



# Congregation Netivot Shalom

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Nisan-Iyar-  
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AS OF JUNE 1, WE WILL BE IN OUR NEW  
BUILDING AT 1316 UNIVERSITY AVE.

## FROM THE RABBI

### Entering Our New *Mishkan*

By Rabbi Stuart Kelman

Recently, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, one of the most influential thinkers and prolific authors of our generation, wrote about the *mishkan*, the tabernacle in the desert. He pointed to the fact that not once, but four times, we are told about the precise measurements. Certainly, as we have seen our *mishkan* being built, we also note the precision with which our architects and builders have labored. But why, asks Steinsaltz, is so much space in the Torah devoted to the physical attributes of the *mishkan* and the vessels placed in it, when the whole purpose of the building of this edifice is essentially spiritual?

Great question — and one that holds relevance for us today as well. How do we enter our new *mishkan* with a renewed sense of vision and purpose, and use this building as a means to enhance the relationship between us and God (*bayn adam la-makom*) and among all of us (*bayn adam l'adam*)? Put slightly differently, how do we in fact and in deed lessen the distance that often separates us from our Maker and from each other?

#### Shabbat

I want to offer three specific ways to lessen that gap. The first has to do with Shabbat. We now have the opportunity to turn Shabbat into a full day. As Heschel says (in *The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man*):

“To set apart one day a week for freedom, a day on which we would not use the instruments which have been so easily turned into weapons of destruction, a day for being with ourselves, a day of detachment from the vulgar, of independence of external obligations, a day on which we stop worshipping the idols of technical civilization, a day on which we use no money, a day of armistice in the economic struggle with other human beings and the forces of nature — is there any institution that holds out a greater hope for human progress than the Sabbath?”

As we move into our new building, we have so many opportunities to raise our level of observance of this precious gift. Elsewhere in this newsletter, I've written a response to some practical questions about our communal practice, which brings me to my second point — *kashrut*. (See page 2 for an article about Shabbat and *kashrut* practices in our new home.)

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT CELEBRATE!

By Carol Cunradi

Like most first-time home owners, it is hard for me to believe that all the years of planning, saving, organizing, dreaming, working and sweating will soon translate into moving into our own home. About two months ago, I had the opportunity to tour the partially completed building with two of our architects, Blair Prentice and David Finn. I don't think I could find the words to describe the feelings of awe and amazement that I felt as I was led throughout the developing structure. Although the walls were not yet finished, it was easy to visualize how the finished building would look. An incredible attention to detail had been paid to all facets of the building plan. Like most of you, I had seen the architectural renderings of the building many times. Yet nothing could have prepared me for seeing that two-dimensional vision transformed into a three-dimensional reality. We are all truly indebted to our amazing team of architects for so ably translating this vision into an awe-inspiring physical and spiritual space.

As I write this, the final details are being completed: selection of the sanctuary chairs, installation of the kitchen equipment, landscaping. By the time you read this, we should be awaiting final approval from the city inspector. We therefore anticipate moving into the building in May. During the first three *shabbatot* of May, we will be celebrating three *b'nei mitzvah* at the BRJCC (our final ones there!) before we finally vacate the BRJCC and our Berkeley Way offices. That leads me to the topic of this column: CELEBRATE! There will be two wonderful ways we can celebrate this momentous event in our congregational life together: (1) by attending the Memorial Day Netivot Shalom Retreat at Camp Newman, and (2) by participating in our June 3-4 *hanukat habayit* (new building dedication).

In terms of the former, congregant Dan Siegel has put together a fantastic program beginning Friday afternoon, May 27, and ending Sunday afternoon, May 29. We will strengthen connections with each other by creating our own Jewish camp for a weekend at Camp Newman, in the hills near Santa Rosa. We will pray, learn, hang out poolside, sing with guest song leaders Ira Levin and Adam Cohen, dance, make a silk painting for the new building with artist Nancy Katz, go on a nature hike, eat delicious kosher food, play games and sports, and much more. There will be many hours of fun-filled children's programming, led by a talented staff. Enthusiasm for this event is great, with 20 individuals volunteering to help lead various activities. I hope

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**Kashrut**

*Kashrut* is another way we express our relationship with the Holy One and with our neighbors. It is a means by which we transform the mundane act of nourishment into an act of *kedushah* (holiness). In a wonderful article, Jacob Milgrom maintains that the Biblical dietary laws are an ethical system by which the table and each home, in fact, becomes transformed into an altar, a temple. His concluding paragraph, about the nature of ritual in general, and *kashrut* in particular, reads:

“Not only in the play world but in real life, we have witnessed war and totalitarianism as they have become global in scope. Human life may always have been expendable, but never have so many lives been wantonly expended. Perhaps the world today is ill-conditioned to the idea of rituals. But the rabbis of old would feel sure of their ground even today. The system they evolved has etched itself sharply into the history and character of their own people, and if practiced universally, even in the modicum urged by the Bible, it may produce the power to alter the history of humankind.”

How remarkably modern these words sound — and must have sounded when they were written, in 1963! Our modified *kashrut* policy is one in which all of us can take pride in transforming what we put in our mouths into an ethical act.

**Our Core Values**

And third, as we move into our new *mishkan*, we need to remind ourselves and renew our commitment to the core values that we stand for: as we’ve said and demonstrated over these 16 years, we are a Conservative, egalitarian, participatory congregation — and we exist in order to make it possible for us to observe *mitzvot*. In fact, our mission statement, which spells it out pretty clearly, is based on *Shabbat 127a*:

“These are the things which yield immediate fruits and continue to yield fruit in the time to come: honoring parents, doing deeds of lovingkindness, attending the house of study punctually, morning and evening, providing hospitality, visiting the sick, helping the needy bride, attending the dead, probing the meaning of prayer, making peace between one person and another and between man and wife. And the study of Torah is the most basic of them all.”

Rav Kook said it best: *ha-yashan yithadesh vehe-hadash yitkadesh* — the old will be made new (or renewed), and the new will be made holy (*kadosh*). May this be Your will, as we enter into this new stage in our life as Netivot Shalom. ☞

**NETIVOT SHALOM NEWSLETTER**

**Editor:** Judith Lesser McCullough

**Layout, Design & Production:** Karen Friedman, signing off

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<b>Issue</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
July/August	May 23, 2005
September/October	July 25, 2005

“How good is a word rightly timed.” (Proverbs 15:23)

all of you have sent in your registration forms by now! I want to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to Dan for spearheading this effort virtually single-handedly. *Yashir koach*, Dan!

And in terms of the latter, exciting plans for our *hanukat babayit* are being led by Vicky Kelman, Denise Moyes-Schnur, Carla Cassler and Hannah Dresner. The event will kick off Friday afternoon, June 3, with a Torah procession from Berkeley Way to our new home. We will have a public dedication ceremony, followed by a kabbalat Shabbat service and dinner. The festivities will continue the next day, Saturday, June 4, with a special Shabbat service and catered *kiddush*, activities throughout the afternoon, mincha/ma’ariv, *se’udah sblishit* and havdalah. Holding services in our new home for the first time will surely be a high point in the life of our congregation — one that everybody will want to attend! I want to extend my deep appreciation to Vicky, Denise, Carla and Hannah for taking the lead on these activities and carefully planning a memorable dedication. I look forward to celebrating with all of you in the coming months! ☞

**New Shabbat, *Kashrut* Policies**

By Rabbi Stuart Kelman

**Shabbat**

All responses to questions regarding Shabbat observance are guided by the core value of *kevod ha-shabbat* — the honor (centrality) of Shabbat observance in our lives as a Shabbat-observing community. Our community observes the practice where all materials, food and supplies that will be used on Shabbat need to be in place prior to the beginning of Shabbat and remain there until Shabbat has ended. This holds for everything that is to be used for the community. However, people wishing to bring their own *talit* with them for Shabbat may do so, because it is an individual act, and the object is not used by the community but by the individual. For those who hold to the *halakhah* of not carrying on Shabbat, *tallitot*, for example, are provided by the congregation.

Similarly, flyers for the congregation must be in place prior to Shabbat. Whether an individual chooses to carry that flyer home is a matter of personal practice. Announcements from the *bimah* may not encourage people to take something home on Shabbat. If materials, food or supplies are brought on Shabbat, they may not be used or distributed.

There are other issues, such as traveling to the synagogue, that also need to be guided by the principle of *kevod ha-shabbat*. This is for discussion at a later opportunity.

**Kashrut**

Until now, we have been guests at another institution for Shabbat — and it has required great effort to ensure that we observe a level of *kashrut* consistent with our practices as a Conservative community. As we move into our own building, we have the opportunity to revisit all our ritual practices. Being able to trust individuals to follow our communal standards is a core value of our congregation, and congregants will still be able to bring food in from

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## Netivot Shalom's New Kitchen Shower!

By The Kitchen Cabinet

The Kitchen Cabinet is a member planning group focusing on the *balehboosteh* part of celebrating our new shul building — the kitchen — designed by the congregation, with big dreams and all (well, almost all) of the things we would like to have for Netivot Shalom's new home. We decided a "kitchen shower" for the entire congregation would be a great way for everyone to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

In conjunction with the kitchen shower, we are asking people to bring treasured family recipes, along with your personal family/friend story about why your recipe is so special. This will be our shul's unique way of connecting everyone to our new building through each of our personal memories around our family kitchens.

We don't want to create another congregation recipe book, of which there are many, including our own. Instead, we want to combine the giving of recipes with the telling of our story around the recipe, in the tradition of M.F.K. Fisher and Ruth Reichl. Think of this as an oral history project. Most of us came to Berkeley from other parts of the country, from many cultural and even religious backgrounds, and many of us were children or grandchildren of immigrants. These are ingredients for a rich cultural and edible Netivot Shalom "stew."

You can write your story and send it to us — e-mail Weinbgj@itsa.ucsf.edu or send snail mail to the office — along with your recipe. We will also have a tape recorder set up at the shul kitchen shower, so that you can tell your story there; and we will try to set one up in the shul office in the week before the shower.

*Join us in the kitchen of our future, along with the personal and delicious memories of our past!*

**Where:** Our new building, 1316 University Ave., Berkeley  
**When:** Sunday, May 22, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

### Netivot Shalom Goes to Camp!

**What:** Congregational Retreat

**When:** May 27–29, 2005

**Where:** Camp Newman near Santa Rosa

If you're not registered, contact Dan Siegel to find out if space is still available:  
510-540-6128 siegeldb@pacbell.net.

## Join Us for the NETIVOT SHALOM HANUKAT HA-BAYIT! June 3 & 4

1316 University Ave., Berkeley

A 25-hour sacred Shabbat when we will dedicate our new home . . . Festivities will begin Friday afternoon with a Torah procession to our new home, followed by singing, dancing, kabbalat Shabbat and dinner . . . continuing the next morning with Shabbat services, *kiddush*, study, games, family activities, mincha/ma'ariv, dinner, singing, storytelling, and concluding with a multi-generational havdalah on Saturday evening.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the celebration, please contact Carla Cassler at carlatcm@earthlink.net.

## Community Liaison Needed for Our New Neighborhood

Netivot Shalom intends to be a good neighbor to our new University Avenue neighborhood. "Homeowner" responsibilities are new for us and don't fit within our existing committee roles. We need to reach out to our new neighbors (Easter/Passover cards, periodic fun community events hosted by Netivot Shalom), maintain relationships with local neighborhood associations, institutions and businesses (e.g., Berkeley Way Neighborhood Association, Strawberry Creek Retirement Lodge, local churches), and keep in touch with neighborhood issues (parking, traffic, crime).

*We are recruiting a Community Liaison. This role can be performed by an individual or shared within a committee.* Many of you are already involved in our new neighborhood, either living or working within walking distance of our new building. If you want to help Netivot Shalom be neighborly, now would be a great time to volunteer to help us get to know our new neighborhood. We will be moving into our new home in just a few weeks. ☺

# Masorti President Rabbi Ehud Bandel Interviewed

*An interview of Rabbi Bandel, by reporter Mati Wagner, appeared in the Jerusalem Post February 3, 2005, and was cited in e-masorti, February 2005 (www.masorti.org/publications/enewsletters). In a photograph, Rabbi Bandel is seen erasing anti-Arab graffiti in Jerusalem, with the accompanying caption: "Is Judaism a matter of all or nothing?" Excerpts from the article are reprinted below.*

## Tradition, Tradition

By Mati Wagner

**T**wenty-five years after the establishment of the Masorti (Conservative) Movement in Israel, it numbers 5,000 hardcore members, hardly a staggering success, and some would say a resounding flop.

But Rabbi Ehud Bandel, 48, president of the Masorti Movement, is optimistic, perhaps justifiably. Conservatives have made major headway over the past decade and a half in the High Court. A 1989 ruling forced the state to give Israeli citizenship to Conservative converts who converted outside Israel.

In 2002, Conservative conversions undergone in Israel were recognized for the purpose of registering as a Jew, which mainly affects non-Jewish *olim* under the Law of Return.

