



# CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM

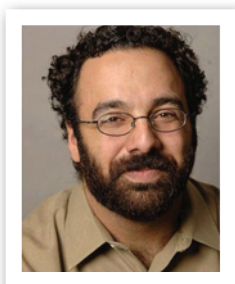
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008

TEVET/SHEVAT/ADAR I 5768

## ASPAKLARIA: THE LOOKING GLASS

### Remembering the Message

By Rabbi Menachem Creditor



*“A religious man is a person who holds God and man in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers no harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and defiance of despair.”*

Abraham Joshua Heschel z”l

Religion is not widely perceived as adding health to our world. Both on the international scene and domestically, religious fundamentalism is louder – *and therefore more noticed* – than progressive faith communities. If our community is to make a positive impact in the world, which I see as one half of our reason for existing (the other being to care for each other), we must begin to strengthen Netivot Shalom’s unique blend of tradition and universal humanism. I see this blend as deeply Jewish, and all too rare.

The influence Netivot Shalom has in the world can be felt in many ways. We have connected our shul home with our neighborhood, our city, our country, and most recently with the Conservative Movement, with which our shul recently decided to affiliate. I believe that these connections answer Heschel’s prophetic call. These were also present both in his indescribable theological reflections and in his advocacy for civil rights and against

the Vietnam War, both of which were revolutionary for the Jewish establishment. His allegation that “*Man is a messenger who forgot the message*” is one we ignore at our peril. And while we are not a religious community that believes our particular spiritual path is the only one, I believe we are called to communicate in non-fundamentalist ways what we see as healthy and holy beyond the boundaries of our physical home at shul.

I spoke during Yom Kippur about ‘Keeping Kosher’ in ways not limited to food. When there is an ethical dimension to a choice (and when is there not?), one path is ‘Kosher’ and the other is ‘Treif.’ Now, of course, some ethical issues are subjective. But if I can maintain some measure of perspective, perhaps it is possible to mark out “what is right” and “what is desirable.” Egalitarianism is not a *Halachic* (legal) option – it is a religious mandate. Buying organic whenever possible, I believe, is a similar spiritual command. Reaching out to local sister institutions and helping with our hearts, hands, and pockets fulfills the best within us while exposing us to the wisdom that comes from without.

**Two questions we might ask each other are:** What does a “redemptive vision” mean for our community? Do we have any obligation, let alone the right, to share this vision with others?

**One question we must ask each other is:** How can we, through our spiritual activism, “*hold God and man in one thought at one time, at all times?*”

May we each take upon ourselves the powerful task of remembering to be the messengers Heschel told us we were. ✨

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Introducing...YOU!



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## Sunday Morning Minyanim Speaker Schedule

By Art Braufman

From January to June, the Sunday minyanim and speakers program will include Rabbi Creditor presenting a six part series "Leading a Mythic Life". This series promises to be very interesting and thought provoking. See below for the first two session topics. The second speaker of the month will continue to be Shul members talking about an aspect of their professional career. The diversity of talks has been fascinating and everyone is invited to attend. Shacharit starts at 9:30 AM followed by breakfast and the talk from 10:30 - 11:30 AM.

- **January 13: The Righteous Indignation Book Tour:** "The Prophetic Legacy Today" with Rabbi Or Rose, associate dean at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, contributing editor for Tikkun and member of the advisory board of Sh'ma. Rabbi Rose, author or editor of three books and numerous articles on Jewish life and thought. He will be presenting on the question of Jewish Social Activism in the context of the Jewish Prophetic tradition. This event is co-sponsored by the Netivot Shalom Social Action Committee.
- **January 27: Edwin Birnbaum:** "The Heights of Inspiration". From Mount Everest to Mount Sinai, people around the world look to mountains as sources of power, wisdom, and creativity. Ed, a scholar of comparative religion and mythology and author of Sacred Mountains of the World, will explore diverse ways in which climbers, artists, and sages have drawn inspiration from the heights. Ed directs the Sacred Mountains Program at The Mountain Institute, working with National Parks to develop interpretive materials based on cultural and spiritual meanings of mountain environments. He also conducts seminars on mountain metaphors of leadership and teamwork

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### NETIVOT SHALOM NEWSLETTER

Jan/Feb 2008 • Tevet/Shevat/Adar I 5768

**Editor and Designer:** Jessica Sterling

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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.

Next Issue: March/April

Deadline: Jan. 24, 2008

## Designated Funds at CNS

The next time you make a donation to our synagogue, consider designating it to one of our many funds. More fund descriptions will be published in subsequent newsletters.

**Stephanie Davis Fund:** For programs which teach ritual and connects Judaism and the environment and with action to help the environment. This fund helps underwrite programs in Tilden Park for Sukkot and Lag B'Omer.

**Max and Cecilia Rosenheimer Campership Fund:** Provides funds to Netivot member children who need assistance to attend summer camp.

**Ethelyn Simon Fund:** Supports programs that emphasize Biblical Hebrew language learning and Textual Studies.

**Sifrei Kodesh Fund:** To be used for purchase and repair of *Torahs*, *chumashim*, *sidurim*, and other ritual books.

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:** Funds are used for charitable purposes at the rabbi's discretion.

We appreciate the following donors for contributing to one of our funds during the months of October and November 2007. We apologize if we have inadvertently missed anything including a name or donation.

### Building Fund

Joan Bradus and Dale Friedman; Ethelyn Simon Fund; David Stein and Bill Stewart in honor of our accessible building

### Adult Education

Robin Mencher and Matthew Dimond in honor of Judy Massarano; Barbara Wezelman in memory of her father; David Stein and Bill Stewart in memory of Bill's grandfather, James Howerton King

### Preschool Scholarship Fund

David Stein and Bill Stewart in honor of Nachshonim

### Tzdeka Fund

Brenda Goldstein and David Shragai in memory of Gershon Shragai

### Religious School Donations

Barbara Wezelman in memory of her nephew

### General Donations

Barbara Wezelman in memory of her relatives; Beth Rose and John Levy in appreciation of Julie Batz; Judy Lieberman and Allen Samelson in honor of Board and Committee chairs; Milton and Marge Greenstein in memory of David Rosenstein

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## Second Annual Netivot Shalom Arts & Crafts Festival

By Traci Siegal

The second annual Netivot Shalom Arts & Crafts Festival took place on December 2, 2007.

Our synagogue welcomed over 30 local artists, including several NS members, selling a range of work including jewelry, clothing, ceramics, judaica art, fused glass, handbags and much more. In addition, we had five youth artists sharing their talent by selling jewelry, paintings and purses.

In addition to the wonderful holiday shopping, four

local jazz groups performed, including a group from the Berkeley Jazz School as well as our synagogue's wonderful own band featuring NS Rabbi Emeritus Stuart Kelman on saxophone.

The attendees enjoyed the Festival Café which featured latkes, quiches, sandwiches and delicious sweets made by NS members.

Kids printed greeting cards with local artist Katie McDonald and sang-a-long with NS member Joshua Polston.

While the crowd shopped, relaxed with the music and enjoyed the food, they also helped raise \$2,500 money for NS community building programs! ✨



From top left, clockwise: Katie McDonald and the kids making greeting cards; Rachel Siegel, participating Youth Artist; Claire Sherman and Elisheva Anisman, participating artists; Sam Priven and his friend Tad Nichol entertain the crowd.

Photos by Dan Siegal.

## Chevra Kadisha Hosts David Zinner

By Carol Cunradi and Karen Friedman, Co-Chairs,  
NS Chevra Kadisha

On November 28, members of the Netivot Shalom Chevra Kadisha including our founding Rabbi, Stuart Kelman, hosted a meeting with David Zinner, Executive Director of *Kavod v'Nichum* (Honor and Comfort; [www.jewish-funerals.org](http://www.jewish-funerals.org)), a national organization that supports Jewish death, burial, and mourning customs for Chevra Kadisha groups throughout the US and Canada. Following a *d'var Torah* by David, Rabbi Kelman presented an update on a new Jewish cemetery (Gan Shalom), to be administered by Sinai Mortuary, that is being developed in Briones. David Zinner gave a presentation on an exciting new project of *Kavod v'Nichum*—the Gamliel Institute—that he and Rabbi Kelman are spearheading.

The Gamliel Institute would be a center of study, training, and advocacy for Jewish end-of-life practices. In a multi-denominational environment, it will bring together diverse disciplines into the creation of a program that includes: community organizing, consumer advocacy, *bikkur cholim*, chaplaincy and rabbinics, thanatology, hospice care, grief therapy, funeral direction, cemetery management, and legacy planning and preparation. The centerpiece will be a three-year certification program. Prospective students include Chevra Kadisha volunteers, rabbis, chaplains, funeral directors, and Jewish communal professionals.

