



CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM

MARCH/APRIL 2008

ADAR I/ADAR II/NISSAN 5768

ASPAKLARIA: THE LOOKING GLASS

Finding Spiritual Jewish Prayer

By Rabbi Menachem Creditor



Certain times in my life I've felt an indescribable emotional connection exploding within me through *Tefilah/Prayer*.

The first time came upon me when a group of fellow Yeshiva High School graduates and I sat in a candle-lit room on *Tisha Be'Av* at Camp Ramah Nyack.

We sang old and new soft Jew-

ish songs and desperately tried to evoke the sadness of ancient Jewish loss with modern Jewish vitality. I only knew a few of the songs, but found myself carried higher – even by those songs I didn't know.

The second time occurred when I first visited the Carlebach Moshav in Israel, founded by Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach's followers from the SF House of Love and Prayer to establish a spiritual community in Israel, the Jewish soul's home. There, for the first time when *davenning* on a Friday evening, I had a *Mamish/real* *Kabbalat Shabbat*. A native son of the Moshav and I began tapping and banging the tables during *Lecha Dodi*, more and more rhythmically, until he broke into a drum solo. Both the men and women sang and danced with their eyes closed and hearts open. I only had to learn one *niggun* that night, because that one *niggun* lasted a full hour. And it hasn't stopped for me to this day.

The third time I experienced prayerful ecstasy was in

the home of my teacher, Dr. Devora Steinmetz in Jerusalem during my year at Machon Schechter, the Jerusalem Campus of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Liz and I had heard about Devora's monthly *minyán*, and the first time we participated gave us hope that vibrant, soulful, Modern Jewish spiritual communities existed. About one hundred people showed up on the first Shabbat of every month, bringing with them their own *siddurim*, their own spiritual needs – and their own love of *davenning*. Devora never led, and rarely did anyone lead twice. Devora simply provided the space and her passionate presence. And the roof would just lift off of the apartment with the harmonies of learning and growing among Jews—young and old.

A more recent joyful moment occurred a few years ago while sitting in a spiritual haven in Jerusalem for *niggun*-singing *davenners*, Yakar, holding my father's hand. I already knew most of the tunes, having fallen in love long before with that precious community. I had never *davenned* with my father in Israel. We'd shared many powerful, emotional, transcendent, and loving experiences in our relationship, but I didn't realize how much his presence would touch my personal prayer life. My heart still aches with the memory of that ephemeral but exquisite visit to Heaven on Earth.

I believe that the following four ingredients, each learned from one of the experiences above, can enhance the intensity and health of our spiritual community:

- 1) Be willing to join an intense and new experience, accepting the personal vulnerability that comes with encountering newness.

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Board Report

By Karen Bovarnick, Secretary

Board Retreat

In November, shortly after the annual meeting, the Board and committee chairs held a day-long retreat to coordinate and discuss long-range goals. The Board's current goals include: 1) raising funds through a capital campaign and recruiting new members, 2) coordinating programming to meet the congregation's needs, and 3) increasing our sense of community, volunteerism, and ability to integrate new members quickly.

We began on Saturday night, by having each Board member/Committee chair choose a quotation about leadership from a Jewish text and talk about why the particular statement spoke to him or her. We discussed why we were drawn to leadership roles at Netivot Shalom, and what compels us to stay involved. The next day, Rabbi Creditor gave each participant a copy of *This House We Build: Lessons for Healthy Synagogues and the People Who Dwell There*, by Terry Bookman and William Kahn, an excellent treatise on organizational development in synagogues. We then discussed how to prioritize our programming so that we meet congregation needs without burning out our volunteers. Rose Levinson, wearing her organizational consultant hat, helped us articulate the things we value in the Netivot Shalom community and how we might build on those values to attract greater membership. We also discussed whether the Netivot Shalom community should begin defining its priorities so that we can dedicate resources consistent with our "Mission."

We discussed two other themes: (1) the need for the Board and committee chairs to meet a few times each year to coordinate activities and share ideas; and (2) how volunteering, regardless of the task, solidifies people's commitment and sense of belonging to the shul. We concluded that

asking people to help is a way to link them to our community. Therefore, committee chairs are strongly encouraged to actively recruit members, particularly people they don't know, to join committees and help with tasks.

Board Activities—Finances and Operations

Since the retreat, the Board approved launching the capital campaign. We have also received a generous \$50,000 matching grant intended to encourage member contributions. The Board is aiming for 100% participation. The Board also approved a new budget with revised revenue goals in keeping with our goal of no reserve spending.

New Membership is Essential

New membership is key to meet our budget goals this year. At present, we have 331 member units. Of these, 286 member units contribute toward revenue; however, we are still waiting for dues from 5% of the membership. And, to meet our budget goal, we need to acquire roughly 20 new member units before our fiscal year ends in June.

Preschool and Education

On the program side, the Board approved securing licensing authority to expand the preschool. We also set a preschool admissions policy providing a preference for members, siblings, and re-enrolling children. We also discussed hiring a new education director as Andrea Shupack will move from the area by next school year. *

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

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February 2008
 Shalom Chevreh,

We are pleased to share with you an exciting opportunity that has come our way because of the generosity of a devoted member of our community!

We have received a matching challenge grant of \$50,000! That means, for every dollar we raise, we will receive a dollar from the donor! Raising \$100,000 now will both help us expand our programmatic capacity and strengthen our operating budget: half of the money is to be directed to our incredible Preschool, and half to the shul's general needs. We ask you to help us meet this challenge: No gift is too small (or too large!) We look forward to 100% participation. Our Board of Directors has taken the lead on this initiative and this past Sunday pledged gifts from every Board member. As we learn in our Torah portion this week, the Israelites stand at the shores of the Sea of Reeds about to cross over, but first stand poised and silent: they consider the next step. Because you love our shul, we ask you to answer this call to match a part of this challenge grant and demonstrate the *Nedivut* (generosity) our *Rimmonim* program is cultivating for our community this very month!

Kol Tuv, Rabbi Creditor, David Stein, Joe Meresman



Festive dancing at Congregation Netivot Shalom, on December 25, 2007, to the lively Klezmer tunes of Gerry Tenney and California Klezmer.

From top left: Dancing, dancing, dancing and more dancing!

Photos by Alice Webber.



Embracing Our Neighbors

By Sharon Priven, Social Action Chair

In discussing our new home, a frequently heard comment is, “I remember when that building was JayVee Liquors!” Our neighbors definitely noticed our arrival. So it is important that we also see our neighbors. As we build relationships with our neighbors and embrace the diversity surrounding us, we make our community stronger.

So who makes up our community? Our immediate neighbors include five churches: Evangelical Christian, Lutheran, Chinese Baptist, Catholic, and Quaker. A Montessori School borders our building on one side and a low-income housing facility borders the other. Along the street are social service agencies including a homeless youth shelter, a homeless center for women and children, and organizations serving youth, families, and seniors. We are blessed with the opportunity to learn and grow from the wide range of perspectives surrounding us. We need to seek out interactions with our neighbors to truly become part of the neighborhood.

And how can we do this? There are ways to engage on many levels, from community service to community organizing. We are collaborating with our local church communities by joining the Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action (BOCA), a non-profit, interfaith community organizing group. Through this relationship we hope to exchange points of view, work together on issues that reflect our shared values, and accomplish much together.

