many others.

Schoolpop.com: The process for donating on this site works the same way as for greatergood.com. From October to December of 1999, Schoolpop sent out \$575,000 in checks to various schools.

Oh, and did I mentioned that if you want to visit any of the websites mentioned here, you don't even have to save this article. All the links are on the social action page of our website, www.netivotshalom.org. 



In an effort to reduce costs of the meals that we serve at the Berkeley Men's Shelter, the Social Action Committee has placed a food bin at the Netivot Shalom Office.



Contributions of any of the following items would be most appreciated:

PASTAS

CANNED FRUIT

CANNED VEGETABLES

BOTTLED SALAD DRESSING

TOMATO/PASTA SAUCES

PACKAGED COOKIES

BISQUICK

POWDERED DRINK MIXES

If you are interested in helping to shop or cook for the meals at the shelter (first Sunday



of every month), please call Sharona Barzilay at (510) 658-8157.

YOUNG JUDEA

Join Young Judaea for another month of exciting activities! On May 7, from 1 - 4:30 pm, we will have a community-wide family day, with a Maccabiah (Olympics), Young Judaea information, food, fun and more! The event will be held at Temple Beth Shalom on 642 Dolores Avenue in San Leandro. Save the date for our "Start Your Summer With Young Judaea" trip to the Oakland/Giants baseball game on June 4. To RSVP or for more information on any of our programs, please call (510) 549-0260

CAMP RAMAH UPDATE

By Dan Alter

The second session is full, and we have begun a waitlist! Spaces are still available in first session. In other news:

SITE

Pictures of Padre, our site in Tilden Park, can now be seen at our website, <http://www.jfed.org/ramahday/>. Also, save the date-Sunday, May 21, when we will have our "Gaga Raising," a gathering at the site to put together our portable gaga courts and introduce the site to the Ramah Day Camp community.

STAFF

We are thrilled that Ramah veteran Elana Kelman will be taking a break from her studies at Bank Street in NY (MA in special education) to join us this summer as one of our specialist/educators! She joins Sarah Gill, Jonathan Emanuel and Yair Kohen on the educator staff. We have a few places left on staff for junior counselors (entering high school seniors) and counselors, please contact us if you are, or have, a candidate.

WISH LIST

Ramah Day Camp is being created with lots of work and contributions from the community of people committed to Jewish education. We can use all kinds of help.

Can you donate any of the following?

- laptop computer
- cellphones
- portable photocopier
- van or other big vehicle
- camp sports equipment

Donations of money are also very welcome. Special thanks to our Netivot Shalom donors, Celia Concus, Jerry and Debbie Isaak-Shapiro, Stuart and Vicky Kelman, Ethelyn Simon, and Bruce Starkman.

PROGRAM

With the input of Dr. Rena Dorph, an educational consultant and veteran Ramahnik on our board, we are developing an exciting and innovative new program! The program will feature "Tochnit Yetzira," Creative Projects time in which campers will choose a project to work on for several weeks, such as putting on a play or growing a garden. Projects will integrate central elements of camp such as Judaic study, song, arts and crafts, nature, and much more. These projects will be complemented by sports, swimming, and the full range of camp activities.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can answer any questions for you.

MAY 2000

NISAN / IYYAR 5760

saturday

sunday


monday




tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

 <p>7 1 - 4:30 pm Young Judea Community-wide Family Day at Temple Beth Shalom on 642 Dolores Avenue in San Leandro. 5:00 pm Midrasha Fundraising Event</p>	<p>1 7:00 pm Yom Hashoah Maariv Services 7:30 pm Valia: The Story of a Woman of Courage 26 Nisan</p>	<p>2 7:15 am Yom Ha'Shoah Holocaust Remembrance Day 27 Nisan</p>	<p>3 7:15 am Morning Minyan 7:30 pm T'Kuma - Documentary Film 28 Nisan</p>	<p>4 7:00 pm Young Adult Event at Nathan Martin's, 6429 Harwood Ave., Oakland (near College Ave.) Candle Lighting Time: 7:45 pm 30 Nisan</p>	<p>5 9:00 am Torah Study with Nitzhia Shaked 9:45 am Shabbat Services <i>Kedoshim</i> ELIANA POLON BECOMES A BAT MITZVAH 11:00 am Family Program 1 Iyyar</p>	<p>6 9:00 am Torah Study w/ Art Gould 9:45 am Shabbat Services <i>Emor</i> 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad</p>
						13