Rabbi Kelman described an effort to form a Chevra Kadisha Alliance in the Northern California Bay Area. The purpose of the Alliance would be to assist in the formation, education, and support for Chevra Kadisha groups in synagogues. For example, of the 100 synagogues in the Bay Area, less than 10% have organized Chevra Kadisha. There thus appears to be untapped possibilities to promote the Jewish values of *kavod hamet* (honoring the dead) and *nichum aveilim* (comforting the mourner), and to provide the tools necessary to assist in launching synagogue-based Chevra Kadisha groups within the nine counties of the Bay Area.

Members of the NS Chevra Kadisha responded enthusiastically to both proposals, which have won the support of the Northern California Board of Rabbis. Also in attendance were representatives of the Beth Israel and Oakland Beth Jacob Chevra Kadisha. The meeting ended with informal discussion among participants, including plans to hold a joint meeting of the Netivot Shalom and Beth Jacob Chevra Kadisha groups. Traditionally, the Chevra Kadisha holds a meeting that coincides with 7 Adar, regarded as the birthdate and yartzeit of Moshe Rabbeinu. If you are interested in participating in our Chevra Kadisha groups, or would like to learn more about Jewish death, burial and mourning practices, contact us at [chevrakadisha@netivotshalom.org](mailto:chevrakadisha@netivotshalom.org). Additionally, we are available to discuss any pre-need questions that congregants have for themselves or their family members. \*

## Standing on All Three Pillars: Maintaining a Balanced Jewish Life

By Sharon Priven, Social Action Chair

*Pirke Avot* teaches us that our Jewish world rests on three things: the study of Torah, the service of G-d through participation in prayer and ritual, and acts of loving-kindness through which we express our moral and ethical obligations to others and engage in the practice of repairing the world. Simply put, these are the ingredients of a well-balanced Jewish life, and (as both individuals and as a congregation) we need to stop every once in a while and take a look at how we're doing; how are we living? Are there more ways that we can support each other in accessing these aspects of Judaism that we hold so dear, so that we grow in strength and connection as a community?

If *tikkun olam* is the area that you want to bring into better balance, the Social Action Committee is here to help. As the new chair, I look forward to hearing about the issues that matter most to you and connecting you with others in the congregation who share your concerns and passions. I am proud to say that members of Netivot Shalom care very deeply about protecting the environment, ending homelessness and hunger, caring for the elderly and Jewish populations around the world, eliminating genocide, and so much more. By taking action with like-minded congregants, we help build and heal our world all at once.

Entering this year the Social Action Committee has begun to focus on the goal of forming relationships with agencies in our new neighborhood so that we can work together to support those who are in need, and address issues of local concern. I am excited to tell you that we are off to a great start – Social Action joined forces with Shabbat B'Yachad, the Netivot Shalom Preschool and the Rimmonim families to sponsor a very successful “baby shower” to collect items for the homeless mothers served by the Women's Daytime Drop-in Center on Acton St.; we are about to re-establish our role as monthly cooks/servers at the Dorothy Day Shelter for homeless men on Center St; the Rimmonim families have initiated visits to Chaparral House, a skilled nursing facility on Allston Way. These are wonderful beginnings, and wonderful experiences for all involved – join us in continuing to strengthen these connections!

I look forward to hearing your thoughts, and to joining you in striving for a Jewish life that stands solidly on all three pillars of our foundation. You can find me at [socialaction@netivotshalom.org](mailto:socialaction@netivotshalom.org).

“A person should be more concerned with spiritual needs than with material matters, but another person's material welfare is his own spiritual concern.”—Rabbi Israel Salanter \*



Clockwise from top left: children spinning as they sing Sevivon; Adrienne cooking latkes; shmoozing; Rimmonim children visiting with Lou; Cathy Shadd enjoys latkes with a resident; Lee Bearson chatting with a resident; having fun at the Chanukah Party.  
Photos by June Safran.

## Rebuilding a Community in Cuba

By June Safran, Cuba Affairs

A very special *ner tamid* hangs in our library. It was a gift from Centro Sefaradi Synagogue in Havana for our new building. On November 28, I met for two hours with Mayra Levy, the new president, and Esther Jequin, the new vice president of Centro Sefaradi. They are very excited about plans to reorganize and rebuild this dying community, and now that I've heard their dreams, I'm also infected with their enthusiasm.

First, they have been cleaning up the building, painting, planting in the front yard and generally making it much more pleasant to be there. Second, they have offered space to B'nai B'rith for an office and meeting room. The Rikkudim (Jewish dance group) now rehearses here once a week.

These activities bring a lot of people into the building who don't ordinarily come. They are attracting some younger Sephardic Jews who have been attending the Ashkenazi synagogues for many years. Some, like Alberto Behar, are able to lead services. The kosher butcher, Samuel, has been leyning on Shabbat since Jose Levy left for Israel.

Currently there are 80 member "units" comprising 320 people but only five or six children and about twelve youth. One Friday night there were only 34 people in attendance and 25 Shabbat morning. This is partly because almost all members are 65 or older and many have health problems or just lack transportation.

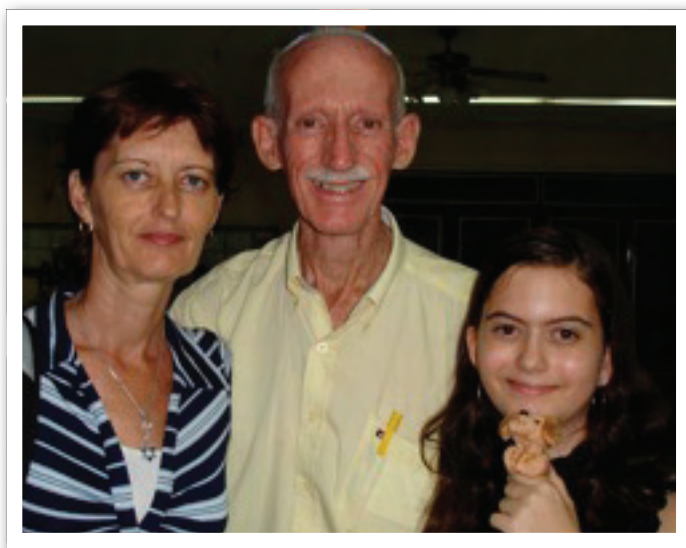
Fortunately, the leadership is attracting new, younger people in their 30s and 40s with two family units joining within the last month. Mayra appoints a different person each week to prepare a presentation on the Torah portion with a description of the parsha and commentary. She decided to do this so that there would be lots of members committing to study and feeling more a part of their religious community.



Daisy Bernal with Elisa, her 2-month old granddaughter who had a very difficult start in life.

Mayra eagerly told me her plans for the future. "Beautiful things attract people," she says as she gets money to buy the paint, which is being applied gratis. Yes, she got the painter to donate his time!

She also believes good food will attract more people. For many of the pensioners, Shabbat meals are the only really



Alexandra Goldstein, the January Bat Mitzvah, with her grandfather and mother.

wholesome food they get all week. She also wants to have money to buy powdered milk for the seniors to take home each week so they have something truly nourishing to eat. The office is meanwhile functioning on a barely working computer that is more than 10 years old with no printer. They are hoping for an "angel" to give them a new one so they can continue to improve the organization of their information.

Mayra also wants to make a meeting room out of a very large storage space on the second floor, where movies can be shown, as well as a larger place for Jewish cultural events. They are just starting to clean up the space but need chairs. The plastic chairs are the cheapest, but they are \$20 each in Cuba and she needs 40, so that might have to wait a while.

Next to this space is another, 10 by 12-foot space, that will be turned into a library. Member Sarah Yaech is a retired librarian who will take on the task of organizing the books as soon as the congregation can afford the wood for bookcases. Finally, Mayra asked for medications for the synagogue since people sometimes come to Shabbat services with headaches, allergy problems, or asthma, among other things. The community pharmacy is only open Tuesdays and Thursdays, so these would help Centro Sefaradi's five doctors treat their members.

Dreams, dreams, dreams! This is the beginning of a new life for an old synagogue. I feel so privileged to be offered the opportunity to help and hope you will too. You know the ways to help. They are the same as always. We need medicines, toiletries, and money. A group of us will be traveling there with Rabbi Kelman in February. We hope to hear from you before then. ❄️



## Youth Party Night Well Attended

By Dan Siegal

Fifty Netivot Shalom kids took over the synagogue on the evening of November 3, 2007, for the first Youth Party Night, organized by the Community Building Committee. The first through sixth graders had a great time playing ga-ga and ping-pong, making lanyards, baking cookies, arcade games, dancing and doing havdalah. They will have another party on Saturday evening, January 26, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. with more fun activities planned. \*



From top, clockwise:

Netivot Shalom's youth get their groove on and play some ping-pong; Sharon Priven teaches Nava Bearson how to make the perfect lanyard; Let's make cookies!; Havdalah with songleader Julia Levin.

