



From The Rabbi

K'vod HaTorah & K'vod HaBeriyot

By Rabbi Stuart Kelman

Recently, Artscroll published a new *tikkun*. For those of you unfamiliar with it, a *tikkun* is the book one uses for practice when preparing to read Torah. Usually, a *tikkun* has two columns of Torah text: one in ordinary Hebrew font with vowels, punctuation and trope (musical notes), and the other depicting the way the text appears in the Torah itself, without vowels, punctuation or trope.

There are many editions of *tikkunim* and this one has some unique features. There is an English translation (no, it's not the *Etz Hayim* translation and not even that of the Jewish Publication Society). It's a pretty literal, orthodox translation which appears alongside a column of brief commentary. But it is the back of the *tikkun* that fascinates me. There, one finds all five *megillot*, plus two special sections. The first, taken from the *Shulchan Aruch* and other law codes, is called "Laws and Customs of the Public Torah Reading". The second section is entitled "Bar Mitzvah/ Foundations For the Future". I want to focus on the first of these sections, the one having to do with reading the Torah.

This Artscroll essay contains many subsections: The order of reading on Monday and Thursday, Who is called to the Torah on Shabbat, How many verses for each *aliyah* (minimum of three), Interruptions during the Torah Blessings, Laws for the one who comes up for an *aliyah*, Laws about misreadings, Laws about the scroll itself, Laws about speaking during the Torah reading, and Laws about not

leaving the synagogue until the Torah has been returned to the ark. So, I wondered, what links all these sections? What is the value concept underlying all these laws? Clearly, it is *K'vod haTorah*, the honor and respect given to the Torah scroll itself. It would be an insult, for example, to take out a scroll and not read from it. Just the way it is dressed reflects the solemnity and awe with which we need to treat it. Many people, when they first come to our services, comment on the fact that we correct our Torah readers if they err. How is it that we correct someone so publicly? Aren't we embarrassing that person? Clearly the value of *K'vod haTorah* trumps the value of an individual's pride. The words of the Torah are held with such esteem and reverence that we must ensure they are read and heard properly. In much the same way, no *sofer* ever signs his name to a Torah he has produced. What is important are the words of the Torah; less important is the instrument (us) by which we transmit those words.

This Artscroll essay also reminds us that we are not permitted to move around during the reading of the Torah; no comings and no goings, just listening and attending to the reading of the Torah. Between *aliyot* it is okay to move around, but when the Torah is actually being read our attention needs to be directed to hearing the words. *K'vod haTorah*: the respect given to the Torah.

This also seems to be an occasion to remind ourselves that it is an honor to be called to the Torah. We approach

the *bimah* from the shortest way possible, and, at least according to Ashkenazic custom, we pause at the other side of the *bimah* while the next *aliyah* is read. Only at its conclusion do we return to our seats, walking more slowly than was our approach to the *bimah*. We rush to honor the Torah, and we linger in its presence.

Another concept that emerged from looking at these laws is *K'vod haBeriyot*, the honor or respect due to individuals, to others. During the Torah reading, according to Artscroll, there are certain specific people who have priority in receiving an *aliyah*. Traditionally, Kohanim and Leviim were given the first and second *aliyot* because of their inherited status. We usually don't follow this practice because we hold the principle of egalitarianism to be more important. But clearly there is an order among other sets of people. First come a *chatan* and *kallah* who are about to be married, a bar (or in our case, a bat) mitzvah comes next, followed by the parents of a newborn. Next comes someone observing a *Yahrzeit* for a parent, and then important guests. Artscroll reminds us that a father and a son (or two siblings) may not be called up one after the other because that might imply honoring one over the other.

The *gabbai's* simple task of assigning *aliyot* shows the respect we accord people and the events in their lives. I hope that in coming years other categories of people will be added: those observing a significant birthday, anniversary, special occasion in their lives, an anniversary of a bar or bat



Congregation Netivot Shalom

1841 Berkeley Way • Berkeley, California 94703
Telephone: 510-549-9447 • Fax: 510-549-9448
www.netivotshalom.org • email: administrator@netivotshalom.org
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 10:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. • Friday 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

RABBI & STAFF

Rabbi

Rabbi Stuart Kelman
549-9447 ext. 103
skelman@netivotshalom.org

Office Administrator

Rhea Harlow
549-9447 ext. 101
administrator@netivotshalom.org

Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Zahigian
549-9447 ext. 102 • aa@netivotshalom.org

Bookkeeper

Lauri Abrahamson
549-9447 ext. 246
bookkeeper@netivotshalom.org

Education Administrator

Lorraine Rosenblatt
549-9447 ext. 104 • edu@netivotshalom.org

Education Coordinator, Birth-Grade 2

Judy Massarano
549-9447 ext. 249 • eduk@netivotshalom.org

Education Coordinator, Grades 3-6

Bat Sheva Miller
549-9447 ext. 248 • edu3@netivotshalom.org

Community Programs Coordinators

Melissa Rogoway
549-9447 ext. 110 • MRogoway@aol.com

Midrasha Director

Diane Bernbaum
843-4667 • dianebernbaum@midrasha.org

Ramah Day Camp Director

Melissa Rogoway
549-9447 ext. 111
ramah@netivotshalom.org

Ritual Coordinator

Peggy Sandel
843-9027 • orypeg@msn.com

Tiferet Coordinator

Rose Levinson
549-9447 ext. 244

Building Campaign

Adam Brown
644-2743
campaign@netivotshalom.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Debby Graudenz
525-1814 • president@netivotshalom.org

Vice President

Mark Priven
559-8393 • privwest@pacbell.net

Secretary

Robert Jacobvitz
268-9100 • secretary@netivotshalom.org

Treasurer

Eugene Berg
415-665-3927 • treasurer@netivotshalom.org

Past President

Pauline Moreno
428-1048 • touchrs@aol.com

Finance Chair

Rena Dorph
527-6656 • rena.dorph@ucop.edu

At Large

Turi Adams
415-648-3988 • live-mic@majornet.com

George Gidal
841-8868 • ggidal@attbi.com

Florence Lewis
524-8013 • florencelewis@earthlink.net

Joe Meresman
653-1978 • MeresmanJ@aol.com

Brad Rudolph
524-2245 • bradrudolf@aol.com

RESOURCES

Bikkur Cholim

Peter Strauss
547-8174 • nanandpeter@yahoo.com

Chevra Kadisha Coordinator

Andrea Cassidy
549-1407 • acass@cc.co.contra-costa.ca.us

Cuban Affairs Coordinator

June Safran
526-7173 • junesafran@aol.com

Drash Coordinator

Rena Fischer
658-8713 • rena@itsa.ucsf.edu

Etz Hayim Book Order Coordinator

Rena Fischer
658-8713 • rena@itsa.ucsf.edu

Gemilut Chassadim

Lee Feinstein
527-0464 • lee@mtsobek.com
Sharon Priven (New Babies)
559-8393 • privwest@pacbell.net

Kiddush Coordinator

Janet Harris
524-2245 • janeth2@aol.com

Mashgichim

Glenn Massarano
644-0654 • massaran@lmi.net

Newsletter Editor

Karen Friedman
528-0728 • newsletter@netivotshalom.org

Shabbat Greeter Coordinator

Robin Braverman
925-979-1998 • rivkah48@aol.com

Torah Study Coordinator

Open

Web-Shomer

Jim Davis
webmaster@netivotshalom.org

Yahrzeit Coordinator

Diana Wood

COMMITTEES

Administration Chair

Jan Malvin
658-8780 • janmalvin@yahoo.com

Adult Education Chair

Jonathan Heinstein
548-5830 • jheinstein@hotmail.com

Capital Campaign Steering Committee co-Chairs

Art Braufman
525-8492 • braufs@cs.com
Ann Swidler
644-0858 • swidler@uclink2.berkeley.edu
Claudia Valas
848-6536 • eks@wenet.net

Community Building co-Chairs

Mel & Lisa Sibony
841-2268 • sibony@telocity.com
Cathy Shadd
654-5522 • cshadd@pacbell.net

House Chair

Sally Martin
559-8880

Membership Chair

Joanna Weinberg
653-0679 • weinbgj@itsa.ucsf.edu

Public Relations Chair

Claude Fischer
fischer1@uclink4.berkeley.edu

Ritual Chair

Josh Gressel
234-4862 • adirhu@yahoo.com

Site Work Group Chair

Joe Meresman
653-1978 • MeresmanJ@aol.com

Social Action Chair

Cyndi Spindell Berck
524-2984 • cyndiberck@hotmail.com

Youth Education Chair

Andrea Altschuler
649-9290 • andalt1@yahoo.com

Deadline for the March newsletter is **February 6, 2002**. E-mail submissions and Letters To The Editor to: newsletter@netivotshalom.org.

TEFILAH SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS

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
February 16 9:30 a.m.

Learner's Minyan,
2nd & 4th Shabbat
February 9 & 23 9:45 a.m.

For Children & Parents:

Shabbat B'Yachad (pre-school),
2nd & 4th Shabbat
February 9 & 23 11:00 a.m.

Shabbat Shelanu (grades K-2),
1st & 3rd Shabbat
February 2 & 16 11:30 a.m.

Children's Service
for K-2nd grade 11:30 a.m.
(2nd & 4th Shabbat)
for 3-6th grade 10:30 a.m.
each Saturday, unless otherwise indicated

WEEKDAY MINYANIM

All services are held at our offices, 1841 Berkeley Way, Berkeley

Morning Minyan
Wednesdays 7:15 a.m.

Rosh Chodesh Minyan
Rosh Chodesh Adar,
Tuesday, February 12 7:15 a.m.

TORAH STUDY SCHEDULE FOR:

FEBRUARY

- 2 Torah Study of Yitro with Nitzhia Shaked
- 9 Torah Study of Mishpatim with Rena Fischer
- 16 Torah Study of Terumah with Nitzhia Shaked
- 23 Torah Study of Tetzaveh (teacher TBA)

President's Letter

By the time you read this, our Annual Meeting will be close at hand. On one hand, it's hard to believe that a year has passed since I became president. On the other, I wonder that it's been only a year. The tragedies of September 11th and the ongoing aftermath have served to warp time, making us feel we're watching the world in stop-action photography. For Netivot Shalom, it's been a fruitful year, one in which we've seen growth, reached amazing goals, and have worked on setting our sights even higher.

