



Congregation Netivot Shalom

July-August 2005
Sivan-Tammuz-Av
5765

Vol. 16, No. 6

We're Home!

FROM THE RABBI Name That Room!!!

By Rabbi Stuart Kelman

If you say or read or study the prayer *ma tovu*, you'll discover that there are four synonyms for the sacred space where the people of Israel met God: *obel* (tent), *mishkan* (dwelling place), *bayit* (home) and *heykhal* (palace) — in that order. Four nouns, each of which describes this meeting place where the *shekbinah* and the people met. These four nouns are in historical order — with *obel* being the first and the *heykhal* being the last in time. Traditionally, *ma tovu* is said when crossing the threshold to enter into shul. At that precise moment, one engages with all of Jewish history — with all the places where God met the people. How wonderful it is to be the next link in this chain of experience. Our sanctuary becomes the next place in this historical chain. So when we say *ma tovu* as we cross the threshold, we remember all those other places and people who have crossed thresholds in other sacred settings — from the time of Moses till today.

The “Bull Pen”

We go from the outside world into the world of the sacred, from *khol* to *kodesh*. Transitions are usually quite difficult, and this one is no exception. So when I began to discuss with our architects the design of our sanctuary, I asked them to take the idea of transition into account — and to design what I have been calling the “bull pen.” While I really do want you to help select another name for this interior foyer, I am delighted to report that the room does exist. So when you walk through our front doors, you'll find yourself in the outside foyer. This is the place to chat, to say hello, to be greeted, to wipe your feet in rainy weather, to take announcements, to put on a head covering, to take a *talit* and to engage in other similar activities.

As you walk through the next set of doors, you'll find yourself in the bull pen. I apologize for using the term, but I really believe that its function is to be a place to warm up spiritually and emotionally much the same way

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FROM THE PRESIDENT Peak Experiences

By Carol Cunradi

Netivot Shalom Goes on Retreat

It seems that after a particularly momentous occasion, such as a joyous family *simhab*, one spends the following weeks or even months pondering the event. That is how I've been feeling since the incredibly successful Netivot Shalom Memorial Day weekend retreat at Camp Newman in Santa Rosa, and the awesome *hanukat ha-bayit* for our new building held during the first weekend in June.

I think it's fair to say that the Camp Newman retreat far exceeded expectations. Upon arrival, we were greeted by friendly staff helping us to check in. And in case we were hungry, there were lots of great snack foods, drinks and even “goody bags” filled with munchies. We were led by Rabbi Daniel Kohn in a beautiful outdoor kabbalat Shabbat service, and then feasted on a delicious *erev* Shabbat meal. After breakfast the next morning, there were a variety of text study and Shabbat services to choose from. Jim and I went to the family service for parents with school-aged kids. Susan Stanfield and Michelle Wolfson did an outstanding job of leading the service. The rest of the day included many opportunities for prayer, study, socializing or simply restful down time relaxing by the pool. The day concluded with an outdoor havdalah under the stars, and — what else? — songs around the campfire, complete with s'mores.

There were many other great activities during the weekend, including nature walks led by Jenny Kibrick-Kirsch, an art project led by Nancy Katz, and a poetry workshop led by Carol Dorf. But for me, the sum was greater than its parts. Being at the retreat provided those of us in attendance with the opportunity to spend Shabbat together, have fun, socialize, get to know each other better, and just enjoy the sunshine and warm weather. We are all indebted to our fabulous “camp director,” Dan Siegel, for pulling this together!

Our Hanuka ha-Bayit!

I don't think any of us that were at the *hanukat ha-bayit* are likely to forget the incredible events that occurred over our 25-hour Shabbat celebration. When was the last time we had a police escort — as we

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we warm up when we exercise or get ready to play ball. It is a place to take a *siddur* and *humash*, and to pause before you cross that threshold to enter into our sanctuary. It is a place to center yourself — perhaps by meditating for a moment, by closing your eyes, by taking some deep breaths, by whispering (if you need to talk), by reading some preliminary prayers or other appropriate material, or to catch up to where the congregation is. It is a hushed atmosphere — and one in which we need to respect the privacy and quiet of the room and of each other. Over time, I would like to hear about your experiences as you pause before you cross the threshold. The lighting is subdued, the shelves and colors are warm and inviting. On the left wall will eventually be *yahrzeit* plaques in memory of those whom we wish to remember. Let me know what else we might provide to help make this area a unique feature of our shul.

And, yes, please help me rename it! ❧

The following proclamation was presented at our hanukat ha-bayit by a representative of the mayor of Berkeley.

**PROCLAMATION
CONGREGATION
NETIVOT SHALOM**

Whereas Congregation Netivot Shalom, Berkeley’s Conservative congregation, has been in existence since 1989, and

Whereas Congregation Netivot Shalom serves more than 350 households and has a national reputation of innovation in liturgy, congregational and community involvement, and

Whereas Congregation Netivot Shalom has now established a home on University Avenue,

Therefore, be it resolved that I, Tom Bates, Mayor of the city of Berkeley and on behalf of all its residents, do hereby welcome Congregation Netivot Shalom to its first permanent home and offer congratulations and wishes of success to all its members. We look forward to the involvement of the congregation with other institutions in our city and to contributing to the enhancement of the quality of life in the East Bay.

paraded down Hearst with our Torah scrolls? The images that I still have are of hundreds of happy, smiling congregants and guests mingling in the courtyards; musicians playing as young and old danced the *horah*; our Capital Campaign leaders affixing the *mezuzah* to the front door; our Torah scrolls being carried in by our past presidents as hundreds watched; and hearing the beautiful singing fill the sanctuary.

A peak experience for me was getting to stand in front of the congregation to thank our architects and designers, Blair Prentice and David Finn, while they were greeted with an outpouring of love, appreciation and a standing ovation. Publicly acknowledging Joe Meresman, along with the Site Work Group he chaired, was also a high point.

There were so many firsts that weekend: our first kabbalat Shabbat service in our new home; our first *kiddush*; our first Shabbat morning service the next day... I would like to paraphrase congregant Dean Kertesz, who remarked that we should always remember these moments; they will inspire us, and remind us that nothing we set our collective minds to do is impossible.

Finally, I want to offer a sincere *yasher koach* to the *hanukat ha-bayit* planning committee: Carla Cassler, Denise Moyes-Schnur, Vicky Kelman and Hannah Dresner. Their planning and hard work truly made our celebration spectacular. ❧



NETIVOT SHALOM NEWSLETTER

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Please submit copy to newsletter@netivotshalom.org. Copy may be edited for accuracy, clarity, length and language, including adherence to grammatical and stylistic consistency. Photos should be digital, if possible, in highest possible resolution; e-mail to david@radwin.org, and provide names of people in each photo.

Issue	Deadline
September/October	July 22, 2005

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



The clear windows in the sanctuary are designed not only to let in light but to allow congregants to see out into the world as well.



Four Very Important Persons, (from left) Site Work Group chair Joe Meresman, architect Blair Prentice, architect David Finn and Rabbi Stuart Kelman, survey progress on construction. Above them, Jeff Rosenbloom installs part of the trellis.



Ed Anisman, Bruce Starkman and architect Blair Prentice (left to right) test out the new chairs in the sanctuary.

More photos on pages 12–13

Report from the Board

By Deborah Yager, Board Secretary

During April and May, the board focused on the move into our new building and how to use the vibrant energy of this milestone to propel us forward as a welcoming, inclusive, fiscally responsible congregation, where more people can live fuller, more committed Jewish lives.

April 17, 2005, board meeting:

- Pauline Moreno was appointed to work with former **Pulpit Committee** members to draft a document relating to the roles of the rabbi, committees, congregants and staff in a participatory congregation.
- **Kitchen design** issues were resolved amicably. We will keep the equipment that didn't originally fit in the room and a wall will be moved. The cost of moving the wall is approximately the same as the cost of returning and replacing the equipment.
- The first **building rental** will be to the Mussar Institute, which wants to hold classes in the fall. Michael McCullough is negotiating a general use policy.
- Dan Handwerker is working with Art Braufman on the **rabbi selection** process with the pre-search committee.
- **Hanukat ha-bayit**: The Torah procession is being organized by Shelly Ball and Nancy Facher. At the site, *simbab* dancing will be led by Yonit Levy-Wollins and the klezmer band Captain Zohar will play. Kabbalat Shabbat services will be followed by a catered dinner.
- **Fundraising**: Art Braufman identified Laurie Zell and Andrea Altschuler for the Purim Ball next year. We need a third person. The event will be either a silent auction or a service auction close to Purim.
- **Strategic planning**: Ken Schnur reported that the current focus is on welcoming new members. There was a strong sentiment that marketing is a key issue.
- Rabbi Kelman co-authored two chapters in the book *Jewish Relational Care A-Z*. One chapter includes the **role of non-Jews** in the community.
- **Kashrut policy**: We are moving from ingredient kosher to *hekbsher* kosher on all manufactured products that traditionally need a *hekbsher*. "K" alone is not an acceptable *hekbsher*. No meat products will be allowed (dairy/*parve* only). Food can still be brought in from kosher homes. *Kashrut* is based on a trust system. There is a current policy for cooking brought in from non-kosher homes. This becomes a bigger issue with outside groups. The kitchen will need to be locked and only certain people can have access. Certain caterers and bakeries will no longer be allowed access to the kitchen.

