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# SEPTEMBER 2000 ELUL 5760 - TISHRI 5761

**S** trange title! No, it's not an plug for the Millionaire show (though I secretly dream that one of our members could win big - something akin to winning the lottery)! Rather, I have in mind something I've been meaning to write about for a long time. Transformation – individual and communal. It's actually not quite that simple. On the communal side, when we enter

the JCC on Shabbat mornings, how is it the physical space becomes transformed into a sacred space (makom kadosh)? After

all, it is simply an auditorium left over from an earlier incarnation as a Berkeley public school. Somehow, we are able to transform that room into a place where we can be a religious community and worship.

The mere fact that we have an ark (*aron hakodesh*), a table (*shulchan*), a Torah holder, a new Tallit holder, an eternal light (*ner tamid*), chairs, siddur holders and everything is aligned more or less towards the courtyard certainly transforms the location into a shul (actually, our, shul). And time, also is transformative - whether it is Shabbat or *chagim*, you know that something is different.

So these are some of the elements that contribute to the creation of this communal sacred space. But what about the individual? Us – you and me? How do we make the space around us sacred - almost as if we are standing in the presence of the Ruler of the Universe? For starters, some of us may dress differently on these occasions; perhaps more modestly than we might in another setting and time (more on this subject perhaps, on another occasion). We may also be able to place ourselves in a more contemplative state of mind. The rabbis of the Rabbinic period tried to help us focus and achieve our own personal level of *kavanah* (concentration) in at least two important parts of our *Shacharit* service: the *Shima* and the *Amidah*. We at Netivot Shalom, have been trying to concentrate and focus our breathing and our awareness on every word of the *Shima*. We've begun to pause and envelope ourselves while sitting, so that our words can soar and we can almost feel that we can connect with

our God.

As to the *Amidah*, the rabbis asked us to think of the *Amidah* as a time when we come in direct contact with the Ruler of the Universe. So

before we begin the Amidah, we take three steps forward, imitating the behavior that we would take if we were to be in the presence of human rulers. We then plant ourselves firmly, feeling the floor beneath our feet and the space immediately surrounding us. During the saying of the Amidah, there are times for bowing while still remaining planted in reality. In fact, the rabbis suggested that this was the time for praise, for requests and for thanking God. When each of us finishes the Amidah, we can then take three steps backwards, symbolically exiting from the presence of God. That's the choreography. Actually, it's a little more complicated. For those of you who want more information, let me know and I'll get you a more graphic demonstration!

Back to the door!! Actually, I would like to strongly suggest that during all our future Shabbatot together and the upcoming High Holydays, that each of us make a concerted effort to create two types of holy space: communal and personal. It takes even more effort than usual when we have to transform Northbrae Church into our sanctuary. Each of us has to begin to feel that the space belongs to us as a Jewish religious community. It becomes our sanctuary. But, and here is the (continued on page 5)





### **Tefillah Schedule**

#### Saturday Shabbat Services & Torah Study

Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center 1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley 9:00 am - Torah Study 9:45 am - Shabbat Services 11:00 am - Shabbat B'Yachad/ Torah L'Yeladim

#### Wednesday Morning Minyan

1841 Berkeley Way, Berkeley 7:15 am

### **Meditative Shacharit**

#### Sat. Sept. 16, 9:30-10:30am

Join Robert Lester, 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: October 21

### Torah Study & Drashot Schedule

## SEPTEMBER

Shoftim Nitzhia Shaked Drash: Noah Fine Nathel (Bar Mitzvah)

Ki Tetze
 Rabbi David Winston
 Drash: Jenny Ring

2

- 16 **Ki Tavoh** Nitzhia Shaked Drash: R. Margie Jacobs
- 23 Nitzavim-Vayelech R.Art Gould Drash: Joshua Catalldo (Bar Mitzvah)

30 Rosh Hashanah

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## SAMUEL FREEDMAN

# **Jew vs. Jew:** The Struggle for the Soul of American Jewry

(excerpt appeared in the 8/13 New York Times Magazine)



Wednesday, September 13, 7:30 p.m. BRJCC: 1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley Presented by Congregation Netivot Shalom (510) 549-9447 www.netivotshalom.org

### What is Jewish identity? Who decides what is authentic Judaism? What is the Jewish covenant with America?

Samuel Freedman, prize-winning NY Times reporter and Columbia University journalism professor, has written notable books about a high school, a black church, and a rightward shift "from Roosevelt to Reagan" in working class families.

Now he reports on religious and cultural tensions and quarrels that he thinks are tearing apart *klal Yisrael*, the community of Jews. Freedman thinks that trends since the 1950s – since the birth of Israel, the eclipse of anti-Semitism, and the American embrace of Jews generally – portend major rifts and realignments in the next generation as most of us become less Jewishly identified while some become more observant.

Foreseeing social floods and earthquakes, Freedman doesn't come "to shout *Gevalt!*" but to fulfill a particularly Jewish mission, the mission of bearing witness." Come and hear him.

### Book-signing and refreshments to follow.

"This is the book that I have long wanted to read." Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg

# HARVEST OF JOY Netivot Shalom Second Annual Sukkot Family Weekend in Tilden Park

Friday, October 13 - Sunday, October 15

"You shall live in booths for seven days. All citizens in Israel shall live in booths in order that future generations may know that I made the Israelite people live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt" Leviticus 23:42-43

### COME EXPERIENCE A TASTE OF NOMADIC VILLAGE LIFE:

We will build a community sukkah where we can gather for Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning services, vegetarian kosher meals, and Sukkot festivities.

Families and individuals are also welcome to build your own sukkah, where you can sleep, invite others in to visit, or simply rest and enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings of the Wildcat Canyon Campground. There will be opportunities to learn about the history, halachah, and practices of Sukkot, and special activities for children.