When we gather for the Annual Meeting on **February 10th** we will be saying "Todah rabbah!" to those Committee Chairs and members of the Board who have completed their terms. I'd like to take a moment, and thank each of them here. Their commitment, energy, and resourcefulness are beyond imagination. As a participatory congregation, we rely on those who volunteer their time and their selves to ensure the level of programming and services that we've all come to expect and enjoy.

Jonathan Heinstein will be stepping down as Adult Education Chair. Jonathan has brought a unique vision and creativity to Adult Education these past two years, and I'm happy to say that he's agreed to remain on the Adult Education Committee. Sally Martin is stepping down from her position as Chair of the House Committee. In her one-year tenure she's doubled the number of people on this committee (these are the people who take turns coming early each Shabbat and *chag* to set up at the JCC) and found a working solution to our post-services custodian problem. Joanna Weinberg stepped into a sudden opening as Membership Chair over a year ago. Joanna organized programs such as the New Member Havdalah, and the Chaverim program, in which a new member/family is buddied up with an established member/family. Andrea Altschuler is completing her third year as Chair of Youth Education, having agreed to "re-up" after completing her two-year term. Andrea's leadership and image of how to create a meaningful education program for our children (not to mention her great sense of humor) have been invaluable, and these continue with her participation in the Search Committee for our new Educator.

Eugene Berg has completed his one-year term as Treasurer. This has been a year of transition with the hiring of a part-time bookkeeper, and Eugene has worked to develop systems for a division of labor. Robert Jacobvitz has completed his term as Secretary (though as of this writing, there are rumors that he might continue). Along with taking minutes and keeping us on schedule, Bob brings the perspective of one who has worked within the Jewish community for many years. Rena Dorph, our Finance Chair, has been a one-woman committee developing and maintaining our budget, talking with members for dues arrangements, and finishing up this year with not only re-designing the Finance Committee, but also chairing the Nominating Committee. George Gidal is completing his one-year term as a member at-large of the Board, having brought his knowledge, experience and perspective as a past president to our meetings and decision-making. Joe Meresman, elected as a member at-large, became Chair of the Site Work Group. He will continue in this capacity, leaving the Board. And last, but not least, Brad Rudolph has also completed his one-year term as a member at-large on the Board.

Again, I can't say enough about those who are willing to give of themselves to make Netivot Shalom the community to which we all choose to belong. To all of you, *kol hakavod* and *yashir ko'ach!* We will be thanking those who are stepping down and then electing new members of the Board and Committee Chairs at the Annual Meeting on February 10th. **Please note that the meeting this year will be held at the BRJCC.** Childcare will be provided at that same location. I look forward to seeing you there.

On another note: Be happy! Adar is (almost) here. On **February 12th and 13th** we'll celebrate Rosh Chodesh Adar. That means that Purim is not too far off —

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President's Letter

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Erev Purim is the evening of **February 25th**. This is the holiday everyone loves: celebrating freedom and deliverance, costumes, gaiety, pranks, reading *Megilat Esther*, graggers, *hamantaschen*, *mishlo'ach manot* — what's not to love? When I was in Hebrew Day School, on the day of *Erev Purim*, my father, who was the principal of our school, would patrol the halls and visit each classroom dressed up as a clown (costume, wig, make-up, big red nose, floppy shoes). I can still hear the peals of laughter and delight as the younger children realized who this clown was. It's time for all of us to experience that joy and relief, and I hope you'll come to our celebration.

*B'shalom,***From the Rabbi**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mitzvah. It is a wonderful way to celebrate these occasions, not only by being honored, but also by honoring our Torah.

K'vod haBeriyot is a value we should observe at two other times during the service: certainly when someone is giving a drash, for here the principle of respect for another, in this case, a teacher, certainly holds; and also during the Amida when we are standing up. In fact, each one of us at that moment creates our own sacred space. It's like being enveloped in a capsule where only you and God exist. Sure, we are standing in a group, the minyan, but at that moment we each have a chance to connect with the *Kadosh Baruch Hu*. Saying the words of the Amida, or just standing there in the privacy of our own thoughts, permits contact with the *Shechinah*, the Divine Presence.

K'vod haTorah and *K'vod haBeriyot* stand as the foundation for who we are and how we act — towards our Torah, towards ourselves, towards our God and towards the other. These values are translated into laws and customs, and inform our decisions about synagogue practice. In this small column it is impossible to offer more of the specific practices. I encourage you to look at this *tikkun*, or other codes, to better appreciate these concepts. ✧

Ritual Fair, Part II & Pot Luck Brunch

By Robin Braverman

Rituals of Torah, T'Filah, Shabbat & Home
*plus:*Rituals of Pesach & Rituals of the Mikvah, Pregnancy,
Birth, Adoption, Infertility & Miscarriage

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 • 10:30 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

AT THE SHUL, 1841 BERKELEY WAY

Rituals of Pesach

The house is dark. The children giggle, having hidden balls of bread in each room of my sparkling clean, *hametz*-free, home. Our friends have come, as they have done for many years. Silently, with a candle and a feather and a wooden spoon, we proceed around the house in silence. The children have taken great joy in putting the bits of bread in "interesting" places — on the keyboard of my computer, on the top of a picture frame hanging on the wall, on the top of the coat rack. When we're done we recite the "formula." What I have not seen and removed shall be as the dust of the earth. I finally feel that I'm done cleaning and preparing.

The next morning I take out my grandparent's bucket. They didn't have a fireplace, so they always burned their *hametz* in a bucket—this bucket. There is something final about it. It was always, for me, the true beginning of Pesach. I can still see my grandfather standing over the bucket. With tears in my eyes, I light the paper bag in the bucket and recite the "formula." I am a link in the chain.

Perhaps no holiday is richer in ritual and tradition than Pesach. Come and learn and explore. Begin a new tradition for yourself. Now is the time.

Rituals of Mikvah, Pregnancy, Birth, Adoption, Infertility and Miscarriage

I was in my 7th year of infertility, two operations for me, one for my husband, many procedures, lots of fertility drugs. A friend who was a serious pagan came to me with a "spell." On a certain night at a certain time, my husband and I should take this bag of herbs and put it under a

pillow and say these certain things etc, etc. I took the spell and put it in a drawer to wait for that certain time on that certain night. And when the time came, I took it out and looked at it and looked at my husband, and I shook my head and said, "Jews don't do this." I tossed the "spell" in the trash. But what *do* Jews do?

Finally, we found our daughter. Years of longing and searching were over. She was seven and had "come home" to us on a June day. She was excited to know that soon we would go to the court and the adoption would be final — she would be our forever daughter. "And you will be adopted by the Jewish people too," I said. "How will that happen?" she asked. "Well," I said, "You'll have to sit on the bottom of a little swimming pool."

Is there a Jewish way to give birth? To mourn a miscarriage? Are there Jewish rituals for different stages of pregnancy? Come explore with us. Now is the time.

This ritual Fair, like the first, will provide participants the opportunity to purchase books and ritual objects that go along with the rituals presented. And we will feed each other with a pot luck dairy/veggie/kosher fish brunch. The one-hour workshops will be repeated twice, giving the participants the opportunity to take in more than one. The workshops on Pesach and on Pregnancy, Birth, Infertility, Adoption, and Miscarriage, are two-hour sessions which will only be presented once each.

Come join us. It will be fun and informal. It's the place to learn those things you always wanted to know, but didn't know whom to ask. Now is the time. ✧

Mishloach Manot: Don't Miss the Fun!

By Mel Sibony, Community Building Co-Chair

"They are to observe these as days of feasting and gladness, and for sending delicacies to one another, and giving gifts to the poor." (Esther 9:22)

What do community building and *Mishloach Manot* deliveries have in common? The mitzvah of *Shelah Manot* not only allows for the "joy of giving," but is intrinsically a statement of connection. The process of making a *Shelah Manot* list, preparing, then delivering these gifts, is a wonderful way of explicitly acknowledging the family and community who influence your life. It is a wonderful way of teaching that "we are not alone." (Don't be afraid to be the first *Shelah Manot*-giver in your neighborhood!)

Please help out with this important mitzvah, and meet other Netivot Shalom members at the same time.

1. Assemble Misloach Manot What better way to get to know someone than to put together Purim treats! This will take place on **Thursday, February 21** at the Netivot Shalom Office, from 3:00-7:00 p.m.

2. Deliver Misloach Manot Everyone loves to get presents! Be the bearer of food baskets to ten of your neighbors! Pick-up will be at the Netivot Shalom Office from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on **Sunday, February 24**.

Join in the fun! Volunteer for at least one of these activities by contacting Mel or Lisa Sibony (510-841-2268 / sibony@telocity.com) or Cathy Shadd (510-654-5522 / cshadd@pacbell.net) Or if someone calls you, please say, "Yes!" Your community is counting on you!

Reading of Megilat Esther for Purim

Netivot Shalom's reading of the Megilah will take place on **Monday, February 25th** at the BRJCC, from 6:00 p.m.-midnight, and will include a Purim *shpiel* for adults, treats for kids, and of course, the usual Purim silliness. *Don't forget to come in costume!*



A PURIM B'YACHAD CELEBRATION!

The festive spirit of Purim inspires our youngest members with joyful anticipation! Come hear the story of Queen Esther at our Purim celebration for families with children under five years old (siblings welcome). Join us for tasty treats, songs, and Purim fun on **Sunday, February 24**, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., at the BRJCC, room 14. RSVP a must! Please call Lorraine Rosenblatt, Education Administrator, at ext. 104. Free to SBY members & Netivot Shalom Kindergarteners.

The Halacha (Laws) of Giving Gifts on Purim

By Rabbi Shraga Simmons

▷ *Mishloach Manot* is fulfilled by sending two types of ready-to-eat food to at least one friend. This mitzvah should be performed on Purim day itself.

▷ There is a custom to send *Mishloach Manot* through a third-person messenger, since the word *mishloach* is related to the word for messenger, *shaliach*.

▷ *Matanot La'evyonim* is fulfilled by giving money to at least two poor people on the day of Purim. The gift should at least equal the value of a fast-food meal.

▷ This is not a "family" obligation, but rather each person should perform the mitzvah him or herself.

▷ The money needn't be given directly to a poor person, but can be given to a community representative — as long as the money is actually distributed to the poor on Purim day.

▷ *Matanot La'evyonim* is a special mitzvah, not to be included in the amount of money a person sets aside for charity during the rest of the year.