Soon the High Court will rule on giving citizenship to Conservative converts who converted in Israel. Since the Israeli Rabbinate does not recognize any of these conversions, converts are prevented from marrying in Israel. Nevertheless, recognition by the secular State of Israel would be a tremendous boost to the local Conservative movement. [The court did rule, in late March, deciding that converts in Israel who completed their conversions outside of Israel are Jews, eligible for citizenship. Not yet decided: whether non-Orthodox conversions taking place totally in Israel will be recognized.]

Outside the court, Conservatives have also made headway. For 21 months Bandel's movement enjoyed fruitful cooperation with interior minister MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui). Constructive cooperation between the Interior Ministry and the Masorti movement is expected to get even better with MK Ophir Pines-Paz (Labor), a professed Conservative, taking over from Poraz.

Bandel says the Masorti Movement, with a network of 40-odd congregations all over the country, is also gaining grassroots support. Two new congregations, one in Ramat Aviv and one in Zichron Ya'acov, led by charismatic young rabbis, are growing quickly.

Congregants are well-educated, usually middle or upper-middle class. Many are Anglos, Western Europeans and, most recently, South Americans, mostly Argentineans.

Bandel's efforts are focused on winning the hearts and minds of hundreds of thousands of Israelis who are, in his words, "Conservative but don't know it yet."

In tandem with the establishment of synagogues, the Masorti Movement has a youth group, Noam, and a students' and young adults' organization called Marom. The TALI school system is also loosely connected to the Masorti movement, though the extent of its connection has been a source of dissent.

Bandel, a native Israeli, was in the first graduating class of Masorti rabbis trained in Israel. He represents the ideal of a new generation of leaders that breaks with the Anglo-Saxon immigrant mold to create a homegrown strain of Conservative Judaism.

As the leader of a religious group that is a reformist rival of normative Orthodox Judaism, Bandel is used to fighting an uphill battle against the religious establishment.

He has spent his years at the helm of the movement meticulously plotting its expansion. The success of that expansion is dependent on Bandel's ability to convince prospective supporters to join. As a result, he has obviously spent time honing the presentation of opinions on literally every subject from conversions to same-sex marriages and from interfaith issues to church-state relations.

Bandel speaks passionately and at great length on all these subjects. What is slated to be a one-hour interview with the Post turns into a three-hour exposition.

### What is your goal?

I want Conservative Judaism to become a part of the mainstream. And I think that is what is gradually happening. A revolution is definitely taking place. When A. B. Yehoshua stated during an address [to the Conservative Movement] that "the Beit Knesset I don't go to is Conservative," the revolution began.

### The Israeli Conservative Movement was established 25 years ago. Why is it taking so long to gain a membership?

I think it is in part due to demographic/political constellations. As [journalist] Gershon Gorenberg has pointed out, the State of Israel was established by Jews who came from what he calls "Catholic" countries. Catholic in the sense that there is no church-state separation. Muslim states are Catholic in this context. Most Israelis come from either North Africa or Eastern Europe. Jews living in these countries tend to look at religion in terms of all or nothing. Either you are an Orthodox Jew or you rebel and become a radically secular Zionist.

### How are you trying to overcome this obstacle?

We try to increase awareness by providing religious services for life-cycle events such as weddings and bar and bat mitzvot. There is a real demand for alternatives to Orthodox ceremonies. But we are also trying to build communities. We believe that if you build it, they will come. A year ago we sent Rabbi Elisha Volfin to Zichron Ya'acov. Today he heads a community of 40 families. In Ramat Aviv, Rabbi David Lazar helped expand a 40-family community to 60 families.

### Where have you had the most success building communities?

We want to penetrate everywhere. But we do look for a specific niche. We have had a lot of success among immigrants from South America. Rabbi Mauricio Balter heads a vibrant congregation in Kiryat Bialik. And Eduardo Bitelman is the head of a primarily South American community in Ra'anana.

In Maccabim, where I was a rabbi, along with the core of Anglo-Saxons, there are a lot of Israelis who spent time abroad, especially in the US, and were exposed to Conservative Judaism. But I still don't have the stature of the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

**It sounds as if you are more successful in affluent Israeli communities.**

We are not an elitist movement. In fact the challenge we face is to be as populist as possible. But you are right that in order to fully understand the intricacies of Conservative thought, one needs a certain amount of sophistication. One needs to be able to comprehend the delicate balance — the dialectic — between ideas such as tradition and change, rationalism and spiritualism.

On the one hand we have a critical approach to texts, and on the other hand we have a desire to preserve Jewish tradition. Normally, people who understand these distinctions are more educated. And the more educated usually come from a higher socio-economic class. But in order to really succeed we have to be a people's movement. At the same time, we have principles that will not be compromised. We will not give up our critical approach to Judaism in order to popularize the movement.

**What other obstacles do you face?**

Unlike Orthodox organizations, we receive no government funds for religious activities. It has been a Sisyphean struggle against our many enemies. And on top of it all we are operating on a very small budget. My annual budget is about \$2.4 million. From that I have to pay rabbis' salaries, support our Noam youth group and provide alternative religious services.

**You are saying that the US Conservative Movement, probably the most active and prosperous Jewish affiliation in the world, does not provide its Israeli representative with ample financial support?**

A medium-sized Conservative shul in the US has a larger budget than we do. We are chronically scratching the maximum overdraft limit of NIS 2m. provided by the bank. We've had to delay payment of salaries three times recently. I make five trips to the US every year to raise money. But results are disappointing. I try to explain to them that the future of Conservative Judaism relies on their support.

**Why is the Israeli Conservative movement called the Masorti Movement?**

I think the term was intentionally chosen to emphasize the simple fact that a lot of Israelis are Conservative but don't know it yet. They call themselves masorti (traditional) with a lowercase "m." But they are really Masorti with an uppercase. But I think it is also a desire to speak the local language. I know in the UK it is problematic to use the term conservative, because it has political connotations.

**What do you think of organizations such as Tzohar that try to make Orthodoxy more accessible and palatable to secular people?**

Tzohar and other organizations like it are very positive developments. But I also think their appearance is a sign of our own success. The motivation to create Tzohar stems from a fear of losing the Orthodox monopoly on religious services. Many Orthodox rabbis realize, rightfully, that if they don't change, they will lose their monopoly to us. We are forcing them to make compromises.

That's what happens when religious services are exposed to market competition. And that is exactly what we want: a free market for religions. So far, that hasn't happened. Thousands still have to travel to Cyprus for non-Orthodox marriages.

**So you want a separation between religion and State?**

No. I think the state should fund religious studies and support Judaism. This, after all, is a Jewish state. But I want financial support to be made according to fair, objective criteria. I think there should be fair competition among Judaism's different denominations. The High Court recognized non-Orthodox conversions as legitimate.

**Are they being done?**

Until the Institute for Jewish Studies [which prepares prospective converts and includes teachers from the Conservative Movement] was established, we were doing about 100 a year. Now we do about 30 a year. That shows our cooperation with the institute.

We actually encourage prospective converts to get an Orthodox conversion. It is in their own best interests. They already have difficulties finding housing, employment, acclimating to a foreign culture and coping with the geopolitical situation. Why add difficulties?

Besides, in order to convert the huge mass of about 300,000 non-Jews living in Israel, there must be an organized state-backed effort. We want to be a part of that effort. But we have limited resources. We can't do it alone.

• • •

Toward the end of the interview, Bandel expresses his personal views on one of the most controversial issues facing Conservative Judaism: same-sex marriages. The official stance of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards (CJLS), the movement's authority on practice, is to prohibit same-sex marriages.

Bandel's personal opinion is that recognition of same-sex marriages is both the right thing to do morally and also feasible from a tactical perspective. "I don't think such recognition would cause a split in the movement."

Maverick rabbis in the US are already performing such marriages and at least one in Israel, David Lazar of Ramat Aviv, supports them. Bandel stresses that he accepts the CJLS's decision and believes Israel should not be a pioneer in this delicate issue. "But I have no doubt that eventually it will happen."

But when it comes to accepting homosexuals to the rabbinical seminary in Israel, Bandel is adamantly in favor. "A homosexual cannot change the way he or she is. It should not stop anyone from becoming a rabbi. I don't want to lose a potentially great rabbi just because he or she is a homosexual."

Asked how he reconciles non-recognition of same-sex marriages with the acceptance of homosexuals as rabbis, replies Bandel, "The ideal is to accept and respect homosexuals as equals and that is precisely the message we send out to our congregants when we agree to train them as rabbis. This illustrates perfectly the tension, the dialectic a Masorti Jew confronts. On the one hand, we have a strong obligation to

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# Report from the Board

By Deborah Yager, Board Secretary

Our last two board meetings have focused on preparing for the move to our new building; the June 3–4 celebration of our new building; and financial considerations for our new building — that is, OUR NEW BUILDING! We shared a *sbehebyanu* moment on March 27, when we held our first board meeting at the new site. We evaluated possible sanctuary chairs during this meeting, voting for one. We now begin the long process of deciding the budget for fiscal year 2005–6.

### Notes from the February 27, 2005, board meeting:

1. Strategic Planning Committee Report: Strategic planning is operational planning, with the goal of increasing membership. The committee will utilize standing committees and is focusing on specific recommendations to give to the board.
2. Israel in the Park: Minimum sponsorship is \$180 and would list Netivot Shalom as a supporting congregation in the schedule of events. **Motion passed 7-0-2:** Netivot Shalom will contribute \$180 toward a minimum sponsorship for Israel in the Park.
3. New Building Report: On February 28, 2005, Netivot Shalom will give the BRJCC 90-days notice of intent to vacate. We plan to move the library from the shul offices to the new building April 22–May 19, and to move the rest of our belongings May 20–31. We must wait for an occupancy permit from the City of Berkeley before occupying the new building.
4. Our new business manager, Maynard Mendoza, will start work March 7, 2005.
5. Carol appointed Babbie Freiberg as our new Fundraising Committee co-chair.
6. The New Building Celebration Committee is composed of Vicky

## Meet Our New Business Manager!

He's **Maynard S. Mendoza**, previously employed as a regional accountant (Northern California) of Stars Behavioral Health Group, Inc., a company that takes care of troubled children in California. As such, he is familiar with nonprofit organizations like Netivot Shalom. His previous experiences were in multinational corporations — Coca Cola USA, Cott Beverages USA and AutoNation USA — where he served in various senior finance and accounting roles. Maynard is married to Doris, who is in banking. They have three grown



children who are young professionals living on their own: Mark, a pulmonary/critical care fellow; Dorinna, an internal medicine resident; and Rica, a bank analyst. We're overjoyed to have Maynard with us, a most valuable and welcome addition to our staff.

Kelman, Carla Cassler, Denise Moyes-Schnur and Hannah Dresner; Hannah is the board liaison. Two celebration events are proposed, one for the weekend of June 3–4 and one in the fall, perhaps around Sukkot.

7. There will be a Torah parade in the afternoon on Friday, June 3, when our Torahs will be carried from the shul office to our new home. Community members, including the Berkeley mayor and area rabbis, will be invited for a celebration at the new site. An *erev Shabbat* dinner will follow, followed by a 25-hour Shabbat. Mary Breiner will organize the *kiddush* luncheon following Shabbat services.

8. Claudia Valas of the Building Committee has estimated that \$12,000 is needed to support both celebration events.

**9. Motion passed 8-0-1:** The board approves going forward with the June 4–5 25-hour Shabbat event and the community/shul celebration event in the fall. The board approves \$3,500 for the June 3–4 event and supports fundraising efforts to reach the expected target costs for both events.

10. Next year we can expect \$50,000 in additional operating costs for our new building.

11. The Building Committee recommends that the building fund assessment, originally projected to begin in July 2006, start in July 2005, or the building fund will be depleted by December 2006. This assessment is estimated to be \$600 per member unit.

12. The second Building Capital Campaign is slated to begin in mid-2008 to raise additional funds needed to pay the mortgage and facility costs.

13. The city of Berkeley has finally granted Netivot Shalom a property tax-exemption refund, retroactive to time of ownership of our building, estimated to be \$80,000.

14. Mike Irwin reports that we should be able to get a more favorable interest rate than was originally expected for the building mortgage.

