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Congregation  
**Netivot Shalom**

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Nov-Dec 2005  
Tishrei-Heshvan-  
Kislev 5766

Vol. 17, No. 1

## FROM THE RABBI Turning Inward and Turning Outward

By Rabbi Stuart Kelman

**W**e're here! I consistently marvel at our new home — and so does everyone who comes to visit. We have much to be proud of, and much to be thankful for.

And now comes the hard work: filling the building with content. On the soon-to-be-released DVD, which describes our past and our transition to our new home, David Finn says it quite succinctly: "The building is the shell which now needs to be filled in." (The DVD will be shown to the whole congregation for the first time at our annual meeting.)

This brings me to the thrust of my message this month. We are now landowners in Berkeley, and we have additional responsibilities. Many of us have participated actively in our learning and worshiping community for the past 16 years. Now we need to also turn our attention outward: to our local, national and even international community — Jewish and non-Jewish. Yes, we have had one food barrel for the Alameda County Food Bank in our lobby, but it rarely gets filled. Yes, we've all given to the victims of Katrina and Rita. And maybe we've even worked to save people in Darfur. Some of us have been involved in BOCA – Berkeley Organizing for Community Action. But I ask you now to be aware of and participate in other opportunities for change in our world.

On November 6, for example, Temple Sinai in Oakland is hosting a conference on social justice. Become powerful advocates for alleviating hunger, increasing affordable housing, creating opportunities of economic sufficiency, improving the quality of public education, and broadening access to health care in the East Bay. Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and California State Assembly member Wilma Chan are keynote speakers, and Rob Reiner will speak at lunch. The event is from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Samuel Merritt Health Education Center, 400 Hawthorne Blvd. in Oakland. Pre-register at [www.socjust.org](http://www.socjust.org).

And this is only one opportunity! Thanksgiving is coming; there'll be more! ☺

## FROM THE PRESIDENT Rent This Space

By Carol Cunradi

**S**ince moving into our new home last June, we have received numerous inquiries about facility rentals of our building. Some of these inquiries have come from congregants who are interested in having their child's *bar* or *bat mitzvah* party in the social hall. Others have come from congregants and non-congregants who are interested in facility rental for organizations, Jewish and secular, that they are involved in.

I am happy to report that, to date, we have successfully negotiated various facility rentals. While some of the details concerning use of our facilities are still being worked out, certain aspects of our rental policies have already been determined. For example, the social hall may be rented for a *simhab motzei* Shabbat (after Shabbat). No set-up (cooking, sound system, decorations, etc.) may take place prior to that time, nor will renters be allowed entry to the building before Shabbat has concluded. While this should not prove difficult during the winter months, families whose *simhab* falls during the spring or summer months may want to consider having a Sunday afternoon or early evening party. All renters will be asked to pay a refundable facility rental deposit, and will also be expected to cover the cost of security and janitorial fees.

Another aspect of our rental policy that has already been determined is *kasbrut*. A revised *kasbrut* policy for use in our building was developed by Rabbi Kelman and the Ritual Committee in the months leading up to our move. This policy builds on many of the principles of the previous *kasbrut* policy that we observed while holding services at the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center. For example, the revised policy maintains that only dairy or *pareve* foods may be served. A new aspect, however, is that all commercially processed foods must now bear a *hekhsher* (rabbinic certification) of a recognized *kasbrut*-certifying organization (hence, a "K" by itself is not acceptable). Previously, no *hekhsher* was required as long as the ingredients of the processed food did not contain a non-kosher substance. The current version of the *kasbrut* policy can be viewed on the Netivot Shalom Web site.

Facility rentals will benefit our community in many ways. The most obvious benefit is that rental income will be

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generated for the synagogue. While this added revenue is certainly important, there are other benefits that may outweigh the monetary one. For example, I think that having one's *simhab* in our own social hall will provide a more *baimish* atmosphere than if one were to rent an outside facility. It is my hope that more and more families will come to view renting the social hall for their *simhab* as the most desirable "one-stop shopping" option. Facility rentals for Jewish and non-Jewish groups will also benefit our community by providing the opportunity to showcase our beautiful building to a larger constituency, thereby bringing new people and potential members into our home. So, if there's a *simhab* in your future, or if you are involved in an organization that needs meeting space, I want to strongly encourage you to consider renting our facilities. ❧

### Rabbi Kelman on Committee to Create New *Mahzor*

We at Netivot Shalom are proud that Rabbi Kelman was selected to be part of the committee that is creating the new *mahzor* for the Conservative Movement. We know that his passion for liturgy comes through in our own services and that this subject has been the center of his Jewish intellectual pursuit during the course of his rabbinate. Rabbi Kelman taught liturgy at the University of Judaism and for 10 years to rabbinic and education students at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. His work with Debbie Friedman in more modern expressions of liturgy is apparent on many of her CDs, where he is credited as having been a major influence on her work. He continues to teach with her and others at Ma'ayan Tefilah, a retreat-based intensive study of Jewish liturgy.

The work that Rabbi Kelman is doing on the new *mahzor* (which won't be published in its entirety for another few years) has been the source of great joy for him personally, working with an internationally renowned group of individuals known for their expertise in Jewish liturgy. We are indeed fortunate to be part of his life's work and this noble experiment in creating a new *mahzor* for our generation.

### New *Mahzor* Evaluations, Please!

If you haven't sent in your evaluation of the new *mahzor*, please do so ASAP — to the shul office. As an added incentive, you should know that we are one of only six congregations in North America that have been selected to test this version of kol nidrei.

### Third Annual Kavod V'Nachum Conference

Just one day after the dedication of our new building, Carol Cunradi, our president, who is also former chair of our *hevrah kadisha*, and Rabbi Stuart Kelman gave a presentation at the Third Annual Kavod V'Nachum Conference in New York City. Kavod V'Nachum is the international organization of all the independent *hevrah kadisha* groups in North America.

Their presentation was titled "Death, Burial and Mourning Issues for Intermarried Households." Given the reality of intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews over the past few decades, an increasing number of households in the Jewish community will be confronted with issues surrounding death, burial and mourning, and counseling involving non-Jewish relatives and loved ones. These issues center broadly around two distinct, but interrelated, scenarios: (1) death, burial and mourning issues for intermarried households (e.g., a non-Jew married to a Jew); and (2) death, burial and mourning issues for Jews by choice (e.g., a Jew with non-Jewish parents). For the former, issues may include whether a non-Jewish spouse can be buried in a Jewish cemetery, whether *tabarab* can be performed, and whether a Jewish spouse can say *kaddish* or sit *shivah* for his or her non-Jewish spouse (or vice-versa). For the latter, issues may include how to honor the faith traditions around death and burial of one's non-Jewish parent while maintaining the integrity of one's Jewish faith.

What is the role of the *hevrah kadisha* in assisting intermarried households to confront these issues, and in carrying out Jewish death, burial and mourning customs? Under what circumstances can or should traditional Jewish death, burial and mourning customs be altered to accommodate intermarried households? What are some of the counseling issues that may come up — such as mourning practices for grandchildren, attending a funeral of someone who practiced another religion, or *yahrzeit* for someone who was not Jewish?

The presentation gave our *hevrah kadisha* prominent national attention. The session was very well attended, indicating an urgent need for discussion on these topics. *Yasher koah* to Carol and Rabbi Kelman. ❧

### NETIVOT SHALOM NEWSLETTER

**Editor:** Judith Lesser McCullough

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Please submit copy to [newsletter@netivotshalom.org](mailto: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](mailto:david@radwin.org), and provide names of people in each photo.

**Issue**

January/February

**Deadline**

November 28, 2005

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

# Report from the Board

By Deborah Yager, Board Secretary

**S**ummary: Over the summer, efforts of the Netivot Shalom Board of Directors focused on securing a permanent loan for our building, restructuring our administrative staff to include an executive director, determining a process for selecting a new rabbi, and preparing for the Yamim Nora'im. The following are excerpts from board minutes.

## *July 31, 2005, board meeting:*

- Many thanks to Babbie Freiberg for organizing a **Marketing Committee**, currently chaired by Marshall Platt. A number of congregants have marketing experience that can be used to update our synagogue brochure, signage, Web site and programming.
- Carol Cunradi appointed Mary Breiner and Charlene Stern as co-chairs of the **Kitchen Use Committee**, a.k.a. the Kitchen Cabinet. Mary will focus on *kasrut* policy and operational management, they will team lead on policy and operations, and Charlene will lead the creative programming with the Kitchen Cabinet.
- Carol appointed Eugene Berg as chair of the **Building Use Committee**. Norm Rosenblatt has volunteered to coordinate building security concerns and to write a building operations manual. The Building Use Committee will make recommendations concerning use of our new space, including arbitrating any conflicts. In the event of a dispute, the Executive Committee can weigh in.
- The **Membership Committee** has revised the prospective member materials. The Executive Committee authorized a 40% dues reduction for new members for the first year of membership.
- Netivot Shalom will be one of six congregations nationwide to use a test version of the **kol nidrei mahzor** in October. This text has been five years in the making.
- The Ritual Committee reports that there will be 21 **b'nei mitzvab** next year and 10 the following year.
- Rabbi Kelman proposes to organize a congregational **Israel trip** in spring 2006, with plans to continue these trips every two years, alternating with the congregational retreat.
- Ed Anisman is coordinating efforts regarding permanent **internal signage** in our building.
- Nominations of persons to serve on the **Nominating Committee** were made by board members. **Motion** to close nominations. **Passed 9-0-0.**
- Josh Kirsch reported that he has completed the **transliterated "Slim Shalom"** prayer book.
- Lee Bearson has designed beautiful **exterior signage** for our building.

## *August 28, 2005, board meeting:*

- Mike Irwin is looking for a loan that will change our current loan from a construction to a **permanent loan**. Fremont Bank needs a resolution by the board to approve the loan. The current deal they are offering is a 10-year loan at 7.875%. This is approximately \$24,000/month. We currently have almost a year in reserve in the building fund depending on the precise interest on the loan. Total loan is between \$3.1 and \$3.2 million. Fremont is the only bank currently offering us a loan.

**Motion** The board of directors approves obtaining permanent funding of its outstanding mortgage by way of a loan with Fremont Bank, and authorizes Ken Schnur and Mike Irwin to negotiate the final terms on behalf of the congregation. The president and other officers as necessary are authorized to accept the loan on behalf of the congregation. **Passed 7-0-0**

**Motion** Ken Schnur is given authority to change the wording as necessary, with the approval of the majority of the Executive Committee, in order to get a loan this month. **Passed 7-0-0**

- An ad hoc personnel meeting was held on 8/1/05 to discuss short- and long-term **staffing needs**, including administrative structure and job requirements. Participants developed a plan to obtain an executive director. Current staffing will be restructured. Sam Salkin is heading the **Executive Director Search Committee**, aided by Joe Meresman and Golda Blum.
- **Administrative Assistant** Jennifer Childs was hired on a full-time basis. She will ease the transition if there is some time without an executive director.
- The **Pre-Rabbi Search Committee** met with representatives of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism on 8/2/05. Joining USCJ is required to recruit a Rabbinical Assembly rabbi. A special meeting will be held on 3/26/06 to outline the full search process and possibly vote on joining USCJ.
- **Yamim Nora'im tickets.** As in the past, members receive tickets for dependent children, including those in college. Members may request additional tickets at \$150 each, for relatives or others. This discount should be encouraged as part of a "bring friends to services" discount. Non-members may buy tickets at \$300 each, the amount to be applied to annual membership if they join. Kol nidrei only tickets are \$75, and Yom Kippur only tickets are \$150.
- The recommendation for **Yom Kippur Appeal** amounts was: \$108, \$225, \$450, \$900, \$1,800, \$3,600.
- There was a presentation by Karen Kushner of **Project Welcome** on 8/2/05. The program had excellent attendance — over 20 congregants. They broke into small groups and critiqued our Web site, voicemail message and membership materials.
- The **Annual Meeting** date was set for November 20, 2005.