▷ Maimonides writes that it is inappropriate to buy expensive *Mishloach Manot*, if this will come at the expense of larger gifts to the poor.

Rosh Chodesh Group

The Rosh Chodesh group will meet on **Tuesday, February 12**, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Claire Sherman will guide us in making amulets and ritual objects. Please contact Toby Gidal, tgidal@attbi.com for location and other information.

Midrasha Shabbat!

SATURDAY, MARCH 2
Services will be led by the students of Midrasha.

Order Purim Baskets to be sent to friends & family, far & near! And support Youth & Family Education Programs at the same time!

**Chai Basket \$18
Chai v'chetzi Basket \$27**

- These baskets include assorted and numerous sweets and treats, with the **Chai v'chetzi** basket having about one-and-a-half times as much as the **Chai** basket.
- Make checks payable to Congregation Netivot Shalom, indicate "Purim Basket".
- Delivery is free for local destinations (Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, Oakland). A charge of \$5.00 will be added for mailing within the U.S.
- **All orders must be received & paid in full by February 6, 2002.** Order forms are available from Lorraine in the Education Office.
- **All proceeds will go to support Netivot Shalom's Youth & Family Education Programs.** (As in past years, all Netivot Shalom members will still receive *mishloach manot* from the shul.)

Sender(s):

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone _____

Recipient(s): (Feel free to send to more than three!)

1. Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Basket Size: Chai Chai v'chetzi \$5.00 Shipping fee \$ _____

2. Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Basket Size: Chai Chai v'chetzi \$5.00 Shipping fee \$ _____

3. Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Basket Size: Chai Chai v'chetzi \$5.00 Shipping fee \$ _____

Total amount: \$ _____

For more information and/or if you'd like to help with a really fun project, call Karen Friedman at 528-0728 or e-mail newsletter@netivotshalom.org.

Mature Mavens

Our next get together is planned for **Monday, February 11**, at 7:00 p.m. Jane Rubin will present a workshop on "Sharing Our Personal Legacies". Please join us! Call Iris Greenbaum to RSVP or for more information (524-8448).

Thank you to Hilda Kessler for leading us in "The Harvest Years". The ideas and discussion related to the experiences and meanings we derive at this stage of our lives were quite poignant. Thank you Hilda!

Jewish Heritage Tour to Spain

Congregant Steve Bileca is leading a Jewish Heritage Trip to Spain this spring, open to members of Netivot Shalom and other congregations of Northern California. The dates are May 17-28, and the itinerary includes some of Sephardic Spain's most enchanting sights: Seville, Granada, Córdoba, Segovia and Toledo. Space is limited to 16 people. Call Steve at 510-339-1498 for more information.

**A Reminder:
Religious School will be closed
February 16 & 18 for Presidents' Day.**

Rabbi Kelman Repairs Torah

The Mendocino Coast Jewish Community's Torah scroll, which was accidentally damaged during the annual Simchat Torah rewinding, has been repaired. The scroll originally belonged to the Czech Jewish community of Sedicany and was stolen by the Nazis during the Holocaust. The scrolls warehoused by the Germans were collected after the war by The Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre in London and one of these scrolls was loaned to the MCJC.

We owe many thanks to Rabbi Stuart Kelman of Congregation Netivot Shalom in Berkeley, who re-stitched the scroll back together and patched it. Rabbi Kelman studied with a scribe in Jerusalem when he was a rabbinical student.

Rabbi Kelman informed us that aside from being non-kosher, our scroll has some severe problems. The stitching is starting to fail and the parchment itself is deteriorating rapidly. Rabbi Kelman suggested a modification to the *etzim* (rollers) that will help preserve the scrolls. It might be time to start thinking about obtaining another scroll for use during services. If anyone knows of a community with extra scrolls or a source for used scrolls needing a new home in a loving community, please contact the MCJC at 707/964-6146.

Reprinted with permission from the "Mendocino Megillah", a publication of the Mendocino Coast Jewish Community.

Cuba in Our Hearts

By Bob & June Safran

Once again Cuba wove its magic spell on our lives. This trip, however, far exceeded our expectations. Planned as a visit to help celebrate David Budegin's Bar Mitzvah, the journey began with an early morning flight from SFO, finally arriving in Santiago de Cuba at 11:30 p.m. After a trying two- and-a-half hours in the airport, during which June successfully talked customs out of charging us a dollar tax for every dollar's worth of gifts and aid we brought, we fell into the arms of the patiently waiting leaders of the Jewish community.

We spent the next day greeting our friends, introducing the educators we brought along, and arranging the Bar Mitzvah party for Motzei Shabbat. Kabbalat Shabbat arrived along with the familiar exuberance of the congregation, augmented by the 14 of us who had come for this special occasion.

Michal Landau, a Cal student, and her friend, Sam Wurzel from Brown, came to teach in several communities. Bonnie Burt, Mark Liss, Adam Burt Liss from Oakland, Rafi Silberblatt from CBI, Julie and Deborah Lokin from New York, Stan Falkenstein from Los Angeles, Miriam Saul from Atlanta, Bary Schneider from Canada, and New York photographer Chrystie Sherman made up the group of visitors who came to celebrate with the Farin family. About half of us were returnees known to the Hatikva community.

After Kabbalat Shabbat services that included an inspirational reading provided by Hatikva member Lourdes Levy, we shared a meal, complete with challah made by Vicente Dorado, who bakes each Friday, and some wonderful kosher wine provided by members of both Netivot Shalom and Beth Israel for this celebration. Shabbat morning brought the service for which we had traveled so far. David, whom we had watched grow up, led services together with his uncle, Julio Aloma, layned Torah, and gave a *d'var Torah*. June and Bob, representing Congregation Netivot Shalom, presented David with a Chumash, a shofar, and a Bar Mitzvah certificate, along with many words of praise. *Muchos mazel*, lunch in the synagogue complete with a giant, gooey cake, study-sessions, a few hours rest, and we were ready to party.

Poolside at the Melia Santiago Hotel provided the perfect setting for a meal which was marvelous from the first warm

welcome, through Havdalah, and to the last bite of ice-cream. A group of musicians, (Of course! This is Cuba!) played for our enjoyment and many young people swam in the pool. A great time was had by all.

Sunday brought our traditional trip to the cemetery and beach but with far fewer people than usual. The Farins were gathered at the hospital where Eugenia's daughter, Betty, had been in labor all night and the baby had not yet come. By the time we returned, however, we were greeted with the news of Alejandra Sophia's birth (six and a half pounds, 19 inches — mother and baby doing well). We finally saw her in the hospital the next evening, a beautiful little girl with lots of black hair, dark complexion and long slim fingers. Sophia's arrival delayed our planned baby shower by a couple of days, but everyone was excited by the video of the Netivot Shalom B'Yachad children and parents wrapping presents for Betty and baby Sophia and by the terrific presents these pre-school children and parents had chosen. "*Muy fantastico!*" and "*Que linda!*" issued forth again and again as the wrapping came off yet another package. Abilio, the proud papa, was effusive in his thanks to everyone who organized and carried out this wonderful *mitzvah*.

While we are talking of Abilio, I might mention that he has been studying Hebrew for just two months with Julio Aloma, yet he was able to read some of the *Ayseth Chayel* (without vowels) donated by a Congregation Beth Israel member for Betty and Abilio to hang in their room. I was impressed. Before the shower of presents, there was a little ceremony welcoming the baby into the home, complete with two cakes, each with one candle, and the singing of "Happy Birthday" in Spanish and Hebrew.

One evening we turned the tables on our friends by planning and cooking a Chinese (well, sort of) dinner for 12. Marcos went shopping with instructions to buy the largest variety of vegetables he could find and some chicken breasts. He returned with sweet potatoes, cabbage, lettuce, tomato, garlic, onions, plantains, and chicken thighs and legs. June had brought tofu and soy sauce with us. First we scrubbed Matilde's open-air kitchen. Then Matilde, Juan, Rafi, Sam, Michal and Bob started peeling, cutting, chopping, and separating ingredients for three dishes — a chicken, sweet potato, onion, and garlic stir-fry; a cabbage, onion, garlic, and soy

marinated tofu stir-fry; and a tomato, onion, tofu and sugar sauté. June made egg flower soup with cucumbers and mushrooms to start the meal. Added to this was a mixed salad, and the meal was topped off with cookies, cake and dried apricots soaked in rum.

Our final day began with a frantic effort to get packed and out of our B & B. We lunched with the Bar Mitzva's mother, Emma Farin, David (our Bar Mitzvah), and Rafi Silberblatt from Berkeley. We finished just in time to be picked up by Julio Alamo and Mati Farin. We were their guests for a drive along Santiago Bay in a hired car, arriving at El Morro Castle for a sunset cannon ceremony, thus ending our trip with a bang! (A big bang!) We returned in time to say goodbye to Salomon and Yolanda and daughters, Ariadna and Karen, Matilde and Juan, parents of the community artist, Marcos, and others. June gave last-minute instructions to Michal and Sam for their weeks of teaching and traveling, and then we paused to video Marcos' mother, Matilde, reading *Jamberry*, a silly poem that elicited lots of laughs (also great for learning pronunciation). Then we were off to the airport to check-in and say *L'hitraot* to Emma, David, Julio, Mati, and proud president and new *abuela*, Eugenia, who had come to see us off. Everyone in Hatikva wishes their many friends at Netivot Shalom a happy New Year, a year of Peace and Good Health and a year in which many should come to visit their Cuban sisters and brothers. ✦

Dear Rabbi Kelman,
The members of the
Comunidad Hebra Hatikva
want to extend our
appreciation for the \$300
donation, made in order that
every Jewish family in this city
could have oil to celebrate
Chanukah. To you and your
family, as well as to our sister
congregation Netivot Shalom,
we send a warm hello and again
our appreciation on behalf of
all the members of Hatikva.

Salomon Botain
and Eugenia Farin

Chevra Kadisha

By Andrea Cassidy, Chevra Kadisha Coordinator

During Yamim Nora'im it is determined who shall die and who shall live during the coming year. Very few of us have notice. Why not think about the issues that people try to avoid? Pre-planning is an opportunity to indicate one's wishes for arrangements after death. Why leave your relatives pondering what you might have wanted? Do you want a traditional, *halachic* treatment of your body? Do you want a separate service in a chapel or other location, or one at graveside? Are there specific people you want notified or invited? Often people want to make donations in someone's honor and it is most meaningful when the deceased has identified a charitable recipient. Considering these issues does not take very long, it only takes a willingness to consider the possibility. Like life insurance, pre-planning is a task that one hopes won't be utilized this year, but is a gift to family and friends when needed.