### Notes from the March 27, 2005, board meeting:

1. Strategic Planning Committee Report: The committee recommends expanding the signage at the new building site to include information inviting new membership, such as “Religious School Open Now” and the synagogue phone number.
2. Passover Wine and Grape Juice Sale: Kosher wines and juice for Passover will be sold by Afikomen as a Netivot Shalom fundraiser. All proceeds from the sale will benefit Netivot Shalom. Appreciation was expressed to Jerry Derblich and Susan Stanfield for making this benefit possible.
3. Baseball Fundraiser: Scott Adams’ baseball fundraiser ticket sales are moving along. The first game is scheduled for May 15, 2005.
4. Kitchen Shower: The shower for items for the new kitchen has been postponed a week [to May 22] to avoid conflict with the first baseball fundraiser.
5. Rabbi Search: The Executive Committee met with Art Braufman regarding preparatory work for a pre-search committee that will decide upon the process for the actual Rabbi Search Committee. Carol is identifying a small group of people for the pre-search committee.
6. New Building Celebration Committee: Hannah reported that the June 3–4 25-hour Shabbat event will include three catered meals costing \$5,500, including Friday night dinner and Saturday *kiddush* luncheon with leftovers for a *se’udah shlishit*. We are \$2,000–\$3,000 short of offering the entire event for free. Many people have stepped forward to offer services such as teaching, story telling and

song leading. Someone is needed to organize the Torah procession, which will start at 4:00 p.m. from the shul office and proceed to the new site. This would possibly include strolling Klezmer musicians, a buggy and bike parade for kids, a *huppah* for the Torah scrolls, and police or other security. After the Torahs arrive, local politicians, Jewish and ecumenical clergy will be invited to join us at the new site. The committee highlighted the importance of thanking major contributors while remaining inclusive of the whole congregation. Suggestions include signage near the entrance with donor names and perhaps a booklet with names. Rabbi Kelman reported that there is now a list of every birth, death, *bar/bat mitzvah* and wedding in our community since its inception, and that this booklet would be a nice place to publish it. Another idea is to have someone recording Netivot Shalom stories told by congregants at the event, perhaps on posted chart paper for all to see. In all, the committee has found good compromises, given our volunteer and financial resources.

7. Rabbi Kelman thanked the board for approving his new contract, and especially thanked members of the negotiating committee (Ken Schnur, Robert Efroymsen and David Berman).

8. Rabbi Kelman recently attended a rabbis' convention in Houston, and he reported that the reputation of Netivot Shalom within the Conservative Jewish community is both national and international. We are known as a dynamic, outspoken congregation and in the forefront of what is going on in the Conservative movement.

9. There will be a Netivot Shalom—sponsored meeting of West Coast men's clubs in April. The focus is "A Place in the Tent," where lay people will be trained for outreach to intermarried families. Rose Levinson and Rabbi Kelman will help lead the event.

10. Rabbi Kelman reported on his meetings with congregation members regarding a new *kashrut* policy, music at services and a 25-hour Shabbat. The new *kashrut* policy will be more restrictive in terms of ingredients than in the past, requiring all processed foods brought into the new building to have a *heksheber*. There will be no musical instruments at Shabbat morning services; instruments at other times are still being debated. He described these topics as not being issues of compromise, but as issues with decisions that will not make everyone happy.

11. It is recommended that a financial task force be formed after tax season with financially trained individuals, including Chuck Wunderlich, Barbara Wezelman, Judith Bloom, Mark Priven and Eugene Berg.

12. Current budget projections indicate that this year we will be close to breaking even financially.

13. Plans for budget process: April board meeting — determine the member dues structure so that a dues notification letter to the congregation can be sent in May. May–June board meetings — budgets for building; administration; Youth Ed, Adult Ed, Membership and Ritual Committees will be determined, first based on total actual dollar figures from this fiscal year, and then broken down by category as the information becomes available from Maynard.

14. Board members tried eight different sample chairs and rated them according to looks, comfort and cost; the majority liked the Sauder Vantage chairs best. **Motion passed 9-1-0:** The board authorized the purchase of 200 Sauder Vantage chairs and sufficient tables for the social hall, with the remainder of the budgeted \$30,000 to be spent on additional Sauder Vantage chairs.

All comments and questions are welcome, either by phone (510-886-6824) or by e-mail ([secretary@netivotshalom.org](mailto:secretary@netivotshalom.org)). ☞

## Ritual Committee Activity

By Glenn Massarano, Chair, Ritual Committee

Here are some of the items that the Ritual Committee has been discussing in the past few months.

- We continued the discussion about the location for Yamim Nora'im services. We considered many configurations to try to hold services in our new building this year, but in the end, we decided that the best thing would be to continue to utilize Northbrae.
- As part of the regular, ongoing seasonal activities, we continued to prepare for Pesah, Yom ha-Atzmaut, Yom ha-Shoah and Shavuot. We also have taken the first steps at organizing the Yamim Nora'im services (it seems that it's never too early).
- The committee is coordinating with many other groups in the synagogue to prepare for the dedication Shabbat, the first Shabbat in our new building.
- We are looking into the possibility of purchasing the new *Sim Shalom* Shabbat-only *siddur*. Some of the benefits of this version are updated translations; the *imabot* (matriarchs) have been added to the text of the *amidah*; and a thinner, lighter profile.
- Updates to the *kashrut* policy were also discussed. The updates have been based on input from the committee and from those who attended two workshops at which Rabbi Kelman presented early drafts of the policy, as well as other relevant articles on *kashrut* from the rabbis in the Conservative movement. Look to see a finalized version of this policy soon [and see the article by Rabbi Kelman on page 2].

As always, if you have any questions or comments about any of these items, anything ritual or ideas you might have, please feel free to contact me, at 510-644-0654 or [gmassarano@alumni.ucsd.edu](mailto:gmassarano@alumni.ucsd.edu). ☞

### MASORTI INTERVIEW (continued from page 5)

tradition. But on the other hand, we acknowledge a constantly changing moral reality in which homosexuality is becoming normative.

"Orthodox and Reform Jews experience less tension between tradition and reality. For Orthodox Jews, everything that deviates from normative Judaism is taboo. For Reform Jews all you do is change the law. But Masorti Jews grapple with this tension. They say that innovations made by the Reform Movement reach Conservatives 10 years later. I agree. But that is because we face tremendous deliberations before we make a decision.

"I believe Israeli society identifies with this approach, which combines a serious commitment to tradition and a progressive, open attitude to change." ☞

# Tikkun Leyl Shavuot!

By Robin Braverman, Chair, Adult Education

**Begins Sunday, June 12, 7:00 p.m., at the BRJCC**

Once told a family court in Massachusetts that I wanted to come to the Bay Area in California because Judaism for the twenty-first century was developing here. Now that I have been here for several years, I am even more sure that this is true. And there is no institution we have that more epitomizes this than our Shavuot *tikkun*. But don't take my word for it. Come to the Tikkun Leyl Shavuot on **Sunday night, June 12**, and judge for yourself! If you've never participated, you've been missing out on one of the extraordinary spiritual experiences available in Berkeley, or anywhere.

Even *Hadassah Magazine* names our Berkeley Community *tikkun* as one of the highlights of the Jewish experience in the Bay Area, not to be missed. Where else do you have the opportunity to learn with Hasidic, Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist and Renewal rabbis and scholars all in the same night? Where and when else do we all come together, respectful of our differences, to learn together all night long? Indeed, where else in the country is this done?!

Rabbi Solom Alkabetz and other Sephardi kabbalists of the sixteenth century originated the custom of a *tikkun* for Shavuot eve, and they developed an anthology of material to be studied through the night. In the sixteenth century this anthology included the beginning and end of each *parashah* of the Torah, the opening verses of each chapter in the rest of the Tanakh, and the opening passage of each of the 63 tractates of the Mishnah. Some anthologies also contained pages from the Zohar or poems on the theme of the 613 *mitzvot*.

Our *tikkun* does not follow a rigid format. Rather we gather rabbis and scholars, asking them each to teach the material he or she is excited about. There will be multiple sessions for each time slot throughout the night, and the opportunity to learn with some of the best teachers in our community. By the time you read this, a detailed list of topics and presenters will be available in the shul office and on the Web site.

The *tikkun* will begin before sunset with a musical ma'ariv led by Chochmat Ha Lev. This will end before sunset, respectful of the ma'ariv services to be held by both Orthodox and Conservative groups that do not use instrumentation. There will be multiple ma'ariv services held at the BRJCC that evening. Check with the shul office for the schedule.

The study sessions will begin at about 10:00 p.m., and continue throughout the night until about 6:00 a.m., when there will be two shaharit services, one Orthodox and one egalitarian. During both services, the 10 Commandments will be read from the Torah.

There will be a **teen program**, put together by people from Midrasha and the teens themselves, and also some **programming especially for younger children early in the evening**. However,

there will be no childcare; this means that parents are responsible for their children throughout the night. But, we want to encourage families to participate. Children remember nights spent with sleeping bags and pillows at the feet of their parents, who are studying Torah all night long. It can be one of those special memories of childhood.

Beginning at midnight, a quiet room will be established for people of all ages to bring sleeping bags and pillows to camp out on the floor and rest. We will also provide food to nosh all night long.

This year sponsoring organizations include Netivot Shalom, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Beth El, the BRJCC, Kehilla Community Synagogue, Temple Beth Hillel of Richmond, Chochmat Ha Lev, the UC Berkeley Hillel, the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies Department of the Graduate Theological Union, and Beit Midrash Ohr Ha Chaim; Chabad, while not a sponsor, sends Rabbi Ferris to teach.

Don't miss it!! See you there. ☛

## Come Talk of Love . . .

On **Sunday, May 15, at 10:30 a.m. at the BRJCC**, two Netivot Shalom members, **Ann Swidler**, UC Berkeley professor of sociology, and author of *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters*, and **Paul Feinstein**, publisher of David Moss's *Love Letters: A Celebration of Jewish Love and Marriage in Words and Images*, will speak about their respective books and how love is represented in various times and cultures. This is a reprise of their wonderful Sunday *minyan* co-presentation from December 2004.

*Love Letters* is a landmark work by David Moss that again reveals an extraordinary talent. In the late 1960s, David Moss, one of our generation's greatest Judaic artists, began to revive the handwritten, illuminated *ketubah*, the traditional Jewish marriage contract. *Love Letters* is a collection of his stunningly illuminated *ketubot*, designed for couples over the past 30+ years. Paul will be speaking about David's creative process, and how he and David reconnected with the couples and their *ketubot* and designed and produced *Love Letters*.



To complement this presentation, Ann, an internationally recognized scholar of culture and its representations, will discuss *Talk of Love*, her investigation into how people find and sustain real love in the midst of modern life, and how this particular culture of love shapes their expectations and behavior. *Talk of Love* is also a compelling study of how culture affects even the most personal of our everyday experiences.

Both books will be available for sale, and a portion of each sale will support Netivot Shalom Youth Education programs. ☛



## The Face of the Other: On the Ethical Thought of Emmanuel Levinas

**Naomi Seidman**, associate professor of Jewish Culture at the Graduate Theological Union and director of the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies, will explore the philosophical and Jewish thought of **Emmanuel Levinas**, often considered one of the most important philosophers of the late twentieth century. The class will focus on two late essays, “Ethics as First Philosophy” and “Revelation in the Jewish Tradition.” Students may come to one class or the entire series.

When: **Wednesday nights: May 4, 11 & 17; 7:00–9:00 p.m.**  
Where: shul office, 1841 Berkeley Way

## Sunday Morning *Minyanim* Speakers

By Art Braufman, for Ritual and Adult Education Committees

The Sunday *minyanim* — on the second and fourth Sundays of the month — continue to be successful, enjoyable and educational for all who attend. Come and meet your fellow shul members, enjoy breakfast together, and take advantage of the wisdom and experiences of our speakers.

**Shaharit** services start at **9:30 a.m.** followed by **breakfast at 10:15 a.m.**; the **study program** follows from **10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Here is the schedule for the next two months:

**May 8: Rabbi Kelman:** *Kibbud av v'am*, honoring one's parents — a perfect Mother's Day program. Bring your mother, enjoy breakfast, and see what the rabbis taught about the fifth commandment. (1841 Berkeley Way)

**May 22: Gene Bardach:** Personal Experiences in Sri Lanka: How Is Aid Effectively Distributed and Utilized? Gene and Nancy Bardach's daughter, Rebecca, and husband, Eliot Goldstein, recently moved to Sri Lanka to head the American Joint Distribution Committee's efforts to rebuild the areas devastated by the tsunami. Gene and Nancy will have just returned from visiting them. Gene will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the management problems — and solutions — in making good use of the charitable dollars that many of us sent to support relief efforts. Gene is a professor of public policy at UC Berkeley. (1841 Berkeley Way)

**June 12: Rabbi Kelman:** *Talmud v'torah k'neged kulam*, study of Torah exceeds all other *mitzvos*. This will be the first Sunday *minyan* in our new home! Adult education is a keystone of our congregation. *Ta'shma*, come and study. (1316 University Ave.)

**June 26: TBA** ☞

## Rabbi David S. Winston Honored

Our own **Rabbi David Winston** was honored by the Rabbinical Assembly at its convention in Houston in March, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. His published remarks are excerpted below.

“I still retain vivid memories of the time I spent as a chaplain in the U.S. Army. After being stationed at Fort Bliss, in El Paso, Texas, I was assigned to the U.S. Army base in Fürth, Germany, though my chapel was located at the Palace of Justice in Nürnberg. While in Fürth, I attended Shabbat morning services at the only surviving synagogue in that city. It was located in a Jewish orphan asylum and its existence thus escaped notice [by the Nazis]. As soon as it was discovered that I was an experienced *kora baal* [Torah reader], I was immediately given the task of reading Torah every week. The rabbi, a lone survivor of the Warsaw ghetto rabbinate, was delighted when I evinced an interest in setting up a weekly *shiur* in Talmud with him.