We can support the agencies around us that are doing wonderful work in addressing the needs of the underserved population by becoming volunteer tutors, mentors, cooks, bakers, knitting and chess teachers, or gardeners. By engaging in *tikkun olam* we not only help those around us who need us but we make deeper connections with each other. Be part of the process—contact us at socialaction@netivotshalom.org. *

Dear Friends,

As newly established residents of our West Berkeley neighborhood, we can feel proud and excited at our recent efforts to reach out and make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Our ability and willingness to use our stable home and supportive community to help those around us who are not as secure is so important. Here is the feedback we received after a recent collaboration among *Gemilut Hasadim*, Social Action, Rabbi Creditor, David Stein, and many individual members, in response to congregant Brenda Goldstein’s inquiry about whether we could help a next door neighbor at the Erna P. Harris low-income housing facility who would be returning home from surgery around Christmas:

“Just wanted to let you know that I talked to our neighbor’s case manager today and she expressed her thanks for the delicious meals that he has been getting. Not only is he enjoying the food, but he has also gained five pounds in the last two weeks which is terrific (he is quite underweight). The good food that you have provided for him is undoubtedly contributing towards his recovery and overall health. So thank you again - this is a good reminder that it is possible to make a difference through small and collective acts.” Brenda

Let’s continue this good work in *tikkun olam* together, building relationships in our neighborhood and getting to know each other better along the way.

Sharon Priven, Chair, Social Action Committee

ASPAKLARIA: THE LOOKING GLASS

(continued from page 1)

- 2) Use your whole self to pray – when your body remembers the experience you’ve crossed the line from prayer to *davenning*. Hold tight to a general trajectory without concretizing any one moment in its course as the final destination.
- 3) Find a community with a dependable center that seeks to empower. Safe space for sacred experiencing need not be hierarchical.
- 4) Love your fellow *davener*. Reach out to individuals comprising your *chevreh*, acknowledging them as worthy of contributing without requiring sameness as a criterion.

These magic ingredients combine into something peculiar

that transcends the *halachic* order of prayer, but can’t exist without its guiding structure. This peculiar something transcends the specific melodies for certain prayers, but can’t exist without their interconnectedness. It transcends the immediate location, but can’t exist without intentional sacred-space-making. It transcends the person who happens to be *davenning*, but can’t exist without an old, incomplete soul’s inviting voice. And it transcends the individual’s *kavannah*/devotion, but can’t exist without many people’s individual spiritual yearnings.

May we feel invited to share in the search, the soulful experience of *Tefilah*, by remembering each other as we close our eyes and open our souls. *

Cooking at the Dorothy Day Shelter

By Sharon Priven, Social Action Chair

Every first Sunday of the month, congregants at Netivot Shalom set aside other priorities to come together and cook dinner for the 50 or so men at the Dorothy Day Men's Shelter in Berkeley. From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. we prep, cook, get to know each other better, then serve and eat dinner with the residents (the best part of all!) The men consistently express appreciation for the meals we cook, as well as for the company while eating. This is a truly rewarding experience that keeps things in perspective for all of us. To participate, contact socialaction@netivotshalom.org. *



Clockwise from top left: Tobie Lurie getting dessert organized, Traci Siegel and Joel Gerwein chop and slice, Jeff Rosenbloom expertly applying the garlic, Marcia Brooks, cooking her famous chili.

Photos by Sharon Priven.

Social Action Helps Prepare for the February Cuba Trip

By June Safran, Cuba Affairs

On January 13th, we had a very successful humanitarian aid packing party at Netivot Shalom with about 30 people helping on and off for 7 hours. The social hall buzzed with activity while people took excess wrappings off sample medicines and combined small bottles of like medicines, eliminating excess weight.

Dr. Bob Safran and Nurse Barbara Fritz answered packers' questions. June Safran assembled bags for specific communities. Some helpers took a break to watch *The Believers*, a documentary by Bonnie Burt featuring Rabbi Kelman in Cuba.

At the end of the day we had packed an amazing amount of recyclable paper and plastic bottles and about 600 pounds of medicines, toothbrushes, toiletries, over-the-counter medicines, adult diapers, Jewish books, clothing, and stuffed animals. To all that participated—thank you. We have a wonderful congregation of members willing to volunteer for such a worthy cause. *



From top left, clockwise: Judy Breakstone labeling and organizing, Debbie Graudenz packs up medicines, volunteers working together, Jonathan Wexler and Tony Hecht take a break for the camera.

Photos by June Safran.

2nd Vice President of Programming – What is Bikkur Cholim? Helping to Coordinate

By Andrea Altschuler

For the first time in Netivot Shalom's history, we have two vice presidents—Jeff Rosenbloom is Vice President: Operations and Finance, and yours truly—Vice President: Programming. To accommodate our growth, last year's Board of Directors added this new VP position to help with the increasing number of wonderful programs that Netivot Shalom committee chairs, community members, and staff develop. I am the first person serving in this role.

After my long absence from the Board, since returning I've been impressed by the board members' and committee chairs' amazing energy and commitment, and surprised at how much I enjoy spending lots of time with the executive committee, Rabbi Creditor, board members and committee chairs (no kidding). Although I was a little nervous making my first few Shabbat announcements, I actually had fun and was flattered when Ken Schnur, the master of CNS Shabbat announcements complimented me on my delivery.

My main responsibility is overseeing programming by working with committee chairs and members to integrate and coordinate our fabulous programs to reduce redundancy, recognize gaps, and increase collaboration so that Netivot Shalom can meet as many of our members' interests and needs as possible.

At our first committee chairs meeting, I was reminded of all the wonderful programs and services we offer – our meals for people in need; the *chevra kadisha*; youth and adult education including our new Hebrew bi-lingual program; on-going popular *Shabbat b'Yachad* and *Rimonim* programs as well as new “Kids Night Out” nights for grade schoolers; extensive holiday programming; creative community building activities including everything from the Mitzvah Milers cycling group to the Chanukah arts fair to the biannual Memorial Day retreat; new member events, and social action—to name a few.

And now for a plug—if you would like to get involved or learn more about any of these activities, please contact me, Andrea Altschuler, at andalt1@yahoo.com, or 510-649-9290. Or contact any of the committee chairs listed elsewhere in this newsletter. They're really wonderful people. I give you my word of honor on this—I think we're in really good hands. *

What is Bikkur Cholim?

By Carol Dorf, Chair Bikkur Cholim

B*ikkur Cholim* is the *mitzvah* of visiting the sick. In our congregation we fulfill the *mitzvah* by visiting and calling people, and helping with specific tasks like providing transportation to a doctor's appointment.

Our committee meets yearly and maintains an active e-mail list. Netivot Shalom members' responses to people in need have been amazing for congregants and community members. Besides continuing our work, our future goals include developing support groups for households with sick members, particularly for families with children who are still at home, and thinking about ways to help people with longer term needs.

Peter Strauss deserves a special thank you and *yeshar koach* for chairing the committee for many years, and for having a deep, personal commitment to helping fellow congregants in need. If you or someone you know needs help, please contact David Stein, or me, Carol Dorf. For more information, or to join the committee, please email bikkurcholim@netivotshalom.org.

From my perspective as a poet, I describe my work in this way:

Breath

By Carol Dorf

(first published in Mom Writers' Literary Magazine)

Those automatic days
where breath is background
and we ignore details of oxygen's ways.

Those automatic days
when a walk to the corner becomes praise
as the child hands us jewels she's found.

Those automatic days
where breath is background.

Warm wishes for health and strength to everyone in our congregation. *





Clockwise from top left: Nina Sarah, Shoshana feeding trees, seder table.

Photos by Anne Marx.

SBY Speaks For the Trees!

By Lara Sita

For those of you who do not know about our program, *Shabbat B'Yachad* is a Shabbat and Holiday Program for young children and their families. If you, or someone you know, would like to be on our email list, please write to me, Lara Hornbeck, at sby@netivotshalom.org. We have our Shabbat Services pm the second and fourth Shabbat of every month at 11 a.m. in the SBY/Preschool room right next to the playground, behind the main sanctuary. Please join us! Be sure to come on time so we can honor you with our special greeting song!

