

# Netivot Shalom

August-September, 2003 • Av-Elul, 5763

# FROM THE RABBI Toward the Holy Land

By Rabbi Stuart Kelman

want to continue where I left off in June! I had returned from Israel after a marvelous (to be taken literally) experience with Israeli medicine, and was just beginning to return to my life here, when, as I wrote last month (July), I had my encounter with American medicine. So, it is now August, and I return to my thoughts in the June newsletter where I called for travel to Israel. Just go, I urged, "There may be many actions and words which each of us can do from the safe distance between Berkeley and Jerusalem – but I want to say very publicly that words are simply not enough. Travel there — plan a trip — tell your children, relatives, and grandchildren that they must make plans to go now." In fact, some of you have told me that you are making plans for such a trip.

At the end of the article I asked if there were congregants who might be interested in a Netivot Shalom trip, and again, some of you were very excited about the possibility. So, I am arranging a meeting for those of you who are interested (no commitment yet, of course) in a ten-day trip to Israel sometime in the spring of 2004. The exact itinerary, cost, land arrangements, etc. needs to be discussed, so come prepared with opinions. We'll gather in the shul offices on **Sunday, September 7** at 10:00 a.m.

To get you started, you may wish to look at a remarkable book, which I will leave in the office, to be read there. It is called Israel: A Spiritual Travel Guide – A companion for the Modern Pilgrim. Written by one of the most respected liturgists in the world, Rabbi Larry Hoffman, it is truly more than a guide book, it is a spiritual map of the Holy Land. It seems to me that this ought to be the primary focus of a congregational trip to Israel.

If you can't attend the meeting and are interested in this pilgrimage, contact me at skelman@netivotshalom.org.

As we enter the new year of 5764, may we take the opportunity given us to reflect on our commitment to Israel. On Rosh Hashanah, one prominent blessing (beracha) of the Musaf Amidah, Zichronot, asks us to remember in particular the centrality of the land of Israel in our theology and our past. And on Yom Kippur, we are constantly reminded of the place of the Temple in Jerusalem which served as the locus for true repentance and atonement.

This year, more than ever, may we and Israel be blessed with peace. And from Vicky and myself, our personal wishes for a sweet, reflective, renewed, healthy and peaceful 5764.

Carol Cunradi's Report on the North American Chevra Kadisha Conference, page 12

## Budget Woes Loom Large

e are writing to let you know about a change that will soon be happening at Netivot Shalom. We need to start doing some serious fundraising for our operating budget. Okay, okay, none of us joined this congregation to deal with messy financial stuff. We joined for Torah, study, prayer, acts of lovingkindness and community, both here and with Jews worldwide. That's probably why we haven't been able to find a fundraising chair for the past couple of years. Well, a funny thing happened on our drive to the Garden of Eden: we had to pay for the toll...and the gas...and the car.... You get the picture.

We are facing a "make it or break it" moment in our history as a congregation. As we write this letter, Netivot Shalom is experiencing a severe cash flow crunch. The board has committed to making up for this shortfall with fundraising. If the fundraising is not successful then we will be forced to make deep cuts in staffing and programming later this year. These cuts will have a serious impact on our community.

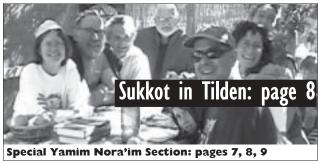
How did we end up in this difficult situation? Some outside factors — most notably a weak economy — have had an impact on our fiscal situation. But we've created much of this problem by having poor financial management systems, little focus on fundraising (outside of the building capital campaign), and a culture that considers money a dirty word (or discourages us from talking openly and comfortably about money).

So what can we do to get our fiscal house back in order and make sure that Netivot Shalom emerges stronger as a community as a result?

#### First, renew your membership as soon as possible.

The sooner you send in your membership renewal form, and let us know whether you are paying your dues in full, or on a monthly basis through automatic checking account deductions, the better we can plan for and manage our budget. Membership renewal forms can be downloaded from our web site at www.netivotshalom.org. Our goal is to have 95% of our current members renew their membership by September 26, the start of

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# New Office Administrator

Welcome to Sheela Dunovan, our new Office Administrator! She comes to us from the offices of Oakland Hebrew Day School. Her first day of work was July 15.

#### **OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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#### E-MAIL:

administrator@netivotshalom.org

#### TO REACH THE RABBI:

510-549-9447 ext. 101; to leave a confidential message, use ext. 103

# Changes in the Newsletter Schedule for the Fall

This newsletter covers events from August to mid-September. The next newsletter will cover events from mid-September through October. The deadline for submissions to the mid-September/October newsletter is August 24. (No late submissions will be accepted.)

Please send articles, letters or photographs to: newsletter@netivotshalom.org. All material submitted for publication is subject to editing in order to fit available space. Please call Karen Friedman at (510) 528-0728 with any questions.

# 1st Annual Netivot Shalom Oakland A's

(vs. New York Yankees)
Tailgate & Baseball

Fundraiser!
Sunday, August 3rd

Tailgate festivities begin at 10:30 a.m.,

Game begins at 1:05 p.m.

Seats are located in section 312

# A NOTE FROM REBUILDING TOGETHER & ALA COSTA CENTER

Thank You to all the Rebuilding Together Volunteers. Thank you for your time and energy to improve the Ala Costa Center.

From all the staff & students of Ala Costa Center

## AUGUST & SEPTEMBER B'NAI MITZVAH ANNIVERSARIES

#### **AUGUST 9: VA'ETCHANAN**

Asa Prentice, Sasha Rasmussen, Sharon Gannot

### **AUGUST 16: EKEV**

Joanna Jacobson, Eva Heinstein, David Meresman

#### **AUGUST 23: RE'EH**

Adam Bar Lev, Tamir Elteriman, Rebecca Reingold, David Berck, Benjamin Breiner

#### **AUGUST 30: SHOFTIM**

Nathaniel Feeley, Maia Kern, Noah Fine Nathel

#### **SEPTEMBER 6: KI TETZE**

Aaron Lee, Yonatan Shaked, Sabrina Wichner

#### **SEPTEMBER 13: KI TAVO**

Eli Anders, David Alper, Micha Cosman-Alter, Jessica Nagel, Rebecca Simon

#### SEPTEMBER 20: NITZAVIM/VA'YELECH

Or Shuval, Lillian Stem, Seth Rosenthal, Robert Stem, Joshua Cataldo, Nathan Levin, Jenny Fineman

## T'FILAH SCHEDULE

#### SATURDAYS

Services & minyanim are held at the Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center 1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley

Torah Study each Shabbat

9:00 a.m.

**Shabbat Services** 

9:45 a.m.

Meditative Minyan,

3rd Shabbat, room 14 August 16, September 20 9:30 a.m.

### FOR CHILDREN & PARENTS:

Shabbat B'Yachad (pre-school), 2nd & 4th Shabbat, room 14 11:00 a.m. August 9, 23; September 13, 27

Children's Program (Registration required)

for K-6th grades (Program will resume October 11)

#### WEEKDAY MINYANIM

Weekday minyanim are held at our offices, 1841 Berkeley Way, Berkeley **Morning Minyan** Wednesdays 7:15 a.m.

Rosh Chodesh Minyan

Rosh Chodesh Elul is August 28 7:15 a.m.

# TORAH STUDY SCHEDULE FOR: AUGUST

2 Devarim

Deut. 1-3:22 with Rabbi Mimi Weisel

9 Va-Ethanan

Deut. 3:23-7:11 with Rabbi Art Gould

16 Eke

Deut. 7:12-11:25 with Naomi Seidman

23 Re-eh

Deut. 11:26-16:17 with Simon Firestone

30 Shoftim

Deut. 16:18-21:9 with Simon Firestone

## **Upcoming Rosh Chodesh Services**

Rosh Chodesh Elul

is Thursday, August 28

Rosh Chodesh Tishrei

is Saturday, September 27, Rosh Hashanah

## Community

## News Notes from Our Members

The following items were sent in by our members

DEAR MS CHALLENGE WALKER SUPPORTER,

It's been just about a week since 250 people and I walked 50 miles (well I actually walked 41 miles) on the three day MS Challenge Walk starting 7:00 a.m. on Friday, June 20 in Concord, CA and ending at Crissy Field (San Francisco) on Sunday June 22 at 12:45 p.m. Training both physically and mentally since January has been quite an experience but it was more than worth it.



Lorraine Rosenblatt (second from the right)

I can't begin to tell you how overwhelmed I am with the generosity of friends, family, neighbors and people who I hardly know. As a staff member and volunteer at the MS Society as well as a person with MS, I can't begin to tell you how lucky I am to have been part of this wonderful event.

Thank you can't even begin to describe how grateful I am to all of you who supported me.

My sincere gratitude, Lorraine Rosenblatt

## Hope & Noah Alper Open a Restaurant in Berkeley!

Look for downtown Berkeley's newest restaurant, **Bar • Ristorante Raphael**, at 2132 Center Street, between Oxford & Shattuck, 510-644-9500. It's a traditional Italian restaurant and bar serving authentic vegetarian and seafood dishes including brick-oven pizza and homemade pasta. Certified Kosher (dairy) by the Orthodox Rabbinical Council of San Francisco.