“Since I had never studied the tractate *hulin*, [what meats non-priests can eat] I suggested that we select that for our joint study. Although I could tell this was not his preferred choice, he graciously acceded. Later, in addition to our midweek *shiur*, we decided to study the Rambam's [Mishna Torah] every Shabbat afternoon. Fortunately, the rabbi had a very large collection of Judaica, which he had obtained from the German government. One Shabbat he asked me to join him in a long walk, since his doctor urgently advised him to do so. He explained, however, that this would not involved any *bitul* Torah [time wasted not studying Torah], since while walking we could discuss some mishnaic texts that happily I could recite by heart.

“At one point, it so happened that the commanding officer of my army unit called a special staff meeting on the night that I regularly met with the rabbi. When I informed him that I would have to cancel our *shiur* that week, he was absolutely aghast at my action. ‘All you have to do,’ he said to me in all candor, ‘is explain to the colonel in charge that the efficacy and viability of his armed forces depends in the last analysis on our study of Torah together, and he will gladly excuse you from attending that meeting.’

“I must say, that with the advance of time I now realize more than ever how important a weekly *shiur* devoted to the study of Torah really is. When I first arrived in Berkeley, after leaving the University of Judaism to join the faculty of the Graduate Theological Union, Jacob Milgrom contacted me immediately and suggested we study a rabbinic text every Shabbat, a suggestion I was very happy to accept. That was back in 1966, and I am pleased to say that, with various permutations, that *shiur* continues to this day. After Jack made *aliyah*, the members of our *havurah* turned out to be mostly Israelis, which resulted in substituting biblical texts for rabbinic texts, but the enthusiasm and devotion to study has remained undiminished.” ☞

# Report from Cuba: Two Trips!

By June Safran, Cuba Affairs

It's April in Berkeley, but my mind is still caught in November in Cuba, when four of our members enjoyed a wonderful five days in Santiago de Cuba with our sister congregation, Comunidad Hebrea Hatikva de Santiago de Cuba, where we attended a *bar mitzvah*.

Bob and I were accompanied by Netivot Shalom members Barbara Fritz and Denah Bookstein. We also had with us Nancy Katz, a neat lady from New Jersey. As soon as we cleared customs, we were greeted by our friends, who had waited almost two hours while we deplaned, went through passport control and dealt with customs, which checked all our bags to see what we were bringing into the country. Fortunately, no one was curious enough to read our books, as has happened in the past!

The visit started with many hugs and kisses. The *bar mitzvah's* grandma, Lourdes Levy, began the shower of hugs and kisses for all of us, even those of us no one knew yet. Eugenia, the congregation's president, gave us an official welcome. Ruben, the *bar mitzvah*, was very excited. He was well prepared and looking forward to the next day, when he would assume his rightful place in the community. After more hugs and kisses, we went to our lodging (two bed-and-breakfast-type homes near the synagogue), where we settled in and got some much-needed sleep.

The next morning, Thursday, we arrived in shul to the excitement of the men putting on



*Netivot Shalom members (center) Barbara Fritz and Denah Bookstein admiring a "welcome" platter.*



*Ruben blessing hallah at kiddush.*



*Ruben, the bar mitzvah.*



*Ruben making kiddush.*



*Ruben with his Saturday cake.*

*t'fillin*, some for the first time, as there had been conversions last summer and no weekday services since. Remembering when Rabbi Kelman taught the community to lay *t'fillin*, Bob and I were thrilled to see Marcos and Alejandro helping people with this *mitzvah*. We were all prepared for a dessert party after services, but instead, there was a full meal followed by several desserts. So who needed lunch?

Services were beautiful. David Budegen, the *bar mitzvah* boy of two years ago, was at Ruben's side through most of the service. Marcos Frometa had helped him study and eagerly watched as Ruben read from the Torah scroll standing on the desk in its beautiful Sephardic case. Ruben's father and older brother enthusiastically participated for the first time. It was a moving occasion for all of us as we watched this family become full members of the community, knowing they already partici-



Barbara Fritz (Netivot Shalom member) shows Xochy Frometa photos of California.



Wedding portrait of Xochy & Marcos Frometa Farin, members of our sister congregation in Cuba.

pated on committees, led study sessions and enjoyed the social life of the community. Hatikva is both happy and lucky to have such devoted members in its midst.

Friday night was the usual kabbalat Shabbat service, with Ruben and family taking part. There was a *d'rashah* by Ruben's father and another large meal. Saturday morning was the big event. Everyone who worked during the week was there, in addition to all who had been at the *bar mitzvah* on Thursday. Services were beautiful, with all five of us visitors being given *aliyot*. Ruben did his *d'rashah* in Spanish, with a translation by a friend from Canada. He put a lot of thought into his remarks, and we were delighted to listen to him. Grandma Lourdes gave a thank-you speech to those in the community who supported Ruben's studies and to those of us who came from so far. The study session before lunch lasted almost an hour as there was a good deal of discussion. Then we ate another big meal, shared another large cake and several desserts, and watched the youth group perform several Israeli dances. Finally, we presented gifts to the community and Ruben, including the gift from Netivot Shalom and the certificate of *bar mitzvah* that Rabbi Kelman sends all the *b'nei mitzvah*.

The party continued in the evening at the family home, where we ate another wonderful meal, this time prepared by Lourdes. Younger guests began arriving as we finished dinner, and we all participated in havdalah led by Ruben. While the youth danced in the backyard (it seems all five of us ended up being "youth"), the adults socialized. At one point, we went up onto the roof where clothes are usually dried, and looked at the stars and the beautiful moon. I am always delighted to look at stars in Cuba, because they are much bigger and often look like little balls in the sky rather than twinkling spots.

We spent our last day with more visits and some sightseeing before flying off to Havana to wait for the group to join us for our visit to more communities in Havana and nearby.

### Trip Two

I returned again for one week this March, as co-leader of a group composed of 31 college students and accompanying adults. The students were members of Vanderbilt Hillel and from Washington University in Saint Louis. We spent most days in Havana interacting with the communities and the youth group. I took off one day to go with the Maimonides Lodge of B'nai B'rith and their families on a daylong outing to the countryside. It was a beautiful, sunny Sunday, warm but not hot or humid. Each member was given a shirt with the BB logo.

We had three full buses, one with some members of the International B'nai B'rith Cuban Jewish Relief Project, who invited some of the Cuban members to join them in their nice air-conditioned bus for the almost two-hour ride. Our first stop was Soroa, where many of us walked down the hundred or more natural steps to the base of the waterfalls. Then we toured the Orchid center nearby to see many rare plants. There was one kind of orchid growing on three-foot stalks, lined up like a band ready to march in a parade. The lodge provided lunch that had been prepared by members of Adath Israel, the Orthodox synagogue. We ate lots of cakes, macaroni salad and ice cream. Once everyone was rested and all stomachs content, we drove on to the wonderful San Juan River to swim or relax around the beautiful natural pools of the cool sulfur springs. Amazingly, there was no odor, and the water felt like silk on the skin. The day was like magic, full of the beauty of nature and good company.

Maimonides Lodge has a three-pronged program: member education and socialization; a *tzedakah* fund, to help those in financial stress with regular monthly subsidies; and an emergency fund, to help those in need with home repairs including household items, like a refrigerator that might need a new compressor.

So how was the trip with so many 18 and 19 year olds? Magnificent! They were impressed with how well one can live life even without the amenities of American homes, and inspired by the participation of the youth in the life of the Jewish community. Most important, they clearly made lasting friendships. ❧

*In each issue, we introduce a few congregants to you — some new and some not so new — so that we can all get to know each other better. If you would like to introduce either yourself or someone you have come to know — as Mark Priven does in this issue — please send copy, and a jpg photo if possible, to [newsletter@netivotshalom.org](mailto:newsletter@netivotshalom.org).*



*(From left) Ellen, Michael, Jack (seated), Mina and Aaron Gobler.*

### Mina Gobler

After 30 years of very active involvement at Beth Hillel-Beth El, A Conservative synagogue in suburban Philadelphia, Mina and Jack Gobler moved to Albany in August 2003 to be closer to their Bay-Area-based children and grandchildren, and joined Netivot Shalom in January 2004.

Their daughter, Ellen Gobler, who is married to Larry Dolton, is also a Netivot Shalom member. Their son, Aaron Gobler, and his wife, Lisa, are active in Beth El and have two children: Emma and Jolie. Youngest son Michael, his wife, Karen, and their twins, Lauren and Benjamin, live in Newton, Massachusetts.

Mina says that she and Jack were drawn to Netivot Shalom for a variety of reasons. First, Ellen had always talked “glowingly” of the shul. Second, “We feel very comfortable at Netivot Shalom because in many ways it is like one big *havurah* and very similar to our *havurah* at Beth Hillel. At Netivot Shalom, people are encouraged to participate, to challenge themselves to develop new skills, and this has me thinking about what I’d like to try next. To meet the challenge of making a place for myself in a shul where people have close, long-term friendships, I’ve chosen to get involved by joining the Membership Committee.”

Mina was raised in an observant home and was one of the very early Ramah campers in the mid-1950s. Many of her fellow campers became leaders of the Jewish Conservative movement.

She went to public and Hebrew school, but found her experience at Ramah and a Jewish youth organization most formative.

With the strong support of her husband, Mina directed the family’s Jewish education and home life. “We really believed in a strong Jewish home, where we would model for our children the Jewish values important to us. For me, being Jewish means living my life by the Jewish calendar and by putting Jewish values into action. In dealing with others, my belief is that you never know how your words or deeds will affect them, so it’s important to be careful what you say or do. If I have one overarching goal, though, it’s to try to make a difference in people’s lives.”

Professionally, Mina is most proud of the work she has done relating to the Holocaust. As the assistant coordinator of the mid-Atlantic region for Steven Spielberg’s Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, she arranged over 500 interviews with survivors and liberators. She was a team member on the Transcending Trauma Project and interviewed numerous Holocaust survivors and their family members. Thanks to a grant to the Philadelphia Jewish Community Relations Council and the Board of Rabbis, Mina was hired as project director to research and then write the *Miller Guide to Exploring Kashrut Practices*. She also directed an oral history pilot project to videotape founders of the Reconstructionist movement.

Mina’s advice to other congregation members: “What you get out of Netivot Shalom depends a lot on what you put into it. So, if you want more out of your shul experience, you need to get even more involved.” And she added with a laugh, “If you want people to remember you, and think you’ve always been there, come every Shabbat and sit in the same seat!” ☞

### Rom Rosenblum

By Mark Priven

When Rom and I sat down to talk about his life, he immediately pointed out that he started out as a zygote. My guess is that he was about as gregarious as a zygote can be (all alone in the womb), and he inherited from the male gamete some pretty strong swimming genes.

Rom is the tall guy at services who’s always cracking jokes, hugging everyone, and when he asks you how you’re doing, he means it. It’s impossible not to like Rom.

But Rom is also a paradox. A passionate Zionist, he was almost court-martialed while in the Israeli Army for refusing to join with soldiers he felt were mistreating Arabs. He agrees that women should be able to be counted in a *minyan*, lead Jewish services and read from the Torah. Yet he is one of the few remaining people at Netivot Shalom who wants to reinstate the priestly blessing, which has been rejected because it can only be done by *kobanim* and is considered unegalitarian. More on that later.

Oh, and Rom has also been to all of the big-time sporting events that even the most ardent fans only dream of seeing live: Olympics, Super Bowls, baseball playoffs, you name it. Yet Rom is not in the least bit a sports fan. It’s all about work. Go figure.



Rom Roseblum, Avi Rosenblum and Debby Graudenz.

### Formative Years

Rom's formative years were dominated by two events. The first is related to bingo, which Rom never plays. The Long Island Conservative synagogue that Rom grew up in was running a little short on shekels, so they instituted bingo. When United Synagogue got wind of this, they promptly threw the congregation out of the movement. This meant that instead of participating in United Synagogue's youth group (USY), Rom was driven to the Zionist Young Judea. He took to it like a *bubbie* to borscht. He quickly became regional president, moved to Israel, met both of his future wives, helped to start a kibbutz (which is still thriving), and participated in the Yom Kippur War.

The other formative event in Rom's childhood was Woodstock. Rom was planning on going, but the day before he was hit by a truck and became crippled for many years. So he spent most of his Young Judea presidential year in the hospital, his kibbutz pioneering days were spent largely alongside cows, and his options during the Yom Kippur War consisted of being on the bomb squad or being a medic. Wisely, he chose the latter.

### Work

Rom's work experience is about as wide as it gets: professional musician (played in the Monterey Jazz Festival), teaching, running a recording studio, semiprofessional "cow whisperer," producing safety videos for oil rigs, airport "line boy," veterinary staff, and producing music videos (before MTV). Oh yeah, he's a pilot, but he never got paid for that.

Rom's big work break came during the 1989 earthquake. Apparently the earthquake caused all of the folks who were doing technical sound for sports to switch to the news. This created a vacuum that Rom, who had little experience and no interest in sports broadcasting, quickly filled. And he's been doing it ever since. Rom claims that his lack of enthusiasm for sports helps him to do his job better. Rather than focusing on the game, he concentrates on the sound. Makes sense to me.

