



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

Netivot Shalom

APRIL, 2002 • NISAN-IYAR 5762

From the Rabbi & the President

The First Phase of the Capital Campaign, an Overview

By Rabbi Stuart Kelman & Debby Graudenz

I am delighted (even, thrilled!) to be able to share the authorship of this front page of our newsletter this month with Debby Graudenz, our President, in order to report on the progress of Netivot Shalom's campaign to build "a home of our own".

As of the end of March, 2002, we are excited to report that we have completed the first phase of our Capital Campaign. Before beginning on the journey to our new home, we contracted the services of Stan Moore, a fundraising consultant. After interviewing a sampling of our members, Stan estimated that we would be able to raise \$2.6 million dollars during this phase in the acquisition of our building. Our Capital Campaign Chairs, Art Braufman, Ann Swidler and Claudia Valas, along with Mike Irwin, our Campaign Treasurer, were more ambitious, and with the help of dozens of volunteers and our generous members, we have exceeded that amount.

Here is where we stand:

- Pledges currently exceed \$3 million!
- Consistent with the participatory culture of our congregation, members have responded at a remarkably high rate. Over 200 full-dues paying households have already made pledges.
- New members have not been solicited for the Capital Campaign, but will be asked to make a fiscal pledge after one year of membership.
- Several members have pre-paid some or all of their five-year pledges. We have collected \$1.1 million in cash, enabling us to prepay our mortgage by \$180,000.
- Our mortgage at 1316 University Ave. has a variable rate. Because of the

downturn in the economy, our interest rates have gone down, saving us almost \$60,000.

- While the total cost of the project (purchase of the site, cost of financing, and renovation) will not be known until contractors submit their bids, we anticipate the cost will be between \$4.5 and \$5 million. The second phase of the campaign is expected to raise a significant portion of this amount. The balance will be covered by a long-term mortgage.

Updates about the site and building are equally exciting:

- Joe Meresman and the other members of the Site Work group have developed a working relationship with Berkeley Montessori, which purchased the property adjacent to our site (currently the Santa Fe Bar and Grill).
- We are developing joint planning with Berkeley Montessori, including shared entrance/exit and drop-off/pick-up areas. We are coordinating the facing on University Avenue and are exploring the possibility of some shared use interior and exterior space.
- Meetings have been held with the University Avenue Business Association, The Berkeley Way Neighborhood Group, Gethsemane Church (across the street), Berkeley Adult School, Strawberry Creek Lodge, and Berkeley Organizations of Community Action (BOCA) as well as with neighbors.
- In the month of April our plans will be submitted for zoning—first for staff review. The review process will run approximately four months prior to our coming before the Zoning Adjustments Board at public hearings.

That's where we are!! Yes, this is another "shehechyanu moment". In life, whenever you have an opportunity to celebrate, do it! The ability to hold and share an optimism that the future will be joyful, celebrated in community, and will provide us with the experience of true fulfillment, is an attitude not to be taken lightly—especially in these days. We need these extraordinary moments of *simcha*, which remind us, concretely, that we are involved in a holy mission—to create a place, a *makom*, in which we can experience the Divine and perform the responsibilities of a *kehilah kedosha*, a holy community.

We need to recognize and thank those leaders in our community who are helping Netivot Shalom make this dream a reality: our Capital Campaign Chairs, Art Braufman, Ann Swidler, Claudia Valas; Mike Irwin, our Campaign Treasurer; and Joe Meresman, our Site Committee Chair. In future editions of our newsletter, we'll list others who have contributed enormous amounts of time energy and passion to help us fulfill the words of the Ashrei: "Happy are they who dwell in Your house."

Upcoming Rosh Chodesh Services

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.



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Deadline for the May newsletter is
April 7, 2002. E-mail submissions
and Letters To The Editor to:
newsletter@netivotshalom.org.

President's Letter

On the evening of September 10th I had the privilege of participating in an event honoring a man who is recognized by *Yad Vashem* as among the Righteous Gentiles of the Holocaust. As joyous and moving as that evening was, it was quickly overshadowed by the horror to which we awoke on the morning of September 11th. On Presidents' Day, February 18th, I was fortunate enough to participate in another event honoring this man.

February 19th is Japanese American Day, commemorating the date on which President Franklin Roosevelt signed the decree ordering the internment of Japanese American citizens in "relocation camps." On Presidents' Day, the Sacramento Unity Council, along with the Sacramento regional office of the JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council) and the Visas for Life Foundation, hosted a day honoring the memory of Mr. Chiune Sumo Sugihara. Mr. Sugihara was a Japanese diplomat, assigned, through a fascinating chain of events, to be the Japanese Consul in Kaunas (Kovno), Lithuania in 1940. Mr. Sugihara became aware of the plight of the Jews in his little piece of the world – aware that most nations of the world had decided not to issue entrance visas to European Jews. To leave Lithuania in those days, one needed a final destination visa (again, no country was issuing those to Jews), as well as transit visas, which would allow one to travel through a country. The Dutch Consul let it be known that (although no one actually intended to travel there), Jews could go to Curacao, a Dutch colony, where no visa was required. This solved half the problem. But people still needed a way to get to Curacao, since landlocked Lithuania didn't have many ships heading in that direction.

Chiune Sugihara, against the direct and explicit orders of his government, over a period of 19 days, issued transit visas (mostly hand-written), which saved 6,000 Jews from the Nazi death machine. With those transit visas, Jews traveled from Lithuania across all of Russia, through Siberia, to the port town of Vladivostok – a train trip of 11 days. From there, they traveled to Japan. And most of them, shortly after Pearl Harbor, were rounded up by the Japanese and transported to a ghetto in Shanghai, China.

There are now over 100,000 survivors and their direct descendents alive today because of the courage and conviction of this one selfless man. I am one of those 100,000 – my father having received one of those precious transit visas. When the Japanese government discovered what Mr. Sugihara had done, he was recalled to Japan, made to resign his diplomatic commission, and forced to do menial labor to support his wife and three children. Mr. Sugihara died in shame, but the Japanese government has since recognized his bravery and determination to save as many lives as he possibly could. His good name has been restored, and a monument in his honor and memory was erected on a hill above the village in which he was born.

So why am I writing about this? I'm sharing this story because we are obligated to never forget. I'm writing about this because I am grateful, every day of my life, to Chiune Sugihara for his courage and audacity. I'm in awe of this man, who believed, and proved, that one person can, and does make a difference.

We are not faced with the perilous times that those in Europe confronted during the Holocaust. But we are, I believe, obligated to live our lives directed by the lessons learned from that time. We can all pay tribute if we remember, and act, as though we can each make a difference.

Bivracha,

Debby Graudenz

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
April 20 9:30 a.m.

Learner's Minyan,
2nd & 4th Shabbat
April 13 & 27 9:45 a.m.

For Children & Parents:
Shabbat B'Yachad (pre-school),
2nd & 4th Shabbat
April 13 & 27 11:00 a.m.

Shabbat Shelanu (grades K-2),
1st Shabbat
April 6 11:30 a.m.

Children's Service
for K-2nd grade
(2nd, 3rd & 4th Shabbat) 11:30 a.m.
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 Iyar,
Friday April 12 7:15 a.m.