We will create a community Sukkot Harvest Plate with the seven species of Eretz Israel to celebrate the autumn harvest, as our ancestors did long ago. Our Sukkot Harvest Plate also reminds us of our obligation to help feed the hungry and share our resources.

Suggested Donation for Camping: \$18/Family

For further information or to register, visit our website at netivotshalom.org or contact Iris Greenbaum at (510) 549-9447 x110 (day) or (510) 524-8548 (evening).

# **SUKKOT IS ALMOST HERE!**

If you want to order a lulav and etrog (so you can make a lulav shake!!!!) call Afikomen at 655-1977. If you need help in building a sukkah, talk to Jerry Derblich.



## HIGH HOLIDAY NEWS AND OTHER RITUAL BLUES By Josh Gressel

he Ritual Committee is busy with preparations for the High Holidays, which come in late September this year. As you read his article, they are less than one month away, and tickets and schedles should be reaching your mailboxes shortly. For those of you who ave never sat on the Ritual Committee, you may not realize that the ear is divided into two: High Holidays until Pesach, and Pesach until High Holidays. Preparations for the Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur seaon dominate the Ritual Committee for at least half a year, from assover on.

his year the holidays are again being organized by Deborah Lobel her fourth year in charge) and Wendy Rosov (her second year). Last ear, Deborah and Wendy tried out a new format on first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur, with concurrent Shacharit and Torah ervices in Haver Hall and the sanctuary. The same format will be in lace this year. (You may remember we debated moving to a new locaion but decided to stay at Northbrae Church.) In addition, for the first ime, we will be offering a family Kol Nidrei service led by Vicky elman and Claire Sherman. The Youth Education Committee has een hard at work organizing our tremendously popular *Yamim oraim LYeladim* program. A new Youth Education site will be in operaion this year, at nearby Epworth Church. Please watch your mailboxs for more information about this program.

n other Ritual Committee business, the committee looked at but ecided against purchase of another Torah. While this smaller Torah, over 100 years old, had beautiful calligraphy, the committee was unanimous in its opinion that it was not suitable for our purposes.

For several months, the committee has been grappling with defining the role of the non-Jew in the synagogue. This is a tremendously important and emotionally charged topic which has created many heated and useful discussions. As these discussions result in decisions, they will be shared with the congregation.

Lastly, after 21/2 years of hard work, Rachel Brott is stepping down as Ritual Coordinator. Rachel has been the person responsible for organizing the daveners and Torah readers for all of our Shabbat morning and holiday services. Many of us on the Ritual Committee think this post is second only to the rabbi in its importance to the congregation. While it is a paid position, it in no way adequately compensates the person for all the time necessary to do the job properly and much of the work is therefore volunteer (this is probably true for all paid positions within our synagogue). Unfortunately, because it is a paid position, high expectations are placed on the person without them having the support and credit we usually extend to those who strictly volunteer. Rachel brought many new and talented people in to the davening roles that make our participatory congregation what it is. Our services have flowed seamlessly during her tenure. We want to thank her for a job well done and wish good luck to her replacement, Peggy Sandel. Yishaar Kochech. ☆

# RABBI'S COLUMN (continued from front page)

equest: when we say the *Shima* and more importantly, the *Amidah*, ach of us has to find a way to create our own enclosure, our own anctuary, our own meeting place with God. It's hard: it requires enery and we may be tired; it requires our focusing (maybe even closing ur eyes) and that's hard in an age of sound bites; it requires listening with that famous third ear to the music and concentrating on the words – and that's always a challenge. And it requires that we actively ursue our attempt to connect with the holy within us and the Holy which is beyond us.

o, if you come into the sanctuary (any sanctuary) at any time and you ind that people are saying the *Shima*, pause where you are (standing r sitting) and say it with everyone else. If you come into the sanctury (any sanctuary) at any time and you find that people are saying he *Amidah*, please stand where you are and do not try and find a seat because that would be disruptive to your fellow congregant who is rying to focus and concentrate energy on meeting God. Actually, the Mishna tells us this in far more dramatic language: it says that even if a snake is wound around your heal, don't move (good advice, anyway!) so as not to disturb your neighbor.

So, if you see the congregation davening the *Amidah*, stand still, or even better, wait in the hall at the JCC or in the foyer at Northbrae Church until people sit down. When you then come in, feel free to daven the *Amidah* standing up – hopefully, people will figure out just what it is that you're doing, and respect you by not asking you to let them pass through.

This High Holyday season and, indeed, every Shabbat gives each of us an opportunity to create a real sacred space physically, communally, as well as personally, individually. May each of you have a sweet year and be blessed with health and joy – and the wonderful feeling of being able to connect, at least once, but hopefully more than once, during this new year of 5761.

# Social Action Report By Mark Priven YOU ARE OFFICIALLY RELEASED FROM THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ENGAGING IN TIKKUN OLAM

 raditionally, the entire month of Elul is a process of preparing for Yamim Noraim (High Holy Days). You know the drill:

Rip apart your ego by examining every personality fault you curently have or those that you could possibly have if you were trapped n a desert island with a group of strangers and had to vote one peron off each week (would you form an alliance?).

. After you have recovered from Step #, try to recall every insensitive emark, unethical thought, and mean-spirited movement you've made in the past year. If you don't have enough material I hear you can o back a few years, but I've never had that problem.

At this point you should feel low. Really low. Having problems going o sleep at night, waking up in the morning or extreme weight ain/loss are all good signs. If you are not low enough, then you have ot completed Steps #1 and #2 correctly. Repeat them.

