

CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM

MARCH/APRIL 2009

ADAR/NISAN/IYYAR 5769

Rick Recht Rocks Netivot Shalom!

By Cathy Shadd Rosenfeld

Por those of you who missed it, Jewish music scene superstar, Rick Recht, really rocked the walls of our shul on Sunday, Feb. 1 with quite a bit of help from Rabbi Creditor, Rabbi

Shalom Bochner, and congregant Rom Rosenblum, who opened the show as "Two Rabbis and Rom." After their opening set, the audience shouted for an encore which revved up the excitement for Rick. And Rick certainly didn't disappoint. He played all of his signature songs: "The Hope" about our ties to Israel, "Laasok B'divrei Torah" about how everything we do, say and are every day can connect us with Torah and about how we all have love to share, and "Kobi's Lullaby" about all that we have to be thankful for. He sang with so much heart and joy that the audience, in sync with him, sang along when prompted, clapped, linked arms and swayed to the music. Young and not-young rocked out!



Rick Recht with local song leader Ira Levin and Rabbi Kelman



Rick Recht with some of the children who joined him on stage

Many of our congregants shared the stage with Rick and his band. In addition to the opening act, Rabbi Kelman blew us away with his clarinet playing and Jody Seltzer and Claire Sherman shared their lovely voices, along with other Jody-recruited song leaders. And we all enjoyed the active participation of the many young children from Netivot, Tehiyah, OHDS, and other places, who enthusiastically responded to Rick's open invitation to join him on stage.

Rick's performance was organized by the recently named "The *Middot* Initiative," an ongoing effort spearheaded by *Rimmonim* and our Legacy Heritage Innovation Project Grant to uplift and infuse our

everyday lives and interactions by an increased attention to *middot*, Jewish core values and their respective character traits.

In order to bring Rick out here, this concert was co-sponsored by eight local Jewish organizations: Camp Tawonga, URJ Camp Newman/Swig, Tehiyah Day School, Oakland Hebrew Day School, Western Region/BBYO, New Frontier USY, Berkeley Midrasha and the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay, making the concert truly a community building event. Our co-sponsors each had information tables in the social hall. We also sought "patrons" within our congregation

(continued on page 13)

A Prayer for Elusive Harmony

By Rabbi Menachem Creditor



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The worst compliment an a cappella singer can get is this: "You sounded great! I could hear you over everyone else in the group!"

Having recently reunited with an old college a cappella friend, I've begun reflecting on the power singing in a group has had throughout my life. It was

because of the unpredictable harmonies of a Jewish a cappella group that I discovered my own Jewish voice and ultimately chose to become a rabbi. It was at a joint concert that I met my future wife, a deeply talented singer. But those life moments are not the point. Those mid-life punctuations are about me. The power of that music was – *and remains* – its ability to bring strong, unique voices into blended harmony.

I recall singing in London with Pizmon, the Jewish a cappella group of Columbia University, Barnard College, and the Jewish Theological Seminary; we had just revised an arrangement of David Broza's "Yihiyeh Tovl It will be good" to include his updated lyrics, which draw on dreams for peace in the biblical book of Isaiah. We were nervous about debuting the new arrangement. We nailed the music, the emotion, the togetherness of the arrangement, and with it closed the concert. As we regrouped in the back of the hall, I collapsed in a seat, my body wracked by sobbing. I was overwhelmed by the music, the 'being lost' in the harmony, the dream-

like reality we created, and the peace that we could each taste as we pronounced its possibilities together.

Did we know then what we know now? That peace and harmony are easier to project than they are to experience? Perhaps. Did we realize what an anomaly we were? Jews of any and all stripes willing to promote by example a model of passionate celebration of each other's voice? Perhaps. Did we realize how fleeting the opportunity to dedicate time to our ecstatic harmonies would be? No, we did not.

There is so much going on in the world. So much cacophony, so much drowning out of the other's voice, a profound and tragic manifestation of this is war. "Peace and harmony" in the face of war seem like fairy dust in response to a charging buffalo—so laughable. Is it perhaps because we've lost our ability to sing? Because it takes so much time to learn how to harmonize? Because we've come to enjoy hearing our own voice above everyone else's?

We live in a time when one voice is not enough. I close, for now, with Broza's adaptation of Isaiah, wishing it to be truer than it typically feels:

We will yet learn to live together, amidst groves of olive trees.

Children will live without fear, without borders, without bomb shelters.

On graves will flourish grass, to Shalom – Peace! – and Ahava – Love!

One hundred years of the sword and we have not yet lost haTikvah – Hope!

Sometimes I am broken, but tonight with you I remain. It will be good, yes it will... *

"Healing from Despair: Choosing Wholeness in a Broken World" with Rabbi Elie Spitz

Monday, March 23, 7:30 p.m. • Congregation Netivot Shalom

Join a conversation with Rabbi Ellie Spitz, author of "Healing from Despair: Choosing Wholeness in a Broken World. (Jewish Lights, 2009)" This new book, which will be available for purchase and signing at the event, explores the nature of personal suffering and brokenness and the potential for personal crisis as a source of strength and renewal instead of despair and death. Examining the personal journeys of biblical and historical figures such as Moses, Maimonides, Abraham Lincoln and Martin Buber - as well as the author's own personal experience with despair - it looks at brokenness as an inescapable element of the human condition. It traces the path of suffering from despair to depression to desperation to the turning point - healing - when first-hand knowledge of suffering can be transformed into blessing.