## MAZAL TOV TO:

**Rachel Heinstein** on being awarded the Luis A. Guendelman Teacher Grant

Ruth Elowitz & Todd Rumph on the birth of their new baby Judith & Michael McCullough on the birth of their first grandson, Asher Reuben

### CONDOLENCES TO:

**Ed & Diane Bernbaum** on the death of Ed's mother, Elizabeth Bembaum, *z"l*.

**Michael & Alisa Budiansky** on the death of their son, Ezra Budiansky, z"l.

**Lee Feinstein** on the death of her mother, Jean Inman, z"l. **Michelle Rappaport** on the death of her father, Elby Coy, z"l. **Deb Fink** on the death of her stepmother, Susan Dexter Fink, z"l.

#### **Budget Woes**

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the next lewish New Year.

**Second, make an additional contribution to Netivot Shalom.** Our fundraising goal for the year is approximately \$150,000 from discretionary contributions and efforts such as the Yom Kippur appeal. If we do not raise \$75,000 by November, we will be forced to make big cuts in staffing and programming, including the Religious School. We do NOT want to do this. Please look hard at your personal budgets and determine if you can make a voluntary contribution to the shul. If each of our households contributed \$20 each month for a year — for a total of \$240 per member unit — we would have the immediate problem solved.

Rabbi Kelman has stepped forward and will forego \$4,500 in salary that we are contractually obligated to pay him. We (who are writing this article) have already committed to paying more than our families' share of this fundraising goal.

**Third, join the fundraising committee.** For the past several years, we have not had an active fundraising committee. We need people to step forward to help us build a financial cushion to help carry us through tough times.

If we all act now — to renew our memberships and make an additional contribution to our annual operating budget — we can avoid a financial disaster this fall. If we can come together and launch a significant fundraising effort, we can raise the money we need for long term financial health.

As it says in Ecclesiastes, "To every thing there is a season." And now it is time to act.

Mark Priven, Mike Rosenheimer,

President Treasurer

Ken Schnur, Rebecca Calahan Klein, Vice President Membership Chair

#### AND A FINAL NOTE:

First Day of Religious School: Monday, September 22, 4:00 p.m.

First Day of Amitim: Tuesday, September 23, 4:30 p.m.

First Day of Shabbat Program: October 11, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Is your child registered?

# Teshuva: Returning to What, Exactly?

By Danny Isaacson, Summer Rabbinic Intern

he month of *Elul* has arrived, and this means that the *Aseret Yimai ha'Teshuva*, the "Ten Days of Repentance," are only weeks away. It is perhaps an unfortunate history of translation which renders the word "teshuva" to mean "repentance," because in fact the word "repentance" fails to capture the sense of this Hebrew word, around which so much of our Yamim Nora'im liturgy and ritual is based. More literally, the word teshuva means "returning." Hence the ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are more accurately, the "Ten Days of Returning." This raises the obvious question: "To what or whom are we returning?"

I encourage all of us to consider this question over the course of the coming month. Certainly, each of us can come up with various answers of our own. I want to take the opportunity here, however, to direct our attention to an answer provided by our Yamim Nora'im liturgy, found in Psalm 27. Customarily, we recite Psalm 27 every morning and evening from *Rosh Chodesh Elul* until *Shemini Atzeret*. I have always been intrigued by verse 10 of the psalm: "Though my father and mother have abandoned me, God will take me in." Like many of you, I imagine, I initially read this verse with a certain amount of hesitation, even reluctance. My first response is to think, "On the contrary, my father and mother have treated me rather well over the years; I am indeed quite grateful and love them very much!"

Still, as is the case with any Hebrew text, this verse can be read at a deeper level. For surely, there is a point at which we find ourselves alone, spiritual beings primarily in relation not to our parents, family and friends, but rather in relation to that which created our parents, family and friends. In this sense, we are not so much "abandoned" as we are "reborn": as adults we become conscious of our eternal Source, the invisible yet palpable flow of life that transcends and animates all human relationships. We may identify most closely with our intimate familial relationships, but ultimately, the psalmist tells us, our most intimate relationship is invariably and inevitably with The Holy One, the source of everything.

The Yamim Nora'im season comes to remind us that we return to our eternal Source, we are "taken in" by God, not only in death, but also in the very midst of life. Our deep *teshuva*, this vital rebirth, is not some final outcome to our lives. Nor is it a process to be done only once a year, for that matter. Though our tradition has designated the High Holiday season as a time to focus on *teshuva*, may we realize for ourselves that indeed God is continually "taking us in," always.  $\, \stackrel{\triangle}{\Rightarrow} \,$ 

## The Rosh Chodesh Group

The Rosh Chodesh group will be meeting **Thursday, August 28** at 7:00 p.m. SaraLeya Schley will lead our special program for Elul, as we reflect and anticipate Yamim Nora'im (the High Holy Days). For location and other information, contact Toby Gidal, tgidal@attbi.com.

## Tisha B'Av at Netivot Shalom

By Danny Isaacson, Summer Rabbinic Intern

few years ago, I spent much of *Erev Tisha B'Av* inside the Western Wall Tunnels in Jerusalem, hunched up against the wall closest to what was once the Holy of Holies during Temple times. Hundreds of men had set up in there for the night, literally wailing and racing through *kinot*, which are mourning dirges that lament the destruction of Jerusalem as well as the persecution of Jews. While I imagine that these people were hoping and praying for the Temple's physical return, I found myself asking over and over again, "What am I actually mourning? What do I really want to restore?"

I still ask these questions every *Tisha B'Av.* Israel has gained political autonomy; Jerusalem is a vibrant center of Jewish life; I do not particularly want the Temple to be rebuilt as an altar for animal sacrifices. So wherein lies the meaning behind this fast day, and what do I really mean when I pray for the restoration of Jerusalem?

This year, we will consider these questions in more detail. The 9<sup>th</sup> of Av falls on **Wednesday evening, August 6**. We will hold *ma'ariv* services at 8:00 p.m. on **Wednesday** evening and *mincha* services at 1:00 p.m. on **Thursday afternoon, August 7**. The fast begins at night with *ma'ariv*. As is customary, during *ma'ariv* we will recite the Book of Lamentations. Afterwards, we will hold a brief discussion about the questions raised above. As is our custom, we'll daven *mincha* Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Remember that *tefillin* are worn during *mincha*, and not during *shacharit*. At *mincha*, the feeling of the day changes from destruction to rebuilding.

## **Mature Mavens**

The next meeting of the Mature Mavens will be on **Monday evening, September 8**, at 7:00 p.m. Please look for announcements regarding the topic of our meeting, and it's locale.



Members of Netivot Shalom pack medicines to send to the Jewish community in Cuba:

Ethel Murphy, Stephen Tobias, Yaacov Harari

(Congregation Beth Israel), Marcia Brooks.

Photo by June Safran, Cuban Affairs Coordinator

## Bridges to Israel-Berkeley: Moving Forward Toward Another Year

By Hilda & Seymour Kessler

Pridges to Israel-Berkeley just celebrated its first anniversary. The year was capped off by a screening of the film *Relentless*, a powerful documentary about the Oslo peace process and why it failed. The subject was (and remains) particularly apt since Israel currently is in its initial phases of another attempt to resolve its conflict with the Palestinians. The dynamics driving the current road map proposal are different from those that were formulated and set forth in the Oslo accords. Nonetheless, there are troubling similarities and one can only hope and pray that progress will be made toward lowering the tensions and bloodshed.

A second screening of *Relentless* is currently being arranged with the Adult Education Committee of Netivot Shalom. Look for their announcement of that date and time.

Bridges is now looking forward to another exciting year. A few weeks ago, much to the credit of Carol Robinson, Bridges developed its own web-site: bridgestoisrael-berkeley.org. Posted there, among other things, is information on how you might assist Israeli victims of terror, where you can purchase Israeli products locally and announcements of forthcoming events.

We plan further Buy Israeli Roses campaigns: upcoming are those for Rosh Hashanah and Sukkot. We will take orders from **August 25 to September 7**; visit our web-site for an order form. Also, if you want to purchase Israeli roses at other times, we have a link to our supplier, M&M Roses, on the web-site.

We also plan to continue our campaign to help Israeli families scarred by terrorist actions. We have recently been approved for tax-exempt status by the State of California and anticipate  $50\,\mathrm{lc}(3)$  approval from the Federal Government in the near future.

Also, we have an ambitious year planned for our community education program. In early September we will be hosting MK Rabbi Michael Melchior, an important figure in Israeli politics and he will address our community on **Sunday, September 7** at Congregation Beth El (check our web-site for further details).

Rabbi Melchior, formerly of the Meimad Party, is now a member of the Labor Party and, in the unity government, held the post of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. Currently he chairs two Knesset committees: the Knesset Subcommittee on Diaspora Affairs and the Committee on the Advancement of the Status of the Child. He has a passionate interest in the improvement of Israeli society and to this end has established many programs aimed at narrowing the gaps in society between rich and poor, Arab and Jew, and secular and religious. Rabbi Melchior has been actively involved in fostering Arab-Israeli and religious-secular dialogue and education and will address these issues when he speaks. Recently he received the Sovlanut Prize for his work in promoting tolerance in Israel, and the Coventry Peace Prize for his work toward world peace. Check our web-site for further details on this event.

