



CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM

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The Dedication of our Aron Kodesh

בולש תוביתנו ק"ק

Congregation Netivot Shalom

ט"סשת ירשת ז"כ

October 26, 2008

Celebrating the Dedication of our Aron Kodesh
Congregation Netivot Shalom
27 Tishrei, 5769 - October 26, 2008

The Why, the Who, the What, the How, and the Awe!

The Why

By Rabbi Kelman (comments made at the dedication)

Vasu li mikdash, v'shachanti betocham. "Build a sanctuary for Me so that I can dwell among them." This verse from Exodus 25:8 was the 'tag line' that we used again and again during the years leading to the construction of our synagogue. My friend, Debbie Friedman, composed a melody that became a mantra every time we would think about our project. And the anomaly in the verse, that God asks the people of Israel (through Moses) to build a sanctuary so that God can dwell "among" them (not, in it) became a constant reminder that our task was to build a sanctuary so that we could find God's presence among ourselves and our community – among people. The "place" merely served as a gathering place for the community where we could truly become a *kehila kedosha*, a holy community.

And today, we stand in this sanctuary, ready to dedicate this ark. And we give thanks to everyone, particularly Blaire and Cathy, whose love and labor is quite apparent. We need to remember also, the people who preceded us – and on whose shoulders we stand. I'm remembering, in particular, Bud and Ethelyn Simon, *zichronam livracha*, who were among the earliest of members. When Buddy heard that we needed an ark, he simply set about building one. And that's the one that we have been using for the last 19 years. Buddy also built the Torah stand, the old *talis* rack, the box for *tefillin* in the library, and many *tzedakah* boxes – just because this synagogue and ritual objects were his passion. I mention only Bud and Ethelyn – but they are symbols for all those who came before us and to whom we also must remember this day the same way that we thank those who have created this magnificent new home for our Torahs.

Vasu li mikdash, v'shachanti betocham. "Build a sanctuary for Me so that I can dwell among them." Even though our building and ark are complete, the process and challenge of this verse continues to be our task. *



The Who

By Blair Prentice

There's something about a tent. It's a pure expression of form, based on the principles of its underlying structure. It sways like a boat, or tree branches in the forest, yet is immensely strong and suited to its task: in this case, displaying Cathy Bolding's fabric art.

When Michael Feeley stepped on the floorboards of the Aron after we had tightened the final lines and pulleys, it did creak a little, like a wooden ship as the breeze freshens. "It's alive!" he exclaimed with delight. "It's made of trees."

Yes, it's made of trees—fragrant, precious woods—and also seeds and fibers of flax, ores of copper and tin, and sweet honeycombs from a Berkeley hive, ancient evocative materials, durable and fragrant. All the materials were selected and purchased by me, and Cathy Bolding, with the greatest care. The phrase "without blemish" comes to mind.

But mostly this Aron is made of love for this congregation, and a dream that was born in a Netivot Shalom service many years ago, as I pictured passages from the *chumash* about a band of refugees who weren't destined to

reach their goal for decades. Like many desert wanderers they lived in tents, and at each encampment they erected a very special tent that they carried with them—the Mishkan or Tabernacle. Its description was fantastic, rich and detailed, and became the inspiration for our Aron.

At the time I was on the CNS committee looking for a home of our own at one site after another in Berkeley wondering if we would ever finally arrive. True it was only a fraction of the forty proverbial years in the desert, but what company to keep on that journey. The notion of a portable ark actually preceded the design for this building.

To realize the vision required hundreds of drawings, design details, test weavings, and a full-scale mock-up of the structure, before the final work was attempted. Although it occupies its intended place, the ark is not quite complete today. We all like the joy of arrival, but it's more important to choose the right journey and love that journey for the right reasons. Then you can endure the travails that will surely come your way.

This journey had many parts: the dream of creating an inner, mysterious realm for the Torah to dwell; the personal creative journey; the wonderful partnership with Cathy Bolding who brought my ideas to life with artistry, determination and good humor; and the construction itself—the hard, exacting work of actually making the Aron real, and doing so as a community. We built this together.

Our Aron Kodesh is portable in conception: that is its essence. That's our tradition, like moveable chairs. Metaphorically, it can move with us. I had pictured a procession to carry it here—the fabrics and tapestries neatly rolled, the ropes coiled, the poles un-stepped, floorboards stacked, and this wonderful tribe ready to head home. Thank you, all of you.

Thank you Cathy, my partner in this work. Thank you Helaine, my wonderful wife, who supported this commitment in all ways. Thank you my handsome sons, Asa and Graham, who helped to build this well into the night, and Joe Meresman, who was always capable behind the scenes and on the ladder. Thank you to all of our carpenters and builders, especially Josh Gressel who provided his workshop and tools along with his dedication and carpentry skill. Thank you Noga for the soup that kept us going. David Finn provided a concept for the ark cabinet, and it was great to see him, like so many of you, sweaty and covered with sawdust at Josh's garage. Thank you Michael Feeley and Brad Rudolph for your professional contracting skills and knowing how to keep running until you cross the finish line. Thank you Karen Friedman for your patience and generosity in sharing your studio space to make this possible. Really there are so many people to thank. I hope you will all look at the list in the program (available on the website).



Finally I'd like to thank my rabbis, Stuart Kelman who supported my development of the idea and enriched the concept, and Menachem Creditor, who understood, then helped us see, the power of this project.

Blair Prentice

December 12, 2008

Closely based on notes written just before the dedication ceremony

October 26, 2008 (but perhaps a bit more refined and coherent). *



The What

Excerpts of an article by Peter Strauss

Those who gathered on Sunday to witness this truly blessed event – Netivot Shalom's new Aron Kodesh were stunned, awed and amazed by the Aron's beauty, elegance, truly Biblical simplicity and verisimilitude. Yes, it is a simple tent, as described in the *Tanach*, but such a tent!

This is not a quick-and-easy ark – this is an elegant and dignified home for the Torah scrolls, and it is put together with consummate skill and artistry. The inside is magnificent: an oasis with a few palm trees, and endless sand stretching out to the horizon, yes, but on Sunday, the palm tree fronds seemed aglow with the light of the afternoon sun, lending depth and three-dimensionality to the scene beautifully and effectively.

As the Torah stuns and amazes those who delve into its depth, so the Aron stunned and amazed all who gathered as the curtains were parted. When we call ourselves participatory, we really mean it, and this latest addition to our physical presence bears witness to what it means to be a part of this congregation. While Cathy and Blair deservedly received standing ovations on Sunday for this expression of their commitment to the congregation, we all must acknowledge one another for being, collectively, such a vital and powerful community. *

The How

By Cathy Bolding

When Joe and I became members of Netivot Shalom, not long after the congregation first formed, it was mainly because we wanted a place to attend Conservative-style services whenever we felt like going. We were not interested in becoming involved in the running of the shul or in the various volunteer opportunities. At the time, we had two challenging small children; I was interested in using the few spare moments I could find for my art work and Joe's work commute was long and he brought home stacks of paperwork every night.

When our two young children began attending religious school at Netivot Shalom, Joe decided that, in order to be able to influence what they were experiencing, he would join the Youth Education Committee. Since then, it's been quite a case of mission creep.

Joe became head of the Site Work Group which oversaw the building design and construction. In this capacity, Joe got to know Blair who was the Principal for Schematic Design. Soon after, Blair became aware of my work.

After the building was completed, Blair said to me, "I have an idea for an Aron Kodesh for the sanctuary. Would you be interested in working with me? Would you be able to create a tapestry from a drawing?"

"Yes, if the drawing were done in a particular way," I replied.

Many months were spent, many drawings rejected, resolving that conditional clause. The technical weaving of the desert panorama was actually quite straightforward for me, since I use the same techniques in my own art work. I am very pleased that the end result, the desert/palm tree panorama lining the inside of the tent structure, retains the spontaneous line-drawing quality of Blaire's earliest sketches.

The curtains presented a different challenge. Blaire and I worked on a design that involved the number of colors comparable to the number of colors in the tapestries, but I needed to find a weave structure that would make them curtains. I was drawn to a compound-weave technique called samitum, which was used for elaborately figured cloth from the Byzantine era through the Renaissance and beyond. I knew I was on the right track when we visited our daughter Rachel in Spain and I saw a beautiful chasuble vestment in a church museum that used this

(continued on page 8)

An Ethical Halacha

By Rabbi Menachem Creditor



A uniform approach to Jewish living is inadequate. And perhaps worse.