There needs to be a practical guide for where to buy specific things and what brands are known to be kosher.

- The opening **Shabbat service** will start at 9:30 a.m. We need to discuss whether that should be the permanent start time. Rabbi Kelman wants services to end closer to noon than 12:45 p.m. An earlier start would fit into the new scheme of block times for multiple options during each part of the service.
- **Three budget projections** were presented: (1) a 4 percent dues and expenses increase; (2) same percent increase and 10 new members (3 percent membership increase); and (3) the above increases and another \$20,000 of fundraising.
- Last year, a \$550 **building fund assessment** was announced during the vote to move forward with the building. This assessment was slated to begin in July 2006. The next building fundraising drive is in two years and things are currently very tight. It may be necessary to begin collecting an assessment much earlier. We are considering a \$600 building assessment that would begin as early as next fall. This is in addition to building fund pledges. If people pay building capital contributions in proportion to what they pay in dues, Netivot Shalom will make the building expense payments. If two-thirds of households pay the full \$600 building assessment, we'll be OK. Even a modest number of new members can balance many of the tight parts of the budget.
- Concern was expressed about the overlap of **building fund pledges and building assessments**. Beth El lost members because of this. It was noted that when people signed up for their building fund pledges they were told that they wouldn't pay an assessment while they are paying their pledge; some people also pledged to extend their donations by an extra year. However, we currently have no choice but to reexamine this and work with the Building Committee to determine how best to work with the donors.
- The **building-cost numbers** might be a bit flexible. Heating, electricity and cleaning might all be over-estimated. For example, a current calculation includes three days/week of janitorial service for every room in the building. Also, rental income is currently set to \$0. Rental income can balance some of the budget.

May 22, 2005, board meeting:

- Joe Meresman presented a draft report prepared by the **Strategic Planning Committee**. The draft has no data, but it does represent the efforts of a cross-section of our congregation who thought hard about what was needed. A more complete report will follow. With one exception, nothing in the report had the unanimous support of the strategic planning group.
- A fundamental question to be answered was whether the **planning approach** should be mission-driven or

business-driven. The group decided to find ways for one approach to support the other so as not to have to choose between the two. There are many references in Torah about money and how we should talk freely without shame or guilt.



The first board meeting in our new building, April 2005.

- A goal is to tie the energy of entering our new building to things we can do now to start a course of **fiscal development** and responsibility. Our dues structure is one place to start.
- Netivot Shalom is a somewhat insular community, making it difficult for new members to become a part of the community. How do we engage people who are not members? How do we keep the members we have? The approach needs to be plan-driven and more businesslike, with the mission of more people living fuller, more committed Jewish lives.
- A **Membership Marketing Committee** is recommended, chaired by Marshall Platt, with Laurie Suciu, Mary Lukanuski and Melissa Mednick as members. This committee would develop a membership acquisition plan.
- We need to commit ourselves as a community to being more **welcoming** and inclusive. Several recommendations were presented for accomplishing this goal. Project Welcome will come and do a free training.
- We cannot have a **preschool** at our new building site due to licensing issues.
- **Leasing our building** is one way of getting people in the building. The goal is to connect people. Money is not the driving factor. This will have staffing implications that must be addressed.
- Joan Bradus and Dale Friedman generously donated 250 new "**Slim Shaloms**," *Sim Shalom siddurim* for Shabbat only. "If you move into a new house, you don't want to bring your old dishes." Josh Kirsch is working on a transliteration of the Hebrew text.
- Rabbi Kelman purchased 350 new **birkat ha-mazon booklets** from his discretionary fund.
- Rose Levinson is coordinating a **DVD documentary** of the June 3 *hanukkat ha-bayit* celebration. There will be a booklet with all births, *b'nei mitzvah*, Midrasha graduates, weddings and deaths in the life of the congregation.
- Rabbi Kelman and Carol Cunradi will travel on June 5 to a **Chevra Kadisha conference** to lead a workshop.
- There will be no **Yamim Nora'im services** in our new building. The Ritual Committee couldn't figure out how to make it work. There will still be two Ashkenazi and one Sephardi kol nidrei services. We are one of eight test sites for a new *mabzor* with more common *t'fillah* translations and transliterations.
- The Berkeley Adult School has generously offered the use of their **parking** lot (about 100 spaces) on Shabbat mornings.
- It is recommended that we call the annual building assessments "annual building capital contributions."
- After considerable discussion about whether to raise **dues levels**, given that the building capital contributions will likely start in the next fiscal year, the following motion was made: **Board authorizes that dues for FY 2005–6 be kept at current levels for renewing members. Passed 6-1-0.** ☸

Ritual Committee Report

By Glenn Massarano, Chair, Ritual Committee

Here are some of the items that the Ritual Committee has been discussing during the past few months:

- Deborah Lobel resigned her post as ritual coordinator. Peg Sandel has agreed to take on this task (again) and will have started by the time you get this newsletter. I want to thank Deborah for all her efforts in what is often a thankless job. When things go well, we don't always notice. Thank you, Deborah. In contacting the ritual coordinator, please continue to use the general e-mail address (rituals@netivotshalom.org). Your e-mail will get to the correct person.
- As part of the regular seasonal activities, we continued to prepare for Shavuot and Tishah b-Av. We also have begun organizing the Yamim Nora'im services. The same people that organized services last year will continue this year, including Lee Feinstein (daveners), Eric Seder (*d'rashot*) and Glenn Massarano (Torah/haftarah readers and *gabbai'im*). Deborah Lobel will continue to provide overall organizational leadership and will help coordinate the transition of this job to a new person.
- The rabbi discussed revisions to the draft of the *kasbrut* policy.
- The committee is updating the database of the Hebrew names of everyone in the congregation. You should be getting a call soon from a member of the committee, if you haven't heard from us already, to confirm your Hebrew name for our database. This database becomes the "rolodex" that *gabbai'im* use to call up people for an *aliyah*. If you have not been contacted by the end of the summer, please feel free to contact me to make sure you are included.
- The committee participated in the organization of the dedication Shabbat.
- We discussed the dedication Shabbat and how well it went. We'd like to continue to build on that experience. Look for new and continuing activities! If you have thoughts or ideas about what worked, why, and how we should continue these activities, please contact me.
- The committee agreed to move the starting time for services to 9:30 a.m. in an effort to end a bit earlier. (We did not decide to lengthen services!) This change will take affect beginning August 6.

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 (gmassarano@alumni.ucsd.edu). ☺

Technology and Torah: Expanding Opportunities for Learning

By Robin Braverman, Chair, Adult Education

Picture this; it really happened.

Ron Sires and Sandra Gore, who have been studying Talmud all year in our Adult Education class with Rabbi David Seidenberg, are driving to Los Angeles. It's a Thursday night. Turns out they have this seven-hour drive during the time they would otherwise have been at Talmud class.

They didn't miss class.

At Ron and Sandra's request, Stephen Tobias, Adult Education coordinator for Talmud study this year, arranged for a speaker phone, and Ron and Sandra were patched in through a hands-free cell phone in the car, participating fully in the class as they drove.

Not a bad way to use two of those seven hours.

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Shabbat Morning Services — New Starting Time!

Beginning August 6, Shabbat morning services will begin at **9:30 a.m.** (with the exception of September 3, when we will start at 9:45 a.m.).

Netivot Shalom's New Kashrut Policy

We have a new *kasbrut* policy for congregants bringing food into our building. We also have a catering and restaurant guide of kosher restaurants and caterers that comply with our synagogue's *kasbrut* standards. **Both the new policy and the guide are available from the office or on our Web site.**

Wanted: Congregants willing to assist people with *kasbrut* and our kitchen.

Technology, cont.

They reported that it made the trip far less boring.

I am sure the idea occurred to Ron and Sandra because of another similar technological innovation that we utilized this year. At least twice this year Rabbi Seidenberg, who is temporarily residing in Los Angeles so his significant other can finish rabbinical school, was unable to come up for classes. Instead of canceling classes, we patched him in by speaker phone and the class went on as scheduled.

I'll admit I was skeptical at first at this idea of tele-commuting for Adult Education classes, but you know, it really did work out very well. And it got me thinking about what more we can do to have technology help us facilitate adults learning Torah.

Several other members of our community, following up on the Mussar program we presented at S'lichot last year, joined Alan Moranis' distance-learning class on Mussar. This is a six-month, on-line learning program that is supplemented by *hevruta* (two people studying together) and small-group study, which are required as part of the course.

Another member of our community is studying to become a *maggid* in a distance-learning program, which I have been considering applying to myself. The teacher lives in New York. There are monthly telephone classes and twice-yearly week-long retreats.