# **Association of Jewish Libraries Conference**

By Barbara Bibel

his year, the fact that the annual conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries was immediately before and in the same city as that of the American Library Association meant I was able to attend both meetings. Since Margot Lucoff and I are working hard to turn the lovely room full of books at the shul office into a functioning library, meeting synagogue and Judaica librarians from all over the world and attending sessions on a wide variety of relevant subjects was a wonderful opportunity to learn. The conference was in Toronto, a lovely city with a large lewish community. The overreaction to SARS kept the Hebraica cataloguing team from the Library of Congress at home (The National Library of Medicine staff was not afraid to come for ALA!), but the rest of the conference went on. I went to several very interesting seminars on collection development, new Jewish fiction for adults, the Holocaust and popular culture materials, the Bible in film, and the portrayal of lews in movies and television shows. I also went to the meetings of the automation user groups to learn about the advantages and disadvantages of several online catalog systems.

The conference was useful and inspirational. Netivot Shalom has an excellent core collection. Without a catalog, finding a book is a matter of luck and perseverance. As a congregation dedicated to the mitzvah of study, a real library is a necessity for us. Creating an online catalog requires funding. If anyone knows of organizations that provide grants to support this endeavor, please let me know. If you are planning to give tzedakah for a special occasion, please consider the library fund.

# The Arab-Israeli Conflict: View from a Dove

By Cyndi Spindell Berck

ou are invited to a conversation with Marcia Freedman, former Member of Knesset and President, Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, the Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace. Marcia Freedman will speak on **Tuesday, September 30**, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center. Brit Tzedek v'Shalom is a national organization of American Jews deeply committed to Israel's well-being through the achievement of a negotiated settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The event is co-sponsored by the Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center and the Adult Education Committee of Netivot Shalom. For information, please contact Cyndi Spindell Berck at 510-524-2984.

Child care and light refreshments will be provided. Donations to cover expenses are appreciated.

# YAMIM NORA'IM UPDATES

## S'lichot **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20,** IN THE SHUL (1841 BERKELEY WAY).

The evening will begin with Ma'ariv and Havdallah, followed by teaching sessions and then S'lichot service. There will be a kosher/ vegie/fish pot luck to start us off; please bring something to share with about three other people, or something to drink.

#### 9:00 p.m.

Ma'ariv and Havdallah

#### 9:45 p.m.

"Ethical Wills", led by Robin Braverman "Islam 101: Beliefs & Values for Understanding led by Fred Astren

"Hebrew, part III", led by Yosefa Raz

11:30 p.m.

S'lichot service, led by Rabbi Kelman



### Kever Avot

By Andrea Cassidy, Chevra Kadisha Coordinator

here is a practice in our tradition of visiting a cemetery prior to the beginning of the New Year. This custom has its origins in the attempt to concretize, by a physical action, the notion of remembering — of revisiting our past — which is one of the dominant themes of Yamim Nora'im.

In keeping with this custom, we will have our Kever Avot Service as a congregation at Rolling Hills Cemetery, in the Tel Shalom section, (Hilltop exit off 580) on **Sunday, September 21** at 10:00 a.m. (till approximately 11:00 a.m.). We will recite some Tehillim, say the appropriate "Al Maleh Rachamim" and join together in Kaddish. For those who wish to visit another cemetery where loved ones may be buried, the office will be able to provide you with copies of the prayers we will use at Tel Shalom.

Many of you have relatives or friends whose final resting place is at Tel Shalom. Come to remember. Many of you have relatives at other cemetaries and cannot visit before Yamim Nora'im. It is appropriate to come to Tel Shalom and say "Al Maleh Rachamim" and Kaddish.

If you are interested in ride-sharing, call me at 549-1407. Just say your name and if you want a ride or are offering one and from what area. Calls must be received at least three days prior to the 21st.

## **New This Year! A Family** Friendly Shofar Service

SaraLeya Schley will lead a shofar service on Erev Rosh HaShanah, Friday, September 26. This will be an opportunity for people to hear the shofar before the onset of Shabbat. (The shofar is not sounded on Shabbat.) There will be a short introduction then shofar blowing; the entire event will last approximately 20 minutes. Please meet in the lobby at Northbrae Community Church at 6:15 p.m.

## Movers & Shakers — We Need You!

Okay, no shaking. But a great deal of help is going to be needed to move materials from the BRICC to Northbrae for Yamim Nora'im services. If you are interested, please contact Eugene Berg at 415-665-3927 or at house@netivotshalom.org. The time commitment will be roughly four hours one evening sometime in late September.

## Family Kol Nidre

This year's Famaily Kol Nidre program will have Judy Radousky and Claire Sherman at the helm. Family Kol Nidre is a service for families with children entering grades one through six. The service touches the major themes and melodies of Kol Nidre with some short, familycentered projects to illustrate those themes. Family Kol Nidre will be held at the Epworth United Methodist Church, 1963 Hopkins St., in Berkeley. **Pre-registration is required** for participation in this event. At the time of this writing Judy and Claire are in the planning stage, but you can direct your questions to Judy by calling her at 510-278-5985.

## **Kol Nidre Tickets &** Sephardi Kol Nidre

Kol Nidre service tickets (for those who do not have tickets to Yamim Nora'im services) are \$54. This is only good for Kol Nidre — any Kol Nidre service except for family Kol Nidre. You can download the ticket form from www.netivotshalom.org. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

And, back by popular demand: A Sephardi Kol Nidre service will be held in the Epworth United Methodist Church. Two other Kol Nidre services will be held at Northbrae Community Church, as usual, on **Sunday, October 5**, at 6:30 p.m.

## **Build Your Own Sukkah!**

Whether you order it pre-fab on-line (www.Sukkot.com), follow your great-grandfather's custom, use the excellent plans available in the office to build your own or avail yourself of your own garden structure, make this the year you put up a sukkah and fulfill this mitzvah! It's a rewarding and spiritual experience, as well as terrific family fun.

Fancy? Plain? Thematic? Send a photo of you and your sukkah to newsletter@netivotshalom.com so we can display your efforts!

## Order Your Lulav & Etroq FROM AFIKOMEN: Orders should be placed by September 24

to be guaranteed a set. Price: \$45.00.

FROM SUKKOT.COM: Standard \$35 each; Prime \$45 each (plus shipping: \$14 for one, \$3 for each additional set)

> Unsure what to do with your lulav & etrog? There are instructions and the appropriate blessings on pages 378 & 379 of the Siddur Sim Shalom.

# YAMIM NORA'IM

CONTINUED

Sukkot Celebration in Tilden Park 5333

October 10 ~ 17, 2003

A week-long gathering celebrating the autumn harvest festival and our life as a community in the wilderness

- Help build and decorate our community sukkah in the wilderness
- Create your own sukkah and camp out under the Tishri full moon
- Greet Sukkot and Shabbat with participatory Kabbalat Shabbat services, followed by a potluck vegetarian kosher meal
- Celebrate Havdallah under the stars
- Particpate in programs throughout the week for children, families, young adults, singles, older adults everyone is welcome!
- Share meals in our community sukkah all week long invite friends and family to join in the mitzvah of eating and relaxing in a sukkah.

Suggested Donations for Camping: \$8/night or \$36/week per sukkah/family

For more information and to register, contact Ellen Peskin at (510) 685–8024, ellenpeskn@sbcglobal.net

PLEASE REGISTER BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3.