Rabbi Elie Kaplan Spitz is the author of Does the Soul Survive? A Jewish Journey to Belief in Afterlife, Past Lives & Living with Purpose (Jewish Lights). A spiritual leader and scholar specializing in topics of spirituality and Judaism, he teaches, writes, and speaks to a wide range of audiences. He has served as the rabbi of Congregation B'nai Israel in Tustin, California, and for more than a decade and is a member of the Rabbinical Assembly Committee of Law and Standards.

A Call to Action

By Jeff Rosenbloom, Board President

"In reaffirming the greatness of our nation, we understand that greatness is never a given. It must be earned. Our journey has never been one of shortcuts or settling for less. It has not been the path for the fainthearted -- for those who prefer leisure over work, or seek only the pleasures of riches and fame. Rather, it has been the risk-takers, the doers, the makers of things -- some celebrated, but more often men and women obscure in their labor -- who have carried us up the long, rugged path toward prosperity and freedom." Barak Obama, Inauguration Speech, January 20, 2009.

Upon listening to this speech amidst the huge crowd at Sproul Hall with Adam, my 18-year old son (who voted for the winning candidate his first time at the polling booth!), I was reminded that we, as a nation, are presently faced with great challenges as well as great opportunities. It will not be an easy task *for* Americans to return to our previous standard of living or to our standing with the world community; but through our collective hope and efforts, we will succeed.

After Obama's speech, I also reflected on what has made Netivot Shalom a great synagogue: our people and their collective efforts: "...the doers, the maker of things, who have labored tirelessly to build our house and home."

I would like to thank everyone who has already stepped forward and donated their time, money and resources. We have come a long way in a relatively short amount of time while maintaining our sense of community and closeness. We expanded our physical space as well as our membership.

I now want to ask that we all take a collective deep breath as we launch into this new era of tremendous challenge and possibility. I know that for both new and long-time members, these current economic times are a challenge. However, the swirling winds of bad news cannot deter us from continuing to build and strengthen our community. In fact, it is in these bad times that community becomes even more important. This is not just a call for your financial support, but a plea for your participation. Our collective efforts, whether it be to lead services, weed the yard, host a Kiddush, attend a social action event or be a Shabbat greeter, connect us to each other in a way that just showing up for services cannot do.

So, take a moment and check out our website, www. netivotshalom.org, and click on the "Participate" button. You can also email me at president@netivotshalom.org for more info about volunteer opportunities. We are currently working to contact all of you to find out your skills and interests to put into our database so that we can let you know of volunteer opportunities that are just right for you.

So, to borrow from another great President: "Ask not what your Synagogue can do for you, but what you can do for your Synagogue". Let us all embrace the new spirit of service and gratitude stressed by President Obama; find a way to contribute and connect through your Netivot Shalom community. And, please thank someone who is volunteering to help make our synagogue a strong, vibrant community. **

Celebrate Nevitvot Shalom's 20th Anniversary!

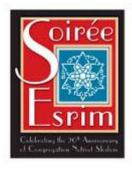
Dear Congregants,

On Sunday, May 3rd, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Netivot Shalom. We will honor our past, present and future in style – a delicious catered meal, plenty of libations, and a Master of Ceremonies who could take his show on the road combining moments of reflection and light-hearted entertainment you won't want to miss. But it won't be a true celebration of our community until our members fill the rooms. Please join us!

This event is also an important fundraiser for Netivot Shalom. To that end, there will be a silent auction in order to raise funds to help the shul operate. We also hope it will showcase our community through member donations. Can you give of your time and talents? Below are a few suggestions, but we know it doesn't begin to capture the skills, interest, and creativity in

our community. We'd love to hear your ideas.

That old '67 Mustang you're sick of tinkering with; A collection of goods from the store you work in/own; A fancy birthday cake; A dinner hosted by you; An hour of your professional service (legal advice, tutoring, design consult, etc); A weekend in your timeshare Swiss chalet



Please contact us to offer a donation or discuss an idea.

If you can't donate to the silent auction, will you help in some other way? We need folks to help with a myriad of tasks, both before the event and on event day. Even an hour or two of your time will make a difference.

Gratefully,

Jess Login and Laura Callen, Fundraising Committee Co-Chairs, contact us at cnsfdraise@netivotshalom *

Board Report

By Karen Bovarnick

Welcoming New Board Members.

The 2008-2009 Board met briefly after the annual meeting and welcomed new members, Mel Sibony, David Birnbaum, Ben Krefetz, and Steve Bileca.

USCJ Petition.

The Board unanimously approved a petition to the Israeli government to accelerate the process of conversion of Ethiopian Jews and to provide support pending their conversion.

Proposition 8 Amicus Brief.

The Board approved a motion to join an amicus curiae brief challenging the validity of the "Proposition 8" constitutional amendment.

Rabbi's Contract.