TORAH STUDY SCHEDULE FOR: APRIL

6 Torah Study of Shemini
with Cynthia Hoffman

13 Torah Study of Tazria Metzora
with Nitzhia Shaked

20 Torah Study of Acharei Kedoshim
with Naomi Seidman

27 Torah Study of Emor
with Nitzhia Shaked

Preparing Myself for Yom HaShoah

By Larry Hanover

I always imagined the noise and chaos of a huge extended family. I almost had a sister. Confronting the Holocaust is always personal and deeply communal to me. Even as a very young child, I felt the enormity of the tear in the fabric of our world that was the Shoah. The ubiquitous warning, “never again” was a powerful statement but had no specific plan to ensure its success. That concerned me greatly and scared me to death.

No one escaped the horrors of the Shoah. Not the victims. Nor the survivors, who, always a world apart, are forced to bear witness to the troubles of this world. We feared them and their demons. Their children, living *yahrzeit* candles as well as new hope. Children of Nazis born guilty. World leaders still struggling to explain how this could have been. Two generations later, we still cannot figure out how to create the kind of ritual that marks the un-markable.

When I prepare for Yom Hashoah, I consider the model of the Yamim Nora'im in which we devote an entire month to taking a fearless moral inventory of one year of our lives and even within

that month, ten concentrated days of reviewing our personal relationship with each other and the Divine. This is a very satisfying process nearly guaranteeing *t'shuvah*. As Yom Hashoah approaches, the voices I hear seem more urgent and far too familiar to avoid. They demand a more collective as well as individual accounting. The undeniable legacy of the Shoah is the actual fact of the Shoah. The helplessness that this fact evokes often overwhelms me. The damage feels almost palpable. As I accept the enormity of the Holocaust, I must actively accept responsibility for evaluating every interaction I have with those I love as well as the “other”. The only way I can understand dying *Al Kiddush Hashem* is as a commandment to be mindful — to take advantage of a very important opportunity to stop and be struck senseless by the magnitude of the gift of creation. Actively accepting this mitzvah of mindfulness is the only way I know how to participate in repairing a tear this deep. I am grateful for another opportunity to choose *t'shuvah* and reflect for a moment *B'tzelem Elokim*, in the image of G-d.

The Exquisite Art of Jan Fischer's Torah Mantles

Perhaps you've seen our two beautiful new Torah covers. These are the hand-made creations of Netivot Shalom member Jan Fischer. The mantles are companion pieces whose decorations are an intricate array of embroidered flowers. One has a red, orange, yellow theme; the other, blue and purple.

These lovely flowers were not randomly chosen, but are each of them a California native flower. In Jan's own words:

“The flowers used in the design can be viewed as representations of the Natural World on the darker, blue and purple, mantle and of Humanity on the more vivid, yellow and red, mantle. The flowers on the blue/purple mantle represent physical, environmental extremes. There is the heat of the desert, (Bakersfield cactus, *Opuntia silaris*, California's rarest cactus), and the vast, cold depths of the ocean, (Island Mallow, *Lavatera assurgentiflora*, found on the South Channel Islands). There is the Heavenly, represented by Dwarf Lupine (*Lupinus lepidus*), a forest dweller, and the earthy, Santa Ana River Wollystar (*Eriastrum densifolium*), which lives in a river wash.

As people, we are members of a community, represented by California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), our state flower, which can be found growing in glorious numbers. We are also unique individuals, like the Western Lily (*Lilium occidentale*), an endangered plant which grows singly. We have exterior lives, as seen with California Indian Pink (*Silene californica*) which grows exposed on rocky slopes, and interior selves, Canyon Sunflower (*Venegasia carpesioides*) found protected on wooded slopes.

And as they are companion pieces, both mantles have California fuchsia, *Zauschneria californica*, Berkeley's flower, to represent us, the community.”

Jan was first approached by Shira Bell, who asked her to create some covers on commission. Jan agreed and began researching the art and history of Torah covers. What she found is that in many cases, the design of a cover reflected the culture and surroundings where it was used. So Jan selected the California wildflower motif. She was aided by Claire Sherman and Danielle Shelley; and Paul Feinstein, who made the wooden pieces and glued them in.

A year in the making, this project was begun before her husband, Don, became ill; she worked during his illness, and completed it after he died. The covers have been donated to Netivot Shalom in memory of Don. They are to be used for services from Selichot through Simchat Torah and were first used Erev Rosh HaShanah of 5762. They add a warm and lovely grace note to our services. Next Yamim Nora'im, as you move in close to touch the Torahs when they are paraded by, look closely at these works of art. They not only cover and protect our Torahs, but they wrap them in beauty and love.



Jan's red/orange/yellow mantle; front view and detail

Yom HaShoah: From Solemnity to Celebration

Honoring the Memory of Those
Who Died by Celebrating Their
Lives & Yiddish Culture

By Robin Braverman

As I struggle to find ways to keep alive and honor the memory of my parents, I have found that our tradition provides a road map that works remarkably well: Give charity in their names, say Kaddish and Yizkor, visit their graves, observe their *yahrzeits*, and most of all, perpetuate the ideals and values that they held in life.

In thinking about ways to observe Yom HaShoah, it seems appropriate to ask the question: How can we celebrate the lives of those who died? What can we do to perpetuate what would otherwise be lost with them? While it is true that not all those who perished in the Shoah were part of the Yiddish culture, many were. So this year the Ritual and Adult Ed Committees are co-sponsoring a three-part Yom HaShoah observance that includes a celebration of Yiddish culture.

YOM HASHOAH OBSERVANCE

Sunday, April 7

10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon; at the Shul Office
Lois Silverstein, Naomi Seidman, and musician Gerry Tenney, in a program for all ages. Poetry, stories and singing to bring us from solemnity to celebration. Bring food to share—something your Yiddisha Bubbie would have made (kosher dairy/fish/veggie).

Monday, April 8

7:30 p.m.; at the Shul Office
Yom HaShoah Ma'ariv Service led by Julie Batz, with readings by Lois Silverstein, followed by a roundtable discussion on the topic "Hate."

Tuesday, April 9

8:00 p.m.; at Temple Sinai in Oakland
A community Service sponsored by the Jewish Federation.

Mishloach Manot Success!

By Andrea Altschuler

I never thought I'd write a sentence like this with any sort of serious intent, but it's true: sales and profits were up at least 20%, and we are moving away from a local to more distant focus of delivery. It's the closest I've ever felt to the business world! But it's true—we earned approximately \$2,000 selling "party in a basket" *mishloach manot* to the friends and family of numerous Netivot Shalom members. To those of you who supported Youth and Family Education programs simultaneously by sending your loved ones Purim baskets hand assembled by the willing troops, my sincerest thanks. I hope that everyone who received a basket enjoyed it; if you have any feedback you'd like to pass on, please send it to Karen Friedman or me.

We especially thank the following businesses for their generous support of the Purim basket fundraiser:

AC Paper
El Cerrito Albertsons
Canned Foods Grocery Outlet
Grand Bakery
North Berkeley Safeway
Smart and Final
Semifreddi's Bakery
Uline

We also thank the following people for their efforts in assembling and delivering the *mishloach manot*:

Ruth Amernick
Lee and Dafna Bearson
Peter Berck
Shari and Hannah Bond
Carol and Clara Cunradi
Stephanie Davis
Carol Dorf
Sam and Rachel Finn
Wendy Garfield
David and Ari Levine
David, Ezra, and Lev Marcus
Sally Martin
Suzanne and Anna Portnoy
John Reynolds
Vicki Sommer and Ethan and Shari Kimball

Apologies to anyone I've missed— please let me know and we'll acknowledge you next month!