At a recent meeting, Rabbi Creditor coined the slogan 'I am a *bracha* in this world' for the children of SBY. This struck me as so apt. Young children exist in a magical, mystical world where they learn with their hearts, minds, spirits and bodies all in harmony, manifesting blessing by the simple fact of their being so complete. The Kabbalists speak of the trees as being a conduit for God's blessing and goodness in this world and that when we partake of the fruits of the trees, we are healed and transformed by these qualities. Children also have this awesome power to create radical change in those who nurture and are nurtured by them. Children and trees

seem alike to me in that they both are clear emanations of both God's ability and willingness to shower us with blessing upon blessing.

At our recent *Tu B'Shevat* Celebration we learned that in *Breishit*, *HaShem* calls us *shomrei adamah*, the caretakers of the earth. We talked about all of the different ways that we take care of the world immediately around us: by helping to take care of little brothers and sisters, helping to take care of dogs and cats, the importance of composting our food scraps and paper plates, and of course, taking care of the trees!

At our *Tu B'Shevat Seder*, we blessed and were blessed by 15 different fruits of the tree, including pomegranates, dates, figs, raisins and carob. After the trees took care of us by filling our bellies, it was time for us to take care of the trees, time to turn blessing into action. We 'made' compost with our paper cups, our wet food scraps and our breath! Then we headed out to our rimon and tamar trees and fed them some real compost replete with worms. The children were quite industrious, using their recycled yogurt containers to transport the compost and to get a closer look at the worms. We danced and sang our way to the end of our *Tu B'Shevat* celebration, completing the cycle of giving and receiving blessing. *

Growing...

By Lauren Kindorf, Preschool Director

Growing has been the recent focus for the Netivot Shalom Preschool. Beginning with Tu B'Shevat and our explorations of the trees in our world, to looking at ourselves and the babies recently born into our Netivot classroom community, the children have had many experiences in understanding and caring for living things.

We began the month of January looking at trees, constructing trees from art materials, and singing and reading about trees and their inhabitants. On Tu B'Shevat we visited the olive trees in the shul courtyard, pulled weeds and nourished the trees with compost. Singing *Ken La'Cipo/The Bird Has a Nest* and *The Green Grass Grows All Around*, and reading "Good Night, Owl" became a few of our favorite activities. The children's favorite snacks were the fruits of the trees, specifically *tapuzim/oranges* and *tapuchim/apples*. We learned the *brachah/blessing* for *prei ha'etz/fruit* from the trees.

Also, in teaching the children *shmirat hateva*, a respect for their living world, we began composting our snack and lunchtime food scraps. The children now put their uneaten food into the compost bowl and they are familiar with the big compost bin in the main kitchen. Could that really be the beginnings of the compost we fed to the trees? Yes, it could.

In order to create an indoor garden, the children also planted bean seeds and parsley. 'Food' from the soil, regu-

lar watering and a warm home on the sunny windowsill have proved to be a successful combination.

Exploring plant life led the children to an interest in human growth and caring for others and ourselves. While providing a healthy and caring environment for the doll babies, we discuss ourselves and the babies in our *mis-pachot/families*. We also talked about the love between parents and children and how there is always enough to go around.

A special event in the month of February was a Bedtime *Sh'ma* Pajama Party, sponsored by the children's groups of Congregation Netivot Shalom and Congregation Beth Israel. This wonderful event, supported by Claudia Valas and EKS Publishing, invited families with young children to join in an evening with Sarah Gershman, the author "The Bedtime *Sh'ma*", a beautiful adaptation of traditional nighttime prayers. In preparation, the preschool children had two pajama days at school with sleepy-time themed activities, foods and stories. The book's blessings of peace and comfort heard daily by our afternoon nappers, were enjoyed by all of the children on these special days.

Our school itself is also growing as we have begun the enrollment process for the 2008-2009 *Nachoshim* (2-year-old) and *Nevonim* (3-year-old) classes. It is so wonderful to be welcoming new families into our preschool community.

As always, I extend the invitation to visit our classroom. Just stop by to say hello, or share your time and/or talents. We would love to see you! *

Adult Learning in Rimmonim

By Cathy Shadd, Rimmonim Director

If you still think that *Rimmonim* is "just for families," I invite you to come be part of our *adult learning* on Shabbat mornings. Now through June in the large classroom upstairs, on the first and third Shabbat of the month from about 11:30 a.m. to 12:10 p.m., adults learn together about the *middah* of the month (while the children are next door snacking and enjoying secular picture books on the *middah*). Volunteers facilitate these lively and fun adult learning sessions. These volunteers include parents with children in *Rimmonim* and other community members. This year we have studied with or will learn with Rabbi Daniel Kohn, Lee Bearson, Rachel Brodie, Joel Gerwein, Dan and Marjorie Stamper-Kurn, Vicky Kelman, Rabbi Stuart Kelman, Rom Rosenblum and Steve Bileca.

We usually begin by looking closely at a number of *middah* textual sources. Then we branch out into how we personally relate to the material, what connections we make with it, and how it relates to our lives. The group continues growing in size. This studying has helped bring together people in our congregation who might not otherwise have ever connected with one another.

While it is always great to chat with each other at *kid-dush*, we form a different kind of connection when we talk about something substantive and meaningful. The connection feels deeper. So, please, I invite you to come and learn with us. Feel free to pop in and check it out any time. We would be thrilled to see you! And if you would like to lead a learning session, please contact rimmonim@netivotshalom.org. *

Youth Happenings!

By Andrea Shupack, Youth Ed Director

Our religious school 3rd-6th grade classes planted along the Ohlone bike trail for a *Tu B'Shevat* service project. Passerbys thanked the students as they went by, commenting on how nice the area would look now. By doing this the students experienced Judaism's call to care for the earth.

Amitim has chosen to reduce hunger by doing projects, and raising awareness and money throughout the rest of the year.

Our last Family Shabbat evening was filled with laughter, singing, and warm food. Despite the rain, we had a wonderful turnout. I have never seen more happy kids dancing, playing, and singing together. We had a great time watching them. Family Shabbat happens every last Friday of the month (except holidays and school vacations).

We are excited about the new *Mo'adon* (youth lounge), and look forward to adding more furniture, getting a computer with internet access, and decorating the walls over the next month or two. Keep looking for changes to the space. I am looking for help with decorating or donating to the space (small furniture and older-kid games). If interested, please contact me.

This Purim there will be tons of music, dancing, circus tricks, and game booths. Come visit our Shushan Café, one of the main Youth Education fundraisers. Bring an appetite and enjoy your dinner when you get to shul!

Summer is coming. If you are sending your child to a camp this summer and need support, camp scholarships are available. Contact Andrea for more information. *

Eliana Jacobs and Leah Samelson, two teenage Netivot Shalom congregants, are appearing in: **Splash Circus Theatre from April 4-April 6, 2008.**

Splash Circus Theater, a 13-member troupe of circus artists ages 9 - 16, presents **Headache: A Circus!**, directed by former Cirque du Soleil member Jaron Aviv Hollander. Audiences of all ages will delight in the fantastic tale of a giant with a terrible headache, cured only by the spectacular release of acrobats, aerialists and clowns from his head. The result is a breath-taking circus performance that soars above a landscape of imagination.

Showtimes: Friday 8pm; Saturday 2pm & 7:30pm; Sunday 2pm.

Head Over Heels Gymnastics, 4701 Doyle St, Bldg F (enter through 45th St. between San Pablo and Hollis) Emeryville, CA 94608

\$15 Adults; \$10 Students/Seniors/children under 16. Tickets sold at the door, seating is General Admission.

Creating Magic

By Diane Bernbaum, Midrasha

Anyone who works in schools knows that some years, no matter what you do, things are tough; Other years you are blessed with a convergence of things making a great year. Well, this year at Midrasha is one of those magical years. At the end of Sunday's classes, teachers continue coming into the office saying, "Wow, did I have a great day. We had the most amazing discussion." Students seem pleased with their classes and continue to introduce friends to Midrasha. Parents send e-mails exclaiming how important Midrasha is in their teens' lives. So what are some of the things that make this year so magical?