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## BOARD REPORT

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- A grant proposal (\$24,500) for a **preschool play yard**, written by Cathy Shadd and Lisa Fink, was sent to the Gellert Foundation.
- Another sales program around **Hanukkah** (e.g., selling books & jewelry) is being considered. This year we might not have a *hai* for Hanukkah appeal since it's between the Purim & Yom Kippur appeals. Lisa Fink was appointed to co-chair fund-raising.
- Volunteers are still needed for the **Purim Ball** and associated silent auction.

### September 18, 2005, board meeting:

- **Executive Director Search.** A number of resumes have been received in response to our executive director ad. Three candidates, based on their resumes, look particularly well-qualified. A vetting process will take place this week.
- **High Holy Day Security.** Norm Rosenblatt is once again organizing this. The additional security needed at our new building will cause an increase in our security expenses for the year.
- **Annual AIPAC Dinner.** The dinner will be held December 5. Andi Cassidy hopes to organize a Netivot Shalom table (or two) as she did last year. Tickets are \$65 before 10/20/05; \$75 thereafter.
- **Building Rentals.** Numerous requests for building rentals are coming in from organizations to do trainings or classes, and from congregants for *simbas*. Michael McCullough will coordinate with Eugene Berg regarding use rules and fee structure.
- **Yom Kippur Appeal.** Ann Swidler is confirmed for making the YK Appeal. This is a critically important fund-raiser that will allow our entire community to contribute toward ensuring the financial stability of our synagogue functions and programs.
- **Membership Committee.** Prompted by a suggestion from congregant Herb Brosbe, the Membership Committee this year will be organizing Rosh ha-Shanah dinner matching.
- **Pulpit Committee.** The Pulpit Committee has finalized its drafts of "Guidelines for Mediation" and "The Role of the Rabbi." These documents cover such issues as dispute resolution and policy regarding interactions between the rabbi, lay leadership and staff.
- **Montessori Shared Use Agreement.** Ken Schnur and Rabbi Kelman met with the head of school and other administrators of Montessori School to discuss shared usage of space. As in past discussions with Montessori representatives, the tone was extremely cooperative and upbeat, with several shared-use issues worked out. For example, Montessori used our social hall on the first day of school. A memorandum of understanding is in draft form.
- **Building Loan.** Mike Irwin reports that the building loan will be finalized by the end of the month. A meeting

between the Capital Campaign chairs, Joe Merseman, Michael McCullough and Mike Irwin to discuss the status of the building assessment (voluntary mortgage contribution) will be rescheduled, with a possible date of 10/16/05.

- **Cultural Events at Netivot Shalom.** Michael McCullough has volunteered to coordinate requests for cultural events in our building.
  - **Adult Education.** Robin Braverman presented a teaching citing Torah, Talmud and *midrash*.
  - **Pre-Rabbi Search Committee.** PRSC efforts include a budget, collecting information about joining United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the need for an open search process, the need for survey and focus groups, the PRSC presentation at the annual meeting, the make-up of the Rabbi Search Committee, the possible need for parsonage and a timeline. The board was urged to approve a budget request for funds to cover two synagogue-wide mailings of a survey, three months of an online survey and light snacks for 6–10 focus groups (fall 2005) and 3–4 "parlor" meetings (spring 2006).
- Motion** The board approves a budget request of \$580 to cover the expenses for survey mailings, online surveys and focus groups. **Passed 6-0-0**
- **Strategic Planning Workgroup.** As one of its last activities before disbanding, the Strategic Planning Workgroup made a board presentation. Joe Meresman outlined **operational recommendations**, including responsible fiscal management through a dues strategy and fund-raising, strengthening of infrastructure through active lay participation, staff and leadership training and examining staffing needs, and enhancement and retention of membership via children's programs, marketing and being welcoming. Carol Dorf reviewed recommendations for **child-friendly social events** for Netivot Shalom families, including Friday night kabbalat Shabbat services, Pajama Havdalah and social action/community service projects that involve kids. Jeff Barak gave recommendations for ways to encourage the existence of, and relationships between, **affiliated/affinity groups** at Netivot Shalom that satisfy our strategic goals. Netivot Shalom is a "big tent" in which several small groups exist to enhance their community and spiritual experience, while still feeling connected as part of a larger community. While Netivot Shalom promotes accommodating other groups' requests to use shul space and/or affiliate with us, the general approach should be, How accommodating can we be, while remaining consistent with the congregation's commitment to our Conservative, egalitarian, participatory principles? The board recognizes the many, many hours the Strategic Planning Workgroup has spent meeting, researching, analyzing and presenting its results and greatly values the resulting information.
  - **Treasurer's Report.** Of 206 total member units that have paid or pledged for 2005/06, 151 out of 206 (73%) have paid full dues for their dues category (family, individual or student). ☺

## What Do You Want in a Rabbi?

By Daniel Handwerker

As many of you know, Rabbi Kelman is planning to retire in summer 2007. While this might seem far away, the Rabbi Pre-selection Committee (RPSC) has been working for several months, and by this time next year the congregation will be interviewing candidates! Art Braufman chairs the RPSC, and Barbara Wezelman and I are the two other members. We're working with several other congregants to organize the rabbi search process. The members of the Rabbi Selection Committee, which will interact with candidates, will be chosen in April 2006.

The main job of the RPSC is to collect information and design a search process that will be as open as possible and address the desires of the congregation. Through this process, we hope to learn what members want in their new rabbi and in their shul in years to come. A number of our members who are professional researchers have agreed to be a part of a Study Committee. This committee, chaired by Rena Dorph and Wendy Rosov, has designed a process for learning congregants' views. This process will include collecting information from members in the following ways:

- **Focus Groups:** Many members will be asked to participate in a focus group during November 2005. During this one-and-a-half-hour discussion (nosh provided, of course), you will participate in a conversation about the future of the synagogue and your priorities for our next rabbi.
- **Survey:** Each adult member of the synagogue (that includes everyone above *bar/bat mitzvah* age) will be asked to complete a survey either online or on paper.

In March 2006 we will present our summaries of the focus groups and survey to the congregation, and we will run "parlor" meetings where congregants can give additional input on the process.

Most important, we can only consider your opinion if you tell it to us. We encourage everyone to participate in the focus groups, survey and parlor meetings. We will describe the search process in more detail at the annual meeting and in future newsletters. If you have any questions or ideas about how we should collect information from congregants, please contact Art Braufman (braufs@cs.com), me (werker@berkeley.edu), or Barbara Wezelman (beedubs@uclink.berkeley.edu), or one of the Study Committee co-chairs, Rena Dorf and Wendy Rosov. ☺

## Sunday Morning *Minyanim*

By Art Braufman, for Ritual and Adult Education Committees

The Sunday minyanim on the second and fourth Sundays of the month are back in full swing. Everyone is invited to come and meet your fellow shul members, enjoy breakfast together and take advantage of the wisdom and experience of our speakers.

From now until June 2006, Rabbi Kelman will be speaking every 4th Sunday. The theme of his series will be Emet V'Emunah, Statement of Principles of Conservative Judaism. This statement was published in 1988 for the first time in the 100-year history of the Conservative movement. Understanding this document as the basis of what it means to be a Conservative congregation will be most helpful, as our congregation prepares to search for a rabbi to replace Rabbi Kelman upon his retirement in 2007. As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, discussions will soon begin to evaluate our congregation and what we want to be as a synagogue community.

On the second Sunday of the month, we will continue to have members discuss subjects of general interest. We have

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## Ritual Committee Activity

By Glenn Massarano, Chair, Ritual Committee

Here are some of the items the Ritual Committee has been discussing recently:

- We continued to prepare for the Yamim Nora'im services; things have been going very smoothly so far.
- Paul Feinstein has agreed to take on the task of making the synagogue *sukkah* happen (*hazaq u'varukh!*).
- There was some discussion about what our *Hanukkah* celebration could look like this year. *Hanukkah* begins on December 25. (I grew up in Orange County, where the traditional activity for Jews on that day was to go to Disneyland!)
- *Kashrut* was discussed. For those who have not been reading the Web site, the rabbi has checked into two local purveyors of bread products. In addition to those already listed on the Web site, the bread from the Bread Workshop is considered kosher for our building, as are the bagels from Costco. No other products from either of these establishments are considered kosher.
- Rabbi Kelman led one class on synagogue *kashrut*, and Rabbi Danny Isaacson and I led a second class on cooking kosher in a non-kosher home.

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). ☺

## Reflections on 5765–6

By Jonathan Stern, Chair, Social Action Committee

The Yamim Nora'im were special for Netivot Shalom — our first with our new home. Though we are too big to fit in the new building for Yamim Nora'im services, its completion begins a new phase in the life of the congregation. As I reflect on the past year and the year to come, the inward focus of laboring to establish our home is over; we must now step forward to establish ourselves as a member of the larger community.

There are so many things we can do to reach out and establish our presence in our new neighborhood. We have been approached by Chaparral House, an eldercare community and neighbor with about a one-third Jewish population; I would like to see what we can give back to our elders. We have relationships with Berkeley Youth Alternatives and the Coalition for Jewish Literacy to reinvigorate. These fabulous organizations serve the youth of Berkeley with tutoring, mentoring and many other services.

Since the beginning of the year, the Social Action Committee has been functioning as a virtual committee, with dedicated Netivot Shalom members running their own projects. I would like to solicit members to join the committee so we can build some capacity to support existing programs, such as the Claremont House elder Shabbat, meals for the homeless and food drives. Committee members should be prepared to

- ❑ Participate in an e-mail list planning and coordinating *tikkun olam* projects/events
- ❑ Help with the Yamim Nora'im Food Drive or subsequent Turkey Drive
- ❑ Make Social Action announcements at Shabbat services or other Netivot Shalom events
- ❑ Attend three to four Social Action Committee meetings/events a year
- ❑ Help recruit volunteers and/or donors for *tikkun olam* projects
- ❑ Help support existing shul programs (e.g., meals for the homeless)
- ❑ Help coordinate next year's Sukkot in April project

Please contact me at [socialaction@netivotshalom.org](mailto:socialaction@netivotshalom.org) or 510-872-0751 to join!

### Food and Turkey Drive

The holidays also brought one of Netivot Shalom's most concrete social action projects — the Yamim Nora'im Food Drive. Our 15th annual food drive, this collaboration between the Alameda County Community Food Bank and over a dozen East Bay synagogues and community organizations unites us in our efforts to gather food from Rosh ha-Shanah through Yom Kippur. This year, our target is to gather 18 tons of food between October 3 and October 13.

Again this year, we are following the Yamim Nora'im Food Drive with a Thanksgiving Turkey Drive. This project, started by Temple Sinai's Dan McCloskey, is an attempt to fill the gap for the Alameda Community Food Bank during the holiday season. Many people cannot afford to purchase nutritious food for themselves and their families, and the Food Bank distributed 12 million pounds of food last year. Our involvement bridges the gap from the Jewish high holy days to secular America's preeminent food holiday — Thanksgiving ( a short gap this year!). A \$12 donation will allow the Food Bank to purchase a turkey feeding up to 15 people; double *hai* (\$36) will feed up to 45 people. Please send donations to the shul office; make checks out to Congregation Netivot Shalom with "Turkey Drive" in the memo line. Donations are appreciated by November 11 so we can get funds over to the Food Bank in time for Thanksgiving.