So let's take a look at what else we can do as a congregation. I'm looking for some volunteers to spearhead a new Adult Education component. I'm calling it the "Torah and Technology Team." My vision is that the team would work on at least two areas:

1. Providing and updating a list that would appear on our Web site and in our other methods of information dissemination of existing opportunities for distance learning.
2. Developing ways to utilize technology to meet the need for adult learning in our community, be that Web site-based on-line courses or whatever other ideas people come up with.

And in the back of my mind (now hang in here with me for the second part of this vision): knowing the wealth of learning and scholarship we have within our community, I'm thinking that this (the scholarship of our community) is a "competitive edge" within the synagogue world (forgive the use of the business school terminology), and that maybe through the development of distance-learning opportunities based on the scholarship of our membership, we can find ways for the scholars in our community to help us export this knowledge around the country or even the world, in a way that will help sustain our Netivot Shalom community economically.

Contact me (at 925-979-1998, or adulted@netivotshalom.org) if you'd like to work on this new and exciting area of adult education. ☞

Long-Term Planning Group to Convene Again

By Robin Braverman, Chair, Adult Education

Now that we are in the new building, it is time to reconvene the Adult Education Long-Term Planning Group to look at the next three to five years.

We will hold a series of five meetings beginning in July, with an eye to conclude the meetings before the annual meeting in November. We will look at what the last LTPG did in 2003, and try to answer questions about what we should be doing going forward.

We will contact those people who participated in the 2003 LTPG in the hope that they will participate again this year; and as before, we welcome the participation of anyone in the congregation who would like input into the Adult Education plan.

In the **first meeting, on Sunday, July 17, 7:00–9:00 p.m.**, we will look at the document developed by the 2003 LTPG, and develop a list of questions for the 2005 group to consider. We will also set the methodology for our discussions and decision-making, and decide on the date of the final meetings.

As before, we promise that if you participate we will not consider that you have made an ongoing commitment, but rather that you have agreed to participate in five, two-hour meetings only.

The product we hope to produce is a three to five page document that outlines the questions we considered and the answers we arrived at. This document will then serve as a guide to Adult Education leadership over the next three to five years, and serve as a historical document to show the evolution of the congregation's thinking with regard to adult education, the way the 2003 document will serve us now.

The first **three meeting dates** have been set for Sunday, **July 17**; Sunday, **August 28**; and Sunday, **September 11**. All meetings will take place at the shul, from **7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Please contact me or Stephen Tobias if you would like to participate, or just come to the first meeting. Your participation is solicited and encouraged. We need everyone's ideas and opinions. You can contact me at 925-979-1998, or adulted@netivotshalom.org. Stephen can be reached at stephen.tobias@gmail.net or 510-654-4561. ☞

Cuba Thoughts: 10 Years of Friendship with Our Sister Congregation

By June Safran, Coordinator, Cuban Affairs

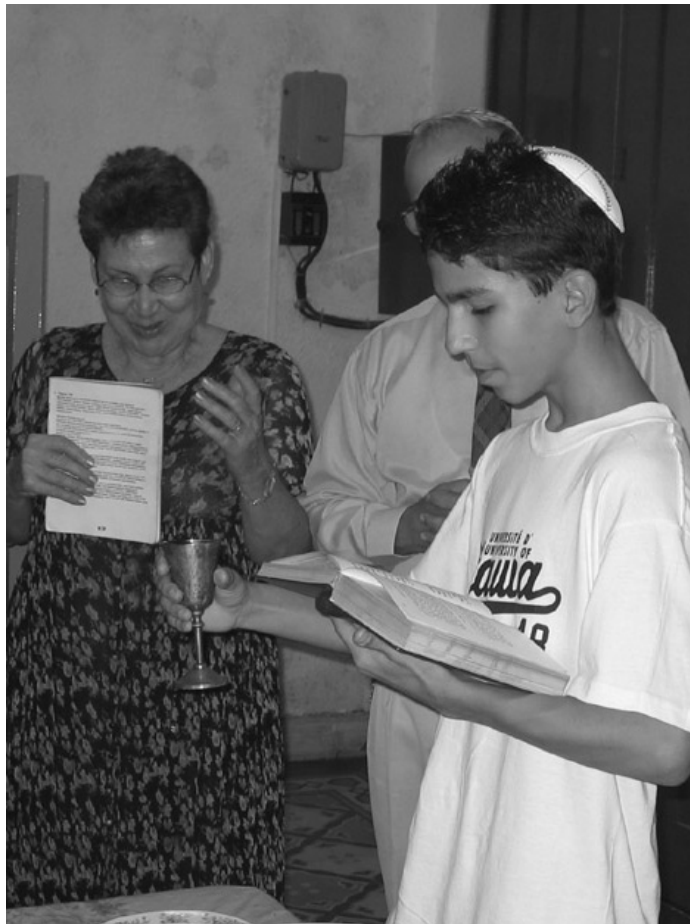
Netivot Shalom and Comunidad Hebrea Hatikvah in Santiago de Cuba have been sister congregations for 10 years. The relationship was established just before the first visit of Rabbi Kelman and a group of Netivot Shalom members in the spring of 1996. A second trip, in December 1996, was to attend the first *b'nei mitzvah* ceremony there since 1961. Rabbi Kelman's most recent trip, in December 1997, included eight teens, our then-education director, Miriam Hyman, Julie Weissman and me.

The success of the relationship is clear to everyone involved. Other than at the synagogue and religious school in Havana, the Cubans in Santiago have the most successful religious services and study program on the island. The community members know that they can count on our congregation for special needs and continued friendship. For instance, the Megillat Esther that Rabbi Kelman carried on his first trip has allowed them to read the Megillah for all four communities in the eastern section of the island. They also know that each family will always have oil for cooking during *Hanukkah* because we send the money to buy it each year. More than half the community has moved to Israel, and only four of these families later left for Florida or Spain. The rest are now successful and proud Israelis.

The impact on our congregation has been very positive. Those who have visited are impressed by the devotion to Judaism and family exhibited by the Cubans. They see highly educated people living in poor but clean homes;



Julio Aloma (right), the religious leader of Hatikvah, and Bob Safran.



Ruben Dorado, a recent bar mitzvah, makes kiddush before the meal.

and the youth, in particular, learn that place of residence tells one nothing of the quality of an individual. They also experience family members of all ages engaging in activities together. Those who have not been able to visit have participated in the sister-congregation relationship by collecting medicines and other humanitarian needs, preparing them for travelers to carry, donating money for educational materials or special needs, and even putting together a Shabbat B'Yachad baby shower for the child recently born into the community. She is the granddaughter of the congregation's president, Eugenia Farin. Just as we have influenced their services by bringing them tools to improve their participation, they have influenced our services, which now include Sephardic melodies.

Our last trip was in November 2004 to participate in the *bar mitzvah* of Ruben Dorado, a boy we have watched grow into a clever builder of models, an artist, a poet and even the organizer of last year's Mother's Day celebration. All this before he was 13. His *bar mitzvah* was particularly inspiring as we watched everyone put on *t'fillin* on Thursday morning, *daven* the service and *leyn* Torah with devotion and skill, continue on Shabbat, and celebrate with great joy as a community. There is certainly a lot of similarity between Netivot Shalom and its sister, Comunidad Hebrea Hatikvah, in its devotion to study, practice and support for one another. ❧



The Masorti Movement in Israel

The following information about the Masorti Movement appears on the Masorti Web site: www.masorti.org/about.html.


Masorti, meaning traditional, is the Hebrew name for the movement of Conservative Judaism in Israel. The Masorti Movement, founded in 1979, is the umbrella organization of Masorti *kehillot* (congregations), which foster the practice of traditional Judaism among Israeli men and women while embracing modernity. In promoting the combined values of Conservative Judaism, religious tolerance and Zionism, the Movement strives to nurture a healthy, pluralistic, spiritual and ethical foundation for Israeli society.

