



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

Netivot Shalom

JULY - AUGUST, 2001 • TAMMUZ-AV-ELUL 5761

Summer: A Time for Reflection & Growth

By Rabbi Stuart Kelman

From The Rabbi

There is a story attributed to Mordecai Kaplan in which he was asked how Shabbat works. He compared Shabbat to an artist's canvas. Most artists, when painting a canvas for example, focus intensely to get the painting just right. Most put their paintings away for a while and take them out for another look before they feel the work is completed to their satisfaction. The process is repeated as often as needed. Kaplan claimed that Shabbat works much the same way — for six days we work hard at our life canvas and then we put it aside for one day, respecting the fact that we all need to refresh in order to grow. People who teach language tell us that second language acquisition often works the same way — with a needed respite in order to grow. Summers seem to work for that purpose as well.

So, with that in mind, here are a few suggestions for the summer:

- Read a Jewish book (check out our library).
- Go online: Check out the links that are on our website, or look at the Distance Learning Project available through the

Jewish Theological Seminary (<http://courses.jtsa.edu/>).

- Listen to a Jewish book on tape (call 1-877-JCC-TAPE).
 - Watch a Jewish video (write for a catalogue to JTS, 3080 Broadway, Box 123, New York, NY 10027).
- Or call me for more suggestions.

Celebrations are designed for the purpose of reflection as well. It is absolutely wonderful that on **July 3rd**, we will be celebrating together. Our Campaign Kickoff Party will be held in our new building and will mark another step toward fulfilling our mission to create a place which makes it possible to do mitzvot. Netivot Shalom will finally have a home where we will be able to perform many of the mitzvot to a degree unattainable before. Thanks go to all those who have helped us get this far, and who are continuing to help Netivot Shalom realize our greatest aspirations.

So, this summer, take time to reflect on personal Jewish growth, on our collective growth and, yes, the fact that Yamim Nora'im are right around the corner! ☆

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, August 5,

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

at the BRJCC

A Community Forum on Israel

(watch for more information)



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TEFILAH SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

All services are held at the
Berkeley-Richmond
Jewish Community Center
1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley

Torah Study 9:00 a.m.
Shabbat Services 9:45 a.m.
Meditative Minyan,
3rd Shabbat 9:30 a.m.

For Children:

Shabbat B'Yachad,
2nd & 4th Shabbat 11:00 a.m.
Torah L'Yeladim,
1st & 3rd Shabbat 11:00 a.m.
Shabbat Shelanu,
1st & 3rd Shabbat 11:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY MINYANIM

All services are held at our offices,
1841 Berkeley Way, Berkeley
Morning Minyan 7:15 a.m.
Wednesdays

Rosh Chodesh Minyan:
Elul, August 19 9:00 a.m.

TORAH STUDY & DRASH SCHEDULE

JULY

7 Torah Study of Balak with
Robert Alter
Drash by Nathan Martin &
Dean Kertesz

14 Torah Study of Pinchas
with Rabbi Jane Litman
Drash by Debby Graudenz

21 Torah Study of Mattot-Masei
with Jonathan Heinstejn
Drash by Eric Seder

28 Study of Devarim
with Marty Grossman
Drash by MEYTIV

AUGUST

4 Torah Study of Va-Etchanan
with Seymour Kessler
Drash by Lillian Ring Jacobson,
Bat Mitzvah

11 Torah Study of Ekev
with Barbara Bibel
Drash by Barbara Bibel

18 Torah Study of Re'eh
with Nitzhia Shaked
Drash by Michael Cohen

25 Study of Shoftim
with TBA
Drash by Chai Levy

President's Letter

Last month's letter was about our community, beginning a process within myself in which I am still engaged. This process was enhanced by my participation in the Richard Lesser Memorial Symposium. The topic this year was "Synagogue as a Religious Community," and the study, lecture and discussion were invigorating.

In order to define and understand our community — a process which will then allow us to plan and meet the needs of our community — numerous questions must first be asked and answered. Who is in our community? Why are we members of *this* community? What brought us here, and what keeps us here? What is it that we each bring to the community, and that each of us would like to receive from the community?

As I look at these and other such questions I realize that the answers are not static, they change with the ebb and flow of our individual lives and the life of our congregation. While at one point shul and Shabbat services are the inviting factor in someone's life, at another point it might be social action, adult education or the more social aspects of *Etzleinu BaSh'chunah*. These and other facets of our congregation are each important parts of who we are as a community. According to Arnie Eisen, the Scholar-in-Residence for the "Synagogue as a Religious Community" symposium, American Jews are looking for two things in Jewish life: community (connection to other Jews) and meaning/content/tradition (meaning to live life by and for).

Communities function, develop and grow because individuals are active participants in them. If, individually, we answer the questions I raised earlier, we can identify the areas of our shul life in which our interests and passions lie. These interests and passions are the very things that will provide us with meaning and content. Once we know that, the next step is... *get involved!* This could be a short-term commitment such as taking on a time-limited task, or it could be a longer-term commitment such as joining a standing committee. This is the best way for our shul, our *community*, to reflect its members, and it may very well be the best way for each of us, as individuals, to find the community and meaning for which we search.

I realize that we are heading into summer, a season during which we often "hibernate" vis-à-vis our activity level in shul and other community efforts. Summer is traditionally the time for vacations and family, and less a time for communal involvement. Yet just after summer ends we will come together and re-affirm, in numbers greater than at any other time of the year, our commitment to our personal and communal Judaism during the Yamim Nora'im. Perhaps this year that re-affirmation could begin earlier by looking for ways to become involved.

Please feel free to call me if you need ideas!

B'Shalom,
Debby Graudenz

If you would like to respond to an article which has appeared in the newsletter, or express an opinion you feel is relevant to the congregation at large, please send letters to: Karen Friedman, Newsletter Editor, at newsletter@netivotshalom.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Summary of 5/20/01 Board Meeting:

- Debby reported on the closing on the site at 1316 University Avenue, and on the neighbors' positive responses to members of Netivot Shalom walking the neighborhood to introduce ourselves and the plan for the site.
- Cyndi Spindell Berck has taken on the leadership of the Social Action Committee.
- In describing the Midrasha graduation, Rabbi Kelman noted that 11 of the 44 graduates are from Netivot Shalom.
- Rabbi Kelman discussed some structural changes for the next Amitim class. Part of the format includes exploring questions such as "Who am I as a Jew?" "Who am I as a person?" and "What does it mean to be a Bar/Bat Mitzvah?"
- Joe Meresman, Chair of the Site Work Group, asked the Board for direction with regard to the synagogue's strategy for the new building (i.e., an internal or an external process). The pros and cons of each of these strategies were presented and discussed. The Board voted

unanimously to continue with an internal process with the following proviso: "If the building project expands beyond the currently anticipated 10,000 sq. ft. occupancy, both the architects and the Board may review this plan. With letter of agreement and contracts to follow."

- The Treasurer distributed a financial report as of 4/30/01. He noted that collection of dues is an important factor in keeping our budget on target.
- The rest of the Board meeting was devoted to the 2001-2002 budget. Andrea Altschuler (Youth Education), Jan Malvin (Administration), Sanne DeWitt and Jonathan Heinstejn (Adult Education) and Board member Turi Adams (representing the Ritual Committee) addressed the Board relative to the activities they represent and budgetary concerns. The Board of Directors is committed to passing a balanced budget. Final figures will be established prior to the June Board meeting, to be presented at that meeting for discussion prior to the Board finalizing the budget at that meeting.