### Belated Sukkot in April Report

Sukkot in April was a roaring success. Netivot Shalom members took time from the pre-Pesah cleaning frenzy to help the Taylor family, within walking distance of our new shul. The extended Taylor family has lived in their unassuming bungalow for many years, and there were many projects needed to accommodate a wheel chair and take care of deferred maintenance. Our volunteers jackhammered the walkway and prepared it for a wheelchair friendly walk, prepared the house for painting, cleaned the gutters, made the laundry area safe, retucked the brick front stairs, helped prep an area for a new fence, and took care of general repairs and clearing clutter.

Volunteers ranged from teenagers to young parents to some of our spry elders. I felt that we made a real difference for a family in our new neighborhood. I want to thank the Jewish Federation, including members of Temple Beth Abraham, for providing a kosher lunch, Starbucks and Semifreddi's for refreshments, and our own Netivot Shalom volunteers:

Howie Miller, House Captain  
Jonathan Stern, First Mate  
Kurt Bruckel  
Milt Greenstein  
Ruth Konoff  
Gail Krowech  
Jeremy Pearl-Jacobitz  
Larry Polon  
Joshua Polston  
June & Bob Safran  
Jacob & Mitchell Shandling  
Yaron Simler  
Eric Strimling

# Cuban Report from Israel

By June Safran, Cuban Affairs

At press time, I'm in Santiago de Beersheva and enjoying myself very much. I am staying with Eitan and Nili Behar (Jorge and Zeina in Cuba), who have an 11-month-old girl, Shirli — a joy. Eitan and Nili have done very well. They are fluent in Hebrew and have worked hard these many years. They live in a new apartment in a brand new section of town on the road to Omer. Speaking of Omer, we went to shul there last Shabbat and met the brand new rabbi, who also has an 11-month-old girl. She was delighted to meet Eitan and Nili and hopes they will come often. They really liked the membership that was so friendly to us. It is a small congregation that reminds them of Santiago. I hope I made a match.

I also saw Andres Novoa and family. The children are growing and Rosie is now almost 14 (some of us remember her as a very young child). Andresito, who had his *bar mitzvah* the first year we went to Santiago as a Netivot Shalom group, is finishing his army service. After the army, each person must give several months' service in the civilian scene as a guard. Andres and his cousin, Robertico, are guards at a local hotel. After that, they will go to college. I talked to Roberto Novoa, and he filled me in on his children. Robertico is preparing for college, and Rosa Cecilia is a practicing physician with two children. I don't know what work her

husband is doing. Some might remember that their first child, Gabriela, had a short leg. Well, the surgery last year was successful and she now walks normally. Their little one, Daniela, is two years old and very healthy.

I also stayed with Eduardo and Haya Bradman for a few days. They live in Rishon Lizon and have one and two-thirds children. The first is a girl, Or, who is two and one-half and lots of fun. The second is expected in November and is also a girl. They recently bought an apartment that is not far from Eduardo's business. He was able to borrow money from a friend and become a partner in a business that manufactures labels and label-reading equipment for large businesses that use the system to keep track of inventory. Haya works at the phone company as a service representative. She is a *sabra* whose family came from Turkey.

I am going to Jerusalem this

Thursday to visit friends and a young Cuban from Caibarien who is going to the Hebrew University this year, only nine months after coming to Israel.

This whole visit has been very exciting. First, it is good to be back in Israel. Second, it is very good to see friends who have successfully navigated their way to settle in Israel. Unfortunately, several families could not learn the language well so went either to Spain or the U.S. Those in Spain are doing well, but those in Miami continue to struggle. Finally, I have also met with two young people who came here recently and are struggling. I was able to help one, and my Cuban friends who met them at the same time gave good advice and will continue to be in contact with them. I am very glad that I came on this trip. It is reassuring to know that the work we all do to help the Cubans is paying off in good citizens for Israel. ☺

All photos by June Safran.



Eitan Behar and daughter, Shirli, smile for the camera.



Andres and Dania Novoa from Santiago de Cuba.



Clara Behar cooks *papa rellenas*, a fried potato dish.

*It is my hope, in this column, to encourage discussion and even debate with regard to issues concerning and confronting Israel. What follows are the thoughtful — and, I hope, thought-provoking — views of two members of our community. I encourage you to engage with the articles and also, if you wish, to offer other ideas and/or articles.*

— Editor

## Thoughts on Israel

By Rose Levinson

It's difficult to discuss Israel with any kind of objectivity or distance. Israel is a unique combination of a modern nation-state and a place seen as sacred by virtue of its history and its religious connotations.

Those of us whose stance puts us on the “left” often feel we have to apologize before we speak out, reassuring people that we are neither self-hating Jews nor traitorous commentators. We often feel bullied into silence and allow ourselves to be absent from the debate, such as it is. In addition, it is not easy to find clarity in the situation, nor to honor the nuances that pertain here as everywhere. Having said this, I add a few comments to the conversation.

The withdrawal from Gaza represents, I believe, an important first step in Israel's disengagement from lands that are primarily occupied by Palestinians and that need to serve as part of a Palestinian state. The arguments that insist that the Palestinians are not to be trusted, that Hamas continues to work for Israel's destruction, that it is folly to return land without some kind of Palestinian quid pro quo still do not make the case for continued occupation.

Israel cannot thrive by being an occupying power. The resources — emotional, psychological, material — demanded by occupation result in national strangulation. At some point, one side has to let go, even when not knowing what will come in and fill the space it has created. There is no guarantee for safety, nor for an end to violence, with the withdrawal from Gaza. And there is still a very long way to go to achieve true rapprochement. Both the Israelis and the Palestinians — and we American Jews — have a lot of work to do individually and communally.

We're dealing with two master narratives, two people's insistent claims, one small piece of the earth. Finding the way forward will continue to be difficult. But this withdrawal is a beginning, and it is the right thing to have done. ☛

## What Does Israel Need?

By Seymour Kessler

The writer of the following article, Alon Liel, is a former director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a member of the Council of Peace and Security, an organization affiliated with Tel Aviv University that consists of top-level military and diplomatic individuals. He served as Israel's ambassador to South Africa and was foreign affairs advisor to then-chair of the Labor Party, Ehud Barak.

The article, which appeared in *Haaretz*, reflects the growing maturity and national self-confidence in Israel. It raises several questions: How effective has international pressure been in promoting peace between Israel and the Palestinians? Are calls for Israel to make further concessions and withdrawals or to threaten boycotts and ostracism likely to achieve their purpose?

The author, a seasoned diplomat, thinks not. He sees international efforts to change the dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict largely as ineffectual and likely to remain so. His is an argument for continued unilateral Israeli decisions with an eye to maintain its Jewish identity. In this regard, he sees further Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank and Golan Heights in the cards and, even if the Palestinians themselves cannot or do not achieve it, a creation (by Israel) of a separate Palestine state.

One further question: How do we in the Diaspora feel about an Israel strong enough and capable of standing up for itself against the world? Does it evoke pride and understanding, or a cognitive dissonance that leads to a hypercriticality of Israeli intentions and actions and a knee-jerk flight toward the underdog?

### “Israel Needs No One But Itself” by Alon Liel

“The past five years, the years of the Al-Aqsa Intifada, have taught an important lesson about Israel's situation in the international arena: Israel has in effect become immune to international pressure. At the beginning of the 21st century, the Israeli-Arab conflict became more of a national problem of Israel and some of its neighbors and less of an international problem.

“As someone who during the past three decades has spent many years in various parts of the world and is well aware of the great international interest in the Israeli-Arab conflict, and particularly the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I believe the latest intifada and the disengagement plan that has brought the intifada to its end prove it is not the outside world that will force Israel into the diplomatic concession it must make. The endurance Israel has evinced in the international arena during the past five years is proof of its strengthening, as well as the world's lack of desire and mainly its lack of ability to force an agreement on the region.

“During the five years of violence of the Al-Aqsa Intifada 2001–2005 Israel was internationally hurt mainly in two arenas, but even there not mortally. The first arena was the Middle East; the loss of Tunisia, Morocco and Oman, as well as the Egyptian and Jordanian ambassadors. This was definitely a significant blow to Israel’s Middle Eastern foreign relations. The second arena in which Israel was hurt is Western Europe, especially northwestern Europe. The European states that are especially sensitive to human rights violations once again boldly took the side of the Palestinian people in its struggle for independence.

“This was also expressed in a renewed wave of anti-Semitism at the center of which, this time, was the State of Israel and not necessarily the Jewish people. Israel suffered an unpleasant blow at the International Court of Justice in The Hague for building the security fence. The court ‘rolled’ the charges against Israel in the direction of the United Nations, and there they are stuck to this day.

“In the rest of the world, for many and varied reasons, there has been hardly any damage. Certainly not in the United States, which has continued to support Israel as part of the free world and a victim of terror. The strong countries of East Asia, among them China and Japan, Russia, the countries of former Eastern Europe, the republics of Central Asia and the countries of Africa and Latin America, also preferred not to damage the network of ties with Israel. Other important countries, such as India and Poland, entirely ignored what was happening in the Israeli-Palestinian playing field and preferred to strengthen their ties with Israel during the course of the intifada.

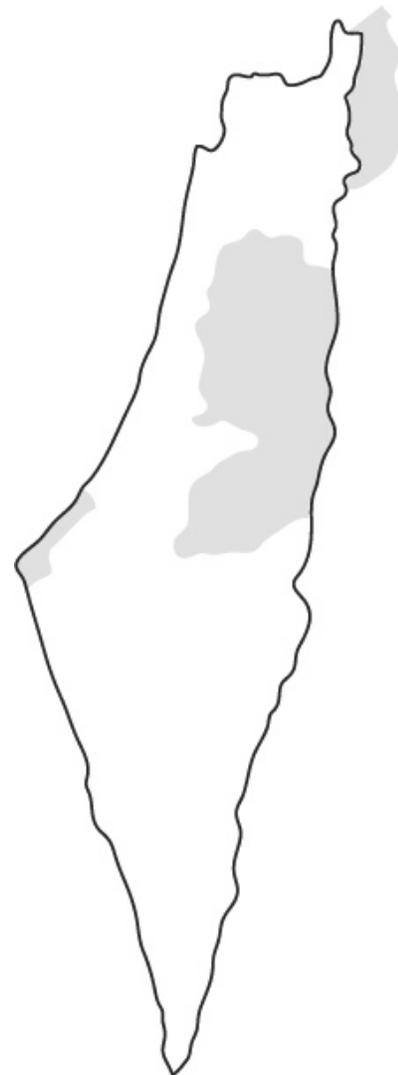
“Moreover, the plan for the disengagement from Gaza and northern Samaria (the West Bank) despite its unilaterality and the fact that it was not part of a peace plan, succeeded in quickly restoring to Israel nearly all the diplomatic assets it had lost during the course of recent years. The rehabilitation of Israel’s international status has been almost immediate, even though the price has not yet been paid. It is doubtful there is another country in the world that during the course of the first half of 2005 has had so many high-level visitors from the four corners of the earth. However, the Israeli peace camp, all of the Arab world and those among the Palestinian people who still believe that the Israeli-Arab conflict will in the end be solved only as the result of international pressure can forget about it.

“Last year it was possible to see in a smaller and weaker country than Israel, its neighbor Cyprus, that even a united world that uses all its diplomatic weight cannot force the Greek Cypriots to make peace with their Turkish neighbors in the northern part of the island. The government of (Greek) Cyprus ignored the international pressure and has not been required to pay any price for its refusal thus far.

“In the case of Israel, it is difficult even to imagine such combined pressure on Jerusalem. It is hard to imagine joint American-European pressure on an issue like withdrawal from Jerusalem or the return of the Palestinian refugees into Israeli territory. The failed effort by the British lecturers’ association to impose sanctions on three Israeli universities is evidence of the world’s inability to apply real pressure on Israel.

