



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

Netivot Shalom

MARCH, 2002 • ADAR-NISAN 5762

From The Rabbi

Spring Cleaning

By Rabbi Stuart Kelman

It's that time of year again. Pesach is almost upon us. This year we've been saying, "It's early," but we all know that it's really on time. As we do each year, we start the usual process of cleaning. And we wind our way through the four stages in the process of getting rid of *chametz* (leaven): Searching, Nullification, Selling and Burning.

The Search: *Bedikat Chametz* takes place the night before Pesach. A candle is lit, the *bracha* (found in a Haggadah) is said, and the house is searched by the light of a candle, using a wooden spoon and a feather. (There are some commercially produced kits available from our office).

The Nullification: *Bittul Chametz*. After the search, we recite the formula (also found in the Haggadah). Perhaps we inadvertently missed some of the *chametz* when we cleaned. *Bittul Chametz* senses the fact that we are only human and capable of error, of missing some of the *chametz*.

The Selling: *Mechirat Chametz*. On page 4 of this newsletter is a form to sell your *chametz*. To get rid of *chametz* entirely, we sell all of it to someone who isn't Jewish and who can use and own *chametz* on Pesach, thereby assuring the fact that no leaven is in our possession. So, fill out the form and return it to our office. Usually, the selling of *chametz* is accompanied by a gift of *tzedakah*.

The Burning: The next morning (after the search) we burn the crumbs that we collected the night before. Another custom is to scatter the crumbs for birds.

All this to clean for Pesach! These four steps alone suggest the seriousness with which we take this mitzvah to rid ourselves of leaven. And once again, we will have our annual Pot Party — for the purpose of koshering dishes. It will be at our home on **Sunday, March 24**, from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Feel free to come by with your dishes and pots and questions.

All this is to get rid of our *chametz*. I want to share with you another "*bittul*" to consider this year. I learned this from David Moss's Haggadah in which he suggests that this search is no ordinary search. "It is a Search which teaches us something about the very nature of the searching process. It is an inspection which may be seen as a paradigm of intensity, of thoroughness." Graphically, David chose to use the image of a candle together with a feather and a bonfire. From a 16th century Haggadah, David has translated the commentary of the kabbalist, Rabbi Moshe Alsheich:

The idea of the Search is to examine one's ways on the night (before Passover) when each person is at home within his own walls, where there is no one else, and one is not troubled by daily affairs. Then one can sit completely alone in the dark of

night behind closed doors — sit alone with his Creator confronting all of his outstanding obligations to Him. And say to his soul: "Let us awaken and arise..." let us examine our ways and turn away from all our sins. Let us cleanse and purify ourselves and remove our evil ways from God's sight. Let us become allies, my soul, and stand guard together. We will abjure slumber from our eyes day and night. We will not rest, rather we will be as soldiers lest we return to our evil ways. And may God be with us as He was with our father....

Alsheich therefore suggests that there is a second kind of *chametz*, the leaven in our hearts and minds, of which we need to rid ourselves. In some way, this season is another Rosh Hashanah, and a liturgical hint which reminds us of the other Rosh Hashanah about six months away. What exactly is that *chametz* within all of us — as individuals, as a congregation, as a nation, as a global community?

Chag Kasher v'Sameach!!



Photos from Cuba! page 8



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Deadline for the April newsletter is
March 8, 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
March 16 9:30 a.m.

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

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

Shabbat Shelanu (grades K-2),
1st Shabbat
March 2 11:30 a.m.

Children's Service
for K-2nd grade 11:30 a.m.
(2nd, 3rd & 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 Nisan,
Thursday, March 14 7:15 a.m.

TORAH STUDY SCHEDULE FOR: MARCH

- 2** Torah Study of Ki Tissa with Nitzhia Shaked
- 9** Torah Study of Vayakhel with Naomi Seidman
- 16** Torah Study of Vayikra with Nitzhia Shaked
- 23** Torah Study of Tzav with Gershon Cox
- 30** Torah Study of Ki Tissa with Nitzhia Shaked

President's Letter

As the 2nd year of my presidency begins, I find myself wondering how this year passed so quickly. I still remember childhood when the eight nights of Chanukah were deliciously long, and summer vacation felt like an eternity. There must be some premise, perhaps related to Einstein's Theory of Relativity, or Stephen Hawking's *Brief History of Time*, that might explain how time moves more quickly the older we get.

But we are, as individuals, and as a congregation, a work in progress. Netivot Shalom's identity continues to evolve, while holding on to the original tenets of egalitarian, Conservative Judaism with a strong commitment to study and education. As I write this, our Search Committee has reviewed resumes received in response to our postings for a Director of Education. This addition to our staff will spend 60% of his/her time with the Religious School, 20% with Adult Education and 20% with Community Building. We've received a greater number of resumes from qualified candidates than ever before, and will be conducting interviews during February and March, our goal being to have a new Director of Education on Board July 1st.

Just as an individual or couple in early adulthood begins to map out a life plan, so will we as a congregation. The new Board will be developing a long-range plan for our shul. This includes looking at programs and services that will support not only our existing membership, but also a growing membership.

We are only 13 years old! As I said a year ago, in shul years, that puts us somewhere between early adulthood and middle adulthood. As a community, we are dealing with similar life issues. I'm a big fan of Erik Erikson, who identified eight stages of development during one's lifetime. He called early adulthood "Intimacy vs. Isolation," and middle adulthood "Generativity vs. Stagnation." In early adulthood "the young adult must develop close relationships or suffer feelings of isolation." We need to remember that "intimate" has many meanings: close, dear, cherished, warm and friendly come to mind. Our efforts through Community Building, Etlenu BaSh'chunot (neighborhoods), Adult Education, Shabbat B'Yachad and Shabbat Shelanu serve to help us develop those relationships. They are opportunities for us as individuals and for the community.

Generativity has a broader meaning than just having children; each adult must have some way to satisfy and support the next generation. According to Erikson, "A person does best at this time to put aside thoughts of death and balance its certainty with the only happiness that is lasting: to increase, by whatever is yours to give, the good will and higher order in your sector of the world." We have in our hands, and on our horizon, an amazing opportunity to provide not only for ourselves, but also for generations to come. Of course I'm speaking about our new site. As Mike Irwin reported at the Annual Meeting, we have, to date, pledges of \$2.8 million. This is far short of the capital necessary to construct the building designed, approved by the Board, and presented to the congregation on November 11th last year. I will say it again: when you are contacted by a volunteer from the Capital Campaign, return the call and receive them well. Listen to what they have to say, and make your most carefully considered pledge. This is an important investment in our collective future. The Capital Campaign is winding down, and our volunteers are stretched mighty thin. If you don't receive a phone call, but instead receive a letter with a pledge card, please know that there simply weren't enough person-hours to make personal contact with each of our 385 member-units. I ask that you make a pledge to the campaign, knowing that every dollar only brings us closer to our goal.

Which brings me back to that question of time moving more quickly. Often there don't seem to be enough hours in the day to accomplish all that to which we aspire: hugging our children, our partner; doing our best at work; doing the laundry; shopping for groceries; making a difference in the world; dancing; singing; learning; teaching; feeding the dog; walking the cat — see what I mean? It really is quite easy

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President's Letter

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to feel overwhelmed by it all. But where does that get you? As my father-in-law used to say, "That and a buck will get you on the subway." Yes, there aren't enough hours in the day. Yes, we all have too much to do. Yes, many of us yearn for simpler times. But here's the flip side — when you become involved with a community like ours, the time that you DO have to hug your loved ones, dance, sing, learn and teach become so much more meaningful.

B'shalom,
 Debby Graudenz

► **PESACH BOOKLETS AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE:**
A Guide for the Perplexed — Or How to Make it Through Pesach This Year
 This handy booklet will address your Pesach quandaries!