## Preliminary Schedule of Yamim Noraim Services for Netivot Shalom 5764

	DATE	TIME	SERVICE	LOCATION	YOUTH PROGRAMMING (All Youth Programs require
S'lichot	Sat., Sept. 20	9:00 p.m. 9:45 p.m. 11:30 p.m.	Ma'ariv/Havdalah Study Sessions S'lichot	Netivot Shalom, 1841 Berkeley Way	advance registration)
Kever Avot - Memorial Service at the Cemetary	Sun., Sept. 21	10:00 a.m.	Kever Avot	Tel Shalom, 4100 Hilltop Dr, Richmond	
Erev Rosh Hashanah - Day 1	Fri., Sept. 26	6:15 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Family-Friendly Shofar Service Ma'ariv	Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda	
**First Day of Rosh Hashanah	Sat., Sept. 27	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 12:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Pseukei d'Zimra Shacharit Torah Service Drash Musaf & Torah Study Mincha/Ma'ariv	Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda	9:30-1:00 p.m. YNB Childcare (Northbrad 11:30-12:30 YNB Tefilah (YNB is for children 2.5-5 years old) 10:00 a.m2:00 p.m. YNL (Yamim Noraim L'Yeladim K-6th graders, at BRJCC)
**Second Day of Rosh Hashanah	Sun., Sept. 28	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 12:15 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Pseukei d'Zimra Shacharit Torah Service Drash Musaf Tashlich	Northbrae  Live Oak Park	9:30-1:00 p.m. YNB Childcare (Northbrad 11:30-12:30 YNB Tefilah (YNB is for children 2.5-5 years old) 10:00 a.m2:00 p.m. YNL (Yamim Noraim L'Yeladim K-6th graders, at BRJCC)
Shabbat Shuvah	Sat., Oct. 4	9:45 a.m.	Shacharit (regular Shabbat Svs.)	Northbrae	
**Kol Nidre	Sun., Oct. 5	6:30 p.m.	Kol Nidre Kol Nidre Sephardic Kol Nidre Family Kol Nidre	Sanctuary, Northbrae Haver Hall, Northbrae (Upstairs) Epworth (Downstairs) Epworth	
**Yom Kippur  Don't forget  to bring your shofar to Ne'ilah	Mon., Oct. 6	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 3:45 p.m. 4:45 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	Pseukei d'Zimra Shacharit Torah Service Drash Yizkor Musaf/Avodah/ Martyrology Tefilah Study Study Sessions Mincha Ne'ilah Ma'ariv/Havdallah Break-the-Fast	Northbrae	9:30-1:00 p.m.YNB Childcare (Northbrae 11:30-12:30 YNB Tefilah (YNB is for children 2.5-5 years old) 10:00 a.m3:00 p.m. YNL (Yamim Noraim L'Yeladim K-6th Graders, at Epworth)
1st Day of Sukkot	Sat., Oct. 10	9:45 a.m.	Shabbat & Sukkot Services, Hallel	BRJCC, 1414 Walnut St	
2nd Day of Sukkot	Sun., Oct. 12	9:45 a.m.	Sukkot Services, Hallel & Hoshanot	Netivot Shalom, 1841 Berkeley Way	
Shmini Atzeret	Sat., Oct 18	9:45 a.m.	Shmini Atzeret (Kohelet, Yizkor)	BRJCC 1414 Walnut St	
Simchat Torah	Sat., Oct 18	7:30 p.m.	Ma'ariv/Simchat Torah & Hakafot	BRJCC 1414 Walnut St	
Simchat Torah	Sun., Oct 19	9:45 a.m.	Shacharit		

<sup>\*\*</sup> indicates *ticket required for admission*. Because of increased attendance, **and for security reasons**, we *will be checking tickets at the door*. Note also there are no reserved seats.

# August 2003



## **Av-Elul 5763**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1		from 9	Sukkot 5763		1 3 AV 8:01 pm candle lighting	2 4 AV Devarim Shabbat Hazon 9:00 am Torah Study 9:45 am Shabbat Services; drash by Ken Schnur 1:30 pm Delight in Shabbat
3 5 AV  Netivot Shalom Goes to the Game! (A's vs Yankees) 10:30 am Tailgate set-up 1:05 pm Game begins  7:00 pm Ritual Committee meeting	<b>4</b> 6 AV	<b>5</b> 7 AV	6 8 AV 7:15 am Morning Minyan 8:00 pm Erev Tisha B'Av, Reading of Eicha	9 AV  FAST OF TISHA B'AV  1:00 pm  Mincha	8 10 AV 7:53 pm candle lighting	Va-Ethanan Shabbat Nachamu 9:00 am Torah Study 9:45 am Shabbat Services; drash by Carol Dorf 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad
10 12 AV	11 13 AV	12 14 AV	13 15 AV	14 16 AV	15 17 AV	<b>16</b> 18 AV
	7:00 pm Mature Mavens 7:00 pm Social Action Committee	<b>7:30 pm</b> University Ave. Site Work Group	<b>7:15 am</b> Morning Minyan		CAMP RAMAH ENDS 7:45 pm candle lighting	Ekev 9:00 am Torah Study 9:30 am Meditative Minyan 9:45 am Shabbat Services; drash by Danny Isaacson
17 19 AV 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Hebrew reading marathon, with Danny Isaacson Time TBA Adult Ed long range planning group 5:00 pm Executive Committee meeting	18 20 AV	19 21 AV 7:30 pm Membership Committee meeting	20 22 AV 7:15 am Morning Minyan	<b>21</b> 23 AV	22 24 AV  7:36 pm candle lighting	23 25 AV  Re'eh 9:00 am Torah Study 9:45 am Shabbat Services; Oren Radousky will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad
24 26 AV 5:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting  31 3 ELUL	<b>25</b> <sub>27 AV</sub>	<b>26</b> 28 AV	27 29 AV 7:15 am Morning Minyan	7:00 pm Rosh Chodesh Group 7:30 pm Midrasha 8th Grade orientation, at Beth Israel	29 1 ELUL  ROSH HODESH ELUL  7:15 am Rosh Hodesh minyan  7:26 pm candle lighting	30 2 ELUL Shoftim 9:00 am Torah Study 9:45 am Shabbat Services; Mayan Greenberg-Stanton will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah

# September 2003 Elul 5763-Tishrei 5764

SUNDAY	MONDAY  1 4 ELUL	TUESDAY 2 5 ELUL	WEDNESI  3 6 ELUL	DAY	THURSDA  4 7 ELUL	Y FRIDAY	<b>6</b> 9 ELUL
	LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED		<b>7:15 am</b> Morning Minyan			7:15 pm	6 Ki Tetze 9:00 am Torah Study 9:45 am Shabbat Services; Aaron Belkin will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah
	OFFICE CLOSED					candle lighting	
7 10 ELUL	8 11 ELUL	9 12 ELUL	10 13 ELUL		11 14 ELUL	<b>12</b> 15 ELUL	13 16 ELUL
Midrasha begins  10:00 am  Meeting to discuss trip to Israel, with Rabbi Kelman	7:00 pm Mature Mavens 7:00 pm Social Action Committee	7:30 pm University Ave. Site Work Group	<b>7:15 am</b> Morning Minyan		<b>7:30 pm</b> Adult B'nai Mitzvah	<b>7:05 pm</b> candle lighting	Ki Tavo 9:00 am Torah Study 9:45 am Shabbat Services; drash by Claude Fischer 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad 1:30 pm Delight in Shabbat
14	15	16	17		18	19	20
5:00 pm Executive Committee meeting 6:00 pm Youth Education Committee meeting	18 ELUL	7:30 pm Membership Committee meeting	20 ELUL 7:15 am Morning Minyan		21 ELUL	6:54 pm candle lighting	Nitzavim & VaYelech 9:00 am Torah Study 9:30 am Meditative Minyan 9:45 am Shabbat Services; Sarah Breiner will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah S'lichot 9:00 pm Ma'ariv/Havdalah 9:45 pm Study Sessions 11:30 pm Selichot
21	22	23	24		25	26	27
10:00 am Kever Avot at Tel Shalom cemetary (4100 Hilltop Dr., Richmond) 5:00 pm Board meeting	4:00 pm Religious School FIRST DAY OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	26 ELUL  4:30 pm Amitim  FIRST DAY OF AMITIM  EQUINOX, FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN	27 ELUL 7:15 am Morning Minyan 4:00 pm Religious School		7:30 pm University Ave. Site Work Group	Rosh Hashan 6:15 pm Family Friendly Shofar Service 7:30 pm Ma'ariv Both services a Northbrae 6:43 pm candle lighting	All services at Northbrae 9:00 am Pseukei d'Zimra 9:30 am Shacharit 10:45 am Torah Service 11:45 am Drash 12:15 pm Musaf & Torah Study
20		20		I EIDST I	DAV DOSH		7:00 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
28 2 TISHREI Rosh Hashanah Second Day	29 3 TISHREI  Fast of Gedaliah	30 4 TISHREI	YOUTH PROGRAMS for Yamim Nora'im: (All Youth Programs require advance registration)	HASHA 9:30 an	DAY ROSH NAH: 9/27/03 n-1:30 pm Yamim B'Yachad Childcare, tbrae	SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH: 9/28/03 9:30 am-1:30 pm Yam Nora'im B'Yachad Child at Norhtbrae	YOM KIPPUR: 10/6/03  9:30 am-1:30 pm Yamim Nora'im B'Yachad Childcare, at Norhibrae
All services at Northbrae 9:00 am Pseukei d'Zimr 9:30 am Shacharit	4:00 pm	4:30 pm Amitim	PROG n Nors	11:30 a	m-12:30 pm Yamim B'Yachad Tefilah, at	11:30 am-12:30 pm Y Nora'im B'Yachad Tefili Northbrae	ah, at Northbrae
10:45 am Torah Service 11:45 am Drash		7:00 pm	FH J		for children 2.5-5	(YNB is for children 2.5	(YNB is for children 2.5-5 years old)
12:15 pm Musaf & Toral Study		A conversation with Marcia Freedman, at the BRJCC	YOU] for Ya (All Youth	10:30 a	m-2:00 pm Yamim L'Yeladim, at BRJCC	years old) 10:30 am-2:00 pm Ya Nora'im L'Yeladim, at E	
5:00 pm Tashlich, Live ( Park	Jak			(YNL is	for K-6th graders)	(YNL is for K-6th grade	rs) (YNL is for K-6th graders)

## Kavod v'Nichum: The First North American Chevra Kadisha Conference

By Carol Cunradi

This article is written in loving memory of my uncle, Jack Rosenberg, on the occasion of his fourth yahrzeit.

ver 160 participants from 32 states and provinces in the U.S. and Canada attended the first North American Chevra Kadisha conference, held in Rockville, Maryland, from June 22-24. The aim of the conference was to enable those involved in the *mitzvot* of *k'vod hamet* (honoring the dead) and *nichum avelim* (comforting the mourners) to share experiences, to teach, and to learn more about these mitzvot. The Chevra Kadisha (Sacred Society) is the traditional Jewish communal institution that carries out these mitzvot by preparing the dead for burial (washing, ritual purification, and dressing the deceased in shrouds), and assisting the mourners during shiva (the seven-day mourning period). Conference attendees came from all branches of Judaism, including Conservative, Reform, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, as well as non-affiliated. In addition, a wide range of vocations and avocations were represented: rabbis, cantors, chaplains, funeral directors, cemetery managers, and Chevra Kadisha volunteers from many walks of life. The conference was hosted by B'nai Israel, a Conservative congregation that serves the Rockville and suburban Washington, D.C. area.