“If this is the case, Israel needs no one but itself. If Israel does not resolve the conflict of its own free will and at its own initiative, it will not be resolved. If Israel does not establish the Palestinian state, it will not arise. Gaza has already been evacuated in a unilateral way. There remain another two very major steps before the desired peace with most of the Arab world leaving most of the territories of the West Bank and leaving most of the territory of the Golan Heights. The modern, global and self-assured Israel will ultimately realize that these withdrawals are essential to maintaining its Jewish identity and its well-being over time. The Israel of 2005 is also strong enough to impose, in negotiations, the timetables and to a large extent also the agreed-upon borders, both on the Palestinians and on the Syrians, if only it does this wisely, generously and sincerely.

“The world is not capable of plucking the chestnuts out of the fire for Israel. The world does not profoundly understand the meaning of the national Israeli problem that is on the threshold — the loss of the Jewish majority between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. The Israeli left must stop looking outward and seeking the salvation of peace in the major world capitals. The salvation must come from within, and hopefully it will happen here without a third intifada.” ❧



## Israeli General Consul Speaks at Netivot Shalom

By Hilda Kessler, Bridges to Israel-Berkeley

David Akov, West Coast general consul of Israel, addressed a group of about 45 people at Netivot Shalom on September 25. His talk, on the Gaza disengagement and its aftermath, was sponsored by Bridges to Israel-Berkeley.

Consul Akov pointed to two factors motivating the disengagement. First, the need for a two- state solution in order for Israel to maintain its primary Jewish character, and second, the impasse in the peace process.

With the Road Map stalemated, something dramatic had to be done to encourage the Palestinians to come to terms with Israel, he said. By totally leaving Gaza, the Palestinians, by necessity, have to show whether they are capable of governing themselves and being a partner in peace.

Consul Akov asserted that the disengagement demonstrated the maturity and strength of Israeli society. Despite the widespread resistance and disapproval by the settler movement and its many sympathizers, civil conflict did not occur, because the democratic process by which disagreements are only fought out in the political arena has been internalized by all factions. It also shows that with planning, the Israeli army is capable of being compassionate and sensitive while achieving its primary defensive mission.

According to Akov, the next few months will be critical in determining the international, Palestinian and domestic impact of the disengagement. Abbas, chair of the Palestinian Authority, is being challenged to assert his authority and to prove that he can govern and establish one security entity. He has to arrest known terrorists, remove illegal weapons and establish a viable intelligence infrastructure.

It is of multinational interest — as well as that of Israel — that Gaza develop its economic base, said Akov. This, in turn, will give Palestinians a sense of hope for the future. Their challenge is to overcome Arafat's legacy of corruption.

Akov concluded that within Israel, the political system is in flux. The changes brought about by disengagement have not yet been reflected in the political scene. That will be the arena in which the shock and trauma will be played out.

Stay tuned — the next few months will be very interesting. ☛



*Israeli Consul General David Akov, pictured here with Rabbi Stuart Kelman, spoke at Netivot Shalom on September 25 on Israel's disengagement from the West Bank. The event was co-sponsored by Congregation Netivot Shalom.*

### Sunday Morning *Minyanim* — Speaker Schedule

*(continued from page 5)*

a tremendous number of talented fellow congregants and the Sunday talks have been a wonderful way to get to know other congregants and to learn from our "resident experts."

Shaharit services start at 9:30 a.m., followed by a light breakfast at 10:15 and then the talk/discussion from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. We hope to see you there.

Here is the upcoming schedule:

- **November 13: Jonathan Arons**, professor of astronomy and physics, UC Berkeley: "Things that Go Bang in the Night!" — the dance of colliding neutron stars, and including some spectacular pictures.
- **November 27: No service** or speaker — Thanksgiving weekend
- **December 11: Rose Levinson**, moderator for KALW public policy program for 17 years: Personal experiences and lessons learned over 17 years as moderator of call-in radio show about public policy.
- **December 25: Rabbi Kelman** continues his series on Conservative Judaism: *Emet Ve-Emunah*. ☛

# Kitchen Cabinet News

By Charlene Stern, Chair, Kitchen Cabinet

First things first: Cathy Bolding delivered a masterful event to launch the Yamim Nora'im with a deliciously sweet learning and tasting experience for the entire community.

Cathy took our launch event dream, "The Roundness of Being Jewish," and recruited Cabinet members (old and new) to help welcome and run a beautiful event. I thank you, Cathy, for your leadership, organization and delivery to make it a great success. Thanks also go to Joanna Weinberg for asking Michael Rose, our Berkeley hallah master, to bring his talent and passion right to our kitchen, just in time for the new year. We are so appreciative of having Michael, the master chef of the best hallah in Berkeley, present techniques and stories during what has to be the busiest time of the year. Thank you, Michael, for your generosity in sharing your talent to elevate our Kitchen Cabinet event into a great memory.

**Kitchen construction update:** Thanks to Howie Miller, member and partner in Centerline Construction, and David Finn, project architect, we're getting closer and closer to having a fully functional synagogue kitchen. We now have electricity. Plumbing, the freezer, refrigerator, sink, microwave, disposal and oven are all working. Mary Breiner and her team have organized all the utensils, cooking equipment, serving pieces and dishes. *Kiddushim* are now easier because of their hard work — we thank you. (We hope to be fully functional by November 1).

So now we're ready for our next event. And, it promises to be an uncommonly great one. I want to thank you, Rabbi, for your amazing connections to secure Joan Nathan, an internationally known master chef, author of *Jewish Cooking in America* and PBS TV series host. Joan has been honored for her culinary writing with a national James Beard Award and the IACP/Julia Child cookbook of the year award. She will present and talk about her newest, just-published cookbook. Our emerging kitchen and Netivot Shalom will be greatly honored by her presence!

Come and hear about her sources of inspiration and her most recent writing chapter in an extraordinary career. Joan



*Shoshana Fendel proudly displays the hallah she made.*

will be on hand to answer your toughest questions and autograph her cookbooks. In the planning is a small, private dinner opportunity with Joan, before her presentation that Sunday evening. We'll be publishing details soon. So save the date — **November 13 at 7:00 p.m.** for **Joan Nathan**, and come prepared to enjoy, learn and be inspired for your own kitchen endeavors.

Lastly, the autumn days,



*Michael Rose, of Semifreddi's, demonstrates hallah-baking principles to his youthful audience (left to right) Amelia Banbury, and Ariella and Sophia Brodie-Weisberg.*

three slightly different gefilte fish recipes (they change with every telling!), and encouragement from my mom is inspiring me, as I write this on the eve of the Yamim Nora'im, to tackle her fantastic gefilte fish recipe. I'll let you know how well I meet the challenge in my next newsletter article. And yes, I was inspired (or made certifiably nuts) by many apples (Braeburn and Granny Smith) on our trees to can 43 jars of applesauce for the winter and those Hanukkah latkes (does anyone have a great non-fat or low-fat latke version to share?)...

We now have inaugurated our kitchen oven with the overwhelmingly wonderful aroma of Semifreddi's *hallot* baking and noshing event. We want to express our greatest appreciation to Michael Rose, who in addition to sharing master baking techniques, took us by surprise and donated all the round *hallot* for us to sell and use the proceeds to help complete our kitchen.

We also want to thank Anna and Katie, the expert beekeepers and honey mavens of Bees? In Berkeley? who brought all the props and photos that made beekeeping come alive for both children and adults. They shared spellbinding stories and great learning about honey bees and their amazing honey (we now know that 350–750 different species of Berkeley/Oakland flowers are in every jar of their delicious honey, and we don't have to worry about killer bees in Berkeley!).

And on top of everything else she did to create this wonderful event, we offer special thanks to Cathy Bolding, who donated a crate of apples that were at our congregational onegs during the Yamim Nora'im. 🐝



*Katie of Bees? In Berkeley? talks about beekeeping to her fascinated audience.*

## Invitation to Members

By Charlene Stern

We plan to decorate our synagogue kitchen walls with **photos of many of our families' matriarchs** (mothers, grandmothers, aunts), who gave us so much love in everything they cooked and who have inspired us today in our own kitchens. Of course, if you have a patriarch who was a cook in your family, we would love to include him, too. We need **5"x7" black and white matte prints**. They cannot be returned, so do not send any originals. Please send them directly to my home (1016 Grizzly Peak, Berkeley 94708). We'll frame the photos and put them up to surround and inspire our own community's Jewish cooking endeavors. Please provide the name of the person in the photograph, your name, and that person's relationship to you. Also, **include a recipe** if you have it, so we can build our very own synagogue cookbook. Happy Cooking! ☺

## Kiddush Threat II

By Turi Adams

The little gray balls of gefilte fish didn't scare you. Turns out many of you like those little gray balls, and some of have even recounted your fond memories of them to me.

I was hoping the new kitchen would encourage you. But no, not one of you has run up to me at services, grabbed me by the arm and hollered, "Me! I want to be the next one to host a Netivot Shalom *kiddush* in our new kitchen."

In fact, it has come to this: Joanna and I have been forced to beg for recruits at the end of Shabbat davening; and then, the final indignity, we are forced to solicit people as they make their way into the *kiddush* area. "Listen," we say, "Howouldja like to host a *kiddush* — cheap?"

It's getting so people I'm simply approaching with a friendly greeting throw their hands up, palms out, and shriek as if stabbed, "April, we hosted one in April!" before "Shabbat Shalom" even leaves my lips. How did they know I was going to follow with, "It's a glorious Shabbat to commit to hosting a future *kiddush*?"

Well, I've had it. You'll soon be getting phone calls from me. And I'm going to be sneaky about it. I'll pretend I have a free vacation package in Tahoe to offer you. Four nights paid at one of the fancier shmancier resorts, and when you say, "Great, and can I have a lower rate on my home mortgage and a better long-distance calling package too?" I'll say, "Sure you can. All you have to do is host a *kiddush*."

### Plan D

In case this doesn't produce the desired number of new hosts, I will resort to "Plan D." (Plan B was the gefilte fish, you may recall, and that didn't work, and Plan C is the free Tahoe offer.)

Plan D is this: You will be forced to watch three-year-old reruns of C-span until you begin to grow very sleepy. Then, just as your eyes start to close, I will pelt you with individually wrapped Sunkist Jelly candies, and sing, at the top of my voice, "Simin Tov and Mazel Tov." In your confusion, you will assume you are having a *simhab* of some sort, at which time I will present to you a bill for catering from one of the pricier places in town. You will sign. We will have a smashing grand *kiddush* on your good credit. You'll never know what happened, but you will wonder why you don't remember registering for a coffee pot.

Now, the *kiddush* that you host does not have to be from some super duper caterer (though fine food is always appreciated, particularly in great quantities). In fact, it can be both easy and cheap to host a Netivot Shalom *kiddush*. You can do it for about \$100. We even have a list of easy-to-do *kiddush* items posted on the Netivot Shalom Web site (click on "Sponsor a Kiddush" and follow the links). Inexpensive kosher items that are simple to set up can be had at any super market, and your *kiddush* co-coordinators make excellent *kiddush* coaches. The new kosher guidelines are also posted on our Web site, and you can print them out and bring them to the store with you.

What could be simpler? No occasion is too minor to celebrate. In addition to the obvious ones, like kids' birthdays, anniversaries, anniversaries of *bar* and *bat mitzvabs*, here are some events that may not have seemed *kiddush*-worthy, but, to a hungry congregation, absolutely are:

1. Mentioned in local newspaper (not in police blotter column) for something *kiddush*
2. Finished Ph.D., grant proposal, construction of addition on the house *kiddush*
3. Figured out operation of TiVo so as not to miss any shows that air on Shabbat *kiddush*
4. Favorite sporting team won game/title/trophy (Little League and Children's Soccer events qualify) *kiddush*

Remember, if you're eating about it, we'd like to be eating about it. And you can team up with a friend, or ask us to put you down as a "half sponsor seeking other half-sponsor." There are members who would like to contribute financially to a *kiddush*, and others who would like to do a *kiddush* but whose resources are limited — so e-mail your kind coordinators, with a couple of suggested dates, and we'll keep a list and try to make a *shidekb* (match). Never worry about set-up or clean-up — the congregation and its children are always up to the task. We can schlep and we can scoop and we can mop up after (sung to "Mairsey Dotes and Dosey Dotes").