As a result of the closing of Ellis Olsen Mortuary in Albany, which has been used by many in the congregation, we have arranged replacement services with Wilson Kratzer Mortuary in Richmond. While it is slightly more distant, it is convenient to Tel Shalom Cemetery. Wilson Kratzer has performed Jewish funerals and is willing to work with the Chevra Kadisha to conform to our congregation's practices. They have agreed to a package that includes transportation of the deceased to the funeral home, a traditional Jewish casket, facilities for *taharah* (ritual cleansing and dressing of the deceased) and *sh'mirah* (the watching of the body after *taharah* until burial), hearse transportation of the deceased to the cemetery, as well as coordinating with the cemetery, obtaining the death certificate and burial permit. Transportation from distant locations, the use of chapels at the funeral parlor for services, and the use of limousines for family members would be extra services that could be obtained for an additional fee. The agreed fee is very reasonable. By educating Wilson Kratzer to the congregation's needs and traditions, members can contact them when necessary and indicate that they are Netivot Shalom members and the arranged package will be automatically initiated. The funeral director can arrange to collect the necessary information and signature from the family, thus eliminating any need to go to the funeral home. However, we always encourage family members to participate in *sh'mirah* after the *taharah* is complete. Cynthia Sousa at Wilson Kratzer is aware of the congregation's package and can be reached at 232-4383. Wilson Kratzer is located at Barrett Avenue and 24th Street in Richmond, easily accessible from Interstate 80 at the Macdonald or Barrett Avenue exits.

A death certificate must be issued and registered with the county before burial can take place. The required information for a death certificate is the name, address, social security number, marital status, years of education, race, and ethnicity, if hispanic, of the deceased, names of the deceased's parents, place of birth for the deceased and parents, location of death, doctor attending, usual employment of deceased including number of years, name of person providing information and spouse's information, if applicable. It is helpful to collect this information in advance and

we will be providing forms to do so. If you maintain an emergency binder with insurance and banking information, this information could be housed there as well.

The Chevra Kadisha services include assisting the family with funeral arrangements, performing *taharah* and *sh'mirah*, preparing meals for the family after the funeral, arranging *minyanim* for *shiva*, and counseling the bereaved. These services are provided by volunteers who are as busy as most people in our community. Additional volunteers are always needed, especially someone who can take over coordination of the post-funeral meals. Please contact the office if you can help. ✧

SOCIAL ACTION REPORT

Sukkot in April Update

By Jonathan Klein

Each April, Rebuilding Together, a non-profit organization, mobilizes volunteers to repair the homes of low-income people who are elderly and disabled. As we have for the past two years, Congregation Netivot Shalom is organizing a pool of volunteers to repair one such house on April 28, 2002.

Netivot Shalom is seeking to raise \$3,000 to cover the cost of materials, insurance, etc. If we can raise the full \$3,000 it may help with having the entire team of Netivot Shalom volunteers being assigned to work on fixing up a house near the University Avenue site. We hope that would be a tangible demonstration of the type of good neighbors we will be.

Todah Rabah to the families from Netivot Shalom who have already pledged their financial support. We are only \$450 short of our goal. If you can pledge any amount, please contact Jonathan Klein at 510-524-0939 or jklein03@sprynet.com.

More Social Action Notes

By Cyndi Spindell Berck

Thank you to everyone who contributed blankets for Afghan refugees and books for the Jewish Coalition for Literacy. And ongoing thanks for contributions to the food barrel.

Still Calling All Environmentalists: Netivot Shalom is now a member of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) and California Interfaith Power and Light, but not an active member. Anyone interested in representing our synagogue in one of these environmental coalitions, or in looking at ways to incorporate environmental concerns into our educational and other programs, can contact me. Tu B'Shvat was last week (January 28) so maybe now is the time!

Next Meeting: The Social Action Committee meets on the second Monday of the month (**Monday, February 11**) 7:00-8:00 p.m. at 1048 Keith Ave. (between Spruce and Euclid). Contact Cyndi Berck at 524-2984 or cyndiberck@hotmail.com.

UNIVERSITY AVENUE SITE WORK GROUP

"Coming Soon to a Liquor Store Near You ..."

By Joe Meresman, Site Work Group Chair

By the time you read this, the Site Work Group will have submitted our University Avenue site proposal to the Berkeley Zoning Board for their review and approval. While we have been talking informally with various City departments for several months, this marks the first "official" step in the process of converting the Jay Vee Liquor Store to Netivot Shalom's new home. There is still a long and complex process ahead, but this is an exciting start. The Zoning Board will schedule a public hearing on our proposal; we'll let you know when that's happening so you can come and show your support (we'll provide the popcorn).

Our work over the last two months has focused on community relations, which is an important aspect of both zoning approval and, ultimately, our successful integration into the neighborhood. We have signed a preliminary Memorandum of Understanding with the Montessori School about joint development and use of a shared campus; more details are being worked out between our design team architects and the architectural firm chosen by Montessori. Community meetings organized by the SWG were held at the Gethsemane Community Church, our across-the-street neighbor at 1305 University, and at the Strawberry

Creek Lodge senior residence at 1320 Addison. In addition, we made presentations to the University Avenue Business Association and the Berkeley Way Home Owner's Association. Community response at all of these meetings has been positive. While there is universal concern over parking issues in the neighborhood (and we're working on that), there is consensus that a synagogue will be a much better neighbor than a liquor store and will have a beneficial influence on the area. Religious and social organizations in the vicinity have been especially encouraging and are looking forward to building strong community ties with us.

The SWG will make a brief presentation at the Annual Congregation Meeting on **February 10**, giving a general status update and letting you know how you can support our ongoing efforts. You are encouraged to attend. Also, SWG regular meetings will return to the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday of each month, after a brief and unsuccessful flirtation with Wednesdays. These meetings are open to all members.

Please continue to watch this space for more exciting developments on University Avenue, and as always, feel free to contact me at Meresmanj@aol.com.

CAMPAIGN NEWS

Call Your Mother! (Or at Least Take Her Call)

We will wrap up the first stage of the Building Campaign the next month. During the next few weeks, we must finish contacting every member of the shul for a personal visit or an extended phone call. We have already met with 190 members, and we have raised almost 2.9 million dollars in 5-year pledges. Our volunteers are devoting substantial time and energy to the effort. So please, make life easier for them. Answer the phone when they call. Call back if a volunteer leaves a message. Make an appointment to see the person who calls. These visits are actually fun, as we connect with new acquaintances and renew old ties. The visits are part of building our community. And every member will share the joy and pride in our new building if every member has contributed to building it.

Thanks,
Ann Swidler

SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETING ON 12/23/01

1. Judith Klinger will be the Netivot Shalom representative to the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). A process is being developed through which Judith will be able to bring issues being discussed by the JCRC to the Netivot Shalom Board and receive input from Board members so that she can accurately represent the views of the congregation.

2. Jonathan Klein is organizing the Netivot Shalom participation in Sukkot in April (formerly Christmas in April, renamed Rebuilding Together). He is hoping to raise \$3,000 so that Netivot Shalom can have full sponsorship of the project on which we work in April, with the hope that a home in the neighborhood of our new site can be identified as the project for Netivot Shalom. The Board authorized Jonathan to approach members for donations to this project. The Board also approved a motion to allocate \$600 from the budget to this project. If pledges to this project reach the \$2,700 mark, Rabbi Kelman pledged to add \$300 from his Discretionary Fund to help us reach the goal of \$3,000.

3. The Board approved applying for an American Express card to be used by office staff for purchases (i.e., supplies at Costco) so that office staff will not have to pay for expenses out-of-pocket and wait for reimbursement. Synagogue Administrator Rhea Harlow will authorize purchases, charges will be limited to \$2,000 total per billing cycle, and the bill will be paid off fully each cycle.

4. The office staff (Rhea and Jennifer) is planning for the printing and distribution of a new Member Directory. Concerns and issues were discussed.

5. The Board authorized the search for a fulltime Educator. The Board reviewed and discussed potential funding sources for this position. A list of prospective members of a search committee was discussed. Debby will call those on the list to create this ad hoc committee.

6. In reviewing financial statements for YTD at 11/30/01, the Treasurer reported that expenses are right on target. Dues commitments for the fiscal year are \$27,000+ over the budgeted amount.

7. The Nominating Committee has been formed and has begun to meet. Members are: Rachel Brodie; Carol Cunradi; Rena Dorph (Chair); Seymour Kessler; Anna Korteweg; Norman Rosenblatt; and Julie Weissman.

8. The Board authorized a request from the Ritual Committee for \$300 to purchase new Tallitot to replace those that are worn out.