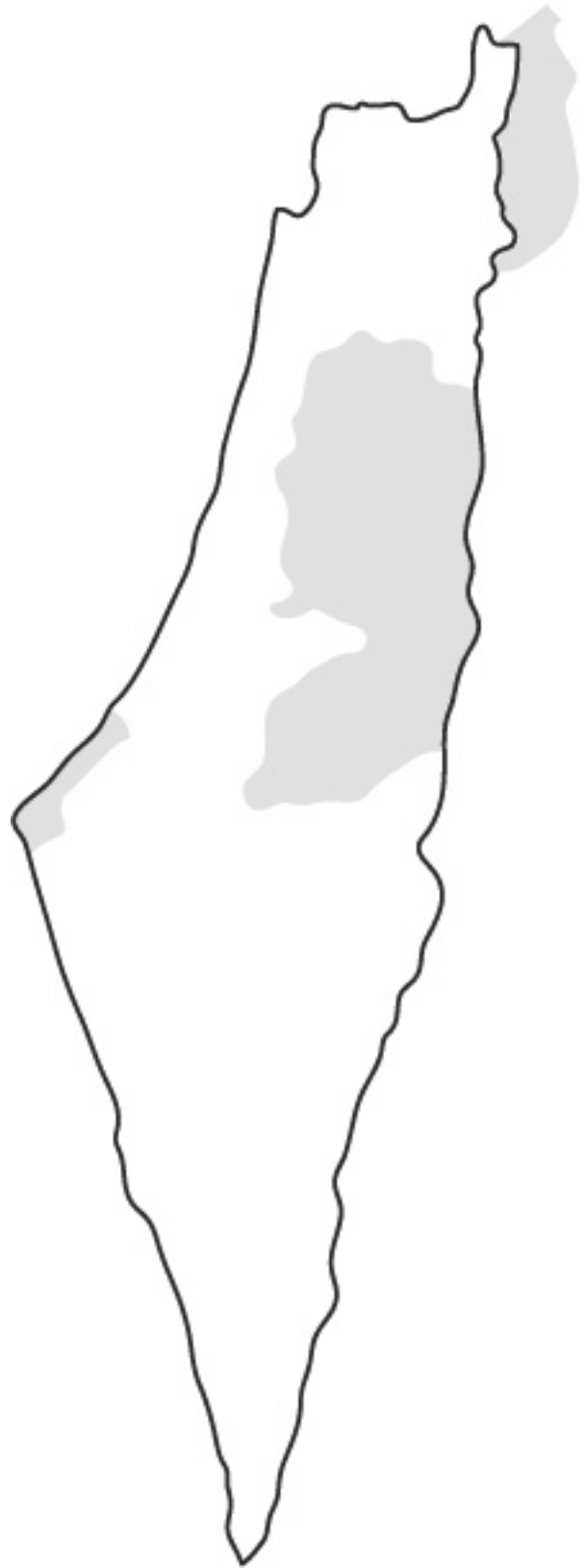
Approximately 50,000 Israelis are members and affiliates of our *kehillot* and national programs, which engage some 125,000 Israelis each year. More than sixty percent of the Masorti community are native-born Israelis or come from lands in which English is not their native tongue.

The Masorti Movement in Israel comprises some 50 *kehillot* and *havurot*, the Religious Affairs Bureau, a kibbutz, a moshav, the NOAM youth movement, IDF Garinim (Masorti groups in the army), the Marom students and young adults organization, programs for children with special needs, regional and local educational learning centers for adults as well as pre-school programs. We are currently developing programs in the fields of family education, and leadership and community development. This is in addition to our ongoing synagogue services, events and social activities.

Legal advocacy is one of the central roles of the Movement, which represents the religious rights of Masorti and Conservative Judaism before the Israeli establishment, including government ministries, the Supreme Court and municipalities.

The Movement is deeply involved in the absorption of new *olim* — immigrants — from Latin America, as well as from countries of the former Soviet Union. Masorti's inclusive and pluralistic approach is attractive to many *olim*, who might otherwise take little or no interest in Judaism. A number of Masorti *kehillot* operate special programs for *olim*, as well as programming for the integration of *olim* run by NOAM and Marom.

The Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel supports the work of the Masorti Movement, raising funds to enable the Movement to further its activities in Israel. The Foundation also serves as the Movement's voice to American media, public officials and Jewish leadership. 



Jennie and Steve Chabon

By Elissa Kittner

Jennie and Steve Chabon officially joined Netivot Shalom last fall, but have been friends and supporters of the synagogue since 1999. They settled in the East Bay last summer after spending several years living and working in both the Bay Area and New York while Jennie completed her cantorial studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary and Steve directed a school theater program in the Bronx.

A Berkeley native, **Jennie** attended Congregation Beth El while growing up, was a counselor at Camp Kee Tov, and had an early passion for music, singing in the San Francisco Girls Chorus. She earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Columbia University.

After college Jennie was accepted into Project Otzma, a program that provides Jewish young adults an opportunity to live and volunteer in Israel. "I immediately fell in love with Israel," Jennie says, "which was a big surprise to me. It was here that I really found my identity. I met cousins I didn't even know I had. I learned Hebrew, and started singing in Hebrew. I began observing Shabbat and I found my religious path. I started thinking that I wanted to live in Israel and find a career that incorporated all of my passions, so I applied to the five-year cantorial school program through the Jewish Theological Seminary and spent my first year of cantorial school studying in Israel."

Steve grew up in Maryland and Pittsburgh in a culturally Jewish home, became a *bar mitzvah*, but didn't consider himself particularly religious. He graduated from UCLA with a degree in theater, worked at Camp Kee Tov as a counselor and program director, and was the director of the camp for five years. During this time, he was also an acting teacher and theater director at the College Preparatory School in Oakland.



Though Jennie and Steve met and fell in love at Camp Kee Tov in 1990, they met again only in 1999 when Jennie was back in the Bay Area on a break from the JTS program, studying Hebrew and cantorial music with Cantor Marc Dinkin of B'nai Shalom in Walnut Creek. "The person Steve met at Camp Kee Tov was a free-spirited Berkeley girl," Jennie says. "Now, we really were in two very different Jewish worlds. I was *shomeret Shabbat* and very observant. He identified Jewishly but didn't go to shul or observe Shabbat. So, it was a process for us to find the right Jewish balance for us as a couple.

"Netivot Shalom worked for both of us. I started getting involved and leading services after Marc Dinkin referred me to the synagogue. We liked what we found there: a community where people were knowledgeable, interesting, casual, warm and enthusiastic. The inclusive, lay-led environment meant that people of all levels could participate and that was really wonderful. It was the right balance for both of us as we tried to find a shared approach to Judaism."

They spent 2001–4 in New York while Jennie completed her studies at JTS. During this time, she worked for a conservative shul in Montclair, N.J., Shomrei Emunah.

Last summer, they moved back to the Bay Area, close to both their families. Jennie is currently the cantor for Congregation B'nai Tikvah, the reform synagogue in Walnut Creek, and Steve is the dean of students at the Drew School, a small college-preparatory high school in San Francisco. At press time, they are awaiting the birth of their first child, expected in late June.

In closing, Jennie said, "One of the things I've learned from my husband — an approach he lives by and which I try to live by — is to be appreciative every day for being alive and all the gifts that God has given us. We are all so blessed. I try to wake up every day, give thanks and remember that." ❧

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, please send copy, and a jpg photo if possible, to newsletter@netivotshalom.org.



Thelma Rubin

Thelma came to Berkeley in 1938, entered the University of California, and graduated in nursing from UCSF in 1942. That same year, she enlisted in the Navy Nurse Corps and stayed in for the duration of WWII, returning to Berkeley in 1946. After marrying, she and her husband moved to Albany in 1957. Thelma has three children — one a primary care physician who practices in Marin, one a deputy district attorney in San Diego, and one an environmental engineer in Los Angeles. “This certainly covers me for any difficulties I may run into,” she says.

Thelma’s husband was very active in Albany city politics from 1960 until 1974, when he died. It was then that she began to serve on a variety of city commissions and committees; she was elected to the city council in 1988, rotated through the mayor’s position, and left the council in 1996 at the end of the permitted two terms. Thelma is now in her fifth year on the Charter Review Committee.

Thelma says she joined Netivot Shalom several years ago for a number of reasons: “I love the congregation’s ownership, knowledge and skill in managing the affairs of this complex spiritual organization. My gay son feels very comfortable here during the High Holy Days. The rabbi is a superb leader, an inspiring teacher and a sensitive, patient, open-minded counselor.”

Thelma’s interest, beside politics, is music. She plays in a recorder group with six others. She also race walks with the Marin Race Walking Club and tries to practice five days a week, as well as taking a weekly yoga class. ☺

[Editor: Whew! Are you as impressed by Thelma as I am? I had to persuade Thelma to give me this information about herself, as she said her life was so uninteresting. I beg to disagree. I also encourage you to send me a bio of yourself for the newsletter. Will you help us to get to know you?]

Our Kitchen Shower



Members enjoy a presentation at the Kitchen Shower luncheon, on May 22, 2005 — a rousing success.

Creating Our Home



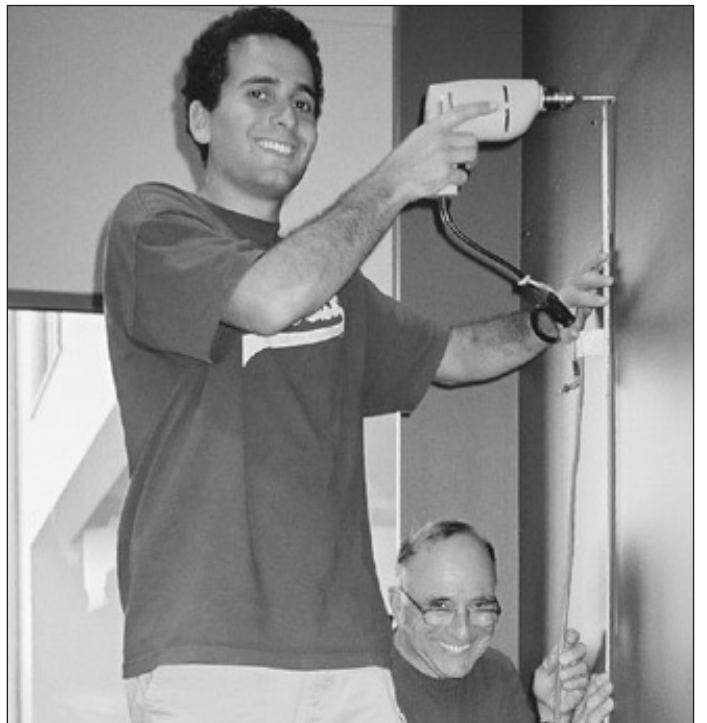
Carol Cunradi paints the exterior wall.