The Board heard and reviewed comments from congregants regarding renewal of the Rabbi's contract. Contract negotiations with the Rabbi concerning renewal of his contract are almost complete. At the February 8, 2009 Board meeting, the Board voted unanimously to reelect Rabbi Menachem Creditor to a three-year contract, effective July 1, 2009.

Building and operations.

Executive Director Lisa Gershony reported that through seeking competitive bids on various vendor services, the shul has already realized significant savings. This process is continuing. She also reported on building maintenance. Congregants interested in volunteering their services should contact Lisa. The Board approved a personnel manual for staff.

NETIVOT SHALOM NEWSLETTER

March/April 2009 • Adar/Nisan/Iyyar 5769

Editors

Janet Schneider and Lucy Kahn

Design and Production:

Jessica Sterling

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.

Next Issue: May/June Deadline: Mar 24, 2009
Printed at Anto Printing, Oakland, CA

Membership Report.

We have 362 membership units inclusive of complimentary memberships. We have 17 non-renewals. Noting that some non-renewing participants continue to remain active, the Board discussed benefits that are or ought to be exclusive to members only.

Mission Statement, Rapid Growth, and Sense of Community.

Creating a sense of community in light of our new and rapid growth is a topic that arises repeatedly in discussion of various shul programs and policies. The Board has discussed concerns about (1) how to build community as we grow, and in particular, how to integrate newer members who have joined for specific programs into the greater shul community; and (2) how to maintain a sense ownership in and responsibility for the shul among congregants as we increase our paid staff. To that end, a subcommittee of the Board will be holding discussions with various groups within Netivot for feedback in drafting a proposed Mission Statement.

Financial Report and Capital Campaign.

The first phase of the Capital Campaign is wrapping up and on target. Many of these initial pledges include loan forgiveness on our second mortgage. We will be losing two significant grants next year, one of which involves our thriving *Rimonim* program. Board and staff are working together on a cost-benefit analysis of alternatives. There has also been discussion of forming a committee to plan for our long-range financial stability.

Fundraising, Spring Event & Tribute Book.

Meeting fundraising goals is essential to balancing our budget. A committee has formed to work on a tribute book, featuring *drashot* on each *Parshat* as a fundraising vehicle. In addition, the Fundraising Committee is planning a 20th Anniversary event, tentatively set for May 3, 2009. *

The family of Janet Fischer would like to thank:

Rabbi Kelman & Rabbi Creditor, as well as the congregation of Netivot Shalom, for the devotion they have shown to our mother through these difficult times. Her illness and passing were made easier with your love and support, and her presence will be missed greatly by all.

Update on Netivot L'Dorot – our Capital Campaign

As you know, Netivot L'Dorot, our second capital campaign, is critical to securing our future. If we do not succeed, our vision of a progressive, participatory, conservative Judaism may not survive – let alone thrive. And we are thriving in critical respects – growth in number of member units, expansion of our lifelong educational programming, and so much more. But we must thrive financially as well, and retire most of our debt (approximately \$4 million at the start of the Campaign). We've raised more than \$1 million so far towards our \$3 million goal (you can follow our progress on the path poster just outside the sanctuary), and the Campaign is just getting fully under way.

The financial crisis and recession are hitting home for us all. Jewish philanthropy also is suffering from the Madoff crisis – though mostly on the east coast. But we are confident that we can keep Congregation Netivot Shalom on sound financial footing despite these significant challenges. We exceeded expectations for fundraising in the past, and we must do it again. This will require your participation and commitment. Netivot Shalom is our spiritual home – a place of meaning, learning and fulfillment. We must secure it so that future generations can benefit as we have.

And don't forget the literal manifestation of Netivot L'Dorot – the Path of the Generations that we are creating. For relatively modest levels of commitment, you have the chance to select a name, to be inscribed on a paver stone in the shul's courtyard, of someone you wish to honor, or who has inspired your Jewish life. Please ask your Netivot L'Dorot team member about this program.

If you have heard from a Netivot L'Dorot team member, please take the time to meet with him or her as soon as possible. If you have not yet heard from a team member, do not hesitate to reach out directly to one of the Co-Chairs, Charlene Stern, Elissa Kittner or Marty Myers. We are prepared to answer your questions about the shul's financial affairs, to communicate any of your concerns to the shul leadership, and to help you seal your commitment to our collective future.

Charlene Stern (charleneystern@comcast.net), Elissa Kittner (elissa.kittner@gmail.com) and Marty Myers (mhmyers@jonesday.com) *

Paver Stone Project

By Ben Stern

Dr. Jansuz Korzcek, a Jewish doctor, was one of the most prominent pediatricians in Poland before World War I; he had a weekly radio show on caring for children.

In October, 1940 my family and I were transported to the Warsaw Ghetto. I am a living witness to the horrible living conditions in the Warsaw Ghetto. There were nearly a half a million people crowded in a small bombed out area of four square miles. The Nazis put us through unspeakable indignities, obscenities and horrors. They deliberately created the conditions for mass mortality by ensuring inadequate food and a lack of medical care, leading to all kinds of epidemics.

The Nazi liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto started on July 23rd, 1942. The Jewish police picked up anyone they could grab from the streets. Sure enough, one policeman took me off a rickshaw, which I used to earn a little money, right in front of our apartment. My mother saw what was happening and paid the policeman to let me go.