FEBRUARY 2002

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

<p>Are you planning an event? If it will be held in the shul, you MUST speak with Rhea Harlow, Office Administrator, in order to reserve the space! 510-549-9447 ext. 101</p>			<p>7:15 am Morning Minyan</p> <p>7:30 pm Trope for Beginners, with Jan Fischer</p>
<p>3 21 Sh'vat</p> <p>10:00 am Rabbi Kelman's Overview of the Amidah</p> <p>5:00 pm Youth Education meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Ritual Committee meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice, in the shul Library</p>	<p>4 22 Sh'vat</p> <p>8:00 pm Advanced Talmud class with Ilana Fodiman: Makkot</p>	<p>5 23 Sh'vat</p> <p>7:30 pm Talmud class with Rabbi Kelman: Brachot</p> <p>7:30 pm University Ave. Site Work Group meeting</p>	<p>6 24 Sh'vat</p> <p>7:15 am Morning Minyan</p> <p>7:30 pm Hebrew class</p> <p>7:30 pm Trope for Beginners, with Jan Fischer</p>
<p>10 28 Sh'vat</p> <p>10:00 am Annual Congregational meeting at the BRJCC</p> <p>5:00 pm Executive Committee meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice, in the shul Library</p> <p>7:30 pm Adult Ed Committee meeting</p>	<p>11 29 Sh'vat</p> <p>7:15 am Rosh Chodesh minyan</p> <p>7:00 pm Mature Mavens Social Action Committee meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm Ethics in the Torah with Nitzhia Shaked</p> <p>8:00 pm Advanced Talmud class with Ilana Fodiman: Makkot</p>	<p>12 30 Sh'vat</p> <p>First Day <u>Rosh Chodesh Adar</u></p> <p>7:00 pm Rosh Chodesh Group, with Claire Sherman</p> <p>7:30 pm Talmud class with Rabbi Kelman: Brachot</p>	<p>13 1 Adar</p> <p>Second Day <u>Rosh Chodesh Adar</u></p> <p>7:15 am Morning Minyan</p> <p>6:15 pm Teachers' Inservice</p> <p>7:30 pm Hebrew class</p> <p>7:30 pm Trope for Beginners, with Jan Fischer</p>
<p>17 5 Adar</p> <p>10:00 am K'tanim at the BRJCC</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice, in the shul Library</p>	<p>18 6 Adar</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY</p> <p>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</p>	<p>19 7 Adar</p> <p>7:30 pm Talmud class with Rabbi Kelman: Brachot</p>	<p>20 8 Adar</p> <p>7:15 am Morning Minyan</p> <p>7:30 pm Hebrew class</p> <p>7:30 pm Trope for Beginners, with Jan Fischer</p>
<p>24 12 Adar</p> <p>10:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad Purim Celebration at the BRJCC</p> <p>5:00 pm Board of Directors meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice, in the shul Library</p>	<p>25 13 Adar</p> <p>Ta'anit Esther</p> <p>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</p> <p>6:00 pm Purim celebration at the BRJCC</p>	<p>26 14 Adar</p> <p>Purim</p> <p>NO AMITIM</p> <p>9:00 am Purim Service, shul office</p> <p>7:30 pm Talmud class with Rabbi Kelman: Brachot</p>	<p>27 15 Adar</p> <p>Shushan Purim</p> <p>7:15 am Morning Minyan</p> <p>7:30 pm Hebrew class</p> <p>7:30 pm Trope for Beginners, with Jan Fischer</p>
<p>March 3 19 Adar</p> <p>10:30 am Ritual Fair, Part II</p> <p>5:00 pm Youth Education meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Ritual Committee meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice, in the shul Library</p>	<p>March 4 20 Adar</p> <p>7:30 pm Ethics in the Torah with Nitzhia Shaked</p> <p>8:00 pm Advanced Talmud class with Ilana Fodiman: Makkot</p>	<p>March 5 21 Adar</p> <p>7:30 pm Talmud class with Rabbi Kelman: Brachot</p>	<p>March 6 22 Adar</p> <p>7:15 am Morning Minyan</p> <p>7:30 pm Hebrew class</p> <p>7:30 pm Trope for Beginners, with Jan Fischer</p>

SH'VAT-ADAR 5762

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>Unless otherwise stated, all Saturday morning activities take place at the BRJCC (1414 Walnut St.) and all other activities take place at the Netivot Shalom offices (1841 Berkeley Way).</p>	<p>1 19 Sh'vat</p> <p>5:15 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>2 20 Sh'vat</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Yitro, with Nitzhia Shaked 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES; Jonathan Levy-Wolins will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah 10:30 am Religious School for Grades K-6 11:30 am Shabbat Shelanu, room 20</p> <p>4:30 pm Oneg Shabbat at the Kelmans, speaker will be Rabbi Chanan Alexander</p>
<p>7 25 Sh'vat</p>	<p>8 26 Sh'vat</p> <p>5:21 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>9 27 Sh'vat</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Mishpatim, with Rena Fischer 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES 9:45 am Learner's Minyan, room 14, with Wendy Rosov 10:30 am Religious School for Grades K-6 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad, room 14</p>
<p>14 2 Adar</p>	<p>15 3 Adar</p> <p>5:33 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>16 4 Adar</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Terumah, with Nitzhia Shaked 9:30 am Meditative Minyan, room 14 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES; Marielle Basseri will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah</p> <p>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</p>
<p>21 9 Adar</p> <p>3:00 pm Community Building project to assemble Mishloach Manot baskets 7:30 pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah class</p>	<p>22 10 Adar</p> <p>5:38 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>23 11 Adar</p> <p>SHABBAT ZAKHOR</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Tetzaveh (teacher TBA) 9:45 am Learner's Minyan, room 14, with Brenda Goldstein 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES 10:30 am Religious School for Grades K-6 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad, room 14</p>
<p>28 16 Adar</p> <p>7:30 pm University Ave. Site Work Group meeting</p>	<p>March 1 17 Adar</p> <p>5:45 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>March 2 18 Adar</p> <p>SHABBAT PARA</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Ki Tissa with Nitzhia Shaked 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES; Midrasha Shabbat 10:30 am Religious School for Grades K-6 11:00 am Shabbat Shelanu, room 20</p>
<p>March 7 23 Adar</p>	<p>March 8 24 Adar</p> <p>5:52 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>March 9 25 Adar</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Va Ykhel Pekudei 9:45 am Learner's Minyan, room 14, with Eva Heinstein 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES 10:30 am Religious School for Grades K-6 11:30 am Shabbat B'Yachad, room 14</p>

RITUAL COMMITTEE

Shabbat Services, Part II*: Psukei D'Zimra

By Josh Gressel, Ritual Committee Chair

This month's article begins with a multiple-choice exam. Psukei D'Zimra is: (a) something that happens before you get to synagogue on Saturday, (b) a mysterious service where you're told to jump from page to page and which somehow covers over 300 pages of the siddur in 20 minutes, (c) in close competition with Musaf for the part of the Saturday service congregants could most easily do without, or (d) "a transition from the daily grind of secular life to the meditative and sacred frame of mind that we want for our liturgy" (Hoffman, p. 13).

I suspect most people can readily identify with several of these answers, but few would honestly answer (d), even though we might suspect we're supposed to feel that way. We know Psukei D'Zimra should serve as "the prayer before the prayer," a warm-up to the Shacharit and Torah Service. But does it? I believe knowing more about something increases one's appreciation, and this article is written with that in mind. **To read it effectively, you will need a copy of Siddur Sim Shalom by your side.** Page numbers in this article, unless otherwise noted, refer to Siddur Sim Shalom.

The name Psukei D'Zimra is Aramaic for "verses of song/praise." Historically, there is no written mention of this service before 200 CE, and it appears to have reached a position of permanence (though not in its present form) by 800 CE. It is believed to have arisen in response to the practice of pious Jews who meditated for an hour before praying. The service was created to help the community as a whole enter into the proper frame of mind before reciting the daily Sh'ma; and on Saturdays and

market days, the Torah reading. In much the same fashion, the prayers Jews were to recite at home upon awakening and prior to coming to synagogue were also brought into the liturgy so the community as a whole could perform them. These are called Birkot Hashachar (pp. 2-52). As mentioned in the sidebar accompanying this article, Birkot Hashachar will be discussed in a future article.

Probably the first thing to remember about Psukei D'Zimra is that it is a daily service, not just a Shabbat service. This explains why we seem to skip so much. Our siddur is organized from the most frequently used prayers (e.g., the daily liturgy) to the less frequently used prayers. We begin on Shabbat at the same place we begin

during the week, right at the start of the siddur, because we begin with daily prayers (Birkot Hashachar and Psukei D'Zimra). When it's time to make the transition from daily prayers to Shabbat prayers (in our congregation's case, on page 88), we jump over all the intervening daily and evening prayers, as well as the Friday evening prayers, to page 334, where the Shabbat morning prayers begin. So it's not that we're skipping 250 pages of liturgy that more observant congregations include. It's just that the publishers chose not to print Birkot Hashachar and Psukei D'Zimra in two separate places, for both daily and Saturday services.

STRUCTURE OF PSUKEI D'ZIMRA

The centerpiece of Psukei D'Zimra is Psalms 145-150, called the "Daily Hallel." These psalms are bracketed by blessings, which introduce and conclude the theme of the service, serving as liturgical bookends. Between the blessings and the psalms is other thematically related biblical material. Organizationally, Psukei D'Zimra looks like this:

A. Introductory Blessing

"Baruch She'Amar", p. 54

Biblical Interlude I

Chronicles, different psalm verses, pp. 54-80

B. Daily Hallel

Psalms 145-150, pp. 80-88

Biblical Interlude II

Chronicles, Nehemiah, Exodus, "Shirat Ha'Yam", pp. 90-94

C. Concluding Blessing

"Birkat HaShir", pp. 334-338

Because our congregation does not read from the "Biblical Interludes" during Psukei D'Zimra, these will not be reviewed here. Briefly, these interludes were inserted at a much later period, from the Middle Ages through the 17th century.

A. Introductory Blessing, "Baruch She'Amar": If you look carefully at this blessing, (page 54), you can see it is composed of two distinct sections. The first is a series of one-sentence blessings ("Baruch She'Amar... Baruch Oseh Beresheit... Baruch Gozer U-Makayem, etc.) which are derived from several benedictions in the Mishnah.

The second section is a full paragraph blessing. Because only the second section appears in earlier texts, it is presumed the older of the two and the original introductory blessing. In addition, its statement "*Melech mahullal BeTisbachot*" ("King extolled with songs of praise") leads thematically to the psalms of praise that are to follow.

B. Daily Hallel (Psalms 145-150): Our congregation now skips to the

*The observant reader may ask: "But when and where was Part I?" I intend this to be a series on Shabbat observance, from the beginning of services through Kiddush. In my ignorance, I assumed it began with Psukei D'Zimra, today's topic. Only too close to the newsletter deadline did I realize it actually begins with Birkot HaShachar, which will be Part I at some time in the future (think "Star Wars").

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"Daily Hallel", which consists of the last six psalms in the Book of Psalms. These begin with "Ashrei" (Psalm 145, p. 80) and continue through "Halleluya, Hallelu El BeKodsho" (Psalm 150, p.88). In our congregation, we typically only sing the two just mentioned, skipping the intervening four.

A note on the term "Daily Hallel". The word "hallel" means "praise." We usually use it as a term to mean Psalms 113-118, the "Egyptian Hallel," which we sing on holidays and Passover. It's called the "Egyptian Hallel" because of the verse in Psalm 114 "Betzet Yisrael MiMitzraim" ("When Israel left Egypt"). There is also the "Great Hallel" (Psalm 136, p. 72), with its familiar refrain "Ki LeOlam Chasdo." This, too, is said on Passover and in some congregations on Shabbat.