SELLING YOUR CHAMETZ

Jewish law requires that we own no *chametz* at all during Pesach. To insure compliance with this *halacha*, we may transfer title of whatever *chametz* we have to a person who is not Jewish. Thus, legally, the *chametz* is not ours during Pesach. (This applies to people going out of town as well. If you will be away from your home 30 days or more before Pesach and including Pesach, there's no need to do Bedikat Chametz, just sell the contents.)

This transfer ceremony is done by Rabbi Kelman and is called *Mechirat Chametz*, literally The Selling of Chametz. The Rabbi collects all the authorizations and transfers the *chametz* to a non-Jew. Following Pesach, the non-Jew returns the authorizations to the Rabbi so that possession reverts back to the owner. Please allow one hour after dark on the last day of Pesach, to allow the Rabbi time to buy back the hametz.

EVERYONE must arrange for the sale of *chametz* and vessels used for *chametz* before Pesach for his or her own household. In connection with the sale, the form below may be used. This sale must be completed by 8:00 a.m. on the morning **before** the first Seder (**March 27**).

APPOINTMENT OF AGENT FOR THE SALE OF HAMETZ

I, _____, hereby authorize Rabbi Stuart Kelman to act as my agent to sell any *chametz* that may be in my possession wherever it may be; at my home, place of business, car, vacation home or elsewhere, in accordance with Jewish law.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Signature _____ Date _____

[Note: You may also fax this form back to Rabbi Kelman at 510-549-9448.]

Tzedakah is an appropriate way to add to the significance of the performance of a mitzvah. If you feel so inclined, you are encouraged to make a contribution to: Congregation Netivot Shalom, 1841 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703, or to a *tzedakah* of your choice.

Oneg at the Kelmans



Saturday, March 16,
 4:00-6:00 p.m., the Rabbi will host an oneg at his home. The topic will be "The Music of Pesach."

Be prepared to listen — and sing!!

Annual Pot Party at the Kelmans

For the past few years, on the Sunday before Pesach (this year, **March 24**, from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) people have come to the Kelmans' garage to dip their dishes and silverware in order to make them kosher for Pesach. All questions about kashering and Pesach can be asked at that time! The address is 1003 Mariposa Ave., Berkeley.

Siyyum B'chorim — Fast of the First-Born
 By Rabbi Kelman

On the morning of the day of the first Seder, (**Wednesday, March 27** at 7:15 a.m.) at the morning minyan we will observe the Fast of the First-Born. Those who are first-born are required to fast to commemorate the saving of the first-born in Egypt. The custom is to observe a half-day fast beginning in the morning. However, the rabbis believed, at least in this case, that the mitzvah of studying and completing some rabbinic text far outweighed the observance of this particular fast. So, a legal fiction was created. Once we finish studying some text, we are obligated to celebrate with food. Since all of us who are present have listened to the completion of this text, we celebrate along with the person who completes the text. Since we have thereby eaten, the rest of the day of fasting is not observed. So, I would like to welcome all of you, male or female, who are first-born, to join us this morning for the privilege of joining in the completion of a text of rabbinic literature (to say nothing of the privilege of eating the rest of the day!)

**COMMUNITY
PESACH EVENTS:**

**Pesach Seder Traditions:
A Sephardic Feast!
Monday, March 11
7:00-9:00 p.m.**

Led by Rachel & Jonathan Heinstein
Sponsored by the Mature Mavens
Meets at the Shul offices, Kitah Alef.
Call Iris Greenbaum for more
information: 549-9447, ext. 245.

**Creating a Child-Friendly Seder:
Ideas for Families
with Young Children!**

Parent discussion led by Judy Massarano.
**Sunday, March 10;
10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.**
Pesach activities for children!
Sponsored by Shabbat B'Yachad.
Free to SBY families,
\$5 donation for guests!
BRJCC Room 14
RSVP a must! Call Iris Greenbaum:
549-9447, ext. 245

**ROSH CHODESH GROUP
PESACH CELEBRATION!**

We will meet on **Wednesday, March 13** for our Pesach Celebration. We will conduct a women's seder using a Haggadah which we have developed over the years. Please contact Toby Gidal, tgidal@attbi.com for location and other information.

**Haggadah Tour at
Cody's Books**

On **Sunday, March 17**, between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m., Ira Steingroot, author of *Keeping Passover*, will lead "A Walking Tour of *Haggadot*" at Cody's Books, on Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Cody's is known for stocking a large and diverse supply of Haggadot.

MAZAL TOV TO:

Kim Capelouto-Sorell & Vali Sorell on the birth of their son, Joshua
Peter & Nan Strauss on the birth of their granddaughter, Anika Rachell
Scott & Turi Adams on the birth of their son, Simon Asher David Adams
Bob Safran on his retirement from medical practice
June & Bob Safran on the birth of their grandson to daughter Sarah
Hugo & Laura Wildmann on the birth of their son, Marshall
Joseph Hellerstein & Adene Sacks on the naming of their daughter, Orli
Rabbi Edward Harwitz on being appointed to the position of Head of School for the Jewish Community High School of the Bay
Rabbi Robert Daum, former member of Netivot Shalom, on receiving his doctorate

CONDOLENCES TO:

Nitzhia Shaked on the death of her father, Yoseph Bruchiel
Pauline Moreno on the death of her father, Chan Su Kim
Rachel Seder on the death of her father, William Spielman
Danielle Shelley on the death of her mother, Charmin Knock
Jerry Isaak-Shapiro on the death of his father, Leonard Shapiro

**This Passover,
let one who is hungry enter and eat.**

We begin our Passover seders with the words, "Let all who are hungry enter and eat." Again this year, **MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger** asks you to give meaning and life to those ancient words by letting **one** who is hungry enter and eat.

A gift to **MAZON** of *chai* (\$18), or whatever you would spend to invite one extra person to your seder, will bring food, help and hope to poor and hungry people in our own country, in Israel and around the world.

As we celebrate our freedom during Passover, we must remember those millions still enslaved by hunger and poverty. In a world with more than enough food to feed everyone, we can work toward a day when everyone has enough food.

Through **MAZON**, you can fulfill our ancient Jewish tradition of feeding the hungry. As the poor are fulfilled, so too, will you be.

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

1990 South Bundy Drive, Suite 260 • Los Angeles, CA 90025-2052
PASSOVER 5762/2002

YES, I (we) will "let one who is hungry enter and eat."

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Charge my: VISA MC AmEx # _____ Exp. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

or donate through our Website at www.mazon.org

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.

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?

Volunteer Bikkur Cholim Training Program

By Rabbi Miriam Senturia,
Community Rabbi of the East Bay

The Community Rabbi Program is preparing for its third annual Volunteer Bikkur Cholim Training Program. The program begins on **March 10**. Interviews will be held in February. Participants will attend eight twice-monthly sessions, focused on the spiritual and emotional needs of those who are ill. Participants will commit to visit a designated person for at least six months. We hope that they will also use what they learn in the service of their congregation.

If you are interested in this program, please call Rabbi Senturia at 839-2900, ext. 212, for more information.

"I completed this training last Spring, and found it extremely beneficial. I highly recommend it for anyone wanting to take the next step in doing this important mitzvah." – Peter Strauss

WORKSHOP FOR NETIVOT SHALOM COUPLES!

Shalom Bayit: How Do We Get There?

This workshop will take place over two Sunday morning sessions. Each session will include discussion and practical tools for enhancing your relationship with your partner!

Topics:

- ☞ Exploring Differences
- ☞ Understanding Your Partner
- ☞ Moving Towards Harmony

Led by Hilda Kessler, PhD, author of *Treating Couples*. Hilda has 30 years work experience with couples.

Sunday, March 10 & Sunday, April 14

10:00-11:30 a.m.

at the home of Hilda Kessler

Space is limited!

Register by calling Hilda Kessler at 525-3582.

Childcare available at the Shul offices. RSVP a must!

Max & Cecilia Rosenheimer Youth Scholarship Fund

A number of years ago, Michael Rosenheimer established the Max and Cecilia Rosenheimer Youth Scholarship Fund, in memory of his parents. Over the years, through the generosity of this fund, many Netivot Shalom families have been able to send their children to a Jewish Summer Camp.