The faculty is superb and well-grounded in Judaica, has undergraduate and graduate degrees in religion, Talmud and Jewish Civilization, has lived and studied in Israel, and is passionate about teens. Many of them, Yossi Fendel, Sacha Kopin, David Henkin, Erica Crowell, have taught for more than a dozen years and understand what Midrasha teens want and who they are. Two of them, Yeshi Gusfield and Yossi Fendel, are Midrasha alum. Many of them teach at several other midrashot. Fourth year teacher Devra Aarons also directs the Midrasha in Contra Costa.

It is exciting to see students grapple when selecting classes among the semesters' variety of offerings. When they say "All the classes look so good, I don't know what to choose," I know we've done something right. Do they want to learn about: The Green Line in Israel, Advanced or Beginning Conversational Hebrew, social justice or clothing industry ethics, Jewish identity through art, medical ethics, genealogy, or non-Ashkenasic communities. Which class sounds more interesting: A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Jewish Community, "You Make the Call: debating difficult decisions in the Torah", or "Sunday Morning Death: Jewish laws and customs of mourning and death, ethical wills and notions of the afterlife?"

Some Midrasha students study on Thursdays with David Henkin and Zvi Septimus, attend weekend retreats at Camp Newman under the leadership of Toba Strauss and Danny Blum offering a safe and relaxed atmosphere to study, pray and socialize, participate in social action, travel to Poland and Israel, and take part in leadership training.

Midrasha also offers family programs and opportunities to meet teens from 10 different East Bay synagogues from Berkeley to Fremont to Danville and to Vallejo. All this creates the magic! *

Shabbat Programming for Adult Ed

By Andrea Shupack, Adult Ed Coordinator

Shabbat, Shabbat, Shabbat! Since January, the Adult Education Committee has put together an amazing series of Shabbat programs. Weekly, after every *kiddush*, you can enjoy learning with your Netivot community. There is a wide range of topics, from music, poetry, drama, to Talmud, Torah, and psychology. Take a look at the purple brochures displayed in the synagogue lobby for a description of the events through May.

Our *Tu B'shevat Shabbat* program also kick-started an exciting new Netivot Shalom group. Thanks to Josh Shupack and Robin Braverman for bringing even more environmental awareness and support for personal change to another level at Netivot Shalom. As part of the Greening Project at Netivot Shalom, we have been composting and discussing ways to reduce consumption at the synagogue. And now Adult Ed. brings you, "*Seeds of Change: Supporting Each Other to Lighten Our Footprint*"

This weekly support group meets the second and fourth Shabbatot, at 2:30 p.m., right after the Adult Ed program of the week, and 2:30 p.m. on first and third Sundays.

Also, coming very soon is Rabbi Creditor and Robin Braverman co-teaching a "*Crash Course in Talmud*" on Sunday, March 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is an introductory class to help those who want to study but feel they don't have enough background, and for those who may already study, but want a deeper understanding. If you want to increase your Hebrew knowledge, or learn *trope*, but haven't made the time for it, consider signing up for a class at Netivot. You can choose between conversational or prayer-book Hebrew, torah or *haftorah trope*, at varying levels. Please contact Andrea Shupack if you are interested or have any questions. One on one tutoring is also available.

There is so much going on with Adult education, please take a look at the web calendar for more classes and one-time events announcements. *

Sunday Morning Minyanim Speaker Schedule

By Art Braufman

The Sunday *minyanim* and speakers program continues on the second Sunday of each month with Rabbi Creditor presenting the second and third parts of his six part series "*Leading a Mythic Life*". There will not be a speaker on the fourth Sunday of April because there is a *Chag* service for the eight day of Pesach. The second speaker of the month will continue to be shul members talking about an aspect of their professional careers. Everyone is invited to come, *daven*, nosh, and schmooz with other congregants and learn about our fascinating talented members. *Shacharit* starts at 9:30 a.m., followed by breakfast and the talk from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mark your calendars in advance: programs in May will be on the first and third Sunday.

March 9: Rabbi Creditor: second in "*Living a Mythic Life*" series: "*Mythic Places*". The World Trade Center, tragic landmark of beginnings, endings and of sudden disappearance, has risen to mythic proportion since 9/11. It now stands together with a pantheon of places that orient us physically and spiritually. This event now takes its place among the powerful myths of origins and life crises like birth, death, marriage, and transcendent intersections that swirl with the Divine. What of Jerusalem, a place whose very name is taught to singe the lips? How might we come to understand the spiritual symbolism of a place,

both real and legendary, as a psychic center, a source of dynamic energy and a place of modern life? Join Rabbi Creditor's exploration of *Living a Mythic Life*.

March 23: Naomi Horowitz: "*Mikvah Today: A Drash through Design*". Creation, transformation, sacred time, sacred space, body, and landscape are powerful themes that are inherent in the *mikvah*, but are not often made the most of in the design of *mikvaot*. After a general overview of the *mikvah* forms and its uses, Naomi will present designs that explore the possibilities for heightening the sensory and spiritual experience of a visit to the *mikvah*. Naomi completed her Master of Architecture degree at MIT in 2005. This talk is based on her design thesis. She now works in architecture and urban design for WRT/Solomon E.T.C. in San Francisco.

April 13: Rabbi Creditor: third in "*Living a Mythic Life*" series: "*Mythic People I: Rabbinic Era*". Our spiritual texts and history include mythic people, mystics who created *Golems*, prophets who could resurrect rain-makers, and more. What do these stories demonstrate? Is it possible to be a rationalist and yet tell these stories with conviction? Do mythic people roam our world today? Did they ever? Do the Jewish people need mythic people? Join Rabbi Creditor in a conversation regarding Mythic People as we continue the exploration of *Living a Mythic Life*.

April 27: Eighth day of Pesach Service *

American Jewish World Service: Meeting Point Kampala Uganda

By Karen Pliskin

Judy and Lew Priven, parents and in-laws of congregants Marc and Sharon Priven, spent three months in Kampala, Uganda this past summer volunteering for American Jewish World Service (AJWS). On Sunday, February 3, the Privens shared their experiences with Netivot Shalom members. Rabbi Lee Bycel, West Coast Director of AJWS, began the presentation by introducing AJWS.

“AJWS presents a Jewish voice on global issues,” Rabbi Bycel said. “It was established in 1985, and now AJWS is a \$35 million organization. Its mission is to alleviate hunger, poverty, and disease around the world.”

To accomplish its mission, Rabbi Bycel explained, AJWS has a four-pronged strategy. One strategy gives grants to indigenous social service organizations in Central America, Asia, and Africa. In 2007, AJWS awarded 420 grants to agencies in 36 countries, for a total of \$15,000,000. The average grant is \$20,000 for projects in the areas of health, education, livelihood, and microfinancing.

“People ask if we work in Israel,” Bycel said. “We don’t work in Israel. We love Israel – but Israel is a First World country.”

Another aspect of AJWS’s work is advocating before Congress on behalf of the Third World on major issues such as AIDS prevention (the current U.S. government AIDS foreign aid strategy refuses to distribute condoms), education needs, or genocide in Darfur.

AJWS’s third strategy takes American Jewish high school and college students on work/study tours to places where it funds projects.

One of the AJWS-funded agencies, Foundation for the Development of Needy Communities (FDNC) in rural



Lew helps serve lunch.

Uganda, received a group of work-study students. Its Executive Director, Justin Silva, also spoke at Netivot Shalom about the development projects supported by FDNC: education (for children with special needs and for paralegals); training (in carpentry, masonry, agriculture); a health clinic; and a music program. Last year’s summer American student delegation helped build a stage for the music program, and they also studied how problems of economic development relate to Judaism.