<p>7:30 pm David Winston Speaks on the Origin of the Synagogue 2 Iyyar</p>	<p>3 Iyyar</p>	<p>4 Iyyar</p>	<p>7:30 pm Yael Meyer of the Israel Religious Action Center 5 Iyyar</p>	<p>6 Iyyar</p>	<p>Candle Lighting Time: 7:51 pm  7 Iyyar</p>	<p>4:30-6 pm Shabbat Shiurim at the Kelmans 8 Iyyar</p>
<p>14 MOTHER'S DAY</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 7:30 pm Talmud Shiur</p>	<p>17 7:15 am Morning Minyan</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat in honor of Ellen Peskin and Ben Heschen's Lag B'Omer wedding Candle Lighting time: 7:57 pm  14 Iyyar</p>	<p>20 8:00 am Torah Study with Nitzhia Shaked 9:30 am Meditative Shacharit 9:45 am Shabbat Services <i>B'har</i> 11:00 am Family Program 15 Iyyar</p>
<p>9 Iyyar 21 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Liturgy with Rabbi Kelman 10:45 am Midrasha Graduation at Congregation Beth El</p>	<p>10 Iyyar 22</p>	<p>11 Iyyar 23 Lag B'Omer 7:30 pm Talmud Shiur</p>	<p>12 Iyyar 24 7:15 am Morning Minyan</p>	<p>13 Iyyar 25</p>	<p>14 Iyyar 26</p>	<p>15 Iyyar 27 9:00 am Torah Study 9:45 am Shabbat Services <i>Bechukotai</i> 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad</p>
<p>16 Iyyar 28 23 Iyyar</p>	<p>17 Iyyar 29 Memorial Day</p>	<p>18 Iyyar 30 7:30 pm Talmud Shiur</p>	<p>19 Iyyar 31 7:15 am Morning Minyan</p>	<p>20 Iyyar 20 Iyyar</p>	<p>21 Iyyar 21 Iyyar Candle Lighting time: 8:02 pm </p>	<p>22 Iyyar 22 Iyyar</p>

Unless otherwise stated,
all Saturday morning activities take place at
the BRJCC (1414 Walnut Street)
and all other activities take place at the
Congregation Netivot Shalom Offices
(1841 Berkeley Way)



ADULT EDUCATION

By Jonathan Heinstein

MAY PROGRAMS

All programs meet at the Netivot Shalom offices:

Wednesday, May 3, 7:30 pm

TKUMA, a short documentary film on Kibbutz Galuyot, the ingathering of exiles (diasporas). The film is a sober look at the history of immigration absorption in Israel, exploring the nature of Jewish ethnic strife. A discussion following the film will be facilitated by Nitzan Aviv, of the Israel Center.

Sunday, May 7, 7:30 pm

DAVID WINSTON will give a talk on the origins of the Synagogue. From Temple to Synagogue: The Democratization of Jewish Tradition.

This transitional period at the end of the Second Commonwealth deserves our attention and study. The historical parallels to our time are fascinating, and cut in a number of directions.

Wednesday, May 10, 7:30 pm

Yael MEYER, of the Israel Religious Action Center. Up Against the Western Wall: The Struggle for Jewish Religious Freedom in Israel. IRAC is a non-sectarian group working for religious pluralism and tolerance in Israel. Yael is interested in meeting with lawyers and all who wish to learn about the efforts of this group. For additional information contact StephenTobias@compuserve.com.

Sunday, May 21, 10-12 am

RABBI KELMAN continues his exploration of our liturgy. Siddur Priorities: What do I do when I arrive late to Shul? Due to the unusually small number of persons in this category, participants can expect an intimate group and comprehensive answers to their queries. This concise topic was chosen to be covered in a single meeting.