On August 5, 1942, I watched from my yard when they led Dr. Janusz Korczak and two hundred or so orphan children from his orphanage in the Ghetto, to the Umschlagplatz (where they would then transport them to Treblinka). The Germans offered him freedom if he left the children on the train. He refused and comforted the children all the way to their deaths. For this and all he did before, Dr. Korczak, beloved by all of Poland, became a great Jewish hero and martyr. This great man sacrificed his life by refusing to abandon the children he loved. Today, among all the unsculptured stone monuments at Treblinka, the only statue of a human being is of Dr. Korczak holding a small child in his arms.

Dr. Korczak was my inspiration for starting the Dr. Korczak B'nai Brith Lodge in Skokie, Illinois after coming to America. His inspiration drove us to resist the neo-Nazis march in Skokie in 1978 and to speak out when the first Holocaust denial book was published from Northwestern University. I have chosen to honor him by displaying his name in a paver stone at Congregation Netivot Shalom, as part of the Path of the Generations.

Ben Stern is Charlene Stern's father. Please call or email Charlene Stern to chose your name for the Paver Stone Project and help our Capital Campaign succeed. Dr. Janusz Korzcek was a pen name. His real name was Henrik Goldsmidt. *

NETIVOT SHALOM RETREAT May 22-24 at CAMP NEWMAN near SANTA ROSA

Building a Sacred Community

Retreat Programming: Share a wide variety of educational, spiritual, recreational, artistic and social activities with the entire Netivot Shalom community over the Memorial Day Weekend, from Friday 3 pm through Sunday 5 pm. The retreat is designed to appeal to all, with many concurrent choices of activities for adults, teens and youth. Special guest scholar will be Rabbi Neil Gillman, a world-renowned Conservative rabbi whose writing and teaching focus on resurrection and immortality in Jewish tradition, the place of mythology in Jewish community, and interfaith dialogue. Retreat activities will include study sessions, art classes, tefilah outdoors, swimming, paddle-boating, nature hikes, sports/games, stargazing, singing, campfire, happy hour socials, Feldenkrais movement classes, crystal bowl sound meditation, extensive youth program (planned by Rabbi Bochner), teen activities (including nature hike and evening swim), evening "shmira" babysitting & vegetarian kosher meals.

Registration Info: Please return this form to the Netivot Shalom office with your deposit of \$100 per adult (no deposit needed for youth) no later than **April 17, 2009**. Limited to first 200 people. Private rooms/baths allotted on a first come, first serve basis. Payments may be spread over many months with auto withdrawal by contacting Rachel Schorr in the office. Besides regular registration fee rates listed below, there is also a **"pay what you can"** option, subject to available funding. You will receive a confirmatory e-mail as to your registration and fee by May 1. Most, but not all, housing in private motel-style rooms. Cancellations subject to fee of \$50 per adult after April 17, 2009.

ADULT #1 NAME:		
ADULT #2 NAME:		
CHILD # I NAME:		AGE/GRADE:
CHILD # 2 NAME:		AGE/GRADE:
PHONE:	EMAIL:	
# seeking ride	# you can give a rid	le to
Teen (13+) seeking limited	l paid work hours at retre	at (reg fee still required)
*Special needs/questions, or Registration Fees:	Adults: \$200 (College/Gris free) Age 13-18: \$125 \$50 extra fee (charge by C	Non-CNS Member: \$50 extra for adult Camp Newman)
		Total Fees Due:
"Pay what	you can" amount (subject	to available funding; CNS members only)
Exti	ra payment to help fu	und "pay what you can" option:
E	xtra payment to sup	port Guest Scholar Honorarium:
		TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:(Minimum deposit \$100 per adult)
		Total amount still owed:

Make checks payable to Congregation Netivot Shalom, put "Retreat" on memo line, and mail to Netivot Shalom office at 1316 University Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94702, or pay by credit card by contacting Rachel in the office (3% additional fee) at 549-9447.

CHEVRA KADISHA ISRAEL

"Unity For the Sake of Change," an Interfaith Prayer Service

By Sharon Priven, Social Action Chair

It's one thing to talk about change, even passionately, and another thing altogether to embody it. We may already feel a cultural shift caused by the fact that we have elected our first African American president, but this is just the beginning of an opportunity to bring about real and lasting change. We can continue to have an impact if we harness the spirit of participation, maintain the momentum we created leading up to the election, and actively offer our support to each other and our new president through the extraordinary challenges ahead.

At a service at St. Paul's AME Church in Berkeley this past January, one in a series of events leading up to the inauguration change, the essential theme of the incoming Obama administration was powerfully brought to life. Organized by Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action (BOCA) and the office of county supervisor Keith Carson, the event brought together members of a dozen or so faith communities to offer prayers of hope and to inspire commitment to service. Reflections were offered by clergy from BOCA member churches, The Way, St. Joseph the Worker, Epworth United Methodist, Church by the Side of the Road, St. Paul's AME, Newman Hall Catholic Center, Liberty Hills Baptist, and Congregation Netivot Shalom, represented warmly and with wisdom by member Cantor Martha Birnbaum. Choirs sang, children danced, and

attendees offered greetings to each other, welcoming each other, and embracing the rich mix of faiths, ethnicities, ages and backgrounds there.