Kaiser Permanente Richmond Medical Center Honors Donald P. Fischer, M.D.

On June 4th, the Kaiser Richmond Medical Center honored the late Dr. Donald P. Fischer, a well-known and beloved member of Congregation Netivot Shalom. An entire office building, the "Kaiser Richmond Medical Office Building" located at 901 Nevin Avenue in Richmond, was dedicated to him for his years of outstanding leadership and devotion as Physician-in-Chief from 1976 to 1997. We are very proud of Don's accomplishments and contributions to the greater community and to our own. May his memory be for a blessing.

Welcome Two New Faces in Our Office!

We are pleased to announce that **Lorraine Rosenblatt** will be our new Educational Coordinator/Administrative Assistant for the next year. Her responsibilities will be to coordinate all educational programming in our congregation.

Jennifer Zahigian has accepted the Administrative Assistant position in the shul offices. She will start June 14th and will be assisting the Administrator with office duties.

**ROSH CHODESH AV
WILL BE CELEBRATED ON
SHABBAT, JULY 21
AS PART OF THE REGULAR
SERVICE.**

**ROSH CHODESH ELUL
WILL BE CELEBRATED ON
SUNDAY, AUGUST 19
AT 9:00 A.M.
IN THE SHUL LIBRARY.**

**ROSH CHODESH TISHREI
IS ROSH HASHANAH!**

Chai Levy Returns

Yes, the rumors are true! Our Rabbinic Intern, who was with us last summer, will join us again this summer. Chai Levy will be working with Rabbi Kelman developing some new materials and programs while doing some special teaching. Stay tuned for the specifics.

Flash! Sunday, August 19 is Rosh Chodesh Elul. Shacharit will be at 9:00 a.m. in the shul offices, and from 10:30-12:00, Chai will conduct a workshop on Head Covering for Women. (Men, of course, are invited.) It will focus on traditional texts and modern understandings.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Etzleinu: In Our Neighborhood

By Iris Greenbaum, Program Coordinator

Kabbalat Shabbat

"Six days a week we humans use time. We value it as a means to an end....The seventh day rights our balance and restores our perspective ... on the seventh day we try to become attuned to holiness in time" (Abraham Joshua Heschel)

Etzleinu participants have deepened our celebration of Kabbalat Shabbat with tefilah, song, conversation, lots of good food and great company! Thank you to all who have participated. *Todah rabbah!* to Rena Dorph & Peter Wahrhaftig; Nancy Facher & Glenn Wolkenfeld; Brenda Goldstein & David Shragai and Shirah & Chauncey Bell who have participated in the mitzvah of Hachnasat Orchim by welcoming Etzleinu guests to their homes for Kabbalat Shabbat. Special thanks to Sharon Priven for coordinating all the details, including childcare!

Potluck & Meals

Please note: One of our members has requested that all participants specify whether a potluck meal is vegetarian, or includes fish: "If you are hosting an event or attending a potluck meal in the Netivot Shalom community, please remember that vegetarian food is as important for some people as Kosher food is. ... If the event includes fish, please advertise it as a pareve potluck or meal, not a vegetarian one. If it is a vegetarian potluck, please don't bring fish."

Phone Trees

Lisa Harbus, Lee Feinstein and Mel Sibony are developing

phone trees for each Etzleinu neighborhood such that no one person will need to make more than four or five calls in the event of a shivah minyan, new birth, or assistance with bikkur cholim.

We need your help in the following ways:

- 1) Volunteer to be one of the main phone tree contacts — it's a great way to meet fellow congregants.
- 2) Volunteer to be the neighborhood liaison — it's a great way to stay current with ever-changing shul events and activate the entire phone tree.

Roster

Are you still using your 1997 roster? How many more "disconnected number" recordings can you tolerate? Relief is in sight, thanks to Rhea Harlow, our synagogue administrator. She will e-mail recent listings of the alphabetical roster and roster by Zip code to any interested member who requests this information. Please e-mail your request to Rhea Harlow at administrator@netivotshalom.org.

If you would prefer a hard copy to keep by your phone, they are available for pick up at the shul offices. Please call ahead to Iris at ext. 110 to reserve a copy for pick up.

If necessary, a roster can be mailed to your home. We hesitate to incur additional expenses, so please use this option as a last resort.

Please contact me regarding any questions at 549-9447, ext. 110.

Oneg Shabbat Series at the Kelmans

For the past several years (except the last one), I have invited you to come to our home on a Shabbat afternoon to sing, celebrate Shabbat, sometimes to study and often just to talk about the issues of the day. I have decided to reinstate this series, with a new title: Oneg Shabbat. Please feel free to drop over on Shabbat afternoon, **August 11**, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Our address is 1003 Mariposa (corner of Los Angeles and Mariposa.)

I know that many of you have wanted an opportunity to talk about Israel, a subject deeply in our hearts and on our minds. So, please come over for some tea, texts and conversation.

Tisha B'Av – The Black Fast

Tisha B'Av, referred to as the Black fast — in contrast to Yom Kippur, the White fast — is the only other day-long fast in our tradition. This year it begins right after Shabbat, on **Saturday evening July 28 and continues through July 29**. This year, MEYTIV, the program sponsored by Camp Ramah in Ojai will be joining us for that Shabbat and Tisha B'Av. They are a wonderful group of high school students (and staff) who are spending six weeks engaged in social action projects here in the East Bay. Please join us in welcoming them — and hearing from them, as they will be presenting an evening program for us on **July 28** in our library.

Back By Popular Demand: 3 Yamim Nora'im Study Sessions on Liturgy

Rabbi Kelman has been appointed to a committee of the Rabbinical Assembly which is working on a brand new Mahzor for Yamim Nora'im. He will share some in-depth study of some of the major prayers of the High Holyday season — including new translations. All sessions will take place in the shul library, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The dates are: **Sunday, August 12**, 10:00-11:30 a.m. **Thursday, August 16**, 7:30-9:00 p.m. **Sunday, August 26**, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Older Adults Discussion Group

By Helen Wachs

Netivot Shalom Recipient of a Grant

Netivot Shalom has received a grant from the Walter and Elise Haas Fund. The grant provides an opportunity to explore the issue of intermarried families within the context of Conservative Judaism. Netivot Shalom will be the host synagogue, working in conjunction with a consortium composed of Congregation B'nai Shalom, Walnut Creek, Rabbi Gordon Freeman; Congregation Beth Shalom, San Leandro, Rabbi Harry Manhoff; Jewish Family and Children's Services, Ted Feldman, E.D. It is anticipated that Temple Beth Abraham, Oakland, will also be part of the consortium.

MANY THANKS to

everyone who helped me after my recent fall, especially to: Miriam Berkowitz, Selma Klett, Hilda Kessler, Jan Fischer, Peter Strauss and Iris Greenbaum. Special thanks to Ilene Weinreb who dragged me to Kaiser with the help of three sturdy neighbors. Super special thanks to my wonderful children!