So e-mail or phone. We need you!

That's the latest from your outgoing *kiddush* co-coordinators. And remember, we are desperate women. Sign up now. The ice you shave may be your own. ☺



*Za'atar performs a song from its repertoire of Mizrahi music.*

## Concert Rocks Netivot Shalom

By David Callen

A foot-tapping, hand-clapping, groovy jazzy good time was had at the Za'atar and Klez-X benefit concert at Netivot Shalom on September 22. As the band's music filled the room so did shul members, people interested in the bands, and other people in the Jewish community. The night was filled with special moments. Throughout the night, people felt compelled to stand up and dance in celebration of the music, the synagogue and our community.

The Eastern European sound of Klez-X and the Middle Eastern vibe of Za'atar brought together many Jewish influences. Za'atar's music comes from Mizrahi cultures, while Klez-X's comes from a mixture of jazz and Ashkenazic

cultures. Both bands are based in the Bay Area. The music had a dynamic range, not only in the sound but in languages. One could hear Hebrew, English, Yiddish, Arabic and more. It was a worldly Jewish experience uniting attendees to the history of Jewish folk music.

From attending services and hearing our many voices rise, we knew the room had great acoustics. On this night in particular, we were really able to test the audio quality of the space. Many different world instruments were played — from an oud to an accordion.

There was one moment in particular that stood out. It felt as if time stopped. The room silenced. A transfixed audience listened to Stephen Saxon (Klez-X band member and hazzan) sing Yigdal. It brought a new feeling to a space that is traditionally used for davening. Something about it felt liberating and at the same time deeply spiritual. There was a powerful sense of connection in the room — to one another, our synagogue, and the greater Jewish Community.

Lisa Fink did a sensational job producing the event. She arranged for food and drink donors, volunteers, two excellent bands and much more. Another special thanks goes to Rom Rosenblum, who coordinated the donated sound equipment and did all the audio and mixing during the concert. All the funds from the tickets, food and drinks go toward Netivot Shalom.

This performance is the first of what we hope will be many cultural events sponsored by Netivot Shalom. After such a successful event, we are all looking forward to the next one and hope to see you there. 🍷



*Klez-X, formerly the San Francisco Klezmer Experience, plays a number from its set of traditional klezmer tunes and not-so-traditional variations.*

# Quilting with Margot Lucoff

By Lee Feinstein

Several years ago, I was invited to join a group of Jewish women to create fabric art, primarily quilts, and use our heads to study and discuss Jewish and/or women's issues while our hands were busy making art. We met and started on a peace quilt to send to Israel. Nancy Katz gave us a place to meet in her studio and shared her treasure trove of fabrics and other art supplies. Nancy was also our guide to the creative process, making quilting easy for the members who arrived with more interest in the study aspect than needlework skills.

During the next few months, I kept telling Margot how much fun I was having meeting Jewish women out of the context of a religious service. Although she claimed to be unable to thread a needle or sew a stitch, I convinced her to try it once. So she joined us and we loved having her. She was not alone learning to sew by hand. But she was as good as any of us making aesthetic decisions, and better than me when it came to Jewish women's issues and our foray into the study of kabbalah and the *sefirot*. I had to ask her for help understanding most Hebrew and Yiddish words that all these women were using so knowledgeably. So we had an unspoken deal going. I threaded her needle and showed her how to sew and she translated and defined terms for me. She was a little big sister to me. As I chose the path of Judaism, she guided me in all aspects of living Jewishly. All this while she brought to the quilt group her special brand of humor and insight to whatever the topic of discussion was at the moment.



This quilt, created to honor the memory of Margot Lucoff by quilters Nancy Katz, Rivka Greenberg, Faith Meltzer, Karen Friedman, Diane Bernbaum and Lee Feinstein, hangs in the Netivot Shalom library.

After the peace quilt was finished, we spent a few months trying to decide what to do next. A woman from the Reconstructionist Movement visited us and presented a program on the *sefirot*. At some point she passed out a handout with illustrations of the structure of the concepts. Margot took one look and remarked that this was a very masculine presentation. It looked like a fancy form of plumbing pipes linked together. If we wanted to study it we would have to find a more feminine way to express the concepts.

So at the next meeting, we worked with Nancy on some ways to make feminine shapes that expressed some of the concepts of the *sefirot*. Over the next couple of months, we refined the images and started to find shapes and fabrics and began a quilt.

Margot begged off a meeting, and later that week we heard the sad news of her death.

Needless to say, at our next quilters meeting we shared memories of our times with Margot, and quickly decided to adapt our fledgling quilt to be a memorial to her. We collected our memories on paper and then decided how to translate them to fabric; the results are now on view in the Netivot Shalom library. In addition to Nancy Katz and myself, the quilting team for this quilt consisted of Diane Bernbaum, Karen Friedman, Rivka Greenberg and Faith Meltzer. ❧

**Come see the beautiful quilt, dedicated to Margot Lucoff's memory, now hanging in the library.**

## I Remember Margot

By Nancy Katz

Jewish women coming together with the intention to learn together and to create together — that was the plan. And so we did. Text study waned, but regular meetings and people stretching themselves — that was the norm.

Not knowing where the piece would hang, we decided to just jump into something — a feminine kabbalistic quilt. We were joined one evening by a woman who spoke with us about the “four worlds.” Margot, not a quilter, but a woman willing to expand her world, always had something clever (and funny!) to say — about everything.

Our quilt's imagery had to be feminine — traditional *sefirot* designs were too masculine — “looked like plumbing,” according to Margot.

We designed a quilt with the richness of a pomegranate — a voluptuous *rimon* with assorted flame-like Hebrew letters at its core. Water encircles the fire, 18 leaves surround the fruit.

Margot was very much alive when we began this quilt. Her primitive stitching was a vital part of its creation. One Monday night, Margot wasn't feeling well, so she passed on the night out to the studio. Thursday she didn't report to work at the library. By Friday we all learned that she was gone.

The quilt, and meeting together as a group, quickly took on new meaning. Some of us had known Margot for years

— for others we'd just lost a new friend. Now this was Margot's quilt, a way for us to remember and honor her — a way to illustrate and marvel at her multiple affiliations and her assorted idiosyncrasies.

We remember, love and miss our dear Margot. ☹

## Help Needed with Transliterated *Siddur*

By Josh Kirsch

You may have noticed that we now have transliterated *Siddurim*, next to their bound counterparts, housed in white binders. How did these get there, you might ask, sighing in relief that you don't have to use the big clunky things? Their story is a small one in the journey of the transformation of our shul from JCC renters to the conquerors of the former JV Liquors, and it's one you can play a part in.

As many of you know, Netivot Shalom had a strategic planning process earlier this year. I was involved, under the leadership of Joe Meresman, in looking at making our shul more welcoming and inclusive. One issue was the need for a user-friendly transliterated *siddur*.

With the help of a number of folks, the current version of the transliterated *siddur* was compiled. It juxtaposed transliterations available online with the new, slimmer *Sim Shalom*. However, this is just a prototype, which can be modified. New pages of rabbinical and instructive quotes can be added, and the design enhanced. Ideally, the bland present version could be transformed into something of such aesthetic and scholarly merit that even the most learned members of this community would regularly consult it.

And this is where community comes in. If you can help me revise the current edition, please contact me at [joshjenk@mac.com](mailto:joshjenk@mac.com). Aside from being fun, it will be a *mitzvah*.

*Hakhnasat orehim*, welcoming the new person, is something we are all responsible for. ☹

## Mitzvah Milers Triumph

By Dan Siegel

On the weekend of September 24–25, the 18 members of the Mitzvah Milers cycling team rode a combined 1,500 miles at the Waves to Wine MS Bike Tour in Sonoma County. Most importantly, the team surpassed its goal of \$12,000, having (at press time) raised \$20,000! for research and programs to benefit those like myself with MS. This doubles the \$10,000 we raised last year and puts the team among the top three fund-raisers out of 85 teams (we were 10th in number of riders), and first for average amount raised per rider. In total, the event had 1,200 riders and raised \$800,000.

I can't tell you how much everyone's contributions, both riding and donating, have meant to me. I'm overwhelmed by the amount of support for myself and others with MS. I continue to feel strong and healthy and hope I can keep on peddling for many years to come.

I really enjoyed the 135 miles I rode over two days (my wife, Traci, also rode 135 miles). The first day I rode 78 miles, through patches of redwoods, farmland, the Russian River and breathtaking views along the Pacific Ocean. The second day I rode 57 miles, mainly on rolling hills through vineyards. Hence the name Waves to Wine. The weather was perfect both days, in the low 70s.

Thanks to everyone at Netivot Shalom who has so enthusiastically supported me and the team. I was thrilled to see the Netivot Shalom community come together in such force for this event.

Of the 18 team members, 12 (indicated with an \*) are Netivot Shalom members: Noah Alper,\* Andrea Altschuler,\* Jon Barash, Jeff Burack,\* Marsha Converse,\* Jim Cunradi,\* Joe Eisenberg,\* Eileen Filomeno, Djalma Fonseca, Steve Isaack, Bob Miller, Rick Morse, Mark\* and Sharon\* Priven, Dan\* and Traci\* Siegel, Glenn Wolkenfeld\* and Elad Ziv.\* ☹



Netivot Shalom's Mitzvah Milers team. (back row, left to right) Mark Priven, Djalma Fonseca, team captain Dan Siegel, Jim Cunradi, Jeffrey Burack, Glenn Wolkenfeld, Elad Ziv and Noah Alper; (front row, left to right) Andrea Altschuler, Eileen Filomeno, Sharon Priven and Traci Siegel. Not pictured are team members Marsha Converse and Joe Eisenberg.

## The Chicken Soup Committee: Valedictory and Appeal for a Successor

By Alice Webber and Stephen Tobias, Former *Gemilut Hasadim* Co-coordinators

“The giver gives and receives through the act of giving and thereby undergoes an emboldening change. The receiver receives and gives through the act of receiving and thereby is altered in significant ways. Without giving, without offering thanks and hoping for that offering to be received, I believe one part of who we could be might never come into existence, might never be realized — that state during which the blood courses more brilliantly, the senses strengthen and increase, possibilities expand, and new light comes to sing in the bones.”

— Pattiann Rogers in *The Dream of the Marsh Wren: Writing as Reciprocal Creation*

In our three years as *gemilut hasadim* coordinators, arranging meal support for households touched by illness and bereavement, we have felt the transformative power of giving and receiving. So many Netivot Shalom members’ graciousness in giving and generosity in receiving has flowed through us. We’ve become part of the graceful courage of those who have allowed their fellows into their lives in times of need. We’ve felt as our own, given to us and by us, the love and concern of those who’ve found the time and resources to offer needed help. We’ve shared vulnerable moments in the lives of people we hadn’t even known.

We wouldn’t have missed it.

Three years ago, when Lee Feinstein appealed for a successor, we had to think it over for a month or more before we said yes. We’re glad we did. But now we’re burnt out. We’re not doing such a good job any more. By the time this is published, we hope the next coordinator(s) will have taken over. If not, perhaps this is the *mitzvah* for you. Talk to us. We’ll answer your questions and give you time to mull it over. Call us at 510-654-4561. ☞



## Simon Firestone

In the spring of 2000, I was at a *kiddush* in a classroom in Jerusalem where services were held on the Sabbath. I was coming to the end of my year of studying Talmud at the Conservative Yeshiva and had recently decided to move to Berkeley for graduate school in economics. That day was the first time I heard of Netivot Shalom — someone told me to check it out when I moved here.