If you would like to apply for a 2002 Camp Scholarship, please contact Lorraine Rosenblatt, Education Administrator at 549-9447, ext.104 or e-mail her at edu@netivotshalom.org. The deadline for applying is **Monday, April 8**. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Lorraine.

Of course, contributions to the Max and Cecilia Rosenheimer Youth Scholarship Fund are always welcome.

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.

Sponsor a Kiddush!!

By Janet Harris

We still have April 20th open, and would love to have that filled soon. There are many, many summer days available, so please e-mail or call me as soon as you have checked your calendar. By the way, kiddush can be as simple or elaborate as you like — don't be intimidated! Call me, and I will share Debby's amazingly wonderful Costco Kiddush ideas with you! You can reach me by e-mail at janeth2@aol, or by telephone at 524-2245. Call me, because pretty soon I will begin calling you!

Gender & Judaism

All are invited to participate in a lively series of discussions about many aspects of Gender & Judaism. All discussions take place Saturdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m., in the library at the Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center. The Gender & Judaism series is sponsored by Congregation Netivot Shalom and co-sponsored by the Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Beth El, Kehilla, and the Aquarian Minyan.

March 9: Marcia Falk

"An Intensive Look at Jewish's Women's Poetry"

Poet and translator Marcia Falk is the author of *The Book of Blessings*, a groundbreaking new Hebrew-English prayer book that gives voice to an inclusive spiritual vision, and of an internationally acclaimed translation of *The Song of Songs*. She has taught literature, creative writing, and Jewish Studies at SUNY Binghamton, the Claremont Colleges, Stanford, and Hebrew Union College, and is currently a free-lance lecturer and teacher. She travels nationally to give talks, readings, and scholar-in residence weekends, and offers poetry classes and workshops in her Berkeley home.

April 13: Rabbi Stuart Kelman

"Same-Gender Commitment Ceremonies in the Conservative Movement: History, Consequences and Reactions"

A few years ago, the issue of the role of gays and lesbians in our congregation became a major issue to be studied and policies formulated. After much congregational soul searching and thoughtful deliberations, Rabbi Kelman authored a *teshuvah* which argued for the creation of a '*brit reyut*'. Since then, he has conducted one such ceremony. This is an opportunity to review what happened in our congregation and what has been happening in the larger Conservative movement.

Upcoming Rosh Chodesh Services

Nisan: Thursday, March 14

Iyar: Friday April 12

Sivan: Sunday May 12
(Mother's Day, services will be held at 9:00 a.m.)

Tammuz: Monday June 10

Av: Wednesday July 10

Services are at 7:15 a.m., except for those held on Saturday or Sunday. Services are at the shul, except for Saturdays.

Stuart Kelman is the Rabbi of Congregation Netivot Shalom in Berkeley and has written and spoken on this subject frequently. He has authored other pamphlets which assist congregants in performing the *mitzvot* of bikkur cholim, nichum aveilim, and tahara. Rabbi Kelman was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary in N.Y. and holds a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Southern California.

May 11: Rachel Brodie

*"The Secret Pleasure of Pomegranates:
Women in the Song of Songs"*

An anthology of love poems, full of riddles and dreams, the Song of Songs presents women as active players in the pursuit of pleasure and equal to men in the realm of desire. Together we will explore a different angle on women in the Bible through this provocative book and its themes of love and lust, gardens and gazelles.

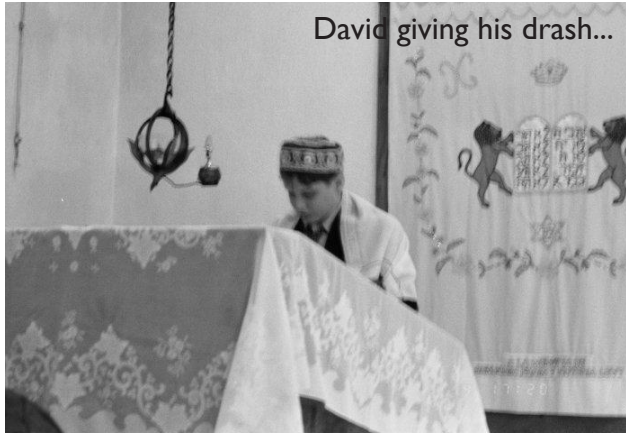
Rachel Brodie is a Jewish educator who specializes in adult and family education, currently working for the Bureau of Jewish Education. She settled in the Bay Area in 1997 after spending a year in Israel on a Melton Senior Educator's Fellowship at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Rachel holds a B.A. in Literature and history from Brown University and a master's degree in Rabbinic Literature from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

June 8: Open Discussion of Gender & Judaism

Do you want a continuation of the Gender & Judaism series or other presentations or study sessions, either on Shabbat or at other times? Discussion will be led by series coordinators Rivka Greenberg and Judy Kunofsky. If there is interest in continuing this series next year, it is time for new coordinators to step forward.

Childcare will be provided at each program.

Comunidad Hebrea Hatikvah,



David giving his drash...

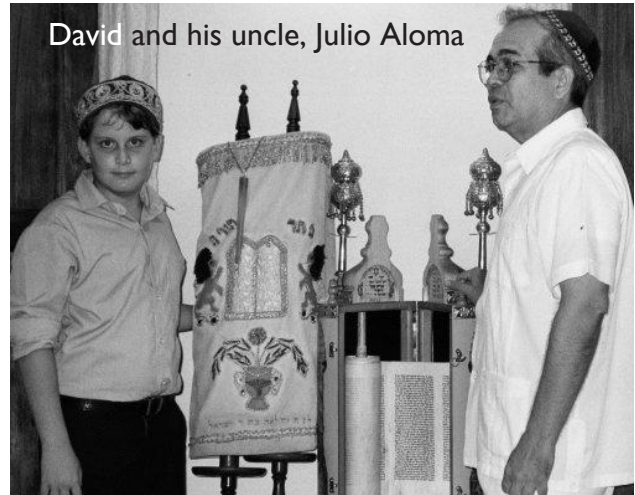


...and reading Torah

The Bar Mitzvah of David Budegin Farin ...



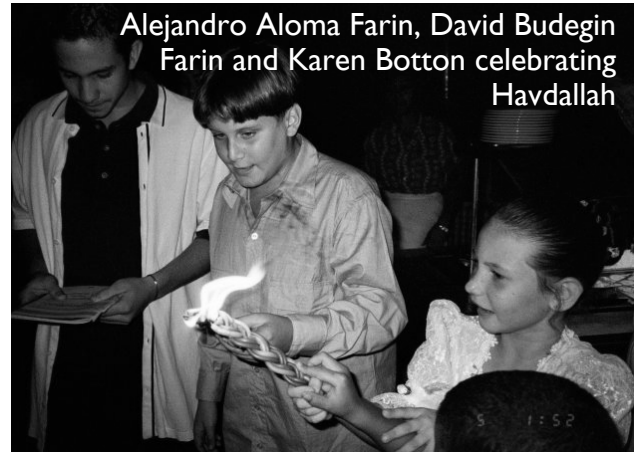
June and David Budegin Farin



David and his uncle, Julio Aloma



Left to right: Marcos Frometa Farin, Matilde Farin Levy, David Budegin Farin, Rafi Silberblatt (from Beth Israel in Berk.), Salomon Botton, Karen Botton, Yolanda Cruz



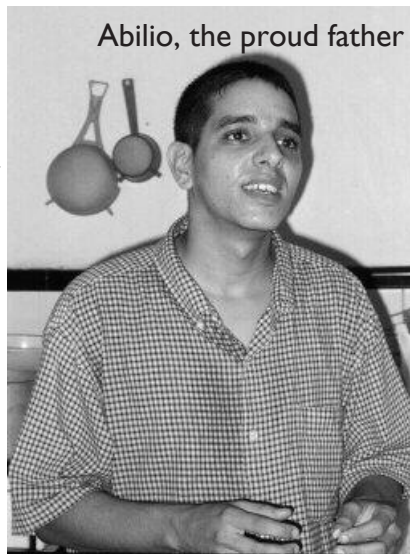
Alejandro Aloma Farin, David Budegin Farin and Karen Botton celebrating Havdallah

Our Sister Congregation in Santiago de Cuba

By June & Bob Safran

Comunidad Hebréa Hatikva de Santiago de Cuba is a vibrant congregation in Cuba's second largest city. The shul was founded in 1924 by Sephardim from Turkey. It was 120 members strong when we established our formal relationship as sister congregations back in 1996 with a visit that included Rabbi Kelman. The friendship was instantaneous and lasting, with several subsequent visits and much mail going in both directions. Over the years, about half of the community has made aliyah and members of our congregation have continued to visit them in Israel. Today the community in Santiago has only 55 members (19 families) yet remains strong in its religious practice thanks in great measure to the continuing advice, assistance, and friendship offered by our synagogue community.