We read in *Masechet Shabbat*, of a debate between Rabbi Ela and Rabbi Chanina regarding the defiling properties of certain objects and people. The details are almost rendered irrelevant by the rhetoric of the closing arguments:

“May the All Merciful save us from your view!” one exclaimed. ‘On the contrary,’ the other retorted, ‘May the All Merciful save us from your view!’ (84b)”

No one owns God, just as surely as no one owns “truth.” Not one among us can be truly certain about the nature of God, and so not one among us, not Rabbi Chanina, nor Rabbi Ela, can know from which opinion the All Merciful would save us.

Ongoing debates regarding the *halachic* pluralism of the Conservative Movement were reignited by the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards’ (CJLS) decision two years ago regarding Jewish Gay inclusion. But the context for this monumental debate is usually ignored. Traditional precedent and modern religious response is the heart of Conservative Judaism, a hybrid spiritual path towards God. We’ll be discussing this philosophy in shul over the coming months, given our hopes for a healthier, holier, Conservative Movement. In the meantime, an example might help illustrate this point.

Deuteronomy 23:3 reads: “No *mamzer* shall be admitted into God’s congregation; none of his descendants, even in the tenth generation, shall be admitted into God’s congregation.”

A *mamzer* is the child of incest or adultery, whose children (and children’s children, and so on) are forbidden from marrying Jews according to Biblical Law. The CJLS addressed the issue of “*mamzer*” in 2000, with its official *Teshuva* (legal response) written by Rabbi Ellie Spitz (record EH 4.2000a). In it, he writes, “When a law of Torah conflicts with morality, when the law is ‘unpleasant’, we are committed to find a way to address the problem. As a *halachic* movement we look to precedent to find the tools with which to shape Torah. For the most part, we rely on the strategies of old. At the same time, we are willing to do explicitly what was largely implicit in the past, namely, to make changes

when needed on moral grounds. It is our desire to strengthen Torah that forces us to recognize explicitly the overriding importance of morality, a morality which we learn from the larger, unfolding narrative of our tradition. We affirm that when *mamzerut* is applied in our day it fails to meet a goal of deterrence and at the same time leads to an unconscionable hardship on innocent people. We affirm that we will not entertain any evidence of *mamzerut* and instead judge each Jew who stands before us as a person who is responsible for his or her own wrong-doings. ... We render *mamzerut* inoperative, because we will not consider evidence of *mamzerut*. We will give permission to any Jew to marry and will perform the marriage of a Jew regardless of the possible sins of his or her parent. [see Deut. 24:16]”

This treatment of the biblical command is both subtle and muscular. The CJLS, instead of uprooting a rule from the Torah, changed not the *mamzer*’s definition, but our ability to receive testimony about a possible *mamzer*. When a person asks that I officiate at her marriage, another person comes to me with testimony that the woman looking to get married is a *mamzer(et)*, I pretend that I’ve heard nothing, because according to Conservative *Halacha*/Law, that’s exactly what I’ve heard! This is powerful stuff, worthy of our attention. But here’s the rub. And here is my struggle.

There are, today, still Conservative rabbis who will refuse to perform the wedding of a *mamzer*. Since tradition includes the original rule of the Torah, there is basis for the decision to not go along with the CJLS’s ruling. But I am worried that a Conservative rabbi’s hesitation to perform the wedding of someone who would fit into the category of *mamzer* is, in truth, the repudiation of the Conservative *halachic* approach, not just the preference for one *halachic* position over another. A colleague holding onto a previously-dealt-with immoral *halachah* makes me worry. Said plainly: If the CJLS, the body entrusted with delineating the boundaries of authentic and ideal Conservative Jewish practice, has allowed the marriage of a *mamzer*, what does the rejection of their (our) inclusion indicate?

Pluralism has been heralded as a core Conservative Jewish value, but perhaps we can’t include two answers every time. Perhaps the Infinite One flows within expansive approaches and is locked out by exclusive ones. Perhaps the healthy limitations of behavior (i.e., *halacha*) should be judged by their “fairness” (a phrase first suggested by the late Rabbi Seymour Siegel in his

(continued on page 12)

Column Gratitude

By Jeff Rosenbloom

Over the past few months, I have been watching Joe Meresman's articles and getting a bit hysterical at the prospect of stepping into some rather large shoes when it comes to writing a president's column that could be interesting or pertinent.

Well, the secular calendar provided the source of my inspiration: Thanksgiving. The American Thanksgiving holiday reminds us of our many blessings. I am, like many of you, thankful for being part of the Netivot Shalom community. In our involvement with Netivot, we each bring our own ideas about what the shul means to us and what we would like Netivot to do or be. This holiday's call for reflection is a really nice tie-in with our effort to update the Netivot Shalom Mission Statement and Core Values Statement.

It has become increasingly clear that because of the recent tremendous growth of the shul an updated mission statement is necessary. We are facing some important decisions that require taking stock of what we are now and what we want to be. We need the guidance of a Mission Statement and Core Values Statement in deciding, for example, whether to expand the Pre-School (again!), start a new Learner's Minyan or create more social action opportunities within and beyond our congregational walls.

I realize that just uttering words like "Mission Statement" and "Core Values" sends some people into "process" shock, but I am reasonably confident that our approach will bring us satisfaction.

Initially, a small group of Board representatives, Committee Chairs, Staff and lay leaders will draft language for the Mission and Core Value Statements. Then your feedback will be solicited in a variety of ways. We will create many opportunities for each of you to share your ideas about what you love about Netivot and what direction/goals you want for our shul.

For example, we will be posting large sheets of paper around the shul with markers attached (except on Shabbat) so that when you are at shul you can jot down your ideas. I will also be facilitating small, neighborhood group discussions (maybe while celebrating

havdalah together?). We will also have a link on the website so that you can add your thoughts there and of course, you can email me at president@netivotshalom.org as well.

We really want to engage everyone at CNS in this process. As we reach out to each of you during the "Netivot L'Dorot" capital campaign, that will guarantee that our shul continues on sound financial footing, we also want to make sure that you feel that the shul is heading in the right direction. This new mission statement will not only clarify our values to newcomers and to the larger community, but will also serve to guide our future decisions and plans for our congregation. I want to thank you in advance for helping create our Mission Statement/Core Values. I hope you find this process fruitful, fun and a way to build community. I also want to especially thank those who have already helped out with this process: Mary Lukanuski, Andrea Altschuler, Rabbi Creditor, Mel Sibony, Sharon Priven and especially Cathy Shadd who helped with this article. *

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What is Chevra Kadisha?

By Gail Gordon

In our community, Chevra Kadisha, meaning "holy society" assists any our congregants in the event of a death of a loved one. I have been a member for over 10 years. However, I did not understand all that Chevra Kadisha did until committee chairs Carol Cunradi and Karen Friedman both were gone for vacation the same week and left me instructions of what to do in the event someone in our community needed assistance. Luckily my services were not needed, but here is what I learned about the many roles of the Chevra Kadisha committee.

Help with funeral and cemetery arrangements. They provide information on local mortuaries and cemeteries that are used by the synagogue or answer questions about traditional Jewish burial.

Tabara. Volunteers prepare the body for burial by performing the ritual washing and dressing of the deceased in traditional garments (burial shrouds).

Shemira. Jewish law states that out of respect for the dead, the body should never be left alone. Volunteers "watch over the body" usually reading from the Book of Job, psalms or other relevant writings until the funeral.

Gemilut hasadim. Volunteers provide support services including the ritual meal after the funeral or other food needed for the mourner and family. They take into consideration specific dietary needs and communicate preferences to the community.

Arranging shiva minyanim. Jewish tradition does not allow us to mourn alone- we must have at least ten

Jewish adults in order to say Kaddish. Shiva minyanim are usually the traditional week after the funeral. If the funeral is out of town, shiva minyan can be arranged for part of the shiva week, at the end of the shiva period or at Sheloshim, the end of the thirty day mourning period. This allows local friends and congregants an opportunity to be with the mourners, provide support and most importantly to listen to the stories and memories about the deceased.

Nechama (in Hebrew meaning comfort or solace). These are volunteers who provide grief counseling and assistance with understanding our laws and customs concerning death and mourning. Committee members will contact the mourner and talk to them about what support they may need following the death.

What do you do if there is a death in your family?