Moving to Berkeley was a big change for me, and was driven by my choice of school. I’m a native of Manhattan. I went to Stuyvesant High School, then Swarthmore College, and got a masters in public affairs at Princeton. All very East Coast. I returned to NYC for five years and worked as an urban planner for several government agencies. Whatever job I chose, I got really bored. City agency work has a lot of advantages, but intellectual stimulation is not among them! The boredom built up enough that I decided on a career change to economics. I’d been learning enough about Judaism to a point where I wanted to put in some full-time Torah study too, so I filled out my grad school applications, wished myself good luck, and went off to Jerusalem.

Some big culture shocks met me when I moved to Berkeley, like an invitation to a clothing-optional hot spring *shabbaton* — and a few weeks later to something called the “naked *minyán*.” I think the biggest shift for me was how friendly people can be right away here. It took me about a year to stop asking myself: “What do these people really want from me?” Plus all these strange green vegetables that everyone eats.

Grad school has been a pretty steady torture for me, and I’m relieved that it’s almost over. Netivot Shalom has been a huge source of strength for me along the way. I’ve made some of my most important friendships in Berkeley through shul. Nathan Martin and I spent many *shabbat* lunches during my first year here eating roast chicken and studying *parashat lekha lekha* together, a regular practice that really helped me in my transition.

Once of the nicest things about Berkeley is that there are really no boundaries between the different parts of the religious communities. I have a bunch of friends at Beth Israel, and spend a lot of time at the Beit Midrash. I love the Beit Midrash’s passion for Torah, but don’t have the patience for their four-hour *shaharit* service. My favorite thing about being Jewish in Berkeley is how the whole community comes together on Shavuot. ☞



## Kara Vuicich, David Radwin, and Ruth Vuicich Radwin

Kara Vuicich and David Radwin met in 1992, at the start of their freshman year at UC San Diego, where they lived on the same floor of a Revelle College dormitory. They were friends at first, and started dating in 1995 after Kara returned from a year of study in China. After graduation, the couple moved to Berkeley, where David, and later Kara, would attend graduate school at UC Berkeley.

Both David and Kara are natives of Northern California. David grew up in Los Altos, where his parents still live. Kara grew up in Pacifica and later moved to the San Diego and Los Angeles areas.

After settling in Berkeley, Kara and David affiliated with the UC Berkeley Hillel program, where they enjoyed the Friday night services and other events, and where Kara converted to Judaism. Kara and David were joined under the *huppah* in June 2000, and the following year the couple joined Netivot Shalom. They immediately felt comfortable with the participatory, egalitarian structure of both the services and the general operation of the shul. They say they have come a long way in their understanding and observance of Judaism since joining the shul, and they look forward to continuing to broaden and deepen both in the years to come.

In June 2004, the family was blessed by the birth of their daughter, Ruth, at their home in Berkeley. “Every day with Ruth is a new set of surprises, joys and challenges,” says Kara. Although she does not know it yet, Ruth is looking forward to regularly attending Shabbat B’Yachad services with her parents as soon as she relinquishes her morning nap. David and Kara are also the owners/guardians of two small black dogs, Tova and Jet, who are finally making themselves useful by cleaning food scraps off the floor after Ruth eats.

When she’s not at work, Kara enjoys swimming, bicycling, running, knitting, and learning about new ideas and developments in the field of urban and environmental planning. David’s hobbies include reading, listening to public radio, cooking and brewing beer. And Ruth’s favorite activities include playing outside, emptying cupboards of their contents, climbing through the dog door, and playing peek-a-boo.



Today, Kara works as a transportation planner for the City of Berkeley with a focus on public transportation. Her current projects include supervising the redesign of the downtown Berkeley BART plaza and assisting the public in reducing their use of the private automobile. David was working toward a Ph.D. in political science, but he recently left the program and is now actively seeking employment — “anywhere that is intellectually challenging in a positive work environment.” Although his training and experience emphasized research, statistical analysis and writing, he says he would be delighted to take career advice or job leads from anyone who is kind enough to offer. ☺

*In each issue, we introduce one or more 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](mailto:newsletter@netivotshalom.org).*

## Midrasha Report

By Diane Bernbaum, Director, Midrasha

This past summer I was privileged to be at two amazing conferences. The first, in Boston in July, was for the 50 or 60 people across the country who do exactly what I do: direct supplementary, community Hebrew high schools.

When I started doing this job, I had no colleagues in the Bay Area, and although there were a few similar schools in the nation, I had no way of networking with those directors. It seemed every conference or meeting I attended, I was the odd “man” out. Either the educators concerned themselves with elementary education, or if they educated teens, those teens were from just one synagogue or movement. Thanks to the generosity of the Legacy Heritage Foundation, and the Institute for Informal Jewish Education at Brandeis University, I now have 50 or 60 colleagues who are thinking about the same things I do: how to combine Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Renewal and unaffiliated students and families in an institution to make everyone feel at home; how to combine classroom learning and retreats for teenagers; how to recruit and retain students and teachers. It feels extraordinary to have been able to be in this group from the very beginning, when I attended the same conference two years ago with only 10 participants.

In August, I taught at the CAJE (Coalition for Alternatives in Jewish Education) conference in Seattle. Alternatives is actually a misnomer, since CAJE is THE mainstream national conference for Jewish educators. This year’s theme was creating sacred community. Actually, it was because of a newsletter article I wrote for this publication last winter, about how I feel about my faculty, that caused the organizers to think I had something to say on the subject of sacred communities. To me, the students, faculty, former faculty, parents and board members who make up Midrasha are all part of a sacred community, and we are so lucky to have Jewish values to guide us in how to relate to one another.

I taught one session in creating a climate of caring and respect for your faculty. I taught another in creating community in an inter-congregational setting. I moderated a panel on teaching teens, where half of the panelists were former Midrasha faculty, and I was part of a fishbowl conversation on sacred community. How great to have conference planners who were concerned about these issues. After saying, “No, my school is moving that month. My adult kids will be visiting. I can’t possibly come to Seattle,” I was so pleased I reconsidered, since planning for these sessions gave me a chance to think about and articulate subjects that I hold very dear — and reminded me once again why I love my job.

*Shebehiyanu, VeKi-imanu, VeHigianu LaZman HaZeh.* At long last, Midrasha has moved to its new home, 1301 Oxford Street. No longer do we hold classes in offices and hallways. Midrasha cannot express enough gratitude to Beth El for including us in this new space. If you haven’t yet seen the building, please stop by.

Do you know that Midrasha has a job bank? If you need babysitters, party help, drivers, gardeners, office or computer help, tutoring for your kids, someone to help with a community service project, someone to do moving and lifting — you get the picture — contact the Midrasha office and we’ll send you the list.

And one last thing. Our enrollment is down this year due to a demographic blip. We need everyone’s help to spread the word about what a great program Midrasha is and that we accept registrations all year long. It’s never too late. If you know any 8–12th grade students, affiliated with a synagogue or not, with previous Jewish education or not, please send them in our direction. Students can attend four times if they aren’t sure about making a commitment. ☞

### Midrasha Brunch

And here’s the perfect time for your visit!

#### The Annual Midrasha Student/Parent Study Brunch and Silent Auction,

to be held

**November 6**

**9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

It is open to members of the community as well as Midrasha families, so please consider yourself invited. We begin with a brunch, and once everyone has eaten, teachers begin to teach classes. I’ve asked them to teach anything about which they are passionate. They teach their classes twice, so you get to take two. We charge \$5 to cover the cost of food.

Throughout the morning, we hold a silent auction. You can help in two ways, first, by coming and bidding on items, and second, by making donations. If you have any goods or services you’d be able to donate, call the Midrasha office, 510-843-4667, or e-mail us at [diane@midrasha.org](mailto:diane@midrasha.org). It’s great advertising for you (and it’s a *mitzvah*).

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, 10:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Innovative game-based classes focus on the values of the week.

**Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service** for all ages (especially 2nd–7th grade), with singing, a Torah story and the minimum halakhic service. 4th Friday 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](http://my.calendars.net/netivot_shalom/admin).

**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 9:30 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, 10:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

**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., 2nd Friday of each month, services followed by a potluck dinner. Family kabbalat Shabbat, 7:00 p.m., 4th Friday of each month, services preceded by dinner at 6:00 p.m.

## 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 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](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 510-872-0751 or [socialaction@netivotshalom.org](mailto:socialaction@netivotshalom.org).