. Repent, repent, repent. Repent to others, to yourself, to God. Luckily or all of us God has 13 merciful attributes (Exodus 34:6-7), and I figure pretty much max them out on an annual basis.

or some reason I've always had big problems with the above process. t might be because - well - I have a hard enough time admitting I'm wrong about anything, so actually asking for forgiveness is just way oo far out.

Anyway, I'm very excited because I just learned about a practice that is lso done in Elul that actually sounds fun. It's called *hatarat nedarim*, nd according to my sage and ancient sources (*The Jewish Holidays* by Michael Strassfeld), it involves the following:

According to *halachah*, any custom you do 3 or more times becomes *neder* (solemn personal oath). Keeping this in mind, list all the things o which you are bound by oath or custom, such as spouse/partner, ocial image, religion, engaging in tikkun olam, etc.

. Choose a *bet din*. Usually a *bet din* is a court of 3 people, but it looks ke in a pinch (if you don't have 3 friends, for instance) you can choose ust one person for *hatarat nedarim*. Zalman Schachter-Shalomi suggests that the other person/people should be willing to answer honestly the questions: What do you see when you look at me? What did you see me do this year that I should regret? I'm not sure I want to hang around anyone who will answer those questions honestly, but luckily Zalman never exactly says you have to ask these questions. Phew.

3. After you list your *nedarim*, the *bet din* replies *"mutarim licha/lach"* (It is permitted to you). This releases you from all your oaths and responsibilities, including those involving tikkun olam.

4. You are now oathless and fancy-free. Do not worry about people holding cardboard signs at intersections, glass ceilings, the disappearing Amazon, starvation, spotted owls, or peace negotiations. At this point it would be totally inappropriate to join the Social Action committee. Do not join the Social Action committee.

5. Some time before *Neilah* you have to reel back in and decide which of your *nedarim* you will be bound by. At this point (warning: here comes the sales pitch), it IS appropriate to consider participating in the Social Action committee. OK, OK, you probably don't absolutely love the idea of going to meetings where there's just a lot of talk. Well DUH! It's not the Social Skills committee, it's Social ACTION. So, here's what I,m going to do. I'm going to list various activities that the Social Action committee will (with a little support) be doing this year, and if any of them interest you, give me a call. You don't have to go to every meeting. You don't have to be involved in every event. If you want, just pick one activity that you would like to work on, pick up the phone, and call me (559-8393). Alternatively, if there is something you would like to work on that is not listed below, just let me know.

Discussion of the Death Penalty (9/10 from 10 am - noon at the shul offices): This one's already organized, but I thought I'd give it another plug. More details are given elsewhere in this newsletter.

Yamim Noraim: Help with food barrels and Mazon donations.

Kabbalat Shabbat: Wouldn't it be nice to bring Kabbalat Shabbat services to local nursing homes?

(continued on page 7)



### **Social Action Report**

#### continued from page 6)

ews as Global Citizens: This class will explore tangible ways that we an act as Jews to help heal the world in the face of what can often ppear to be overwhelming global problems. We are cosponsoring he class with Lehrhaus Judaica, American Jewish World Service and ther local synagogues. Classes will be on Tuesday nights from 7-9 pm tarting 10/24 at the BRJCC.

ocal Church: We are looking at establishing an ongoing relationship with a local church with the aim of jointly engaging in tikkun olam.

Hanukkah: In conjunction with neighborhood Etzleinu Hanukkah elebrations last year, we helped organize purchasing Christmas ifts for families in need. We hope to do that again this year.

eligious School: Volunteer in the classroom to help organize a speific project related to Social Action.

December 25: Tired of Chinese food and movies? This year we hope to end volunteers into local non-profits to relieve some of the people who work there so that they can go deck some halls.

u BShvat: Last year our trail clean-up got rained out. We'll try again ext year, or replace it with another eco-friendly event.

*abibi Smibahu*: OK, this doesn't actually exist. I just wanted to see if ou would actually read this far down the list.

thical Consumerism: This class will explore, in a Jewish context, our bligations as consumers. Should our purchases be impacted by the working conditions under which products are manufactured, the ctions of the seller during WWII, the impact of production on the nvironment or the current business practices of the producer?

ukkot in April: This year we were part of a team of congregations hat helped to repair and paint the home of someone who really eeded our help. The event was very successful, and we hope to build n that success next year.

Other Organizations: There are lots of other local Jewish organizaions that are doing great things in the area of Social Action (Jewish hildren's and Family Services, Jewish Federation of the Greater East ay, COEJL, JCRC - to name a few). It would be great to have Netivot halom representatives involved with these organizations so that we can help out (possibly co-sponsor activities) and advertise.

# MORE CLICKS FOR A BETTER WORLD By Mark Priven

A few months ago I wrote an article regarding the use of the internet and *tzedakah*. Shortly after the newsletter went out a congregant called me and mentioned that I hadn't included a local company called care2.com, which supports wildlife and environmental causes. So I took a little time to check it out (www.care2.com), and I have to say I am heartily impressed.

First of all, the site is just plain cute, and that counts for something in my book. More importantly, the site pulls together the best features of several internet sites. I'll call it one-stop clicking.

For example, if you click on one spot of the website, then advertisers will send money to the Wildlife Conservation Society (similar to the hungersite, endcancernow and peaceforall websites). Much like greatergood and schoolpop, there is a mall area in which a percentage of revenue from shopping at the mall is donated to various worthy causes. You can also sign up to receive email alerts regarding pressing environmental issues (this reminds me of the Flash Action Network set up by Working Assets).

And that's not all. You also have the option of opening a free email account, sending eco-friendly greeting cards and joining a community of like-minded tree-huggers. In addition there's lots of wildlife information available on the care2.com website, much like you might expect to find at the Wildlife Conservation Society website. Put this all together and you have a very comprehensive site that is worth checking out (www.care2.com).