Photos by Dan Siegal.

## Shabbat B'Yachad Celebrates Chanukah

By Lara Hornbeck, Shabbat B'Yachad Co-ordinator

We had a fabulous turnout for our Chanukah party- bubbes and babies, big kids and small, mommies and daddies. We all had a ball! It was such a joy to see so many happy faces! The children worked hard at the crafts tables; the big hit this year was rolling candles out of sheets of beeswax. The luminous colors of the wax and their sweet honey smell are hard to resist.

Rabbi Daniel Lev led us in song and dance; we all got to be strong Maccabees! Some of the children even turned into dreidles, what a miracle! Our very own Michal Hirshfeld gave us a magical gift of a puppet show. If you haven't yet heard the story of Zlata the Goat, you can find a copy of this Chanukah story in the children's library upstairs in our shul.

Our next holiday celebration will be Sunday, January 20th from 10 a.m.-noon when we will gather to honor the trees! Join us then for Tu B'Shevat or any 2nd and 4th Shabbat at 11 a.m. for our regular Shabbat service!

In February, Michal Hirshfeld will be offering a puppet making workshop. Come learn new skills or hone old ones and just generally enjoy being creative in good company! We'll be making puppets to be used for SBY story telling. The workshop will be Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. on February 6th, 13th and 20th.

Hope to see you there! \*



Michal Hirshfeld and her puppet theater



The Singing Rabbi, Daniel Lev.



Jesse Gerwein with a Chanukah grin!



Enthralled by Rabbi Daniel



## Special Moments at Netivot Shalom Preschool

By Lauren Kindorf, Preschool Director

Picture two sleepy 2-year-olds ready for their afternoon naps. They are by the table in a dark room holding hands while they watch the candles on the *Chanukiah* burn low. This is just one of many sweet moments that take place in the Netivot Shalom Preschool day in and day out. Each emerging friendship, act of kindness, smile and song bring to light that there is a wonderful new addition to our shul. Toddlers setting the dramatic play table and reciting *bracchot* for “pretend” Shabbat; the smell of fresh baked *challah* and the special friends and relatives who helped us to make it; spinning round and round like *sevivon*/driedal while singing “*Sov, sov, sov/Spin, spin spin*”; or simply laying on our tummies in the yard to watch a spider crawl by and then acting out “Little Miss Muffet” at circle time. Yes, this is a very special place.

Our parent group remains involved and enthusiastic in their efforts to enhance and guide the preschool program. Music and dance fill the air as *Emahs* and *Abas* bring in their voices, guitars, *tuba*, and dance skills to share with us. Two evening events, a *kabalat Shabbat* and Chanukah party, were organized and well attended by the families. The newly formed preschool board gathered for a very positive and productive first meeting in December.

In the excitement to share these beautiful experiences with even more children next year, we are in the process of increasing our licensing capacity to include up to 30 children. We will be converting the Torah Study Room into a multi-purpose space that will house a preschool classroom during the week, and also be available for Shabbat kiddush preparations or other functions as needed. Creative design for flip-out counters and versatile space uses are already on the drawing board.

If you are interested in enrolling your child for the 2008-2009 school year, please contact Lauren Kindorf by calling 549-9447 ext. 110 or through email at [preschool@netivotshalom.org](mailto:preschool@netivotshalom.org). I would be happy to arrange for a visit to the classroom and answer any questions you may have. We are now accepting applications for Fall 2008 from all interested families with children born before September 30, 2006. Applications, along with a \$50 registration fee, will be due before January 18, 2008 to receive preferential synagogue member acceptance. Applications received after that time will be considered on a space available basis.

One and all are welcome to visit our classroom! Be you a prospective preschool family, an interested shul member, or a very welcome volunteer, we would love to meet you! Drop by or give us a call to plan ahead. Just be sure you come and share in the joy of our days together! \*

## What Rimmonim Can Offer YOU!

By Cathy Shadd, Rimmonim Director

While the Shabbat morning sessions for Rimmonim are designed for children in grades K-2 and their parents, you are all welcome to join us for any or all of the sessions, as you hopefully know from the weekly announcement sheets and from previous newsletter articles. The 1st and 3rd Shabbatot of each month, we begin with *tefillah* and a Torah story at 10:30 a.m., learn together about the month's *middah* as one big group from 11:15-11:45 a.m., and then learn in separate adult and children's groups from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Please feel free to pop in or to contact me ([rimmonim@netivotshalom.org](mailto:rimmonim@netivotshalom.org)) ahead of time.

It is our hope in creating Rimmonim (and the hope of our grantor, the Legacy Heritage Fund) that the content of Rimmonim— core Jewish *middot*/values and the ways they can impact our daily lives— will be of benefit to the larger congregation, that is to YOU! While the actual *middot* may be nothing new for you and you may in fact already feel fully attuned to them, actively building a more ethical life requires action. It means making time for self-reflection, paying attention to the important things you already know, and finding moments to bring your passive knowledge into active play.

The “*middah* of the month” signs by the shul entrance and in the weekly Shabbat announcement sheets are a reminder of that month's particular *middah*, but they can also be a reminder to be more aware and conscious in our daily lives. We practice Judaism in a conscious way when we pray, perform ritual acts, or celebrate a holiday, but we can also train ourselves to live Jewishly in our everyday lives by keeping our attention on the *middot*. In any conversation or chance encounter with a fellow human being, we can strive to be extra aware of what choices we may have in the given situation, what assumptions we may be making, and what we say and how we say it.

All of the *middot* we will be focusing on this year have to do with our interactions with others. In September and October, we explored *shalom bayit*/peace in the home, defining “home” as more than our family so that any area of our life— our workplace, our neighborhood, our school— can be an arena in which to practice being a *rodef shalom*/a peace maker. When we are in a stressful or conflicted situation, we can remind ourselves to step back, look at the situation from the other person's point of view, accept that other people are different from us, examine our own assumptions, be willing to compromise, and seek the wholeness and the completeness, that is meant by the word *shalom*.

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## Successes of Youth Ed Program Shared

By Andrea Shupack, Youth Education Director

I recently read an article by Joel Grishaver about the life and future of congregational schools. It features the descriptions I keep hearing from leaders in Jewish education of the challenges and disappointing state many schools are in. Grishaver inspired me, as many have, to continue working for our high expectations for this school and community, but it also left me with a strong sense of pride for where we are now, and the direction that we are passionately moving in. In the article, Grishaver describes the type of environment students and families need to foster learning and lasting connections to Judaism and their community.

The vision, broadly stated, that we hold as most important, is to create a place where students feel safe, supported, and have joyful experiences. This is exactly the type of atmosphere Grishaver says is most crucial, and there is no question that we are accomplishing this. I watch the faces of the children on Shabbat, during religious school, and when they come pouring down the stairs after class. Whenever I see them, they have smiles on their faces, they are engaged, they have made connections with their classmates and teachers, they are enjoying themselves. The religious school students feel safe in sharing deep and personal stories with each other during their time with



Playing ga-ga.



Playing dreidel.

Rabbi Creditor. I am constantly inspired by their comments and questions, and their care for each other and the surrounding world.

We will always need more work and support to continue growing and improving, but stepping back for a moment to look at the big picture, I am delighted and moved to see where we are.

Thank you to the many parents who have dedicated time, energy and commitment to the school's visions. The involvement of the whole family ensures that we reach our highest potential. Our Chanukah party also would not have been such a fun and successful event without the work of so many.

Highlights coming up that no one should miss are: our Tu B'Shevat project and presentation on January 22. Soon after that, we will be getting ready for what I am sure will be the biggest and best Purim bash ever, complete with a circus! Keep an eye out in the Shabbat announcements and emails for more details of these upcoming events.

As always, I welcome your input and encourage you to call or email me anytime with questions or ideas.

You can reach me at 510-549-9447, ext. 104 or by email at [education@netivotshalom.org](mailto:education@netivotshalom.org). \*

## Midrasha Counts on You

By Diane Bernbaum, Midrasha Director

Do you know that Midrasha has a job bank? Every day I get calls and e-mails asking for names of students who can babysit, work in the garden, set up computers, tutor math, help with parties, clean cabinets for Pesach as well as other tasks. When our students register, they let us know if they would like to be listed as willing to work at any of these jobs and we assemble a list which we can mail or fax to you. If you would like a copy, phone the Midrasha office 510-843-4667, and ask for one. Why struggle finding help when there is a willing teenager right around the corner?

On another topic: I get a huge number of solicitations mailed to my house. I think of myself as a generous person who gives a lot of tzedakah. But I have my favorite organizations, or those that friends ask me to contribute to, so I don't always read the five or six solicitations that come to my house every day.