A lot of interesting liturgical archeology has been done to try to reconstruct how Psalms 145-150 came to be called the "Daily Hallel." One explanation traces it to a quote from Rabbi Yose bar Chalafta, a second-century rabbi quoted in the Talmud as saying "May my portion be with those who complete a Hallel every day." This was understood to refer to finishing the Book of Psalms each day. Since clearly it wasn't expected to read the entire Book of Psalms, but to only "finish" them, where would the appropriate starting point be? Different customs had different starting points (one as early as Psalm 120), but eventually Psalm 145 ("Ashrei" – called "David's Psalm") was chosen because it already had great importance attached to it. The Talmud says that "whoever recites this Psalm three times a day is assured of his part in the world to come" because it contains the verse "You open Your hand, and Your favor sustains all the living." This psalm is therefore recited three times daily: during Psukei D'Zimra, Shacharit, and Minchah.

Take a close look at Psalm 145 (p. 80). You will see it actually begins with verses from two other Psalms (84:5 and 144:15) and ends with another verse from yet another Psalm (115:18). The two introductory verses were chosen because combined they contain the word "Ashrei" ("happy") three times, linking it to the notion that happy are those who recite it thrice daily. The last verse was added because it ends with the word "Hallelujah," thus linking it to the remaining psalms (146-150), each of which begins and ends with "Hallelujah." By the way, in the acrostic Psalm 145 the line corresponding to

the "nun" is missing. Other acrostic psalms attributed to David are also missing letters (Psalms 25, 34 and 37).

C. Concluding Blessing ("Birkat HaShir"): After finishing Psalm 150 and the Daily Hallel, we are ready to move to the Shabbat service proper and are told to "turn to page 334." "Nishmat Kol Chai" begins what is called "Birkat HaShir," a lengthy concluding blessing to the Daily Hallel. It starts at the top of page 334 and continues through the "Yishtabach" paragraph on page 338. During the week, for reasons of time, only the "Yishtabach" blessing is read to conclude Psukei D'Zimra (p.94).

This is where things get a little tricky, because our congregation and our siddur put us on what appears to be the losing side of an argument over where Psukei D'Zimra ends and Shacharit begins on Shabbat.

On Shabbat we sing "Nishmat Kol Chai" out loud, read to ourselves silently until the ending sentences, and then the *shlich* *tzibbur* completes Psukei D'Zimra with "Hamelech HaYoshev al Kisa Ram veNisa." In our synagogue, the person doing Shacharit takes over at this point with "Shochen Ad" on Shabbat (p. 336), with "HaEl BeTaatzumot" on festivals (e.g. Sukkot, Passover), and with "HaMelech" on Yamim Nora'im.

You can readily see we are stopping Psukei D'Zimra in what appears to be the middle of "Birkat HaShir", the concluding blessing to the daily Hallel. There are at least two other liturgical hints suggesting the wrongness of this practice. First, go back to page 54 and review the Hebrew of the "Baruch SheAmar" opening blessing. It concludes with "Melech Mehulal BeTishbachot" ("King extolled with songs of praise"). The *Yishtabach* blessing, the other liturgical bookend concluding the psalms of praise, opens 284 pages later with similar words: "Yishtabach Shimcha LeAd Malkanu" ("Our King, Your Name will always be praised"). Second, this concluding blessing is followed by the Hatzit Kaddish, which is always used to demarcate sections of the service, in this case separating Psukei D'Zimra from the "Barchu" public call to prayer (p. 340) and what seems to be the more appropriate beginning for Shacharit.

The prevailing practice, codified in our siddur and others, is apparently quite old. Elbogen, one of the most authoritative historians of liturgy, summarizes it as follows:

Misunderstandings, incorrect synagogue procedures, and particularly the custom, originating in the Middle Ages... that here the precentor steps to the pulpit, created the impression and favored the opinion that [Psukei D'Zimra] concludes before "May Your name be praised," but this view is wrong (p.64).

I don't know about you, but I find it refreshing and humanizing to realize that what appears to be "Torah from Sinai" in our siddur is an erroneous prevailing custom that, over centuries, took root. ☆

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Do You Want to Make Shabbat a Bigger Part of Your Life?

Have you wished that there were others, struggling to do the same, for you to talk to and support you in your efforts? Do work situations and family issues seem to get in the way?

I'm looking for others who want to form a *chevrah*, a support group, to help each other work toward not working on Shabbat, and deepening Shabbat observance. Please call me for more details and discussion of how to make this a reality. Robin Braverman, 925-979-1998.

Adult Education Retrospective

The following is a retrospective of the past two years of Adult Education programming. With a minimal budget, volunteer coordination, and an exaggerated sense of our mission, we have accomplished a good deal. Ethel Murphy and Robin Braverman have agreed to co-chair the Adult Ed committee and we are now preparing the transition. Thank you so much to all the guests and members who have contributed to Adult Education during my tenure. Here is a list (incomplete) of those who have lectured, taught, facilitated, planned, coordinated and been responsible for our offerings.

Orchim: Rabbi Jane Litman, Ilana Fodiman, Cantor Carol Delton, Naomi Seidman, Rabbi Michael Benchlouch, Rabbi Yehuda Ferris, Rabbi Eliezer Finkelman, Daniel Boyarin, Tom Segev, Yossi Klein HaLevi, Rabbi Jacob Milgrom, Alice Shalvi, Samuel Freedman, Glenn Frankel, David Horowitz, Rabbi Yair Silverman, Rabbi Reuven Hammer, Chai Levy

Mishelanu: Rabbi Stuart Kelman, Peggy Sandel, Rachel Heinstejn, Rabbi Art Gould, Esther Brass, Rabbi David Winston, Vicki Kelman, Judy Massarano, Debby Graudenz, Josh Gressel, Seymour Kessler, Hilda Kessler, Don Pretari, John Reynolds, Lee Bearson, Wendy Rosov, Brenda Goldstein, Linda Blachman, Nitzhia Shaked, Don Fischer z"l, Jan Fischer, Pamela Sawyer, Helen Schneider, Julie Batz, Jerry Isaac-Shapiro, Simon Firestone, Rabbi Margie Jacobs, Nathan Martin, Robert Alter, Toby Gidal, Fred Astren, Diane Bernbaum, Barbara Bibel, Ze'ev Brinner, Rabbi Ted Feldman, Tsipi Gabay, Rose Levinson, Carol Cunradi, Alex Madonik, Jennifer Ring, Lois Silverstein, Carol Dorf, Shachar Pinsker, Barbara Wezelman, Ethel Murphy, Sanne Dewitt, Steve Tobias, Noriko Obinata, Judith Klinger, Laura Sheppard, Rena Fischer, Ava Kahn, Michele Wolfson, Robin Braverman, Kathy Reich, Eric Strimmling, Rivka Greenberg, Judy Kunofsky, Shira Bell, Joan Bradus, Marcia Brooks, Iris Greenbaum, Lorraine Rosenblatt, Claudia Valas, Liz Vasile, Alison Jordan, Melissa Rogoway

Torah Study on Shabbat mornings remains the centerpiece of Adult Education. Sanne DeWitt has done a wonderful job coordinating every aspect of the program. Unfortunately, Sanne has resigned her Netivot Shalom membership and will be leaving Torah Study. Noriko Obinata is the new coordinator and I am confident she will be successful in her endeavors. The past year has seen the addition of Naomi Seidman as a regular instructor in addition to Nitzhia Shaked and the various Netivot Shalom scholars who continue to contribute their insights. In the near term it is critical for our membership to renew its commitment to teaching and studying the weekly portion.

The Post B'nai Mitzvah Study Group for teens on Shabbat mornings initiated and led by Eva Heinstejn is a model in miniature of how a participatory shul might approach its leyning and davening. Eva recruited a number of Netivot Shalom's talented and committed teens and has established a program based on evaluation, tutorial and the assignment of goals for participating in Services. We cannot hope to effectively fulfill our participatory mission without ongoing learning and support. It is a bit odd that the young adults have begun a program when efforts toward a similar program for the general adult membership have stalled.

The Learner's Minyan, meeting on the second and fourth Shabbat mornings, has brought a wealth of information and a forum to develop and refine davening skills. The program provides the opportunity to learn with a variety of teachers, covering the basic elements of our Service. I want to emphasize that a learner is not necessarily a neophyte. Those who have been davening with us for years can refresh and expand their appreciation of the Siddur by attending this minyan.

The Gender and Judaism lecture and discussion series, presenting a guest speaker on the second Shabbat

afternoon of each month, has achieved notable initial results. The series is co-sponsored by the BRJCC and the Berkeley Synagogues, has attracted a good crowd and been informed by a variety of perspectives. However, the program has yet to impact any aspect of synagogue ritual or educational policy. In my opinion, the fall of the *mehitza* and the rise of women Rabbis is only the foundation upon which a recasting of gender issues in Judaism will take place. That was the easy part, the part we inherited from our non-Jewish counterparts.

Rabbi Kelman has resumed teaching **Talmud**, studying Chapter 5 of Brachot, on the issues surrounding preparation and focus for reciting the Amidah. Talmud Study has expanded to include a group of advanced learners, taught by Ilana Fodiman with the co-sponsorship of Beth Israel. The class is studying Makkot, Chapter 2, on accidental murderers and the cities of refuge they were meant to inhabit. A guest lecture series remains in the planning stages.

Hebrew study experimented using the Passover Haggadah, Rambam's Mishneh Torah and the Shabbat Amidah prayer as the teaching texts for the class. A glossary and grammar guide were prepared for the spring and fall sessions. This spring we will focus on the development of dictionary skills. The group of learners has been impressive in its dedication and progress. However, we have failed to lobby the congregation for a commitment to Jewish literacy. Comprehension yields a more living Judaism, but the act of learning itself is lively and meaningful.

The Tikkun Leyl Shavuot is apparently a resounding success, weaving together the various strands of East Bay Jewry. In theory, the event is a model for community-wide programming, transcending the insularity of synagogue or minyan. But in fact, it is part horse and pony show, a once-a-year nod to Jewish

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Adult Education Retrospective

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

diversity. Our failed attempts to expand the framework and include more community text study, as well as discussion of core, divisive issues, have shown how far down on the priority ladder a more inclusive community remains.