The fourth strategy of AJWS sends American Jewish volunteers to partner with the funded agencies. Hence, Judy and Lew Priven went to Uganda. They volunteered at a non-profit social service agency, Meeting Point Kampala, started by a Ugandan woman, Noelina “Mama” Namukisa, to support families with AIDS through community outreach and education. The staff cares for 4,000 people each day. Meeting Point Kampala houses an orphanage for HIV-positive and AIDS-infected children and a school for the children of the orphanage and the neighboring slum.

Lew and Judy presented slides and film footage of the children at the orphanage and school. Lew helped Meeting Point Kampala’s administration write reports to donor agencies and develop a five-year plan. Judy, who had been a reading specialist in the U.S., worked as a teacher. “The circumstances in the school were unlike those in the United States,” Judy said. “There were 60 children in a classroom. There were no textbooks, few pencils, and not much paper. I had to adjust.”

AJWS gives its volunteers an allowance of \$200, which Judy and Lew used to buy books for the school library.

“At the end of each day, all the children line up outside in the yard,” Lew said. “They get a lesson from a teacher, usually about health-related behaviors or hygiene or

(continued on following page)



Judy reads to the kids in the welcome house (orphanage).

Introducing Sara, Andrew, Abigail and Clara Cohen

By Kara Vuicich

Andrew, an avid New England sports fan originally from Maine, and Sara, who grew up in Arizona and is an accomplished triathlete (although she's too modest to admit it), met in law school at Boston University. They married 18 months after their first date. They were attorneys in the Boston area until deciding that they'd had their fill of cold winters and that their work as sports fans had been accomplished: the Patriots won their first three Super Bowl titles and the Red Sox won their first World Series Championship since 1918. (They report that they love Netivot, despite their suspicions that the Rabbi is a Yankee's fan.)

In Fall 2005, the family moved to the Bay Area with daughter Abigail, age three. Now, they live in Albany with Clara, who'll be one in March, and their loving and over-exuberant dog Moxie.

Both Sara and Andrew are film, theater and food enthusiasts, although lately they've had to satisfy their entertainment and appetite needs with Little Einsteins, Mickey Mouse and mac-n'-cheese.

Currently, Sara works part-time for a small, private law firm, and Andrew works for UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall



School of Law as a senior communications writer. If you'd like to meet them in person (which I strongly recommend), look for them in the Shabbat b'Yachad room and at Kiddush (and occasionally in the sanctuary with all the grown-ups, children allowing) on Shabbat mornings. *

Meeting Point Kampala

(continued from previous page)

proper dress. And then they say a prayer before they go home [to the slums].”

Lew's and Judy's three months at Meeting Point Kampala impacted the teachers, staff, and children. One teacher wanted to learn Judy's teaching techniques. From Lew, the administration learned about long-term strategic planning options, such as purchasing the land adjacent to the school that the children used as a playground. The children made up a good-bye song for Judy, asking her to come back.

The Privens showed short film-clips. One revealed the tragedy of AIDS that provides Meeting Point Kampala

with its *raison d'être*. A group of eight or so AIDS-infected children dressed in yellow shirts, skirts, or shorts sang a heart-wrenching song accompanied by arm movements. “When I die because of AIDS,” they sang, and lifted their right arms up as if pointing to the heavens and listening for the response from above, “There's a child of Africa.”

Judy and Lew are raising money to build another classroom for Meeting Point Kampala's school, and need just \$2000 more. Donations can be sent to AVSI-USA, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20045. Checks should be clearly marked for MEETING POINT KAMPALA. *



Congregation Netivot Shalom* Preschool is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year!



Congregation Netivot Shalom Preschool is a supportive and nurturing play-based program for 2- and 3- year-olds. Our approach encourages children to explore, question, practice and pretend in order to discover the world around them. Through an emphasis on listening and respecting one another, our children, teachers, and parents build a cohesive community where we celebrate our differences and value each person as a unique individual. The program is rich in Jewish content with a special focus on the Hebrew language, We will have spaces available in our 2-year old class (for children born between 9/15/05 and 9/30/06) and in our 3-year-old class (for children born between 9/30/04 and 9/14/05).

If you'd like more information, to set up a visit, or to request an application please contact Lauren Kindorf, Preschool Director, by calling (510) 549-9447, ext. 110 or emailing preschool@netivotshalom.org. Netivot Shalom is located in central Berkeley, near the North Berkeley BART station.

*Netivot Shalom is Berkeley's only Conservative synagogue. We pride ourselves on being a traditional shul and progressive community with an egalitarian environment.

Israel Summer House Exchange

We are having family visit this summer for a Bar Mitzvah in August. They are looking for a 3 or 4 bedroom house, preferably with a kosher kitchen, in Berkeley between approximately Aug 11-31. In exchange, they are offering their 5 bedroom Israeli summer home in Rishon Le Tzion, 15 minutes to Tel Aviv, 5 minutes to the beach and the center of town.

The home in Israel does not have to be used in August—it is available throughout the year. Features include: a large living room, a fully equipped Kosher kitchen, and 5 bedrooms (sleeps 8+). Contact: Mel Sibony, 841-2268 or sibony@earthlink.net

Holiday Baking Classes Return

The holiday baking classes, taught by Deborah Lewis, resume on the following three Sundays from 1:30-3:30 pm:

February 10, March 9 and April 13

For adults and youth 8 and over (with an adult) Cost is just \$12/class for adults and \$8/class for youth.

You are encouraged to register for the series (\$36 adults, \$24 kids) as space is limited.

To register or for more info, contact Deborah at youthed@netivotshalom.org

Mazel Tov

Wedding Anniversaries:

Joseph Hellerstein & Adene Sacks, 5th anniversary
April 15, 2008

Shmuel Rosner Press Release

Shmuel Rosner, Chief U.S. Correspondent for the Israeli daily Haaretz, will speak on **Sunday, March 9, 2008 at Congregation Beth El, Berkeley, 1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley at 7:30 pm**. His topic, **The American-Israel Relationship in the Post-Bush Era** is timely in this pre-election period.

Although raised and educated in Jerusalem, Rosner is a long-time American history buff. He has written numerous articles about U.S. policy and politics and covered the 2000, 2004 and 2006 American elections for Haaretz and is covering the current presidential campaigns. He frequently briefs the U.S. State Department diplomatic corps and is a guest lecturer at the Army War College. He lectures extensively on Israeli journalism and politics at a number of American campuses and think tanks. In addition he is a frequent guest on Israeli television and radio as an analyst of American policy.

Rosner is also a frequent contributor to the American magazine, Slate and, in addition, reports and writes a daily blog (www.rosnersdomain.com) for Haaretz. Before becoming a columnist for Haaretz in 1993 Rosner served as a producer and editor of programs on the IDF radio station. He is married and has and has three children.

The March 9th program is sponsored by Bridges to Israel-Berkeley, Berkeley Hillel and the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay.

A contribution of \$10 will be requested and refreshments will be served after the talk.

For further information, contact Seymour Kessler at 510.525.3582 or at seykessler@gmail.com

EREV PURIM CELEBRATION

All Ages Invited to a Festive
Netivot Shalom Erev Purim Celebration!

Thursday, March 20, 6 pm

Magilla Reading! Groggers!

Shushan Café Serving Dinner & Dessert
(Youth Ed Fundraiser)!

Numerous Songleaders!
NS Jazz-Klez Band!

Circus Arts for Kids 5 & over
With Hannah From the Retreat!

Costumes! Dancing!
Parade! Shmoozing!