— Jean Bradman

On Monday, May 14th, the Older Adults Discussion Group met with Linda Blachman to learn about ethical wills and life story writing. A member of Netivot Shalom, Linda shared her background and expertise with the group. She discussed the practice of including ethical wills with more formal documents distributing property during the medieval period.

Ethical wills were a Jewish practice, primarily, wherein a parent (typically) would write a letter bequeathing the ethical and philosophical positions of a lifetime to his children. It was not uncommon for a rabbi to do the same for his congregation. This was a lovely means of handing down spiritual learnings to the family or to the wider community.

Over time, ethical wills became less common. Today, there is a resurgence of interest in writing about our values for the future, but as Linda said, "We want to avoid guilt from the grave." That raised another issue for the group: an awareness of our vulnerability and mortality. Writing an ethical will does not mean that we think we may die in the near future. Rather, an ethical will allows us to share our thoughts and values with future generations. Linda offered a rich bibliography to guide us in the process: *So Your Values Live On* by Jack Reimer; *Number Our Days* by Barbara Meyerhoff and the website ethicalwills.com.

Life story writing is different from writing an ethical will. It is sharing our personal story with future generations. It is telling our children, grandchildren and their children who we are and what our lives were like. Because each of us is unique, there are a variety of ways we can write our personal stories. We don't have to sit down and write a complete autobiography, we can write chapters about significant moments in our lives and add to them as we want. We can write letters for future

generations to be given at designated ages, life-cycle, or milestone events.

One of the changes that occurs with age is that we become more reflective. We review our lives and put them in perspective. If events have not happened as we wished or if they had unanticipated consequences, we can offer our insight and understanding for future generations.

Living in Berkeley and being exposed to elegant writing, some members were intimidated about their writing abilities. Linda reassured us that our life story is OUR story, and OUR communications with loved ones. She spoke about the richness of the experience, the feelings and the ways that we express them as more important to our families than the literary quality of the work.

Members of the group offered different examples of how they are sharing themselves with their grandchildren. One member is keeping a journal for her granddaughter. It begins by detailing her mother's pregnancy and care of the grandchild and continues with the member's thoughts about special moments in her granddaughter's life. Another member, wanting to share who he is with a soon-to-be-born grandchild, and not knowing where to begin, plans to make a list of things that he likes or that are meaningful to him. Linda stressed that it is not what you choose to do, but that you do it.

We were spellbound for almost two hours and stayed after for lively discussion. Many thanks to Sheila and Art Braufman for opening their home to us for the evening. For information about life story writing or ethical wills, you may contact Linda Blachman at 466-5053; her e-mail address is: mlsp@best.com. We look forward to seeing you at the next Older Adults Discussion Group meetings on **August 13** and **September 10** at 7:00 p.m. for more lively conversation.

For more information, call Jean Bradman at 549-3231. ✨

Yahrzeit List

Lewis William Max			
Eliezer ben Eliahu v'Batya	10 Tammuz	July 1	
Ethel Teger	11 Tammuz	July 2	
Aaron Mandel	12 Tammuz	July 3	
Ilse Straus Feiger	13 Tammuz	July 4	
Dorothy Granzow	16 Tammuz	July 7	
Malkah Zacharin	17 Tammuz	July 8	
Henry Hamburg	18 Tammuz	July 9	
Esther P. Morse	18 Tammuz	July 9	
Jeanne Wirtzer	22 Tammuz	July 13	
Anna Lea Greenstein	23 Tammuz	July 14	
Regina Berrol	23 Tammuz	July 14	
Simon Goldschmidt	24 Tammuz	July 15	
Eva Graudenz	28 Tammuz	July 19	
Sam Koltun	29 Tammuz	July 20	
Dora Becker	30 Tammuz	July 20	
Roy H. Steinberg	3 Av	July 23	
Morris Rothblatt	3 Av	July 23	
Walter Mayer	6 Av	July 26	
Ruth Safran	7 Av	July 27	
Dr. Samuel Kalter	8 Av	July 28	
Bella Schmidt Neustaedter	8 Av	July 28	
Abraham "Jack" Silverstein	10 Av	July 30	
Imre Kertesz	11 Av	July 31	
Benjamin Rothmann	11 Av	July 31	
Seymour Facher	12 Av	August 1	
Abraham Chip Meresman	14 Av	August 3	
Sareta B. Cohen	15 Av	August 4	
Abraham Brenner	15 Av	August 4	
Leah Rappaport	15 Av	August 4	
Joseph Davis	15 Av	August 4	
Leon Schneider	16 Av	August 5	
Ruth Raff Peskin	18 Av	August 7	
Abraham B. Rosenblum	22 Av	August 11	
Isadore Louis Stahl			
Yitzchock ben Schmucl ha Levi	22 Av	August 11	
Shirley Kreitzer Bradus	22 Av	August 11	
Charlotte Silva	23 Av	August 12	
Bertram "Buddy" Faber	23 Av	August 12	
Harry Firger	24 Av	August 13	
Rachel Zelman	25 Av	August 14	
Morris Levin	26 Av	August 15	
Myer Israel Shandling	26 Av	August 15	
Mai Yohai	28 Av	August 17	
Abraham Fox	28 Av	August 17	
Robert Wachs	30 Av	August 19	
Yetta Edelstone	30 Av	August 19	
Dr. Jacob Abouav	30 Av	August 19	
Ethel Silverstein	1 Elul	August 20	
Bertha Sutz	2 Elul	August 21	
Rita Lent	2 Elul	August 21	
Minna Kabatznick	3 Elul	August 22	
Dr. Al Perlmutter	4 Elul	August 23	
Edith Rachel Straus	6 Elul	August 25	
Mark De Lemos	6 Elul	August 25	
Ruth Levine	6 Elul	August 25	
Sarah Narosney Marks	7 Elul	August 26	
Sophie Slavin	7 Elul	August 26	
Patti Beth Kelman Mintz	9 Elul	August 28	
Anna Friedman	10 Elul	August 29	
Lena Franc	12 Elul	August 31	
Ellen Rothmann	14 Elul	September 2	
Joseph Milton	15 Elul	September 3	
Laura London	16 Elul	September 4	
Helmut Sam Isaak	17 Elul	September 5	
Jacob Harry Kulakofsky	18 Elul	September 6	
Joel Knaster	19 Elul	September 7	
Frank Jacobvitz	20 Elul	September 8	
Chaim Tannenbaum	22 Elul	September 10	
Jacob Rosenblatt	22 Elul	September 10	
Sylvia Brenner	24 Elul	September 12	
Rabbi Stephen Neil Levinson	25 Elul	September 13	
Martin Spilky	25 Elul	September 13	
Erwin Jacobs	26 Elul	September 14	

MAZAL TOV TO:

- **Zol Buer Kryger & Tracy Lynn Riggs** on their marriage
- **Hazzan Elisheva & Tobias Dienstfrey** on the birth of their first daughter, born June 3rd
- **Ross Andlman & Hannah Dresner** on their marriage

CONDOLENCES TO:

- **Ralph & Hadassah Kramer** on the death of their youngest daughter, Deborah Rachel Kramer-Shalev, and to her sister, Marian Shein
- **Andy Cohen & Susan Lawrence** on the death of Andy's mother, Lillian Cohen

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- **Marcy Whitebook**, who was presented in May with a "Woman of Vision Award" by the Ms Foundation for pioneering work in the area of childcare workers and compensation.
- **Vicky Kelman**, who was the recipient of an award for Program of the Year by the San Francisco Community Federation.