I hope you're different. Or at least different when it comes to Midrasha. Unlike other organizations, which you can count on to send you a solicitation each quarter, or maybe even each month, Midrasha only sends out one a year. And it's something that we work hard at crafting, creating a document that we hope you read. We look at it as an annual newsletter, not just asking you for money, but instead, giving us an opportunity to tell you about the great things that happened over the last year.

I assemble my favorite quotes from graduation speeches and e-mails from parents. Some of the quotes that made it into this year's newsletter say things like:

"Midrasha has given me the priceless foundation on which I can build a successful life as a mensch."  
(Noah Isaacs)

"Through my studies of Judaism, I have learned how to treat friends with respect, give back to the community and educate myself to become an open and aware person. It is these lessons and skills which I will carry with me my whole life." (Julia Leonard)

"This knowledge that we absorb now is the foundation for what we can give back to the world later."  
(David Aptaker)

Because this article goes to all our partner congregations, some of you will be reading this before you receive our annual appeal and some will already have received it. My point in writing all this, of course, is to urge you to not only open the mailing, but to read it, and then to reach for your checkbook and to be more generous than ever. Like many Jewish non-profits, we are on a very tight budget, trying to provide the best education possible to the Jewish teens in this community. We are dedicated to giving financial aid to any student who needs it and to paying our staff an appropriate wage.

We can't pull this off without a lot of help from you. When you open the envelope, remember any student you know who has been touched by their studies at Midrasha, anyone who's come back happy from a retreat, or someone whose life has been changed by the faculty and friends they've met at Midrasha. Or maybe think of someone yet too young to attend Midrasha, whose parents are taking it for granted that Midrasha will be there for them when they get old enough. Then, take our your checkbook. Keep us on your list of favorite places to send contributions to mark a birthday, anniversary, *simcha* or death. We gladly send out cards to anyone you'd love to honor or memorialize. And if you've already tossed that envelope: just mail in your contribution to 1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley 94709. Midrasha is counting on YOU! \*

## Adult Education Has Much to Offer

By Judy Breakstone, Adult Education Chair

We at Netivot Shalom are so incredibly fortunate in the number of congregants we have with the enthusiasm and willingness to share their knowledge and talents with us all, that planning Adult Ed programs has been a joy this year. Hopefully each one of you has found something in our offerings to entice you to give up some of your free time.

The Rabbi's Monday night Judaism 101 class has been a great success, and we are looking forward to the second semester - Holidays - which will begin in February. Hebrew night has been re-introduced on Tuesday nights, with two levels of Hebrew classes going simultaneously. Additional levels can be formed if desired. We encourage

anyone who wants to learn, improve or just enjoy, their Hebrew, to participate. It's great fun. Trope and prayer book Hebrew will also be continuing.

By the time you read this we will have had a very successful (yes, we're sure it will be) Yiddish dance, song and food party with Klez California, on December 25, co-sponsored with several other congregations. Education and fun together. What could be better!

Full details of all the Adult Ed offerings will be appearing in our weekly emails, special announcements, and shul calendar. Keep an eye out for them, and please, if you have a suggestion for a program or class, or want to participate in the work of the committee, contact either Judy Breakstone at [adultprograms@netivotshalom.org](mailto:adultprograms@netivotshalom.org) or Andrea Shupack at [education@netivotshalom.org](mailto:education@netivotshalom.org). \*

(continued from page 2)

**Yom Kippur Appeal**

Jennifer Ring; Bruce Starkman; Rachel Coben and Roger Klein; Herb Klar; Deb Yager and Barry Muhlfelder; Alison Jordan; Jeffrey Black; Nan and Peter Strauss; Janet Schneider and Andrew Kahn; Edna Stewart; Judy and Ed Kujawski; Judith Lesser McCullough and Michael McCullough; Carol Cosman and Robert Alter; Karen Hecht; Jenny and Josh Kirsch; Rabbi Dorothy Richman and Michael Steinman; Joachim Seckel; Judy Lieberman and Allen Samelson; Fran Quittel; Lara Hornbeck and John Erlich; Susan David; Karen Pliskin and Peter Jacobs; Diane and Ed Bernbaum; Larry Hanover; Ann Swidler and Claude Fischer; Judy Breakstone; Helaine and Bleir Prentice; Howard Fuller and Gregg Orlik; Elana Reinin and Marshall Platt

**Mitzvah Milers**

Diana Wood and Mark Rasmussen; Charlene Stern and Mike Irwin

**Social Action Fund**

Diana Wood and Mark Rasmussen for the Dorothy Day meals; Tiferet Fund; David Stein and Bill Stewart to develop programs following the guidelines of the Tiferet program

**Sifre Kodesh Fund**

David Stein and Bill Stewart in honor of the Torah Study Class

**Kiddush and Oneg**

Shirah and Chauncey Bell; Sandra Gore and Ron Sires; Eileen and Jerome Savel; Jeannie Reisman and Leonard Goldschmidt; Fran Quittel; Ginette and Elijah Polak; Claire Max and Jonathan Arons; Susan David; Catherine Shadd and Dov Rosenfeld; Debby Graudenz and Rom Rosenblum; Deborah Stachel and Rabbi Daniel Kohn

**In Memory of**

David Vogel in memory of Harry Vogel; Judy and Ed Kujawski in memory of Wolf Kujawski and Deborah Slater; Ethel Murphy in memory of Esther Lifschitz; Ronna Kabatznick and Peter Dale Scott in memory of Jeffrey Kabatznick; Leslie Gordon in memory of her mother; Alison Jordan in memory of Dorothy Blumenfeld and Sylvia Lorwit; Lydia Anne Brose in memory of her mother, Sally Louise Rami Brose; Larry Hanover; Abby Friedman and Daniel Schiffrin in memory of Joseph Papo; Elana Reinin and Marshall Platt in memory of Oded Reinin and Herman Platt; Perry and Maralynn Scheinok in memory of Yisroel Dov Gerstol, Chaim Scheinok, Shalva Sorani and Gitel Gerstol

**In Honor of**

George and Toby Gidal in honor of Jan Fischer, her health, and her return to the bimah; Kim and Assi Zvik in honor of Lisa Miller's reduced French lesson; Howard and Brenda Rosin in honor of Yael Platt becoming a Bat Mitzvah; Susan David in honor of Hazel Chanina Kirsch and Raya Meital Creditor

**Executive Directors Fund**

David Stein and Bill Stewart in memory of their friends who passed away from AIDS

**Holiday Dinner Drive**

Elisabeth Kashner and Jonathan Stern; Joan Bradus and Dale Friedman; Bracha and Robert Trabin; Yossi and Tamar Fendel; Irene and Rabbi David Winston; Ruth Peterson Shorer; Jessica Login and Dan Alter; Judy and Hillel Salomom; Edna Stewart; Hope and Noah Alper; Carla Cassler and Rabbi Dean Kertesz; Elissa and Alan Kittner; Michael and Betsy Rosenheimer; Theda Haber and Kathy Khuner; Vicky and Rabbi Stuart Kelman; Dina and Reuvain Beck; Katya and Joel Gerwein; Mindy (Miriam) Geminder; Robin Mencher and Matthew Dimond; Cathy Shadd and Dov Rosenfeld; Nan and Peter Strauss; Deborah Lewis and Marty Myers; Liora Brosbe and Rabbi Daniel Isaacson; Phyllis Helfand; Jerry Derblich; Heidi and Dan Aronson; Ruth Konoff and Ben Hermalin; Rabbi Julie and Michael Sax-Taller; Marge and Milton Greenstein; Helen Schneider; Diane and Ed Bernbaum; Debby Graudenz and Rom Rosenblum; Rose Levinson and David Jeffrey; Alison Jordan; Lydia Anne Brose; Ann Swidler and Claude Fischer; Ginette and Elijah Polak; Joan Bieder; Alice Webber and Stephen Tobias; Ralph and Hadassa Kramer; Eugene Berg; Dorothy and Joseph Becker; Gail Krowech; Rabbi Dorothy Richman and Michael Steinman; Diana Wood and Mark Rasmussen; Judy Breakstone; Jeff Rosenbloom and Melissa Mednick; Susan Jaeger; June and Bob Safran; Edward and Meredith Gold; Susan David; Judith Bloom; Ronna Kabatznick and Peter Dale Scott; Norine Shima; Cyndi Spindell Berck and Peter Berck; Sam Salkin; Abby Friedman and Daniel Schiffrin; Rabbi SaraLeya Schley and Ron Feldman; Barbara Wezelman; David Stein and Bill Stewart; Judi and Stan Taubman; Meghan Starkey and Robert Permuter; Gail Gordon and Jack Joseph ; Sara and Andrew Cohen; Sharon and Mark Priven; Lara Hornbeck and John Erlich; Jan Fischer; Norma Kaufman and Michael Meltzer; Judith Lesser McCullough and Michael McCullough; Joanna Weinberg and David Levine; Denise Moyes-Schnur and Ken Schnur

*Today Rabah! \**

## Rebecca Cover in Senegal

By Meredith Trauner

When Rebecca Cover asked a friend joining the Peace Corps whether she thought Becca should sign up too, her friend hesitated. “Well, Becca,” she said, “but I think you need to have a skill to join. And you don’t have any skills!”