### Family

The center of Rom's life is clearly his family. As Rom puts it, Debby Graudenz (his wife) is the German, and he's the Russian: she makes sure the trains run on time, and he knows where to find

the vodka. Debby was also one of the pioneers on the kibbutz that they helped to establish, and many years after it was established Rom heard that she was in California. So he quit his job in Texas, moved to California, and eventually convinced her that he was her grown-up zygote in shining armor.

And then there's Rom and Debby's son, Avi, whom Rom couldn't talk about during our lunch without smiling. That might be because Avi is on an all-star baseball team that will soon be touring and playing in Japan. He's a talented kid, and about the only person I know who is more outgoing than Rom.

### The Future

First, Rom wants to teach Netivot Shabbat regulars to count to three. Here's the deal. The Jews are the people who gave the world the concept of "rest," Shabbat. In music, as in Jewish life, a rest is just as important as a note. For example, the prayer *ahavah rabbah* (said just before the *sh'ma*) is sort of like a waltz; it has three beats per measure. As you chant the prayer, you could naturally say to yourself, "1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2-3," right along with the rhythm. But every week, at several points in the prayer, everyone simply skips the third beat and rushes on to the next part. This drives Rom nuts. He has tried clapping, and he has tried loudly calling out "1-2-3," but nothing has worked. I suggested that perhaps Jews just can't keep good rhythm, but to Rom's credit he refused to play the "Jew card." My guess is that folks skip that third beat in order to get to the *kiddush* faster; when you're hungry, every beat counts.

Second, Rom wants to bring back the priestly blessing at Netivot Shalom. This ritual occurs during Yamim Nora'im (High Holy Days) and during the *shalosh regalim* — Passover, Sukkot and Shavuot. Congregants are forbidden to look at the *kobanim* during the blessing, but as a kid I can remember watching in fright as folks whom I considered to be relatively "normal" adults got up in front of the congregation, held their hands in bizarre Star Trek-like formations, and broke into what sounded like ancient incantations of the dead. These "old wolves" (Rom's description of the finger-flexing *kobanim*) are accompanied by the cantor, singing beautiful, unique musical intervals. The juxtaposition of the enchanting cantorial melody with the strange howling of the elders was, as my daughter would say, "freakish." It definitely would have convinced me to go to the High Holy Days kids' program, if such a thing had existed then.

At first I was skeptical about bringing this tradition to Netivot Shalom, but Rom convinced me that the priestly blessing is a magical moment in prayer. It doesn't matter whether it's actual *kobanim* who do the blessing. We can change that, just as we changed who can lead services and who can read from the Torah. What is important, as Rom puts it, is that the blessing is one of those rare ceremonies that put us in touch with the last vestiges of Judaism's reptilian brain. That alone is worth keeping.

If you want to honor Rom, I have two suggestions. First, whenever you pray, count to three (or four, as the case may be). Second, advocate for the priestly blessing. ☺

# PURIM!

Photos by Marshall Platt and Michelle Wolfson



*Michelle Wolfson*



*Michelle Wolfson, Rabbi Kelman*



*Michelle Wolfson, Sam Priven, Kazia Romain Berman*



*Sam Priven, Kazia Romain Berman, Yael Platt, Rachel Finn, Anya Platt*



*Kazia Romain Berman, Yael Platt, Rachel Finn, Anya Platt*



*Rabbi Kelman, Max Blum*



*Yael Platt, Kazia Romain Berman*



*Hanna Lukanuski*

## Midrasha: Another Year, Another Graduation

By Diane Bernbaum, Director, Midrasha

It's coming. My favorite day of the Midrasha year . . . graduation. No, it's not my favorite day because it marks the end of the school year and I can finally sleep a little later or go to a ball game or the beach on Sundays. It my favorite because when I hear each graduate speak about what Midrasha and their 18 years of Jewish education have meant to them, I am overwhelmed with pride and have absolutely not a worry in the world about "Jewish continuity." All the early mornings, late nights, long work days and worry about program details go out the window, and I realize that I have chosen the right profession and the right job. If you'd like to be similarly filled with *nachas* (you don't have to be the school director or be related to Midrasha in any way to take pride in these kids — just living in our community will do!), please join us for graduation. It is Sunday, May 22, at 10:45 a.m. in the Congregation Beth El sanctuary. The graduation epitomizes the pluralistic nature of our Midrasha community. We have 27 graduates (actually, this is a small class for us). They come from six different synagogues, and two of them are unaffiliated. We are truly a community school.

Mazal tov to the following students and their families: David Alper,\* Ben Breiner,\* Julian Clark, Michelle Frankel, Kfir Garner, Daniella Gilbert,\* Daniel Hochbaum, Danielle Kerr, Seth Kramer, Seth Lavender, Sarah Leonard, Ethan Levy,\* Sophie Litschwartz, Aaron Mazel-Gee, Beth Midanik-Blum, Elena Moss,\* Rebecca Pollack, Estie Sarvasy, Joseph Schickman, Zachary Silver, Jeremy Simon, Isaiah Soval-Levine, Lauren Statman, Gretchen Stern,\* Ari Winnick, Rebecca Zabel and Leorah Zangwill.

I look forward to seeing you all on **May 22 at 10:45 a.m.** at graduation. ☺

\* These graduates are part of the Netivot Shalom community.

### New Friday Night Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service

- **First date: Friday, June 10; 1316 University Ave.**
- **6:00 p.m. dinner**
- **7:00–7:45 p.m. kabbalat Shabbat service**
- Once a month in the sanctuary, 4th Friday of the month, except first meeting, June 10
- Singing and Torah story, and *matbea shel t'fillah* (halakhic minimum of the service)
- Target audience, 2nd–7th graders, with preschoolers, teens and adults welcome
- Time: same year-round; early enough for those with little ones, who can eat before, but also late enough for commuting parents.

*Judy & Glenn Massarano*  
invite you to share in their *simhah* on

*May 7, 2005*  
*28 Nisan 5765*  
*Parashat K'doshim*

*when their son, **Betzalel,***

*will be called to the Torah*  
*as a bar mitzvah.*

*(at the BRJCC)*

*Elizabeth & Joseph Lee*  
invite you to share in their *simhah* on

*May 14, 2005*  
*5 Iyar 5765*  
*Parashat Emor*

*when their son, **Benjamin,***

*will be called to the Torah*  
*as a bar mitzvah.*

*(at the BRJCC)*

*Susan Lawrence & Andrew Cohen*  
invite you to share in their *simhah* on

*May 21, 2005*  
*12 Iyar 5765*  
*Parashat Be'har*

*when their daughter, **Elana Cohen,***

*will be called to the Torah*  
*as a bat mitzvah.*

*(at the BRJCC)*

From Our Religious School:  
Israel Culture Day, March 21, 2005, Grades 3-6  
Photos by Michelle Wolfson



*Genevieve Zimmerman*



*Teacher Rena Dinin, Rebekah Stroik, Hannah Lukanuski, Genevieve Zimmerman, Sophie Hecht, Asa Stahl, Mori Wexler*



*Sophie Hecht*



*Rebekah Stroik, Hannah Lukanuski*



*Hannah Lukanuski, Genevieve Zimmerman*



*Rebecca Dorf Landau, Rebecca Simon*



# Our Children Learning and Celebrating

By Michelle Wolfson, Director of Education

It's been a busy, full spring for Youth Education! We're having a lot of fun learning Hebrew, Torah, holy days, and Jewish values and history.

## All-School Activities

On Sunday, February 6, more than 40 parents and children gathered for our Shabbat Game and Costume-Making Party. Young and old painted biblical character puppets for Shabbat Torah stories, and wrote trivia questions for Jewpardy and Who Wants to be a Minyanaire. Meghan Starkey, Tony Hecht and Lisa Sibony worked hard for hours to make more than 20 costumes, simple biblical robes for Youth Ed Torah story activities. Thanks to all our hard-working volunteers! We're still accepting biblical costume donations: staffs, multicolored robes, rough leather belts, slip-on brown sandals/flip flops, beards and wigs, Egyptian-looking collars or belts, and Roman or Greek soldier accoutrements are welcome.

We held a yummy Tu b-Sh'vat *seder* on January 24. All students enjoyed the Wednesday pre-Purim fair, with mask making, face painting, *shirah* (singing), Haman and Mordechai bowling, Shushan Trivia Darts, Wheel of Purim, and Hebrew Hangman. A huge audience enjoyed the kids' Purim shpiel. Out talented 6th graders performed a Lemony Snickett version of the Purim story: "A Series of Fortunate Events: Jews of Shushan Saved."

## Shabbat Program

Our Youth Shabbat program has a new focus this year, **Kid's Mussar**: core Jewish values inspired by the Torah portion of the week. The games, stories, discussion and services each week are linked to the *middah*/value of the week. The whole school heads to Live Oak Park on the second Shabbat of the month, for our *teva* (nature) Shabbat service, one each for lower and upper elementary. The **K-2 class** celebrates Shabbat First! family service on the first Shabbat of the month, modeled on Shabbat B'Yachad, with volunteer parents leading the service and telling the Torah story with their child. Guest Torah storytellers from our congregation entertain and enlighten us on the third Shabbat of the month.

We have wonderful, engaging Shabbat teachers! Lena Silver is our *t'fillah* leader, sharing spiritual insights, and delving into the deeper meaning of and personal connections to the prayers, along with singing the traditional Hebrew. Melissa Loeffler leads the K-2 class, focusing on games, discussion and stories. Miriam Pasternak's 3rd-4th graders love to challenge each other in Hebrew- and Torah-centered games like Hebrew "Spoons." Rich Cain's 5th-6th grade class learns Torah and Jewish yoga, and joins the main service for Torah service and musaf monthly.

## Weekday Religious School

Melissa Loeffler's **1st-2nd graders** learned the *alef-bet* writing in shaving cream, flour and finger paints! They made holiday books, painted their *kippot* with puffy paints, and have been building

Hebrew vocabulary. Like the rest of the school, they love *shirah* with Becky Gimbel, who teaches Hebrew weekly through songs tailored to the curriculum of each class. Miriam Pasternak's **3rd grade** class wrote its own version of *B'reishit*, the book of *Genesis*, and shared it with the 1st-2nd grade class. The 3rd graders have been focusing on Creation, and on *avot* and *imahot*, from Avraham through Yosef. Rabbi Kelman taught them how a *sofer* repairs a Torah, and they all crowded around him as he worked. Another focus of their curriculum is *tzedakah* as a *mitzvah* that is a Jewish obligation for both community and individuals. The class finished its Hebrew script books, and is ready to start work on American Jewish history. Recently, the class made havdalah sets that they plan on using for *kitab gimmel's* family havdalah.

**Fourth grade** students and their teacher, Rena Dinin, continue their discussion of the narrative and main themes of *Sh'mot*, the book of *Exodus*, learning about *psbat* and *d'rash*, and what's bothering Rashi. Some of the major segments they're covering include: wandering in the desert, revelation at Sinai, the Ten Commandments, the experience of life after the giving of the Torah, and the construction of the tabernacle. Regarding Hebrew language, the main areas of focus are increasing reading fluency by reading out loud with partners and groups; continuing to write with script letters; and increasing Hebrew vocabulary.

In its Jewish history curriculum, the **5th-6th grade** class is studying the history of Zionism, the Shoah, and the creation of the modern state of Israel. With their teacher, Devora Liss, the students study modern-day Israel through the customs and cultures of Israel's Jewish various ethnic groups. As part of this subject, they viewed and discussed parts of the film *Long Way Home*, on the displaced persons' camps and immigration to Israel from 1945 to 1948. In March, they were fortunate enough to meet with Auschwitz survivor Bernie Rosner, author of *An Uncommon Friendship: From Opposite Sides of the Holocaust*. Their next guest speaker smuggled arms into Israel before the War of Independence.

## Youth Education

Our hardworking Youth Education Committee spent many months researching the best ways to serve our current families and attract more. Thanks to over 42 families who took the time to answer the survey! *Todah rabbah* to Carol Dorf and Andrea Altschuler for writing the survey and collating data! Stay tuned for the outcome. Two clear mandates: Friday night dinner and services and Pajama Havdalah!

Youth Education Shabbat came early this year, on April 2. Thanks to all the volunteers! Our *Love Letters* book and Passover Candy Sale fundraisers were successful! Thanks for supporting our *ke'hila's* children. The goal of the teen programming meeting for parents and teens 12-18 years old is for teens themselves to give input on teen-targeted learning and activities on Shabbat, Yamim Nora'im, and a teen social activity/social action group. ☺

# Shabbat B'Yachad Celebrates Purim!

The Sunday before Purim, SBY families gathered to celebrate the holiday a bit early! The children enjoyed decorating crowns and groggers and coloring Purim puppets, assembled *mishloach manot* baskets for their friends, made sandwiches for a homeless women's shelter in Berkeley, tried on masks and played a bowling game with Haman pins. Daniel Kohn led the children in singing Purim songs, and Cathy Shadd and her daughter Anna Rosenfeld, an SBY graduate, put on a Purim puppet show with puppets made by the Religious School parents and children several weeks before. The celebration ended with a light lunch. A good time was had by all!