These photos are from our recent travels to Cuba to attend the Bar Mitzvah of David Budegin Farin and the birth of Alejandra Sophia.



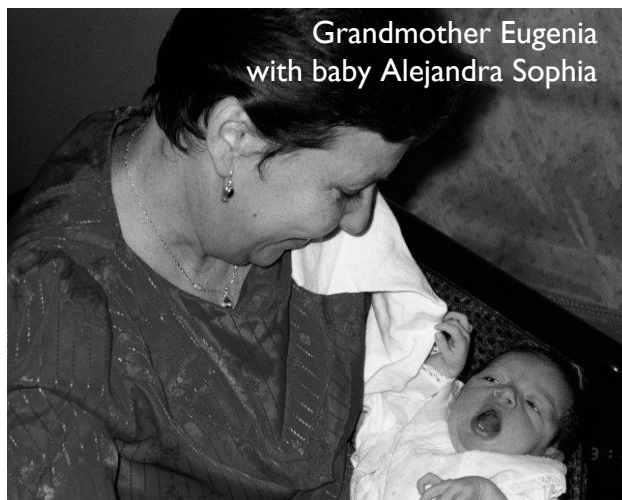
Abilio, the proud father



Betty & Abilio look at gifts, greetings from Netivot Shalom



Betty & Alejandra Sophia



Grandmother Eugenia with baby Alejandra Sophia



Bob Safran, Matilde Farin, June Safran, Julio Aloma at the edge of Santiago Bay

MARCH 2002

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

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>3 19 ADAR</p> <p>9:30 am Ritual Fair</p> <p>5:00 pm Youth Education meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Ritual Committee meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>4 20 ADAR</p> <p>7:30 pm Ethics in the Torah with Nitzhia Shaked</p> <p>7:30 pm "Cities of Refuge" with guest lecturer, Naomi Seidman, in classroom Aleph</p>	<p>5 21 ADAR</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 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>
<p>10 26 ADAR</p> <p>10:00 am Workshop: "Shalom Bayit - How do we get there?" at Hilda Kessler's home</p> <p>10:00 am Pesach Workshop: Seders for young children; at the BRJCC</p> <p>5:00 pm Executive Committee meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>11 27 ADAR</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>7:40 pm Advanced Talmud class with Ilana Fodiman: Makkot</p>	<p>12 28 ADAR</p> <p>7:00 pm Rosh Chodesh Group</p> <p>7:30 pm NO TALMUD CLASS</p>	<p>13 29 ADAR</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Nisan</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>time TBA Rosh Chodesh Group Seder</p>
<p>17 4 NISAN</p> <p>10:00 am K'tanim at the BRJCC</p> <p>1:30 pm Haggadah tour at Cody's with Ira Steingroot</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>18 5 NISAN</p> <p>7:30 pm Ethics in the Torah with Nitzhia Shaked</p> <p>7:40 pm Advanced Talmud class with Ilana Fodiman: Makkot</p>	<p>19 6 NISAN</p> <p>7:30 pm Talmud class with Rabbi Kelman: Brachot</p>	<p>20 7 NISAN</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 11 NISAN</p> <p>10:30 am Pot Party at the Kelmans to kosher pots for Pesach</p> <p>5:00 pm Board of Directors meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>25 12 NISAN</p> <p>7:30 pm Ethics in the Torah with Nitzhia Shaked</p> <p>7:40 pm Advanced Talmud class with Ilana Fodiman: Makkot</p>	<p>26 13 NISAN</p> <p>7:30 pm Talmud class with Rabbi Kelman: Brachot</p>	<p>27 14 NISAN</p> <p>Erev Pesach</p> <p>First Seder in the evening</p> <p>7:15 am Morning Minyan, Siyyum B'chorim: Fast of the First Born</p> <p>First Seder in the evening</p>
<p>31 18 NISAN</p> <p>Chol Ha-Moed Second Intermediate Day</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>April 1 19 NISAN</p> <p>Chol Ha-Moed Third Intermediate Day</p> <p>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</p>	<p>April 2 20 NISAN</p> <p>Chol Ha-Moed Fourth Intermediate Day</p> <p>7:30 pm NO TALMUD CLASS</p> <p>NO AMITIM</p>	<p>April 3 21 NISAN</p> <p>Seventh Day of Pesach</p> <p>9:45 am 7th Day Pesach Services; at the BRJCC</p> <p>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</p>

ADAR-NISAN 5762

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	<p>1 17 ADAR</p> <p>5:45 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>2 18 ADAR</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Ki Tissa, with Nitzhia Shaked 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES 10:30 am Religious School for Grades K-6 11:30 am Shabbat Shelanu, room 20</p>
<p>7 23 ADAR</p>	<p>8 24 ADAR</p> <p>5:52 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>9 25 ADAR</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Vayyakhel, with Naomi Seidman 9:45 am Learner's Minyan, room 14, with Eva Heinstein 10:30 am Religious School for Grades K-6 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad, room 14</p> <p>1:30 pm Gender & Judaism: Marcia Falk, "An Intensive Look at Jewish Women's Poetry", at the BRJCC library</p>
<p>14 1 NISAN</p>	<p>15 2 NISAN</p> <p>5:59 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>16 3 NISAN</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Vayyikra, with Nitzhia Shaked 9:30 am Meditative Minyan, room 14 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES; Noah Belkin will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah 10:30 am Religious School for Grades K-6</p> <p>4:00 pm Oneg at the Kelmans home, "The Music of Pesach"</p>
<p>21 8 NISAN</p> <p>7:30 pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah class</p>	<p>22 9 NISAN</p> <p>6:06 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>23 10 NISAN</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Tzav with Gershom Cox 9:45 am Learner's Minyan, room 14, with Brenda Goldstein 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES; Andrea Morris will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah 10:30 am Religious School for Grades K-6 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad, room 14</p>
<p>28 15 NISAN</p> <p>First Day of Pesach Second Seder in the evening</p> <p>9:45 am Pesach Services; at the BRJCC</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>29 16 NISAN</p> <p>Second Day of Pesach</p> <p>9:45 am Pesach Services; in the shul library 6:12 pm Candle Lighting</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>30 17 NISAN</p> <p>Shabbat Chol Ha-Moed Song of Songs First Intermediate Day</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Ki Tissa with Nitzhia Shaked 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES</p> <p>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL (classes resume April 8)</p>
<p>April 4 22 NISAN</p> <p>Eighth Day of Pesach Yizkor Service</p> <p>9:45 am 8th Day Pesach Services; in the shul library</p> <p>NO AMITIM</p>	<p>April 5 23 NISAN</p> <p>6:18 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>April 6 24 NISAN</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Shemini with Cynthia Hoffman 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES 11:00 am Shabbat Shelanu, room 20</p> <p>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</p>

RITUAL COMMITTEE

Halacha & Kavanna, Part II

By Josh Gressel, Ritual Committee Chair

Vicky Kelman, Dean Kertesz, Judy Massarano & Seymour Kessler

The January newsletter debate on halacha and kavanna between Seymour Kessler and me stimulated more discussion than anything I've written to date. Three people (Vicky Kelman, Dean Kertesz and Judy Massarano) generously agreed to write up their views. They are printed below, along with a response from Seymour.