If it is during business hours, the first thing you do is contact the office (510-549-9447). They will contact Rabbi Ceditor and the Chevra Kadisha committee. Give the office the name of the deceased, including his or her Hebrew name, relationship, where you are and a number where you can be reached.

During non-business hours, you can contact Rabbi Ceditor on his cell phone 339-206-2283 or Karen Friedman and Carol Cunradi co-chairs of Chevra Kadisha Committee at chevrakadisha@netivotshalom.org .

If you are local the Chevra Kadisha can help coordinate funeral and cemetery arrangements. They will organize volunteers for the *Tabara* (ritual washing and dressing), *Shemira*, meal of condolence (the meal after the funeral) and *shiva minyanim*.

Even if the funeral is out of town, it is important that you contact the office, the Rabbi and the Chevra Kadisha. They can help provide support, answer any questions you may have regarding the funeral and mourning ritual, inform the congregation, and help organize *shiva minyanim*. *

There are no words...

By Lori Palatnik

When one pays a shiva call, the focus is on comforting the mourners in their time of greatest grief. Traditionally, one enters the shiva house quietly with a small knock so as not to startle those inside. No one needs to greet visitors; they simply enter on their own.

Food or drinks are not laid out for the visitors, because

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the mourners are not hosts. They do not greet the visitors, rise for them, or see them out.

When entering the house, you should not greet the mourners. In fact, it is best to come in silently and sit down close to them. Take your cue from the mourners. If they feel like speaking, let them indicate it by speaking first. Let them lead and talk about what they want to talk about. It is best to speak about the one who has passed away, and if you have any stories or memories to share with the mourner, this is the time to do so.

This is not a time to distract them from mourning. Out of nervousness, we often make small talk because we do not know what to say. Don't fill in the time talking about happy subjects or inconsequential topics like politics or business.

Often, the best thing to say is nothing. A shiva call can sometimes be completely silent. If the mourner does not feel like talking at that time, so be it. Your goal is not to get them to talk; it is to comfort them. Your presence alone is doing that. By sitting there silently, you are saying more than words can. You are saying: "I am here for you. I feel your pain. There are no words."

And sometimes there aren't any. Here are examples of things not to say:

- "How are you?" (They're not so good.)
- "I know how you feel." (No you don't. Each person feels a unique loss.)
- "At least she lived a long life." (Longer would have been better.)
- "It's good that you have other children," or, "Don't worry, you'll have more." (The loss of a child, no matter what age, is completely devastating.)
- "Cheer up – in a few months you'll meet someone new." (He/she has just lost the other half of their soul!)
- "Let's talk about happy things." (Maybe later.)

Remember that speaking about the loved one they lost is comforting. It's alright if they cry; they are in mourning. It is all part of the important process of coming to grips with such a loss.

You should not overstay your visit. Twenty minutes will suffice. When other visitors arrive and space is a concern, it is certainly time to leave.

Before leaving, one stands up, approaches the mourner and recites, "*HaMakom yenacheim etchem betoch sha'ar aveiliei Tzion v'Yerushalayim*" -- May the Almighty comfort you among those who mourn for Zion and Jerusa-

lem. One can read this phrase from a sheet of paper.

Upon leaving the house of the mourner, it is customary to give charity in memory of the one who passed away, may his soul be elevated. ✱

Tikkun Olam and the Men's Shelter

By Diane Bernbaum

Part of what we try to teach at Midrasha is the Jewish value of "*tikkun olam*," or repairing the world. Fourteen years ago Midrasha first began cooking dinner at the Men's Shelter in Berkeley once a month, soliciting cooks from our students and their families. Within a few years we had more volunteers than we could use so we asked for a second day of the month and then a third. We are now responsible for dinners on the first Wednesday, third Tuesday and fourth Thursday of each month.

A teen committee administers the program: scheduling families to cook and shop, sending reminders as the date nears, mailing thank you notes, and arranging for a home-baked dessert. Over the years I have marveled at the program's teen leadership: Gabriela Kipnis, Sarah Reingold, Mollie Wolf, Mayan Stanton and Lindsay Martien. Many thanks to Cynthia Colvin and Marilee Stark who have been the parent/board of directors liaisons and aided these amazing young people.

It has been Midrasha's privilege to have been able to cook dinner, year after year at the Shelter. It has truly given our community a sense of *tikkun olam*.

"I have gone to Berkeley Midrasha for five years. Last year I joined the Homeless Meal Committee not knowing what to expect. This year I took on the position as head of the Committee. I am responsible for scheduling Midrasha families to cook at Berkeley's Men's Shelter. I have never experienced such responsibility before. When I do not do my homework only I am affected, but if I fail to complete my jobs for the committee fifty men go hungry. Often times I help out as an extra pair of hands in the kitchen. The men always appreciate a home cooked meal. When we made jambalaya we got a standing ovation! Sitting down to talk and eat at the same table with these men allows me to connect with them as fellow humans."

-Lindsay Martien

Life Long Learning: Spreading the Light!

By Rabbi Shalom Bochner

I recently discovered that Netivot Shalom is not listed in the local yellow pages. While this is easy to fix, it points to both the challenges and successes of our community; we are very dependant on word of mouth. Netivot Shalom is well known within the Bay Area's active Jewish community as a fully participatory egalitarian Conservative congregation. The challenge is to make sure that we are as well known within lesser-known circles. We also need to spread the word that while it's true that our Shabbat morning services involve a whole room of singing participants, we are much more than Shabbat *teffilot* for adults.

So I deputize you to make sure that you are spreading the news. Make sure that your neighbors, friends, and relatives know that on Shabbat morning there are incredible opportunities for age-appropriate celebrations with *Shabbat B'Yachad* (parents and kids under 5 years old), *Rimmonim* (family program for adults and kids in Kindergarten – 2nd grade), and monthly *Orah VeSimchah* youth Services (for 3rd-5th graders). While your neighbors, friends, and relatives may not have kids, their friends, co-workers, and relatives may, so please make sure you publicize these wonderful family gatherings.

We need to promote our school programs as well. We offer a Hebrew immersion program for Kindergarten through 2nd graders. We also have a *Kadima* School program for 3rd-6th graders where they learn meaning-

ful Judaica skills and knowledge, Hebrew, and music. Our *Amitim Bnai Mitzvah* program is truly unique in how it creates a Jewish day and Hebrew school student peer group that learns the rituals and skills of becoming a Jewish adult and engages in social action projects.

I also ask that you make sure that everyone you know has heard of our amazing Adult Education opportunities: Torah study every Saturday morning and after Kiddush, weekly classes, special events, and holiday classes. As you read through our regularly updated Adult Ed newsletter (there's always a stack in front of the office or on-line) you will see there is something for everyone, from introductory classes to more advanced learning opportunities.

Celebrating Chanukah during the darker season of the year is an annual reminder that light is stronger than dark. The weather may be cold and the nights long and dark, but a small amount of light goes a long way. When one is in a lit room the dark spaces have little or no impact on the room. And when one is in a dark room, even one candle can light up the whole space! This season also reminds us that hope and faith can be more powerful than fear and despair. One candle can not only illuminate a whole room, it can spread the light by lighting another candle. Darkness can not spread itself as easily.

So please join me in spreading the light. Invite a friend, neighbor, co-worker or relative to check out all that's going on at Netivot Shalom. Make sure that in this dark season and in the face of dark news in the world we are enjoying the light and illuminating the dark! ✨

The How, cont.

(continued from page 3)

technique. I modified that weave to fit the particulars of our design.

Originally, we discussed using commercial fabric for the tent itself but it seemed a shame to do so. Again, mission creep. I decided to weave the fabric myself out of linen, and pondered what the weave structure should be. I wanted the fabric to have a mottled-looking texture from afar and an interesting pattern up close. I thought a complex twill pattern would work and wondered if our daughter Naomi could help me with the design. I asked her to put to good use the pastime that got her into so much trouble in middle school--drawing complex mazes during class. She designed a maze unit of eighteen on a side that when repeated creates a totally interconnected maze pattern

over the whole cloth.

I was perfectly comfortable weaving the various fabrics. I'm also moderately skilled at sewing but had no pattern-making experience other than watching Project Runway. At one point toward the end, I commented to Karen Friedman that I felt like I was doing everything by the seat of my pants, just making it up as I went along. She said to me that Betzalel probably felt the same way. I imagine she's right. Betzalel had never made a Mishkan before.