SHALOM

# MIDRASHANEWS By Diane Bernbaum

t's that time again, time to launch a new year at Midrasha. Our first day of school is Sunday, September 10.

Over the summer, the office seemed as busy as it does during the chool year. One great part of the summer was hiring new teachers. Let me give you just a glimpse of some of the new faces you will see at Midrasha. Ilana Fleisher, with an A.B. in sociology from Brandeis is a stuent at the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine. She has worked on the staff of The Teva Learning Center and at Camp Ramah, oing environmental education. Nathan Martin has degrees from tanford and Johns Hopkins and is an environmental researcher who n 1999 completed a 5-month "thru-hike" of the 2,600 mile Pacific Crest rail. Ari Moss recently graduated from CAL, teaches at two other Midrashot and last year accompanied our Midrasha students to

Washington DC on the *Panim El Panim* program. David Neufeld will raduate from CAL in December. This past summer he was one of 12 ational Spielberg Fellows, trained in being drama instructors at

ewish summer camps. Shoshana Weiner, one of four Midrasha alumni

on this year's staff, has an A.B. from Harvard in Sociology, is an organic gardener and works as a youth mentor at the Berkeley Youth Alternatives Garden Patch. And Michelle Wolfson is a Ph.D. candidate in American Literature at CAL where she has taught for six years. And these are just the new staff! We are really lucky in the quality of people who choose to come teach for us.

Another one of my favorite summer tasks is to write out checks for *tzedakah*. Over the year, classes collect money and then as a group decide where to send it. During the 1999-2000 academic year Midrasha students collected just shy of \$800 and distributed it to Berkeley Emergency Food Project, Global Children's Organization, Habitat for Humanity, American Jewish World Service, Food Not Bombs and the Berkeley Ecumenical Chaplaincy for the Homeless. It was with great *nachas* that I sent off the checks and explained to the organizations that collecting and distributing *tzedakah* are part of the values we are happy to help instill in our students.



For information and reservations, please cal Hillel at (510) 845-7793, ext. 13.

## **MY JOURNEY OBSERVING KABBALAT SHABBAT**

#### Sanctify the Sabbath by choice meals, by beautiful garments; delight our soul with pleasure and I will reward you for this very pleasure." Deuteronomy rabba 31

ow glorious! Just reading this passage makes my heart sing. And, goodness, these are commandments, no less. I am ordered to folow these rules? Am I dreaming?

ut, after a hectic day of work, far from dear friends and family, I'm just ot in the mood to get all dressed up, I have nowhere to go and I'm too ired to invite people in.

My husband, Chauncey, travels. I mean he travels: Scotland, Mexico, Germany, and all over the world for weeks at a time. When Chauncey as been out of town, often I have felt awkward about having people ver. I find myself alone, he's gone, and I wish that I could just call somene up and invite myself and our children over to their home for habbat dinner.

One Friday, coincidentally, Chauncey was out of town and the kids were t school dances. I felt the urge to celebrate Shabbat the way I like to elebrate it, and the way we are intended to celebrate – with others. I ook my courage in hand, called a couple that lives near our home, and sked if I could come over for Shabbat. I felt safe (if terribly daring) ecause I knew they observed Shabbat religiously. They graciously said es, but warned me that they were usually so tired they had a brief diner and then early to bed. Well, we had a terrific time, singing our way hrough the Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv service and talking a mile a minute over a yummy vegetarian dinner. Finally, at 10 pm, I reluctantly ook my leave, filled with gratitude.

A few weeks later, going home from Shabbat morning services with hauncey, we started to talk about first one couple and then another hat we would like to get together with, but we just couldn't seem to ind the time. I mused about inventing a tradition for getting together. hauncey recalled a time when his parents had held a once-a-month unday morning potluck brunch, to which people came and brought riends. Over the years "The Sunday Brunch at the Bells" grew and grew. eople came again and again, made new friends, networked, and hared good times and bad together. "Let's do our version of that," we aid. "What about a monthly Kabbalat Shabbat service and potluck inner in our home?"We envisioned making an open invitation, having regular time when we could invite friends to celebrate Shabbat with s, and encouraging people from different venues to get to know each ther. People could just call up and say, "We're coming this month." I alked to Rabbi Kelman, received the sanction of the Ritual Committee. nd got instructions about how to do the service properly. Our 15 year ld son, Nicolas, and I prepared to lead the service.

#### By Shirah Alice Bell

As our first Kabbalat Shabbat approached, I became increasingly apprehensive. Too few people would come, they wouldn't like the way Nicolas and I led the service, we wouldn't have enough food, and on and on. I had to keep reminding myself that this was not a popularity contest or a society event. It was a time for spiritual connection, and the Shechinah would certainly show up! I would be ready for her! I prepared the house with many candles, and extra food just in case, rehearsed the service, and prayed a lot for guidance and serenity. My prayers were answered! The evening was very moving. One guest said, "It was as if I entered into a hearth. It felt so warm, with people gathered together. Hearing the voices singing touched me in such a deep way; it was so uplifting, especially after a tiring week."

As the second monthly Kabbalat Shabbat came nigh, surprise, surprise, I started to worry. Would people remember, would they come again, would new people come, should I call and remind them, would I be pressuring people to do something they didn't want to do? I shared my concerns with Rabbi Kelman. He told me that in calling, reminding, and re-inviting people I was doing the right thing. He introduced me to the mitzvah of *hachnasat orchim* bringing in of guests. The mitzvah is an active one, not just welcoming people who come to our door, but actively going out and bringing people into my home. His grounding in the mitzvah changed my whole experience of what I was doing. I found myself with renewed energy. I made phone calls and sent emails, and was helped in doing the mitzvah by people saying "yes" and coming to celebrate.