The conference consisted of eight plenary talks, 25 workshops, and opportunities for hands-on demonstrations on the tachlis (nuts and bolts) of tahara (preparing the dead for burial). Plenary presentations included "The Theology of the Body in Judaism: Dualism, Resurrection, Tahara and Ritual," by Rabbi Neil Gillman; "Tahara as Feminist Practice," by Dr. Laurie Zoloth; "Sacred Fellowship: The History and Development of the Chevra Kadisha," by Dr. David Wachtel; "Burials in the Making of the American lewish Community." by Dr. Hasia Diner; and "Jewish Communal Responsibility and the Chevra Kadisha Movement," by David Zinner. The workshops were organized along five tracks or themes: Tahara, Cemetery, Funeral, Mourning, and Bikkur Cholim. Although too numerous to mention all of them, one of the highlights for me was hearing Dr. Chava Weissler present her research on women's Yiddish prayers (thkines) and ceremonies for cemeteries. She described the ritual and prayers associated SECULAR YIDDISH CULTURE, [REIMER MAINTAINED,] REGARDED ... JEWISH DEATH AND BURIAL CUSTOMS, AS BEING BASED ON LITTLE MORE THAN BUBBEH MEISES (OLD WIVES TALES), AND NOT WORTH PASSING DOWN TO THE NEXT GENERATION.

with kneytlakh legn (laying of the wicks), a I,000-year tradition of measuring the circumference of grave sites that was customarily done in preparation for Yom Kippur. Some of this research is contained in her book, Voices of the Matriarchs. Conference organizer Lynne Greenhough described how she and other members of her Chevra Kadisha in Victoria, B.C., have reinstituted these rituals as described by Weissler at the workshop.

Another highlight was the final plenary session, given by Rabbi Jack Riemer, on "What Is Our Work Really All About?" Using the book, Tuesdays With Morrie to illustrate his points, Rabbi Riemer described how, to a certain extent, a generation of lews has come to abandon traditional Jewish death and burial customs. He developed this thesis by exploring the values of secular Yiddish culture, which embraced rationalism, the class struggle, unionism, and the worker's battle for justice. This culture, he maintained, regarded traditional Jewish observance, including Jewish death and burial customs, as being based on little more than bubbeh meises (old wives tales), and not worth passing down to the next generation. Rabbi Riemer posited that in rejecting ritual observance and the thousands-year old tradition on which it was based, the Yiddish secularists were essentially unable to pass down their passionate beliefs about justice to the next generation. Once severed from its traditional lewish observance, secular lewish

culture was largely overtaken by the pervading values of modern-day (capitalist) society. The Yiddish secularists believed that the struggle for justice had its origins in the Enlightenment. Rabbi Riemer maintained that the roots of modern secular Yiddish values originated with lewish concern for justice and equity as elucidated by our Sages two thousand years ago. These values, reflected in the traditional Jewish death and burial customs (e.g., shrouds, plain pine coffin), are based on the rulings of Rabbi Gamliel, who insisted that rich and poor alike should be buried in the same manner. Rabbi Riemer ended his talk by thanking those present for carrying on the sacred traditions and passing them on to a new generation.

ur congregation was well represented at the conference. Congregant Alison Jordan was the moderator of two workshops: "Understanding Why We Recite Psalms during Shmira," and "Using Psalms to Enhance Bikkur Holim." Alison was also a presenter at a workshop on "Viddui: Death-bed Confessional," where she shared some of her work that melds contemporary concerns with the traditional death-bed confessional. I participated in a panel discussion on "Educating the Jewish Community About Tahara." In addition to discussing the process of educating congregants individually and in classroom settings, I described the presentations I have made over the last few years to the high school-age Midrasha students on Jewish death and burial customs. Rabbi Kelman is on the board of Kavod v'Nachum and was instrumental in the planning of this organization.

Preliminary plans are underway to organize regional *Chevra Kadisha* conferences during 2004. West Coast participants (including Oregon, Washington, Nevada and British Columbia) are hoping to meet in Las Vegas some time next year to continue the work begun at this inaugural conference. \$\Phi\$

### What Does the Newsletter Need?

Stephen Tobias writes:

"I hope we can expand! We need a Library column again (John Ginter, our founding Librarian, ran "Der Winkel"); also a "New & Notable Books and Articles" column. We need more member bios; member obits; member simchas of all kinds."

Anyone interested in contributing to the newsletter? It's easy. Just e-mail your submission to newsletter@netivotshalom.org, or call Karen Friedman (510-528-0728) if you want some guidance.

# What's Going On

By Anna Korteweg, Community Building Committee Chair

he first Young Adult Shabbat dinner was a success and by the time you're reading this there will, hopefully, have been another one. Thanks to Hilla Abel for opening her home to the community. Rumor has it that people had a very good time and were excited to continue meeting. To facilitate building our young adult community, Hilla has volunteered to manage an e-mail list for people who want to be notified of upcoming young adult events. E-mail Hilla (ya@netivotshalom.org) if you'd like to be on that list, or call her at 848-4843.

Second, Rebecca Calahan Klein, Chair of the Membership Committee, and I are working on creating opportunities for other like-minded adults to meet and get to know each other (think parents with young children, older singles, etc.) Expect to hear more soon, perhaps even by phone as we're organizing a drive to call as many of the membership as possible to appraise them of the goings on.

Finally, I'm learning, as Chair of Community Building, that there is no way to get closer to people than by working with them. We just had a wonderful board and committee chair retreat where I got to hear a little bit of everybody's Jewish biography. At the retreat, we talked a lot about the importance of volunteer work, of being a participant in our participatory, egalitarian synagogue. Two opportunities for participating and building such deeper connections with others are coming up.

As you might have noticed, the Ritual Committee has decided to again have a community break-the-fast at the conclusion of Yom Kippur. Last year Michael Cohen, Netivot Shalom member and wonderful caterer, took care of much of the preparations, putting together a true feast. This year Karen Friedman is coordinating this event and she's looking for a group of people to help out. I found out how much fun it can be to feed the community if you work together when I co-sponsored a kiddush with the chairs of the Adult Education and Membership committees. Help out with this year's break-the-fast and you might have a similarly wonderful experience. Contact Karen Friedman, newsletter@netivotshalom.org or 510-528-0728.

We have again reserved campsites in Tilden Park to celebrate Sukkot as a community in the wilderness. This year, we are expanding our time in the park to include the entire week of Sukkot. We are hoping to have programming throughout the week for children, families, young adults, singles, older adults — for everyone! Please plan to share at least one meal in our community sukkah during the week of **October 10-17**. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other members in a beautiful, relaxed and informal setting. To volunteer to organize a program, facilitate an activity or workshop, or help with logistics, please contact Ellen Peskin at ellenpeskn@sbcglobal.net.

And for any questions about community building (or about raising an almost-walking I3 month old while trying to write your dissertation), contact me, Anna Korteweg at 549-1965 or by e-mail at community@netivotshalom.org.  $\Leftrightarrow$ 

# Shirat Habarbur (Swan Song)

By Josh Gressel, Ritual Committee Chair

variety of circumstances in recent weeks has shown me a clear need to re-evaluate how and how much I am involved in synagogue life. For those of us who enjoy volunteering, who find that we get back much more than we give, it is easy to gradually become over-committed. Just as occasionally it is necessary to take stock of expenses, or to clean out a closet or garage that has been accumulating "must-haves" or "why nots", so too is it important to occasionally take stock of commitments to even the best of causes, in this case, Netivot Shalom.

By far the most time consuming and the most rewarding of my commitments have been the monthly newsletter articles I have written for the past three years. It has been like doing an independent study course at a graduate level. I got to pick a topic that interested me, learn about it, write about it, and then get the added pleasure of the positive feedback from congregants who found the information useful to them. Because of the huge time commitment and the incredible rewards involved in writing these articles, they are both the hardest and the easiest thing for me to pull back from. I would like to reserve the right to return to writing them at some time in the future, if not monthly, then at least on an occasional basis. In the meantime, a heartfelt thank you to all of you who have taken the time to show your appreciation for these articles, either in person at shul or via e-mail.

Judith & Harry Radousky invite you to share in their simcha on Saturday, August 23, 2003, parashat Re-eh, when their son, Oren Radousky, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah.