Sunday June 4, 7:30 pm

Netivot Shalom will host an evening in honor of RABBI ELIEZER FINKELMAN of Beth Israel. Rabbi Kelman, students and friends of Rabbi Finkelman will share their thoughts on Torah learned with him. Rabbi Finkelman will give a d'var Torah and entertain questions from the audience. Please join us as we celebrate his particular gift, a few days before Shavuot, the holiday of Matan Torah, the giving of the Torah. To help, contact Esther at erbrass@aol.com.

Thursday June 8, 9:00 pm

(At the BRJCC) TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT, the community-wide celebration of learning. The program runs from 9pm to dawn, Ma'ariv to Shacharit, and features a variety of speakers and study sessions from Chabad to Renewal. See box below.

**Tikkun Leyl Shavuot: Berkeley's Community-wide Night of Torah Study
Begins 9:00 pm, Thursday, June 8 at the JCC and concludes after dawn on June 9**

Elu V, Elu, This Judaism, That Judaism:
The Future of Co-Existence in Clal Yisrael

Join us for a long night's journey that will bring together Berkeley's many Jews and Judaisms. Stay for an hour -- or stay for the night. We will be led in study by teachers from the Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Reform, and Renewal movements, as well as by a few Jews who might not define themselves as any of the above. Celebrate Shavuot! See how good and pleasant it is for Jews to sit together and study Torah.

SHABBAT AFTERNOON:
MAY 13, 4:30-6:00 pm

The next in a series of Shabbat Shiurim at the Kelmans. We've been studying *zemirot* which we sing on Shabbat. This Shabbat, we'll look at *Yedid Nefesh*, one of the most popular *zemirot* which is used as an introduction to Kabbalat Shabbat. All are welcome.



ONGOING CLASSES & GROUPS

TORAH STUDY, WITH NITZIA SHAKED AND GUEST TEACHERS, meets every Shabbat at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4 at the BRJCC. Child care also begins at 9 a.m.

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

BOOK GROUP meets monthly. Do you miss reading and talking about books? Do you want to read books about contemporary Jewish life? We are reading 19th and 20th century history, sociology and perhaps a novel or two. New members and input welcome. For information contact caroldorf@ifn.net.

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.

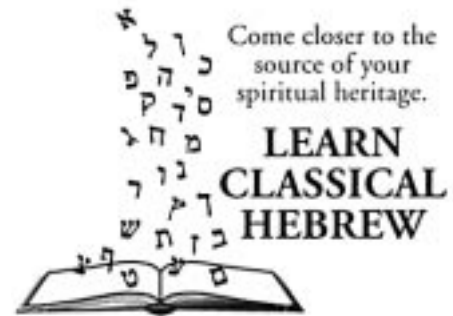
We'll complete these discussion groups at the end of May, and on the weekend of June 16, have a Shabbat retreat at Pt. Bonita in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Discussions and the retreat will include families from each of the seven participating synagogues. If you'd like further information, 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.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Check out the newest resource page for Jewish college students at www.Jewishcollegestudents.com. Message boards coming soon!

The website also serves as the promotional page for the book *Staying Jewish and Surviving College: Survival Guide for the Jewish student at College*



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YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Our first gathering is

Friday night, May 5, 7:00 p.m.

Informal Kabbalat Shabbat service and kosher vegetarian potluck dinner at Nathan Martin's place,
6429 Harwood Ave., Oakland (near College Ave.)

RSVP to Naomi Horowitz at nhorowitz@slip.net or (510) 663-3558.

As part of our new Young Adults Group activities, we may want to sample the events sponsored by other young adult groups in the Bay Area. Michelle Wolfson has compiled an inspiring list of groups that offer programming for young adults, including other congregations, federations, and independent groups. Read on to find out how you can get connected.

KOL HA MIFRATZ

In my humble opinion, the best e-mail list and calendar in the Bay area for young adult events! If you want just one link, this is it. Jason Moses lists just the information you really want to know, including average age expected, number of people expected, cost, location, and contact information, all up to the minute.

Web page: home.earthlink.net/~jmoses88

ALUMOT

ALUMOT, the Israel programs alumni organization, was founded to bring together alumni (of Livnot U'Lehibanot, Pardes, WUJS, Otzma, IsraLight, Project Oren, and other Israel programs) returning to North America, and to create channels for them to express their newly discovered identification with Judaism and Israel. They welcome young adults interested in sharing Shabbat dinners, holidays, learning, Israel celebrations, community service, out-door activities, etc-ALL ARE WELCOME! They are quite a diverse bunch, and are open to anyone who is jazzed about being Jewish! To get involved or join the email mailing list, write to DebinCali@aol.com, or Alumot@uclink4.berkeley.edu.