COMMITTEE UPDATES



If We Are Going to Cuba in December ...

By June Safran, Cuba Liaison

It's time for us to plan our trip to share in the Bar Mitzvah celebration of David Budegin at our sister congregation, Comunidad Hebrea Hatikva de Santiago de Cuba. This will be the last Bar Mitzvah for about five years as there is a large age gap between David and the next two children.

Cuba is hot this year. So if we want to get reservations for the first week of December vacation, we must do it soon. The plan is to fly directly to Santiago de Cuba, celebrate David's Bar Mitzvah, then spend the week in that part of country visiting other Jewish communities nearby as well as discovering the history and beauty of the Oriente.

We are planning a trip that would bring us back to the U.S. in time for New Year's celebrations. The trip is planned this way because the Cuban way to celebrate New Year's Eve is to stay home with the family. New Year's Day is the anniversary of the revolution complete with a daylong talk by Castro.

Children from 4 1/2 years old and up are welcome on this trip. If you are at all interested, contact me soon. I can be reached by email at june@cajm.org or by phone from the Netivot Shalom Roster.

Now, for Life Among the Cubans ...

In Santiago: All is calm as life goes into summer mode. Mario is enjoying his new camera and film provided by an American friend. He is also sending more e-mail in order to practice English. He would enjoy another email correspondent. Salomon and Yolanda's older daughter, Ariana, is excited as her 15th birthday comes closer. This is the most special birthday a Santiagera can experience. Salomon is working three jobs just to pay for it.

In Israel: Life goes on in spite of the tense and distressing situation. Eitan and Nili Behar are working hard. Nili continues to do very well at the University and Eitan loves his job as a computer systems manager. He is very excited that he now has a 10-year U.S. visa to travel to the home office of his company. Roberto Novoa writes from his new e-mail account (rnvoa@zahav.net.il): "Dear June, Now we can get in touch more frequently because we have our own PC at home. I'm still working in Beersheva [chemical research] and Tamara in Rishon Letzion [refrigeration] but we now live in Qiryat Gat, 30 minutes from Beersheva and 50 minutes from Rishon Letzion. Robert, Jr. is finishing the high school. He will start a preparatory school (Mejina) In September for 10 months. After this he is going to the Army. He is very well and happy. Rosa Cecilia will start the specialty of Radiology in Soroca

Hospital in Beersheva. [Her husband,] Rafael is looking for a good job and Gabriella [just turned 3] is growing like a 'Sabra'. We are all feeling very well, "Baruj aShem".

Our new address:

Roberto and Tamara Novoa

Sderot Gat 137/3

Qiryat Gat 82094

Israel

Phone: 972 8 6882270

Cellular: 972 5 8871577"

In Havana: A new baby was born this month. I'm promised statistics soon. Meanwhile, Dra. Behar keeps telling me that she needs more baby powder and Desitin for the diaper rash suffered by six others. So, we have a new program called "Bottoms Up" for which I am asking you to donate money to eliminate Jewish diaper rash. We thought it might be nice for people to adopt a baby bottom. I did the pricing and found out that if I buy on sale and in bulk, you can provide all the necessary amenities to keep one baby comfortable for just \$100 a year. We will even be able to provide names and ages. If \$100 is too much, we are happy to accept your help by the month at \$10 a month.

In Berkeley: This has been a very busy month with many people going to Cuba from the Bay Area. Bob and I advise travelers from all over the world, but it has special meaning when the people are from our area. The three most interesting were 1) a Bat Mitzvah who requested donations from friends and relatives for humanitarian aid. Before going, her family collected sample medicines from doctors and from The Cuba-America Jewish Mission, then packed them carefully for delivery to Havana. She also bought several *talitot* and other ritual objects and took along lots of school supplies for the Sunday school, Esquela Tikun Olam. 2) A member of Temple Sinai and two friends legally flew his small airplane to Havana carrying everything from vitamins to caps, balls and hard hats for sports that were donated by Dr. Elliot Schwartz and son. 3) Congregation Kol Emet of Palo Alto is planning a synagogue visit and will carry a copy of the Wise Men of Chelm (in Spanish) for each child in the religious school in Havana.

Please check our website www.cajm.org for more information about our various projects and planned trips. We are trying to keep current. Otherwise, just call me. ☆

COMMITTEE UPDATES

News from the University Avenue Site Work Group

By Joe Meresman,
University Avenue Site Work Group Chair

In last month's newsletter I introduced the Site Committee, created to handle the management, design and renovation of our new building on University Avenue. Since then, we have changed our designation from Committee to Work Group, in order to emphasize that we will act as a task-driven project team, committed to planning and achieving clearly defined goals. It's a small change in wording but a big shift in outlook, one that I hope will keep us on track in creating a new, permanent home for Netivot Shalom.

Since closing on the site on May 4th, the Site Work Group has attended to the many unglamorous but necessary tasks that fall to new landlords: obtaining insurance, transferring utilities, installing a new security fence, removing asbestos and eliminating electrical hazards, to name a few. The congregation will have a chance to see the interior at the **July 3rd** Campaign Kickoff Party. Don't expect *Better Homes & Gardens* by then; the building is a real fixer-upper. But it has great potential.

During June we updated congregation space requirements based on interviews with small groups that represented key congregation constituencies, e.g., administrative, adult education, ritual, house, youth education, and teens. Efforts are now under way to draft an architectural design, using the talents of congregation architects and engineers on the Site Work Group. We will also continue meeting with community leaders, organizations and elected officials to foster good will and cooperation in our new neighborhood.

I look forward to bringing you more updates as work progresses. Any comments or suggestions for the Site Work Group can be sent to me at MeresmanJ@aol.com.

It's Time to Buddy Up!

The Membership Committee and Etzleinu have created **Netivot Shalom Chaverim**, a buddy program for new members of Netivot Shalom. Each new member or family will be paired with an existing member, who will be available to answer questions and plan a joint social occasion such as Shabbat dinner or a holiday celebration. This program should be in place by the end of the summer (in order to accommodate everyone who has joined since September, 2000.) But we need volunteers! Please send an e-mail to Iris Greenbaum (igreenbaum@hotmail.com) if you are willing to serve as a Netivot Shalom Chaver.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE: Come Shmooze, Eat & Repair the World

By Cyndi Spindell Berck,
Social Action Committee Chair

I am excited by the opportunity to chair the Social Action Committee of Netivot Shalom. In addition to ongoing projects, such as June Safran's work with our sister congregation in Cuba, Sharona Barzilay's organizing dinners at a local homeless shelter, and the participation of outgoing Chair, Mark Priven, Gail Krowech, Ruth Kronoff and others involved with Succot in April (home repair for seniors), there is no shortage of projects that invite our attention:

- Jewish and interfaith environmental coalitions working to reduce utility bills for congregations (and individuals) through conservation
- Tutoring and mentoring public school students in need of academic and other support
- Creating partnerships in our new neighborhood on University Avenue

Of course, we don't have time to take on all the projects that would contribute to *tikkun olam* (repair of the world), but I invite anyone interested to come to a short monthly meeting to decide where we would like to put our energy.