During the first Kabbalat Shabbat evening, we introduced our guests to a practice that we had been following in our family during Shabbat dinner, of expressing gratitude for the week that had just passed. Our new guests followed our lead, and we have found that the practice has created a growing intimacy among those who come. While we are eating dessert we share what we are grateful for during the previous week. A participant described the experience as: "allowing people to speak straight from the heart. A beautiful sense of closeness and caring emerges." Another guest remarked that earlier in the week she had started thinking about what she would say and it changed her whole outlook on the rest of the week.

I find myself deeply grateful for the opportunity of *hachnasat orchim* and for having connected with people I might otherwise have missed. As of writing this article, many more families in our synagogue are scheduling potluck Kabbalat Shabbatot. My prayer is that there is always a place for someone to go for Shabbat. A guest said "Thank you for the spiritual growth you inspire and for making me aware of the mitzvah of *hachnasat orchim*. I will challenge myself to do more." One of the most delightful reports comes from a 2 year old who has been a regular guest. One Friday, he pronounced "It's Shabbat. Are we going to the Bells?" I am grateful for his gift.

	saturday	<ul> <li>P:00 am Shaked on Shoftim Shaked on Shoftim Shaked on Shoftim 9:45 am 9:45 am 9:45 am 9:45 am Shabbat Services Shabbat Services showard by Lisa Fine &amp; Howard Nathel in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noah Fine Nathel in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noah Fine Nathel In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noah Fine Nathel In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noah Fine Nathel In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noah Fine Nathel In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noah Fine Nathel In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noah Fine Nathel In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noah Fine Nathel In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noah Fine Nathel In the Nathel In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noah Fine Nathel In the N</li></ul>
	friday	Candle Lighting Time: 7:21 pm
SHR SHR	wednesday thursday	anut Street)
	wednesday	day morning (1414 Wall at the keley Way). T:15 am Morning Minyan
	tuesday	4, all Saturo the BRJCC ake place a (1841 Berk 7:30 pm 7:30 pm
	monday	wise stated te place at t activities t om offices
	sunday	Unless otherwise stated, all Saturday morning activities take place at the BRJCC (1414 Walnut Street) and all other activities take place at the Netivot Shalom offices (1841 Berkeley Way).

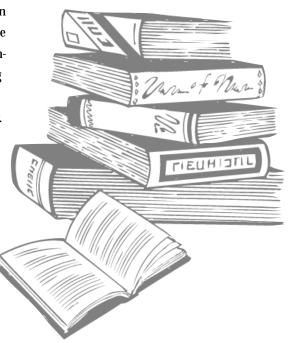
Shabbat B'Yachad for preschoolers, BRJCC Rm. 14 <i>9 Elul</i>	<ul> <li>P:00 am</li> <li>P:00 am</li> <li>P:00 am</li> <li>P:00 am</li> <li>P:00 am</li> <li>P:30 am</li> <li>P:45 am</li> <li>P:30 am</li></ul>	16 Elul	<ul> <li>9:00 am Torah Study with R. Art Gould on Nitzavim-Vaelech</li> <li>9:45 am Shabbat Services Joshua Michael Catado becomes a Bar Mitzwah</li> </ul>	Kiddush sposored by Joah Schwartz & Nicholas Cataldo in honor fo the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Joshua Michael Cataldo	11:00 am 23 Elul Shabbat B'Yachad	30	Rosh Hashanah		1 Tishri
Time: 7:11 pm <b>8 Elul</b>	<b>A J J J</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Mishpacha Kabbalat Shabbat, Alison Cohen's home, Oakland time: 7:00 pm	15 Elul 🚔 🖨	<b>Z 2</b> Etzleinu Kabbalat Shabbat, Sally Martin's home, Albany	Candle Lighting time: 6:49 pm	22 Elul 🛔	29		Candle Lighting time: 6:38 pm	29 Elul 🛔
7 Elul	B am at the shul office David Robin Alper becomes a Bar Mitzvah	14 Elul	2		21 Elul	<b>7</b> 00			28 Elul
6 Elul	7:15 am Morning Minyan 7:30 pm "Jew vs. Jew: The Struggle for the Soul of American Jewry" w/ Samuel Freedman, BRJCC	13 Elul	<b>20</b> 7:15 am Morning Minyan		20 Elul	27	7:15 am Morning Minyan		27 Elul
5 Elul	7:30 pm Talmud Shiur First Day of Amitim classes	12 Elul	<b>19</b> 7:30 pm Talmud Shiur		19 Elul	26	7:00 pm Adult Ed Study Session	7:30 pm Talmud Shiur	26 Elul
4 Elul	4:00 to 6:00 pm First Day of Religious School	11 Elul	00		18 Elul	<b>7</b> 2			25 Elul
3 Elul	First Day of Midrasha First Day of Midrasha <b>10:00am-12:30 pm</b> DEATH PENALTY DISCUSSION DISCUSSION <b>10:00 am 12:00 pm</b> SHABBAT B'YACHAD PLANNING <b>10:00 am 12:00 pm</b> SHABBAT B'YACHAD PLANNING <b>12:30 to 5:30 pm</b> Amtim Ropes Course at Osher Marin JCC	10 Elul	First Young Judea First Young Judea meeting of the year 7:00 pm Adult Ed Study Session	w/ Rabbi Benchlouch	17 Elul	24			24 Elul