Melissa Mednick (left) and Rebecca Stroik prepare to unload books in the new library.



Wendy Rosov cuts redwood stock to be used in the trellis.



Sam Dorman (above) and Burt Dorman team up to install shelving for the library wall.



Noah Schnur (foreground) and Josh Kirsch prepare the soil for plantings.



Michael McCullough (left) and Robert Milton assemble bookshelves for the library.



Inside the building, Doreen Leipzig takes care of Jasper Gill, Maxine Gill and Simon Adams (left to right) while their parents volunteer in other tasks.



A group of volunteers plants trees along the sidewalk facing University Avenue.

Our Retreat

By Dan Siegel

Toward the end of our Memorial Day weekend retreat at Camp Newman near Santa Rosa, the “campers” were asked to write a letter to a friend describing their experience at the retreat. The following are some excerpts from these letters:

“I felt that the retreat was really pivotal for our shul. There were lots of great activities (study, softball, stargazing, hikes), but the best part was sort of intangible — I felt that as a group we came together with a new vision of ourselves in our new building.”

“This weekend was lots of fun! It felt like camp for adults. I loved the natural setting, the hiking, etc. It was very peaceful and nice to have a 24-hour group Shabbat experience. I loved the Jewish learning sessions and the artistic creation experiences.”



Derick Miller

Dean Kertesz strums on his guitar.

services were in such a beautiful setting that you really didn't need a *siddur*.”

“Another nice thing was that there were “guards” outside the cabins from 9:00 p.m. to midnight so we could put our child to sleep and go to evening adult activities. Friday night we went to wine, dessert and various games, and last night we went to Israeli dancing and a very nice campfire.”

“What a weekend it's been. Both nights it took almost two hours to get to sleep after lying down because there was so much wonderful stuff to process from the day, I just couldn't shut it off. I felt everybody's best sides came out. People were so accessible, and the human connections I've made in our community will take me from here into our future life together. May it be a long one! I am so full of joy!”



Derick Miller

Camp Director Dan Siegel paints with guidance from artist Nancy Katz.

“The retreat enabled me to talk to people I'd never even seen before, as well as to deepen some existing relationships — and in a beautiful, relaxing, delightful setting. A terrific balance of teaching/studying, davening, and other activities that are fun, invigorating and great to share, like singing, Israeli folk dancing — and eating!”

“People were able, after far too long, to connect many names to faces. Older members without kids or with grown kids were able to hang out with young families. And most wonderful of all, there is an easy, relaxed quality to all of our interactions that I wish I could bottle and bring back to Netivot Shalom.”

“We enjoyed immensely the community events like the family service on Shabbat and the havdalah service — and especially the singing. The sense of celebrating these special times with everyone was immensely meaningful.”

“I appreciated the variety of activities making it inviting to all kinds of Jews and family groupings. Shabbat morning



Derick Miller

Elisbeva Anisman (left) and Nava Bearson contribute to painting the silk banner.



Shirah Bell (left) and Jon Arons (right) get shofar blowing lessons from Jerry Derblich.

“Not having done Jewish camp I was wary of feeling unknowledgeable, unspirited, un-something. Au contraire! I had so many relaxed, connected conversations, met people my age, even enjoyed the *birkat!*”

“I’ve just spent a really incredible weekend. There were loads of options for people to choose from — prayer, singing, study, hikes, swimming in the pool and creating art for our new building. And a fantastic children’s program.”

“I’ve been going to services fairly regularly on Shabbat and seeing the same faces on a regular basis, but I didn’t know many names or who they were. This weekend we went to camp together. I learned bits and pieces about a lot of people and began to feel like they could really be my

friends. Next time I go to shul, I’ll have a connection with them that I didn’t have before.”

“We debated about coming this weekend: will we fit in, will we feel like outsiders, will we know people, will we meet people? Well, we did fit in, we met people, we had fun, we learned a lot, and ultimately, we feel more attached to our community. What a fabulous weekend.”

“We had a great time in Camp Newman! It was so fun playing with friends and being in the swimming pool! I loved meeting new friends and running around all over the place. But the best part was sitting around the campfire and roasting marshmallows for the first time!”

“The weekend was so wonderful I don’t want to leave. I feel more connected to my shul community than I ever have.”

“I can say that I feel, after this weekend, we have found a Jewish community for our family to grow in and to feel a part of. This weekend felt like a door opening up to the experience of the group in a more authentic way.”

“Something about starry nights, trees and fresh air helped us connect with new faces, new ideas, rich textual discussions, *t’fillah* with *ruah*, melodies, sharing.”

“This retreat has given us a chance to go back to our roots and reconnect with what we are — a community.” ❧



Jerry Derblich (from left), Alice Webber, Josh Kirsch, Lee Feinstein and Rabbi Stuart Kelman daven in the outdoor amphitheater Sunday morning.

Why Midrasha Works

By Diane Bernbaum, Director, Midrasha

I often ponder the question of why Midrasha works. It's clear to so many of our students, faculty, parents, alumni and community members that this institution is a gem. But why is it that way? Some of the answer came to me recently when I was reading a book, *Making Sense of the Holocaust: Lessons from Classroom Practice* by Simone Schweber. Simone was on the faculty at Midrasha in not only Berkeley, but Oakland and Contra Costa as well, and was director of Midrasha in Fremont while she was a graduate student in education at Stanford.

I find one of the perks of my job is keeping up with those former faculty members who choose to stay in touch. I attend weddings, make baby quilts, send and receive Rosh ha-Shanah cards, get invited to toddler birthday parties. They stay on my faculty e-mail list as long as they want. We are truly a family. One rule I make is to always buy books written by former faculty members, which is how I found myself reading Simone's book. In truth, sometimes these books, usually reworked Ph.D. dissertations, are a bit of a challenge to read for someone who's been out of academia for a long time. I marvel that when the author came over to dinner and explained his or her thesis, I found it fascinating, but once put in academic jargon, I have trouble following. Not so at all with Simone's book. It was very readable and I found I couldn't put it down, in part because reading about social studies teachers in public schools reminded me of who I was in the 60s and early 70s, when that's what I did for a living.

Creating Curriculum

So, how did that book about Holocaust education teach me why Midrasha "worked." It wasn't the subject matter at all, but rather how Simone described really good teaching. On the first page of the introduction, one of her colleagues talked about what education was like in the mid-70s. "In those days, curriculum specialists, teachers, and sometimes community members were responsible for writing curriculum — not textbook publishers or test makers." I read that and my mouth dropped open. I realized that when I was trained in ed school in the late 60s, of course teachers wrote their own curriculum. My first jobs required me to teach "American Indians" or "The English Revolution" and it was then up to me to figure out how to do that. I spent hundreds of creative hours writing curriculum that wasn't for a test and didn't follow some bureaucratic standard, but rather was my intuitive feeling of the best way to communicate that material based on my knowledge of my students and how they learned. And so, when I started running Midrasha, it never occurred to me to do anything other than hire people who were passionate and knowledgeable about a wide variety of Jewish subjects and then leave it up to them to figure out how to teach that subject. Some of our core classes come with a ready-made curriculum and we have many other curricula on file, so a teacher doesn't have to invent the wheel for all

three hours, or actually ever if they don't want to. But most of them, like me when I was in the classroom, thrive on creating the curriculum. And so every Sunday morning, there is a scramble to borrow the VCR to show just the perfect film clip, and there's a long line up at the copier to reproduce just the right article or section from a book. The teachers make their curriculum current and relevant. They don't take some canned curriculum written for teens in other parts of the country with other sensibilities. They put their hearts into what they teach because they are the ones who created it.

Community Building

That's the first part. As I started reading further about one of Simone's model teachers, someone called Mr. Zee, I realized that he was doing in his classroom what so many of our teachers do without even thinking about it. First, he was open and revealing of himself in his classes. Stories of his life and his family illustrated whatever points he was making. Bingo. Our teachers tend to be open with the students about their own lives. They go on weekend retreats with the students where they really get to know one another. Simone's model teacher and our Midrasha teachers become role models, sharing both the good and bad in their lives so that students see the teacher as a "work in progress."