# NOVEMBER 2005

# Tishrei-Heshvan 5766

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p><b>1</b> 29 Tishrei 4:00 p.m. Religious School 4:30 p.m. Amitim 7:00 p.m. Israel Book Club with Dan Alter 8:00 p.m. Intermediate Talmud study with Ilana Fodiman Silverman at Cong. Beth Israel</p>	<p><b>2</b> 30 Tishrei Rosh Hodesh Heshvan 7:15 a.m. Rosh Hodesh minyan 7:00 p.m. Rosh Hodesh Group (private home)</p>	<p><b>3</b> 1 Heshvan Rosh Hodesh Heshvan 4:00 p.m. Religious School 4:30 p.m. Amitim 7:30 p.m. Messilat Yesharim with Sara Leya Schley</p>	<p><b>4</b> 2 Heshvan 7:30 p.m. Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Lecture  4:50 p.m. Candle lighting</p>	<p><b>5</b> 3 Heshvan Parashat Noah 9:00 a.m. Torah study with Nitzhia Shaked 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services 10:15 a.m. Youth Ed Animal Costume Torah Parade 10:15 a.m. Shabbat Program 11:00 a.m. Shabbat First! K-6 Family service 5:49 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p><b>6</b> 4 Heshvan 2:00 p.m. Workshop for Jewish women: How We See Ourselves with Liora Brosbe 7:00 p.m. Ritual Committee</p>	<p><b>7</b> 5 Heshvan Tropé study with Jan Fischer, by appointment</p>	<p><b>8</b> 6 Heshvan 4:00 p.m. Religious School 7:30 p.m. R. Kelman: Liturgy Literacy 8:00 p.m. Talmud study at Beth Israel</p>	<p><b>9</b> 7 Heshvan 7:15 a.m. Minyan 7:00 p.m. The Inner Lives of Jewish Mystics with R. Jonathan Omer-man (contact Shirah Bell or Robin Braverman)</p>	<p><b>10</b> 8 Heshvan 4:00 p.m. Religious School 4:30 p.m. Amitim 7:30 p.m. Messilat Yesharim with Sara Leya Schley</p>	<p><b>11</b> 9 Heshvan Veterans' Day 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Kabbalat Shabbat &amp; potluck dinner  4:43 p.m. Candle lighting</p>	<p><b>12</b> 10 Heshvan Parashat Lekh L'kha 9:00 a.m. Torah study with Cynthia Hoffman 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services 10:15 a.m. Shabbat Program Teva Shabbat Time TBA: Text study in memory of Ethelyn Simon 5:42 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p><b>13</b> 11 Heshvan 9:30 a.m. Morning minyan 10:30 a.m. Prof. Jonathan Arons, Things that Go Bang in the Night 7:30 p.m. Talk by Joan Nathan, author of "New American Cooking"</p>	<p><b>14</b> 12 Heshvan Tropé study with Jan Fischer, by appointment</p>	<p><b>15</b> 13 Heshvan 4:00 p.m. Religious School 4:30 p.m. Amitim 8:00 p.m. Talmud study at Beth Israel</p>	<p><b>16</b> 14 Heshvan 7:15 a.m. Minyan 7:00 p.m. Jewish Mystics with R. Jonathan Omer-man</p>	<p><b>17</b> 15 Heshvan 4:00 p.m. Religious School 4:30 p.m. Amitim 7:30 p.m. Messilat Yesharim with Sara Leya Schley</p>	<p><b>18</b> 16 Heshvan 6:00 p.m. Family Potluck Dinner 7:00 p.m. Family Kabbalat Shabbat service &amp; story  4:38 p.m. Candle lighting</p>	<p><b>19</b> 17 Heshvan Parashat Va-yera 9:00 a.m. Torah study with Nitzhia Shaked 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services 9:30 a.m. Meditative minyan 10:15 a.m. Shabbat Program 11:15 a.m. All School Shabbat service 1:30 p.m. Congregant-led Torah study 4:00 p.m. Minhah  5:37 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p><b>20</b> 18 Heshvan 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting</p>	<p><b>21</b> 19 Heshvan 7:00 p.m. Naomi Seidman: The Akeidah in modern poetry</p>	<p><b>22</b> 20 Heshvan 4:00 p.m. Religious School 8:00 p.m. Talmud study at Beth Israel</p>	<p><b>23</b> 21 Heshvan 7:15 a.m. Minyan  Office closes at 12:00 noon</p>	<p><b>24</b> 22 Heshvan Thanksgiving Day  Office closed No Amitim No Religious School</p>	<p><b>25</b> 23 Heshvan  Office closed 4:34 p.m. Candle lighting</p>	<p><b>26</b> 24 Heshvan Parashat Hayyei Sarah 9:00 a.m. Torah study with Naomi Seidman 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services Ilana Zimmerman called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah  5:34 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p><b>27</b> 25 Heshvan</p>	<p><b>28</b> 26 Heshvan 7:00 p.m. Naomi Seidman: The Akeidah in modern poetry Tropé study with Jan Fischer, by appointment</p>	<p><b>29</b> 27 Heshvan 4:00 p.m. Religious School 4:30 p.m. Amitim 8:00 p.m. Talmud study at Beth Israel</p>	<p><b>30</b> 28 Heshvan 7:15 a.m. Minyan 7:00 p.m. Jewish Mystics with R. Jonathan Omer-man</p>			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<p>1 29 Heshvan 4:00 p.m. Religious School 4:30 p.m. Amitim 7:00 p.m. Rosh Hodesh Group (private home) 7:30 p.m. Messilat Yesharim with Sara Leya Schley</p>	<p>2 1 Kislev Rosh Hodesh Kislev  4:32 p.m. Candle lighting</p>	<p>3 2 Kislev Parashat Tol'dot 9:00 a.m. Torah study with Nitzhia Shaked 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services 10:15 a.m. Shabbat Program 4:00 p.m. R. Kelman: Structure of Shabbat Services  5:32 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p>4 3 Kislev 4:00 p.m. Yiddish sing with Gerry Tenny 7:00 p.m. Ritual Committee</p>	<p>5 4 Kislev 7:00 p.m. Naomi Seidman: The Akeidah in modern poetry Trobe study with Jan Fischer, by appointment</p>	<p>6 5 Kislev 4:00 p.m. Religious School 7:00 p.m. Israel Book Club with Dan Alter 8:00 p.m. Talmud study at Beth Israel</p>	<p>7 6 Kislev 7:15 a.m. Minyan 7:00 p.m. Jewish Mystics with R. Jonathan Omer-man</p>	<p>8 7 Kislev 4:00 p.m. Religious School 4:30 p.m. Amitim</p>	<p>9 8 Kislev 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Kabbalat Shabbat service &amp; potluck dinner  4:32 p.m. Candle lighting</p>	<p>10 9 Kislev Parashat Va-yetzai 9:00 a.m. Torah study with Naomi Seidman 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services 10:15 a.m. Shabbat Program 1:30 p.m. Dean Kertesz: Content of Daily, Weekly and Seasonal Prayer Services  5:32 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p>11 10 Kislev 9:30 a.m. Morning minyan 10:00 a.m. Shabbat B'Yachad Hanukkah Party 10:30 a.m. Talk by Rose Levinson on her experiences as public policy call-in radio show moderator 7:00 p.m. Talk by Jonathan Rosen, author of "The Talmud and the Internet"</p>	<p>12 11 Kislev 7:00 p.m. Naomi Seidman: The Akeidah in modern poetry Trobe study with Jan Fischer, by appointment</p>	<p>13 12 Kislev 4:00 p.m. Religious School 4:30 p.m. Amitim 7:30 p.m. R. Kelman: Liturgy Literacy 8:00 p.m. Talmud study at Beth Israel</p>	<p>14 13 Kislev 7:15 a.m. Minyan 7:30 p.m. What Eco-Kosher Means: in memory of Stephanie Davis</p>	<p>15 14 Kislev 4:00 p.m. Religious School 4:30 p.m. Amitim 7:30 p.m. Messilat Yesharim with Sara Leya Schley</p>	<p>16 15 Kislev 6:00 p.m. Fri. Night Dinner 7:00 p.m. Family Kabbalat Shabbat  4:33 p.m. Candle lighting</p>	<p>17 16 Kislev Parashat Va-yishlah 9:00 a.m. Torah study with Nitzhia Shaked 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services 9:30 a.m. Meditative minyan No Shabbat Program K-6 1:30 p.m. Congregant-led Torah study 4:00 p.m. Minhah  5:34 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p>18 17 Kislev</p>	<p>19 18 Kislev Trobe study with Jan Fischer, by appointment</p>	<p>20 19 Kislev No Amitim or Religious School 8:00 p.m. Talmud study at Beth Israel</p>	<p>21 20 Kislev 7:15 a.m. Minyan 7:30 p.m. The Connection Between Judaism and Environmentalism: in memory of Stephanie Davis</p>	<p>22 21 Kislev No Amitim or Religious School 7:30 p.m. Messilat Yesharim with Sara Leya Schley</p>	<p>23 22 Kislev  Office closes at noon  4:36 p.m. Candle lighting</p>	<p>24 23 Kislev Parashat Va-yeishev 9:00 a.m. Torah study with R. David Winston 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services No Shabbat Program K-6  5:37 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p>25 24 Kislev 9:30 a.m. Morning minyan 10:30 a.m. R. Kelman: Conservative Judaism: Emet Ve-Emunah series</p>	<p>26 25 Kislev Office open at 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>27 26 Kislev No Amitim or Religious School 8:00 p.m. Talmud study at Beth Israel</p>	<p>28 27 Kislev 7:15 a.m. Minyan</p>	<p>29 28 Kislev No Amitim or Religious School 7:30 p.m. Messilat Yesharim with Sara Leya Schley</p>	<p>30 29 Kislev  Office closes at noon  4:41 p.m. Candle lighting</p>	<p>31 30 Kislev Parashat Mi-ketz Rosh Hodesh Tevet 9:00 a.m. Torah study with Nitzhia Shaked 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services No Shabbat Program K-6  5:41 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p>Hanukkah: 1 candle</p>	<p>Hanukkah: 2 candles</p>	<p>Hanukkah: 3 candles</p>	<p>Hanukkah: 4 candles</p>	<p>Hanukkah: 5 candles</p>	<p>Hanukkah: 6 candles</p>	<p>Hanukkah: 7 candles</p>

## Upcoming B'nei Mitzvah Anniversaries

**November 5: No'ah**

Nicolas Bell

**November 12: Lekh L'kha**

Miriam Feeley

**December 3: To'dot**

Josh Buchin, Simon Pickus

**December 10: Va-yetzei**

Avi Ben Avram, Madelyn Meresman, Eyal Zilberman

**December 17: Va-yishlah**

Aytan Benaderet, Mika Bertel, Misha Mintz-Roth

**December 24: Va-yeishev**

Leo Goldberg, Yonaton Rappaport

**December 31: Mi-ketz**

Sam Finn, Rachel Krantz

## Docent Training at Judah L. Magnes Museum

The Magnes announces its 2006 docent training beginning

**January 8, 2006**

at the museum

**2911 Russell Street, Berkeley**

The course is open to all curious, creative consumers of culture. Take an educational journey through Jewish art and history.

For more information, contact Faith Powell, 510-549-6950 x333 or fpowell@magnes.org.

Assi & Kim Zvik

invite you to share in their sim<sub>h</sub>ah on

November 26, 2005

**24 Heshvan 5766**

Parashat Hayyei Sarah

when their daughter,  
**Ilana Zimmerman,**

will be called to the Torah  
as a bat mitzvah.

## Min<sub>h</sub>ah Service on Shabbat

By Rabbi Daniel Isaacson

Join us for *min<sub>h</sub>ah* service on the third Shabbat afternoon of each month.

Upcoming dates are

**November 19 and December 17.**

Torah study from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Davening at 2:30 p.m.

The *min<sub>h</sub>ah* service includes a Torah reading with three aliyot and a brief prayer service. It is a wonderful opportunity to lead services or read from the Torah in an intimate and relaxed setting. It is also a great occasion for celebrating events big and small, from a birthday to a conversion, with an *aliyah* or other honor. Please contact me or Liora Brosbe if you have questions or would like to volunteer, 510-848-1897. Come be a part of this growing *minyana!*

## OAKLAND HEBREW DAY SCHOOL INVITATION!

Oakland Hebrew Day School invites you to its upcoming Kindergarten Information Nights:

**Wednesday, November 16**

**Tuesday, December 13**

7:00–9:00 p.m.

OHDS, 5500 Redwood Road, Oakland  
(near Skyline)

Please join us to learn more about our community, curriculum and vision. Kindergarten teachers, administration and current parents will be on hand to answer questions. To schedule a personal tour, contact the Admissions Office, 510-531-8600 ext. 26 or mmarcus@ohds.org.

# AIPAC's Annual East Bay Dinner

Be a part of the largest pro-Israel event in the East Bay.

Monday, December 5, 6:00 p.m.  
Oakland Marriot City Center

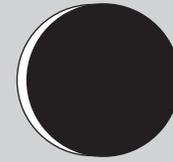
Join keynote speakers Howard Kohr, AIPAC's national executive director, a U.S. senator (to be announced), and over 1,000 community leaders, elected officials, activists and students to discuss the latest developments in Washington, D.C. and in the Middle East.

Cost is \$75 per person.

Netivot Shalom will have at least one table, so why not join us and make it more? If you want to be part of a Netivot Shalom delegation, contact Andrea Cassidy, 2berk2@sbcglobal.net or 510-549-1407.

To register via AIPAC, go to [www.aipacpnw.org](http://www.aipacpnw.org) or call Acteva at 877-866-3170. If you have questions, call either Andrea or the AIPAC office, 415-989-4140.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee is the only American organization sanctioned by the entire American Jewish community to lobby Congress about legislation that strengthens the relationship between the United States and Israel. AIPAC is a non-partisan, membership-based organization supported entirely by private donations.



## The Netivot Shalom Rosh Hodesh Group

**Wednesday, November 2**

For rosh hodesh heshvan, we will share stories and memories about our group's beginnings as we plan the calendar for the coming year.

**Thursday, December 1**

Program to be announced for our Kislev meeting.

Meetings begin at **7:00 p.m.** with refreshments and socializing, and are held in members' homes. All women in the congregation are invited to attend.

For additional information, times and locations, contact Toby Gidal: [tgidal@comcast.net](mailto:tgidal@comcast.net) or 510-841-8868.

*News from JFED*

## Understanding Judaism and Jewish Spirituality through Music

Sundays, October 30,  
November 6 and 13, December 4

One of the best ways to understand what Judaism and Jewish spirituality are all about is through the medium of Jewish music. Starting with *niggunim* (music without words) and moving on to explore the meaning of important Jewish texts such as the Torah, the Talmud and the *siddur* through music, this three-week course will also look at music arising from Jewish historical events such as the Spanish Inquisition, the Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel.