I want to reiterate Blair's thanks to all those whose hard work made this project happen. I also want to thank all the people who put in time to help me during this long process. Karen Friedman, Lee Feinstein, Tobie

(continued on page 9)

Sunday Morning Minyanim Speaker Schedule

By Art Brauffman

Attendance at the Sunday programs continues to grow. If you haven't yet convinced yourself to attend, maybe one of the following programs will entice you. Rabbi Creditors new series "Dynamic Judaism" is bound to elicit lots of discussion and stimulate deep thinking about Conservative Judaism. Start the New Year off right and join us. *Shacharit* starts at 9:30 AM followed by breakfast and the talk is from 10:30 - 11:30 AM. Hope to see you there.

January 11: Kara Vuicich: "What? Getting through Berkeley without a Car?" The City of Berkeley's General Plan, Bicycle Plan and Draft Pedestrian Master Plan (as well as a number of other area plans) contain policies, projects and programs aimed at reducing automobile use by City's residents, workers and visitors. Kara will discuss how the City's Transportation Division is implementing these plans to move around Berkeley without a car and to encourage walking, biking and using public transit, as well as maintaining the City's existing transportation infrastructure. While the main focus of the presentation will be on non-automotive transportation, all city transportation-related questions are welcome. For the past four years, Kara has been an Associate Planner, City of Berkeley Transportation Division, Public Works Department

January 25: Rabbi Creditor: 1st talk in 5 part series: *Dynamic Judaism*: "An Introduction". The term "dynamic" suggests a responsive system which responds to new challenges in real-time rather than having a pre-determined response. Judaism has always been a home

for questions, for newness, and yet somehow calls itself "traditional." Join this discussion of a living, breathing Judaism, which Rabbi Isaac HaCohen Kook suggested when he wrote that "the ancient must be renewed and the new must be sanctified."

February 8: Dan Kaplan: "Current Economic Crisis Effect on Social Services Financing in Alameda County". Dan is the Director of Finance for Alameda County Social Services Agency. The agency handles welfare benefits administration (CalWORKs, MediCal, Food Stamps and General Assistance). It runs employment services programs; manages the in-home supportive services program (personal assistance services for roughly 16,000 elders and persons with disabilities); and oversees the child protective services and foster care systems in the County. It's budget is \$640 million a year and it has about 2,300 employees. In addition, the agency spends \$75 million a year on contracts with not-for-profit social services organizations providing a wide array of services to clients. Dan will discuss how the current financial crisis is affecting delivery of social services in this county and the state.

February 22: Rabbi Creditor: 2nd talk in *Dynamic Judaism* series: "Movements and Denominationalism" Many believe that authentic Judaism has a certain look and that the different denominations of Judaism are either closer or farther from a "good-enough Judaism." How does each denomination see itself? Is that how one denomination sees another? Is it possible to see a valid Jewish path elsewhere without abandoning a conviction that your own is the right one for you? Join this discussion of what Rabbi David Hartman has called "A Heart of Many Rooms." *

The How, cont.

(continued from page 8)

Lurie, and also all those who came to help mark mistakes in the 30 yards of linen fabric. A special thanks to all those who stayed to the bitter end last night – Blair, Helene and Asa Prentice; Naomi, Dan Tzur and, of course, Joe. *

The Awe

By Art Brauffman

For us it was one of the most emotional, thrilling experiences of our lives – excluding the birth of children and grandchildren. It is almost impossible to adequately describe this exquisite work of art, carpentry and work of love which took the artisans almost

three years to complete. It seems like a biblical tale. The amount of detail and thoughtfulness and symbolism is amazing.

I think it will become a tourist site; there is nothing like it that any of us has seen.

When the *parochet* was opened and the gorgeous interior luminescent tapestry revealed, there was a collective gasp – it felt like the holy of holies was being revealed!

Not many dry eyes in the sanctuary – and that is indeed what it was, a holy sanctuary for a very special congregation. One doesn't experience many spiritual moments like that in a lifetime. *

The Heart of a Preschooler

By Lauren Kindorf

During each and every day of our CNS preschool program, situations arise where our children navigate their way through social interactions with others. As the staff works with the children, guiding them to recognize their own feeling and communicate their feelings with others, amazing moments – *words and actions from the heart* – take place.

Following a two-year old dispute over a toy, Eli, an older *Nevonim* student, picks up the now abandoned toy and hands it to the crying child say, “Here little fella.”

On another occasion, I was tending to a tearful child who had just fallen, when Jacob arrives with an ice pack in hand. Yes, he had gone to another teacher to procure some ice to ease his friend’s pain. These stories, two of the many that occur during our times together at school, are examples of preschooler empathy at its finest. The kindness of the children’s hearts shine brightly day after day.

On a shul-wide note, the preschool recently co-sponsored a *tzdakah* project collecting baby items for the Woman’s Daytime Drop-In Center (WDDC). Joining together with SBY, *Rimmonim* and social action chair, Sharon Priven, we donated foods, diapering supplies and baby clothes to the mothers and children who are served by WDDC. In a quote from our family newsletter *HaShavuah!* This Week the children’s participation is described; “The children used their *tzdakah* money that we collected each pretend Shabbat to visit the CNS Baby Store (*set up by the staff*) and purchase something for the babies. From sorting the coins, to filling their purses, to making their selection and purchases ... everyone took part in the wonderful act of kindness. A small group assisted later in the week in sorting and boxing up all of the donations from the congregation.”

The next pretend Shabbat, when we shook the *tzdakah* box and there was no jingle of coins, I asked the children where the money had gone. “To the babies,”

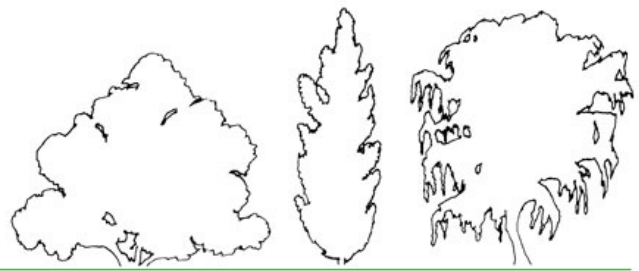
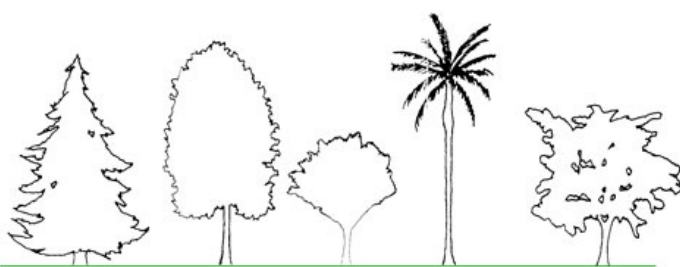
Moshe replied. Yes, this was a true ‘hands-on, hearts-on’ experience for the children.

Acts of caring also create special moments for those beyond our immediate CNS family. When Nora, our favorite Berkeley City librarian, cancelled her visits with our classes due to a family emergency, the children handled her absence with understanding and welcomed her back with a gift of special pictures and kind words. As Nora wrote to me, “Your kindness brought tears to my eyes.” Yes, simple actions do have a tremendous impact on those we care about, and what a blessing it is to spend my days with little people who can so kindly give from their hearts to touch that of another. *

Joe Meresman Preschool Scholarship Fund

At our November 9, 2008 Congregation Netivot Shalom Annual Meeting, now past President Joe Meresman, was honored with a certificate establishing the Joseph Meresman Preschool Scholarship Fund. Joe’s tireless efforts were instrumental in helping to create and launch our preschool. His vision and unending assistance in establishing the business plan and financial procedures for the preschool has enabled us to expand our program to a second classroom this year. The preschool families and staff are forever grateful to Joe for his past, and continued, efforts in making Congregation Netivot Shalom Preschool the wonderful program that it is today.

If you would like to contribute to this new designated fund in honor of Joe, please make your check out to CNS stating **JM Preschool Scholarship Fund** in the memo line.



The Eight Miracles of Midrasha in Berkeley

By Diane Bernbaum

Many of you know that Midrasha is co-sponsored by 10 congregations. We ARE the high school of the Aquarian Minyan, Congregation Beth Abraham, Congregation Beth El, Temple Beth Hillel, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Beth Jacob, Congregation B'nai Israel, Kehilla Community Synagogue, Congregation Netivot Shalom and Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. So although you are reading this in your own synagogue's newsletter, I must admit that I didn't write it just for you. I write one column and send it off to 10 different newsletter editors.