Another thing Mr. Zee did in Simone's depiction was to spend one-third of the entire semester in community building and in getting students to explore their own identities and explain them to the other students in the class. "Only when the students felt comfortable with one another and with the teacher would they be able to delve into the tough issues in his course content." Bingo again. We start many of our class sessions with the fabled Midrasha check-in, a chance for students to share about their week. While in the fall the students tend to make only superficial comments, by the spring they consider their classmates to be their support system and really open up. And we have an entire ninth grade core curriculum, entitled *Etgar* or Challenge, where students spend a year looking at their own Jewish identity and that of their classmates.

Critical Thinking

Parents and members of the community often urge me to invite speakers into the school. I have to keep reminding them (and myself) that although a speaker might be dynamite for adults, students thrive on debate and discussion with their peers. As Simone says in her book, "In learning to compare, contrast, evaluate and dissect our moral values, we stand to learn how to think critically, and in learning to think critically, we stand to gain morally. And through both processes, we come to know one another and ourselves more fully." That to me really describes what happens in so many Midrasha classes.

At one point Simone quotes another former Midrasha teacher, Sam Wineburg, now a professor of Education at Stanford: "[Teachers realize] the importance of

balancing our needs as teachers to challenge our students intellectually and support them emotionally, our hopes to build community and at the same time foster individual achievement, our intentions to display openness on the issues to which there really are no right answers with our desires to inculcate in students firm moral judgments on the issues to which there are, balancing between what we know and what we can't possibly know about history."

Somehow, the teachers and I have done this all intuitively. Letting teachers create their own curriculum, devoting a lot of class and retreat time to community building, giving students classroom space to look at moral and ethical issues from many sides, allowing students to explore their own identities and to share them with their peers, hiring teachers who are not only knowledgeable but are fantastic role models, having a faculty that feels like a family. This is what we have somehow managed to do at Midrasha, and it took reading Simone's book to allow me to articulate it. ❧

YOUTH EDUCATION

How to Talk to Your Children Jewishly About Sex

By Michelle Wolfson, Director of Education

This spring, Amitim parents asked me to speak with our *b'nei mitzvah* students about sex from a Jewish perspective. After stepping back to see how much the students had grown up this year — and after my initial trepidation — I realized that how to think about sexuality Jewishly is a vital part of their Jewish education. If we don't use our tradition to address our most pressing concerns, then Judaism becomes an irrelevant fossil. After the teens' sessions, I taught a session at our shul-wide retreat on the same topic for parents, and will teach a longer adult version in 5766.

The starting point is to tell our children about the generally positive Jewish attitudes toward sexuality. Sex is sacred, a gift from God, not to be taken lightly. The Torah teaches us it's not good for a person to be alone, and it's a *mitzvah* to be fruitful and multiply, *pru v'ravu*. Gen. 1:28; 2:18. God created us and our sexuality in the image of God, and like God we have the power to create life.

With younger children, I focus on values and information. My parents always taught me that if I was old enough to ask the question, I was old enough to hear an answer. Usually kids just want a term they heard on the playground defined, not a long lecture. Factually, I tell them just as much as answers their question. In the stories we teach, and in how we discipline the children, we convey our values. We teach respect for one's self and others. Our bodies are on loan for our lifetime from God, and taking

care of the body is a *mitzvah*. We discuss modesty, or *tzniut*, boundaries, privacy, pride, and speaking up when uncomfortable with anything.

Children need information and values from us before they get the information from another questionable source, like peers, or worse, the Internet. They also need our perspective before they put their newfound feelings and knowledge into practice. Just because they aren't doing something doesn't mean they don't need help in how to think about it. Our 6th and 7th graders definitely have a mental sexual life, even if parents don't want to think about it. Short snatches of conversation are often better than a long talk; they tune out quickly.

The Five R's

With preteens, we then address what I call the five R's: respect, responsibility (emotional and physical), reciprocity, readiness and reputation. I use traditional rabbinic texts to start our discussions, looking at texts from the Talmud and Zohar, and by Nachmanides and Maimonides. We use Martin's Buber's idea of I-Thou versus I-It relationships to talk about respect and reciprocity. We read from Baba Metzia advice on dating; don't shop if you don't intend to buy, or how not to lead someone on. Other Talmudic texts cover asking others out, respectful ways to break up, and alcohol use and sex. We discuss dress and gossip's effect on one's own reputation and others, covering *tzniut/modesty*, *lashon hara/gossip*, and self-presentation using Maimonides. Usually at this point I tell some stories, to teach them about readiness and how much teens inflate sexual experience. The main point is, if you are not sure if you're ready, you're not.

Adults are usually surprised by the frankness and openness of the rabbis on sexuality. Between marriage partners, they endorse sexual pleasure and variety. Starting with a text from the Zohar on the sanctification of intercourse, we cover fidelity and trust in relationship; *onah/conjugal rights and mutual obligations*; *shalom bayit/peace in the home*. Depending on the maturity of the students, I even add conjugal manners and foreplay from the Zohar and Nachmanides. As soon as the students raise the issue, and they do, we tackle nonmarital sex using "This Is My Beloved, This Is My Friend: A Rabbinic Letter on Intimate Relations" by Rabbi Elliot N. Dorff. Basically, if we bring our highest values to how we treat our partners, we elevate sex to something holy, in a committed, adult relationship in or prior to marriage.

Finally, I ask each teen if they have an adult other than their parents they can come to for questions and advice. If not, think of a friend's parent, an aunt or older cousin. Many teens would rather suffer in a difficult situation than talk to their parents. We are all responsible for the community's children. Be a friend and Jewish guide to the children and teens we encounter. Don't be shy. Don't let the Internet raise our community's children. ❧

Shul-Wide Celebration of Shabbat B'Yachad

By Cathy Shadd, SBY Coordinator

The annual shul-wide celebration of SBY coincided with our first SBY service in the new shul. On June 11, the families of SBY brought their energy and spirit into the main sanctuary for the Torah procession and for “Ein Keloheinu,” congratulated the 12 children who will be leaving SBY for kindergarten in the fall, and enjoyed their own SBY service in our new space.

The children were amazed at how many ways SBY was different that day: they were in a new room in a new building, they got to ride tricycles around the parking

lot, they ate their snack on the floor (picnic style on a tablecloth), their parents were leading services in the “big synagogue,” and their Torah procession was in the big shul too! But the faces of their friends were familiar, as were our service and *siddur*, and after a while, they seemed to settle in. Once we have a play structure outside and furniture inside, we will all feel more settled, but we got off to a great start.

Many thanks to the following parents for their enthusiastic participation in that day: Shelly Ball, Steve Bileca, Serena Eisenberg, Lisa Fink, Joel and Katya Gerwein, Dana Gill, Joan Kiang, Alan and Elissa Kittner, Daniel Kohn, Robin Levi, Michael Meltzer, Chalyn and David Newman, Ellen Peskin, Lisa and Joshua Polston, Peggy Sandel, Maia Singer, Jonathan Stern, Alison Waterman and Tali Ziv. And many thanks to all who co-sponsored the *kiddush*.

SHABBAT B'YACHAD—AT THE RETREAT



Gabriel Robbins, Jordana Meltzer, Maayan Ziv and Sasha Milton (with help from Lena Milton) replicate the new shul out of Legos and pipecleaners.



Songleader Ira Levin really gives his all to the SBY set.



Nava Kohn paints pieces of the Torah mosaic designed by Lee Bearson for the SBY room in the new shul.



Tanya Bearson, Maxine Gill, Jordana Meltzer and other SBY children and parents have fun at Ira Levin's concert for the younger crowd.

Poems from the Retreat — Preparing for Shavuot

Our retreat combined *t'fillah*, study and play for children as well as adults. These poems were written by 3rd–6th grade students at the poetry and art workshop led by Carol Dorf.

The Journey

By Miriam S. Priven

1.
The journey that Moses took up that mountain to speak with the face of God was amazing. You could see the moon quivering, you could see the earth trembling, you could see the trees rumbling. The moment that everyone heard thunder, the people held their breath.

2.
The mother, the father, and their small child looked up at the long journey, up at the mountain as thunder sounded. They could almost see the dark outline of God's face. Moses was slowly going down Mount Sinai with ... could it be ... the Torah!!!!!!

Haiku

By Rachel Siegel

A hungry journey,
Through mountains, homesick, he is,
At night darkness spreads

Take a journey, food,
food you must bring, plums, berries,
weeks it will take, take

At night, stars are out
At night, the moon is out too,
Smoke in the distance

Ruth

By Rebecca Dorf Landau

Ruth looked past her journey with Naomi to Israel through a window of time. She looked towards the field with plum trees, berries, and wheat, such a fertile spring. She looked up to the stars and remembered her home with the stars they shared.

Sinai

By Rebecca Dorf Landau

A child looks up to Sinai, thunder rumbling over the mountain. In this place, the destination which our journey, the journey of our mothers and fathers, in the home of God, our dear Torah shall be received.

One Night

By Clara Cunradi

One night Moses climbed a mountain. And it was Mount Sinai. God spoke to him and said, "You will lead the people to a land, a land flowing with milk and honey. I will give you fruit and water." God handed Moses a Torah.