Rabbi Kelman has focused his teaching this fall on several rabbinic controversies played out in the codification of the Siddur text, and has hosted a number of Shabbat afternoon discussions on core issues in Judaism. The Rabbi's active teaching schedule during the central period of the building campaign has enriched the Adult Ed offerings this year. I want to thank the Rabbi for his collaboration during the past two years. We have had our philosophical differences regarding the direction of educational programs in the shul. Without doing justice to the detail and nuance of our respective approaches, or to the spectrum of views that exists at Netivot Shalom, I would like to outline two areas in which I believe the shul is treading water.

The intersection of ritual and education: I would like to see an activist approach to both novelty and tradition in our Services. We need a more fundamental commitment to evaluating, training, and supporting the daveners and leyners in our Services. Our Services and all ritual observances have an educational component that should be emphasized. The Halachic content of the weekly portion, and the various customs and laws that bear on the liturgy need a forum for elucidation during the Shabbat Service. There is an inviolable core of the Service, but Psukei D'Zimra, Musaf, the prayers for Israel and the US, as well as the moments of transition, offer ample opportunity for experimentation.

Israel: More sincere effort needs to be made to create a framework for a community-wide discussion on the issues facing Israel. The Rabbis and leaders of the Jewish community must embrace and tolerate the immense diversity of opinion in our midst. There have always been Jews who have been anti-Zionist on principle, and who have preferred passivity or even to privilege the rights of others. There have always been Jewish extremists who wanted just-us and both banks of the Jordan. I believe that an active pursuit of dialogue would engage and benefit us all. ✧

Jonathan Heinstein

One-on-One Hebrew Lessons for Beginning or Intermediate Students

The Adult Education Committee will match up individual students wanting to learn Hebrew on a one-on-one ongoing basis. This is free and can adjust to your schedule. Call Robin Braverman at 925-979-1998.

Learner's Minyan for 5762

The Learner's Minyan meets on the second and fourth Shabbat of each month in room 14 of the BRJCC, 9:45-10:35 a.m. All levels are welcome.

February 9, Wendy Rosov

Shacharit Service: *Barchu, K'riat Sh'ma* and surrounding blessings

February 23, Brenda Goldstein

Shacharit Service: *K'riat Sh'ma* and surrounding blessings, continued

March 9, Eva Heinstein

Shacharit Service: Benedictions of the Shabbat Amidah, A Sephardic *Yismach Moshe*

March 23, Brenda Goldstein

Hallel

April 13, Julie Batz

Shabbat Amidah: The Public Repetition

April 27, Brenda Goldstein

Birchot Ha Shachar: Overview & nusach

May 11, Esther Brass

Birchot Ha Shachar

May 25, Brenda Goldstein

Musaf Service: Remnants of the Temple Service and the variations in the Musaf Amidah

June 8 Discussion: How should we teach the Learner's Minyan?

YONIT LEVY & DAVID WOLINS

INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM

ON FEBRUARY 2, 2002

AS THEIR SON,

JONATHAN LEVY-WOLINS

IS CALLED TO THE TORAH

AS A BAR MITZVAH.

Thank You, Jonathan

This month marks the end of Jonathan Heinstein's two-year tenure as Chair of the Adult Education committee. This committee is one of the pillars of our community, in that it engages members, many of whom are not drawn to weekly davenning, in ongoing Jewish learning. It is one of the important ingredients in our vibrant synagogue life.

From the myriad programs Jonathan organized for the congregation, none was so impressive and so important as the two-year-long courses in Hebrew he created and taught for congregants of all levels. It was very moving to be a part of this program, not just teaching in it but even walking through the synagogue offices on a Wednesday night when each classroom was abuzz with adults learning Hebrew, Hebrew trope, and other subjects. Those evenings were the ultimate tribute to Jonathan's vision and dedication as Adult Ed Chair. I get exhausted just thinking of all the work and energy required to push these things into being, and to keep them running once started. But I know that there are a lot of people who are more educated and more involved in Jewish life because of his leadership.

My only complaint, Jonathan, is that you have set a very high standard for the rest of us.

Toda Raba!
Josh Gressel

SARALEE BASSERI AND JAMSHIED BASSERI

INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM

ON FEBRUARY 16, 2002

AS THEIR DAUGHTER,

MARIELLE,

IS CALLED TO THE TORAH

AS A BAT MITZVAH.

Midrasha News

By Diane Bernbaum, Midrasha Director

I love this quiet time of the year. People assume that a Midrasha director would rest in the summer. But instead of sunning myself at the beach in the summer months, I am working hard in the Midrasha office. We hire staff, write the catalogue and process registration materials. Winter is the quiet time of the year. Teachers and students are settled into the patterns of school and it's not yet time to work on 7th grade recruitment, graduation (**May 19**. Save the date!) or our fete (**April 28**. Save the date!)

So what is happening at Midrasha during this lull? For the second year in a row we are hosting a great series of parent seminars. They were created because parents, year after year, walk out of our annual study brunch saying, "What? You only let us study with the Midrasha faculty one day a year? Education is wasted on the young. What great faculty you have!" So, with the help of a grant from Sinai Memorial Chapel we are able to invite parents to a series of talks by our faculty, who will not only teach but also tell a little about themselves and the journey they have taken to become a Midrasha teacher.

On January 13 Erica Crowell spoke about "Unsolved Mysteries: History, Memory and the Holocaust." This was a discussion of issues such as the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg, the veracity of holocaust memoirs and the whereabouts of missing works of art. On **February 10** Yossi Fendel will speak on "What's Bothering Rashi?" This medieval commentator usually discusses something that is unclear or misleading in a biblical verse but doesn't tell us what it is. Yossi will show us how he examines Rashi's commentaries with students to figure out what's bothering the commentator. On **March 10** Danya Ruttenberg will speak "On the Next Wave of Jewish Feminism". Danya has just edited a book on this subject called *Yentl's Revenge*. On **April 14** Michal Scharlin will discuss "Contemporary Mikveh Use". This was the subject of Michal's senior thesis at CAL and she will discuss both traditional and non-traditional uses. And finally, on **May 5** Rachel Israel will discuss "What Genesis Teaches us About Parenting" by looking at biblical role models.

Although this series was designed for Midrasha parents, we welcome those of you in the community who want to learn along with us. The sessions are each in a different private home, so phone the Midrasha office (843-4667) for addresses and directions.

K'tanim

Our program for birth to three-year-olds and their parents, known as K'tanim, is really quite *gadol* (big)! It's going beautifully, as 10-15 families meet each month to celebrate Jewish familyhood. Last month our theme was Shabbat, and children created lovely candle holders and Kiddush cups as their parents studied. Our next gathering focused on Tu B'Shvat and guardianship of the earth. Do you know the *bracha* for planting a seed? It is a great thrill to unearth Jewish values and ritual with our young sprouts. For information about this program, call Lorraine in the Education office, 549 9447, ext. 104.

Summer? Camp? Maccabi Games?

By Andrea Altschuler, Youth Education Chair

If you've been a parent for more than a few years, you know that this is the time of year that you need to be thinking about summer programs for kids. If you're still in the thinking stages, or even if you still have little kids and don't yet have to think about summer as distinct from the rest of the year, I'd like to put in a plug for a few Jewish summer programs that are for kids between the ages of five and 16.

If you haven't yet sent your grade school kid(s) to the Ramah Day Camp, I would strongly recommend that you do so. Your kids will have a great time, they'll come home singing Hebrew songs and *t'fila*, learn various and wonderful things about Jewish life and practice, and they'll participate in all the traditional camp things like swimming, hiking, nature, arts and crafts, drama, etc. Typically, the Jewish content is integrated into the "regular" camp activities. A winning combination. My daughter has attended both years, had a great time, and will be back this summer. For more information, call Melissa Rogoway, the camp director, at the shul office, extension 111.

If you haven't yet sent your kid(s) to a sleep-away Jewish camp, and they're in fourth or fifth grade or above, I would urge you to do so this summer. Sleep-away camps are one of the most sure-fire ways to build strong Jewish identities (and to develop ritual skills, depending upon the camp). I wouldn't be surprised if a large number of our shul's active members were once campers who graduated to being camp staff, and then went on to be active Jewish adults, in both lay and professional capacities. Jewish summer camps are a wonderful place for kids to learn, grow, and become independent. The three main camps that I'm aware of in our general area are (in north/south order) Camps Newman/Swig (phone: 415-392-7080, affiliated with the Reform movement); Camp Tawonga (phone: 415-543-2267, an independent camp, once affiliated with the JCC), and Camp Ramah (310-476-8571, affiliated with the Conservative movement). My son will be going to his fourth summer at Tawonga, and it's been an excellent experience for him. I have close friends who've sent their kids to the other camps for the same number of years or longer, and they've also had great times. I strongly encourage you to visit these camps' websites, or call them if you have even the smallest amount of interest. I believe that all these camps also run family camp weeks and weekends that also are wonderful experiences for the whole family.

Last, and by no means least, I also would like to recommend a specific program for any 13-16 year-olds you might know who are of the jock inclination. Quoting from the press release: TRY OUT FOR THE TEAM! Join over 7,000 Jewish teen athletes, ages 13-16, from all over the world as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the JCC Maccabi Games! Approximately 150 participants from Northern California will be chosen to represent the San Francisco Bay Area at this year's JCC Maccabi Games in Omaha and Baltimore in August 2002. Tryouts will be held at the Bernard-Osher Marin JCC March 3 for Baseball, Basketball and

Soccer. Tryouts in all sports will be held at the ALS JCC in Palo Alto March 10. Pre-registration will be available online as of January 1. Athletes 13-16 as of August 1, 2002, are invited to try out in Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, InLine Hockey, Softball, Girls Volleyball, Bowling, Dance, Golf, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis and Track & Field. For more information, log on to www.sfmaccabi.org or contact Sherri at 650-493-0563 ext 253.

Last year, my son was on the 13-14 soccer team, and for the past two years, my friend's son has been on the 13-14 baseball team from Los Angeles. This is truly a great program, especially for kids who might not otherwise participate in Jewish activities. They meet other Jewish kids from all over the States and the world (e.g. Latin America, England, Australia, Israel), participate in activities designed to strengthen Jewish identity (I hear that the opening ceremonies are especially moving, even for cynical adults), and get to do what they love, play sports, at the same time.