# ADULT By Jonathan Heinstein EDUCATION

hodesh Elul, a month long lead into judgment and the renewal of time, is an opportunity to examine our actions. Lefashpesh, is the preferred term in Hebrew, to scrutinize in detail, as an animal might scan its fur for parasites. The Sephardic tradition in Elul of rising for Selichot prayers in ashmoret haboker the morning watch before dawn, and the Ashkenazi tradition of sounding Shofar after morning prayers, both strive to elicit a deeper awakening. The classic text for study in the days leading up to Yom Kippur is the final chapter of the tractate Yoma. The Torah texts (Lev. 23/Num. 29) command us to afflict our being on the Day of Atonement, and Chapter 8 of Yoma learns out the details of this precept. Beyond the fast and the Rabbinic prohibitions (sex, types of footwear, bathing, oils), a lively dispute takes shape concerning the efficacy of our attempts to examine and change old behavior. This year, we will augment the Yom Kippur day study session with three programs on this fascinating chapter. Sunday September 17, 7:00 pm with Rabbi Benchlouch of Congregation Anshey S'fard of San Francisco and Tuesdays September 26 & October 3, 7 pm with guest teachers TBA. Please feel free to attend even one of these programs.



The Adult Education Committee, following the lead of Mark Priven and our Social Action

Committee, will co-sponsor a discussion of the Death Penalty on Sunday September 10. See below for details. I would also like to second Mark's recommendation of Lehrhaus Judaica's fall course, Jews As Global Citizens, which we are also co-sponsoring.

Rivka Greenberg recently contacted me about opening a forum on Gender in Judaism. If we pray to a deity with either male or female attributes, are we praying to ourselves? We'll schedule an exploratory meeting after the holidays, but if you are interested (I am) please contact her at rigreenb@med.wayne.edu.

# **DEATH PENALTY FORUM**

### Sunday, September 10, 10:00 am to noon at 1841 Berkeley Way

In 1992, after a 25-year pause when both the U.S. and California Supreme Court's declared the death penalty unconstitutional and many countries abolished it, California resumed executions. Eight prisoners have been executed here since 1992, and more than 500 prisoners are now on San Quentin's death row. Lawyers Mark Millman and Gary Sirbu, who represent defendants in capital cases, will teach and facilitate a discussion on death penalty law, practice, and ethics, including Jewish sources. Please join us. (Co-sponsored by the Social Action Committee and the Adult Education Committee.)

# ONGOING CLASSES & GROUPS

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

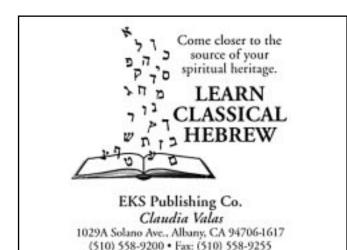
TALMUD STUDY, WITH RABBI KELMAN, meets every Tuesday evening from 7:30-9:00 pm, at the Netivot Shalom office.

**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 Carol Dorf at 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.

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Check out the Netivot Shalom Website



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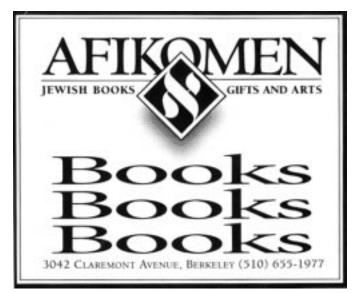
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# **YOUTH EDUCATION**

t has been exciting for me to begin my position as Rabbi Educator at Netivot Shalom, and it was particularly wonderful to spend my first week of work at the Whizin Family Education Institute in Los Angeles with our Netivot Shalom team. Iris Greenbaum, Debbie Isaak-Shapiro, Judy Massarano, Carol Dorf and I spent a week learning from and with other Jewish educators, including Janet Harris and Vicky Kelman, about the best theory and practice in the growing field of Jewish Family Education, and thinking about how to apply our learning to the Netivot Shalom community. I am so appreciative of the community's support of our Whizin team.

Our discussions at Whizin reinforced my conviction that Jewish education, particularly for children, must occur in the context of Jewish practice within the community and within the family. Children will only develop a strong and lasting connection with Judaism if the learning that occurs in the classroom is reinforced and modeled in the home, the larger synagogue community, and summer camp settings. As we prepare for the High Holidays and for the new school year, I look forward to working with parents and with the whole Netivot Shalom community to expand the current family education within the synagogue. The Shabbat BYachad program that Iris Greenbaum has created with the parents of toddlers is very impressive and exciting. This Kol Nidrei, we are very fortunate to have Vicky Kelman leading a family program that is not to be missed -- be sure By Rabbi Margie Jacobs

to register when you receive the synagogue High Holiday mailing. We pass on to the next generation not only information about our Jewish heritage, but also our own enthusiasm and love for Jewish living and learning. I encourage both parents and teachers to think not only about how to foster excitement about Judaism in the children that you educate, but also to ensure that your Jewish practice is meaningful for you.

As we look to the new year, please take note of a few important dates:

- Sunday, September 10 Amitim begins with a group-building ropes course
- Monday, September 11 Religious school begins
- •Tuesday, September 12 Amitim classes begin
- •Sunday, September 17 First Young Judea meeting of the year

I want to extend my deepest appreciation for all who have eased my transition from Philadelphia to Netivot Shalom. There have been many warm welcomes and helpful assistance, and I would particularly like to thank Andrea Altschuler, Wendy Rosov, Masha Savitz and Rabbi Kelman for their dedication and assistance. Several parents and other community member have called, either with specific input and concerns or just to say hello, and I look forward to hearing from and getting to know more of you as the new year begins.