## ADULT EDUCATION Have We Got a Program for You!

By Judith Lesser McCullough, Adult Education co-Chair

n last month's newsletter, I outlined the template for Adult Education that Robin Braverman and I are now building upon. This template represents the principal components that we think Netivot Shalom should offer for the instruction and enrichment of our adult members. This month, I want to give you a taste of the rich and varied program that we will offer this year, beginning in the fall, in hopes that your appetite will be whetted. I'll also indicate the likely nights classes will take place, so that you can begin to plan your fall schedule. So get ready — it's quite a feast we are preparing for you.\*

First, let me tell you about the classes that fit under our rubric of what we think the complete adult Jewish program should include: Hebrew, Torah study, Reading Torah and Haftarah (trope study), Talmud study, Davening (prayer).

**HEBREW CLASSES:** For those of you who either have no Hebrew background or have forgotten whatever you learned long ago, we have a special, one-day Hebrew reading marathon, in which our rabbinic intern, Danny Isaacson, will teach you to learn to read Hebrew in one day. **Sunday, August 17**, is the day, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Come, bring your lunch, and \$10 for the Hebrew book, and learn to read Hebrew!

Another special Hebrew program will be a four-session class on Wednesday nights in September, translating and studying in depth the Rosh Hashanah Musaf Amidah in preparation for Yamim Nora'im. This class, taught by our very fine teacher, Yosefa Raz, is for levels two, three and four, and will begin on **September 3**; its final session will take place on **S'lichot, Saturday evening, September 20**, at 9:45 p.m., as one of that evening's study sessions.

The regular program will begin on **October 22**, and this fall will have four levels, from beginning to advanced, with Rabbi Kelman teaching the advanced class, on the study of the Mishna Berurah — the masterpiece of the Chafetz Chaim. So, mark Wednesday nights for Hebrew.

**TORAH STUDY:** Our wonderful array of Torah study leaders will continue throughout the year, 9:00 a.m. **each Shabbat**.

**TROPE STUDY:** Jan Fischer, who so generously has been teaching trope each Wednesday night, will not be available until the spring. We're wondering whether people would like to study Sephardic trope in the fall. Anyone interested? Would anyone like to teach it?

**TALMUD STUDY:** This year, we will have one level of Talmud study, Ilana Fodiman Silverman's advanced Talmud on **Tuesday nights**. Forthose of you who have been studying with Rabbi Kelman, or who have not studied Talmud but would like to begin, we have a one-time good deal for you (well, actually, two times, once in the fall and once in the spring). Rabbi David Seidenberg has agreed to teach a Talmud Tools class, specially designed for us, but based on the successful introductory class he taught at Lehrhaus Judaica.

This class will take place on two consecutive Tuesday nights; in the fall they will begin on **October 21**. Lehrhaus Judaica will be cosponsoring this class, which means there will be a charge for it, but it will be well worth it, even if you don't intend to take the ongoing classes. In this class, you will be given a background in the people, the

historical time line, and the traditional structure of study of the Talmud. A key component will be decoding the often-repeated Talmudic phrases that point the reader in a certain direction and tell you what to expect next in the text. After David's class, we invite you to take a "field trip" to several sessions of Ilana's class, to see if what you have learned unlocks the sacred text for you. Perhaps you'll want to return to Rabbi Seidenberg's class a second time in the spring with questions about your experience of Talmud study.

There will also be an opportunity for an intensive study of Talmud — one or two weeks, four hours a day, five days a week — with Graduate Theological Union teachers in January. We are developing a partnership with Dr. Naomi Seidman's Jewish Studies Department at GTU, as a result of which we expect to have more exciting opportunities for study available.

**DAVENING:** We are beginning a new program this year, focusing on different aspects of davening, to take place on **Monday nights** throughout the year. Beginning this fall, Rabbi Art Gould will teach an eight-session class on prayer, focusing on the *Sim Shalom* siddur, with the intention of deepening our personal and communal relationship to prayer. Art will take prayers in the traditional liturgy and help students open to the place that prayer is supposed to take the davener. This class will focus not on where the davener wants to go, but rather where the traditional liturgy is designed to take you. If you've looked around at shul and noticed some people who seem to be deeply experiencing the prayers and wondered how they get there, this is the course for you! This class will also be co-sponsored by Lehrhaus Judaica, but NS members will receive a substantial discount.

Also in the fall, Shirah Bell will lead a workshop exploring our personal relationship with God. We'll be telling you more about this soon.

On Monday nights in the spring, Peggy Sandel will introduce a class exploring metaphors for God, and Jewish spirituality. Peggy is currently writing her Ph.D. thesis on this topic, on which many have passionate feelings, but which we rarely discuss together. This 10-session class will be an unprecedented opportunity to do just that in a stimulating and thoughtful setting.

To meet the needs of advanced students of davening, we are taking bold steps to develop a program that supports both our more experienced congregants and our congregation. We are extremely pleased to announce that Julia Watts Belser has agreed to coordinate this program for Adult Education, in conjunction with the Ritual Committee. Stay tuned for more information about this.

**ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH:** Continuing in the Fall, this class with Rabbi Kelman will be taught on Thursday evenings. The focus of the class is learning the liturgy, regardless of whether one chooses to have an adult bar/bat mitzvah. The first class will meet on **September 11**, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

**JEWISH THOUGHT:** A totally new concept has been suggested by Naomi Seidman, head of Jewish Studies at GTU, for a potentially ongoing class on Jewish thought. While such a program is still in the

continued on next page

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talking stage, we welcome the opportunity to look at ways in which Netivot Shalom and GTU can collaborate.

#### OTHER SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Dr. Fred Astren, Islam specialist and professor at SF State, will offer two classes on Islam, dealing with repentance and self-scrutiny. They will be part of two Yamim Nora'im study sessions: S'lichot and Yom Kippur. You won't want to miss these, so watch for more information.

As usual, Adult Ed will be offering three study opportunities the night of S'lichot: the first class on Islam ("Islam 101: Beliefs and Values for Understanding Islam"); the final session of the Rosh Hashanah Musaf Amidah Hebrew course and an opportunity to write your own Ethical Will. S'lichot study sessions will begin at 9:45 p.m. on **Saturday evening, September 20**.

During the Yom Kippur break, we will also offer three learning opportunities: Fred Astren's second class on Islam ("Repentance and Self-Scrutiny in Islam"); and two other classes to be announced.

**STUDYING WITH THE RABBI:** Rabbi Kelman will continue to hold his Saturday late-afternoon Oneg Shabbat sessions. In the fall, he and Joanna Weinberg will collaborate on a series entitled "Documenting Our Life Choices: What We Want Our Families To Know." In the spring, these Shabbat sessions will look at a new book by Sam Chiel, For Thou Art with Me: The Healing Power of Psalms.

Rabbi Kelman will teach a new series on halachaha to be held on three Sunday evenings. On **November 16, 23** and **December 7** he will explore responsa on

the issue of surrogacy. In the spring, the topic will be bio-engineering.

**YIDDISH:** Adult Education would like to join forces with the Social Action Committee by encouraging those of you who either can or would like to learn to speak Yiddish to go to the Claremont House Yiddish Club. Residents there have ongoing activities that we can benefit from, at the same time as we build a bridge from them to us.

In the spring we will have our third annual Yiddish Sing. Contact Robin if you are interested in Yiddish activities, at Rivkah48@aol.com or 925-979-1998.

It must be clear by now that we are planning an overflowing banquet of learning for you to feast upon. Our hope is that every one will be able to participate at some point, if not frequently or daily. Stay tuned for more details. And give us your input, ideas, questions or requests.

\* One feature you will notice is that many of our classes this year are cosponsored with Lehrhaus Judaica, but held at our site, and that some courses require a small outlay of funds on your part. This is due to the budget cuts that we at Netivot Shalom are all struggling with. Robin and I are confident that you wouldn't want to compromise the excellence of our programs, and we hope that the small required expenditures won't keep anyone from participating. Do let us know if money is a problem, however, and we will find a way for everyone who wants to participate to do so. Comments? Suggestions? You can reach me at judithmccullough@comcast.net, or 415-647-4792. \$

# Long Term Planning Group Meets

By Stephen Tobias

havuot, commemorating *matan* Torah (the giving of the Torah), ended lune 7 this year, so June 8 seemed a fitting time to begin "strategic planning" for adult education (learning Torah and related knowledge and skills) at Netivot Shalom. Fifteen participants attended the first of three Sunday evening meetings designed to yield flexible "guidelines" for decisions on a whole range of issues, from program priorities and budgeting to scheduling and whether to offer child care. The group will meet next on August 17 to continue the discussion and begin to reach positions on the issues that prove easier to resolve. We'll meet once more on October 28 to work on the remaining issues.

Robin Braverman opened the June 8 meeting with some background about the process and an agenda for the first meeting and the series. She circulated a list of issues to be addressed and invited comments. Some issues were refined and a few were added. Judy Breakstone and I provided a little more history about adult education at Netivot Shalom. Then we began to discuss some of the issues, starting with constituencies (who are our members?) and goals (what do we think the congregation wants in adult education during the next few years?) and moving toward methods. We didn't resolve these big questions but we began to explore them. Afterwards Jonathan Heinstein, who chaired the committee in 2000-2002, shared some personal thoughts about the road ahead.