In addition, local social service agencies attendees were present, both to thank the churches for their support and to further educate attendees about the important work they do. Berkeley Food and Housing Project and Berkeley Youth Alternatives spoke, and many other representatives made information available after the service. Everyone acknowledged, including County Supervisor Keith Carson, the impact that faith-based groups have had and must continue to have to assure that those who are in need receive help and opportunities to improve their situations.

One of the sweetest moments of the night was when children from the various congregations (including our own Lena Sibony!) stood together and took turns reading from Barack Obama's acceptance speech, sharing the refrain in one voice, "Yes, we can!" This diverse group of children with shining faces, standing together, speaking those powerful inspiring words, seemed to embody Obama's message of hope and possibility: "This is our moment," their voices resonated. And this was their opportunity to be heard and make a difference. The evening inspired everyone to be a part of the change that is coming.

To learn more about BOCA or to join the e-tree for the Social Action Committee, contact socialaction@netivot-shalom.org. More information is also available at http://berkeleyboca.org/ and at www.netivotshalom.org. *

Israel is a Recognized Leader in Disaster Planning

By Hilda Kessler

I sraeli know-how in emergency medical services is perhaps one of the country's least-known exports. Magen David Adom (MDA), the National Medical Emergency Society of the State of Israel, is one of several organizations that regularly send delegations to aid not only in disaster relief, but to train EMS teams before disaster strikes. Last November marked another milestone for MDA when Dr. Sudibyo Markus, the head of Indonesia's Muhammadiyah organization, arrived in Israel, on an official visit, to establish cooperation between his organization and MDA. Official visits between Indonesia and Israel are rare as the countries do not have diplomatic ties.

Markus was the guest of honor at the signing ceremony

of a preliminary agreement of cooperation signed by the Chairman of the Indonesian Rescue and Emergency Service, Prof. Aryono Pusponegoro, the Chairman of MDA's Board of Directors Dr. Noam Ifrach, and MDA Director-General Eli Bin. Pusponegoro said, "I am 76 years old, and delighted that I have succeeded in fulfilling my childhood dream of coming to Israel." Ifrach said: "We hope that, by the signing of this agreement between MDA and Indonesia, cooperation will be expanded to other fields. We expect that it will strengthen bilateral relations on all levels."

Markus, the highest Indonesian official ever to visit Israel, told *The Jakarta Post* that "Muhammadiyah is interested in such a program." Muhammadiyah is the oldest and largest Islamic social welfare organization in the world, established in 1912. It is a moderate faith-based group with a mandate to improve civil society,

(continued on page 8)

The Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem

Learning For Life!

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center The Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem invites applications for LEGACY HERITAGE JEWISH COMMUNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

SUMMER PROGRAM 2009 • Session I: June 28 - July 16 • Session II: July 19 - August 6

A Unique Opportunity to study at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem for Community Educators & Youth Advisors, Jewish Community Center, Federation & Hillel Personnel, and Synagogue Administrators, Educators & Officers

The Conservative Yeshiva Summer Program includes:

Mornings devoted to intensive Hebrew Ulpan or Talmud study

Afternoon sessions in Tanach, Midrash, Jewish Thought, Halacha, and Tefilah

Courses built on the traditional model of chevruta, learning one-on-one with a partner, and shiur, a seminar-style class A chance to be part of a unique, intergenerational learning community

The Legacy Heritage Jewish Communal Scholarships provide a special opportunity for leadership development! Study in Jerusalem enables participants to use Hebrew daily and gives context to the study of Jewish texts. Participants gain personal learning enrichment and have opportunities to reflect on engaging and strengthening their home communities. Special sessions for scholarship recipients enhance participants' Israel experience, focus on Israel advocacy, and facilitate further leadership development.

The Legacy Heritage Jewish Communal Scholarship will cover tuition and provide up to \$2400 towards flight, housing and living expenses for the period of study. For more information and detailed course descriptions, please see our website, http://www.conservativeyeshiva.org/

To apply for the scholarship, please complete an online application to the Conservative Yeshiva Summer Program then contact us at yeshiva@uscj.org to receive the scholarship application forms.

note: Applications for Legacy Heritage Jewish Communal Scholarships are due by <u>March 15</u>. Candidates will be notified by <u>May 1</u>.

Apply Online The Conservative Yeshiva - Learning for Life!

The Conservative Yeshiva is a project of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, under the academic auspices of the Jewish Theological Seminary. This program is supported by Legacy Heritage Fund Limited and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center

8 Agron Street, POB 7456, Jerusalem 94265 ISRAEL

Tel: 972-2-622-3116, Fax: 972-2-624-6473

www.ConservativeYeshiva.org yeshiva@uscj.org

ISRAEL

(continued from page 7)

serve the poor, and promote tolerance and pluralism. It operates dozens of clinics, hospitals, orphanages, schools and universities in Indonesia and has over 28 million members.

Once a final agreement is signed, a delegation from MDA will travel to Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation. They will share knowledge in emergency medical services and planning work protocols for the Indonesian health system, which will be implemented by Indonesian medical teams. Sudibyo told *The Jakarta Post* that his visit was also intended to promote "interfaith dialogue" and that the visit would

not have happened, had MDA not been recognized as an equal member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which occurred in 2005. This acceptance into the ranks of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement entitles MDA to various grants and expanded MDA's international humanitarian activities worldwide, strengthening the cooperation between MDA and the other members.