When: First Tuesday of each month (starting **August 7**), 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Where: 1048 Keith Ave., Berkeley (between Spruce and Euclid)

Here are some added incentives to come: **1)** dessert, prepared by my stepson, David Berck, a very good baker, **2)** a dog for petting, **3)** a baby for holding, **4)** a chance to shmooze with other members of the shul who share your concerns.

If you are interested, please call 524-2984 or e-mail cyndiberck@hotmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you August 7!

DEADLINE for the September Newsletter is Friday, August 10.

Please e-mail submissions to newsletter@netivotshalom.org or call Karen Friedman at 510-528-0728.

TAMMUZ 5761

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	<p>6:00 pm 1 Etzleinu Kabbalat Shabbat, Albany; at the home of Nancy Facher & Glenn Wolkenfeld</p> <p>8:08 pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10 SIVAN</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of NASO with TBA 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES; drash by Seymour Kessler 11:00 am Torah L'Yeladim, room 12 Kiddush sponsors: the parents of the Midrasha graduating class</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11 SIVAN</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16 SIVAN</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>8:12 pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17 SIVAN</p>	<p>9:00 am Torah Study of B'Halotecha with Nitzhia Shaked 9 9:45 am Learner's Minyan, Room 14 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES, drash by Cathy Shadd 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad, room 14 (shortened service) Kiddush sponsors: the parents of Shabbat B'Yachad 1:00 pm "What Shall We Tell the Children? The Pitfalls & Promises of Telling Bible Stories", with Vicky Kelman, Room 20 of the BRJCC 1:00 pm Gender in Judaism lecture, Rabbi Jane Litman, in the BRJCC Library</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18 SIVAN</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p style="text-align: right;">23 SIVAN</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat at the home of Shirah & Chauncy Bell</p> <p>8:15 pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">24 SIVAN</p>	<p>9:00 am Torah Study of Shelach Lecha with Art Gould 16 9:30 am Meditative Minyan, Room 14 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES; Bat Mitzvah of Mya Sendowski 11:00 am Torah L'Yeladim, Room 12 Kiddush sponsors: Gail DeBoer & Menachem Sendowski, in honor of Mya becoming a Bat Mitzvah 1:30 pm NITZANIM: for parents, babies & tots; meet at Live Oak Park</p> <p style="text-align: right;">25 SIVAN</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p style="text-align: right;">30 SIVAN</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22 SECOND DAY ROSH CHODESH TAMMUZ</p> <p>8:17 pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 TAMMUZ</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Korach with Nitzhia Shaked 9:45 am Learner's Minyan, Room 14 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES; drash by Rebecca Bardach 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad, Room 14 Kiddush sponsors: Eugene & Nancy Bardach, in honor of their daughter Rebecca and Eliot Goldstein</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2 TAMMUZ</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7 TAMMUZ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>8:18 pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8 TAMMUZ</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Chukat with TBA 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES; Bat Mitzvah of Rina Breakstone 11:00 am Torah L'Yeladim, room 12 Kiddush sponsors: Michael Fuss & Judy Breakstone, in honor of Rina becoming a Bat Mitzvah</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9 TAMMUZ</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">july 5</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14 TAMMUZ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">july 6</p> <p>8:17 pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15 TAMMUZ</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">july 7</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Balak with Robert Alter 7 9:45 am Learner's Minyan, Room 14 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES, drash by Nathan Martin and Dean Kertesz 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad, room 14 Kiddush sponsored Nathan Martin and Dean Kertesz, in honor of their starting rabbinical school</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16 TAMMUZ</p>

How Do You Hold a Moonbeam In Your Hand? Ideas for Enhancing *Kavanah*

By Josh Gressel
Ritual Committee Chair

As I remember it from journalism training, information in a headline is supposed to be explained within the first paragraph of the article beneath it. I want to hold off on explaining the “moonbeam” reference for now, and begin by describing some ideas for enhancing *kavanah* within the synagogue. As mentioned in earlier columns, the Ritual Committee created a *kavanah* subcommittee to find ways to improve the experience, focus and meaning of religious services in our synagogue.

For a variety of reasons, an unusual “committee” developed, and an unusual process with it. Essentially, I became the only constant on the committee. Meetings consisted of my contacting a few people whom I thought had interest and/or expertise on the subject of *kavanah*, and inviting them to my home to come and talk about it. There have been four meetings to date, and since each meeting had completely different people, each time they took a completely different turn. I would like to begin by reporting on the results of those meetings, and finish with some thoughts and reflections of my own on issues of *kavanah*, as well as the headline above.

In each meeting, many ideas were generated. I am choosing one from each to present to the public for consideration and possible implementation.

Meeting #1 (Lois Silverstein, Mark Priven, myself): A series of training sessions for the *sh’lichai tzibur* (prayer leaders) and any in the public who are interested which would consist one half of how to properly do each part of the service (*Psukei DeZimra*, *Shacharit*, Torah Service, and *Musaf*) and one half of why we pray them: what do they mean to us?

There could be separate training for each section. As I’ve thought about this further, I would like us to devote time to the “why” of prayer in any training we do – whether it’s teaching Torah trope, learning the Hebrew of a particular text, or even learning a new melody. I think we need to give equal time to the “why” each time we teach the “how.”

Meeting #2 (Jane Rubin, Linda Blachman, Noga Gressel, myself): When was the last time you talked to someone at synagogue about your spiritual practice? Your belief, or lack thereof, in God? Your struggles, your questions, your faith? Your experiences of spiritual connection and your frustration at feeling nothing? Why aren’t we talking with each other more about these things? Isn’t this part of why we come to synagogue? With whom else should we have these conversations, if not with each other?

This group thought one good way to try and have this conversation would be to tap into the ready-made Etzleinu neighborhood groups. We could have an evening of dialogue on our spiritual lives. It wouldn’t have to be heavy, touchy-feely or in a hot tub. But we could prepare facilitators to lead discussions with each other on what we really believe, what we really question, and all the things we don’t know.

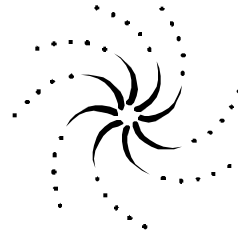
Meeting #3 (Brenda Goldstein, Judy Massarano, Noga Gressel, myself): This group thought of a way to bring innovations into our morning services. Just as someone can sign up to do a *drash* for a particular week, if someone has a new *niggun*, a specific meditation, or a short interpretation of a particular piece of liturgy, he/she would be able to sign up ahead of time to introduce this to the congregation. It might be something that takes only a few minutes;

it might be a one-time thing. It would probably need to be reviewed by the Rabbi or someone from the Ritual Committee before it’s tried on the congregation. But it could be a good way to involve all of us more in whatever is happening.

Meeting #4 (Jerry Derblich, Julie Batz, Jenny Bemdeserfer, myself): This group dealt primarily with musical issues during services (big surprise, huh?). Unbeknownst to me, there is a particular *nusach* that goes with each part of the morning service. So the Hatzit Kaddish which we chant before the Barchu is supposed to sound different from the one we chant after the seventh *aliya*, which in turn is supposed to sound different from the one after Torah service. If followed consistently, the *nusach* would serve as a musical roadmap of where we are in our service, just as when we hear High Holyday *nusach* we’re immediately transported to the place in our memory of all the High Holydays before. Instituting proper use of *nusach* by daveners could go a long way toward helping us stay focused on our prayers. In addition, it’s reasonable to assume that form reflects content, and these melodies are intricately related to the part of the service for which they were developed.