In reality, Becca has a gift for languages along with an easy way with people and a brilliant mind. When she began her two-year stint as a Peace Corps rural health volunteer in Senegal, Becca already spoke French, Senegal’s official language, and Italian, which also came in handy at times. She quickly picked up the local language, Pulaar, as well. Local HIV/AIDS prevention efforts in her host village included improvisational theater, Becca says, “So after six months there, I was doing improv in Pulaar.”

Becca says the most meaningful part of her Peace Corps experience was the cultural exchange. “People will never forget about you, right until they die,” she says. “Hanging out with people and talking to them and expanding their world views, getting to know each other as people rather than as generalities—that’s really the most important part of the Peace Corps.”

Senegal’s culture is special because of the incredible generosity and hospitality of its people. She says “Senegal does not have climate to recommend it.” Becca adds with a laugh, “but it’s a very welcoming culture—it’s not comparable to anything that you would ever experience here.

“If you walk into anyone’s house, any time of the day or night, you’re not only going to be asked to stay to eat lunch or dinner, even if there’s only one handful of food left in the bowl,” she says, “but you’ll be given gifts, you’ll be pestered to stay overnight, you’ll be given water and drinks—everything is shared.”

“People were offended, or at least pretended very convincingly to be offended, if I hadn’t come yet to eat in their house, or if I hadn’t eaten in their house recently enough!”

Becca modeled this hospitality with other Peace Corps volunteers at Jewish holiday times, sharing food and traditions. She hosted a Rosh Hashanah meal complete with Kool-Aid for wine and “milltzoh ball soup” – made

### Who Are YOU?

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 yourself, or if you know someone with a great story that you think should be profiled, please contact Meredith at [mhtrauner@berkeley.edu](mailto:mhtrauner@berkeley.edu). \*



Becca in Senegal.

from millet, since she had no matzoh meal. She also led a seder, where a rare bottle of real wine, imported and saved for the occasion by another volunteer, was enjoyed by all.

Her first observance of Yom Kippur in Senegal was more challenging. “It was 110 degrees all night long, never mind during the daytime, with humidity like you can’t imagine. So by the time I got up, I was already dehydrated. And because it was the rainy season, the electricity went out a lot, so there really wasn’t a fan most of the time.” Becca contemplated breaking the fast early for the sake of her health.

“But another volunteer came who was Jewish, and she decided it would be a good idea to take a four-hour public transportation ride to get her through the day. As anyone who has ever been to a developing country knows, this is not actually a good idea. But the fact that she was doing it gave me the strength to get through those last four hours, lying on the floor of the room with the fan.”

The next year, Becca convinced the Peace Corps to let her observe Yom Kippur in an air-conditioned medical clinic in Senegal’s capital.

Becca’s Senegal experience guided her to her career. She majored in astrophysics at Williams College (graduating as valedictorian) but decided she wanted to try something else for the long term.

In her last few months in Africa, she was discussing career options with a friend, saying, “I’d like to do something having to do with languages. I’m addicted to Pulaar, but I don’t really know what I can do with that.” The friend replied she had just seen a show on the Discovery Channel about tracking dying languages, and Becca said:

(continued on page 20)



# Max and Cecilia Rosenheimer Camp Scholarship Fund

The Max and Cecelia Rosenheimer Camp Scholarship Fund was established at Congregation Netivot Shalom to assist congregation members in sending their children to a Jewish summer camp. If you would like to apply, please fill out the application below and mail to:

**Andrea Shupack, Director of Education**  
Congregation Netivot Shalom  
1316 University Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94703

*The deadline for applying is EREV PURIM, Thursday, MARCH 20, 2008.*

Please contact Andrea Shupack with questions at:  
510-549-9447 x104 or [education@netivotshalom.org](mailto:education@netivotshalom.org).



## APPLICATION

Name of Camper \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Summer Camp your Child will be Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Summer Camp Sessions \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/08 to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/08

## Ritual Committee Activity

By Glenn Massarano, Ritual Committee Chair

Here are the items that the ritual committee has on the agenda of recent meetings.

- Purim planning
- Pesach planning (including 2nd night seder)
- Sound and lighting in the sanctuary on Shabbat
- *Hachnasat orchim* (welcoming guests, including inviting people home for a Shabbat meal)
- Service end time

This last item, Shabbat services end time, is important to our community to balance spiritual flow and realistic time-frames. The Rabbi and the ritual committee are working to make sure that services are inviting, warm, participatory, and well-guided. \*

### Mazel Tov

#### Wedding Anniversaries:

Heidi and Jonathan Wexler celebrate their 12th anniversary on January 1, 2008

Roger Klein and Rachel Coben celebrate their second wedding anniversary on Jan. 10, 2005

#### B'nai Mitzvah anniversaries:

Benjamin Graff- Adar 18 Parashat Ki Tissa

Andrea Gottlieb- Shevat 20 Parashat Yitro

#### New Baby:

Mazel Tov Jeannie and Aaron Cohen on the birth of their son Asher Leon Cohen on October 21, 2007

### The Rosh Chodesh Group

Upcoming meetings of the Rosh Chodesh Group are:

January 7 (Shevat), Naomi Seidman will be our featured speaker.

February 6 (Adar I), An evening with Liz Creditor to get to know each other.

Programs will be described in the weekly Netivot Shalom bulletins and emails. Women of the congregation are welcome to the meetings which are held in members' homes.

For additional information contact Toby Gidal at [roshchodesh@netivotshalom.org](mailto:roshchodesh@netivotshalom.org).

## Remembering Ernie Alexander, z"l

By Diane Bernbaum

On Friday, November 23, the entire East Bay community lost a very special friend, Ernie Alexander. Ernie was a founding member of the board of Midrasha in Berkeley and he remained on our board until the day he died. Other Midrasha board members are representatives of their congregations. Not Ernie. He served on our board as a representative of the community as a whole. When I first became director of Midrasha and met Ernie, he was representing the Jewish Education Council which morphed into the Agency for Jewish Education which morphed into the Center for Jewish Living and Learning. But what ever it was called, it meant that Ernie represented the community at large. And it was in that community at large that Ernie fought to make Midrasha the institution it is today. Ernie believed in a community Hebrew high school that was funded equally by parents, synagogues and the Federation and if he thought that any part of that triangle was not living up to their part of the bargain, he let them know.

Ernie was unique in our community because he was so much OF the community. He was truly post-denominational. He was a long time board member at Beth El where his wife Fran is a past president. He could be found most Shabbat mornings at Beth Israel, where he was also a member. He was frequently at Netivot Shalom events and indeed, the last time I saw Ernie was at a lunch under Rabbi Kelman's sukkah. He physically built Beth Jacob. His memorial service was held in a reform synagogue and his burial conducted by a Conservative rabbi. Shiva minyanim at his home were led by Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbis. Ernie was part of everywhere.

Ernie looked on Jewish education as his hobby with an intense dedication that most of the rest of us save for our jobs. He was a problem solver, providing gentle wisdom and the insight of someone who had been around for a long time. He set a magnificent example of how to roll up his sleeves, sit through meetings, hire good professionals and raise the funds necessary so that all children would have a place to study and learn.

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## TIKKUN OLAM IN UGANDA Through American Jewish World Service

**February 3rd, 10:30 a.m.  
at Congregation Netivot Shalom**

Discussion and Slide/Video Presentation with:

- Rabbi Lee Bycel, Western Region Executive Director of the American Jewish World Service – “The Work of AJWS Around the World to Alleviate Hunger, Poverty and Disease.”
- Judy and Lew Priven who recently returned after volunteering, through AJWS, for three months in Uganda for Meeting Point, an NGO servicing families and children affected by HIV/AIDS

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### ASK JCI and R

Yours for the Asking:

**Q:** I am concerned about my elderly parents, and would like to explore options for senior activities and housing. Can you tell me where to start the search?

**A:** Yes, of course we can help. The number of options for housing has grown in recent years. Let's start by sending you senior housing guides and Seniors and the Law. We can refer you to many senior services provided by our Jewish community, including medical support, senior transportation; meals on wheels, cultural and social activities, Holocaust survivor services, long-distance senior care, and help at home.