I would especially like to thank Claudia Valas, a fundraising grandmaster, who helped us with numerous details and orchestrated the shipping of the baskets. Also, though you might only know Karen Friedman as a whizbang newsletter editor, she has numerous hidden talents, one of which is being a fabulous partner in *mishloach manot* madness. A thousand thank yous to you, Karen.

And remember, if you didn't get around to sending *mishloach manot* this year, especially to those far away, keep us in mind for next year.

[Editor's Note: While Andrea may be stepping down from chairmanship of the Youth Education committee, the success of her efforts will long continue. One such success is the Purim Basket fundraiser. Yes, the same amount of money could have been earned by working a few shifts at McDonalds (as Andrea giddily reminded us in the wee hours of 'mishloach manot madness') but that would not be nearly as much fun. And the most fun is in working with Andrea herself. K.F.]

Mature Mavens

Monday, April 8 would normally be the date for the Mature Mavens' get together. However, the second Monday of April is Erev Yom HaShoah. That evening, Julie Batz will be leading a special Ma'ariv service in the Netivot Shalom library. Therefore, all Mature Mavens — and every one else — are cordially invited to attend this memorial service.

The May 13 meeting of the Mature Mavens will feature Ann Swidler talking about growing older as it relates to us as Jews. We will meet at the home of Jean Bradman in Berkeley at 7:00 p.m., as usual. If you are planning to attend, please call and leave a message for Jean at 549-3231.

We look forward to seeing everyone!

**The ROSH CHODESH group
will meet on Thursday, April 11.
Contact Toby Gidal,
tgidal@attbi.com,
for information.**

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AVENUE SITE WORK GROUP

Meet the Team

By Joe Meresman, Site Work Group Chair

The September newsletter profiled the five members of the Site Work Group's design sub-team, the talented group responsible for architectural and engineering designs. This month I'd like to introduce you to the other members of the Site Work Group, who have been working hard for many months on the other, less public but equally important aspects of creating our new home. These activities will become better known as our project continues.

Denah Bookstein, the most recent addition to the Site Work Group, has been a Netivot Shalom member for nine years and served on the original Site Search Committee. She has a BA and MA in Social Work from the University of Michigan, and was a community activist and co-founder of a gallery-café in Detroit. Now retired, she is on the Board of the BRJCC and serves on the advisory committee for the Jewish Music Festival. *"I think our new home will provide a spiritual, accessible and beautiful space in which to study, pray and celebrate!"*

Ellen Gobler has been a member of Netivot Shalom since 1996, when she arrived in the Bay Area from Philadelphia. She has a BS in Interior Design from Drexel University and has 14 years experience in interior design, contract furnishings and space planning. She is currently an Events Project Manager at UC Berkeley. Ellen has been helping to lead the many community meetings that we've held so far, and looks forward to applying her interior design skills as those phases of our new home develop. She says she is *"thrilled to contribute to the creation of our new home."*

Joe Meresman, who joined the congregation when it was just one year old, serves as Chair of the SWG, managing the process by which SWG volunteers do work and its relationship with the Board and congregation. Joe has been an independent Healthcare Management

Consultant for the past five years, and in the previous 17 years held a variety of management positions at Kaiser Permanente, including CEO of its South San Francisco Medical Center and leading Northern California operations innovations. *"I am excited by how the participatory spirit of Netivot Shalom is expressed in the volunteer process of planning, designing and ultimately creating our new home on University Avenue."*

Steve Mazer came to Netivot Shalom a year ago, following seven years in Israel and two back in his hometown of New York City. He has a BA in Economics from New York University and works in operations management, designing, implementing and managing business processes and infrastructure. Steve was a management consultant with Deloitte & Touche in New York and was most recently with Lucent Technologies, until falling victim to the economic downturn. He happily invites you to become a job-hunt networking contact. On the SWG Steve works on communications projects like Newsletter articles and action-item tracking, and has helped with building maintenance. *"There's nothing more satisfying than taking a worthwhile idea and turning it into a reality; creating our new home is an exciting project."*

Rom Rosenblum, a member since 1991, attended Queens College in New York and works as an audio engineer for live television broadcasts. Career highlights include milking cows on a kibbutz and working as sound engineer in Israel (probably not at the same time), founding a video production company in Texas, and being an itinerant musician. On the SWG Rom has worked on outreach to the community and to city officials. *"Since one of the names of God is 'Ha-Makom' (literally, 'the place') we should have one."*

Mike Rosenheimer has been a Netivot Shalom member for 10 years. He has a BS and MS in Chemical Engineering as well as

an MBA. Mike has worked in various areas of the Chemical Engineering field and in various parts of the alchemy industry from mining to pharmaceuticals. Mike has helped the SWG with site maintenance and various ad-hoc projects, but claims that his favorite role is *"being the wise old sage of the group."*

Vali Sorell joined Netivot Shalom a year ago. He has a BS in Genetics from McGill University and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Columbia University. He currently works as a Mechanical Engineer with Taylor Engineering in Alameda. Vali has worked on numerous mechanical designs for high-rise office buildings, university lab facilities, prisons and data centers, and has a lot of experience performing energy analysis for evaluating energy efficient designs. Vali has coordinated the interim site management for the SWG, and will be contributing his mechanical engineering skills as well. *"The site offers a wonderful opportunity to design an innovative and highly energy efficient mechanical system while providing an environmentally friendly, high quality interior space."*

Janet Schneider is the Executive Director of the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, and is passionate about teaching people why they need to prevent waste, the benefits of redistributing unwanted items, and proper management of hazardous discards. She has a BA in Economics from the University of Michigan, an MPP from The Goldman School of Public Policy, and was a CORO Fellow in Public Affairs. She has been a Netivot Shalom member since 1991, and is looking forward to celebrating her daughter Lucy's bat mitzvah in our new home in October 2003 (let's keep our fingers crossed). Janet represents Netivot Shalom at the University Avenue Business Association and hopes to contribute to the creation of a "green" synagogue consistent with our community's values. *"I grew up with our family synagogue as a community center*

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SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Sukkot in April Update

By Jonathan Klein

We need your help! On Sunday, **April 28**, members of Netivot Shalom will come together to repair the home of a low-income family. The Grimes family lives about seven blocks from our new home on University Avenue. Ms. Grimes is on an oxygen tank 24 hours a day. The home she and her family live in is in ruins. The roof is badly leaking, the front and back steps need to be repaired and there is a lot of scraping, painting and plaster work that needs to be done.

Netivot Shalom's efforts on April 28 are part of a National Rebuilding Day in conjunction with Rebuilding Together. This group repairs the homes of low income seniors and people with disabilities so that they may continue to live in warmth, safety and independence.

We can use your help regardless of what level or type of skills you have. If you'd like to volunteer please call me at 524-0939 or e-mail me at jklein03@sprynet.com.

More Social Actions Notes

By Cyndi Spindell Berck

Donate Your Old Lasagna

Well, not exactly, but you can help provide lasagna or kosher hot dogs for homeless men at a Berkeley shelter. A Netivot Shalom family has been generously donating \$70 a month so that once a month, our synagogue can make dinner at the shelter. That family would now like to share the burden. If 12 families each pay for one dinner per year, we will be able to continue serving meals. Contact Cyndi at 524-2984 or cyndiberck@hotmail.com if you can help. Thanks to Susan Lawrence & Andy Cohen for supporting

University Avenue Site Work Group
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

and hope the establishment of our permanent home replicates that experience for my family."