*Aaron Rumph gets ready to bowl over Haman pins.*



*David Newman and his daughter Ariel color Purim puppets.*



*Josh Polston and his son, Sid, decorate a grogger.*



*Nava Kohn and Sophia Kiang sing Purim songs.*



*SBY graduate Anna Rosenfeld helps Abigail Hayes put together a mishloach manot basket.*



*Jordana Meltzer and her mom, Norma Kaufman, bowl with Haman pins.*



*The puppet show audience.*

## SBY Shabbat, By Cathy Shadd

The Shabbat right after the dedication of our new shul — **June 11** — will be our **annual shul-wide celebration of Shabbat B'Yachad!** As in past years, the parents of SBY will be helping to lead services in the main sanctuary, reading Torah and *haftarah*, having various honors, giving the *d'rashah*, and hosting the *kiddush*. The children will participate in the Torah procession and will be at the *bimah* for singing "Ein Keloheinu." Those who will be graduating from SBY at the end of the summer will receive a little gift and have their names read out by Rabbi Kelman. This is a joyful celebration for the whole community — and a way to acknowledge the youngest members of our congregation and to honor their parents, who are the joyous energy behind Shabbat B'Yachad. Please plan to come! See you on June 11! (1316 University Ave.)

# SHUL ACTIVITIES

Unless otherwise noted, all activities will be held at the shul office or the BRJCC until May 23, and in our new home in June.

## YOUTH EDUCATION

**Shabbat B'Yachad (SBY)** for families with preschool children five years and under. Program includes *t'fillah* (prayer), songs, Torah stories, a Torah parade and *kiddush*. Registration is required, but membership in Netivot Shalom is not. 2nd & 4th Shabbat each month, 11:00–12:15 a.m. at the BRJCC.

**Religious School** for children in grades 1–6. Weekday classes cover Hebrew, Torah study, Jewish calendar and holidays, Jewish history, ethics, Israel and life-cycle events. Shabbat classes focus on *t'fillah*, games, Jewish values and Torah stories.

**Shabbat Program** for children (K–6) in either Religious School or day school. Each Shabbat, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at the BRJCC. Innovative game-based classes focus on the values of the week.

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service** for all ages (especially 2nd–7th grade), with singing, a Torah story and the minimum halakhic service. First one on June 10; thereafter 4th Shabbat each month, 6:00 p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. service. Check announcements to confirm dates.

**Amitim** (*b'nei mitzvah* preparation program) classes focus on the structure and meaning of prayer. Students also study Torah texts and explore their relevance for a teen's life. Open to Netivot Shalom member families. Classes meet Tuesdays, 4:00–6:30 p.m.

**Midrasha**, an intercongregational program for East Bay Jewish teenagers, offers classes ranging from Talmud and Hebrew to Jewish film and drama. The program provides students with the skills and knowledge they will need as committed Jewish adults.

## ADULT EDUCATION

### SUNDAY

**Morning minyan, 9:30 a.m., NS office**  
**Teachings, 10:30–11:30 a.m., NS office**

(For the schedule and a list of teaching sessions, see the article on page 9 of this newsletter.)

### THURSDAY

**Talmud**  
7:00–9:00 p.m., NS office

### SHABBAT

**Praying Outside the Synagogue: For the Heart and Mind**  
Rabbi Stuart Kelman  
Various *shabbatot* after services; see calendar

## WEEKDAY T'FILLAH

Held at the Netivot Shalom office, 1841 Berkeley Way  
**Morning Minyan**, every Wednesday at 7:15 a.m.,  
2nd & 4th Sundays, 9:30–10:30 a.m.



## OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS

### Sponsor a Kiddush: Calendar On-line

Go to [http://my.calendars.net/netivot\\_shalom/admin](http://my.calendars.net/netivot_shalom/admin) or contact us: Joanna Weinberg ([weinbgj@itsa.ucsf.edu](mailto:weinbgj@itsa.ucsf.edu)) and Turi Adams ([live-mic@major.net.com](mailto:live-mic@major.net.com)).

### The Morning Minyan Needs You

People are attending these services who need to say *kaddish* and are unable to do so. Consider becoming a once-a-month attendee. 7:15–8:00 a.m.

**Are You Struggling with Infertility or Miscarriage?** Would you like to talk with someone from the congregation who has had a similar experience? Contact Robin Bravenman at [rivkah48@aol.com](mailto:rivkah48@aol.com) or 925-979-1998.

## SHABBAT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

**Held at the BRJCC, 1414 Walnut Street until May 28, then at 1316 University Ave.**

### Shabbat Morning Services

Morning services begin at 9:45 a.m.

### Meditative Minyan

9:30 a.m., room 14, 3rd Shabbat each month

### Shabbat B'Yachad

11:00 a.m., room 14, 2nd and 4th Shabbat each month

### Youth Shabbat Program

Children grades K–6, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

### Torah Study: the weekly *parashah*

See calendar for teachers; Shabbat, 9:00–10:00 a.m., BRJCC library; free

## SOCIAL ACTION

**Claremont House Kabbalat Shabbat** 4500 Gilbert in Oakland, 5th floor lounge, 7:00 p.m., 1st & 3rd Friday of the month. Volunteers are needed during services, to hand out *kiddush* cups and for schmoozing afterwards. Contact Joan Bradus at 510-528-3467 or [drfriedman@juno.com](mailto:drfriedman@juno.com).

**Dinners for the Homeless** Dorothy Day House of Berkeley, 1st Sunday of the month. Volunteers needed for shopping, cooking or serving. Donations are needed for food purchases. Make contributions to Netivot Shalom, marked "Dinners for the Homeless." Contact Sharona Barzilay at 510-658-8157.

**Feed the Hungry** Food barrels are available in the office. Bring unopened nonperishable food any time the office is open.

**Social Action Committee meetings** 4th Thursday of the month in private homes. Contact Jonathan Stern at [socialaction@netivotshalom.org](mailto:socialaction@netivotshalom.org) or 510-872-0751.

**Jewish Coalition for Literacy Tutors** Volunteers needed to tutor students at the Berkeley Youth Alternatives program. Contact Jonathan Stern at [socialaction@netivotshalom.org](mailto:socialaction@netivotshalom.org) or 510-872-0751.

## Grief and Growing: A Healing Weekend for the Bereaved

May 13–15, 2005, at Camp Tawonga

A weekend for children, teens, adults and extended families who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Take time away from the demands of your busy life to reflect and renew in a loving and caring Jewish community. Register at [www.tawonga.org](http://www.tawonga.org) (click on Weekend & Family Camps) or call NextSteps at Sinai Memorial Chapel at 415-921-3636 for a brochure.

Co-sponsored by Bay Area Jewish Healing Center,\* the Bureau of Jewish Education,\* Camp Tawonga\* and Sinai Memorial Chapel.

\* Beneficiaries of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties.

## Upcoming Programs at the BRJCC

**Tuesday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.**

### **Yom HaZikharon, Israel Memorial Day**

Presented by Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay's Israel and Overseas Committee, the BRJCC, the Consulate General of Israel and the Israel Action Committees of the East Bay. Fee: Free

**Sunday, May 15, 10:30 a.m.**

### **Come Talk of Love**

**Ann Swidler**, author of *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters*, and **Paul Feinstein**, publisher of David Moss's *Love Letters: A Celebration of Jewish Love and Marriage in Words and Image* discuss how love and marriage have been represented in various times and cultures, how people find and sustain love, and how their culture of love shapes their expectations and behavior. Co-sponsored with Netivot Shalom. Fee: Free

**Monday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.**

### **Adoption! The Jewish Connection**

A panel of adoptive and prospective parents discusses the joys and realities of raising children from a variety of racial and cultural backgrounds with a Jewish identity. Co-sponsored with Building Jewish Bridges: Outreach to Interfaith Couples, Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay, and Tiferet. Fee: \$10/person or \$15/couple For more information contact Dawn Kepler at 510-839-2900 ext. 347 or [dawn@jfed.org](mailto:dawn@jfed.org).

**Sunday, June 12, to Monday, June 13, 7:00 p.m.–7:00 a.m.**

### **Community-wide Tikkun Leyl Shavuot**

Come and learn both Torah and current events with gifted instructors throughout the night! Fee: Free

The Tillie and Rene Molho Endowment for  
Holocaust Remembrance of the  
Jewish Community Federation and Foundation of  
the Greater East Bay invites you to

## An Evening of Remembrance

ON THE

# Holocaust

## and Resistance

Community-wide Commemoration for  
**Yom HaShoah Ve HaGevurah**

**Tuesday, May 3, 8:00 P.M.**

**Temple Sinai**

“Memories of the Holocaust”

with storyteller Joel ben Izzy

and Israeli soprano Ayelet Cohen

Sponsors of the May 3 Commemoration

Bay Area Midrasha, Berkeley Richmond JCC,\*  
Congregation Beth Jacob, B'nai B'rith Oakland  
Lodge 252, Center for Jewish Living &  
Learning,\* Congregation Beth Israel,  
Congregation Netivot Shalom, Holocaust Center  
of Northern California, Israel Center,\* JCRC–  
East Bay Region,\* Jewish Family and Children's  
Service, Oakland Hebrew Day School, Tehiyah  
Day School, Temple Beth Abraham, Temple Beth  
Sholom and Temple Sinai

For information,  
contact 510.839.2900 ext 253  
or go to [www.jfed.org](http://www.jfed.org).

*\*Agencies of the Jewish Community Federation*

*Our sincerest thanks for your support of Netivot Shalom.*

**Building Fund**

Diane & Edwin Bernbaum  
 Judith Bloom  
 Steve & Karen Bovarnick  
 Jean Bradman  
 Judy Breakstone  
 Ernestina Carrilo & Larry Polon  
 Judy Tobias Davis  
 Margaret Dorfman & Wayne Pickus  
 Alexander Ernest  
 Ted Feldman  
 Ronna Kabatznick & Peter Dale Scott  
 Stuart & Laurie Marson  
 Marissa Moss  
 Donald Pretari  
 Frank & Charlotte Sadofsky  
 David Shragai & Brenda Goldstein  
 Adam Weisberg & Rachel Brodie  
 Assi & Kim Zvik

**General Donations**

Lee Bearson & Babbie Freiberg in memory of Naomi Rudolph  
 Lazare Bernhard in honor of Rebecca Friedman's *bat mitzvah*

Arthur & Sheila Braufman in honor of Glenn Massarano and in memory of Jean Donohue (sister of Ben Heschen)  
 Carl Buchin & Claudia Valas for the Charity Auction  
 David Eisenberg  
 Dale Friedman & Joan Bradus in memory of Naomi Rudolph  
 Richard & Lauraine Jaeger  
 Rabbi Stuart & Vicky Kelman  
 Martin Mayers & Deborah Lewis  
 June & Bob Safran in honor of Sara Geliebter's *bat mitzvah*  
 Martin & Helen Waches in memory of Pearl and Norman Pollner

**Hai for Hannukah**

Lee Bearson & Babbie Freiberg in honor of Rabbi Stuart and Vicky Kelman's 40th anniversary  
 Andrea & Michael Cassidy  
 Leonard Goldschmidt & Jean Reisman  
 Ellen Raff Peskin & Ben Heschen in honor of Karen Friedman and Judith McCullough for their work on the newsletter  
 Elijah & Ginette Polak  
 Dov Rosenfeld & Catherine Shadd  
 Heidi & Jonathan Wexler

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Lee Bearson & Babbie Freiberg  
 Gloria Beck

Reuvain & Dina Beck for help with *gemilut basadim*  
 Iris Greenbaum & Stephen Knaster  
 Ann Swidler & Claude Fischer in honor of Rabbi Stuart and Vicky Kelman's 40th anniversary  
 Jay Tenenbaum

**Social Action Fund**

Sam Finn for the homeless dinner

**Stephanie Davis Fund**

Gus & Sue Davis

**Youth Education/Love Letters**

Rabbi Marvin Goodman & Deborah Kelman  
 Sandra Gore & Ron Sires  
 Rabbi Stuart & Vicky Kelman  
 Joshua & Jenny Kirsch  
 Claire Max & Jonathan Arons  
 Mark & Sharon Priven

**Gifts of Time, Talent and Trimmings**

Fran Quittel for donating a computer and scanner to the office, and Norm Rosenblatt for testing the equipment and setting up the system

**Welcome to Netivot Shalom's New Business Manager!**

A hearty welcome to Maynard Mendoza, the new business manager at Netivot Shalom! Maynard began here March 7, and he is transforming our financial universe (with immense help from our very wonderful Michael McCullough, Peter Berck, Michael Rosenheimer, Mike Irwin, Joe Meresman, Golda Blum, Michelle Wolfson, Jen Zahigian, Mark Priven, Carol Cunradi, Reuben Greenwald, Norm Rosenblatt, Lisa Schwartz, Andrea Altschuler and Robin Braverman — thank you, thank you, everyone, for your help and support!!). Maynard is still learning all the ropes and would love to meet Netivot Shalom members — so please introduce yourself next time you're in the office. **If you're planning an upcoming fundraising event, please contact Maynard first** — so the financial details can be set up in advance — at 510-549-9447, ext. 111, or [business@netivotshalom.org](mailto:business@netivotshalom.org). Welcome again, Maynard!