For more information about senior services and connecting to Jewish life, call JCI & R 415/777-4545 or toll-free within the Bay Area 877-777-JCIR (5247) or e-mail to [Info@JewishNfo.org](mailto:Info@JewishNfo.org)

Jewish Community Information and Referral is a service of the San Francisco based Jewish Community Federation. Visit our website [www.sfjcf.org](http://www.sfjcf.org) and [www.JewishNfo.org](http://www.JewishNfo.org)



is pleased to announce the  
**East Bay Jewish Community Leadership Series,**  
featuring:

#### Invigorating Jewish Education

**January 28, 2008**

**6-9 p.m. at Temple Isaiah**

**Scott Shay**

Author, *Getting Our Groove Back –  
How to Energize American Jewry*

#### Strategic and Effective Jewish Leadership

**March 17, 2008**

**6-9 p.m. at Temple Isaiah**

**Rabbi Lee Bycel**

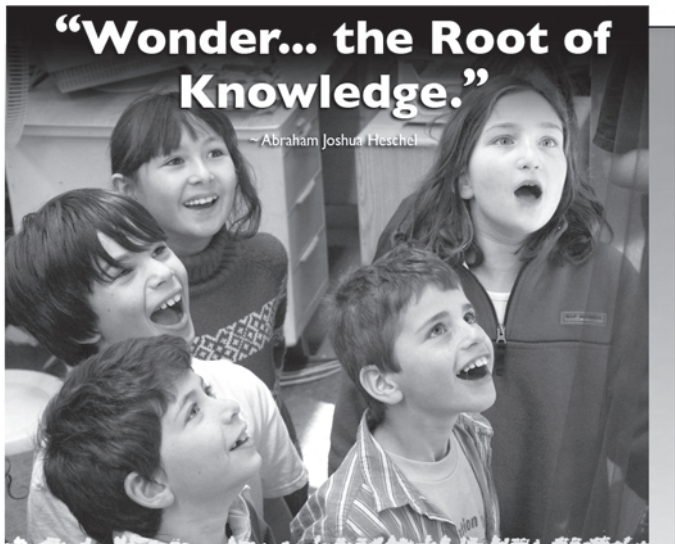
Exec. Dir. Of American Jewish World Service's  
Western Region

Both of these events are free of charge. To register:  
[www.jfed.org/leadership](http://www.jfed.org/leadership). For more information, please  
contact Erica Zilbermann at 510 839-2900  
ext 261 / [erica@jfed.org](mailto:erica@jfed.org).






**“Wonder... the Root of Knowledge.”**  
 — Abraham Joshua Heschel




**Kindergarten Information Brunch**  
 Sunday, January 13, 10:00 a.m.  
 (childcare provided)

**Panel Discussion on Jewish Medical Ethics**  
 featuring Dr. Howard Maccabee, Rabbi Judah Dardik, and Prof. Deena Aranoff  
 Monday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.

**To Learn More:**  
 (510) 233-3013 ext. 239  
 autstein@tehiyah.org



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 Eva Etzioni-Halevy

In ancient Bethlehem, Osnath examines an intriguing message from a nameless lover to Ruth, great-grandmother or King David.

Her attempts to unravel the mystery are blocked by David's brother Eliab. What if the truth he fears will come to light? The novel offers a new perspective on a well-known biblical tale.

Plume/Penguin, 2007. ISBN 978-0-452-28673-3.  
 Available through bookstores and online through the author's website: [www.evaetzionihalevy.com](http://www.evaetzionihalevy.com).

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**INFORMATION NIGHT**  
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 Call or Email to RSVP

**For more information, please call  
 Call: 510-540-5824  
 or Email: [office@chabadberkeley.org](mailto:office@chabadberkeley.org)**

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**JANUARY 2008**

**January 1**

23 Tevet  
New Year's Day  
7:15 AM Morning Minyan  
4:00 PM Religious School  
7:30 PM Hebrew Night!

**January 2**

24 Tevet  
5:00 PM Trope Class with Rachel Heinstein  
7:00 PM Bibliodrama with Jake Birnberg

**January 3**

25 Tevet  
4:00 PM Religious School  
8:00 PM Lishmoa: A Shared Vision

**January 4**

26 Tevet  
12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat  
4:45 PM *Candle lighting*

**January 5**

27 Tevet  
9:00 AM Torah Study  
9:30 AM Shabbat Services  
5:46 PM *Havdalah*

**January 6**

28 Tevet  
Rabbi on Rabbinic Retreat

**January 7**

29 Tevet  
Rabbi on Rabbinic Retreat

**January 8**

1 Shevat  
Rabbi on Rabbinic Retreat  
Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat  
7:15 AM Morning Minyan  
4:00 PM Religious School  
7:30 PM Hebrew Night!

**January 9**

2 Shevat  
Rabbi on Rabbinic Retreat  
5:00 PM Trope Class with Rachel Heinstein  
7:00 PM Bibliodrama with Jake Birnberg

**January 10**

3 Shevat  
Rabbi on Rabbinic Retreat

**January 11**

4 Shevat  
12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat  
4:51 PM *Candle lighting*  
6:00 PM Second Friday Minyan  
Sponsored by YA

**January 12**

5 Shevat  
Kiddush: Shadd/Rosenfeld/  
Gobler  
9:00 AM Torah Study  
9:30 AM Meditation Minyan  
9:30 AM Shabbat Services  
11:00 AM SBY  
5:52 PM *Havdalah*

**January 13**

6 Shevat  
9:30 AM Shacharit minyan  
& Program  
2:00 PM Cuba Packing Party  
7:00 PM Ritual Committee  
Meeting

**January 14**

7 Shevat

**January 15**

8 Shevat  
7:15 AM Morning Minyan  
4:00 PM Religious School  
7:30 PM Hebrew Night!  
8:00 PM Lishmoa: A Shared  
Vision

**January 16**

9 Shevat  
5:00 PM Trope Class with  
Rachel Heinstein  
7:00 PM Bibliodrama with  
Jake Birnberg

**January 17**

10 Shevat  
4:00 PM Religious School

**January 18**

11 Shevat  
12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat  
4:59 PM *Candle lighting*

**January 19**

12 Shevat  
Jocelyn Sidel-Straus  
Bat Mitzvah  
9:00 AM Torah Study  
9:30 AM Shabbat Services  
10:30 AM Rimmonim  
6:00 PM *Havdalah*

**January 20**

13 Shevat  
9:00 AM SBY Tu B'Shevat  
Celebration

**January 21**

14 Shevat  
Martin Luther King Day

**January 22**

15 Shevat  
Tu B'Shvat  
7:15 AM Morning Minyan  
4:00 PM Religious School  
7:30 PM Hebrew Night!

**January 23**

16 Shevat  
5:00 PM Trope Class with  
Rachel Heinstein  
7:00 PM Bibliodrama with  
Jake Birnberg

**January 24**

17 Shevat  
4:00 PM Religious School

**January 25**

18 Shevat  
12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat  
5:06 PM *Candle lighting*  
6:00 PM Family Shabbat

**January 26**

19 Shevat  
Kiddush: MAP Chavurah  
9:00 AM Torah Study  
9:30 AM Shabbat Services  
11:00 AM SBY  
6:07 PM *Havdalah*

6:30 PM Youth Party Night 2

**January 27**

20 Shevat  
9:30 AM Shacharit Minyan  
& Program

**January 28**

21 Shevat

**January 29**

22 Shevat  
7:15 AM Morning Minyan  
4:00 PM Religious School  
7:30 PM Hebrew Night!

**January 30**

23 Shevat  
5:00 PM Trope Class with  
Rachel Heinstein  
7:00 PM Bibliodrama with  
Jake Birnberg

**January 31**

24 Shevat  
4:00 PM Religious School

**TU B'SHEVAT:  
JANUARY 22 2008 – 15 SHEVAT 5768**




Illustration by Lucy Kahn.