Hilda Kessler, a CNS member since 1990 and former Board member, is the co-founder of Bridges to Israel-Berkeley. She plans to have a regular column in the newsletter regarding Israel's progress in technology, ecology, and peaceful co-existence. *

MINYANIM CUBA

Sunday Morning Minyanim Speaker Schedule

By Art Braufman for Adult Education and Ritual Committees

Attendance at the Sunday programs continues to grow. If you haven't yet convinced yourself to attend, I hope that one of the following programs will entice you. Rabbi Creditor's new series "Dynamic Judaism" is eliciting lots of discussion and stimulating deep thinking about Conservative Judaism. Over 50 people attended his "Introduction" on January 25.

Don't miss the remaining talks. Shacharit starts at 9:30 AM followed by breakfast and the talk is from 10:30 - 11:30 AM. Hope to see you there.

The commentary that was formed by this 11th-century rabbi from Troyes is a wonderful collection of Torah puzzles. Rashi rarely writes a comment unless there's something in the Torah that's bothering him, but he prefers the reader should figure out what it is. Yossi studied Rashi at the feet of Nechama Leibowitz (Z"L) in Jerusalem, and has brought back her unique pedagogic approach to share with us in Berkeley. Born in

March 8: Yossi Fendel: "What's Bothering Rashi?"

very popular course titled "What's Bothering Rashi?" alongside many other topics. Now we get the opportu-

Community Jewish high school program), and later re-

turned as faculty there for 12 years where he taught the

Berkeley, Yossi studied for 5 years at Midrasha (the

nity to learn the "best" of Rashi. Yossi is currently serving as the president of Midrasha's Board of Directors.

March 22: Rabbi Creditor: "Rebels and Heretics". Third talk in *Dynamic Judaism* series: What happens when someone pushes Judaism too hard? Are innovators heretics? Or is there a system of traditional heresy in Judaism? Who sets the boundaries of authenticity, and what precisely is tradition? Is advocacy a Jewish tradition or a concession to social trends? Join this discussion on the place of Jewish discontent and Jewish tradition, centering on those who, as Rabbi Haviva Ner-David has put it, live "life on the fringes."

April 5 and 12 – No session – getting ready for Pesach and koshering the Shul Kitchen. No session on 4/12 either. Pots and pans need kashering? Check shul calendar.

April 19 (note this is on the 3rd Sunday): Rabbi Creditor: "Why Not Oysters?" 4th talk in the *Dynamic Judaism* series. Rabbi Neil Gillman, scholar in residence for the upcoming Netivot Shalom Memorial Day retreat, has asked: "Why do some laws change and others not change? Why can we drive to shul on Shabbat but not a museum? Why are all cheeses kosher but oysters still *treif*? Why change some portions of our liturgy but not others?" This segment of the Dynamic Judaism series will address these questions through an exploration of the Conservative Jewish approach to tradition in the face of new challenges. **

Jewish Life in Cuba

By June Safran, Cuba Affairs

 ${f P}^{
m eople}$ keep asking me if things are better in Cuba these days. The answer is yes, and no.

Yes, the people are more hopeful for a better life as Raul and the Cuban government begin to change laws such as raising the pension of seniors a few pesos and allowing people who live in factory housing to remain in that housing after retirement instead of being ousted and having to live with relatives.

No, things are not better on a daily basis as the hurricanes of 2008 wiped out the bread basket of the country, causing many shortages. The cost of daily needs have risen drastically and the stores are short of products.

Finally, the Jewish community is better. It grows stronger each year as people are trained to participate in celebrations and holy days and are able to study

our heritage. Unlike in years past, participation and understanding makes Judaism more meaningful. Even with large numbers of Jews making aliyah, the communities continue to function and grow in strength.

If you would like to see for yourself, there is a trip in June with a marvelous leader, Miriam Saul, who



Yvonne Barlia from Sancti Spiritus went on the Birthright Program last summer.

has been doing some of my groups for years and is so popular that she always has repeat participants. Contact me at june@thecajm.org if you want more information. *

Keeping Our Teens Involved

By Rabbi Shalom Bochner, Director of Life Long Learning

In many congregations, including this one, we ask how to keep teens involved? Fortunately, at Netivot Shalom there are some excellent answers to this question and more are being developed. Teens are not just simply one age group, they serve as a vital link between childhood and adulthood.

Becoming Bat/ Bar Mitzvah was never meant to be the culmination of Jewish education, but rather the beginning of meaningful and mature Jewish observance and growth. Despite the commonly heard phrase "Today I am an adult", we have to reorient ourselves to the idea that celebrating Bnai Mitzvah marks only the start of the journey to adulthood. We have to ensure that this continued journey is supported by age-appropriate and adequate resources.