Helen Wachs has been with Netivot Shalom since 1997. She has a BA from Hunter College and an MA from Northwestern University, and is currently the director of Berkeley Adult Care Services, a program for frail or chronically ill elderly adults. Helen has worked on community relations and outreach for the SWG. "As a relatively new member of the Netivot Shalom community, it's rewarding to become part of creating the congregation's new home."

We are also pleased to have several associate members who limit their work to subgroups, including **Connie Heller** (design) and **Marshall Platt** (community relations and outreach).

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.

this project for many months.

Walk To Cure MS

Lorraine Rosenblatt and family invite you to support their team, the Lightning Bolts, at the 10K Multiple Sclerosis Walk. MS is an often-disabling disease that attacks the central nervous system, but advances in treatment are giving hope to affected people. Meet at the Lightning Bolts' registration table at Crown Beach, Alameda on **Sunday, April 7**. You can make a pledge or register for the walk at www.msconnection.org (be sure to mention the Lightning Bolts). For more information, contact Lorraine at (510) 339-1863.

Social Action at Amitim

Independent of the Social Action Committee, the Amitim (Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation class) students visited the Bay Area Rescue Mission and then thought and talked about Jewish responses to homelessness and hunger. The class has a standing invitation to visit again to prepare and serve a meal. Thanks to Dean Kertesz for this update.

Environmental Update

The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life is gathering signatures on an initiative petition to save the last 3% of old growth forests in California. If interested, contact Melissa or Rochelle at (510) 839-2900 ext. 273.

Volunteer Opportunity

Jewish Family and Children's Services "Seniors in Motion" program needs volunteer drivers age 21 and over to provide rides for seniors. Volunteers must have their own car and be available for three hours a month between 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 704-7480 ext. 300 or 245.

*Jan Fischer**invites you to join her on**April 27, 2002**in celebration of**the 50th anniversary**of her being called to the Torah as**a Bat Mitzvah.*

APRIL 2002

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY


<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 NISAN</p> <p>3rd Intermediary day of Pesach</p>	<p>2 20 NISAN</p> <p>4th Intermediary day of Pesach</p> <p>Light candles at 6:15 pm</p>	<p>3 21 NISAN</p> <p>7th day of Pesach OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>9:45 am Pesach services in the shul library</p> <p>Light candles after 7:18 pm</p>
<p>7 25 NISAN</p> <p>10:30 am Yom HaShoah Yiddish program</p> <p>4:00 pm Bikkur Cholim Training Session, with Rabbi Senturia</p> <p>6:00 pm Ritual Committee meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p> <p>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS</p>	<p>8 26 NISAN</p> <p>7:30 pm Ethics in the Torah with Nitzhia Shaked</p> <p>7:30 pm Yom HaShoah Ma'ariv Service, led by Julie Batz, in the shul library</p>	<p>9 27 NISAN</p> <p>Yom HaShoah</p> <p>7:30 pm Talmud class with Rabbi Kelman: Brachot</p> <p>7:30 pm University Ave. Site Work Group meeting</p> <p>8:00 pm Yom HaShoah Community Service, Temple Sinai, Oakland</p>	<p>10 28 NISAN</p> <p>7:15 am Morning Minyan</p>
<p>14 2 Iyar</p> <p>10:30 am Rabbi Kelman; Conservative Teshuvot on role of non-Jewish family members in the congr., #1</p> <p>1:00 pm Ramah Day Camp Family Fun Day, Tilden Park</p> <p>5:00 pm Youth Education meeting</p> <p>5:00 pm Executive Committee meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>15 3 Iyar</p> <p>7:00 pm 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>16 4 Iyar</p> <p>7:30 pm Talmud class with Rabbi Kelman: Brachot</p> <p>7:30 pm University Ave. Site Work Group meeting</p>	<p>17 5 Iyar</p> <p>7:15 am Morning Minyan</p> <p>6:15 pm Teachers' Inservice</p>
<p>21 9 Iyar</p> <p>10:00 am K'tanim at the BRJCC</p> <p>10:30 am Rabbi Kelman; Conservative Teshuvot on role of non-Jewish family members in the congr., #2</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>22 10 Iyar</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>23 11 Iyar</p> <p>7:30 pm Talmud class with Rabbi Kelman: Brachot</p>	<p>24 12 Iyar</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>28 16 Iyar</p> <p>all day Sukkot in April!: Social Action Com. & Rebuilding Together, house repair</p> <p>5:00 pm Board of Directors meeting</p> <p>6:30 pm Midrasha's 3rd Annual Spring Seudah, fundraising dinner</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>29 17 Iyar</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>30 18 Iyar</p> <p>Lag B'Omer</p> <p>6:00 pm Grief & Growing informational meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm Talmud class with Rabbi Kelman: Brachot</p>	<p>May 1 19 Iyar</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>May 5 23 Iyar</p> <p>time TBA Israel Festival in Contra Costa</p> <p>5:00 pm Executive Committee meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Ritual Committee meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>May 6 24 Iyar</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>May 7 25 Iyar</p> <p>7:30 pm Talmud class with Rabbi Kelman: Brachot</p>	<p>May 8 26 Iyar</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>

NISAN-IYAR 5762

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>4 22 NISAN</p> <p>8th day of Pesach OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>9:45 am Pesach services in the shul library</p>	<p>5 23 NISAN</p> <p>6:17 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>6 24 NISAN</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Shemini, with Cynthia Hoffman 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES 10:30 am Religious School for Grades K-6 11:30 am Shabbat Shelanu, room 20</p>
<p>11 29 NISAN</p> <p>time TBA Rosh Chodesh Group meeting</p>	<p>12 30 NISAN</p> <p>7:15 am Rosh Chodesh Iyar minyan</p> <p>7:24 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>Rosh Chodesh Iyar</p> <p>13 1 IYAR</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Tazria Metzora, with Nitzhia Shaked 9:45 am Learner's Minyan, room 14, with Julie Batz 10:30 am Religious School for Grades K-6 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad, room 14</p> <p>1:30 pm Gender & Judaism: Rabbi Kelman on "Same Gender Commitment Ceremonies within the Conservative Movement", at the BRJCC library</p>
<p>18 6 Iyar</p> <p>7:30 pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah class</p>	<p>19 7 Iyar</p> <p>7:30 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>20 8 Iyar</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Acharei Kedoshim, with Naomi Seidman 9:30 am Meditative Minyan, room 14 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES 10:30 am Religious School for Grades K-6</p>
<p>25 13 Iyar</p>	<p>26 14 Iyar</p> <p>7:37 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>27 15 Iyar</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Emor with Nitzhia Shaked 9:45 am Learner's Minyan, room 14, with Brenda Goldstein 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES; 50th Anniversary of Jan Fischer being 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>May 2 20 Iyar</p>	<p>May 3 21 Iyar</p> <p>7:43 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>May 4 22 Iyar</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Behar Bechukotai with Yosepha Raz 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES; Adult B'nai Mitzvah 10:30 am Religious School for Grades K-6 11:30 am Shabbat Shelanu, room 20</p>
<p>May 9 27 Iyar</p> 	<p>May 10 28 Iyar</p> <p>Yom Yerushalayim</p> <p>7:49 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>May 11 29 Iyar</p> <p>9:00 am Torah Study of Bamidbar with Nitzhia Shaked 9:45 am Learner's Minyan, room 14, with Esther Brass 9:45 am SHABBAT SERVICES; Asher Cohen will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah 10:30 am Religious School for Grades K-6</p> <p>1:30 pm Gender & Judaism: Rachel Brodie, on Biblical "Temptresses"; Wily Women at Work, in the BRJCC Library</p>

RITUAL COMMITTEE

Shabbat Services, Part I: *Birchot Hashachar* (Morning Benedictions)

By Josh Gressel, Ritual Committee Chair

I began this series on Shabbat services in the February newsletter, with an article on *Psukei D'Zimra*. This article on *Birchot Hashachar* should have preceded it, which is why it's called Part I. From the next article in this series, on *Shacharit*, I promise to stay chronological. Also, I don't know how many of you took the time to read the last article with a copy of *Siddur Sim Shalom* by your side, but I promise you will get much more out of this article if you do so. Page numbers, unless otherwise noted, refer to the *siddur*.