— The Office Staff

**Visit us on the web:  
[www.netivotshalom.org](http://www.netivotshalom.org)**

**Enjoy the Party.**

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CUCINA VEGETARIANA ITALIANA

## MAZAL TOV! TO...

**Robert Alter** on receiving a Koret Jewish Book Special Award for his translation and commentary, *The Five Books of Moses*  
**Yael & Peter Biederman-Galinson** on the birth of their daughter, Gabrielle Rachael  
**Linda Blackman** on the engagement of her daughter, Shira Bernstein, to Jordan Gill  
**Mike & Andi Cassidy** on the marriage of their daughter Erica to Dimitri Gartsbeyn, and on the engagement of their daughter Alynn to Ben Perl  
**Carol Cunradi** for training the new *chevra kadisha* of Berkeley's Congregation Beth El  
**Rina Dinin** (teacher in our Religious School) on being elected to Phi Beta Kappa  
**Deb Fink**, our former director of Youth Education, & **Aaron Katler** on the birth of their daughter, Shoshana Ellie Katler  
**Xochy & Marcos Frometa Farin** on their recent wedding in our sister congregation, Hatikva de Santiago de Cuba  
**Robert Jacobvitz**, former member and secretary of the board, on being given a humanitarian award and medal at the commemoration of a Portuguese diplomat who rescued Jews during the Holocaust, at the Museum of the Jewish Heritage in New York City  
**Rabbi Kelman** on having made a presentation about our Tiferet at the National Convention of the Rabbinical Assembly  
**Rose Levenson** for coordinating the recent conference about a role for non-Jews in Conservative congregations — sponsored by Tiferet and the National Federation of Men's Clubs  
**David Winston** on being honored by the Rabbinical Assembly on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary

## WELCOME

To these newest members of Netivot Shalom, *b'ruhim haba'im* — welcome to the shul!

- David Scott Callen and Laura Suciú
- Rabbi Jonathan Omer-Man and Nan Gefen
- Joshua David Rembaum

*Heidi & Jonathan Wexler*

*invite you to share in their simḥah on*

*June 18, 2005*

*11 Sivan 5765*

*Parashat B'ha-alot'kha*

*when their daughter, Ilana,*

*will be called to the Torah*

*as a bat mitzvah.*

*(1316 University Ave.)*

## Explorations in an Ancient Jewish Spiritual Tradition *Mussar Kallah III*

Sponsored by  
the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco

An extraordinary opportunity to experience highly regarded teachers of Mussar, a little-known but ancient Jewish spiritual tradition. Mussar began in the 10th century and became a major movement in 19th century Europe. It offers deep insight into the workings of the soul and a path of practices that refine inner life. Mussar's practical wisdom will help you guide and enrich your own soul's journey.

**Sunday, May 8, 2005**

**9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

**Jewish Community Center  
3200 California St., San Francisco**

**Rabbi Ephraim Baer** of Ohr Somayach, Monsey, NY  
**Rabbi Ephraim Becker**, Israeli Mussar psychologist, author  
**Rabbi Micha Berger**, founder, the AishDas Society  
**Rabbi Yosef Blau**, spiritual supervisor of Yeshiva University  
**Rabbi Hillel Goldberg**, author, *Israel Salanter: Text, Structure, Idea*  
**Rabbi Dr. Meir Levin**, author, *Novarodok*  
**Rabbi Zvi Miller** from Israel, translator, Rabbi Israel Salanter's *Ohr Yisroel*  
**Dr. Alan Morinis** author, *Climbing Jacob's Ladder*

Program Fee: \$65 (includes kosher lunch)

**TO REGISTER** and for info, visit [www.jccsf.org](http://www.jccsf.org) or call the Taube Center at the JCCSF at 415-292-1209, or e-mail [TaubeCenter@jccsf.org](mailto:TaubeCenter@jccsf.org)

## Passover 5765/2005 and MAZON

While Pesah has just passed, it's not too late to join MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger in celebrating a new Passover — *Pesah shel atid* — a **future** time when all who are still shackled by the bonds of poverty, hunger and injustice are truly **free**. *Help make this night different in the future for millions of hungry people in this country and around the world.*

As we recall our Passover feasts, MAZON asks that you once again help it to provide for those whose poverty prevents them from enjoying even decent sustenance. By donating to MAZON what you would have spent to invite one additional person to your *seder* table, you can help fulfill the ancient Passover tradition of allowing "all who are hungry to enter and eat."

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger®  
 Call 310-442-0020; e-mail: [bbergen@mazon.org](mailto:bbergen@mazon.org)  
 Donate on-line at [www.mazon.org](http://www.mazon.org).

## Upcoming B'nei Mitzvah Anniversaries

### May 7: K'doshim

Eliana Polon

### May 14: Emor

Max Blum

Evan Brody

Talia Geliebter

### May 21: Be'har

Ariel Jacobvitz

Mia Levin

Kira Walt McCroden

### June 11: Naso

Daniel Goldman

Anya Grossman

Naveh Inbal

Jeremy Lyon

### Jun 25: Sh'lah L'kha

Rebecca Lee

Danielle Levy-Wolins

Philipp Miller

Michella Matt

Shaina Rappaport

Mya Sendowkski

### June 4: B'midbar

Asher Cohen

Michael Simler

## Oakland A's Tailgate/Baseball Fundraisers

Netivot Shalom's fabulous Take-Me-Out-to-the-Ballgame fundraisers are back!

**#1** A's vs. NY Yankees — Sunday, May 15,

1:00 p.m. — Coliseum

**#2** A's vs. SF Giants — Sunday, June 26,

1:00 p.m. — Coliseum

**Cost:** Adults \$25; kids 2–15 \$13.00; under 2 free (no seat)

**Prepayment required.** Make checks out to Netivot Shalom; mail checks to Scott Adams, P.O. Box 411411, S.F., CA 94141. Tickets will be mailed to you. Specify game(s), # of adults/kids tickets, need for disabled access seat(s). Includes kosher meat/veggie hot dog BBQ

**Tailgate: 10:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

**Tailgate location:** NW corner of parking lot, near canal and power towers, just to right of 66th Street entrance. On-site cell: 510-612-8733

Don't miss the "best Netivot events of the year." Don't wait — order today, limited seating, only 100 tickets per game.

**Contact:** Scott Adams, 415-648-3488, scottad@majoronet.com

NETIVOT SHALOM IS HAVING  
A KITCHEN SHOWER  
To outfit our new kitchen



SUNDAY, MAY 22

1:00–4:00 PM

IN OUR NEW BUILDING,  
1316 University Ave.

GIFTS or CASH CONTRIBUTIONS  
are MOST WELCOME.

We are registered at Club Wedd at Target.com:

1<sup>st</sup> participant - Congregation

2<sup>nd</sup> participant - Netivot Shalom

Or you can send a check to the shul office and we'll do the shopping, wrap and bring your gift to the shower. (There will be a mailing describing some of the larger items we need.)

PLEASE BRING DAIRY or PARVE POTLUCK  
FOOD to SHARE

and

A FAMILY RECIPE WITH A SPECIAL STORY

(See article on page 3)

Please observe our new kashrut policy  
by using hekhshered ingredients only.

*Jenny Schwartz Groody & Barry Groody*

*invite you to share in their simhah on*

*June 25, 2005*

*18 Sivan 5765*

*Parashat Sh'lah L'kha*

*when their daughter, **Hannah,***

*will be called to the Torah*

*as a bat mitzvah.*

*(1316 University Ave.)*

# May 2005

# Nisan-Iyar 5765

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 22 Nisan Omer:7 <b>8th Day of Pesah</b> 9:45 am Passover Services & Yizkor at Netivot Shalom office, 1841 Berkeley Way 9:11 pm Havdalah	<b>2</b> 23 Nisan Omer:8 Religious 4:00 pm School, Lower East Side Culture Day for all kids K-6	<b>3</b> 24 Nisan Omer:9 Amitim 4:00 pm Community 8:00 pm Yom ha-Shoah, at Temple Sinai	<b>4</b> 25 Nisan Omer:10 Morning minyan 4:00 pm Religious School 7:00 pm Naomi Seidman, "The Face of the Other: Levinas" 7:00 pm Bio-ethics & Judaism, R. Seidenberg at Chochmat HaLev 7:30 pm Jan Fischer, Torah trope	<b>5</b> 26 Nisan Omer:11 5:00 pm Beg. Hebrew, Robin Braverman by appt. 7:00 pm Talmud, R. Seidenberg	<b>6</b> 27 Nisan Omer:12 <b>Yom ha-Shoah</b> 7:46 pm Candle lighting	<b>7</b> 28 Nisan Omer:13 Parashat K'doshim Torah study, Robert Alter Shabbat services, Betzalel Massarano called to the Torah as a <i>bat mitzvah</i> 10:30 am Youth Shabbat program Time TBA Pirkei Avot discussion group, contact Robin Braverman for details 9:17 pm Havdalah
<b>8</b> 29 Nisan Omer:14 Minyan 9:30 am R. Kelman, <i>Kibbud av v'iam</i> , Honoring one's parents <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>	<b>9</b> 30 Nisan Omer:15 <b>Rosh Hodesh Iyar</b> 7:15 minyan 4:00 pm Religious School 7:00 pm Rosh Hodesh group seder	<b>10</b> 1 Iyar Omer:16 <b>Rosh Hodesh Iyar</b> 4:00 pm Amitim	<b>11</b> 2 Iyar Omer:17 <b>Yom ha-Zikaron</b> 7:15 am Morning minyan 4:00 pm Last day Religious School grades 1-2 7:00 pm Naomi Seidman, Levinas 7:00 pm Bio-ethics & Judaism, R. Seidenberg at Chochmat HaLev 7:30 pm Jan Fischer, Torah trope	<b>12</b> 3 Iyar Omer:18 <b>Yom ha-Atzmaut</b> (Israel Independence Day, observed) 7:15 am Shabbarit minyan 5:00 pm Beg. Hebrew, by appt. 7:00 pm Talmud, R. Seidenberg	<b>13</b> 4 Iyar Omer:19 9:00 am 9:45 am the Torah as a <i>bat mitzvah</i> 10:30 am Last Youth Shabbat program K-6 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad Time TBA Pirkei Avot, contact Robin Braverman 9:23 pm Havdalah	<b>14</b> 5 Iyar Omer:20 Parashat Emor Torah study, Nitzhia Shaked Shabbat services, Benjamin Lee called to the Torah as a <i>bat mitzvah</i> Last Youth Shabbat program K-6 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad Time TBA Pirkei Avot, contact Robin Braverman 9:23 pm Havdalah
<b>15</b> 6 Iyar Omer:21 Amitim, at Michelle's home 10:00 am Exec. Comm. 10:30 am "Come Talk of Love," at the BRICC 10:30 am Oakland A's tailgate fundraiser (A's vs. Yankees, game at 1:00 pm) 7:00 pm Ritual Comm.	<b>16</b> 7 Iyar Omer:22 Last day Religious School grades 3-6	<b>17</b> 8 Iyar Omer:23 Last day Amitim 4:00 pm Amitim	<b>18</b> 9 Iyar Omer:24 Morning minyan 4:00 pm Religious School parent-teacher conferences 7:00 pm Naomi Seidman, Levinas 7:00 pm Bio-ethics & Judaism, R. David Seidenberg at Chochmat HaLev 7:30 pm Jan Fischer, Torah trope	<b>19</b> 10 Iyar Omer:25 5:00 pm Beg. Hebrew, by appt. 7:00 pm Talmud, R. Seidenberg	<b>20</b> 11 Iyar Omer:26 Candle lighting 7:52 pm	<b>21</b> 12 Iyar Omer:27 Parashat Be'har Torah study, Stephen Tobias Shabbat services, Elana Cohen called to the Torah as a <i>bat mitzvah</i> 9:30 am Meditative minyan Time TBA Pirkei Avot, contact Robin Braverman 9:29 pm Havdalah
<b>22</b> 13 Iyar Omer:28 Board meeting 9:30 am Minyan 10:30 am Gene Bardach on Sri Lanka tsunami relief 1:00 pm Kitchen shower, new building <b>MOVING DAY!</b> <i>All members needed all day!</i>	<b>23</b> 14 Iyar Omer:29 <b>Pesah Sheini</b> 5:00 pm Beg. Hebrew, by appt. 7:00 pm How to lead kabbalat Shabbat services 7:00 pm Liturgy Tools (rerun)	<b>24</b> 15 Iyar Omer:30 7:15 am Morning minyan 7:00 pm Naomi Seidman, Levinas 7:00 pm Bio-ethics & Judaism, R. Seidenberg at Chochmat HaLev 7:30 pm Jan Fischer, Torah trope	<b>25</b> 16 Iyar Omer:31 Morning minyan 7:00 pm Naomi Seidman, Levinas 7:00 pm Bio-ethics & Judaism, R. Seidenberg at Chochmat HaLev 7:30 pm Jan Fischer, Torah trope	<b>26</b> 17 Iyar Omer:32 7:00 pm Talmud, R. Seidenberg	<b>27</b> 18 Iyar Omer:33 <b>Lag B'Omer</b> <b>SHUL RETREAT</b> 8:04 pm Candle lighting	<b>28</b> 19 Iyar Omer:34 <b>SHUL RETREAT</b> Parashat B'ukkotai Torah study, Nitzhia Shaked Shabbat services <b>No Shabbat B'Yachad</b> Pirkei Avot, contact Robin Braverman 9:34 pm Havdalah
<b>29</b> 20 Iyar Omer:35 <b>BRICC MOVE</b> <b>SHUL RETREAT</b>	<b>30</b> 21 Iyar Omer:36 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	<b>31</b> 22 Iyar Omer:37 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All May Saturday events are at the BRJCC. For the first three weeks of May weekday events are at the Netivot Shalom offices unless otherwise noted.</li> <li>• Office closed May 23-31; see weekly announcements for class locations. May 16-20 office open ONLY for classes and emergencies.</li> <li>• All June Shabbat and weekday events are at the NEW Netivot Shalom building unless otherwise noted. Subject to construction, acts of HaShem, and the City of Berkeley.</li> </ul>			