Organized by
Community Building and Youth Ed

Kiddush Thank You

Thanks to the many individuals (and groups) who sponsored a kiddush in the past several months. They are: Katya and Joel Gerwein, Lee Bearson and Babbie Freiberg, Larry Hanover, Rachel Brodie and Adam Weisberg, Tali and Elad Ziv, Jeannie Reisman, the Rosh Chodesh Group, Deb Yager and Barry Muhlfielder, Judith Lesser McCullough and Michael McCullough, Shari Rifas and Steven Bond, Claire Max, Sandra Gore and Ron Sires, Karen Pliskin, Tamar and Yossi Fendel, Rabbi Daniel Kohn and Deborah Stachel, Karen Bovarnick and Linda Walker, Charlene Stern and Michael Irwin, Andi and Michael Cassidy, Rabbi Stuart and Vicky Kelman, Joanna Weinberg and David Levine, Mark Geliebter and Robin Keller, Joe Meresman and Cathy Bolding, Denise Moyes-Schnur and Ken Schnur, Claudia Valas and Carl Buchin, Jessica Login and Dan Alter, Cathy Shadd and Dov Rosenfeld, Mina and Jack Gobler, Donna Sidel-Straus and Doug Straus, and the MAP Chavurah.

Sponsors are always needed. Please contact me at kiddush@netivotshalom.org.



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KNETIVOT KNITS!

What:
 Come join a fun and relaxing
 knitting circle for all ages, genders, and abilities!

When:
 Contact socialaction@netivotshalom.org
 for upcoming dates

Where:
 Congregation Netivot Shalom,
 1316 University Ave., Berkeley

Bring:
 Knitting needles (sizes 6, 7, 8),
 crochet hooks, 100% wool worsted
 weight yarn in bright colors

Our starting projects
 will be squares for baby
 blankets for the organization
 Afghans for Afghans,
 www.afghansforafghans.com

Co-sponsored by the
 Community Building
 and Social Action Committees

ASK JCI and R

Yours for the Asking:

Q: Farmisht, farbissen, fartumelt, far-blondget, farpatshket... I remember the five Fs from my Yiddishe bubbe. Now I am ready to learn more Yiddish. Any suggestions?

A: Can you believe.... We can recommend some excellent adult education classes and bands as well as private tutors and even Yiddish singing and dancing groups. And if it's just a word or two, we haimesh folks at JCIR will give it a try.

For more information about connecting to Jewish life or for your free copy of Resource/A Guide to Jewish Life 2008/5768 (which has a Yiddish section), call JCI & R at 415/777-4545 or toll-free 877/777-JCIR (5247) or email Info@JewishNfo.org

Jewish Community Information and Referral is a service of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma and the Peninsula www.sjcf.org

The Rosh Chodesh Group



Upcoming meetings of the Rosh Chodesh Group are:

Friday evening, **March 7** we will celebrate Shabbat at a dinner for the Group and our families

Sunday **April 6**, we will observe a women's seder for Passover at a member's home. Women in the congregation are welcome to attend.

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.

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Providing Excellence in General and Judaic Studies to K-8 students throughout the Bay Area.</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">OHDS is a beneficiary of the Center for Living and Learning of the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay and Koret Foundation and the Albert & Janet Schultz Supporting Foundation of the Jewish Community Endowment Fund.</p>	



The 23rd Jewish Music Festival

March 22-30, 2008

Tix: www.jewishmusicfestival.org
or 800-838-3006

All-Festival Pass of nine concerts available for \$110

At Netivot Shalom!

The Bay Area premiere of one of America's top cantors: **Benzion Miller** a world-renowned Hasidic cantor, featured on the PBS special: *Cantors: A Faith in Song*, captivates audiences with his brilliant tenor voice, virtuosic technique and deep spirituality. With Daniel Gildar. *Produced in association with Netivot Shalom Co-sponsored by the Gottesman-Biddle Family*

Sunday, March 23, 7:30pm

Netivot Shalom, 1316 University Ave, Berkeley, CA 94702
\$21 JCC East Bay/Netivot members, \$25 non-members

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Web: www.chabadberkeley.org

MARCH

March 1

24 AdarI
 Midrasha Shabbat
 Kiddush-Midrasha Families
 9:00 AM Torah Study
 9:30 AM Shabbat Services
 1:15 PM God Violence
 Discussion with Rabbi
 Creditor and Fred Astren
6:45 PM Havdalah

March 2

25 AdarI
 9:15 AM Board Meeting
 10:30 AM God Violence
 Discussion with Rabbi
 Creditor and Fred Astren
 5:00 PM Social Action Cooks at
 Dorothy Day Mens Shelter

March 3

26 AdarI
 7:00 PM Ronna Wineberg -
 author visit
 7:00 PM Jazz-Klez Band

March 4

27 AdarI
 9:30 AM Rabbi learns with
 Rabbi Kahn and Rabbi Cohen
 3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
 4:00 PM Religious School
 7:00 PM Hebrew Night!

March 5

28 AdarI
 7:15 AM Morning Minyan
 7:00 PM Trope Class with
 Rachel HeinsteIn

March 6

29 AdarI
 3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
 4:00 PM Religious School
 7:00 PM Ritual Committee
 Meeting

March 7

30 AdarI
 Rosh Chodesh AdarII
 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat
5:51 PM Candle lighting
 7:00 PM Netivot brings
 Kabbalat Shabbat to
 Claremont House

March 8

1 AdarII
 Shabbat Shekalim
 Rosh Chodesh Adar II
 Kiddush: Sarah Forrest
 Bat Mitzvah
 Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Forrest
 9:00 AM Torah Study
 9:30 AM Meditation Minyan
 9:30 AM Shabbat Services
 11:00 AM SBY
6:52 PM Havdalah

March 9

2 AdarII
 10:30 AM Shacharit minyan
 & Program
 1:30 PM Cooking Class:
 Hamantashen Baking Party
 3:30 PM Knetivot Knits
 9:00 PM Rabbi neighborhood
 conversation: Rockridge

March 10

3 AdarII
 7:00 PM Guys Ping-Pong and
 Dinner
 7:45 PM Judaism 101
 Introduction to Prayer

March 11

4 AdarII
 9:30 AM Rabbi learns with
 Rabbi Kahn and Rabbi Cohen
 3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
 4:00 PM Religious School
 7:00 PM Hebrew Night!

March 12

5 AdarII
 7:15 AM Morning Minyan
 7:00 PM Trope Class with
 Rachel HeinsteIn

March 13

6 AdarII
 3:00 PM Preschool Board Mtg
 3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
 4:00 PM Religious School

March 14

7 AdarII
 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat
 6:00 PM Second Friday Minyan
 Sponsored by YA
6:58 PM Candle lighting

March 15

8 AdarII
 Kiddush-Klar, Derblich
 Shabbat Zachor
 Rabbi Creditor giving the drasha
 9:00 AM Torah Study
 9:30 AM Shabbat Services
 10:30 AM Rimmonim
7:59 PM Havdalah

March 16

9 AdarII
 PURIM DINNER DANCE:
 QUEEN E'S SUPPER CLUB
 9:00 AM SBY Purim Celebration

March 17

10 AdarII
 7:00 PM Jazz-Klez Band

March 18

11 AdarII
 9:30 AM Rabbi learns with
 Rabbi Kahn and Rabbi Cohen
 3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
 4:00 PM Religious School
 7:00 PM Hebrew Night!