History Of *Birchot Hashachar*: *Birchot Hashachar* is usually translated as "Morning Benedictions," but the more literal translation is "Blessings of the Dawn." Its origins stem from the Talmud, specifically B. Ber. 60b. God was believed to reveal God's Self in all aspects of life, even the most prosaic. We were to take the time to appreciate the mundane miracles of daily life, especially as we first performed them each day: opening our eyes, washing, dressing, even using the bathroom.

The Talmud described benedictions one might use in performing these routines. Like many things that have become fixed rituals in Judaism, the original intention of the Talmud was much looser than what we observe today. Elbogen, writing of the Talmud passage on which the core benedictions of *Birchot Hashachar* are based, says:

The entire discussion there was meant merely as good counsel for the pious, and as guidance for the proper attitude toward every act that comes one's way. There was absolutely no thought of making the short benedictions there obligatory, nor was there the slightest intention of fixing them in the daily public service (p.70).

But fix them they did, first as home ritual and then, beginning in the 9th century CE, as part of the synagogue liturgy. Their inclusion as public prayer was controversial.

On the one side stood those who felt it necessary to bring the recommended home rituals to the synagogue, because most people were illiterate and would not know the proper prayers or their order. On the other stood Maimonides, who strenuously objected to their inclusion in synagogue liturgy. The result is their "quasi public" status today: they are performed in the synagogue each morning, but it is not required for there to be a *minyan* to perform them.

Organization Of *Birchot Hashachar*: *Birchot Hashachar* is typically combined with the recitation of *Psukei D'Zimra*. The congregation does not really pay attention to the transition from one to the other, primarily because the same person leads the congregation for both. For the 7-10 people who are at synagogue at 9:45, *Birchot Hashachar* begins with the start of services, from *Ma Tovu* (p.2) through Mourner's Kaddish (p.52). Its organization looks like this:

- I. Introduction, pp. 2-6 (*Ma Tovu*, prayers for putting on *Tallit* and *Tefillin*)
- II. Blessings over the Torah, pp. 6-8
- III. Talmudic benedictions and the *Sh'ma*, pp. 8-14
- IV. Study from the Talmud, Kaddish DeRabbanan, pp. 16-20
- V. Psalm for the Day (Shabbat), p. 32; Psalm 30, pp. 50-52
- VI. Mourner's Kaddish, p. 52

Our *siddur* dropped traditional elements from the *Birchot Hashachar* service, such as the *Akedah* reading, the study of the sacrificial rites, and the *Yigdal* prayer.

I. Introduction

We typically begin our service with *Ma Tovu*. *Ma Tovu*, you may recall, comes from *Parashat Balak*, when Balaam is called upon to curse the Israelites. He stands upon a hill overlooking their encampments to curse them, but says instead: "How

goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, Thy dwellings, O Israel!" (Numbers, 24:5). This passage (put to melody) is used to open our service because it articulates what we might ideally feel upon entering the synagogue.

Typically we don our *tallit* and say the blessing privately upon entering the synagogue (ditto for *tefillin* during weekday *minyanim*).

II. Blessings over the Torah

Beginning at the bottom of page 6 there are blessings over the Torah that are immediately followed by passages from the Torah, Mishna, and Gemara. The rabbis thought we should study from each of these books each day and these passages were included to fulfill that obligation. In our synagogue, we typically skip these.

III. Talmudic benedictions and the *Sh'ma*

The Talmudic benedictions on page 10 are the core of *Birchot Hashachar*, around which everything else was constructed. We lead into them with *Elohi, Neshama* (p. 8, bottom) and then the *shaliach tsibbur* begins reciting these 14 benedictions ("Blessed are you for dividing night from day, creating me in His image, making me a Jew," etc.). The congregation responds to each of these with "Amen."

These benedictions include three in particular that are highly controversial, and this controversy has caused them to be re-worded, replaced or even dropped. Our *siddur's* version of these is "Blessed are You God, who made me in His image/who made me a Jew/who made me free." Anyone who has picked up an Orthodox *siddur* has seen the more "original" variations, namely thanking God for not making one a gentile, a woman, or a slave. (Women are instructed to thank God for making them "according to His will").

According to Kahn, these blessings have been controversial for 2,000 years. A *geniza* fragment, thought to contain the

most original wording, says: "Praised are You... *who made me a person and not a beast, a man and not a woman, an Israelite and not a gentile.*" (Italics added) Kahn believes this selection and phrasing was created by the Jews in response to slogans of their Greek neighbors. The Greeks saw themselves as superior to all neighboring civilizations, and this attitude was summed up in an aphorism that the 4th century BCE Greek biographer Diogenes Laertes attributed to Socrates: "Socrates used to say that there were three blessings for which he was grateful to fortune: first, that I was born a *person and not a beast*; next, that I was born a *man and not a woman*; third, a *Greek and not a barbarian.*" (Italics added)

The assumption, then, is that the Jews were reacting to the Greeks' claim of ethnic superiority with their own version, which exactly parallels that attributed to Socrates. (Elbogen also mentions a Persian prayer, which blesses the Creator for having made the worshippers Iranians, adherents of the good religion, free men and not slaves, men and not women.) In the New Testament, Paul sought to resolve all these schisms by asserting the ultimate superiority of "baptism into Christ" (Gal. 3:28): "*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*" (Italics added.)

In the 13th century, church leaders charged that the word "goy" meant "Christian" and the phrase thanking God for "making me a Jew and not a goy" was the cause of 12,000 Hebrew books being burned in Paris in 1234. From this time forward Jews would use the more affirmative phrasing, thanking God for "making me an Israelite," or change the word "goy" to a no longer existing heathen people, such as "who did not make me a Kuthite."

By the 19th century the issue of election was debated less for fear of offending the Church and more because some Jews felt it incompatible with the spirit of Jewish emancipation and civic equality. It usually was played out in the translation of the Hebrew. That is, the Hebrew would remain in the more "original" — "*shelo asani goy*," but the translation would read "who made me an Israelite." Sometimes

the Hebrew would be changed so that "goy" was replaced with "*nochn*" (stranger).