With Rabbi Mark Bloom, 9:30 a.m.–11 a.m., Temple Beth Abraham, 327 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. \$18. Co-sponsored with Temple Beth Abraham and Lehrhaus Judaica.

## Who Says Jews Can't Agree on Anything?



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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND REMEMBRANCES

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

Because of multiple office challenges, this list includes only those donations made to Sukkot in April/Rebuilding America. We will hope to have a more complete list in the next newsletter.

#### **Sukkot in April**

**Cyndi and Joseph Berck**  
**Arthur & Sheila Braufman**  
**Rachel Brodie & Adam Weisberg**  
**Susan David**  
**Jan Fischer**  
**Ednah Beth Friedman**  
**George Gidal**  
**Rivka Greenberg**  
**Milt Greenstein**  
**Josh Gressel**  
**Alison Jordon**  
**Stuart & Vicky Kelman**  
**Michael & Judith McCullough**  
**Mark & Sharon Priven**  
**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**  
**David Radwin & Kara Vuicich**  
**Rachel and Eric Seder**  
**Ann Swidler**  
**Helen Wachs**  
**Barbara Wezelman**

#### **Gifts of Time, Talent and Trimmings**

**Barbara Bibel, Milt & Marge Greenstein, Florence Lewis, Helen Schneider, Peter Strauss, Anonymous** (or the paper with your name was lost) for donating books to our library  
**Lee Feinstein** for all the coverings for the *bimabs* on the Yamim Nora'im  
**Paul Feinstein, Burt Dorman, Josh Gressel, Lee Feinstein** for building our *sukkah*, and **Blaire Prentice** for design assistance  
**Milt & Marge Greenstein** for purchase of a large print *siddur* for use in the weekday *minyan*

**And, from the office . . .** This list of thanks and acknowledgments will always be incomplete — because of the many unseen loving and willing benefactors of this congregation. Every day, there are so many members, friends, well-wishers, who offer their time, their expertise, a well-timed donation, a supportive hug (just when it's really needed!). This is how our community was built, this is how our incredible new home was created, and this is how our amazing future is being secured. No one would have predicted this 15 years ago, yet here we are — and generations to come will reap the fruits of all our work and all our hearts.

So, inadequate as it may be, a short list of thanks for some **people who went above and beyond:**

**Lee Bearson, Melissa Mednick** and all the other members who created a beautiful new brochure for Netivot Shalom, reflecting our new home and welcoming new members!

**Golda Blum**, administrative chair for the front office, who had helpful suggestions, support and a patient ear!

**Jen Childs**, Netivot Shalom's new, full-time administrative assistant, who has only been with us for six weeks (at press time), yet who offered expert support, direction, guidance and humor, and extended herself far beyond what was asked. Jen was gracious and kind to every member, visitor and potential member who streamed into our building over the past few weeks, and made the entire process of the Yamim Nora'im much lighter and easier. Her talents and skills were and are invaluable — as is her quick wit and impeccable judgment.

**Deb Feiler**, who came in and helped organize and mail tickets — and sort out lists; it made a world of difference!

**Milt Greenstein**, builder/handyman extraordinaire, who created (entirely by hand!) a gorgeous cabinet for the women's restroom — it rocks!

**Norm Rosenblatt**, who has been fielding so many calls about the computers — and has responded to each one! Also, thank you for heading up, again, the security for the Yamim Nora'im.

**Helen Schneider**, who jumped in to help the front office with a multitude of tasks for the Yamim Nora'im — being a gracious receptionist, getting tickets to people, answering all sorts of questions from EVERYone, even translating a bit of Hebrew! It simply would not have been possible for the office without Helen.

**Everyone who stepped forward** during this transitional time to offer support or answer a phone or bring in some chocolate — it really meant so much!

The next issue of the newsletter, we hope, will have a complete list of donors; we apologize for being unable to list everyone in this issue.

Again, as always, may 5766 bring to you all a profound measure of wisdom, sweetness, joy and peace.

### **Mazal Tov! To . . .**

**Edie & Roger Wilson** on the wedding of their daughter, Abby, to Gilad Levin

**Larry Rabin** on his marriage to Sarah Roberts

**Ruth & Burt Dorman** on the marriage of their son, Sam, to Rebecca Cook

**Hilla Abel & Asaf Shor** on their wedding

**Dorothy & Joe Becker** on being honored by Berkeley Hadassah

# Yahrzeits

*Zichronam l'verakbah —*  
May their memories be blessed

Philip Braufman	30 Tishrei	November 2	Charles Mishkin	30 Heshvan	December 1
Nathan Kublin	30 Tishrei	November 2	Robert Glickler	30 Heshvan	December 1
Louis Baron	1 Heshvan	November 3	Doris Kudisch	1 Kislev	December 2
Zelma Lucoff	1 Heshvan	November 3	Adella Ruby	1 Kislev	December 2
Leib Geliebter	3 Heshvan	November 5	Sadie Weinstein	1 Kislev	December 2
Kent R. Granzow	4 Heshvan	November 6	Pauline V. Friedman	3 Kislev	December 4
Alan E. Straus	8 Heshvan	November 10	Norman Kramer	4 Kislev	December 5
Ruth Strauss	10 Heshvan	November 12	Pauline Kunofsky	5 Kislev	December 6
Esther Lifschitz	11 Heshvan	November 13	Gershon Shragai	7 Kislev	December 8
Flora Concus	11 Heshvan	November 13	Arnold Bloom	7 Kislev	December 8
Harry Vogel	11 Heshvan	November 13	Martin J. Burger	8 Kislev	December 9
Jeffrey Kabatznick	11 Heshvan	November 13	Harold L. Cohen	9 Kislev	December 10
Deborah Slater	11 Heshvan	November 13	Sam Marson	9 Kislev	December 10
Nathan Schwartz	12 Heshvan	November 14	Lillian Margolis	9 Kislev	December 10
Sura Brana bat Perl	13 Heshvan	November 15	Charles Aronstein	10 Kislev	December 11
Isadore Sherman	13 Heshvan	November 15	Florrie Kohn	10 Kislev	December 10
Max Levine	13 Heshvan	November 15	Mitchel Lansing	11 Kislev	December 12
Herman Schuman	14 Heshvan	November 16	Wulf Concus	12 Kislev	December 13
Sophie Bardach	14 Heshvan	November 16	Gwendolyn M. Fischer	13 Kislev	December 14
Bessie Raphael	15 Heshvan	November 17	Ruth Black	13 Kislev	December 14
Ralph Klatt	17 Heshvan	November 19	Seymour Taubman	14 Kislev	December 15
Rose Beck	17 Heshvan	November 19	Marian Dale Scott	14 Kislev	December 15
Tamar Kaufman	17 Heshvan	November 19	Pauline Braufman	14 Kislev	December 15
Max Harris	18 Heshvan	November 20	Ethelyn Simon	17 Kislev	December 18
Isadore Teger	20 Heshvan	November 22	Sylvia Lorwit	18 Kislev	December 19
Michael and Teri Cooper	22 Heshvan	November 24	Charlotte Vogel	18 Kislev	December 19
Merle Yager	22 Heshvan	November 24	Estelle Seder	19 Kislev	December 20
Martin Bergman	23 Heshvan	November 25	Mary Solomon Goldberg	19 Kislev	December 20
Chaim Pripstein	24 Heshvan	November 26	Morris Burack	20 Kislev	December 21
Emma Zussman Jaeger	25 Heshvan	November 27	Louis Lieberman	21 Kislev	December 22
Lillian Gottlieb	25 Heshvan	November 27	Samuel Namiot Koslav	22 Kislev	December 23
Sally Louise Raimi Brose	26 Heshvan	November 28	Roslyn Sterling	24 Kislev	December 25
Irving HaNovemberer	26 Heshvan	November 28	Rudolf Grossmann	24 Kislev	December 25
Jerome Wolfe Sidel	28 Heshvan	November 30	Yosef Shein	27 Kislev	December 28
Harry Safran	28 Heshvan	November 30	Jacob Levine	29 Kislev	December 30
George Scammel	28 Heshvan	November 30	Yakov Melech Ruby	30 Kislev	December 31

## We Extend Our Condolences to

**Ross Andelman** on the death of his sister, Julie Andelman, *z"l*

**The family of** our long-time member, **Sarah (Syd) Ruby**, *z"l*

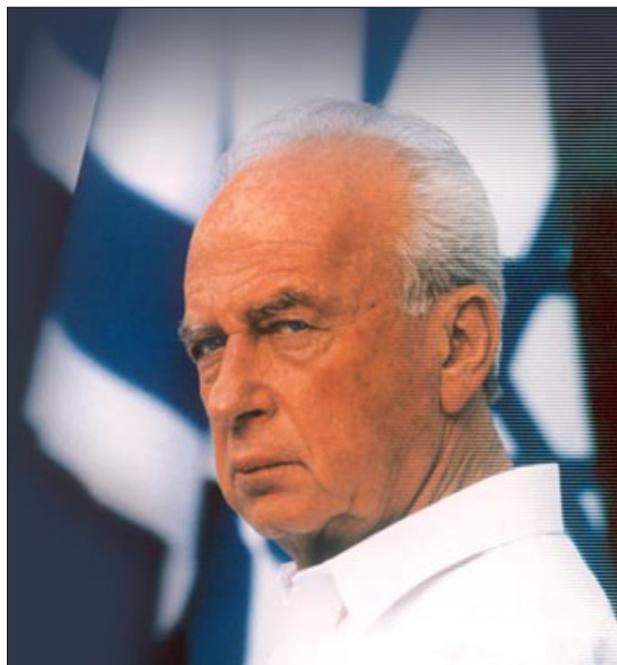
**Laura Grossman** on the death of her sister, Joanna Kim Stern Gladden, *z"l*

**Frances Hornstein** on the death of her mother, Adele Hornstein, *z"l*

**Risa Kagan** on the death of her father, Myer Kagan, *z"l*



**A RETROSPECTIVE:  
ISRAEL ON THE  
10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
ASSASSINATION OF  
PRIME MINISTER  
YITZHAK RABIN**



**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 7:30 P.M.**

**CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM  
1316 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, BERKELEY**

**WITH  
AVSHALOM VILAN  
MEMBER OF THE KNESSET, YACHAD PARTY**

On November 4, 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, was assassinated. In the following ten years, both Israel and the Middle East underwent great changes. On November 3, 2005, we will pay tribute to the late Prime Minister and explore how his death affected both Israeli society and the Palestinian-Israeli peace process.



MK Avshalom Vilan was a colleague of Yitzhak Rabin's and was actively involved with the 1992 election in which the late Prime Minister was elected. He was the co-founder of Peace Now (Shalom Achshav). Presently, he serves on numerous parliamentary committees and is a member of the Knesset Forum on the Middle East, the Environmental Lobby and the Lobby for Public Persons as Role Models.

*Admission is free.*

For more information, email [riva@jfed.org](mailto:riva@jfed.org) or call 510.839.2900 ext 253.



*Presented by the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay's Israel Center and Center for Jewish Living and Learning.*

*Co-sponsors include Berkeley Richmond JCC, Bridges to Israel-Berkeley, Congregation Beth El, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Netivot Shalom, Israel Action Committee East Bay and JCRC-East Bay*



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Congregation

# Netivot Shalom

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## It's Annual Meeting Time Again!

Congregation Netivot Shalom's Annual Meeting will take place  
Sunday, November 20, 10 a.m.–noon, in the social hall

Please arrive at 9:30 a.m. for sign-in, refreshments and shmoozing.

Come hear what's in store for our congregation over the coming year!

Child care will be provided.

Nominating Committee members: Diane Bernbaum and Marcia Brooks (co-chairs),  
Hannah Dresner, Joel Gerwein, Debra Lobel, Billi Romain and Elad Ziv