BERKELEY HILLEL GRADS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Berkeley Hillel is not just for undergrads! This large, active population of graduate students and young professionals has its own Graduate Coordinator to coordinate events and an e-mail list. Two of Netivot Shalom's own congregants make this a happening place to be. Adam

Weisberg is the new Executive Director. Naomi Horowitz is the new Executive Administrator. Berkeley Hillel is located at 2736 Bancroft Way in Berkeley (Across the street from UC Berkeley's Boalt Law School). For questions or to request to be added to the weekly events e-mail list, call Shira at (510) 845-7793 ext. 11, or e-mail Shira Nakelsky at snakelsky@berkeleyhillel.org.

Web page: www.berkeleyhillel.org

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Beth Israel has a lively Friday night shabbat dinner once a month that attracts a lively, singing crowd called Shabbat Chevra. Location: 1630 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Phone: (510) 843-5426.

Web Page: www.beth-israel.berkeley.ca.us.

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

YAD Shabbat 3rd Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Location: 1301 Clement St., San Francisco. Phone: (415) 221-8736.

CONGREGATION EMANU-EL

Late Shabbat 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. 20s and 30s minyan and oneg with He-Brew beer. Location: 2 Lake St., San Francisco. Phone: (415) 751-2535. Web Page: www.emanuelf.org.

CONGREGATION SHERITH ISRAEL

Shabbat first Friday of the month at 8:15 p.m. minyan and oneg. Location: 2266 California St., San Francisco. Phone: (415) 673-9439.

continued on next page (16)



Young Adult Group continued from previous page (14)

J E W C R E W W e e k l y

"Bringing Bay Area Young Adults Together!" **JEW CREW: THE CONCEPT:** It seems like there's hardly time to get out and casually meet other young Jewish adults socially. Here's an easy alternative. Once a month, they pick a destination. All you do is show up. It really doesn't get any easier. Just hang out and meet other young Jewish adults in a casual and hip environment. It's just that simple. **IMPORTANT:** The jEwCrEw is ***NOT*** a singles group. Though it's possible you'll meet that special someone, that's not the purpose of the jEwCrEw. jEwCrEw is a fun and happenin' group devoted to helping all young Jews, regardless of affiliation, meet other young Jewish adults (ages 20-40) for social and professional networking. Couples as well as singles are encouraged to attend. Social gatherings take place on 3rd Saturdays in the evening at restaurants and bars in San Francisco. There's usually no charge to attend, and it's free to sign up by sending e-mail with the words "I schmooze" to paul@jewniverse.com. You don't need to sign-up, RSVP, register, pre-pay, officially join or confirm whether you're coming to jEwCrEw events. They're kinda spontaneous. Just show up! Web page: <jewniverse.com/sf/>.

J E W N I V E R S E

What's happening in your jewniverse? Free listings of events, job opportunities, housing, cars, and other things!

Web page: <jewniverse.com/sf/>.

J D A T E

www.JDate.com is the largest Jewish singles network on the Internet. Membership is in the range of 100,000.

Web page: <www.jdate.com>.

Also check out their singles trips at <www.jdate.com/jtravel>.

S I M C H A

Congregation Sherith Israel Location: 2266 California St. San Francisco. Phone: (415) 346-1720 ext.65.

T O R A H R A V E

For the JuBu in you, an e-mail event list containing events that Berkeley is stereotyped for among New Yorkers, chanting, ecstatic kabbalah dancing, and other Jewish spiritual activities.

E-mail: TorahRave@aol.com.

Y A D (Y O U N G A D U L T S D I V I S I O N)

of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, & Sonoma Counties. Social, cultural, educational, community service, and leadership development young adult programs for Jewish singles and couples ages 21-40.

Web page: <www.yad.org>. E-mail: YAD@sfjcf.org.

Phone: info line 877-YAD-1818, voice mail: 415-512-6292.