Dear Seymour and Josh,

Kavanna is neither new-age "mumbo jumbo" nor license to pick the *mitzvot* that move us and make us "feel good." It is a concept which has deep roots in our tradition.

Traditionally, *kavanna* (intention) is always paired with *keva* (regularity, routine). We need both. *Keva* tells us what to do and when. (To use your examples: lighting Shabbat candles at sunset, saying a *bracha* upon enjoying or partaking of God's gifts, giving *tzedakah*.) *Kavanna* tells us how to go about doing it. *Kavanna* is the quality of presence and concentration in the moment of the performance of the *mitzvah*. Without it, performance of *mitzvot* is in danger of becoming hollow behaviorism.

For example, if I am reciting the *bracha* for a rainbow but my mind is on the driver who just cut me off, if I am lighting Shabbat candles but paying attention to a bird building a nest outside my window, if I am saying the *Sh'ma* but I am thinking about my meeting later in the day or noticing what the person next to me is wearing, could we say that I have really performed these *mitzvot*?

Well, I would 'get credit' for saying the right words at the right time — but in some very basic way I was not truly present. I was very much somewhere else. Therefore, did I perform these *mitzvot*? *Kavanna* is that presence — a critical ingredient in the process of striving to live a Jewish life.

We could go round and round as to which comes first — but the bottom line

is that we need to struggle to achieve both. It's my experience that they both take a lot of work.

B'yedidut,
Vicky

Dear Seymour and Josh,

It was a pleasure to read your debate over *kavanna* and *halacha* in the January issue of the newsletter and to see two of our members engage in a serious discussion on this topic. Now I must weigh into the debate, because, like Vicky, I agree with much that you both said, but I also disagree with you both.

First of all, I want to avoid the discussion of the merits of moral relativism versus eternal truths. Not because I am a moral relativist; I'm not. But I don't think that topic has much to do with the issues under discussion. In Judaism the obligation to pray is absolute; it is commanded behavior.

It would be valuable for our congregation to have a serious discussion about the binding authority of *halacha* and *mitzvot* on us as modern, American, Conservative Jews. But that is another topic for another time. What I want to explore now is how one fulfills the *mitvah* of prayer.

I don't see the conflict, or the dialectic, being between *kavanna* (feelings) and *halacha* (Jewish religious law), as Seymour suggests, but rather between *kavanna* and *keva*. First, let's define some terms. *Kavanna* comes from the same Hebrew root as *kivune* (direction) and is usually translated as intention or purpose. It is the spirit, the attitude, or the focus that we bring to prayer, not the feeling we wish to get out of our prayer. *Keva* shares the same Hebrew root as *likboah*, to affix, as in, to affix a mezzuzah to the doorpost. Regarding prayer it means to fix or establish how often one is required to pray, at what times one must pray, and what prayers

one must say.

Both elements, *keva* and *kavanna*, are essential for Jewish prayer and both are in constant tension. This tension goes back to at least the time of the Mishna, roughly 200 CE. *Mishna Brachot* focuses in great detail and at great length on the correct time, frequency, and content of prayer. But it is also deeply concerned with the attitude one brings to prayer. In *Mishna Brachot* 4:4, R. Eliezer says, "One who makes their prayer a mechanical task (*keva*), their prayer is not a prayer." Or later, in *Brachot* 5:1-2, "One must not stand up to say the Amida without deep earnestness. The original pious ones used to wait for one hour and then pray in order to direct their minds to God." And later Maimonides wrote, "Prayer without *kavanna* is no prayer at all. He who has prayed without *kavanna*, ought to pray once more."

This does not mean that we are exempt from prayer when the mood isn't right or we don't feel like it. Quite the contrary, prayer is an obligation, not an option. In his essay "The Spirit of Jewish Prayer," Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote, "I am not always in the mood to pray. I do not always have the vision and the strength to say a word in the presence of God. But when I am weak, it is the law that gives me strength; when my vision is dim, it is duty that gives me insight."

We can keep kosher, give *tzedakah* and visit the sick — just three random examples — without *kavanna* and still fulfill the *mitzvot*, because we are performing the required actions and these actions will cause physical effects. The appropriate food will be eaten in the appropriate way; funds to help the poor will be provided; a sick person will be comforted. As Seymour says, they will also have an impact on us, on our character, but only after we have performed the required act. Will they be more meaningful if we bring appropriate *kavanna* to their performance? Probably, but that is not essential.

Prayer is different. Unlike the other *mitzvot*, the rabbis understood that this mitzvah could be fulfilled correctly only with proper preparation and intention. In that sense prayer may be the most difficult of the *mitzvot*. Perhaps that is because prayer is so personal, so intimate, and so particular to each individual and their relationship to God. Whatever the reason, our rabbis seemed tuned into the special nature of this mitzvah and understood that both prior attitude and taking the necessary action were essential.

In the same essay Heschel described the necessity of both *keva* and *kavanna* with this metaphor: "The body is the discipline, the pattern, the law; the spirit is the inner devotion, spontaneity, freedom. The body without the spirit is a corpse; the spirit without the body is a ghost." To fully pray, to truly fulfill this essential mitzvah we must bring both *kavanna* and *keva* — two completely different but absolutely critical commitments — to our prayer.

B'Shalom,
Dean

Dear Josh and Seymour,

Wow. I just read the exchange between you both. It gave me pause. I was surprised to hear *kavanna* referred to as "a bit of New Age mumbo jumbo." I am fairly certain that traditional texts refer to it, or at least to the notion of directing one's heart towards God (*v'yichaveyn et libo laBoreh...?*) This may be in the context of laws of *tefila*, but still there is an awareness on the part of the writers of various halakhic texts, that intentionality is an important part of one's religious experience. True, the *keva* needs to be there, traditionally, to create the *kavanna*, as Seymour mentioned, but I am not ready to call it "New Age." It has been rediscovered by some as of late, but it was always there by many who have captured *keva*. It also, personally, has made me a better "bencher." I mean this. For years, both as a young student and as an adult, I found saying *Birkat Hamazon* rather routine, and never really thought about it very much. I just did it. This was true of other *bracha* opportunities as well. But for

the past few years, I have realized that it is an opportunity for actual *tefila*. If I think about the words and feel gratitude for what I've eaten in a reflective, sincere way, paying attention to the text, it transforms the experience.

Thanks for a great read!
Judy

Seymour responds:

Underlying the discussion regarding *kavanna* is a far deeper issue: the egocentricity of contemporary Judaic practice. In that context I wanted to point out that prayer and many of the rituals we practice have become a forum for self-gratification and self-fulfillment, as if their goal was to make us feel good or to give us something, spiritual or otherwise, as a gift or consequence. *Kavanna* is just one of several arenas in which egocentric expression emerges.

There is a mistaken belief that the *kavanna* of prayer functions to blot out our consciousness so that we might reach supernal levels of emotional so-called or spiritual highs. Members of our congregation are encouraged to engage in mind-altering techniques and other activities which call attention to and focus on the individual's inner world, as if God would be found there. It is as if we want to emphasize the individual's relationship with God, to carve out a special niche in which 'God and I' are alone together as two lovers. The inner reach for God promotes a subjective, personal, egocentric relation with the divine. It is a selfish approach, because in the process a heightened awareness or consciousness of others and their needs is suppressed or compromised.

My position is simply this: *kavanna* comes with self-sacrifice. In that regard, I want to pick up on Vicky's perspicacious use of the phrase that without *kavanna* "performance of *mitzvot* is in danger of becoming hollow behaviorism." She presents this in an obviously pejorative way, as if to imply that it is either mindless or meaningless. As if only non-hollow behaviorism, actions that achieve a goal, material or non-material, for oneself, has

meaning. Thus to invest one's emotional or material energies in an activity without expectation of a return or reward is an act of foolishness, emptiness and without significance. Isn't that exactly what our Western culture teaches us?