**FEBRUARY 2008****February 1**

25 Shevat  
12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat  
**5:14 PM Candle lighting**

**February 2**

26 Shevat  
Groundhog Day  
9:00 AM Torah Study  
9:30 AM Shabbat Services  
1:30 PM Rabbi Bycel: Jews as Global Citizens  
**6:15 PM Havdalah**

**February 3**

27 Shevat  
10:30 AM Rabbi Bycel & The Privens: AJWS Project in Uganda  
7:00 PM Ritual Committee Meeting

**February 4**

28 Shevat

**February 5**

29 Shevat  
7:15 AM Morning Minyan  
4:00 PM Religious School  
7:30 PM Hebrew Night!

**February 6**

30 Shevat  
Rosh Chodesh Adar I  
5:00 PM Trope Class with Rachel Heinstein  
7:00 PM SBY Puppet Making  
7:00 PM Bibliodrama with Jake Birnberg

**February 7**

1 AdarI  
Rosh Chodesh Adar I  
4:00 PM Religious School

**February 8**

2 AdarI  
12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat  
**5:22 PM Candle lighting**  
6:00 PM Second Friday Minyan Sponsored by YA

**February 9**

3 AdarI  
Kiddush: Jan Fischer  
9:00 AM Torah Study  
9:30 AM Meditation Minyan  
9:30 AM Shabbat Services  
11:00 AM SBY  
**6:23 PM Havdalah**

**February 10**

4 AdarI  
9:30 AM Shacharit minyan & Program

**February 11**

5 AdarI

**February 12**

6 AdarI  
Lincoln's Birthday  
7:15 AM Morning Minyan  
4:00 PM Religious School  
7:30 PM Hebrew Night!

**February 13**

7 AdarI  
JFCS Conference: No Preschool  
5:00 PM Trope Class with Rachel Heinstein  
7:00 PM SBY Puppet Making  
7:00 PM Bibliodrama with Jake Birnberg

**February 14**

8 AdarI  
4:00 PM Religious School

**February 15**

9 AdarI  
12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat  
**5:30 PM Candle lighting**

**February 16**

10 AdarI  
9:00 AM Torah Study  
9:30 AM Shabbat Services  
10:30 AM Rimmonim  
**6:31 PM Havdalah**

**February 17**

11 AdarI  
Community Concert!

**February 18**

12 AdarI  
President's Day

**February 19**

13 AdarI  
7:15 AM Morning Minyan  
4:00 PM Religious School  
7:30 PM Hebrew Night!

**February 20**

14 AdarI  
Purim Katan  
5:00 PM Trope Class with Rachel Heinstein  
7:00 PM SBY Puppet Making  
7:00 PM Bibliodrama with Jake Birnberg

**February 21**

15 AdarI  
4:00 PM Religious School

**February 22**

16 AdarI  
12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat  
**5:37 PM Candle lighting**

**February 23**

17 AdarI  
Kiddush: Jerry Berkman/Caroline Koestel  
9:00 AM Torah Study  
9:30 AM Shabbat Services  
11:00 AM SBY  
**6:38 PM Havdalah**

**February 24**

18 AdarI  
9:30 AM Shacharit minyan & Program  
6:00 PM Installation of Rabbi Creditor

**February 25**

19 AdarI

**February 26**

20 AdarI  
7:15 AM Morning Minyan  
4:00 PM Religious School  
7:30 PM Hebrew Night!

**February 27**

21 AdarI  
5:00 PM Trope Class with Rachel Heinstein  
7:00 PM Bibliodrama with Jake Birnberg

**February 28**

22 AdarI  
4:00 PM Religious School

**February 29**

23 AdarI  
12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat  
**5:44 PM Candle lighting**  
6:00 PM Family Shabbat

See back page for details  
on Rabbi Creditor's  
Installation on February 24th

# QUEEN E'S

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## Minyanim, cont.

(continued from page 6)

and has co-led leadership seminar treks in the Himalayas. Ed has a Ph.D. in Asian Studies; and has climbed mountains around the world.

- **February 10: Rabbi Creditor:** 1st in “Living a Mythic Life” series: “Mythic Time”. While time is perceived to flow forward according to conventional wisdom, Jewish mythic time conflates the past and the present. What does it mean to truly relive the Exodus? Is it possible? Might we come to believe that we are not only alive now, but will be alive in generations to come? Join Rabbi Creditor in a conversation regarding Mythic Time as we begin the exploration of Living a Mythic Life.

- **February 24: Heath Winer:** “The Human Loom”. Heath, founder of The Human Loom, will discuss and invite the audience to participate in experiencing how the creative “art” process can orchestrate team-building and problem-solving. Participants will literally weave the fabric of their lives together. The result is a unique and beautiful textile; a creation symbolic of individual traits, likes and dislikes, goals, hopes, and dreams, and an instant, tangible metaphor for community, goal realization, and group celebration of the inherent strength of self-expression. Heath, who hails from Kansas City has lived in Oakland since the Fall of 2001, is a graduate of California College of the Arts with a BFA in Community Art in 2004. For a sneak preview visit <http://www.humanloom.com>. \*

## Rimmonim , cont.

(continued from page 9)

In November, we looked at something so basic—*chesed*/kindness. Who doesn’t espouse kindness and consider him/herself to be a kind person? But when we really look at all the minutes that make up our day, can we honestly say we had kindness at the front and center of our minds and our behavior? Were we kind to the cashier in the market who was taking more time than we were willing to give her to ring up our purchases? Were we kind when our child interrupted us in the middle of an important conversation? Each day offers us untold opportunities to practice the *middah* of *chesed* and each time we do, our lives are enriched.

In December, we will learn about *dan l’chaf zechut*/giving the benefit of the doubt. How often do we unconsciously

rush to judgment when we hear about a situation or get into an unpleasant encounter ourselves? We can train ourselves to look for the good in others, to judge others favorably, to make “mental generosity” a regular part of how we relate to others. Again, we don’t set out to be judgmental people, but we can easily slip into moments of judgment if we are not consciously striving to give the benefit of the doubt.

It would be great to see you on a Shabbat morning at Rimmonim, but even if you never come, Rimmonim can serve as a reminder to us all to turn our attention to the core values of Judaism and the opportunities everyday life offers us to practice these values, enhancing both our own lives and the lives of others in the process. \*

## Who We Are, cont.

(continued from page 13)

“That’s it, that’s my destiny in life, I’m going to track dying languages!”

“I went around for a month or so telling everyone I was going to track dying languages,” she continued. “I didn’t really know what I was talking about, but I was firmly convinced of it.”

Becca soon learned more about the process of documenting as well as revitalizing dying languages and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in linguistics at UC Berkeley. Her dissertation will focus on Badiaranke, a minority language in Senegal spoken by only 12,000 people. She returns to Senegal periodically to do field work.

Becca came to Netivot Shalom services the very first Shab-

bat after her move to Berkeley, and liked it right away. “It was dynamic and active, and everyone was very participatory and seemed very knowledgeable,” she says. She joined the congregation within two weeks. She frequently leads services and reads Torah and Haftorah, gracing us with her beautiful voice. Becca is also an active member of the Young Adults Havura, and is excited that the group has been getting bigger over the past year or so.

Becca lives in North Berkeley with her fiancé, Jason Moses, a technology professional who is the founder and administrator of BayJews.org. Becca and Jason met in 2004 at a kiddush after Saturday morning services at Netivot. They have a cat, Fresser (Yiddish for “eater”), whose official title is “Cutest Cat in the Whole Wide World.” \*

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD AT OUR SHUL, 1316 UNIVERSITY AVE, BERKELEY.

# SHUL ACTIVITIES

## YOUTH EDUCATION

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

**Religious School** for children in grades K–6. Weekday classes cover Hebrew, Torah study, Jewish calendar and holidays, Jewish history, ethics, Israel and life-cycle events. Shabbat classes focus on *t'fillah*, games, Jewish values and Torah stories. Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00–6:00 p.m.

**Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service** for all ages (especially 3–9 year olds), with singing, a Torah story and the minimum *halachic* service. 4th Friday each month, 6:00 p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. service.

**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 Wednesday, 3:30–6:30 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 8th–12th grade students with the skills and knowledge they will need as committed Jewish adults.

**Rimmonim**, a program for families with children in grades kindergarten to second grade. It meets on the 1st and 3rd Shabbat of each month, 10:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m., for *tefillah*/Torah story, family learning about the core values of Judaism (one per month), and parallel adult and children's learning. Contact Cathy Shadd at [rimmonim@netivotshalom.org](mailto:rimmonim@netivotshalom.org) for more information.

## 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 article, page 2, newsletter calendar, and weekly announcements.

### WEDNESDAY

**Morning Minyan**  
7:15 a.m.

### SHABBAT

Various shabbatot after services; check the newsletter calendar, congregational announcements, or the weekly "green sheet" for special programs and classes.

## OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS

### Sponsor a Kiddush: Calendar Online

Go to [www.netivotshalom.org](http://www.netivotshalom.org) and, from the side menu, select "Sponsor a Kiddush." There you will find a link to our calendar, along with some of our suggestions for making a *kiddush*, and the latest version of our *kashrut* policy.

### The Morning Minyan Needs You

People are attending these services who need to say *kaddish*. 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

**Rimmonim:** 10:30 a.m., 1st and 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:** discussion of the weekly *parashah* Shabbat, 9:00–10:00 a.m.; no charge

**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, Oakland, 5th floor lounge. 7pm, 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. Volunteers 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 and serving. Donations needed for food purchases. Make contribution to Netivot Shalom, marked, "Dinners for the Homeless." Contact [socialaction@netivotshalom.org](mailto:socialaction@netivotshalom.org)

**Feed the Hungry** Food barrels are available in the lobby. Bring unopened nonperishable food any time the office is open. The food bank needs our help!