Blessed

By Clara Cunradi

The people of Israel are blessed by God. Naomi and Ruth ate in the kitchen. After that they went outside to play or talk in a field. They are sitting in grain and gathering wheat. The earth is blessed.

Fire

By Yonah Radousky

The home of the poor moths was on fire. People tried but they couldn't put the fire out. The sunset is coming.

Counting the Omer

By Elisheva Anisman

At the counting of the Omer the child ended her journey. While thanking God, she drank her water and ate her fruit. She thought of the Torah and Sinai. She remembered how her father had spoken of Moses and a land of milk and honey. That night she would dance in Israel.

Sinai

By Elisheva Anisman

A child looks up to Sinai, thunder rumbling over the mountain. In this place, the destination for our journey, the journey of our mothers and fathers, smoke came up from the fire. The night lived on.

SHUL



ACTIVITIES

Unless otherwise noted, all activities will be held at our shul, 1316 University Ave, Berkeley.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Shabbat B'Yachad (SBY) for families with preschool children five years and under. Program includes *t'fillab* (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 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

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'fillab*, games, Jewish values and Torah stories. Tuesday–Thursday, 4:00–6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Program for children (K–6) in either Religious School or day school. Each Shabbat, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. 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. 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 and Thursdays, 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, 2nd and 4th Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Teachings, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

(For the schedule and a list of teaching sessions, see weekly announcements.)

WEDNESDAY

Morning Minyan

7:15 a.m.

THURSDAY

Talmud

7:00–9:00 p.m.

SHABBAT

Various *shabbatot* after services; see weekly announcements

OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS

Sponsor a Kiddush: Calendar On-line

Go to http://my.calendars.net/netivot_shalom/admin or contact us: Joanna Weinberg (weinbgj@itsa.ucsf.edu) and Turi Adams (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. Wednesdays, 7:15–8:00 a.m.

SHABBAT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Shabbat Morning Services

Morning services begin at 9:45 a.m.; beginning August 6 at 9:30 a.m.

Meditative Minyan

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

Shabbat B'Yachad

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

Youth Shabbat Program

Children grades K–6, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.; will resume in the fall

Torah Study: the weekly *parashah*

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

Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv Services

7:00 p.m., 4th Friday of each month, family kabbalat Shabbat

7:30 p.m., 2nd Friday of each month, services followed by a potluck dinner

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.

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 will be 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 or 510-872-0751.

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

Our sincerest thanks for your support of Netivot Shalom.

Adult Education

Barbara Wezelman in memory of Norman Wezelman, z"l

Building Fund

Dan Alter
 Steve & Karen Bovarnick
 Dale Friedman & Joan Bradus
 Regina Karp
 Ralph & Hadassah Kramer
 Claire Max & Jonathan Arons
 Elana Reinin & Marshall Platt
 Bob & Diane Roosth in honor of Bezalel Masserano's *bar mitzvah*
 Michael & Betty Rosenheimer
 Jane Rubin
 Sam Salkin & Frankie Whitman
 Laura Sheppard
 Mel & Lisa Sibony
 Howard & Belinda Solovei
 Richard Stern & Risa Kagan
 Joanna Weinberg & David Levine

Family Kol Nidre

Alan & Elissa Kittner

Fundraising

Afikomen Bookstore: wine fundraiser
 Stuart & Vicky Kelman

General Donations

Peter Berck & Cyndi Spindell Berck
 Steve & Karen Bovarnick
 Arthur & Sheila Braufman
 Sandra Gore & Ron Sires
 Roger Klein & Rachel Cohen
 Hyman & Miriam San
 Barbara Wezelman in memory of relatives

Kiddush Fund

Shelly Ball & Jeff Burack
 Cyndi Spindell Berck & Peter Berck
 Angela & Steven Bileca
 Steve & Karen Bovarnick
 Arthur & Sheila Braufman
 Carl Buchin & Claudia Valas
 Celia & Paul Concus
 Carol & Jim Cunradi
 Rebecca & Andy Dale
 Serena Eisenberg & Yaron Simler
 Maia Fleming & Brett Singer
 Alan Gellman & Arlene Zuckerberg
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Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern
 Norma Kaufman & Michael Meltzer
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 Debbie & Daniel Kohn
 Debra Lobel & Pauline Moreno
 Lisa & Howard Miller
 Denise Moyes-Schnur & Ken Schnur
 Claudia Polsky & Seth Mermin
 Mark & Sharon Priven
 Cathy Shadd & Dov Rosenfeld
 Ann Swidler & Claude Fischer
 Alison & Stephen Waterman
 Diane & Joshua Wirtschafte
 Tali & Elad Ziv

Kitchen Shower

Hope & Noah Alper
 Jean Bradman
 Judy Breakstone
 Susan David
 Ralph & Judith Greif
 Ronna Kabatznick & Peter Dale Scott
 Ralph & Hadassah Kramer
 Herbert & Babette Maccoby
 Jeff Rosenbloom & Melissa Mednick

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Amsterdam Family Trust
 William & Elaine Bachrach
 George & Toby Gidal
 Debby Graudenz & Rom Rosenblum
 Julia London & Bridget Wynne
 Michelle Rappaport
 Rabbi Morris & Mildred Rubinstein

Mel & Lisa Sibony

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Dale Friedman & Joan Bradus: *Sim Shalom siddurim*

Rosenheimer Camp Fund

Michael & Betty Rosenheimer

YNL Program

Mary Lukanuski

Yom Kippur Appeal

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 Esther Brass
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 Claire Max & Jonathan Arons
 Dennis Michael & Marilyn Levi
 Michael & Betty Rosenheimer
 Hillel & Judy Salomon
 Howard & Belinda Solovei

Gifts of Time, Talent and Trimmings

All who made the new building and move possible, much gratitude and thanks; a complete list of thanks will be offered in the next issue.

Grand Bakery, Long's Drugs, Peet's Coffee, Ristorante Raphael and Semifreddi's, all of whom donated food and supplies for this year's Tikkun Leyl Shavuot; thanks to them hundreds of people were able to stay awake, study and be fed throughout the night.

Enjoy the Party.

Call Raphael
Kosher Catering.

The freshest fish,
homemade pasta, and
Italian vegetarian
specialties. Try our
tempting desserts.
We do it all, large or small.
You enjoy!

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KOSHER

CUCINA VEGETARIANA ITALIANA

MAZAL TOV! TO...

Carol Cunradi & Rabbi Kelman on being invited to teach at the Kavod V'Nichum Conference in New York, where they spoke about issues involved with non-Jews and matters of death and mourning

Phyllis Helfand on the birth of her granddaughter, Abigail Nava Eisman, to Jessica and Michael Eisman

Regina Karp & Sy Horowitz on their marriage

Vicky & Rabbi Stuart Kelman on the birth their grandson, Yair Shalev, to Elana and Rabbi Adam Naftalin-Kelman

David & Chalyn Newman on the birth of their daughter, Zahava Kyla

Joshua & Lisa Polston on the birth of their daughter, Bayla Gittel

Luis & Miriam Shein on the marriage of their daughter, and **Ralph & Hadassah Kramer** on the marriage of their granddaughter, Avital

FAMILY KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE

4th Friday of the month:

July 22, August 26

7:00–8:00 p.m., in the sanctuary

Rabbi Daniel Lev and Michelle Wolfson lead a singing service with ruah and tell a Torah story.

Target audience, K–7th graders,
but everyone welcome!

Karen Friedman & David Marcus

invite you to share in their simḥah on

September 3, 2005

29 Av 5765

Parashat R'eiḥ

when their son, **Ezra Dov Marcus**,

will be called to the Torah
as a bar mitzvah.

David Shragai & Brenda Goldstein

invite you to share in their simḥah on

July 2, 2005

25 Sivan 5765

Parashat Korah

when their daughter, **Talya Shragai**,

will be called to the Torah
as a bat mitzvah.

Gloria Beck

invites you to share in her simḥah on

July 9, 2005

2 Tammuz 5765

Parashat Hukat

when her daughter, **Elana Kessler**,

will be called to the Torah
as a bat mitzvah.

John Jekabson & Marianne Smith

invite you to share in their simḥah on

August 20, 2005

15 Av 5765

Parashat Va-ethannan

when their daughter, **Alida Jekabson**,

will be called to the Torah
as a bat mitzvah.

Upcoming B'nei Mitzvah Anniversaries

July 2: Korah

Adam Stern

July 9: Hukat

Rina Breakstone
Max Hilton Gray
Shiri Weininger
Ross Wunderlich

July 16: Balak

Devin Wood

July 23: Pinhas

Talia Cooper
Ilan Fuss
Gal Gressel
Lillian Jacobson

July 30: Mattot

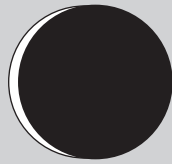
Gilad Gressel

August 20: Va-etchannan

Sharon Gannot
Asa Prentice
Sasha Rasmussen

August 27: Eikev

Benjamin Breiner
Eva Heinstein
Johanna Jacobson
David Meresman



The Netivot Shalom Rosh Hodesh Group

Wednesday, July 6

At our summer book meeting we will discuss Amos Oz's *A Tale of Love and Darkness*. The discussion will be led by Alison Waterman. Anyone who has read the book is welcome.