But, couldn't one say that hollow behaviorism is exactly the point of performing *mitzvot* or of prayer itself? Isn't prayer in which the egocentric self subordinates itself to the otherness of God at a more advanced *madregah* (step) than prayer based on self-centered feelings that expect returns and rewards?

Perhaps it's only when we empty ourselves, hollow ourselves from our wishes and needs to "contact" God that we can fully pray to God. Perhaps when we empty ourselves from our egocentric self we make room for the "I" who answers "I am here; *hinani*; as your obedient servant." Weren't fixed prayers instituted after the destruction of the Temple as a substitute for *karbonot*? (sacrifices). And weren't *karbonot* already to be regarded as a substitution for the human self? Couldn't it be argued that prayer should be grounded on self-sacrifice; a sacrifice of self? And yes, I agree, there are dangers. But, the greatest danger is the illusion that we have something to offer God or can approach the Unapproachable; that we are more than "dust and ashes," that we can be generous to God with our prayer and praise? This may only be self-conceit, not *kavanna*. In our *vidui* (confession) we remind ourselves as we address God: "What is man that You are mindful of him?" Perhaps in "hollow behaviorism" there is a path to hallowed behaviorism.
Seymour

In closing, I want especially to thank Seymour for his willingness to take a strong yet less popular position. In doing so, he both articulates things that might otherwise remain unsaid, as well as helps those of us who don't fully agree with him to sharpen our thinking on why not.

Josh



RITUAL

Ritual Committee Meeting of 2/3/02

Rabbi's report: Rabbi Kelman reported on a possible donation of a new Torah mantle for Yamim Nora'im. He asked for the committee's input on what type of signs to put in the entrance to the JCC to welcome people to the synagogue and educate them about norms of decorum. He asked for input on teachings he should do in the spring.

- The committee approved a request by Carla Kessler, on behalf of the Ramah Day Camp, to sell raffle tickets at the Purimspiel. The committee recommended the Board be consulted as well.
- The committee gave Josh Gressel approval to organize a discussion for congregants on their spiritual lives and their beliefs (or lack thereof) in God.
- The committee decided to hold a *Shacharit* service on Yom Atzmaut, **Wednesday, April 17**. The committee made a commitment to hold a religious service each year on Yom Atzmaut, even when it doesn't fall on a regular Wednesday minyan as it does this year.
- There was an extended discussion led by Robin Braverman on plans for Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day). Robin proposed changing the tenor of the day's observance to one more celebratory of the culture Hitler tried to destroy, and suggested activities connected to Yiddish culture. The committee had difficulties with changing a day for remembering the dead to one of celebration. For this year, there will be a program planned the Sunday before Yom HaShoah (**April 7**) that will deal with Yiddish culture and other topics. There will also be a Ma'ariv service on the evening of Yom HaShoah with other programming probably more somber in nature.

Wendy Takes a Break

Wendy Rosov, the jack-of-all-trades-and-expert-at-everything, has decided to take a leave of absence from the Ritual Committee. Seldom does one find a person who not only can do so many things so well, but also is willing to do so much. She combines scholarly knowledge of Judaism, complete facility in all phases of davening, incredible organizational abilities, and a passionate commitment to community. Her six years on the committee have been the equivalent of many more because of her impact on all phases of our services and observance.

Everyone on the committee hopes that this is "*Lehitraot*" (See you!) rather than "*Shalom*" (Farewell). In the meantime, may she enjoy her much deserved rest and recharge her batteries. Wendy has said she will be continuing all other non-committee synagogue activities.

Josh Gressel, *Ritual Chair*

SOCIAL ACTION

Sukkot in April

Congregation Netivot Shalom is planning to repair the home of a low-income elderly disabled person on Sunday, April 28. We are working with the Federation and a group called Rebuilding Together (formerly Christmas in April). These two groups are organizing several congregations to work on similar projects on that Sunday in April.

In January, Netivot Shalom passed the first hurdle towards sponsoring a house of our own. We needed to raise \$3,000 to cover costs of materials, insurance, etc. to sponsor a house. *Todah rabah* to the dozens of families who pledged their financial support, and to the Rabbi for the contribution from his discretionary fund and to the Board of Directors for voting to use other discretionary funds to help us reach this \$3,000 goal. Thank you! The other pieces of our Sukkot in April effort are also coming together. First, Eric Strimling, a former Netivot Shalom member who moved to Alameda, has volunteered to serve as House Captain for Netivot Shalom this year. That's the skilled person who scopes out the project and does the prep work so that we less skilled volunteers can be effective. Eric said he is excited about working with us and seeing old friends. He's a great House Captain and should significantly magnify the impact we make.

Second, an initial screening of possible houses we might work on has been completed and there is one house that appears to be a particularly strong candidate for us. This house is about eight-tenths of a mile (seven or eight blocks) from the new University Avenue site and it is a place where our help is much needed. The owner has little or no hot water pressure, a badly leaking roof, dangerous wiring and he needs his front and back steps repaired. The house needs lots of plaster and paint work and all in all looks like quite a mess, we are told. This assignment is not yet firm and looks like it won't be set until late February or early March.

Third, we will need a lot of volunteer help. After the house assignment is finalized, Eric will help determine any prep days that are needed, how many volunteers will be needed on April 28 and how many people will be needed for follow-up work. Please keep an eye out for a mailing to every Netivot Shalom member inviting you to volunteer for all or any of those dates. We will also ask you to identify any relevant skills you have, but those without any special remodeling related skills who just want to put in a good day of hard work are the backbone of this effort. Also a full day of child care will be provided for parents who want to volunteer. Kids will spend part of the day working on projects related to the work at the site (preparing food for volunteers, making art work for the home owner, etc.) and of course, also doing purely frivolous things just for fun.

So please hold the day of **Sunday, April 28**. It will be a great opportunity for us to make a genuine and tangible impact in the life of one our new neighbors. The mailing to all members providing more details should go out in early March, but if you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact Jonathan Klein at jklein03@sprynet.com.

UNIVERSITY AVE. SITE WORK GROUP
"Don't Worry, Be Happy"

By Joe Meresman,
 Site Work Group Chair

During the month of Adar we are instructed to "increase happiness," and our continuing progress on creating Netivot Shalom's new home gives us good reason to be happy.

By the time you read this, the Berkeley Zoning Board's review of our site proposal should be well underway. We have actually submitted two separate proposals to the Board, per their requirement. One is for the planned joint development of the Netivot Shalom and Montessori sites, as I've described in previous newsletters. The other is for the Netivot Shalom site only, which will serve as a back-up plan in the event that Montessori fails to go ahead with its project. There is nothing to suggest that Montessori will back out, but an approved contingency plan will ensure that, if their plans do change for any reason, our own building project will proceed unaffected. We will let you know when the Zoning Board schedules a public hearing on our proposal. A large community turn-out in support of the proposal will be very helpful, so your presence is needed at the hearing.

While we have not put hammer to nail, we are already starting to think about commissioning artwork for the new building, since artists and artisans need time to complete their work. At this early stage, we need to create a process for setting criteria for art projects, soliciting proposals, etc. Please note that we are *not yet* setting those criteria or requesting any proposals from artists — the *process* must come first, which is especially appropriate for Berkeley. If you would like to be involved, you are requested to contact me as soon as possible.

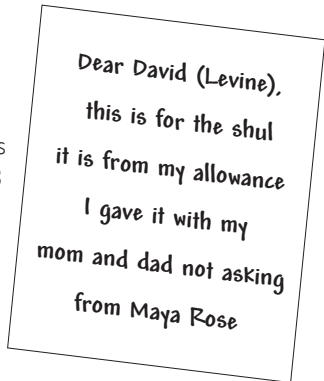
Please continue to watch this space for more exciting developments on University Avenue, and as always, feel free to contact me at MeresmanJ@aol.com.

Save the Date:
March 16
Pajama Havdallah!
Singing, Stories &
Art Projects with Nancy Katz
For families with school-age kids!

Watch for details!

CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE
Why the Effort is Worth It

A very special note: We received \$11.80 from the piggybanks of Ari and Maya Rose Ball-Burack (ages 4 and 6 respectively), along with the following note:



We now have pledges from 186 of our 383 member units. But don't think we are a congregation of deadbeats. We have simply not yet had time to contact most of the rest of our members. We've had pledges, most of them substantial, and many sacrificial, from people at all income levels from all but a handful of those we have contacted so far. (Remember that more than one-third of our membership is on dues assistance.) We are committed to wrapping up the campaign by March 31, so that the site committee can begin bidding the actual contracts that will be required to start construction in the fall. Our new building is about to become a reality, but at this juncture it is urgent that everyone help. We will be contacting all of you whom we have not yet contacted in the next month, and we need your help more than ever. Answer our calls; make a pledge that reflects your full capacity to contribute; and volunteer to contact others.

For the Campaign,

Art Braufman, Claudia Valas, Ann Swidler

Chevra Kadisha Annual Meeting

By Andrea Cassidy

Usually the Chevra Kadisha meets on the anniversary of Moses' death. But this year, because of scheduling conflicts, the members of the Netivot Shalom Chevra Kadisha will Meet, Eat & Listen on **March 17**, at 7:00 p.m. in the shul library. All sub-committees (Tahara, Nehama (counseling), Minyan Coordinators, Minyan Leaders, Shmirah (watchers) participants and Gemulit Chasidim Coordinator,) as well as anyone interested in learning more and participating in these activities are invited.

Alison Jordan will share with us her work in progress on the Vidui, the traditional prayer said before death. She has been awarded a grant for her work and will provide a short introduction to her studies, which have taken her to San Francisco and Jerusalem. You have all cared for our community, now come and be fed and refreshed. Please RSVP to Andi Cassidy by March 13 at 549-1407 or acass@cc.co.contra-costa.ca.us

Welcome New Co-Chairs

The Adult Education Committee welcomes Ethel Murphy and Robin Braverman as the new co-Chairs. They are capable, committed and their Judaism spans the diversity that is characteristic of Netivot Shalom. Robin has been active in an east-coast Reform Synagogue with traditional leanings, and Ethel retains her ties to the Orthodox community. Both have worked closely with Adult Education projects for years and will bring innovative ideas to programming.

B'hatzlachal (Much success!) and all the best.

Jonathan Heinstein

10K MS Walk— Join the Lightning Bolts!

The Rosenblatt Family would like to invite family, friends and neighbors to support them and their team, the Lightning Bolts, for their fourth year of walking the ten kilometer MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Walk through picturesque Alameda.

MS is a chronic, often disabling disease that attacks the central nervous system. The progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot be predicted. Today, advances in research and treatment are giving hope to people who are affected by the disease.

Join us on **Sunday, April 7** for a day of food, fun, prizes and the satisfaction of giving of yourself to help others. We will meet at the Lightning Bolts Registration Table at Crown Beach, Alameda. Team members who have at least \$100 in pledges upon registration will be the lucky recipients of an Official MS Walk 2002 Tee-shirt.

The Lightning Bolts have a goal this year to collect at least \$5,500. That works out to one dollar for each person in Northern California who is affected by MS.

I (we) would love to join the Lightning Bolts for the MS Walk, on Sunday, April 7. Please send us a registration form.

I (we) can't make the walk, but I (we) will be happy to pledge.

You can register or make a pledge on line. The address is www.msconnection.org. Please mention the Lightning Bolts team when you register or make a pledge.

Make checks payable to: NMSS (National Multiple Sclerosis Society). Mail checks to: Lorraine Rosenblatt, 1967 Arrowhead Dr., Oakland, CA 94611.

Thank you for your support!

ADULT EDUCATION Adult Education Committee Co-Chairs

By Ethel Murphy

Though you are reading this in the beginning of March, this was actually written just after the Annual Meeting in the beginning of February when Robin Braverman and I became the new Adult Education Co-Chairs. Robin is a relatively new member of Netivot Shalom, but has already served on the Adult Education Committee and continues to be an active member of the Ritual Committee. I've been a part of Netivot Shalom since the shul began, so together, old member and new, we will go forward to meet the challenges of Adult Ed for the next year.

We inherit a position that was filled by an individual who brought a high degree of scholarship and insight into the Adult Ed program — Jonathan Heinstein. He sensed the need for Hebrew classes, at all levels, and initiated our highly successful program. *Todah gedolah*.

We expect to be a committee without meetings and to communicate with you via e-mail and phone. We will need your input and advice so that we can design programs adequately. Then we will need your help in implementing those programs. No meetings, but a task-based agenda. Furthermore, we are hoping to tap into the expertise of Netivot Shalom members who are scholars, researchers, and professionals, to teach us, to donate their time for a lecture or workshop, so that we can learn from each other without major impact on the budget.

We expect to continue the Hebrew language classes. Likewise, we intend to continue to offer Talmud classes, Torah study, the Learner's Minyan, and the Gender & Judaism series.

We're thinking that perhaps another topic or two might work for that two-hour slot after Kiddush on Shabbat. We would like to add a Yiddish program and a conversational Hebrew class, more musical programming and a series on Conservative *halacha*. These are our ideas, but we need your input to know what YOU are interested in learning. Call us or write!! Ethel Murphy: 510-559-8372, emurphy@california.com. Robin Braverman: 925-979-1998, rivkah48@aol.com.

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.

Midrasha News

By Diane Bernbaum, Midrasha Director

Usually I don't beat myself up too much in the parenting department. Now that they have reached adulthood, my kids reassure me that I didn't do such a bad job. However, if I were to have the experience to do over again, I would change the way our family gives *tzedakah*. Somehow I learned what to do and developed personal guidelines: Give *tzedakah* to commemorate happy occasions. Give *tzedakah* to commemorate sad occasions. Give *tzedakah* for life cycle events. Give *tzedakah* to say thank you when someone has done something nice. Give to a variety of different organizations with different goals. I feel fine about what I do in my personal *tzedakah* practice, but I fear I wasn't a role model for my children. I write my checks in the privacy of my desk. It would have been better to turn this into a family activity. We did do this one time, at the time of their Bar Mitzvahs. They generously decided where to contribute a large portion of their gift checks. Why didn't any of us decide to make this an annual event?

Last month there was a great article in Lilith Magazine, written by a 9th grader from Boston, Anna Schnur-Fishman, describing the process her family uses. Around October the family starts saving all the *tzedakah* appeals that come into the house. Then right before Chanukah they toss out the ones that don't interest them and for each of the 20-25 that are left they make an index card. Family members advocate for different organizations and then vote by each writing down their favorites on scraps of paper and throwing their votes into their late grandfather's hat (in an attempt to include their ancestors in the decision making). Then, if there are ties, they do some horse-trading and debating to get down to just eight organizations. (The article was written with Chanukah in mind and this family makes a donation each night.)

At Midrasha we do the same thing. Each class collects money every Sunday and then at the end of the year they vote on where it should be distributed. Hopefully this activity will be repeated at the family level as well. If any of you would like to read the Lilith article, just call the Midrasha office and I'll send you a copy.

Save the Date!!

April 28 is the date of Midrasha's annual fund-raising dinner. Treat yourself to a wonderful evening. This year's speaker will be Elizabeth Rosner, acclaimed author of the new novel *Speed of Light*. This book tells the intertwined story of an opera-singing sister and reclusive brother, children of a Holocaust survivor, and their relationship with a Central American housekeeper who is herself a survivor of a different sort. The novel explores identity, redemption and love AND is set in Berkeley. Ms. Rosner is an extremely engaging speaker and you will come away from the evening with much food for thought. Our dinner will again be held in the magnificent 35-room Casa del Sueño in Orinda and you are encouraged to come early to tour this extraordinary home. Thanks to the great generosity of Gail & Eric Buchbinder, all proceeds go to the Midrasha scholarship fund.