So, consider any or all of these programs for the kids in your life, and I hope they have a great time. ✨

Searching for an Educator

During the December meeting, the Board authorized the search for an Educator. Rabbi Kelman had met previously with representatives from Adult Education, Youth Education and Community Building to prepare a broad job description for this position, which was presented to the Board. The Board discussed ways in which this position will be financed. In the weeks since that meeting, a Search Committee has been formed, comprised of Andrea Altschuler, Diane Bernbaum, Judith Klinger, Mel Sibony, Cathy Shadd and Rabbi Kelman (representing Adult Education, Youth Education, Community Building, Ritual and other constituencies of our congregation). The Educator will divide his/her time between three major categories: Youth Education (60%); Adult Education (20%); and Community Building (20%). You can look at the job description for this position on the Netivot Shalom web site.

This is an exciting opportunity to find someone to coordinate and oversee the various aspects of education within our shul. Advertisements have been placed and interviews will be scheduled, with the hopes that our new Educator will begin working July 1st.

Will Your Child Turn 13 in the Year 2004?

If you have a child in fifth grade this year (i.e. you're planning on a Bar or Bat mitzvah in 2003-2004), please contact Education Administrator, Lorraine Rosenblatt, (549-9447 ext. 104) in order to secure a date.

Welcome Our New Director of Camp Ramah!



We are happy to announce that our own Melissa Rogoway has just accepted the position of Director at Ramah Day Camp in the East Bay. Melissa is very excited to be a part of Camp Ramah this summer. Her background is as a Jewish Educator, with a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Judaism and a Baccalaureate in Literature in Hebrew Letters. She has enjoyed working in diverse Jewish educational settings for the past 20 years. She brings to Camp her skills in administration and Judaica as well as a love of Jewish music and art.

Melissa speaks about how important camp can be in your child's life; "We know that summers of fun and Jewish learning make a difference in Jewish identity formation. Simply put, kids who go to Jewish camps are more likely to stay involved with the Jewish community as adults. Combine this with the special friends made at camp and the fun of being together and you have a very worthwhile summer experience."

Melissa looks forward to seeing each of your families at camp and to getting to know your children over the summer. She can be reached at the Ramah Day Camp office, 548-9447 ext. 111. She would love to hear from you if your child is in grades K-6.

MAZAL TOV TO:

Hana & Daniel Matt on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Gavriel in Jerusalem

Tali Ziv on completing the Honolulu marathon

Ory & Peggy Sandel on the birth of their new baby girl, Gavriella Esther, born December 19

Ann Swidler & Claude Fischer on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Leah

CONDOLENCES TO:

Elsa & Revan Tranter on the death of Revan's father, Gerald Tranter

Mel & Lisa Sibony on the death of Lisa's grandfather, Gerald Tranter

TO ADD A NAME(S) TO THE YAHRZEIT LIST, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW AND MAIL, E-MAIL OR FAX (include only names of departed parents, spouses, siblings or children)

MAIL TO: Congregation Netivot Shalom
1841 Berkeley Way
Berkeley, CA 94703

E-MAIL TO: ntvnt-office@eb.jfed.org **FAX TO:** (510) 549-9448

NAME OF DECEASED: (English name) _____

(Hebrew name, if possible) _____

DATE OF DEATH: (civil date) _____

(Hebrew date, if possible) _____

YOUR NAME: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED: _____

YAHRZEIT LIST

Louis Kahn	23 Sh'vat/February 5
Joseph Banc	23 Sh'vat/February 5
Moishe ben Yudel HaCohen	24 Sh'vat/February 6
Ruth Blachman	24 Sh'vat/February 6
Joseph E. Gould	26 Sh'vat/February 8
Seymour Breslow	26 Sh'vat/February 8
Edith Shapiro	26 Sh'vat/February 8
Julia De Lorraine Levin	26 Sh'vat/February 8
Cynthia Walter Drazen	27 Sh'vat/February 9
Lee Valas	28 Sh'vat/February 10
Fanya Cohen	29 Sh'vat/February 11
Flora Spitz	29 Sh'vat/February 11
Florence B. Levine	30 Sh'vat/February 12
David Wunderlich	30 Sh'vat/February 12
Ida M. Cohen	2 Adar I/February 14
Marion Morris	3 Adar / February 15
Milton Weintraub	4 Adar II/February 16
Joan Siegel	4 Adar II/February 16
Norma Schachter Avers	5 Adar II/February 17
Norma (Naomi) Lewis	5 Adar / February 17
Murray Walter	6 Adar I /February 18
Esther Lipow	10 Adar I/February 22
Susan Shackman	10 Adar II/February 22
Abraham Levine	11 Adar / February 23
Benjamin Gottlieb	11 Adar / February 23
Clara Kalter	13 Adar / February 25
Morris Lifschitz	14 Adar II/February 26
Edi Miller	14 Adar I/February 26
Henry Cohen	15 Adar / February 27
Louis Woolf Meltzer	15 Adar II/February 27
Tillie Zimmerman Alter	16 Adar / February 28
Seymour Bradus	16 Adar II/February 28
Eileen Sheila Derblich	<i>Etta Shaindel bat Zalman Leib v'Rachel Leah</i> 18 Adar I/March 2
Wilson Kelman	18 Adar II/March 2
Franklyn Ephraim Landes	18 Adar / March 2
Benjamin W. Sutz	19 Adar / March 3
Judith Gold	19 Adar I/March 3
Rose Lowsky	20 Adar / March 4
Pearl Pollero	21 Adar / March 5
Donald Weinberg	22 Adar / March 6
Sylvia Jacobson	22 Adar II/March 6
Norman Pollner	22 Adar / March 6
Maurice I. Neipris	22 Adar / March 6
Stella G. Dorman	23 Adar II/March 7
Robert Finegold	24 Adar II/March 8
Elliott Daniel Zeff	24 Adar / March 8
James Bloom	24 Adar / March 8
Irving Zelman	25 Adar I/March 9
Marjorie Alper	25 Adar / March 9
Rachel Press	25 Adar / March 9
Leah Jacobson Reingold	26 Adar / March 10
Pearl Pripstein	26 Adar / March 10
Esther Redel	28 Adar / March 12
Nathan Brandwynne	28 Adar / March 12
Carl Slater	29 Adar II/March 13

DONATIONS TO NETIVOT SHALOM

BOOKS & RITUAL OBJECTS

Diane Bernbaum for library books
Mike Rosenheimer for a library book
Noriko Obinata for library books

BUILDING FUND

Ephraim & Dagmar Friedman
Liz Vasile
Celia & Paul Concus in memory of Dorish Kudisch and Al Anisman
Denah S. Bookstein in honor of Art Braufman, Blair Prentice, David Finn and Mike Irwin and in memory of Sandy Schneider
Elizabeth Koltun
Karen Friedman & David Marcus in honor of Anne Brock's 80th birthday
Anonymous in honor of Perl & Meghan for donating their refrigerator to the shul
Phyllis Helfand in memory of Sandy Schneider and Cantor Don Fischer
Herman & Shelly Bruch
Mildred Harris in honor of Coby and Rebecca Harris-Rudolph
Carol & Jim Cunradi in honor of the wedding of Megan Lewis & Michael Farbierz
Debby Graudenz & Rom Rosenblum in honor of Celia Concus
Claire Sherman & Ed Anisman in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Sam Finn
Family of Gladys Sessler
Laurie Ann Holtzberg in honor of Rabbi Kelman's dedication to Conservative Judaism, and in memory of Sylvia Israel Schlavsky
Ari and Maya Rose Ball-Burack

CHEVRA KADISHA

Rabbi & Vicky Kelman

ETZ HAYIM

David Levine & Joanna Weinberg in memory of Joanna's mother, Doris Kudisch and in honor of members who led *shivah* minyans
Noriko Obinata in thanksgiving for Torah Study at Netivot Shalom
Clare Ellen Max & Jonathan Arons in memory of Pearl Max & Louis W. Max
Bernard & Sonia Slavin in memory of our dear brother-in-law, Sandy Schneider
Susana E. Deustua & Jay Frogel in memory of Dorothy & Herman Frogel
Deborah Graudenz & Rom Rosenblum in honor of Debby's father, Rabbi Graudenz
Mel, Lisa, David & Lena Sibony in memory of Gerald A. Tranter, with love from his grandchildren and great-grandchildren
The Rosenblatt Family in memory of Jacob Rosenblatt, Mary Rosenblatt, Ruth Richman and Raymond Richman

GENERAL FUND

Barry Goldman in memory of Doris Kudisch
Judith E. Heumann
Lydia Brose in loving memory of Rachel Johnson
Sydney M. Kapchan in memory of Doris Kudisch
George & Toby Gidal
Nelson & Linda Polsby
Karen & Steve Bovarnick in memory of Doris Kudisch

NEWSLETTER

Bonni & Steve Schiff

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Anonymous
Sharon Friedman & Leo Meier in honor of the Rabbi's guidance at our son Jonah's Brit Milah
Mendocino Coast Jewish Community in honor of Rabbi Kelman for the repair work he did on their Torah
John Hayes & Robin Levi
Norman & Lorraine Rosenblatt
Noriko Obinata
Vivian Numaguchi

SUKKOT IN APRIL 2002

Mark & Sharon Priven

TALLITOT/RITUAL

Rena Dorph & Peter Wahrhaftig in honor of the engagement of Elana Kelman & Adam Naftalin
John Reynolds Chai for Channukah

TORAH STUDY

Celia & Paul Concus in honor of Simon Stahl's Bar Mitzvah

YOUTH EDUCATION

Norman & Lorraine Rosenblatt
Dr. Philip & Mrs. Sherrin Rosenthal in honor of the teachers and staff: Bat Sheva Miller, Judy Massarano, Galit Avitan and Lorraine Rosenblatt

YIZKOR

Sharon Friedman & Leo Meier
Stan & Judith Taubman in memory of Seymour Taubman

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

Lee Feinstein for her continued hard work in the library
Norm Rosenblatt for multiple days worth of technology services above and beyond the expected volunteer offering
Djoti Mateen for more great bookshelves
Milt Greenstein for replacing our kitchen faucet and for continued handyman help
Andrea Altschuler for donating a typewriter to Adam Brown for building campaign work
Jim Davis for e-mail assistance
Joe Meresman for a color TV
Barbara Bibel and Margot Lucoff for continued library assistance

MAKE A DONATION

I/We wish to make a donation to Congregation Netivot Shalom. Enclosed is my/our check payable to:
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Thank you!



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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 Robin Braverman at 925-979-1998, or e-mail her at rivkah48@aol.com.

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.