This is as far as the process has gone to date. Please give me feedback on what you’ve read above, either in person or by e-mail (adirhu@home.com). It will help me to know where there is the most interest and what might be best to try implementing first. Also, let me know if you’d be interested in attending any future meetings on *kavanah*.

Personal Musings on *Kavanah*: And now to explain the headline. Do you remember the scene in *The Sound of Music*, where Julie Andrews, aka Maria,



is perpetually late for prayers at her convent because she's running through the nearby Alps ("The hills are alive, with the sound of music...")? The nuns are not sure what to do with her; they're drawn to her spontaneity and recognize how the spirit moves in her, but she consistently breaks every rule of their ordered lives, rules which were established to enhance piety and devotion. They take up their dilemma in song: "How do you solve a problem like Maria? / How do you catch a cloud and pin it down? / Oh how do you solve a problem like Maria? / How do you hold a moonbeam in your hand?"

I think this song and scene fit well for issues of *kavanah* at Netivot Shalom. Most of us are more akin to the older nuns: set in our ways, finding comfort and safety in the established order of our services, somewhat longing for the more youthful enthusiasm and passion we once had (whether in prayer, rock concerts or early loves) yet resistant to any changes that might shake us from our familiar rituals. In my short tenure as Ritual Chair, I have been struck by how passionately members react to shifts in routine. It makes me very appreciative for the caution that is necessary when introducing new elements into our services. At the same time, I also hear from people who complain about how flat many services are, as if we're in a rut. Could something be done that would satisfy both camps, or both parts within each of us?

I want to share some of my thoughts on general issues of *kavanah*:

Novelty: Novelty can be a ready means to intensifying experience. I've often wondered if that isn't what's behind the whole notion of sacrificing the "first born" or giving of the "first fruits" to God: that which is new and fresh is that which connects us to God. The "right"

new tune for a standard piece of liturgy can open us up again to the meaning behind the words, allowing the words to move us as profoundly as the first time we prayed them.

There are a few problems with novelty. First, finding new things that the majority of the congregation can accept readily is no small feat. Just ask the Rabbi what he goes through each time he tries a new tune on Saturday.

Second, by definition, something new is not new after it has been around awhile. So even if we are all to agree on changing something in our routine to refresh our focus, what happens after we've done it 10 or 15 times? What keeps us from going back to sleep?

Third, those of us over 30 have also come to appreciate that intensity of experience is not an absolute value. It is also deeply satisfying to tune in to the subtle rhythms of daily life, rhythms which are reflected in the holidays, Torah readings or even the changing times for lighting Shabbat candles. Is there a *kavanah* of the everyday? Some would say that is the purpose of the 613 commandments.

Hebrew: I don't know too many people who report they have a deep religious experience in synagogue based on their reading of the prayers in English. I don't think it is simply a matter of the translation — we can be deeply moved by Homer, laugh with delight at Cervantes, and be thrilled by Tolstoy — all in English. I don't know why praying in Hebrew is so important (I speculate that thousands of years of Hebrew prayer by millions of Jews have set up an energy field we can tap into) — I just know it is. Knowledge of Hebrew isn't a cure-all for *kavanah*: I certainly have more than my share of problems with *kavanah*, though I'm fluent in Hebrew. But I believe knowing Hebrew is an important aid to Jewish

prayer. For this reason Jonathan Heinstein has agreed to have the *Amida* be a focus of Hebrew study next year, as the Passover Haggadah was this year.

Ubiquity: The problem of *kavanah* is not unique to our congregation (a rabbi in Florida boasted, "My synagogue sleeps 2,000,") not unique to our generation (Seth Kadish¹ spends 600 pages describing problems of *kavanah* in Jewish prayer dating back to antiquity), and not unique to our religion (just ask anyone with a meditation practice).

Legislating Kavanah: During one recent Shabbat, Diana, a deaf woman who has been gracing our services recently, leaned over to me and said she could feel the vibrations of the Shoharut song "El Adon" in the *siddur* she was holding as the congregation was singing it. The literal and metaphorical meaning of a hearing impaired woman feeling the vibrations of this prayer in her *siddur* was very moving to me, and further deepened my connection to the song. I tell this anecdote because I think it typifies the spontaneous, elusive and unpredictable nature of *kavanah*: we don't seem to be able to control it, we can't know what will cause it, we never know for sure when it will happen, it seems to take us by surprise.

I was very conscious of this as we held meetings on *kavanah*. It's almost antithetical to try to legislate it, or come up with a "program" for it, or implement something or other to make it happen. *Kavanah* is a process, not an outcome. As soon as we try to work for it, we're out of it. So this, then, returns me to the nun's question in the headline: "How do you hold a moonbeam in your hand?"

¹ Kadish, S. (1997). *Kavanna. Directing the Heart in Jewish Prayer*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc.

Greetings and Blessings

By Rhea Harlow, Office Administrator

Last month you may have read my article entitled "Gratitude & Life". In fact, many of you who read it called me or spoke to me personally about it. The comments I received were primarily thanks for having written it and appreciation for "putting myself out there." Thank you for taking the time to contact me about the article. At the time I wrote the article, I was feeling both overwhelming gratitude for being a part of Netivot Shalom and grief over the loss of my sister. It was interesting to hear your comments and also to be told that I was expressing myself in a way that perhaps some are reluctant to do (for whatever reason that might be). Your responses caused me to stop and think about writing more and in fact many of you asked me to. Rabbi Kelman recently lent me a copy of *Does the Soul Survive, A Jewish Journey to Belief in Afterlife, Past Lives & Living with Purpose*, by Rabbi Elie Kaplan Spitz. What a gift from Rabbi Spitz. Many of his personal processes and experiences mirror my own and affirmed my personal beliefs about the afterlife. There is a beautiful passage from this wonderful book which reads:

"In our challenge to understand the uniqueness of our own souls and the particular purpose for which we were placed on this earth ... there is the following Hasidic story:

Before his death, Rabbi Zusya said, "In the coming world, they will not ask me: 'Why were you not Moses?' They will ask me, 'Why were you not Zusya?'"

I have heard this story told before and each time I am reminded of our unique gifts and how each of us are rays of light shining from the Source of All that Is. So when the wonderful people of Netivot Shalom say to me, "Thanks for putting yourself out there," I can only respond with, "Thank you for acknowledging me and yourselves and the light in all of us."

Again I will close with a favorite word: Namasté. It is a Hindu word that means, "hello", "goodbye" and "I recognize and greet the light within you." Milt Greenstein recently shared with me that "Shalom" also means very much the same things as Namaste', along with its general definition of "peace." So with a double blessing and love to all,

Shalom & Namasté.

Celebrate a Simcha!!

Sponsor a kiddush! Contact the Kiddush Coordinator, Rochelle Guinasso, at 524-3754 and at roguinasso@aol.com.