Although no formal work between meetings is planned, some of us have been talking about the June meeting and getting ready for the next. Minutes were circulated June 13. By the time you read this a Yahoo group or similar idea-exchange forum will have formed. Anyone who missed the June meeting but would like to take part in the August and October meetings is welcome. The June minutes are available and written comments are welcome. To request minutes, please contact me: Stephen Tobias, 510-654-4561, steve@quojure.com.

## Just a few of the things you can do when you visit us on the web:

- •Download Yamim Nora'im ticket order forms
- •Download membership renewal forms
- Download forms for Youth Education programs
- •Find out candlelighting times
- •Contact members of the board
- •Review Netivot Shalom's kashrut policy
- •Re-read an article from a past newsletter in the archives
- •Select an audio CD of the Shabbat service to brush up on your davenning

Find out more: www.netivotshalom.org

Education

Rivka Greenberg & Ken Stanton invite you to share in their simcha on Saturday, August 30, 2003, parashat Shoftim, when their daughter,

Mayan Greenberg-Stanton, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah.

## Gwynn Simon & Bill Schwartz

together with Charles Belkin
invite you to share
in their simcha on
Saturday, September 6, 2003,
parashat Ki Tetze,
when their son,

**AARON BELKIN,** 

will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah.

# Looking Toward the New Year

By Diane Bernbaum, Midrasha Director

elcome to the new Midrasha school year. For the second year in a row, the Haggim again fall on Sundays, so our calendar is filled with stops and starts. The first Sunday of Midrasha will be **September 7**. Then after three weeks of school we will be off September 28 for Rosh Hashanah, meet again for a week and then miss October 12 and 19 for Sukkot and Simchat Torah. The mid-week Tanach class will begin on **September 3**. On **Thursday, August 28** at 7:30 p.m. there will be an orientation especially for 8th graders and all new students and their parents. The midweek class is held at Beth Israel and all other Midrasha activities happen at Beth El. Those of you who haven't received our 2003-2004 catalogue and registration material and would like to know more about Midrasha, you can call the office (510-843-4667) or look on the web at www.midrasha.org. We hope to have the new catalogue posted before school begins.

Much of our staff is returning from last year: Erica Crowell, Julie Emden, Yossi Fendel, David Henkin, Abbey Herman, Moriah Kinberg, Sacha Kopin, David Neufeld, Yosefa Raz, Haggai Resnikoff, Aliza Rothman and Muni Schweig. Let me tell you something about our new staff. As always, they are quite amazing. Rachel Coben taught at Midrasha many years ago when she co-wrote our current 8th grade curriculum. Since she left us she has been working on her doctorate in education and is a public school counselor. David Joseph has recently returned from living in Israel for several years and is a student at the California School of Integral Studies. Megan Solow, a recent Santa Cruz graduate and Camp Newman unit head, is planning to teach at Midrasha for a year and then go on to rabbinical school. Danielle Pakdaman is a graduate of

our very own Midrasha in Berkeley and a recent CAL grad. And Cara Buchalter, while new to Midrasha in Berkeley, has been on the staff of Midrasha in Contra Costa for the last three years. By the time school starts, these people will be joined by one or two other new faculty members, but I'm writing this in July, so even my crystal ball doesn't yet know who that will be.

L'Shana Tova Tikatevu. May you all be inscribed for a good year.



Make your donation to the Yom Kippur community-wide Break-the-Fast!



## YOUTH EDUCATION Get Involved with Youth Ed

By Robin Mencher Youth Education Committee Chair

t's time to gear up for the new year! And that means the school year is about to begin as well. We are so pleased to begin another school year with the thoughtful, caring leadership of Deb Fink as Director of Youth Education. We are excited to build on the successes of last year and we know we will, with your help. Whether you are a parent of a student in Religious School, Amitim, Shabbat Program, Shabbat B'Yachad, or simply a member of the congregation, there are many ways you can contribute to the Jewish education of the shul's next generation. We want your ideas, time, and financial help to make our programs great for the over 100 young members of our congregation.

If you are a parent of a Religious School or Shabbat Program student, it's important that you know we are reinstituting "mandatory voluntarism". There are many tasks that parents can complete that are essential to keeping Youth Education programs running smoothly. In the spirit of our shul, we ask that all families contribute at least 10 hours a year in volunteer work, or donate \$150 in lieu of volunteering in the school. You will receive a volunteer form after you enroll your child(ren) in religious school.

If you are a member of the congregation without students in the school, you are still welcome to get involved! Maybe you have time to volunteer in the office. Maybe you would like to work on a special project in art, drama, music or any other talent you might have. You can pitch in to make our programs for the holidays successful, or give us your great idea for a school fundraiser. We know there are many talented people in our congregation who love kids and love Judaism who would like to support Youth Education. If you would like to get involved but don't know how, call Robin Mencher at 510-528-6814.

Interested in youth education? You are, of course, invited to join the Youth Education Committee. We meet a few times per year beginning in September. Any member of the congregation can join for the year. Again, contact Robin with any questions or ideas.

If you want to get involved right now there are lots of opportunities to help with youth High Holy Days programs, Yamim Noraim L'Yeladim and Yamim Nora'im B'Yachad. It takes many volunteers to create these meaningful programs. Let us know if you can help in the weeks before or during Yamim Nora'im.

Please make sure your registration for Youth Education programs is complete! We *really* need your cooperation. Thank you and *Shanah Tovah!* 

shul office.

## Notes for the New Year

By Cathy Shadd, Shabbat B'Yachad Coordinator

amim Noraim B'Yachad is the High Holy Day program for Shabbat B'Yachad families. There will be childcare and Yamim Nora'im related activities for children ages 2.5-5 from 9:30 a.m.to 1:00 on both days of Rosh Hashannah (**September 27, 28**) and on Yom Kippur (October 6) upstairs in Haver Hall at the Northbrae Community Church. The children will learn about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur from craft and game activities, dip apples in honey for a sweet new year, decorate cupcakes to celebrate the world's birthday, and sample round challot. From 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on all three days, the children will participate in their own special holiday services. The format will be similar to that of our regular SBY services, with parent-led tefilah, a Torah story and a Kiddush. Parents are encouraged to participate in these services with their children. The cost of the childcare programming (including the service) is \$54 for all three days, and the cost of the service only is \$18 for all three days. Please register immediately if you haven't already done so. We need an accurate count for planning purposes. Contact Cathy Shadd (654-5522, cathy@inventek.com) with any questions.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Our tentative calendar for the coming year, 5764, is as follows:

Sunday, November 2: SBY Fall Brunch and Fair Sunday, December 7: Hanukah Celebration Sunday, January 25: SBY Service Workshop Sunday, February 29: Purim Celebration

Sunday, March 21: SBY Torah Storytelling Workshop Saturday, June 5: Annual SBY Shul-wide Celebration

#### Make a Donation

All SBY parents (and grandparents and uncles, aunts, friends, fans and...), how about making a donation to SBY in honor of an upcoming *simcha*? Earmark your check for SBY and we'll use your donation to to enhance our children's programs! Thank's in advance!

And speaking of donations, if you have a Shabbat ritual object which you would like to donate to the SBY "Shabbat Box" (used in our opening song "What Do You Like About Shabbat?"), the children would be very happy to have some "new" items. If you have a challah cover, candle holder, kippah, kiddush cup, attractive artificial flowers, plastic or wooden challah, etc.), we will use it to help our children associate Shabbat ritual objects with the specialness of Shabbat. Please contact Cathy Shadd, SBY Coordinator to arrange.

REGISTER FOR SHABBAT	Parent(s)' first and last names				
B'YACHAD	Address				
To register for Shabbat B'Yachad, clip and	Telephone	_ E-mail			
complete this form and send it with your	Your child(ren)'s English name(s)				
annual registration fee (\$55 for Netivot Shalom					
members. \$165 for non-members) to the	Your child(ren)'s Hebrew name(s)_				

Birthdate(s)