We are blessed to have Midrasha in Berkeley, Netivot Shalom's exciting, innovative 8-12th grade program. This community high school is co-sponsored by nine other synagogues and the Center for Jewish Living and Learning. Students gather on Sunday mornings, from 9:30am to 12:30pm at Beth El (1301 Oxford St in Berkeley) for a program that is both academic and social. Midrasha is a place where students experience incredible intellectual, social, and emotional growth in their five years in the program. The teachers are charismatic and caring. As Midrasha board chair and Netivot Shalom member, Yossi Fendel put it: "Midrasha is a mensch-training facility, a machine in which B'nei Mitzvah go in and passionate, well-centered, justice-oriented adults come out." Midrasha is a prime way to connect with other Jewish teens and despite the fact that this program does not meet in our building it is truly our teen program.

For more information, please contact Diane Bernbaum, our Midrasha Director, at (510) 843-4667 or at midrasha@netivotshalom.org. or go to the Midrasha website, www.midrasha.org

There are additional ways for teens to get more involved here. Five of our teens are paid *Madrichot* (assistant teachers) in the *Kadima* School and *Amitim Bnai Mitzvah* program. These teens are true to their title as the word *Madrichah* comes from the word *Derech*, path or way and means "one who shows you the way." These teens are true role models who give back to their

younger peers. They are excellent teachers and tutors and a real source of pride for our community.

Other teens in our congregation have worked as staff at *Yamim Noraim L'Yeladim* (High Holiday children's camp), and our Youth Nights. We hope to expand the youth night programs into a monthly chance for kids to have a supervised evening of playing games, and watching movies while parents have a monthly night out.

There are also important volunteer roles available for teens: participating in our Shabbat morning Services, involvement in congregational social action projects, and working with younger kids on *Shabbat* morning. These opportunities enrich the congregation and the teen experience. If you are a teen, or a parent of a teen, please contact me if you are interested in these opportunities in the future. I can be reached at education@netivotshalom.org or 549-9447, ext 104.

While celebrating the many ways that teens are involved in our congregation and community, we are also pursuing other ways. To that end, I have been in close communication with the Northern California regional office of United Synagogue Youth (USY) which provides amazing opportunities for socializing, education, social action and travel (Israel, Europe, cross-country, etc.) within the context of Conservative Judaism. Through Kadima programs for 6th-8th graders and USY activities and teen conventions for High School students, we have the opportunity to connect our teens with hundreds of other teens in the Bay Area and thousands of teens across the country. There is nothing like the experience of being at the USY International convention held every winter break and hearing the spirited singing, fun, discussions and excitement of 900 Jewish teens together.

Other ideas that have been discussed are monthly Shabbat morning discussions for our pre and post *Bnai Mitzvah* students, adult education classes with a teen focus, and partnering with other East Bay congregations for combined teen activities. Please let me know if you wish to be involved in these discussions and proposed activities.

These efforts cannot be fully successful without additional feedback and parent involvement. As we continue to move towards the goal of offering programs for all ages of learners in this congregation, from one to one hundred, please join me in ensuring that our future, our teens, are front and center in these efforts! *

Support Midrasha's by Attending its Annual Seudah

By Diane Bernbaum

Are you passionate about social justice? Do you want to promote Jewish teen education? Attend Berkeley Midrasha's annual *Seudah* on Sunday, March 15 at 5 pm here at Netivot Shalom.

Rabbi Lee Bycel will speak on "The Jew as Global Citizen: Our Responsibility to Pursue Justice." For any of you not familiar with Rabbi Bycel, you are in for a treat. He is the Executive Director of the Western Region of the American Jewish World Service and has traveled frequently to Darfur and Chad. He was a Dean at Hebrew Union College and President of the Brandeis-Bardin Institute. He is passionate about *tikkun olam*, and loves sharing his passion with others. Tickets are \$72 and can be purchased through the Midrasha office, 843-4667. Not only will you enjoy a wonderful event, delicious food, stimulating conversation but you will be helping Midrasha remain fiscally sound.

And while I have your attention, let me share a lovely story about the sort of education you will help to foster. Each year Midrasha teachers do a great program with our 8th graders which looks at disabilities from a Jewish perspective. The other day I got an e-mail forwarded to me through three other people. It said that one of our class of 1998 graduates, Piera Miller, was now a pediatric speech pathologist with her own practice. So I wrote to her and asked her if she wanted to be part of our panel discussion on disabilities next year. She wrote back, "I definitely remember some of the Midrasha programming and it did have an impact. I still remember the woman who spoke about being hearing impaired and how she learned to read lips, but that the words "maybe" and "baby" look the same."

When I went to Ed School and was learning how to evaluate what we were teaching, I would frequently just shrug my shoulders and say, "Run it up the flag pole and see how it flies." Often teachers don't know for years...and in this case 15 years...if a particular lesson sunk in, but then out of the blue, we hear a story like this and realize that all the hard work paid off. *

Max and Cecilia Rosenheimer Camp Scholarship Fund

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

Rabbi Shalom Bochner, Director of LifeLong Learning Congregation Netivot Shalom, 1316 University Ave., Berkeley, CA 94703

The deadline for applying is EREV PURIM, Monday, MARCH 8, 2009.

Please refer questions to: Rabbi Shalom Bochner at: 510-549-9447 x104 or education@netivotshalom.org.