The blessing "who made me a man and not a woman" is probably the most difficult for the modern Jew to accept. The most common traditional justification for this language is that the man is required to perform all the *mitzvot* and should be thankful for the opportunity to do so. Beginning in the 13th century there is evidence of an alternate blessing for use by women: "Who made me according to His will" which seems to articulate an acceptance of secondary status. Kahn reports on two prayer books from the 15th century, which contain the blessing "who made me a woman and not a man." Clearly there was some grappling with the issue even 600 years ago.

These benedictions are followed by more blessings leading up to the *Sh'ma* (p. 14). There is some question as to what the *Sh'ma* is doing here, since it occupies a central place in the *Shacharit* service. It reappears in the *Musaf* service, also without intrinsic liturgical reason.

One popular explanation (probably apocryphal) has it that this practice of the *Sh'ma* in *Birchat Hashachar* and *Musaf* began in 452 in Babylonia. A Persian king forbade worship of a monotheistic deity and posted officials at synagogues during *Shacharit* service to assure the *Sh'ma* was not recited. Jews circumvented this prohibition by inserting the *Sh'ma* before and after the officials' arrival, namely in *Birchat Hashachar* and *Musaf*. After the prohibition was rescinded five years later when the king died, the Jews left the *Sh'ma* in the extra places, as a remembrance of more troubled times.

Another explanation for the *Sh'ma*'s appearance during *Birchat Hashachar* is because of the rule that states it must be recited within four hours of sunrise. During certain times of the year the *Shacharit Sh'ma* would be too late so it was left in *Birchat Hashachar*. Since we get to the *Shacharit Sh'ma* at approximately 10:20 each Saturday, we're definitely outside the four-hour rule during the summer months.

IV. Talmudic study, *Kaddish DeRabbanan* (pp. 16-20)

Since we have not studied from the Torah

or Talmudic passages mentioned earlier, we do choose one selection, usually from page 17-19, that we read aloud in English together. This is followed by the "Teacher's Kaddish" (*Kaddish DeRabbanan*). This is the version of the Kaddish that most closely resembles the original purpose of this prayer: to praise God following a period of study. Here (on page 20) it has been appropriated as another opportunity for a Mourner's Kaddish (the latest development of the Kaddish but the most widely observed), but our *siddur* does note at the top of the page that "recitation of *Kaddish DeRabbanan* need not necessarily be limited to mourners. All who have read or who have heard the teaching of a text may participate fully."

V. Psalm for the Day, (p. 32); Psalm 30, (pp. 50-52)

Our *siddur* is organized so that the *Birchat Hashachar* we are reciting each Saturday is the same we recite each day, except for the Psalm for the Day, where we turn to page 32-34, the Psalm for Shabbat. We then skip intervening psalms (e.g. for Rosh Chodesh and High Holidays) and go to Psalm 30 (pp. 50-52).

VI. Mourner's Kaddish (p. 52)

With the Mourner's Kaddish (the first "official" Mourner's Kaddish of the day) *Birchat Hashachar* concludes. In general, *Birchat Hashachar* is the least thematically coherent of all the Shabbat sub-services, probably because it originated in the home.

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From the Adult Education Committee

My alarm wakes me every morning to either NPR or BBC and almost the first thing I hear is a story of another bombing or military raid in Israel or the territories, sometimes both in the same story. This evening, when Shabbat ended, the radio report was of a bombing in an Orthodox quarter of Jerusalem killing people as they returned from Shabbat morning services. Palestinian women have joined the ranks of suicide bombers, killing themselves and innocent people and the Israeli Army has become expert in destroying whole villages in retaliation.

The violence is affecting all of us. Regardless of how one feels about the geopolitical situation, it is unhealthy. Netivot Shalom has lost two sincere and involved members because they felt that their views were not respected, because they wanted the shul to sponsor an open forum to explore what we read in the media. Rabbi Michael Lerner reports to the SF Chronicle that his magazine, TIKKUN, is experiencing an economic boycott, and he, personally, has received death threats, because he favors going back to the 1967 borders and a two-state solution.

Now is the time for civil discourse; we need to come together as a community to learn, to share our understanding and views. We need a public forum NOW. Our small committee is working on such a forum. It is one of our top priorities. Look to Netivot Shalom's weekly announcements for the particulars.

We are also beginning to plan for the Tikkun L'eyl Shavuot. We welcome volunteers for the community-wide study session. Especially needed are teachers for the late-night, early-morning sessions. We are working on Hebrew classes for the coming summer and beginning to develop budgets and programs for the fall. We need your input. Tell us when you would like an audience to share your Judaic research, teaching, stories. We will provide a receptive and lively audience or fellow congregants.

Now, what have we planned for April? The Hebrew classes that ended March 20 will begin again after Pesach. The Talmud classes will continue. There will be a three-part Yom HaShoah observance **April 7, 8 & 9**. Rabbi Kelman will present two sessions on the Conservative movement's response on the role of the non-Jewish family member in the life of the congregation (**April 14 & 21** in the shul's office). Rabbi Kelman will also lead the discussion for the Gender and Judaism series after services session on **April 13**. His topic, "Same-Gender Commitment Ceremonies in the Conservative Movement", should promote some serious thinking and an interesting dialogue.

New Parents' Group Forming

Are you the parent of a new baby? We are starting a support group. Please contact Melissa Rogoway at 549-9447 ext. 111 to get connected.

Gender & Judaism

All are invited to participate in a lively series of discussions of 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 Netivot Shalom and co-sponsored by the Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Ctr., Beth Israel, Beth El, Kehilla, and the Aquarian Minyan.

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 *teshuva* which argued for the creation of a 'brit reyut'. 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.

Stuart Kelman 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 New York and holds a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Southern California.

May 11: Rachel Brodie, Biblical 'Temptresses': Wily Women at Work

Why is the story of the temptress — a woman using deception to initiate a sexually restricted act with a vulnerable man — told over and over again in the Tanach? Together we will examine the tales of four such "temptresses" — Lot's Daughters, Tamar and Ruth — in order to gauge the threat of the sexually autonomous woman and the illusion of women's power in a patriarchal system.

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 more of the Gender & Judaism series or other presentations, study sessions, etc.? 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.

New address for the Cuba fund: www.thecajm.org



Ramah Day Camp

By Melissa Rogoway

Our Upcoming and Exciting Summer!!

Where else can your child have such fun while learning and doing so much? Camp Ramah's dynamic and rich program is now in our own backyard. Ramah Day Camp's Summer 2002 program is sure to have a lasting impact on your camper. Drawing upon our theme "Community Service Through Pirkei Avot," our children will combine lots of music and discussion with wonderfully creative hands-on activities. Depending on the verse of the week, our enthusiastic campers will be involved in baking dog biscuits for animal shelters, sewing costumes for dress-up to donate to a children's hospital, or creating a performance for presentation to the elderly. There will be other activities, including lots of traditional camp-type experiences, depending upon our campers' interests and talents. Anything is possible!

In other news, our extremely popular overnights are expanding to include two nights in the woods for Grades 4 & 5, and one night for Grades 2 & 3. Even our Kindergarten and 1st grades will have their version, called an undernight, a special afternoon program and scrumptious dinner for families.

And here's the best news yet: Elana Kelman (from our first summer of Ramah Day Camp) is joining our dedicated and experienced staff as Assistant Director. In addition to her many years in education, Elana is currently pursuing advanced studies at Jewish Theological Seminary. Her energy and enthusiasm are contagious, and we are delighted to have her back!