## YAHRZEIT LIST

Ernest Shima 3 Av / August 1 Roy H. Steinberg 3 Av / August 1 Morris Rothblatt 3 Av / August 1 Leo Greenberg 4 Av / August 2 6 Av / August 4 Walter Mayer 7 Av / August 5 Ruth Safran Bella Schmidt Neustaedter 8 Av / August 6 10 Av / August 8 Abraham "Jack" Silverstein 11 Av / August 9 Imre Kertesz Benjamin Rothmann 11 Av / August 9 12 Av / August 10 Phyllis Meltzer Seymour Facher 12 Av / August 10 Abraham "Chip" Meresman 14 Av / August 12 Sareta B. Cohen 15 Av / August 13 Abraham Brenner 15 Av / August 13 Leah Rappaport 15 Av / August 13 Joseph Davis 15 Av / August 13 16 Av / August 14 Joseph Hornstein Leon Schneider 16 Av / August 14 18 Av / August 16 Ruth Raff Peskin Abraham B. Rosenblum 22 Av / August 20 Isadore Louis Stahl 22 Av / August 20 22 Av / August 20 Shirley Kreitzer Bradus 23 Av / August 21 Charlotte Silva 23 Av / August 21 Bertram "Buddy" Faber Rachel Zelman 25 Av / August 23 Morris Levin 26 Av / August 24 Myer Israel Shandling 26 Av / August 24 Mai Yohai 28 Av / August 26 Abraham Fox 28 Av / August 26 Robert Wachs 30 Av / August 28 30 Av / August 28 Yetta Edelstone 30 Av / August 28 Dr. Jacob Abouav Ethel Silverstein 1 Elul / August 29 Bertha Sutz 2 Elul / August 30 Rita Lent 2 Elul / August 30 Minna Kabatznick 3 Elul / August 31 Al Perlmutter 4 Elul / September 1 6 Elul / September 3 **Edith Rachel Straus** Mark De Lemos 6 Elul / September 3 6 Elul / September 3 Ruth Levine 7 Elul / September 4 Sophie Slavin Patti Beth Kelman Mintz 9 Elul / September 6 10 Elul / September 7 Anna Friedman Norman Wezelman 10 Elul / September 7 Lena Franc 12 Elul / September 9 Ellen Rothmann 14 Elul / September 11 Joseph Milton 15 Elul / September 12 Laura London 16 Elul / September 13 Helmut Sam Isaak 17 Elul / September 14 18 Elul / September 15 Jacob Harry Kulakofsky Joel Knaster 19 Elul / September 16 20 Elul / September 17 Frank Jacobvitz Jacob Rosenblatt 22 Elul / September 19 Sylvia Brenner 24 Elul / September 21 25 Elul / September 22 Rabbi Stephen Neil Levinson Martin Spilky 25 Elul / September 22 Diane Lipton 29 Elul / September 26

## Mary Kennedy-Breiner & Tom Breiner

invite you to share

in their simcha on

Saturday, September 20, 2003,

parashat Nitzavim-Vayelech,

when their daughter,

Sarah Breiner,

will be called to the Torah

as a bat mítzvah.

TO ADD A NAME(S) TO THE YAHRZEIT LIST, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW AND MAIL, E-MAIL OR FAX (include only names of departed parents, spouses, siblings or children)
MAIL TO: Congregation Netivot Shalom  1841 Berkeley Way  Berkeley, CA 94703
E-MAIL TO: administrator@netivotshalom.org • FAX TO: (510) 549-9448
NAME OF DECEASED: (English name)
(Hebrew name, if possible)
DATE OF DEATH: (civil date)
(Hebrew date, if possible)
YOUR NAME:
RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED:

## **DONATIONS**

#### **GENEROUS GIFTS**

Noriko Obinata: books for the Library David Marcus: for ongoing help with the newseletter

#### **BUILDING FUND**

Albert & Marian Magid in honor of Helen Schneider's 70th birthday Art & Sheila Braufman in honor of Helen Schneider's 70th birthday Dorothy & Milton Mozon in honor of Helen Schneider's 70th birthday Fred & Beth Karren in honor of Helen Schneider's 70th birthday Jacob & Rena Harari in honor of Helen Schneider's 70th birthday Jennifer Mangel Ralph & Judith Greif in honor of Helen Schneider's 70th birthday Thomas & Betty Sue Seaton in honor of Helen Schneider's 70th birthday Toby & George Gidal in honor of Helen Schneider's 70th birthday

#### **DINNERS FOR HOMELESS**

**Ethel Murphy** in honor of the wedding of Julie Weissman & Michael Steinbaugh, in memory of Stephanie Davis and Harvey Stahl, and in memory of Ethel's parents Esther & Morris Lifschitz

#### **GENERAL FUND**

Golda & Eric Blum in honor of Max Blum's bar mitzvah

Jennifer Mangel

Mort & Marilyn Markowitz in memory of Mort's mother, Bess Markowitz

## "MATZAH MOBILE" PROCEEDS FOR THE GENERAL FUND

Beth & Richard Ross Deborah Yager & Barry Muhlfelder Pauline Moreno & Debbie Lobel Rachel & Eric Seder Turi & Scott Adams

#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Claire Rothenberg in honor of Helen Schneider's  $70^{\rm th}$  birthday

Joanna Weinberg & David Levine in honor of the wedding of Julie Weissman & Michael Steinbaugh

Kim & Assi Zvik

Ralph & Hadassah Kramer in memory of their daughter, Deborah Rachel Kramer-Shalev Vicki Sommer Kimball & Seth Kimball

Vivian Numaguchi

For a complete list of donation funds, please turn to the back page of this newsletter.

#### STEPHANIE DAVIS, z"I FUND

Elaine Rodman Jorge & Helen Stacey Bernett Peter & Nan Strauss Richard & Pearl Moore Vicki Sommer Kimball & Seth Kimball

#### **SUKKOT IN APRIL**

Adam Weisberg & Rachel Brodie Alex Madonik & Eve Sweetser Andi & Michael Cassidy Carol Robinson & Arthur Gould Claudia Valas & Carl Buchin Daniel Handwerker Debby Graudenz & Rom Rosenblum Diana Wood Ednah Friedman Elad and Tali Ziv Ernestina Carrillo & Larry Polon **Ethel Murphy** Eugene Berg George and Toby Gidal Jack Davis Ian Fischer Jeff Rosenbloom & Melissa Mednick Jim Davis & Anna Korteweg Ioel & Katva Gerwein Joel Bashevkin & Sarah Herman John Reynolds Ionathan Klein & Rebecca Calahan Klein Jory & Lisa Gessow Iosh & Noga Gressel Judith & Michael McCullough Julia London & Bridget Wynne Julie Batz & Adam Stern Lee Bearson & Babbie Freiberg Leo Levenson Lisa Harbus Mark & Sharon Priven Mel & Lisa Sibony Milt & Marge Greenstein Rabbi Serena Eisenberg & Yaron Simler Rena Fischer Robin Mencher Ruth Konoff & Ben Hermalin **Ruth Shorer** Shalva & Avraham Sorani Shoshana Meir

#### YOUTH EDUCATION

Golda & Eric Blum

Rivka Greenberg and Ken Stanton in honor of Hadara Stanton's graduation from law school Rivka Greenberg & Ken Stanton in honor of Shira Stanton's acceptance to Tel Aviv University's honors program

Vicki Sommer Kimball & Seth Kimball

When planning a simcha like a Bar/Bat Mitzvah that has an accompanying "feast", Mazon – A Jewish Response to Hunger offers a way for you to donate a portion of the money you spend to help combat hunger around the world. Please visit the "How You Can Help" page of http://www.mazon.org.

# RAMAH DAY CAMP OF THE BAY AREA Summer 2003 Opens Strong!

Mark Lazar, Education Director

fith over 100 campers registered for the three sessions this summer, Ramah Day Camp successfully opened its Summer 2003 season on July 7th. Campers and staff have come from as far as Hawaii and Israel to join the Bay Area Ramah experience. The theme for this summer is Israel with each week focused on a theme ranging from Biblical and modern day Israeli personalities to the diversity of culture within Israel.

Here are some highlights as documented in our weekly publication *Ramah Hadashot*:

#### Israelites Reach Promised Land

This past week, Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt to the promised land of Israel. The Israelites crossed the Red Sea, by way of a cleverly placed bridge, ate manna from heaven (marshmallows) and received water from a rock (squirt guns). Well, the rest...the rest is history, and the Ramah campers were there!

#### **Tilden Biblical Story Land**

Feet were washed! Hand-made pita was baked! Joseph's tie-dyed shirts were made! And a Biblical time was had for one and all this week in Tilden. We ended with a dip in Lake Anza, and everyone thanked God...that we weren't recreating the story of Noah and the Flood.

## Lions and Tigers and Ramah Campers...Oh my!!!

In the foothills of Redwood Regional Park a strange site was spotted. A mysterious group of human beings wearing baseball hats gathered around a campfire, roasting kosher hot dogs, melting pareve marshmallows, eating baked potatoes and apples while chanting some strange mumbo jumbo before and after their meal. Animals reported that were quite relieved when the Ramah campers left the woods early the next morning.

As you can clearly see, *Ramah* campers (and the staff) are having a very enjoyable and memorable summer, packed with fun, exciting, and informal educational activities. We extend much appreciation to our "home base" synagogues, Netivot Shalom and Kol Shofar, and to the parents, staff, board members, and Rabbis who have gotten this summer off to a great start.

## 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
berkeley, CA 74703
<b>Donor(s) Information:</b> Name
Street
CityZIP
Please honor the following person/event: Name
Street
CityZIP
This donation is intended for the following:  Adult Education  Building Fund  Cuba Fund  Dinners for the Homeless  General Fund  Kiddush Fund  Library Fund  Max & Cecelia Rosenheimer  Camp Scholarship Fund  Newsletter  Rabbi's Discretionary Fund  Shabbat B'Yachad  Social Action Fund  Stephanie Davis Fund  Torah Study  Yad Ethelyn Simon Fund  Yamim Nora'im  Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast  Youth Education Inclusion Fund
Thank you!

# ■ NETIVOT SHALOM ■

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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED** 

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