March 19

12 AdarII
 7:15 AM Morning Minyan
 7:00 PM Trope Class with
 Rachel HeinsteIn

March 20

13 AdarII
 Ta'anit Esther
 12:00 PM Staff Meeting
 3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
 4:00 PM Religious School

March 21

14 AdarII
 PURIM
 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat
 7:00 PM Netivot brings
 Kabbalat Shabbat to
 Claremont House
7:04 PM Candle lighting

March 22

15 AdarII
 Kiddush: Batya Brose Bat Mitzvah
 Bat Mitzvah of Batya Brose
 9:00 AM Torah Study
 9:30 AM Shabbat Services
 12:00 PM SBY
8:05 PM Havdalah

March 23

16 AdarII
 Shushan Purim
 9:30 AM Shacharit minyan &
 Program
 4:15 PM Amitim Social Action
 Project with YEAH!
 7:00 PM Benzion Miller Concert

March 24

17 AdarII

March 25

18 AdarII
 9:30 AM Rabbi learns with
 Rabbi Kahn and Rabbi Cohen
 3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
 4:00 PM Religious School
 7:00 PM Hebrew Night!
 7:30 PM Preschool Parents
 Association Meeting

March 26

19 AdarII
 7:15 AM Morning Minyan
 7:00 PM Trope Class with
 Rachel HeinsteIn

March 27

20 AdarII
 3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
 4:00 PM Religious School

March 28

21 AdarII
 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat
 6:00 PM Family Shabbat
7:11 PM Candle lighting

March 29

22 AdarII
 Shabbat Parah
 Kiddush: Schwartz/Feeley/
 Bradus/Friedman
 9:00 AM Torah Study
 9:30 AM Shabbat Services
8:12 PM Havdalah

March 30

23 AdarII
 1:30 PM Cooking Class-
 Blintzes and Knishes
 3:00 PM Executive Committee
 Meeting
 7:00 PM Talmud Study
 8:00 PM Rabbi neighborhood
 meeting: North Berkeley

March 31

24 AdarII
 7:45 PM A Taste of Judaism
 with Rabbi Creditor



APRIL**April 1**

25 AdarII
9:30 AM Rabbi learns with
Rabbi Kahn and Rabbi Cohen
3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
4:00 PM Religious School
7:00 PM Hebrew Night!

April 2

26 AdarII
7:15 AM Morning Minyan
7:00 PM Trope Class with
Rachel Heinstein

April 3

27 AdarII
3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
4:00 PM Religious School

April 4

28 AdarII
12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat
7:00 PM Netivot brings
Kabbalat Shabbat to
Claremont House
7:17 PM Candle lighting

April 5

29 AdarII
Shabbat HaChodesh
9:00 AM Torah Study
9:30 AM Shabbat Services
1:15 PM God Violence
Discussion
5:30 PM Shira Rothman
Bat Mitzvah
8:18 PM Havdalah

April 6

1 Nisan
Rosh Chodesh Nisan
9:15 AM Board Meeting
5:00 PM Social Action Cooks at
Dorothy Day Mens Shelter
6:00 PM ED Night
8:00 PM Rabbi neighborhood
conversation in Walnut Creek

April 7

2 Nisan
9:20 AM Parenting Matters:
Jewish Wisdom for Mindful
Parenting with Rabbi Creditor
7:45 PM A Taste of Judaism
with Rabbi Creditor

April 8

3 Nisan
9:30 AM Rabbi learns with
Rabbi Kahn and Rabbi Cohen
3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
4:00 PM Religious School
7:00 PM Hebrew Night!

April 9

4 Nisan
7:15 AM Morning Minyan
7:00 PM Trope Class with
Rachel Heinstein

April 10

5 Nisan
12:00 PM Staff Meeting
3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
4:00 PM Religious School
7:00 PM Ritual Committee
Meeting

April 11

6 Nisan
12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat
6:00 PM Second Friday Minyan
Sponsored by YA
7:24 PM Candle lighting

April 12

7 Nisan
Kiddush: Schneider and
Capital Campaign
9:00 AM Torah Study
9:30 AM Meditation Minyan
9:30 AM Shabbat Services
11:00 AM SBY
8:25 PM Havdalah

April 13

8 Nisan
9:30 AM Shacharit minyan
& Program
1:30 PM Cooking Class:
Passover Pastries (kitchen
will be kosher l'pesach)
8:00 PM Rabbi Neighborhood
Conversations

April 14

9 Nisan
9:20 AM Parenting Matters:
Jewish Wisdom for Mindful
Parenting with Rabbi Creditor
7:00 PM Jazz Klez-Band
7:45 PM A Taste of Judaism
with Rabbi Creditor

April 15

10 Nisan
9:30 AM Rabbi learns with
Rabbi Kahn and Rabbi Cohen
3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
4:00 PM Religious School
7:00 PM Hebrew Night!

April 16

11 Nisan
7:15 AM Morning Minyan
7:00 PM Trope Class with
Rachel Heinstein

April 17

12 Nisan
Ta'anit Bechorot
3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
4:00 PM Religious School

April 18

13 Nisan
12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat
7:00 PM Netivot brings
Kabbalat Shabbat to
Claremont House
7:30 PM Candle lighting

April 19

14 Nisan
Erev Pesach
Shabbat HaGadol
Kiddush: Dorf, Webber, Tobias,
Converse
Rabbi Creditor giving the drasha
9:00 AM Torah Study
9:30 AM Shabbat Services
10:30 AM Rimmonim

April 20

15 Nisan
Pesach I
9:30 AM Pesach Shacharit

April 21

16 Nisan
Community Seder
Pesach II
9:30 AM Pesach Shacharit
8:33 PM Havdalah

April 22

17 Nisan
Pesach III (CH™M)
9:30 AM Rabbi learns with
Rabbi Kahn and Rabbi Cohen
3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
4:00 PM Religious School

April 23

18 Nisan
Pesach IV (CH™M)
7:15 AM Morning Minyan

April 24

19 Nisan
Pesach V (CH™M)
3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
4:00 PM Religious School
4:00 PM Chaparral House Seder

April 25

20 Nisan
Pesach VI (CH™M)
12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat
7:00 PM Netivot brings
Kabbalat Shabbat to
Claremont House
7:37 PM Candle lighting

April 26

21 Nisan
Pesach VII
Kiddush: Cunradi
9:00 AM Torah Study
9:30 AM Shabbat Services
11:00 AM SBY
8:37 PM Havdalah

April 27

22 Nisan
Pesach VIII
8:38 PM Havdalah

April 28

23 Nisan
9:20 AM Parenting Matters:
Jewish Wisdom for Mindful
Parenting with Rabbi Creditor
7:00 PM Guys Ping-Pong and
Dinner

April 29

24 Nisan
9:30 AM Rabbi learns with
Rabbi Kahn and Rabbi Cohen
3:30 PM Hebrew Bilingual Class
4:00 PM Religious School

April 30

25 Nisan
7:15 AM Morning Minyan



To sponsor a Kiddush,
check the Kiddush Calendar at
www.netivotshalom.org to find an
open date and contact Susan at
kiddush@netivotshalom.org.

To calendar an event or rent space in our shul, please
contact the office to inquire about availability — before
announcing the date and time of the event.

Space is available on a first-come basis. Don't be
disappointed! Contact office@netivotshalom.org.

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.

Open Door Fund: Supports programs that enable our services, classes, and programs to become more accessible to adults and children with various disabilities (learning, physical, intellectual, or emotional).

Library Fund: Supports purchases of books and materials for our library and funds the cataloging of our collection.

Tzedakah Fund: Collections from our religious school, pushkes, and individuals that are used for various charitable purposes. In the past we have supported *Mazon*, *Mogen David Adom*, Food Bank, etc.

Kelman Liturgy Fund: Liturgy or *tefillah*, worship, prayer and spirituality have become central to our identity as a congregation. This fund can be used to invite a scholar-in-residence or hold a weeklong programmatic concentration or have a special retreat or even a musical program focusing on the general topic of 'prayer'.

Youth Education Fund: Supports the needs of our various youth education programs.

Social Action Fund: Supports the various activities that the Social Action Committee determines important for the year. In the past this fund helped underwrite our Feed the Homeless program, the Annual Turkey Drive, etc.