So, when one of those editors wrote to say that the theme for the December newsletter would be "miracles" in honor of Chanukah, it gave me a chance to ponder connections between Midrasha and miracles. That was easy, because to me, Midrasha IS a miracle. Go back and reread the first paragraph that you just skimmed over. That list contained two Orthodox, two Conservative, three Reform, two Renewal and one independent congregation. And besides those, we also have students this year whose families belong to Temple Sinai, Congregation B'nai Tikvah and Congregation B'nai Shalom. In addition, about 15% of our students are unaffiliated.

That's the 1st miracle. We live in a community where the rabbis and educators of all congregations not only respect and communicate with each other but lovingly collaborate. Any of you who attend the community's annual adult *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* event get a glimpse of this collaboration.

You can imagine how collaboration works among teens. Students learn and socialize with old and new friends, many of whom have religious practices very different from their own. Students who may never have observed Shabbat sit next to students whose home is transformed every Friday night with the lighting of candles. Students hear ideas both from their teachers and from their classmates that they may never have heard.

My 2nd miracle is the faculty. I don't know how it happens, but each year a diverse group of Judaically-knowledgeable, talented, creative and charismatic people contact me, wanting to teach at this remarkable institution. One knows a lot of Talmud, another teaches Judaism through art, another is a maven on

current Israeli politics, and yet another integrates yoga, meditation or popular culture into a Jewish classroom. All are passionate and care about their students.

The 3rd miracle are the Midrasha students who come for a variety of reasons: connecting with old friends, meeting new ones, engaging in social action, finding answers to deep questions, or exploring Jewish matters. I see students enter as awkward 8th graders, not sure what they are getting into, and I see them emerge five years later as stellar, smart, articulate, compassionate, Judaically-literate young men and women.

Our Assistant Director, Desmid Lyon, is the 4th miracle. For eleven years she has valiantly sat beside me like a perfectly fitting glove. She is good and passionate about the things I'd rather not deal with – money, billing, spread sheets, budgets, and legal issues. She patiently helps parents. I couldn't do this job without her; she is definitely my miracle.

The 5th miracle is our Board of Directors, with representatives from most of our sponsoring synagogues and the community at large. Many are parents of students who have long since graduated from Midrasha, but feel that Midrasha has been so important in their teens' lives that they give back to this institution. A special debt of thanks goes to our board chair, Yossi Fendel, a Midrasha graduate and former faculty member, who loves this institution with a passion that may surpass even mine. This year he has energized the board and brought its level of commitment to an entirely new level.

The 6th miracle is the CJLL, the Center for Jewish Living and Learning of the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay under the leadership of Rabbi James Brandt. They coordinate all the retreats, day trips and teen community events that link the Midrasha teens in Berkeley with those of the other midrashot.

This brings us to the 7th miracle, the fact that Midrasha in Berkeley is only one of four midrashot in the east bay. No other community in the country has three sister institutions within a stone's throw. I appreciate my colleagues, the other Midrashot directors, Devra Aarons, Kendra Lubalin and Day Schildkret from Contra Costa, Oakland and Tri-Valley/Tri-Cities.

And the 8th miracle is YOU, the community, who has supported this institution for the last 39 years, supporting us not only financially, but also by letting your friends in your synagogues know just how important Midrasha is to the community as a whole. ✨

What are Your Dreams for Netivot Shalom?

By Jeff Rosenbloom

What are our collective dreams and hopes for Netivot Shalom?

Over the next few months, there will be many opportunities for you to answer that question in a variety of settings. We want as much input as possible on your hopes and dreams in order to craft our Mission Statement. Here are some upcoming venues for your feedback:

- MLK weekend January 17-18. We are in the initial stages of planning a Friday night event that will involve a service as well as text study appropriate for both the remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as well as preparing ourselves for the upcoming Inauguration. What a great way to start thinking about how the world has changed and what new opportunities and ideas we have about how Netivot Shalom can be in the world!
- Once a month, at an already organized event, there will be an opportunity to meet and brainstorm briefly as a group. For example, there is the music event on February 21 or at the Purim event in March.
- We will be posting sheets up around the building so that you can add thoughts at any time.
- We will use our web site as another portal for providing input.
- Our plan right now is that the CNS retreat in May would be the culminating effort in gathering input.

Once we have collected all these wonderful ideas, we will organize and craft language to capture the core ideas that have emerged.

If you would like to get involved in helping us with the process, please contact Mary Lukanuski at PR@netivotshalom.org. Thanks in advance for your participation and enthusiasm!

Welcome New Members

In chronological order of joining this year:

Joshua Buchin & Nicole Brennan

Julia & Aaron Frank

Jaron & Lena Lanier

Karen Roekard

An Ethical *Halacha*, cont.

(continued from page 4)

“Conservative Judaism and Jewish Law”, p. xxiii). Perhaps the limits of our *halachic* pluralism are achieved when CJLS takes an ethical *halachic* stand.

Fundamentalism is the imposition of one’s truth upon another. I’m not looking for that. This is the search for a definition of those within. Not uniformity, but self-differentiation. This vision of a limited, purposeful pluralism, of an ethical *halachic* approach, would simply create a more narrow definition of what Conservative Jewish tradition is. It would mean that if the inherited traditional codes say one thing and the CJLS responds differently, tradition is no longer what it once was. Authenticity remains while practice has shifted for the better.

This is a struggle against the accepted (non)definition of the Conservative Movement. And there are many others who feel similarly, who have been waiting for this vision to emerge. The time has come for a new, healthier, definition of the Conservative Movement, one that cares just as much about keeping the umbrella wide as it does protecting those under it.

May our precious Netivot Shalom community be a part of this good fight, where a dynamic Jewish path to God is both inclusive and focused. ✨

Announcing the Netivot Shalom Israel Trip!

Aug. 2- Aug. 16th, 2009

Please contact Rabbi Creditor
for more information.

*Leshanah Haba'ah BiYerushalayim -
Next year in Jerusalem!*

Mazel Tov

to Tony Hecht and Michelle Wolfson on the birth of Lilah Maxine Wolfson-Hecht on November 6, 2008.

to members Bracha and Reuven Trabin who just became first-time grandparents. Their daughter, Donna, gave birth to a healthy baby boy at the hospital in Israel.

to Burt and Ruth Dorman, who also just became grandparents, their daughter Jennie (with Lazar’s support) delivered a healthy baby girl, named Stella.

Rick Recht: Live at Netivot Shalom Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009!

By Cathy Shadd Rosenfeld

Co-sponsored by Camp Tawonga and Midrasha!*

We are very excited about the upcoming performance at Netivot Shalom by the top touring musician in Jewish music today Rick Recht. He performs over 150 concerts a year in the United States and abroad, and will be in our main sanctuary on Feb. 1 at 4:00. And you won't want be late because the opening act is our very own Rabbi Creditor, who is a friend and a fan of Rick's.

Buy your tickets early (\$6.00/child age 12 and under, \$10/adult) at www.brownpapertickets.com.

Rimmonim has organized this concert in order to bring people together to feel inspired by Rick's music. It is full of hope, heart, and healing, which are essential core Jewish values. Let's get fired up to make 2009 a year of connecting *middot* to the way we live our daily lives!

While Recht's electrifying live performances have captured the hearts of a generation of fans discovering the inspiration of contemporary Jewish music, his performances appeal to people of all ages. He is an exceptional musician, singer/songwriter, and entertainer as well as a role model for involvement in Jewish life. Striving to elevate the medium of Jewish music as a powerful and effective tool for developing Jewish pride and identity, Recht actively engages his audiences in his performances. "We're lucky because our fan base ranges in age from little kids to adults which allows us to do all kinds of different concerts," said Recht. "We have the opportunity to constantly change things up and do what it takes to inspire Jewish youth and adults and make them feel connected to each other and their Jewish heritage."

In addition to being a regular headliner at major national Jewish festivals, Rick Recht has performed over the past few years at the NFTY National Convention, BBYO International Convention, URJ Biennial, USY International Convention, CAJE, Hillel Leaders Assembly, CCAR Conference (Central Conference of American Rabbis), ACC (American Conference of Cantors), and URJ National Preschool Director's Conference. He also plays regularly at Jewish camps from coast to coast including Ramah, URJ, BBYO, and JCC.