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

**Opportunities to tutor or mentor youth in our neighborhood** Volunteers are needed at Berkeley Youth Alternatives on Allston Way and at the Youth Emergency Assistance Shelter on University Ave. Be a good neighbor! Contact: [socialaction@netivotshalom.org](mailto:socialaction@netivotshalom.org)

## Yahrzeits *Zichronam l'verakhab* — May their memories be blessed

David Abrahams	February 4	Shevat 28	Molly Magedy Cinnamon (Malkah bat Schmu'el v' Sara)	February 4	Shevat 28
Harry Alter	January 4	Tevet 26	Henrietta Mandel	February 14	Adar-I 8
Tillie Zimmerman Alter	February 22	Adar-I 16	Moshe Markowitz (Moshe ben Yudel ha Cohen)	January 31	Shevat 24
Gertrude Aronstein (Gittel Leah bat Mordechai haLevi v' Zaiga)	January 7	Tevet 29	Florence Marson	January 10	Shevat 3
Sophia Katz Bearson	January 2	Tevet 24	Pearl Max	January 25	Shevat 18
Joseph Beck	January 31	Shevat 24	Leonard Mell	January 30	Shevat 23
Abraham Birnbaum	January 28	Shevat 21	Miriam Mendelson	January 3	Tevet 25
Blanche Birnbaum	February 17	Adar-I 11	Maurice I. Neipris	February 28	Adar-I 22
Ruth Blachman	January 31	Shevat 24	Walter Martin Peterson (Zev Chiam ben Avraham)	January 30	Shevat 23
Frieda Bloom	January 23	Shevat 16	Nelson Polsby	January 25	Shevat 18
James Bloom	February 7	Adar-I 1	George Popell	February 15	Adar-I 9
Morris Brezniak	January 13	Shevat 6	Edwin Posner	January 6	Tevet 28
Yoseph Bruchiel	January 9	Shevat 2	Mary Potak (Mara Ruda)	January 13	Shevat 6
Bernard Budiansky	January 13	Shevat 6	Chaim Radousky	January 14	Shevat 7
Mildred Harris Burger	February 27	Adar-I 21	Harry Rappaport	January 19	Shevat 12
Fanya Cohen	February 5	Shevat 29	Molly Rock	January 4	Tevet 26
Harry Cohen	January 22	Shevat 15	Mary Rosenblatt	January 8	Shevat 1
Henry Cohen	February 21	Adar-I 15	Morris Rothstein	February 29	Adar-I 23
Ida Cohen	February 8	Adar-I 2	Herman Salkin	February 3	Shevat 27
Lorelei Freda Cohen	January 4	Tevet 26	William Samelson (Zev Samelson)	January 6	Tevet 28
Rosalie Cohen	January 7	Tevet 29	Gertrude Schorner	February 25	Adar-I 19
Jean Taylor Coy	February 21	Adar-I 15	Genny Schrifrin	January 30	Shevat 23
May Darrow	January 10	Shevat 3	Gail Schwartz	January 4	Tevet 26
Nina Chaya Davis	January 12	Shevat 5	F.R. Scott	January 16	Shevat 9
Eileen Sheila Derblich	February 24	Adar-I 18	Harold Seder (Hayyim Tzvi ben Yehoshua)	January 12	Shevat 5
Stella G. Dorman	February 29	Adar-I 23	Myer Sefkin	February 25	Adar-I 19
Hannah Dorph	February 7	Adar-I 1	Susan Shackman	February 16	Adar-I 10
Ralph Dubin	February 26	Adar-I 20	Rose Milkman Shandling (Rokhl)	January 17	Shevat 10
Frieda Elbogen	January 8	Shevat 1	Edith Shapiro	February 2	Shevat 26
Sylvia Facher	January 19	Shevat 12	Gerald Shorer (Yeremiyahu ben Moische v' Miriam)	February 10	Adar-I 4
Bernice Edith Feinberg	January 4	Tevet 26	Alma Shuchat	January 25	Shevat 18
Sarah Feinstein	January 10	Shevat 3	Jules Shuchat	February 25	Adar-I 19
Susan Fendel	February 14	Adar-I 8	Yetta Shuchat	January 31	Shevat 24
Cantor Don Fischer	January 19	Shevat 12	Melvin K. Sires (Melech ben Avraham v' Ida Sarah)	February 20	Adar-I 14
Leonard Fox	January 15	Shevat 8	Carl Slater	February 28	Adar-I 22
Harry Clay Frank	February 15	Adar-I 9	Morris Spelfogel	February 23	Adar-I 17
Leon Frank	January 23	Shevat 16	William Spielman (Ze'ev ben Binyamin)	January 23	Shevat 16
Rachel Frank	January 1	Tevet 23	Goldye Spilky	January 25	Shevat 18
Sylvia Friedman	January 31	Shevat 24	Sarah Cohen Stahl	January 14	Shevat 7
Esther Gelfarb	January 20	Shevat 13	Robert Ray Stewart	January 22	Shevat 15
Israel Dov Gerstol	January 4	Tevet 26	Martin Trow	February 11	Adar-I 5
Herman Gold	February 25	Adar-I 19	Harry R. Valas	January 24	Shevat 17
Judith Gold	February 25	Adar-I 19	Lee Valas	February 4	Shevat 28
Laurette Goldberg	February 29	Adar-I 23	Murray Walter	February 12	Adar-I 6
Esther Eva Yachelson Goldman	February 21	Adar-I 15	Cynthia Walter Drazen	February 3	Shevat 27
Julius Gottlieb	February 19	Adar-I 13	Joseph Waxman	January 25	Shevat 18
Benjamin Gottlieb	February 17	Adar-I 11	Donald Lincoln Weinberg	February 28	Adar-I 22
Anne Reiter Greif	January 3	Tevet 25	Herman Weiner (Tzvi ben Meir)	January 26	Shevat 19
Jerome Grossman	February 29	Adar-I 23	Dave Wunderlich (David ben Louis)	February 6	Shevat 30
Morton Grossman	February 3	Shevat 27			
David Hellman (Dovid ben Simcha ha Levi)	January 24	Shevat 17			
Jack Jacobs (Yaakov ben Chaim v'Rachael)	February 21	Adar-I 15			
Wilson Kelman (Ze'ev)	February 24	Adar-I 18			
Nancy Kennedy	January 10	Shevat 3			
Krusa Kieliszek	February 13	Adar-I 7			
Julian Knaster	January 31	Shevat 24			
William Konigsford	January 28	Shevat 21			
Julia De Lorraine Levin	February 2	Shevat 26			
Abraham Levine	February 17	Adar-I 11			
Florence B. Levine	February 6	Shevat 30			
George Levine	January 20	Shevat 13			
Mollie Levine	January 15	Shevat 8			
Norma Blankstein Lewis	February 11	Adar-I 5			
Mary Lieberman	February 8	Adar-I 2			
Abraham Liebhoff	January 24	Shevat 17			
Esther Lipow	February 16	Adar-I 10			
Beverly Lowsky	February 17	Adar-I 11			
Rose Lowsky	February 26	Adar-I 20			

### We Extend Our Condolences to:

Nancy Gurian on the death of her mother Frieda Gurian, z"l,  
 Babbie Freiberg on the death of her mother, Mary Ann Freiberg z"l,  
 Miriam Senturia on the death of her father Harvey Senturia, z"l,  
 Josh Kirsch on the death of his grandmother,  
 Josh and Noga Gressel on the death of their nephew,  
 Deborah Lobel on the death of her mother Esther Lobel z"l,  
 Jonathan, Heidi, Ilana, and Mori Wexler on the death of their  
 mother and grandmother, Sally Indursky, z"l.  
 Jonathan Wexler on the death of his mother Sally "Baca" Wexler z"l  
 Jerry Berkman on the death of his mother Essie Sadie Fugarsky  
 Berkman, z"l  
 May God provide comfort to the mourners.



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Via e-mail, we send weekly announcements of services and activities, plus occasional messages deemed important for our members. If you have NOT been receiving these announcements, please send an e-mail to office@netivotshalom.org; write "Subscribe" in the subject line, with your name and e-mail address in the body. Thank you.

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Congregation

**Netivot Shalom**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# Join us in Celebrating the Installation\* of Rabbi Creditor

**SPECIAL GUEST: RABBI BRADLEY SHAVIT ARTSON**

DEAN OF THE ZIEGLER SCHOOL OF RABBINIC STUDIES  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH UNIVERSITY

**EXTRA SPECIAL GUEST: YOU**

## February 24, 6 pm

**AT CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM**

(PEOPLE OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME)

\* DON'T WORRY, WE WON'T BE "INSTALLING" OUR NEW RAV IN THE SAME SENSE THAT ONE "INSTALLS" A DISHWASHER. IT'S MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT. MORE LIKE INSTALLING A VERY LARGE-SCREEN TV. WE'LL SING, OFFER SOME BLESSINGS, TALK SOME TORAH, EAT AND SHMOOZE. IT WILL BE GREAT.

WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US.