CHARLES BELKIN & GWYNN SIMON

INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM

ON MARCH 16, 2002

AS THEIR SON,

NOAH BELKIN,

IS CALLED TO THE TORAH

AS A BAR MITZVAH.

GREGORY & RUTH MORRIS

INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM

ON MARCH 23, 2002

AS THEIR DAUGHTER,

ANDREA,

IS CALLED TO THE TORAH

AS A BAT MITZVAH.

Y A H R Z E I T L I S T

Eileen Sheila Derblich	18 Adar I/March 2	Jacob Gordon	14 Nisan/March 27
Wilson Kelman	18 Adar II/March 2	Mary Jane Dannenbaum	14 Nisan/March 27
Franklyn Ephraim Landes	18 Adar/March 2	Anna Marguerite Brenna	15 Nisan/March 28
Benjamin W. Sutz	19 Adar/March 3	Penina Shragai	15 Nisan/March 28
Judith Gold	19 Adar I/March 3	Sandy Schneider	16 Nisan/March 29
Rose Lowsky	20 Adar/March 4	Sarah Gordon	17 Nisan/March 30
Pearl Pollero	21 Adar/March 5	Rifka Radousky	17 Nisan/March 30
Donald Weinberg	22 Adar/March 6	Joseph Richmond Levenson	18 Nisan/March 31
Norman Pollner	22 Adar/March 6	Rosemary Levenson	18 Nisan/March 31
Maurice I. Neipris	22 Adar/March 6	Jens Grossman	18 Nisan/March 31
Sylvia Jacobson	22 Adar II/March 6	Moishe Brose	19 Nisan/April 1
Stella G. Dorman	23 Adar II/March 7	Jack Maslan	19 Nisan/April 1
Robert Finegold	24 Adar II/March 8	Sadie Estry	20 Nisan/April 2
Elliott Daniel Zeff	24 Adar/March 8	Devorah Fox	20 Nisan/April 2
James Bloom	24 Adar/March 8	Fred Marcus	21 Nisan/April 3
Saul Lichtenstein	24 Adar I/March 8	Ethel Wilonsky	22 Nisan/April 4
Irving Zelman	25 Adar I/March 9	Herman (Hy) Gold	22 Nisan/April 4
Marjorie Alper	25 Adar/March 9	Max Jacobson	22 Nisan/April 4
Rachel Press	25 Adar/March 9	Max Slavin	23 Nisan/April 5
Leah Jacobson Reingold	26 Adar/March 10	Marian Wagner	24 Nisan/April 6
Pearl Pripstein	26 Adar/March 10	Joseph Swidler	24 Nisan/April 6
Esther Redel	28 Adar/March 12	Abraham Jacob Tolmach	24 Nisan/April 6
Nathan Brandwynne	28 Adar/March 12	Abraham Martin Aloff	24 Nisan/April 6
Carl Slater	29 Adar II/March 13	Max Redel	24 Nisan/April 6
Frances Skoler Gerson	4 Nisan/March 17	Morton Quittel	24 Nisan/April 6
Anna Margueleis Schuman	5 Nisan/March 18	Rose Feige Kaplan	24 Nisan/April 6
Barbara Strauss	5 Nisan/March 18	Joseph C. Swidler	25 Nisan/April 7
Molly S. Gewertz	5 Nisan/March 18	Leah Jacobson Reingold	26 Nisan/April 8
Benjamin Sutz	7 Nisan/March 20	William Schwartz	26 Nisan/April 8
Frances Keller	7 Nisan/March 20	Bluma Sieradzki	27 Nisan/April 9
Sadie S. Kulakofsky	8 Nisan/March 21	Hannah Sieradzki	27 Nisan/April 9
Jack Berger	9 Nisan/March 22	Sarah Kirstein Sieradzki	27 Nisan/April 9
Bernhardt Dorman	10 Nisan/March 23	Hirsch Sieradzki	27 Nisan/April 9
Morton Berger	10 Nisan/March 23	Felix Spiegler	27 Nisan/April 9
Charlotte Koltun	11 Nisan/March 24	Frieda Valfer	27 Nisan/April 9
Hyman Feinstein	11 Nisan/March 24	Gisela Spiegler	27 Nisan/April 9
Reggie Hyne	12 Nisan/March 25	Hermann Valfer	27 Nisan/April 9
Jack I. Antokal	12 Nisan/March 25	Maurice Strauss	27 Nisan/April 9
Saul Sherman	13 Nisan/March 26	Sol Gidal	2 Iyar/April 14
Diana Jurdem	13 Nisan/March 26		

ETZ HAYIM: A Torah Commentary ORDER FORM

I/We will dedicate ___ book(s) at the price of \$50.00 each.

Please include the following on a bookplate:

First book: In honor / In memory of

Second book: In honor / In memory of

Third book: In honor / In memory of

Dedicated by

An anonymous gift.

I would also like a Humash for home use at a cost of \$50.00. (List price at publication will be \$75. Pre-publication price is available when you also dedicate a book for synagogue use.)

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Phone number _____

Total number of books _____ x \$50.00 each

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Return this form with your check payable to:

Congregation Netivot Shalom - Etz Hayim Fund
1841 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703

DONATIONS TO NETIVOT SHALOM

Generous Gifts From Generous People

The Edelstone family for donating their automobile
Lee Feinstein for library assistance
Milt Greenstein for carpentry advice
Norman Rosenblatt for computer upgrades
Jan Fischer for office supplies
Debby Graudenz for general office assistance
Danielle Shelley for draft directory assistance

Adult Ed

Diane & Edwin Bernbaum in memory of Nitzhia Shaked's father, Yoseph Bruchiel

Books & Ritual Objects

Lisa Brinner for children's library books
Xena Brenna for library book
Rachel Brody for two talit bags
Karen Bovarnick for books
The Priven family for library books

Building Fund

Seymour & Hilda Kessler in honor of Leah Fischer's Bat Mitzvah
Laurie Holtzberg in memory of Don Fischer
Brenda Goldstein & David Shragai
Andrea & Michael Cassidy
Ethel Murphy in honor of Lee Feinstein for all her work and assistance
George & Selma Klett for donating an automobile

Etz Hayim

Rena Fischer
David Radwin & Kara Vuicich in memory of Sidney & Ruth Landsman
Susan Seeley
Harvey Stahl in honor of Rabbi Stuart Kelman

General Fund

Morris & Ruth Vogel in memory of Doris Kudisch
Kenneth & Denise Moyes-Schnur in honor of Peggy & Ory Sandel's new baby
Irene J. Wolins in honor of Jonathan Levy-Wolins' Bar Mitzvah

Kiddush Fund

Sarah Ruby in honor of the birth of her great granddaughter, Avery Lieberman
Steven & Ellen Wunderlich

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Jacqueline Mintz & Marc Roth
Lisa Schwartz & Michael Feeley in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary

Shabbat B'Yachad

Maia Fleming-Singer & Brett Singer
Elissa Kittner

Sukkot in April 2002

Carol Robinson & Art Gould

Youth Education

Jewish Community Federation proceeds from the purchase of *Yadaim L'mala* tape & CD
David Finn & Andrea Altschuler in honor of Sam's teachers: Ruth Weisberg, Wendy Rosov, Dean Kertesz and Rabbi Kelman
Debbie Lobel proceeds from purchase of *Yadaim L'mala* CD

MAKE A DONATION

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

CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM
1841 BERKELEY WAY
BERKELEY, CA 94703

Donor(s) Information:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

Please honor the following person/event:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

This donation is intended for the following:

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- Building Fund
- Chevra Kadisha
- Cuba Fund
- Dinners for the Homeless
- Etz Hayim Fund
- General Fund
- Kiddush Fund
- Library Fund
- Max & Cecelia Rosenheimer Camp Scholarship Fund
- Newsletter
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Shabbat B'Yachad
- Sukkot in April 2002
- Torah Study
- Youth Education
- Youth Education Scholarship Fund
- Yizkor

Thank you!



When the Olympic Torch made its way through the East Bay in January, 7 year old Netivot Shalom member Sam Gold was there to lend a hand!



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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.