### YOUNG JUDAEA

#### From all the staff at Young Judaea we hope everyone had a wonderful summer!! Now it is time once again to start back up with our exciting Youth Group activities. The first club meeting will be on Sunday, September 17. Are you ready for Young Judea Maccabiah? We are looking forward to seeing familiar faces as well as new ones participating in all sorts of fun activities. Besides our bimonthly activities we also have weekend long conventions for the kids to meet other participants from our region. Please save the following dates - the kids just love attending Young Judaea conventions:

#### Ofarim/Tsofim (3rd - 8th Grades) Convention - November 17-19, 2000 Convention - March 23-25, 2001

For more information on these or any other of our events please call Young Judaea (510) 549-0260 or e-mail yjudaeaca1@aol.com. Young Judaea is proudly sponsored by Hadassah.

# CAMP RAMAH – WE DID IT!!

amp Ramah in the East Bay was, according to all indications,

ing \$10,000 in order for us to operate this summer. I am delighted to report that we at Netivot Shalom have raised slightly more than our

intended goal, and a tremendous thanks to all of you who have

helped us fashion this new Conservative institution in the East Bay.

This new board of directors was well represented by Carla Cassler,

While I'm on the subject of thanks, I must say that our shul has been

gracious about letting Camp Ramah function administratively in

our building. Without the in-kind contribution of space, the camp

Rena Dorph, Gila Dorph and Golda Blum.

a resounding success.

#### By Rabbi Stuart Kelman

would never have existed.

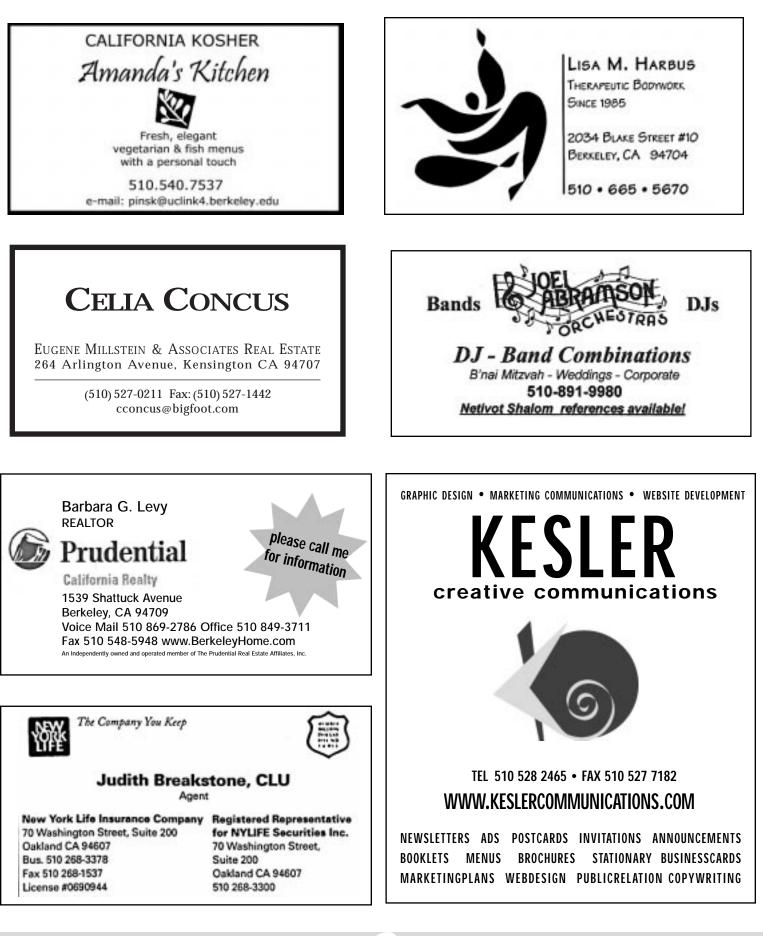
joined together for a summer of fun, prayer, learning, singing, swim-Thanks also go to Dan Alter, the Director, who took an idea that had ming, sports, Hebrew, and friendship. We surveyed each of the famibeen germinating for a few years and turned it into a reality. lies and every one was extremely positive about the camp. Naturally, Jonathan Emanuel and Sarah Gill were also instrumental in planthere were suggestions about our future, but all-in-all, the camp was ning throughout the year. But I must say that the counseling and division heads were truly outstanding - and I think it only fair that I list each of them. They are: David Bracke, Yair Cohen, Shany Engel, Camp Ramah was incorporated independently this past year and is Caitlin Fischer, Elana Jagoda, Elana Kelman, Sarah Lesser, Nathan sponsored by the three East Bay Conservative shuls: Netivot Shalom, Martin, Eitan Mizrachi, Jordana Price, Tracy Ross, Miriam Walter, and B'nai Shalom and Beth Abraham, each of whom committed to rais-Gaby Alter.

> Finally, I want to thank the parents who were willing to trust us by sending their children to an unproven and nonexistent institution. They knew, however, that the Ramah name and quality of programming plus our own reputation as a synagogue for quality Jewish education were guarantees that the summer would be wonderful. Camp Ramah is here to stay. During the next two years, it is our hope to stabilize both the program and the funding so that this Camp Ramah Day Camp will be the foundation, perhaps, for an overnight Camp Ramah here in Northern California!! Ŷ

### SHABBAT B'YACHAD NEWS By Iris Greenbaum

e were delighted to introduce Rabbi Margie Jacobs to Shabbat B'Yachad parents at our recent planning brunch. We shared highlights from our first year together in Shabbat B'Yachad, and discussed ideas for the coming year. We reflected upon our success in bringing families with young children together to daven and joyfully celebrate Shabbat and holidays. Our parentled services and Torah stories inspire ruach and encourage keen involvement, even for our youngest congregants. We look forward to celebrating Yamim Noraim together for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur family services. Further information will be made available in the Yamim Noraim information packets.