Recht sums up his work this way: "The energy and voices of the audiences, whether they're little kids, teens or adults, is indescribable. That's the magic of Jewish music - the interaction, the singing, the dancing, and the powerful community connection. For me, it's a dream come true to create and share in this extraordinary environment on a daily basis."

Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, Recht developed a strong Jewish identity attending Traditional Congregation, a conservative synagogue, and later, in high school, joined NFTY, where he was deeply influenced by Jewish music. After graduating USC (Los Angeles, CA) and Music Institute (Hollywood, CA), Recht hit the road touring nationwide from LA to New York playing at clubs, colleges, and amphitheaters. After releasing two critically acclaimed secular albums, Recht returned to his Jewish roots with his debut Jewish album, *Tov*, in the Summer of 1999. His shift to Jewish music marks the birth of a unique blend of pop, radio-friendly music with Hebrew, Jewish text, and social responsibility. He is the Artist in Residence at United Hebrew Congregation in St. Louis, Missouri and enjoys spending time with his wife, Elisa, 6 year old son, Kobi, and 3 year old boy Tal.

*As of the writing of this article





The Rosh Chodesh Group

Sunday, January 25 we celebrate Shevat
Monday, February 23 we celebrate Adar

Meetings are held in members homes and are open to all women in the congregation. The programs will be announced through emails and the Weekly Announcements.

For additional information contact Toby Gidal at roshchodesh@netivotshalom.org.

ASK JCI & R

Nun, gimel, hey, shin! Let the magic of Chanukah begin!
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 - Latke and holiday recipes
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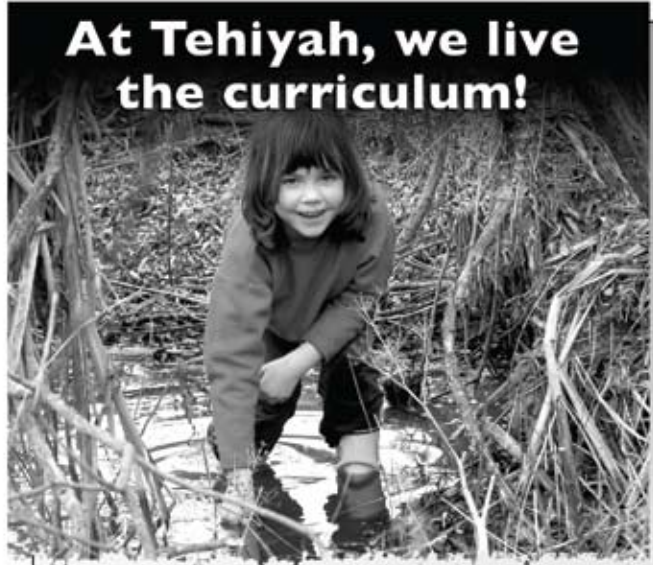
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May 22-24, 2009
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Tehiyah welcomes students of all religious and ethnic backgrounds. It is a beneficiary of the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay, the Keren Keshet Foundation, the Korot Foundation, and the Jan Joseph Foundation.



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JANUARY

Check the online calendar for the most up-to-date information on events and activities at Netivot Shalom: www.netivotshalom.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4 8 Tevet 5:00 PM Social Action Cooks at Dorothy Day Men's Shelter 7:30 PM Ritual Committee Meeting</p>	<p>5 9 Tevet Education Office Closed 10:30 AM Pre-School Time</p>	<p>6 10 Tevet Asara B'Tevet 3:30 PM Kadima Classes & Amittim Resume 7:30 PM Class: Mishnah Shabbat w/Rabbi Shalom Bochner 7:30 PM Bnai Mitzvah Parent Workshop</p>	<p>7 11 Tevet 7:15 AM Morning Minyan 10:00 AM Baby Group</p>	<p>1 5 Tevet New Year's Day Preschool Closed Kadima on Winter Break</p>	<p>2 6 Tevet Preschool Closed 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat 4:43 PM Candle lighting</p>	<p>3 7 Tevet 9:00 AM Torah Study 9:00 AM I'Chaim Kiddush 10:30 AM Rimmonim / children in grades K-2 5:44 PM Havdalah</p>
<p>11 15 Tevet Rabbi on JTS/RTI Retreat 9:30 AM Shacharit Minyan and Program 2:00 PM Amittim's Tzedek (social action) Sunday 7:00 PM Adult Ed Committee Mtg</p>	<p>12 16 Tevet Rabbi on JTS/RTI Retreat Education Office Closed 10:30 AM Pre-School Time</p>	<p>13 17 Tevet Rabbi on JTS/RTI Retreat 3:30 PM Kadima Classes 6:00 PM Jewish Funds for Justice: Impact of Organizing on Bay Area Synagogues 7:30 PM Class: Mishnah Shabbat w/Rabbi Shalom Bochner</p>	<p>14 18 Tevet Rabbi on JTS/RTI Retreat 7:15 AM Morning Minyan 10:00 AM Baby Group</p>	<p>15 19 Tevet Rabbi on JTS/RTI Retreat 10:30 AM Pre-School Time 3:30 PM Kadima Classes</p>	<p>16 20 Tevet 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat 4:56 PM Candle lighting</p>	<p>17 21 Tevet Shabbat Services Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Golde 9:00 AM Torah Study 9:00 AM Kiddush sponsored by Julie Golde 10:00 AM Meditative Minyan 10:30 AM Rimmonim/grades K-2 5:58 PM Havdalah</p>
<p>18 22 Tevet 9:30 AM Netivot Board Meeting 7:00 PM Rabbi Creditor talk-back with Josh Kornbluth at the Contemporary Jewish Museum</p>	<p>19 23 Tevet Martin Luther King Day Preschool Closed Education Office Closed</p>	<p>20 24 Tevet 3:30 PM Kadima Classes 7:30 PM Class: Mishnah Shabbat w/Rabbi Shalom Bochner</p>	<p>21 25 Tevet 7:15 AM Morning Minyan 10:00 AM Baby Group</p>	<p>22 26 Tevet 10:30 AM Pre-School Time 3:30 PM Kadima Classes 7:30 PM NS Preschool -Gan Parents Associa..</p>	<p>23 27 Tevet 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat 5:04 PM Candle lighting</p>	<p>24 28 Tevet 9:00 AM Torah Study 9:00 AM Greeter - Hannah Dresner 9:00 AM Kiddush: "I Have a Dream" 11:00 AM Shabbat B'Yachad - Program for families with children under five 6:05 PM Havdalah</p>
<p>25 29 Tevet 9:30 AM Shacharit Minyan and Program</p>	<p>26 1 Shevat Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat Education Office Closed 10:30 AM Pre-School Time</p>	<p>27 2 Shevat 3:30 PM Kadima Classes 6:00 PM Monthly BOCA meeting 7:30 PM Class: Mishnah Shabbat w/Rabbi Shalom Bochner</p>	<p>28 3 Shevat 7:15 AM Morning Minyan 10:00 AM Baby Group</p>	<p>29 4 Shevat 10:30 AM Pre-School Time 3:30 PM Kadima Classes 7:30 PM Back To the Torah - The Book of Exodus</p>	<p>30 5 Shevat 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat 5:12 PM Candle lighting</p>	<p>31 6 Shevat 9:00 AM Torah Study 9:00 AM Heinstein Kiddush 6:13 PM Havdalah 7:00 PM Youth Night IV</p>