Obviously, this is a summer experience not to be missed!! We welcome your questions about Ramah Day Camp. Please contact Melissa Rogoway at the Camp Office, (510) 549-9447 ext. 111, for more information.

'Ruach with Ramah' Family Fun Day

Ramah campers, friends, prospective campers, and their families are all invited to Ramah Day Camp's Ruach with Ramah Family Fun Day. Please join us on **Sunday, April 14th**, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Padre camp site in Tilden Park. Activities will include carnival games, relay races, field games, and a sing-along. Kosher hot dogs, both beef and veggie, chips, and sodas will be for sale. We will hold the drawing for our raffle at this event. Raffle tickets will be available beforehand. As *tzedakah*, please bring along a small toiletry item for the homeless shelter. The picnic will be cancelled in the event of rain. Please contact Melissa for directions at (510) 549-9447 ext. 111.

We're Collecting Tiny Tickets

Here's a painless way for you to help us with our campership fund, which provides camp scholarships to needy families. We are collecting BART tickets, the ones that are in your purse pocket or top drawer, the ones with just a few cents' worth of fare left. We can exchange them for cash, which together with other tickets, will help send a child to camp. Just bring your tickets to the camp office (room Gimmel), or to Melissa's box in the synagogue office. Do a mitzvah and get rid of the clutter, too!

Midrasha Update

By Diane Bernbaum

Come treat yourself to a WONDERFUL evening — Midrasha's Third Annual Spring Seudah on **Sunday, April 28**. "What?" you ask. "How could it be the third annual? I never heard of this event before!" That's because we used to call it our Fete, but with some gentle urging from the Event Chair, Hope Alper, we have now given it a Hebrew name. A *seudah* is a festive meal and that's exactly what this will be. The Seudah will be held again at Casa Del Sueño, the House of Dreams, in Orinda. Built in 1929 in the style of a Mediterranean villa, Casa del Sueño's 35 rooms and magnificent gardens will be open for your enjoyment. Tour this extraordinary home while sipping wine and listening to the beautiful music of cellist Michal Shein. This will be followed by an elegant, full-course dinner.

Our speaker for the evening is Elizabeth Rosner, author of *The Speed of Light*. Her novel is a story about silence, sharing and the healing magic of love, told through the voices of a sister and brother, members of the second generation of Holocaust survivors, and their Central American housekeeper. And it's set in Berkeley! I was fortunate enough to meet Elizabeth Rosner over coffee and found her captivating, witty, honest, sensitive and utterly engaging and I can't wait to hear her speak at the Seudah. Tickets are \$50 per person and because of the great generosity of our hosts, Gail & Eric Buchbinder, all proceeds go to the scholarship fund of Midrasha. To place a reservation, send a check to Midrasha, 2301 Vine St., Berkeley, 94708 or phone 843-4667. We will be selling copies of *The Speed of Light* at the Seudah, but also have copies for sale in the Midrasha office for those of you who want to read the book before coming to the event. Or for those who prefer, you can check the book out of the Beth El library, which thoughtfully purchased copies in preparation for our Seudah. Thanks also to Black Oak Books, Solstice Press, Alan Finkelstein, and Jane Brenner Graphic Design for their generous contributions to this event. See you there.

A Bikkur Cholim Training Session

Netivot Shalom's Chevrat Bikkur Cholim will hold a training session, open to the entire congregation, on **Sunday, April 7**, from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the Shul library. Our guest presenter is Rabbi Miriam Senturia, the Community Rabbi of the East Bay.

Before coming to the East Bay, Rabbi Miriam was the Jewish chaplain for Martins Run Life Care community in Philadelphia. She also worked four years as a Jewish community chaplain at Ruach Ami in San Francisco. Rabbi Miriam studied and was ordained at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. She also trained for a year as a hospital chaplain and completed a 3-year training course in spiritual direction.

What do YOU want to be included in the session? Please let me know of specific topics that you would like addressed, so we can make plans according to what people want. Tell me as soon as you can if you'll be attending the meeting. Hope you can join us!

Peter Strauss, Bikkur Cholim Coordinator
510-547-8174 pfs126@earthlink.net

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.

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?

Etz Hayim Drive Complete

Thanks to the generous donation of the Weissman family, we donated a large number of Etz Hayim to the congregation. We are no longer accepting new orders, but you can still purchase them at Afikomen. Thanks to all who gave tzedakah in this way.

The Israel Action Committee of the East Bay Presents DISPLACED JEWS FROM ARAB LANDS

The Israel Action Committee of the East Bay will present a program on "Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa" on Sunday afternoon, **April 28th, 2002**, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Israel in Berkeley.

Yitzhak Santis, Director of Middle East Affairs of the Jewish Community Relations Council, will speak on the problems of the 800,000 uncompensated Jews who were expelled from their homes and businesses in Arab lands. Mr. Santis will bring some representatives from JIMENA (Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa) who will speak about their personal experiences.

A \$5 contribution at the door would be greatly appreciated to help pay for expenses.

Date: Sunday, April 28, 2002

Time: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Place: Congregation Beth Israel, 1630 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94703

Contact: Sanne DeWitt at (510) 845-2098

The mission of the Israel Action Committee of the East Bay (IACEB) is to increase our community's awareness of Israel's continual challenge to achieve peace and security, and to facilitate pro-Israel advocacy in our community, media, and government.

This event is being advertised as a community announcement, and is not sponsored by Netivot Shalom.

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

Moishe Brose	19 Nisan / April 1
Jack Maslan	19 Nisan / April 1
Sadie Estry	20 Nisan / April 2
Devorah Fox	20 Nisan / April 2
Fred Marcus	21 Nisan / April 3
Ethel Wilonsky	22 Nisan / April 4
Herman (Hy) Gold	22 Nisan / April 4
Max Jacobson	22 Nisan / April 4
Max Slavin	23 Nisan / April 5
Marian Wagner	24 Nisan / April 6
Joseph Swidler	24 Nisan / April 6
Abraham Jacob Tolmach	24 Nisan / April 6
Abraham Martin Aloff	24 Nisan / April 6
Max Redel	24 Nisan / April 6
Morton Quittel	24 Nisan / April 6
Rose Feige Kaplan	24 Nisan / April 6
Rabbi Samuel Haim Dresner	25 Nisan / April 7
Joseph C. Swidler	25 Nisan / April 7
Leah Jacobson Reingold	26 Nisan / April 8
William Schwartz	26 Nisan / April 8
Bluma Sieradzki	27 Nisan / April 9
Hannah Sieradzki	27 Nisan / April 9
Sarah Kirstein Sieradzki	27 Nisan / April 9
Hirsch Sieradzki	27 Nisan / April 9
Felix Spiegler	27 Nisan / April 9
Frieda Valfer	27 Nisan / April 9
Hermann Valfer	27 Nisan / April 9
Gisela Spiegler	27 Nisan / April 9
Maurice Strauss	27 Nisan / April 9
Sol Gidal	2 Iyar / April 14
George Sternberg	5 Iyar / April 17
Joe Rodberg	5 Iyar / April 17
Anna Z. Phillipson	6 Iyar / April 18
Lila Levine	7 Iyar / April 19
Pheobe Constance Starfield Gozan	7 Iyar / April 19
Gittel Rothblatt	8 Iyar / April 20
Phil (Pinhas) Lewis	9 Iyar / April 21
Celia Ruth Tolmach	9 Iyar / April 21
Kurt Irwin	9 Iyar / April 21
Friedrich Abraham Straus	11 Iyar / April 23
Lawrence (Bud) Simon	13 Iyar / April 25
Joseph Berck	13 Iyar / April 25
Leonard Kudisch	13 Iyar / April 25
Ann Cordes	14 Iyar / April 26
Philip Ruby	14 Iyar / April 26
Braina Gittle Yaffey	14 Iyar / April 26
Robert Yaffey	14 Iyar / April 26
Moshe Reuven ben Zalman Leib v'Rachel Leah	15 Iyar / April 27
Victoria Koty	15 Iyar / April 27
Goldie Bardach	16 Iyar / April 28
Harry Edystone	19 Iyar / May 1
Rita Wexler	19 Iyar / May 1
Laura Rudorfer	21 Iyar / May 3
Samuel Raphael	21 Iyar / May 3
Fred Chait	23 Iyar / May 5
Rose Schneider	24 Iyar / May 6
Sam Spiegler	24 Iyar / May 6
Joseph Leighton	25 Iyar / May 7
Walter Wise	25 Iyar / May 7
Ruchel Burack	26 Iyar / May 8
Johanna Gans	26 Iyar / May 8
Ada Wisch	26 Iyar / May 8
Steve Platt	27 Iyar / May 9
Doris Wachs	27 Iyar / May 9
William Jurdem	28 Iyar / May 10
Lee Wood	28 Iyar / May 10
Albert Lepawsky	1 Sivan / May 12
Louis Schwartz	1 Sivan / May 12
Sidney Greenstein	2 Sivan / May 13
David "Mickey" Marcus	4 Sivan / May 15