Our second year holds promise for our continued growth in bringing families together so we may deepen our congregation's communal life. Our experience in Shabbat B'Yachad has demonstrated the strong desire for families to actively participate in learning and communal observance. The entry of our Shabbat B'Yachad 'graduates"into the Religious School and day schools prompted discussion about creating a Shabbat family service for each grade level. The idea of expanding upon the Shabbat B'Yachad family davening into the Shabbat Religious School will be further explored by Rabbi Jacobs and the Youth Education Committee. 众





# IN GRATITUDE

#### THANK YOU



David Hirsh who has crafted a new tallit holder for our use at the JCC. David has spent more than a year creating this marvelous piece of work so that we can all respectfully and gently hang our tallitot.

achel Brott who has been our Ritual oordinator

arbara Bibel for her continuing contributions o our library

### ADULT EDUCATION

andra Gore and Ronald Sires

#### **BUILDING FUND**

arah Y. Ruby udi and Stan Taubman Gail and Arne Wagner Debby Graudenz and Rom Rosenblum Margaret Dorfman and Wayne Pickus Ginette and Elijah Polak aren Friedman and David Marcus onnie and Jonathan Heller Joan Bradus and Dale Friedman Nancy Gurian and Barry Kamil Karel Koenig Amy and Philip Mezey Lillian and Fred Katzburg, *in honor of Milt and Marge Greenstein's 50th Wedding Anniversary* Simon Levine, *in honor of the Greensteins' 50th Anniversary & Milt's 75th birthday* Fran and Brian Kaye, *in honor of Karen Bovarnick's 40th birthday* 

#### **GENERAL FUND**

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#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Alice Webber and Steven Tobias Bernard Freedman, *in honor of the opening of Miriam Chaya's film at the SF Film Festival* 

Nancy and Eugene Bardach, in honor of the engagement of Rebecca Bardach and Eliot Goldstein

Dina Beck, in honor of the conversion and first birthday of her granddaughter, Devra Sholin Beck

Danna Gillette-Pascal and Steven Pascal, in honor of Daniel Pascal's first year birthday

#### TORAH STUDY

Bernard Freedman Basya Gale Noriko Obinata

#### YOUTH EDUCATION

Wendy Rosov and Lisa Harbus Karen Friedman and David Marcus, *in honor of Ezra's 8th birthday* Jerry and Deborah Isaak-Shapiro, *in honor of Karen Bovarnick's special birthday* Ernestina Carrillo and Lawrence Polon

We gratefully acknowledge that

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CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

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SHALOM

# LIFECYCLE

# LISA FINE & Howard Nathel

invite the congregation to join them on September 2, 2000, when their son

# **NOAH FINE NATHEL**

WILL BE CALLED TO THE TORAH AS A BAR MITZVAH JOAN SCHWARTZ & NICHOLAS CATALDO

invite the congregation to join them on September 23, 2000, when their son

# JOSHUA MICHAEL CATALDO

### WILL BE CALLED TO THE TORAH AS A BAR MITZVAH

# **MAZEL TOV**

Lisa Fink & Robert Milton

on the birth of

SASHA JOSEPH

(and to his sister Lena)

Hope and Noah Alper invite the congregation to join them as their son

David Rohn Alper

becomes a Bar Mitzvah

Thursday, September 14, 2000 at 8 in the morning at the shul office





# YAHRTZEIT LIST

#### **SEPTEMBER 1 - SEPTEMBER 30**

		1			
/1/00	Ethel Silverstein	1 Elul	9/15/99	Dora Goldschmidt	15 Elul
/2/00	Bertha Sutz	2 Elul	9/15/99	Isador Henry Schwartz	15 Elul
/4/00	Dr. Al Perlmutter	4 Elul	9/16/00	Laura London	16 Elul
/6/00	Edith Rachel Straus	6 Elul	9/16/99	Mendel Sieradzki	16 Elul
/6/00	Mark De Lemos	6 Elul	9/17/99	Benjamin Solomon Klatt	17 Elul
/6/00	Ruth Levine	6 Elul	9/17/99	Lottie Gidal	17 Elul
/7/00	Sarah Narosney Marks	7 Elul	9/17/00	Helmut Sam Isaak	17 Elul
/7/00	Sophie Slavin	7 Elul	9/17/00	Samuel Weitzner	17 Elul
/9/00	Isaac Milgrom	9 Elul	9/18/99	Bernice Epstein	18 Elul
/9/00	Patti Beth Kelman Mintz	9 Elul	9/18/00	Jacob Harry Kulakofsky	18 Elul
/10/00	Anna Friedman	10 Elul	9/19/00	Joel Knaster	19 Elul
/11/99	Dr. Philip Jaeger	11 Elul	9/20/99	Bertha Rosenstein	20 Elul
/11/99	Jacob Lawrence Cohen	11 Elul	9/21/00	Frank Jacobvitz	20 Elul
/11/99	Peter Fono	11 Elul	9/22/00	Chaim Tannenbaum	22 Elul
/12/00	Lena Franc	12 Elul	9/22/00	Jacob Rosenblatt	22 Elul
/12/99	Julius Lucoff	12 Elul	9/25/00	Rabbi Stephen Neil Levinson	25 Elul
/12/99	Max Louis Blachman	12 Elul	9/26/00	Erwin Jacobs	26 Elul
/13/99	Anna Redel	13 Elul	9/29/00	Hannah Aaron	29 Elul
/13/99	Ida Yaffee	13 Elul	9/30/00	Dr. Philip Jaeger	1 Tishri
/14/00	Ellen Rothmann	14 Elul	9/30/00	Jacob Lawrence Cohen	1 Tishri
/15/99	George Trow	15 Elul	9/30/00	Peter Fono	1 Tishri

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# TO OFFER TZEDAKAH to Congregation Netivot Shalom

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#### **Book Reviewers**

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

#### Library Help

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

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#### Bequests

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