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7 Shevat 4:00 PM Rick Recht Concert! 5:00 PM Social Action Cooks at Dorothy Day Men's Shelter	2 8 Shevat Groundhog Day Education Office Closed 10:30 AM Pre-School Time	3 9 Shevat 3:30 PM Kadima Classes	4 10 Shevat 7:15 AM Morning Minyan 10:00 AM Baby Group	5 11 Shevat 10:30 AM Pre-School Time 3:30 PM Kadima Classes 7:30 PM Back To the Torah - The Book of E...	6 12 Shevat 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat 5:20 PM Candle lighting	7 13 Shevat 9:00 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Rimonim / children in grades K-2 6:21 PM Havdalah
8 14 Shevat 9:00 AM SBY Tu B'Shevat Celebration 9:30 AM Shacharit Minyan and Program 2:00 PM Amitim's Tzedek (social acti..	9 15 Shevat Tu B'Shevat Education Office Closed 10:30 AM Pre-School Time	10 16 Shevat 3:00 PM Pre-School Board Meeting 3:30 PM Kadima Classes	11 17 Shevat Preschool Closed 7:15 AM Morning Minyan 10:00 AM Baby Group	12 18 Shevat Lincoln's Birthday 10:30 AM Pre-School Time 3:30 PM Kadima Classes 7:30 PM Back To the Torah - The Book of Exodus	13 19 Shevat 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat 5:27 PM Candle lighting 6:30 PM Young Adults Havura Kabbalat Shabbat & Community Meal	14 20 Shevat Bar Mitzvah of Naoami Ginsborg-Warren 9:00 AM Torah Study 9:00 AM Kiddush sponsored by Daniel Warren & Hannah Ginsborg 10:00 AM Meditative Minyan 11:00 AM Shabbat B'Yachad - Program for families and children under five 6:28 PM Havdalah
15 21 Shevat 9:30 AM Netivot Board Meeting	16 22 Shevat President's Day Preschool Closed Education Office Closed	17 23 Shevat 3:30 PM Kadima Classes	18 24 Shevat 7:15 AM Morning Minyan 10:00 AM Baby Group	19 25 Shevat 10:30 AM Pre-School Time 3:30 PM Kadima Classes 7:30 PM Back To the Torah - The Book of Exodus	20 26 Shevat 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat 5:35 PM Candle lighting	21 27 Shevat Shabbat Shekalim 9:00 AM Torah Study 9:00 AM Kiddush sponsored by Michael Feeley & Lisa Schwartz and David Stein & Bill Stewart 10:30 AM Rimonim/grades K-2 6:30 PM Netivot Shalom Music Festival 6:36 PM Havdalah
22 28 Shevat 9:30 AM Shacharit Minyan and Program	23 29 Shevat Education Office Closed 10:30 AM Pre-School Time 4:00 PM Jewish Milestones - Mikvah Training	24 30 Shevat Rosh Chodesh Adar 3:30 PM Kadima Classes	25 1 Adar Rosh Chodesh Adar 7:15 AM Morning Minyan 10:00 AM Baby Group	26 2 Adar 10:30 AM Pre-School Time 3:30 PM Kadima Classes 7:30 PM NS Preschool -Gan Parents Association 7:30 PM Back To the Torah - The Book of Exodus	27 3 Adar 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat 5:42 PM Candle lighting	28 4 Adar Bar Mitzvah of Miki Simhi 9:00 AM Torah Study 9:00 AM Kiddush sponsored by Efrat Simhi and Shaul Aloni 11:00 AM Shabbat B'Yachad - Program for families and children under five 6:43 PM Havdalah

The next time you make a donation to our synagogue, consider designating it to one of our funds.

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.

Young Adults Fund

Supports activities of the Young Adults Havurah, including monthly Kabbalat Shabbat service and community dinner.

Ethelyn Simon Fund

Supports programs that emphasize Biblical Hebrew language learning and Textual Studies.

Sifrei Kodesh

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

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).

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.

Preschool Scholarship Fund

Provides assistance if needed to underwrite the tuition for children to attend our Preschool.

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.

Tiferet Fund

To apply the action plans developed by our Tiferet Project to support programs that show that intermarried families can have a spiritual home at Netivot Shalom.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Funds are used for charitable purposes at the rabbi's discretion.

Executive Director's

Discretionary Fund

Funds are used to benefit the congregation at the executive director's discretion.

Building Fund

Funds to be used for the purchase of the land and the building for the Congregation.

Adult Ed Donations

Barbara Wezelman, in memory of Norman Wezelman

Break-the-Fast Fund

Steve & Karen Bovarnick

Susan David

Helen Schneider

David Stein & Bill Stewart

Building Fund

Mark & Renee Greenstein, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Milton Greenstein

General Donations

Hope Alper, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Andrea Altschuler & David Finn, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Ed Anisman & Claire Sherman

Richard & Janet Ball, in honor of Maya's Ball-Burack Bat Mitzvah

Lee Bearson & Babbie Freiberg, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Peter Berck & Cyndia Spindell Berck, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Diane & Ed Bernbaum, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Barbara Bibel, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Steven Bileca & Angela Alonso Bileca, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Cathy Bolding & Joseph Meresman, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Steven Bond, & Shari Rifas, in memory of Jules M. Blum

Steven Bond & Shari Rifas, in memory of Ruth Berg

Steve & Karen Bovarnick, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Art & Sheila Braufman, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Anonymous, Sukkah at your home

Judy Breakstone, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Mary & Tom Breiner, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Lydia Anne Brose, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Carl Buchin & Claudia Valas, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Jeffrey Burack & Shelly Ball, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Jerald & Hedia Cantor, in honor of the Aron Kodesh and Blair & Helaine Prentice

Andrea & Michael Cassidy, in honor of Clara Cunradi's Bat Mitzvah

Celia & Paul Concus, in honor of Blair Prentice, Cathy Bolding and all those who contributed to the Aron Kodesh

Carol & Jim Cunradi, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

- Susan David**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Miriam & David Donoho**
- Michael & Donna Franzblau**, in honor of Jean Bradman's birthday
- Dale Friedman & Joan Bradus**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Ednah Beth Friedman**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Karen Friedman & David Marcus**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- George & Toby Gidal**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Debby Graudenz & Rom Rosenblum**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Rivka Greenberg & Ken Stanton**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Ralph & Judith Greif**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Larry Hanover**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Estie Hudes**, in memory of Estie's brother, Gideon Glick
- Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern**, in honor of Dan Siegel
- Ronna Kabatznick & Peter Dale Scott**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Barry Kamil & Nancy Gurian**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Rabbi Stuart & Vicky Kelman**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Seth Kimball & Vicki Sommer**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Ruth Konoff & Ben Hermalin**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Marc Kossover**, in memory of Ruth Berg (Eugene Berg's mother)
- Gail Krowech**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Rose Levinson & David Jeffrey**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Judy Lieberman & Allen Samelson**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Mary Lukanuski**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Michael & Anne Marx**
- Michael McCullough & Judith Lesser McCullough**, in memory of Lillian Lesser
- Martin Myers & Deborah Lewis**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Perl Perlmutter & Meghan Starkey**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Elijah & Ginette Polak**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Elijah & Ginette Polak**, in honor of Janet Fischer
- Blair & Helaine Prentice**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Mark & Sharon Priven**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Fran Quittel**, in honor of Joe Meresman, Cathy Bolding, Blair Prentice and Charlene Stern
- Elana Reinin & Marshall Platt**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Jeff Rosenbloom & Melissa Mednick**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Michael & Betty Rosenheimer**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Rabbi Morris & Mildred Rubinstein**, in honor of Netivot Shalom's wonderful community
- Dr. Perry & Malka Scheinok**, in memory of Sarah Scheinok and Gitel Gerstel
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- Alfred & Constance Weissman**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh & Mike Steinbaugh**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Heidi & Jonathan Wexler**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Barbara Wezelman**, in memory of my relatives
- Irene Wolins**, *Refuah Sh'leyma* for Jan Fischer & in honor of Aaron Levy-Wolins Bar Mitzvah
- Glenn Wolkenfeld & Nancy Facher**, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard
- Holiday Dinner Drive Social Action Fund**
- Reuvain & Dina Beck**
- Joseph & Dorothy Becker**
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- Lisa Frydman & Mark Brilliant**
- Mark Geliebter & Robin Keller**
- Joel & Katya Gerwein**
- George & Toby Gidal**
- Steve Gottlieb & Pat Hellman**

(continued on page 20)

(continued from page 19)

Ralph & Judith Greif

Frances Hornstein

Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern

Rabbi Daniel Isaacson & Liora Brosbe

Alison Jordan

Dan Kaplan & Marianne Koch

Rabbi Stuart & Vicki Kelman

Kathy Khuner & Theda Haber

Joshua & Jennifer Kirsch

Alan & Elissa Kittner

Rabbi Daniel Kohn & Deborah Stachel

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Barbara Wezelman

Rabbi David & Irene Winston

Glenn Wolkenfeld & Nancy Facher

Diana Wood & Mark Rasmussen

Sharon Wynd

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Ellen & Herb Brosbe, in honor of Rabbi