# June 2005

# Iyar-Sivan 5765

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>5</b> 27 Iyar Omer:42  7:00 pm Ritual Comm.	<b>6</b> 28 Iyar Omer:43  <b>Yom Yerushalayim</b>	<b>7</b> 29 Iyar Omer:44  7:00 pm "Spiritual Questions, Rabbinic Answers: <i>Sh'ina</i> & <i>V'ahava</i> ," Michelle Wolfson at Chochmat HaLev	<b>8</b> 1 Sivan <b>Rosh Hodesh Sivan</b> 7:15 am Rosh Hodesh minyan 7:00 pm Rosh Hodesh group 7:00 pm Bio-ethics & Judaism, R. Seidenberg, at Chochmat HaLev 7:30 pm Jan Fischer, Torah trope	<b>9</b> 2 Sivan Omer:46  5:00 pm Beg. Hebrew, by appt.  7:00 pm Talmud, R. Seidenberg	<b>10</b> 3 Sivan Omer:47  6:00 pm Family Kabbalat Shabbat dinner 7:00 pm Family Kabbalat Shabbat service 8:12 pm Candle lighting	<b>11</b> 4 Sivan Omer:48  Parashat Naso Torah study, Nitzhia Shaked Shabbat services SBY Shabbat, shul-wide celebration Pirkei Avot, contact Robin Braverman  Havdalah
<b>12</b> 5 Sivan Omer:49 <b>Erev Shavuot</b> 9:30 am Minyan 10:30 am R. Kelman on Talmud 10:00 am Exec. Comm.	<b>13</b> 6 Sivan  <b>Shavuot I</b> 9:45 am Shavuot services at 1316 University Ave.  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>14</b> 7 Sivan  <b>Shavuot II</b> 9:45 am Shavuot services at 1316 University Ave.  9:44 pm Havdalah <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>15</b> 8 Sivan  7:15 am Morning minyan	<b>16</b> 9 Sivan	<b>17</b> 10 Sivan	<b>18</b> 11 Sivan  Parashat B'ha-alot'kha Torah study, Gershon Cox Meditative minyan Shabbat services, Ilana Wexler called to the Torah as a <i>bat mitzvah</i>  Havdalah
<b>19</b> 12 Sivan  7:30 pm Ari Goldman, Sam Freedman, "Honoring Our Parents: Two Jewish Sons Remember"  FATHER'S DAY	<b>20</b> 13 Sivan  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>21</b> 14 Sivan  7:00 pm Spiritual Questions, Michelle Wolfson at Chochmat HaLev	<b>22</b> 15 Sivan  7:15 am Morning minyan	<b>23</b> 16 Sivan	<b>24</b> 17 Sivan  8:15 pm Candle lighting	<b>25</b> 18 Sivan  Parashat Sh'lah L'kha Torah study, Nitzhia Shaked Shabbat services, Hannah Groody called to the Torah as a <i>bat mitzvah</i> 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad  Havdalah
<b>26</b> 19 Sivan  9:30 am Board meeting 9:30 am Minyan 10:30 am Speaker TBA 10:30 am Oakland A's tailgate fundraiser (A's vs. Giants, game at 1:00 pm)	<b>27</b> 20 Sivan	<b>28</b> 21 Sivan  7:00 pm Spiritual Questions, Michelle Wolfson at Chochmat HaLev	<b>29</b> 22 Sivan  7:15 am Morning minyan	<b>30</b> 23 Sivan	<b>3</b> 25 Iyar Omer:40 4:30 pm <b>Torah Procession from BRICC to New Bldg.</b> 5:30 pm <b>Hanukat ha-Bayit &amp; Kabbalat Shabbat</b> 8:08 pm Candle lighting	<b>4</b> 26 Iyar Omer:41  Parashat B'midbar Torah study, Fabrice Habelski  9:00 am-9:30 pm <b>Hanukat ha-Bayit &amp; services</b>  Havdalah

# Yahrzeits

*Zichronam l'verakbah* —  
May their memories be for a blessing

Ethel Wilonsky	22 Nisan	May 1	Samuel Raphael	21 Iyar	May 30
Herman (Hy) Gold	22 Nisan	May 1	Alfred Gessow	21 Iyar	May 30
Max Jacobson	22 Nisan	May 1	Fred Chait	23 Iyar	June 1
Max Slavin	23 Nisan	May 2	Rose Schneider	24 Iyar	June 2
Marian Wagner	24 Nisan	May 3	Sam Spiegler	24 Iyar	June 2
Abraham Jacob Tolmach	24 Nisan	May 3	Joseph Leighton	25 Iyar	June 3
Morton Quittel	24 Nisan	May 3	Samuel Zetcher	25 Iyar	June 3
Rose Feige Kaplan	24 Nisan	May 3	Walter Wise	25 Iyar	June 3
Ursula Sherman	25 Nissan	May 4	Ruchel Burack	26 Iyar	June 4
Rabbi Samuel Haim Dresner	25 Nisan	May 4	Johanna Gans	26 Iyar	June 4
<i>HaRav Shmuel Chaim ben Yebudah v'Malka</i>			Ada Wisch	26 Iyar	June 4
Joseph C. Swidler	25 Nisan	May 4	Steve Platt	27 Iyar	June 5
Leah Jacobson Reingold	26 Nisan	May 5	Doris Wachs	27 Iyar	June 5
William Schwartz	26 Nisan	May 5	William Jurdem	28 Iyar	June 6
<i>Rafael ben Avraham v'Esther</i>			Lee Wood	28 Iyar	June 6
Sarah Ruth Bat Avraham	27 Nisan	May 6	Sybil Rosenblum	29 Iyar	June 7
Frieda Valfer	27 Nisan	May 6	Albert Lepawsky	1 Sivan	June 8
Hermann Valfer	27 Nisan	May 6	Tova Simler	1 Sivan	June 8
Maurice Strauss	27 Nisan	May 6	Abe Levin	1 Sivan	June 8
Sol Gidal	2 Iyar	May 11	Sidney Greenstein	2 Sivan	June 9
Harry Greif	2 Iyar	May 11	George Joseph Ring	6 Sivan	June 13
Hermine Rosin	5 Iyar	May 14	Israel Kunofsky	6 Sivan	June 13
Anna Z. Phillipson	6 Iyar	May 15	Max (Mordechai) Samuely	7 Sivan	June 14
Pheobe Constance Starfield Gozan	7 Iyar	May 16	Bessie Markowitz	7 Sivan	June 14
Celia Ruth Tolmach	9 Iyar	May 18	Harry Phillipson	9 Sivan	June 16
Kurt Irwin	9 Iyar	May 18	Max L. Spiegel	10 Sivan	June 17
Joan Kabatznick	12 Iyar	May 21	John Ginter	10 Sivan	June 20
Lawrence (Bud) Simon	13 Iyar	May 22	Edith Netreba Marcus	13 Sivan	June 20
Joseph Berck	13 Iyar	May 22	Morris Shorer	14 Sivan	June 21
Leonard Kudisch	13 Iyar	May 22	Fanny Klatt	15 Sivan	June 22
Bernard Abraham Klar	14 Iyar	May 23	Jeanne Jacobson	15 Sivan	June 22
Ann Cordes	14 Iyar	May 23	Jennie Gottlieb	16 Sivan	June 23
Philip Ruby	14 Iyar	May 23	Deborah Rachel Kramer-Shalev	17 Sivan	June 24
Braina Gittle Yaffey	14 Iyar	May 23	Rina Bruchiel	17 Sivan	June 24
Robert Yaffey	14 Iyar	May 23	George (Gershom) Klett	18 Sivan	June 25
<i>Moshe Reuven ben Zalman Leib</i>	15 Iyar	May 24	Lillian Cohen	19 Sivan	June 26
<i>v'Rachel Leah</i>			Abram Gurian	19 Sivan	June 26
Victoria Koty	15 Iyar	May 24	Ethel Kathryn Walzer Baron	20 Sivan	June 27
Goldie Bardach	16 Iyar	May 25	Elizabeth Bernbaum	20 Sivan	June 27
Harry Edelstone	19 Iyar	May 28	Chaim Klatt	21 Sivan	June 28
Carl Lobell	19 Iyar	May 28	Rivka Hanover	22 Sivan	June 29
Rita Wexler	19 Iyar	May 28	Richard Balk	23 Sivan	June 30
Laura Rudorfer	21 Iyar	May 30	Raymond Richman	23 Sivan	June 30

## We Extend Our Condolences to



- **Marcia Brooks** on the death of her mother, Florence Bernstein, ז"ל
- **The family of Laurette Goldberg**, ז"ל
- **Lee Feinstein** on the death of her father, Irwin Inman, ז"ל
- **Yael (Liz) Meyer**, a former congregant now living in Israel, on the death of her father, Ruben Meyer, ז"ל
- **Barbara Rothblatt**, a former congregant, on the death of her mother, Anne Goor, ז"ל



## Congregation Netivot Shalom

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Unless otherwise noted,  
telephone numbers are  
in the 510 area code.



NON-PROFIT RATE

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BERKELEY, CA

PERMIT NO. 106

Congregation

# Netivot Shalom

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## The Chicken Soup Committee: Top 10 Infrequently Asked Questions

By Stephen Tobias & Alice Webber,  
Co-coordinators, Gemilut Chasadim

1. What do *gemilut chasadim* co-coordinators do?

A: We organize meals for congregants in times of illness or bereavement.

2. Why are there co-coordinators?

A: This is a great job for a couple: when a need arises, whichever of us isn't swamped at work can take it on. Or whoever learns of the case first can promise that the other will handle it.

3. How did you two get involved?

A: The previous incumbent, Lee Feinstein, appealed for a successor. Stephen thought the work would contribute to his spiritual growth. Alice just thought Lee deserved a break.

4. What's the most enjoyable part of your job?

A: Finding out who has a *kosher* kitchen and who doesn't. No, seriously: basking in well-deserved gratitude.

5. What's the hardest part of your job?

A: Organizing *shivah* meals when the family is out of town for the funeral.

6. Whom do you report to?

A: For *shivah* meals, the *chevra kadisha* coordinator gives us instructions. In other situations, we freelance.

7. What's your M.O.?

A: Like Lee before us, we don't rely on a group of designated volunteers, but recruit from the congregation at large. Unlike Lee, we work mainly by e-mail, usually starting with neighbors.

8. What's been your most memorable experience?

A: Once, during our first year, we became close enough to the sick person and family — whom we hadn't known before the illness — to have our hearts opened wide, then broken.

9. How much longer do you plan to be doing this?

A: Until Shavuot (June 13), or until a successor comes forward, whichever comes first.

10. Shall I/we volunteer to be the next *gemilut chasadim* coordinator(s)?

A: Interested? Call us at 510-654-4561 or e-mail [gemilut22@earthlink.net](mailto:gemilut22@earthlink.net) if you'd like to know more.

## SHABBAT AND KASHRUT (continued from page 2)

outside. But others from outside our congregation will also wish to use our facility, and we have yet to evolve one consistent policy.

While we will rewrite our document to be consistent with our new facility, we will change one piece of our current policy. Until now, we have said that the reading of ingredients on labels on processed products has been an adequate criterion of *kashrut*. As we enter our new facility, all processed products will need to have a recognized *bekhsber* (a symbol rabbinic certification). While many foods, such as fruits and vegetables, do not need a *bekhsber*, all commercially produced foods brought into our new shul will require one; this certifies that the facility manufacturing the product is under supervision of a rabbi who attests to the product's *kashrut*. We will provide a list of those products that do and do not require a *bekhsber* as well as a list of approved certifications.

The reasons for this change come also from Conservative rabbinic colleagues who serve as *mashgijim* (*kashrut* supervisors). They report that federal regulations do not require that all labels be ingredient-labeled, and some equipment used by major companies is not "koshered" before new food is processed in it. To ensure the *kashrut* of our synagogue by Conservative movement standards, all processed foods will need a *bekhsber*. A new *kashrut* policy paper is in preparation and will be ready shortly. As always, the Ritual Committee, the *kiddush* coordinators and I are ready to assist. ❧