Sunday, August 7

We will meet and walk the labyrinth in Sibley Volcanic Regional Park. The day is long and the evening walk has always been a pleasure!

Tuesday, September 6

We will gather to prepare for the Yamim Nora'im. This yearly meeting is a time to reflect and welcome the Rosh ha-Shanah season.

Meetings are at 7:00 p.m., and all women in the congregation are invited. For locations and other information, contact Toby Gidal: tgidal@comcast.net or 510-841-8868.

Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv Services Begin

Beginning July 8,
Congregation Netivot Shalom
will have kabbalat Shabbat
and ma'ariv services on the
second Friday night
of each month, at 7:30 p.m.,
followed by a potluck dinner.

שבת שלום

Don't Wait!

Religious school registration
is due August 15; school begins
Tuesday, September 6.

**Hebrew, t'fillah, Torah,
history and games!**

Contact our director, Michelle Wolfson,
at 510-549-9447 ext. 104.
if you have any questions.

JULY 2005

Sivan - Tammuz 5765

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					8:17 pm Candle lighting	Parashat Korah 9:00 am Torah study 9:45 am Shabbat services Talya Shiragai called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
26 Sivan	27 Sivan Independence Day Office Closed	28 Sivan 7:00 pm Spiritual Questions, Rabbinic Answers: Sh'ma & V'ahavta, with Michelle Wolfson at Chochmat Halev	29 Sivan 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Rosh Hodesh Group (private home)	30 Sivan Rosh Hodesh Tammuz 7:15 am Rosh Hodesh minyan 6:00 pm Beg. Hebrew/appt.	1 Tammuz Rosh Hodesh Tammuz	2 Tammuz Parashat Hukkat 9:00 am Torah study 9:45 am Shabbat services Elana Kessler called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3 Tammuz 9:30 am Morning minyan 10:00 am-5:00 pm Building Site Work Day 7:00 pm Ritual Committee	4 Tammuz	5 Tammuz	6 Tammuz 7:15 am Minyan	7 Tammuz 6:00 pm Youth Ed Com- mittee 6:00 pm Beg. Hebrew/appt.	8 Tammuz 8:16 pm Candle lighting	9 Tammuz Parashat Balak 9:00 am Torah study 9:30 am Meditative minyan 9:45 am Shabbat services
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 Tammuz 7:00 pm Adult Ed Long- Term Planning Group	11 Tammuz	12 Tammuz	13 Tammuz 7:15 am Minyan	14 Tammuz 6:00 pm Beg. Hebrew/appt	15 Tammuz 7:00 pm Family kabbalat Shabbat	16 Tammuz Parashat Pinchas 9:00 am Torah study 9:45 am Shabbat services 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
17 Tammuz Fast of Tammuz 9:30 am Minyan	18 Tammuz	19 Tammuz	20 Tammuz 7:15 am Minyan	21 Tammuz 6:00 pm Beg. Hebrew/appt	22 Tammuz 8:09 pm Candle lighting	23 Tammuz Parashat Mattot 9:00 am Torah study 9:45 am Shabbat services
31						
9:30 am Board meeting					8:03 pm Candle lighting	8:46 pm Havdalah

AUGUST 2005

Tammuz - Av 5765

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 25 Tammuz	2 26 Tammuz	3 27 Tammuz 7:15 am Minyan	4 28 Tammuz	5 29 Tammuz	6 1 Av Rosh Hodesh Av Parashat Mas'ei 9:00 am Torah study 9:30 am Shabbat services
7 2 Av 7:00 pm Rosh Hodesh Group (Sibley Park)	8 3 Av	9 4 Av	10 5 Av 7:15 am Minyan	11 6 Av	12 7 Av 7:57 pm Candle lighting	13 8 Av Parashat D'varim — Shabbat Hazon 9:00 am Torah study 9:30 am Shabbat services 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad 8:30 pm Havdalah
14 9 Av Tishah b-Av Fast Day 1:00 pm Minhah Tishah b-Av service	15 10 Av	16 11 Av	17 12 Av 7:15 am Minyan	18 13 Av	19 14 Av 7:49 pm Candle lighting	20 15 Av Parashat Va-ethannan — Shabbat Nahamu 9:00 am Torah study 9:30 am Shabbat services Alida Jekabson called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah 9:30 am Meditative minyan 8:21 pm Havdalah
21 16 Av 9:30 am Board meeting	22 17 Av	23 18 Av	24 19 Av 7:15 am Minyan	25 20 Av 6:00 pm Beg. Hebrew/appt Shabbat	26 21 Av 7:00 pm Family kabbalat Shabbat	27 22 Av Parashat Eikev 9:00 am Torah study 9:30 am Shabbat services 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad
28 23 Av 9:30 am Minyan 7:00 pm Adult Ed Long-Term Planning Group	29 24 Av	30 25 Av	31 26 Av 7:15 am Minyan		7:30 pm Candle lighting	8:12 pm Havdalah

Yahrzeits

Zichronam l'verakhab —

May their memories be for a blessing

Ruth David	26 Sivan/July 3 July 3	Anna Lea Greenstein	23 Tammuz/July 30
Dianna Hoffman	27 Sivan/July 4	Simon Goldschmidt	24 Tammuz/July 31
Madelaine Starkman	27 Sivan/July 4	Eva Graudenz	28 Tammuz/August 4
Felix Khuner	28 Sivan/July 5	Sam Koltun	29 Tammuz/August 5
Celia Garber	28 Sivan/July 5	Dora Becker	30 Tammuz/August 6
Anna Brenner	29 Sivan/July 6	Ernest Shima	3 Av/August 8
Jack Markowitz	29 Sivan/July 6	Roy H. Steinberg	3 Av/August 8
Ruth Richman	29 Sivan/July 6	Arlene Cooper	3 Av/August 8
Dvora Yaffey	1 Tammuz/July 8	Leo Greenberg	4 Av/August 9
Paul Korc	2 Tammuz/July 9	Walter Mayer	6 Av/August 11
Edna Riemer	3 Tammuz/July 10	Ruth Safran	7 Av/August 12
Bella Nadler	3 Tammuz/July 10	Margot Lucoff	8 Av/August 13
Morton Bardach	4 Tammuz/July 11	Abraham "Jack" Silverstein	10 Av/August 15
Sharon Berck	5 Tammuz/July 12	Imre Kertesz	11 Av/August 16
Esther Levi	6 Tammuz/July 13	Benjamin Rothmann	11 Av/August 16
Bernard K. Ross	6 Tammuz/July 13	Seymour Facher	12 Av/August 17
Anna Bratter	6 Tammuz/July 13	Phyllis Meltzer	13 Av/August 18
Gladys Sessler	7 Tammuz/July 14	Abraham Chip Meresman	14 Av/August 19
Garson Yaffee	8 Tammuz/July 15	Jerome Friedman	14 Av/August 19
Ezra Budiansky	8 Tammuz/July 15	Sareta B. Cohen	15 Av/August 20
Howard Barschi	9 Tammuz/July 16	Abraham Brenner	15 Av/August 20
Mildred Meresman	9 Tammuz/July 16	Leah Rappaport	15 Av/August 20
Henry Abraham Goza	9 Tammuz/July 16	Joseph Davis	15 Av/August 20
Lewis William Max	10 Tammuz/July 17	Joseph Hornstein	16 Av/August 21
<i>Eliezer ben Eliabu</i>		Leon Schneider	16 Av/August 21
Ethel Teger	11 Tammuz/July 18	Ruth Raff Peskin	18 Av/August 23
Jean Inman	11 Tammuz/July 18	Abraham B. Rosenblum	22 Av/August 27
Leon Elbogen	12 Tammuz/July 19	Isadore Louis Stahl	22 Av/August 27
Harvey Stahl	12 Tammuz/July 19	Shirley Kreitzer Bradus	22 Av/August 27
Dorothy Granzow	16 Tammuz/July 23	Charlotte Silva	23 Av/August 28
Henry Hamburg	18 Tammuz/July 25	Betram "Buddy" Faber	23 Av/August 28
Esther P. Morse	18 Tammuz/July 25	Gerda Mathan	23 Av/August 28
Asher ben Yitshok v'Rochl	18 Tammuz/July 25	Morris Levin	26 Av/August 31
Norma Caplow	20 Tammuz/July 27	Myer Israel Shandling	26 Av/August 31
Jeanne Wirtzer	22 Tammuz/July 29		

We Extend Our Condolences to



• **Judith Bloom** on the death of her mother, Viola Tamarkin, ז"ל



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Congregation

Netivot Shalom

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming Home!



Michelle Wolfson

George Gidal (center) carries the Torah, while Simon Firestone (left) and Danny Isaacson each hold a huppah pole.



Ruth Radwin clutches a mock Torah.



Michelle Wolfson

Members dance to celebrate the dedication of the building.