Y J A (Y O U N G J E W I S H A L L I A N C E)

YJA is a growing program of the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay and sponsored by the Center for Jewish Living and Learning (CJLL). YJA is an evolving group of energetic Jewish community members from 28-40s, married and single. YJA is dedicated to strengthening Jewish life and community participation in a social environment. An important goal of YJA is to create an exciting calendar of events of diverse activities. Ultimately the gathering of people will help create a communal feeling, promote Jewish continuity and fulfill the leadership, educational, social and cultural needs of our young community.

Contacts: Evan Reeves, Leadership Development Dept. evan@ebjfed.org (510) 839-2900 ext. 264 or YJA coordinator, Anna Dinaburg at: anna@jfed.org.

Web site: <www.jfed.org/yja.htm>.

Y P K (Y O U N G P R O F E S S I O N A L ' S K E S H E R)

seeks to build a sense of Jewish Community and encourage active Jewish life by providing a welcoming, open-minded social environment for singles and couples in their 20's and early 30's. Affiliated with Temple Beth Shalom of San Leandro. Contact: Marcy Weiss at (510) 886-4324 or email her at marcyw1@aol.com.

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MIDRASHA

By Diane Bernbaum

May is your lucky month. There are two wonderful, wonderful opportunities for you to participate with the Midrasha community during the month of May! First, you are invited to join the friends and families of Midrasha for an evening at Casa del Sueno, "The House of Dreams," on Sunday, May 7 at 5 pm. Built in 1929 in the style of a Mediterranean villa, Casa del Sueno's 35 rooms and magnificent gardens will be open for your enjoyment. Tour this extraordinary home and then savor an elegant full course dinner accompanied by fine wines. Entertainment will be by Freyda Epstein, one of the finest voices in American folk music, and jazz pianist Larry Walter. Thanks to the great generosity of Gail and Eric Buchbinder, all proceeds go to Midrasha's scholarship fund. Reservations are \$50 per person and can be made by calling the Midrasha office at (510) 843-4667.

But I told you that you had TWO opportunities to join Midrasha activities this month. The second will be our graduation, Sunday, May 21 at 10:45 am at Congregation Beth El. If you are just a little bit doubtful about the future of Judaism, come hear our twenty-five graduates speak about their experiences with their Jewish education. I promise you will walk out with a smile from ear to ear and the satisfaction that the money you will have spent two weeks earlier at our fundraising fete will have gone to a good cause.

Mazel tov to our graduates and their parents. This year's Netivot Shalom Midrasha graduates are: Sam Arons, Rebecca Feiler, Noah Friedman-Biglin, Suzy Klein and Tali Weininger. Other Midrasha graduates are: Noah Breuer, Wendy Brill, Adrienne Cohn, Rena Davis, Jeremy Davis-Turak, Adina Diamond, Avi Fischer, Gil Hudes, Kenny Kahn, Rachel Leff-Kich, Anna Martin, Inbal Naveh, Akiva Resnikoff, Jonathan Schickman, Julia Sheng, Melania Vargas, Amaya Webster and Alexis Weiss. These graduates are from six different synagogues and also represent some unaffiliated families. Midrasha is truly a community institution. ☆

OPPORTUNITIES TO OFFER TZEDAKAH to Congregation Netivot Shalom

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Shabbat Greeters

We need Shabbat Greeters to welcome people into our services on Saturday mornings. Volunteer to greet for one Shabbat. Call Allen Samuelson 527-1126.

Book Reviewers

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 ext 103 if you can do some limited reviewing.

Library Help

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 ext 103.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Kiddish Sponsors

Celebrating a simcha? Commemorating a milestone? To sponsor a kiddish, call Ronna Kabatznick, 848-6812.

eScrip

Each time you shop at Safeway, Andronico's, Albertson's and many other stores in the Bay Area, a % of your purchases can be donated to CNS through eScrip. Registration forms for eScrip and Albertson's Community Partner Cards are free and available through the CNS office.

Planes, Trains & Automobiles

Donate your old car, motorcycle, truck, or RV to CNS. For more information, call Claudia Valas at 558-9200.

Bequests

When drafting your will, please consider making a bequest to Congregation Netivot Shalom. Contact the office for more information.