EDUCATION REPORTS

Adult Education

GENDER IN JUDAISM LECTURE SERIES

Cantor Carol Delton

will speak on
**Gender and Metaphor
in Jewish Liturgy**

**Shabbat, July 14
1:15-2:45 p.m.
in the library of the BRJCC**

Carol Delton is the scheduled speaker for the July lecture in the Gender and Judaism series. She is one of the leaders of Nishmat Shalom, the East Bay Feminist Minyan, and is known around the Bay Area as a cantorial singer and a teacher of traditional and alternative approaches to Jewish liturgy. Her special interest is in making traditional Jewish learning accessible to students of all back-grounds.

Please join us after kiddush. For more information, call Jonathan Heinstejn at 548-5830.



**Jennifer Ring &
Norman Jacobson**

invite you to join them on
Saturday, August 4

as their daughter,

Lillian Ring Jacobson,

is called to the Torah

as a Bat Mitzvah.

EDUCATION REPORTS

Youth Education

By Andrea Altschuler,
Youth Education Chair

AN ODE TO REGISTRATION

FROM SHABBAT B'YACHAD TO AMITIM

AND EVERYONE ELSE IN-BETWEEN:

IT'S TIME TO SEND IN REGISTRATION

IT'S TIME TO SEND IN A CHECK.

IT'S TIME TO SEND YOUR PAPERWORK BACK

SO IT'S NOT A PAIN IN THE NECK.

PLEASE MAKE US ALL SMILE AND SEND IT IN NOW

PLEASE DON'T BE TARDY AND MAKE US HAVE A COW.

IF YOU'VE RETURNED WHAT WE ASKED,

MANY BLESSINGS ON YOUR HEAD.

IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE IT ALREADY,

DO IT TODAY BEFORE YOU GO TO BED.

It's true, this may be my first (and last) piece of published poetry (so to speak). But did I get your attention? If you have children who participate in any of the shul's Youth Education programs from Shabbat B'Yachad to Amitim, you should have received your registration materials by now. If you have not, please contact the office immediately and we will send you the information you need. Please get your registration back to us by **July 16th**, the **31st** at the very latest (after that, there's a late fee!) Thanks very much. A peaceful, relaxing and recreational summer to all.

SHABBAT SHELANU: Jewish Education for Children Through Tefila, Kehilah and Family

By Judy Massarano

You know you're working for Netivot Shalom when:

- people congratulate you even before anything is made official;
- you get a slew of e-mails and phone calls immediately after the congratulations, and you have no choice but to begin working right away!

I think this speaks to a high level of excitement and energy at Netivot Shalom, and for this program, Shabbat Shelanu, which serves the needs of our kindergarten through Grade 2 children.

We began a recent planning brunch by reiterating the vision and goals of Shabbat Shelanu:

- To familiarize children and families with the basics of the Shabbat tefila (prayer) service and the Torah (specifically, Parsha or weekly portion) cycle,
- To build community among religious school and day school families
- To foster a sense of connection and belonging for all participants within Shabbat Shelanu and the broader *kehilah* (community)
- To empower parents to take a leadership role in their children's Jewish education

These goals are significant, each one taking thought and effort to achieve. In addition, many parents are interested in further enrichment involving the study of texts. What's wonderful and promising about all this, is that many of our parents themselves, and talented synagogue members of all ages, have something to offer in the pursuit of these goals. You will be tapped, and we will be delighted to learn from you!

Planning will continue throughout the summer, as this program takes further shape. Please save the date of **September 9**, for our kickoff event, when we will decorate our own Siddurim and Aron Kodesh (holy ark). This will also be the opportunity for you to sign up for the various tasks that make Shabbat Shelanu run successfully.

Because of the high level of motivation among our parents, Shabbat Shelanu will continue to meet throughout the summer on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Shabbatot of the month. Contact Judy Massarano to get involved and learn more: jdm@lmi.net or 644 -0654.

Shabbat B'Yachad

By Iris Greenbaum

I am writing to you in June following our shul-wide celebration in honor of our Shabbat B'Yachad families. A few highlights stand out in my memory: *L'dor v'dor* was vivid and real as parents and children participated in the Shabbat service. Children observed their parent or another Shabbat B'Yachad parent rise to open the Torah ark, rise to the bimah for an aliyah, lead the congregation in *brachot* or *tefilah*, read from the Torah, give a *drash* about the Torah portion, hold the Torah up high for all to see, or dress the Torah in its embroidered velvet jacket.

The children were excited to march in the Torah recessional, carrying their small plush Torah and feeling welcomed by the congregation as they followed the recessional in the adult service singing, "*Torah Tziva Lanu Moshe*". Many thanks to all of the Shabbat B'Yachad families whose participation infuses each of us with a sense of vibrancy and enthusiasm for Jewish observance and learning. Special thanks to Peggy Sandel for coordinating all of the details related to

our Shabbat morning service and to Cathy Shadd for sharing her Torah insights with the entire congregation in her very first *drash*!

The details of coordinating our shul-wide celebration gives me a special appreciation for the complexity of organizing over 600,000 Israelites to receive God's teachings. We had enough of a challenge in synchronizing the 80+ people from the children's service Torah parade with the adult's Torah recessional. These are special moments of anticipation and celebration for our children. With your patience and encouragement, we'll try again!

Special thanks to Vicky Kelman, Director of the Jewish Family Education Learning Project, of the Bureau of Jewish Education in San Francisco for leading participants in a discussion entitled, "What Shall We Tell the Children? The Pitfalls & Promises of Telling Bible Stories." Vicky's talk encouraged parents to grapple with the issue of engaging young children in conversation about Torah teachings while being authentic

to the Torah text. Vicky's presentation stimulated a desire to further explore this topic.

We are now planning for the fall! All new Shabbat B'Yachad families are invited to a New Families Brunch on **Sunday, August 19** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the shul office library. Join us for brunch and meet other Shabbat B'Yachad parents and children. Open to all families with children under five years of age. Siblings of all ages invited! Please RSVP to Iris at ext. 110. **Yamim Nora'im:** We plan to offer special High Holyday activities for preschool children, family services, and childcare on both days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. For registration materials, please call Iris.

We are also recruiting volunteers to assist with the children's Yamim Nora'im program, including preparing activities, setting up the children's kiddushim, leading in the children's service, telling Torah stories or shopping for food and supplies. Please volunteer to help! ✨

**Mazal Tov to
Yoni Tsafnat, son of
Karen & Nir Tsafnat,
who will be called to
the Torah as a
Bar Mitzvah in Israel
on Saturday, July 14**



ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING:

TORAH STUDY with Nitzhia Shaked and guest teachers. Meets every Shabbat at 9:00 a.m. in room 4 of the BRJCC.

OLDER ADULTS DISCUSSION GROUP Meets the 2nd Monday of each month. For information call Jean Bradman at 549-3231.

FREE CLASSICAL HEBREW LESSONS with Ethelyn Simon. Call 530-7970 for additional information.

LITURGY OF YAMIM NORA'IM with Rabbi Kelman. August 12, 10:00-11:30 a.m., August 16, 7:30-9:00 p.m., August 26, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

HEADCOVERINGS FOR WOMEN with Chai Levy. She will focus on traditional texts and modern understandings.

Opportunities to Offer Tzedakah

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Shabbat Greeters We need Shabbat Greeters to welcome people into our services on Saturday mornings. Volunteer to greet for one Shabbat. Call Susan Lawrence at 658-3105.

Book Reviewers Often 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.