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

We appreciate these donors for contributing to one of our funds during the months of December and January 2007/8. We apologize if we have inadvertently missed anything, including a name or donation.

Building Fund

Rabbi David and Irene Winston
Norman and Susan Stern, in honor of
Mike Irwin and Charlene Stern
Thomas and Betty Sue Seaton, in honor of
Mike Irwin and Charlene Stern
June and Bob Safran

Religious School Donations

The Aronson Foundation, in honor of
Deborah Lewis and Marty Myers to support
Youth Education Programs at Netivot Shalom
Congregation Rodeph Shalom, in honor of Janet Harris

Social Action Fund

Ann Swidler and Claude Fischer

General Donations

Ronna Kabatznick and Peter Dale Scott
Carol Delton and Steve Zolno
Turi and Scott Adams, for Michael Feeley and the Garden

Preschool Donations

Toby and George Gidal
Mark and Sharon Priven, in honor of
the birth of Naia Wahrhaftig
Robin Mencher and Matthew Dimond, in honor of
the birth of Naia Wahrhaftig
Stephanie Davis Fund
Sue and Gus Davis

In Memory of

Claudia Valas and Carl Buchin, in memory of
Josh Gressels nephew, Simon
Moishe and Florence Pripstein, in memory of
Ernie Alexander
Deborah and Milton Potak, in memory of Mary Potak
Rabbi Bridget Wynne and Julia London, in memory of
Leon and Rachel Frank
Martin Greif, in memory of Anne and Harry Greif
Lauraine Jaeger, in memory of Beatrice Jaeger and
Bill Konegsford
Jan Fischer, in memory of Sally Inwsky, Freida Gurian,
Ernie Alexander, and Esther Lobel
Ruth and Arieh Schifrin, in memory of Abby Friedman's
father, Charles Friedman

In Honor of

Susan Seeley, in honor of Charlene Stern and Mike Irwin
Denise Moyes-Schnur and Ken Schnur, in honor of
the Valas/Buchin Anniversary
Linda and Robert Birnbaum, in honor of Martha and
David Birnbaum
Karen and Steve Bovarnick, in honor of
Jeannie Reisman's birthday

Open Door Fund

David Stein and Bill Stewart

Holiday Dinner Drive

Leslie Gordon
Judith Kunofsky and Mitchell Shandling
Rabbi Kelman Liturgy Fund
David Stein and Bill Stewart

Queen E Donations

Kara Vuicich and David Radwin

Todah Rabah! ❁

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 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 11, 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 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. 7p.m., 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.

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

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 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

Yahrzeits

Zichronam l'verakbah — May their memories be blessed

Claire Abrahams	March 3	Adar-I 26,
Marjoie Alper	March 2	Adar-I 25
Jack Antokal	April 17	Nissan 12
Isaac Barsilay	April 22	Nissan 17
Jack Berger	April 14	Nissan 9
Morton Berger	April 15	Nissan 10
Florence Bernstein	March 16	Adar-II 9
Ilan Gabriel Biederman	April 24	Nissan 19
Blanche Block	March 21	Adar-II 14
Seymour Bradus	March 23	Adar-II 16
Nathan Brandwynne	March 5	Adar-I 28
Morris (Moishe) Brose	April 24	Nissan 19
Mary Jane Dannenbaum	April 19	Nissan 14
Bernhardt Dorman	April 15	Nissan 10
Rabbi Samuel Haim Dresner	April 30	Nissan 25
Sadie Estry	April 25	Nissan 20
Betty Falk	April 17	Nissan 12
Max Falk	April 6	Nissan 1
Hyman Feinstein	April 16	Nissan 11
Robert Finegold	March 1	Adar-I 24
Devorah Fox	April 25	Nissan 20
Jacob Gordon	April 19	Nissan 14
Sarah Gordon	April 22	Nissan 17
Florence Greenhut	April 15	Nissan 10
Bennet Hornstein	March 4	Adar-I 27
Joseph Hornstein	March 23	Adar-II 16
Aharon Horowitz	April 18	Nissan 13
Reggie Hyne	April 17	Nissan 12
Irwin Inman	March 8	Adar-II 1
Margaret McCullough Jerew	April 24	Nissan 19
Rose Feige Kaplan	April 29	Nissan 24
Clarence Kaufman	March 3	Adar-I 26
Frances Keller	April 11	Nissan 6
Frieda Kittner	March 2	Adar-I 25
Cynthia Klein	April 19	Nissan 14
Charlotte Koltun	April 16	Nissan 11

Mira Kon	March 3	Adar-I 26
Chaya Koslow	April 19	Nissan 14
David A. Lesser	March 5	Adar-I 28
Rosemary Levinson	April 23	Nissan 18
Ellis Liebman	April 18	Nissan 13
Ellis S. Liebman	April 18	Nissan 13
Irving Liebman	March 18	Adar-II 11
Morris Lifschitz	March 21	Adar-II 14
Beverly Lowsky	March 18	Adar-II 11
Zev Lurie	March 10	Adar-II 3
Fred Marcus	April 26	Nissan 21
Jack Maslan	April 24	Nissan 19
Esther P. Matthews	March 3	Adar-I 26
Louis Woolf Meltzer	March 22	Adar-II 15
Rachel Press	March 2	Adar-I 25
Pearl Pripstein	March 3	Adar-I 26
Morton Quittel	April 29	Nissan 24
Rifka Radousky	April 22	Nissan 17
Marc Rappaport	March 20	Adar-II 13
Julius Rock	April 14	Nissan 9
Sandy Schneider	April 21	Nissan 16
Anna Margueleis Schuman	April 10	Nissan 5
Morris Louis Sheftel	April 15	Nissan 10
Saul Sherman	April 18	Nissan 13
Penina Shragai	April 20	Nissan 15
Ben Shuchat	March 1	Adar-I 24
Joan Siegel	March 11	Adar-II 4
Max Slavin	April 28	Nissan 23
Barbara Strauss	April 10	Nissan 5
Joseph C. Swidler	April 30	Nissan 25
Abraham Jacob Tolmach	April 29	Nissan 24
Marian Wagner	April 29	Nissan 24
Donald Lincoln Weinberg	March 9	Adar-II 2
Mayer Wiesel	April 24	Nissan 19
Ethel Wilonsky	April 27	Nissan 22
Gitla Zak	April 25	Nissan 20

We Extend Our Condolences to:

Seymour and Hilda Kessler, on the death of their daughter Cheryl Kessler, z"l

Regina Karp, on the death of her mother Thelma Rita Karp, z"l

Sheila Braufman, on the death of her father Harry Breitman, z"l

May God provide comfort to the mourners.



CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM

1316 University Ave., Berkeley, California 94702

Telephone: 510-549-9447 • Fax: 510-549-9448

www.netivotshalom.org • e-mail: office@netivotshalom.org

Office Hours: M-Th 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. • F 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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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NON-PROFIT RATE

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BERKELEY, CA

PERMIT NO. 106

Congregation

Netivot Shalom

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Top Ten Reasons to attend Queen E's Shushan West Supper Club!

- 10 Lot's to eat!!!!
- 9 Finally someplace to wear the dress you wore to your child's bar/bat mitzvah!
- 8 Retail therapy á la silent auction!
- 7 Best place to see and be seen this side of University Ave
- 6 You can't get a spot on "Dancing with the Stars" so show your stuff at Queen E's!
- 5 Rumor has it that David Stein is being auctioned as a karaoke singer!
- 4 It's a great reason to take a night off from the kids!
- 3 You being there is what makes this event a success!
- 2 Proceeds raised support the many wonderful programs of our congregation!
- 1 It's a wonderful opportunity for you to express your love for Netivot Shalom!

Join us on Sunday evening, March 16. Your invitation has been mailed For more information contact: auction@netivotshalom.org