Stuart & Vicki Kelman

Kiddush & Oneg Fund

Cathy Bolding & Joseph Meresman,
for Kiddush in honor of David Stein & Aliza

Steven Bond & Shari Rifas, Adoption
Shabbat Kiddush

Steve & Karen Bovarnick, for Kiddush in
honor of David Stein & Aliza

Ellen & Herb Brosbe, Kiddush Fund - for
Bobbie Drinkard

Carol & Jim Cunradi, for Kiddush in
honor of David Stein & Aliza

Lee & Paul Feinstein, Adoption Shabbat
Kiddush

Larry Hanover, for Kiddush in honor of
David Stein & Aliza

Seth Kimball & Vicki Sommer, Adoption
Kiddush 11/22

Ellen & Warren Reier, Adoption Shabbat
Kiddush

Alice Webber & Stephen Tobias, Adop-
tion Shabbat Kiddush- in honor of Judy
Tobias-Davis' work w/WAIF

Preschool Scholar Fund

Anna & Michael Fogelman, in honor of
Lior Schifrin's fourth birthday

Mina & Jack Gobler, in honor of Clara
Cunradi's Bat Mitzvah

**Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh & Mike
Steinbaugh**

Preschool Donations

Ellen & Herb Brosbe, in honor of Clara
Cunradi's Bat Mitzvah

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A Woman Called Sam's Catering, in
honor of Jean Bradman's 80th birthday
& Ollie Allen's Bar Mitzvah

Joshua & Jessie Cline, Thank you to
Rabbi Creditor for making their wed-
ding special

Karen Horowitz Weiner, in memory of
Karen's Aunt Esther

David Stein & Bill Stewart, Thank you to
Rabbi Creditor

Rosenheimer Fund

Jewish Community Endowment Fund,
Grant from Gerardo & Priscilla Joffe
Fund/Rosenheimer Camp

Sifre Kodesh Fund

Dale Friedman & Joan Bradus,
Prayerbooks

Social Action Fund

Judy Lieberman & Allen Samelson

Ethel Murphy, meals for the Homeless in
thanks for Gemilut Chasadim

Yom Kippur Appeal

Andrea Altschuler & David Finn

Fred Astren

Steven Bileca & Angela Alonso Bileca

Judy Breakstone

Marcia Brooks

Yossi & Tamar Fendel

Mark Geliebter & Robin Keller

Ellen Gobler & Larry Dolton

Rabbi Daniel Isaacson & Liora Brosbe

Zeena Janowsky

Ronna Kabatznick & Peter Dale Scott,
in memory of Jeffrey Kabatznick

Judy Lieberman & Allen Samelson

Claire Max & Jonathan Arons

Perl Perlmutter & Meghan Starkey

Blair & Helaine Prentice

Fran Quittel

Arthur Reingold & Gail Bolan

Helen Schneider

Eric & Rachel Seder

Mitchell Shandling & Judith Kunofsky

Traci & Daniel Siegel

David Stein & Bill Stewart

Edna Stewart

Larry Stone

Peter & Nan Strauss

Robert & Braha Trabin

Arne & Gail Wagner

Alice Webber & Stephen Tobias

Max & Raquel Wolf

Nancy & Sheldon Wolfe

The above-mentioned donation are those
received at Netivot from approximately
October 7- November 30, 2008.

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.

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 Rosenfeld at rimmonim@netivotshalom.org for more information.

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 Tuesday, 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.

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education classes are currently taking place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Please see the Netivot Shalom Calendar or call the office at (510) 549-9447 Ext 101 for additional details.

MINYAN OPPORTUNITIES:

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 9, newsletter calendar, and weekly announcements.

WEDNESDAY

Morning Minyan 7:15 a.m.

SHABBAT

Various activities after Shabbat 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 *kasbrut* 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

Young Adult Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv Services:

2nd Friday of each month, followed by a meal. Email ya@netivotshalom.org for times and details. Hosted by the Young Adults Havurah, all ages welcome.

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!

For updates on social action events, join our e-tree! Contact socialaction@netivotshalom.org to be added to the list.

Volunteer in our neighborhood! The Women's Daytime Drop-In Center on Acton St. and the Youth Emergency Assistance Shelter on University Ave. could use support in a variety of ways. Be a good neighbor! For more info contact socialaction@netivotshalom.org.

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

Helly Barzilay Charles Friedman Matthew Prentice	January 1	Tevet 5	Cantor Morris Wolf		
Essie Sadie Sagarsky Berkman Beatrice Jaeger David Rosenstein Julie Senturia	January 2	Tevet 6	F.R. Scott Estrella Sherez	February 3	Shevat 9
Theodore Jerome Myers Bertha Brotfeld	January 3	Tevet 7	Rose Milkman Shandling	February 4	Shevat 10
Nathan Abraham Epstein Max Rosenheimer Naomi Rudolph	January 4	Tevet 8	Sylvia Facher Cantor Don Fischer Harry Rappaport	February 6	Shevat 12
Ida Frank	January 5	Tevet 9	Esther Cygelfarb George Levine	February 7	Shevat 13
Sophie Chait	January 6	Tevet 10	Harry Cohen Robert Ray Stewart	February 9	Shevat 15
Stan Fink William Jeffrey George Trow	January 7	Tevet 11	Leon Frank William Spielman	February 10	Shevat 16
David Merton Banen Irving Lowe Rabbi Solomon Zaiman	January 8	Tevet 12	David Hellman Abraham Liebhoff Harry R. Valas	February 11	Shevat 17
Maya Cooper Chaim Radousky Esther Radousky	January 9	Tevet 13	Pearl Max Nelson Polsby Alma Shuchat Goldye Spilky Joseph Waxman	February 12	Shevat 18
Ludwig Muhlfelder Nathan Wolf	January 10	Tevet 14	Herman Weiner	February 13	Shevat 19
Hester Fox Liebman	January 11	Tevet 15	Abraham Birnbaum William Konigsford	February 15	Shevat 21
Sherry Lee Amernick Schul-	January 12	Tevet 16	Leonard Mell Walter Martin Petersen Genny Schrifrin	February 17	Shevat 23
Albert Kittner	January 13	Tevet 17	Joseph Beck Ruth Blachman Moshe Cohen Sylvia Friedman Julian Knaster Yetta Shuchat	February 18	Shevat 24
Al Becker Alan Gordon Isaac Polak	January 14	Tevet 18	Julia De Lorraine Levin Edith Shapiro	February 20	Shevat 26
Oliker Jacob	January 15	Tevet 19	Ruth Brandwynne Morton Grossman Herman Salkin Cynthia Walter Drazen	February 21	Shevat 27
Abe Rock	January 16	Tevet 20	David Abrahams Molly Magedy Cinnamon Lee Valas	February 22	Shevat 28
Cecelia Rosenheimer	January 17	Tevet 21	Fanya Cohen	February 23	Shevat 29
Herman Platt	January 18	Tevet 22	Florence B. Levine	February 24	Shevat 30
Rachel Frank	January 19	Tevet 23	Hannah Dorph Bertha Greenberg Irwin Inman	February 25	Adar 1
Sophia Katz Bearson Dell Piper	January 20	Tevet 24	Claire Abrahams Maurice Bernbaum Lillian Chaikin Ida Cohen Mary Lieberman Donald Lincoln Weinberg	February 26	Adar 2
Anne Reiter Greif Miriam Mendelson	January 21	Tevet 25	Zev Areyn Lurie Irwin Mussen	February 27	Adar 3
Harry Alter Lorelei Freda Cohen Bernice Edith Feinberg Israel Dov Gerstel Molly Rock Gail Schwartz	January 22	Tevet 26	Gerald Shorer Joan Siegel Jose Zak	February 28	Adar 4
Edwin Posner William Samelson	January 24	Tevet 28			
Gertrude Aronstein Rosalie Cohen	January 25	Tevet 29			
Frieda Elbogen Mary Rosenblatt	January 26	Shevat 1			
Yoseph Bruchiel	January 27	Shevat 2			
May Darrow Sarah Feinstein Nancy Kennedy Florence Marson	January 28	Shevat 3			
Nina Chaya Davis Harold Seder	January 30	Shevat 5			
Morris Brezniak Bernard Budiansky Thelma Rita Karp Mary Potak	January 31	Shevat 6			
Sarah Cohen Stahl	February 1	Shevat 7			
Leonard Fox Mollie Levine	February 2	Shevat 8			

We Extend Our Condolences to the families of:

Harry Radousky, on the passing of his father, Rudy Radousky, z"l;

David Radwin, on the passing of his father, Mark Radwin, z"l;

Eric Blum, on the passing of his father, Jules M. Blum, z"l



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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Founding Rabbi

Stuart Kelman, Ext 107
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TU B'SHEVAT
February 9, 2009