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" interest you, please contact Rabbi Kelman at 549-9447 ext. 103.

CONTRIBUTIONS

eScrip / Schoolpop Each time you shop at Safeway, Andronico's, Albertsons and many other stores in the Bay Area, a percentage of your purchases can be donated to Netivot Shalom through eScrip and Schoolpop. Registration forms for eScrip and Albertsons Community Partner Cards are free and available through the congregation office. For Schoolpop, call 1-877-456-1032.

Planes, Trains & Automobiles

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

Stocks & Bequests To find out how to make a donation of stock to the congregation, contact Mark Priven at 559-8393. When drafting your will, please consider making a bequest to Congregation Netivot Shalom.

CAMPAIGN KICKOFF PARTY!!!

**Come see the new building
before we make it beautiful!**

Join a scavenger hunt! Daven Mincha!

Eat a barbeque dinner!

Plant a fruit tree!

Dance, dance, dance!

**July 3
4-8 pm
1316 University Ave.
(The new home of Congregation Netivot Shalom)**

**RSVP to Adam Brown, 510-644-2672
To volunteer at the party,
call Turi Adams, 415-648-3988 !**

DONATIONS TO NETIVOT SHALOM

SPECIAL NOTICE:

KITAH BET TZEDAKAH

During the past year, the students of Kitah Bet raised tzedakah to give to a local women's group. Their gift was donated to Tri-Valley Haven for Women, a program for women and their children who are victims of domestic violence, rape and other crisis situations. Tri-Valley is located in Livermore, California and they were very appreciative of the students' generosity.

ADULT EDUCATION

Cantor Pamela Sawyer in honor of Eva Heinstejn, Teaching Assistant

Noriko Obinata

Debby Graudenz &

Rom Rosenblum in memory of Neil Gozan's mother, Phoebe

Tara Serena Shaw in honor of the Hebrew classes

BIKKUR CHOLIM

David Levine & Joanna Weinberg

BUILDING FUND

Larry Bolder & Eva Sax-Bolder in memory of Don Fischer and Danielle Shelley's father, Mark Shelley

David & Irene Winston

in memory of Don Fischer

Robert & Dina Beck

Joan Bradus, MD in honor of Jordana Tzipor Meltzer

Karel Koenig

in honor of the Rosh Chodesh Group

Noriko Obinata

Hyman & Miriam San

in honor of Yizkor

Leslie Valas Finkelstein & Alan

Finkelstein in honor of Kyla Buchin's Bat Mitzvah

Carol & James Cunradi

in memory of Samuel Ira Lewis, father of John Lewis; Don Fischer, husband of Jan Fischer; and in honor of the birth of Jordana Meltzer, daughter of Norma Kaufman & Michael Meltzer

Helen Schneider in honor of Dr. Wendy Rosov and Jordana Tzipor,

daughter of Norma Kaufman & Michael Meltzer

Michael Piotrkowski &

Laurie Ann Holtzberg

in honor of Wendy Rosov's completing her doctorate

Mary Lukanuski in honor of Ross Andelman & Hannah Dresner's wedding

ETZ HAYIM: A TORAH COMMENTARY

Anonymous in honor of Jane Rubin

Rabbi Stuart & Victoria Kelman Nathan Martin

in memory of Faye Berman

Robert & Marilyn Beck

in memory of Abraham & Devorah Fox

Sidney & Ruth Derblich

Thalia Broudy & Laura Grossman

in memory of Dr. Donald Fischer

Jay Goldman & Mona Goldfine

in honor of Sarah & Isabel Goldman

Gerald J Derblich, Afikomen Inc.

Brenda Goldstein &

David Shragai in memory of Dr. Donald Fischer

Karel Koenig in honor of Carol, Jim, Laura & Clara Cunradi and Shirah, Chauncey, Nicolas & Livia Bell

Larry Hanover in memory of Irving & Rivka Hanover

Esther Kelman in memory of Patti Beth Kelman Mintz and in memory of Wilson Kelman

Peter Wahrhaftig & Rena Dorph

in memory of Sam Spiegler and in honor of Stuart & Vicky Kelman

Tony Hecht in memory of Sidney Hecht

YOUTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Shari Rifas in honor of the graduating Madrichim

Dean Kertesz & Carla Cassler

in memory of Imre Kertesz

GENERAL FUND

Jean Bradman in memory of Helen Wach's mother, Pearl Pollero

Nina & Fay Wouk in honor of Fay

Wouk's Aliyah

Ronna Kabatznick &

Peter Dale Scott in honor of the birth of Jordana Meltzer

Herbert & Ellen Brosbe in honor of Ariella Brodre Weisberg

Debby Graudenz &

Rom Rosenblum in honor of all those who helped during Debby's illness

Clarence & Anna Kaufman in honor of an Aliyah Shabbat service for their granddaughter, Jordana Tzipor Meltzer

NEWSLETTER

Eric & Julie Brink

RABBI'S

DISCRETIONARY FUND

Larry Bolder & Eva Sax-Bolder in honor of Talia Geleibter's Bat Mitzvah

Tracy Riggs

Dan Barki

Dr. K. Spiegler &

Mrs. Annie Spiegler

SHABBAT B'YACHAD FAMILY ED

Martin Myers & Deborah Lewis

David Marcus & Karen Friedman

Barry Kamil & Nancy Gurian

Rachel Spielman Seder

Miles & Lisa Gessow

Mel & Lisa Sibony

Rebecca Landes

Susan Sheftel

Marcia Simon

Lee Bearson & Beatrice Freiberg

Stan Dorn & Carla Ellern

Mehran & Shalva Sorani

Marion Colton in honor of naming of Tanya Freiberg Bearson

Robin Mencher

Ednah Beth Friedman

SUKKOT IN APRIL

Anonymous

TORAH STUDY

William & Naomi Teplow in memory of their beloved mother, Freda Goldeen

YOUTH EDUCATION

Cantor Pamela Sawyer in honor of Eli Anders & Rebecca Harris-Rudolph, teaching assistants, for their work with Youth Education

Larry Bolder & Eva Sax-Bolder in honor of Kyla Buchin's Bat Mitzvah and George & Toby Gidal's new granddaughter, Carlotta

Wendy Rosov & Lisa Harbus in honor of the birth of Ariella Brodie Weisberg, daughter of Adam Weisberg & Rachel Brodie

Debby Graudenz &

Rom Rosenblum in memory of those remembered during Yizkor on Shavuot

David Finn & Andrea Altschuler in honor of Wendy Rosov's PhD and Alison & Steven Waterman's marriage

Donation Card

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- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
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ETZ HAYIM: A Torah Commentary

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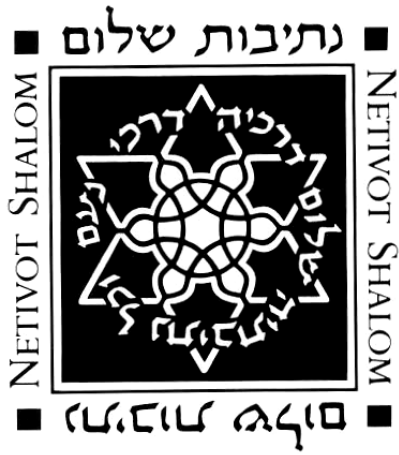
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