DONATIONS TO NETIVOT SHALOM

Generous Gifts From Thoughtful People:

The Goldschmidt family for donating their automobile

Lee Feinstein for library assistance

Milt Greenstein for carpentry advice

Norman Rosenblatt for fixing the office computer AGAIN

Jan Fischer for office supplies

Laura Miller for office assistance

June & Bob Safran for office equipment

Danielle Shelley for office paper cutter

Rachel Seder for Amitim snacks

Adult Ed

Julie Patrusky in appreciation of the Hebrew classes

Irene Wolins in honor of Jan Fischer

Susan & Barry Noss in honor of Jan Fischer

Books & Ritual Objects

Susan Lawrence for library books

Xena Brenna for library books

Building Fund

Betty Martinez in honor of Yizkor for my mother, Goldye Spilky

Paul & Celia Concus in honor of the engagement of Elana Kelman to Adam Naftalin

Joan Schwartz

Simon Firestone

Diane & Edwin Bernbaum in memory of Pauline Moreno's father, and in memory of Jerry Isaak-Shapiro's father

Deborah Lewis

Ethel Murphy in honor of Lee Feinstein for all her support of Netivot Shalom and for help with Sara-Ruth bat Avraham

Nan & Peter Strauss in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Anika Racheli Lorene

Peggy & Ory Sandel in honor of the birth of their daughter, Gavriella Esther

Etz Hayim

Alfred & Constance Weisman in loving memory of William Spielman, and in honor of Julie Weisman

Paul & Celia Concus in honor of Leah Fischer becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Stephanie Davis in memory of Karen Joyce Klitzman who died in the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center towers

General Fund

Alison Jordan in honor of Rabbi David Winston and in memory of Danielle Shelley's mother, Charmin Knock

Paul & Celia Concus in memory of Danielle Shelley's mother, Charmin Knock and Nitzhia Shaked's father, Yoseph Bruchiel

Hope & Noah Alper in memory of Rachel Seder's father, William Spielman and Jerry Isaak-Shapiro's father, Leonard Isaak-Shapiro

Robert Feyer & Marsha Cohen in memory of Joanna Weinberg's mother, Doris Kudisch

Kim Zvik in honor of Tal's *aliyah*

Peggy & Ory Sandel in appreciation for all those who made meals for them

Max & Cecelia Rosenheimer Camp Scholarship Fund

Ruth & Stanley Kochman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

David Marcus & Karen Friedman in memory of Danielle Shelley's mother

Hillel & Myra Avers

Julie Patrusky in memory of Nathan Patrusky

The Seder Family in memory of Rachel's father, William Spielman

John Hayes & Robin Levi

Doris Weiner Gluckman

Sukkot in April 2002

Glenn Wolkenfeld & Nancy Facher

Tallitot

Gerry Derblich

Torah Study

Stanley Brandes in memory of Suzanne Fleischman

Vivian Numaguchi

Jerry Garfield

Youth Education

Vicky Kelman for her purchase of *Yadayim L'mala* tapes

Rena Dorph & Peter Wahrhaftig in honor of Peggy & Ory Sandel's new baby, in honor of Elissa & Alan Kittner's new baby, and in memory of Pauline Moreno's father

David Marcus & Karen Friedman in honor of Maggie Bond becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Deborah Findling for her purchase of *Yadayim L'mala* tapes

Debra Jagoda for her purchase of *Yadayim L'mala* CD

COMMUNITY BUILDING Thank You Mishloach Manot Volunteers!

By Mel & Lisa Sibony
and Cathy Shadd

The Community Building Co-Chairs want to thank all those who volunteered to assemble and/or deliver all the Mishloach Manot for their Netivot Shalom neighbors.

Elana Reinin, Danielle Shelley, Thelma Rubin, Art Braufman, Ednah Friedman, Mark Priven, Ruth Konoff, Barbara Wezelman, Noriko Obinata, Lois Valfer, Jeffrey D. Black, John Reynolds, Sandra Gore & Ronald Sires, Peter Wahrhaftig, Leo Levenson, Jory Gessow, Brenda Goldstein, Claude Fischer & Ann Swidler, Andy Kahn, Deborah Lewis, Elissa Kittner, Denah Bookstein & David Berman, Janet Harris, Andrea Altschuler, Jerry Derblich, Wendy Rosov, David Marcus, Jane Credland & Cynthia Hoffman, Milt Greenstein, Golda Blum, Lee Feinstein, Margot Lucoff, Dean Kertesz, Claire Rothenberg, Elsa Tranter, Sherrin Rosenthal, Lisa Fink, Ben Heschen & Ellen Peskin, Heidi Wexler, Norman & Lorraine Rosenblatt, Karen Pliskin, Jedi Mateen, Avraham & Shalva Sorani, Eugene Berg, Rita Stein, Dina Beck, Phyllis Helfand and Simon Levine (who did double duty!). Thanks also to the Amitim class of 2002 for helping to assemble the *mishloach manot* and to anyone we may have forgotten.

Rocking cradle available for use.
Suitable for newborn.
Call Jan 525-0731.

MAZAL TOV TO:

Elissa & Alan Kittner on the birth of their son, Asa Bernard

Bat Sheva & David Miller on the birth of their son,

Meir Shlomo Yedidiah Mayim Chaim

Barbara & Michael Rose on the addition of Tony, Nancy and James to their family

Stephen Waterman & Alison Cohen-Waterman on the birth of their son, Arthur Chai

Laurie Holtzberg & Michael Piotrkowski on their recent marriage on the eve of Rosh Chodesh Adar, February 12

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Julie Weissman on becoming Project Staff Associate in the College of Education, Department of Special Education at San Francisco State University

CONDOLENCES TO:

Janis Burger on the death of her mother, Mildred Harris Burger

Debbie Feiler on the death of her mother, Esther Mathews



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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.