IN GRATITUDE

THANK YOU

To all the students who read the Megillah on Purim: to Gretchen Stern, Gabe Scheffler, Jessica Gossman, Rachel Meresman, Eva Heinstein, and Valerie Morris.

A special thank you to Ben Heschen for all the work he (and Ellen) did in creating our phenomenal web site.

Debbie Lobel - for organizing Shabbat Across America

Michael Cohen for his help with our "Pot" Party

Midrasha wants to thank Josh and Noga Gressel for organizing the Midrasha Shabbat and to all the students who participated. They also want to thank all of the parents who sponsored the lovely kiddush and for their generous donation to our scholarship fund.

On behalf of the congregation (and myself!) I want to thank Lorraine Rosenblatt for her years of service for our kehilla. We will miss her sorely! Lorraine started work for Netivot Shalom on November 4, 1996, one week after the shul moved into the new space at 1841 Berkeley Way. She began a new position in April, and we wish her lots of good luck!

Lorraine, toddah rabbah for all the work you have done above and beyond. the call of duty. Thanks for being the welcoming public face of our shul. Todah for comforting the newly bereaved. Thanks for all the times you bravely fixed overflowing toilets - and then stayed till 9:30 pm waiting for Roto Rooter. Todah for your oft weekly work on rat and ant patrol. Thanks for taking care of sick religious school children waiting for their parents to pick them up. Todah for your patience with our voice mail and form challenged older congregants - and for the stretch of time you worked between phone systems! Thanks for taking the time to give advice to the parents of twins. Thank you for all you have taught me on how to run a congregation. And todah rabbah for handling the million and one daily details that make the whole syangogue run - and for doing it with grace under pressure!

Shalom, Michelle Wolfson

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LIFECYCLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAZEL TOV

to Xena Brenna and Lewis Kraus on the adoption of their daughter, An Ju Miao Mann Rivka Karuss-Brenna

CONDOLENCES

Burt Dorman on the death of his mother and father.

ERNESTINA CARRILO & LARRY POLON

invite the congregation to join them on May 6, 2000 when their daughter,

ELIANA POLON

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

YAHRTZEIT LIST: MAY 1 - JUNE 13

5/1/00	Rafael ben Avraham v'Esther	26 Nisan
5/2/00	Felix Spiegler	27 Nisan
5/2/00	Frieda Valfer	27 Nisan
5/2/00	Gisela Spiegler	27 Nisan
5/2/00	Hermann Valfer	27 Nisan
5/2/00	Maurice Strauss	27 Nisan
5/9/00	George Sternberg	4 Iyar
5/11/00	Anna Z. Phillipson	6 Iyar
5/11/00	Lila Levine	7 Iyar
5/13/00	Gittel Rothblatt	8 Iyar
5/14/00	Celia Ruth Tolmach	9 Iyar
5/14/00	Kurt Irwin	9 Iyar
5/16/00	Friedrich Abraham Straus	11 Iyar
5/18/00	Lawrence (Bud) Simon	13 Iyar
5/18/00	Joseph Berck	13 Iyar
5/18/00	Leonard Kudisch	13 Iyar
5/19/00	Ann Cordes	14 Iyar
5/19/00	Philip Ruby	14 Iyar
5/20/00	Moshe Reuven ben Zalman Leib v' Rachel Leah	15 Iyar
5/20/00	Victoria Koty	15 Iyar
5/24/00	Harry Edystone	19 Iyar
5/28/00	Fred Chait	23 Iyar
5/29/00	Rose Schneider	24 Iyar
5/31/00	Ada Wisch	26 Iyar
6/1/00	Doris Wachs	27 Iyar
6/4/00	Louis Schwartz	1 Sivan
6/5/00	Sidney Greenstein	2 Sivan
6/7/00	David "Mickey" Marcus	4 Sivan
6/9/00	George Joseph Ring	6 Sivan
6/9/00	Israel Kunofsky	6 Sivan
6/10/00	Bessie Markowitz	7 Sivan
6/11/00	Max Samuel	8 Sivan
6/12/00	Harry Phillipson	9 Sivan
6/13/00	Max L. Spiegel	10 Sivan

TO ADD A NAME(S) TO THE YAHRTZEIT LIST, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW & 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) _____

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