APPLICATION

Name of Camper			
Name(s) of Parent/Guardian			
E-Mail Address		_ Phone Number _	
Street			
City		ZIP _	
Name of Summer Camp your Child will be At	ttending		
Date of Summer Camp Sessions/_	/08 t	to/	_/08

Welcome New Members

Reva Fabrikant and Solomon Weingarten Stuart and Gerri Levitas Sarah Rosen and C. Andrew Frank

New Members Profile: Levitas Family

Gerri and Stuart Levitas recently joined Netivot Shalom. Originally from New York City, they have lived in Walnut Creek for the last eighteen years. Gerri is a Certified Hypnotherapist in private practice. She is also a piano teacher and loves composing music. Stuart is a director at Rental Housing Association and is a residential property manager. He is an avid tennis player.

Gerri and Stuart have two children: Karen, 22, is a recent graduate from UC Davis. She works as a fundraiser in San Francisco. David, 17, is a high school junior.

Gerri and Stuart were attracted Netivot Shalom's friendliness and the *ruach* at services. They are looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends. Stop by at services and say hello! *





New Member Profile: Frank Family

Aaron grew up in Atlanta, GA. He came to California to Netivot Shalom ten years ago, after earning a law degree from Emory University. He founded the California Wildlife Center in Malibu, a rehabilitation center for injured native wildlife, and serves as its President. Aaron is also on the Board of the Arava Institute, a graduate program in Israel that brings Arab and Jewish students together to study environmental issues in the Middle East. Aaron has worked with his brother, Rabbi Adam Frank (who leads a Conservative shul in Jerusalem), on advocating for new ethical standards for kosher slaughter.

Julia grew up in Danville, CA, studied Environmental Policy at UC Davis and has a Master's degree in Communications from the University of Pennsylvania. She has worked in environmental management for the past ten years, most recently at the San Francisco Department of Environment's recycling program. Aaron and Julia met five years ago when Aaron was teaching Environmental Law and Ethics at the University of San Francisco.

Julia is taking a break from her career to raise their newborn son, David. Julia recently converted to Judaism, under Rabbi Creditor's guidance. She is excited to become part of the Netivot Shalom community and she enjoys attending Wednesday's baby group with other moms. *

Consider Purchasing a Memorial Plaque Now

The Memorial Wall is appropriately set in the beautiful, transitional vestibule that leads into our sanctuary. We are now putting together an order and want to include the name(s) you select, whose cherished memory will be honored permanently. Please contact Toby Gidal, tgidal@comcast.net for additional information.

(continued from page 1)

and are deeply grateful to the following people: Dale Friedman and Joan Bradus, June and Bob Safron, Adam Stern, Lisa and Howie Miller, Jonathan Stern and Elisabeth Kashner, the Reisman/Goldschmidt family, Carol and Jim Cunradi, and seven additional anonymous donor individuals and families. These financial contributions made the concert possible.

This concert drew people not only from Netivot Shalom, but from the day schools, the camps, the youth movements, and other local synagogues from as far away as Modesto,

Fremont and Walnut Creek, expanding our community even further! Many people had never been in Netivot Shalom before and remarked about how much they loved the building and the friendly welcoming atmosphere. After the show we received the following email. "The concert itself was fabulous, and we were all caught up in the great energy and *ruach* that flowed through the audience. We haven't been to Netivot Shalom before and were all so impressed with how friendly and welcoming it was - and how many different ages and families were represented there. Thank you again for a wonderful afternoon."

Community was evident in the outpouring of volunteers. Many, many thanks to Jody Seltzer, a long



Rick Recht with Rabbi Creditor



Rick Recht after the show with Jody Seltzer and Cathy Shadd Rosenfeld who helped to put on the event.

time Netivot devotee and a teacher in our after school Kadima program, who arranged hospitality for the band, recruited patrons, sold tickets, promoted the event in her many circles, and set up for the show. In addition, thanks go out to Tamar Fendel, Sabrina Kabella, Marjorie Stamper-Kurn, Joel Gerwein, Abby Schifrin, and Jody Seltzer's Kadima class who baked goodies for our refreshment stand. And a final thank you to all the volunteers who helped the day of: Sabrina Kabella, Josh Polston, Maia Singer, Leslye Robbins, Tamar Fendel, Lauren Kindorf, Babbie Freiberg, Fran Rizzardi, Joan Kiang. The following kids helped with ticket sales: Robert Ezra Stern, Aaron Robbins, Anna Rosenfeld, Yarden Sorani, and Eliana Fujita and Danielle Chidester from Tehiyah. And a final and

HUGE thank you to Turi Adams who came early to help set up, stayed in the social hall throughout the concert to staff the refreshment stand, and was the last person to leave after cleaning up the kitchen!

If you missed the concert, want to relive it or hear more of his music, please consider purchasing CD's through the preschool which has taken on Rick Recht CD sales as a fundraiser. For more information, please contact: serenaheaslip@yahoo.com

What a blessing our community is. We have so much to celebrate and to share! Let's keep the *ruach* going! *

The Rosh Chodesh Group

Wednesday March 25, 2009

Celebrate a Women's Seder with the Rosh Chodesh Group

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

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

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> Please send a letter of interest and resume to: uscj_norcal_pnw_search@yahoo.com

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www.tehiyah.org/twonights.pdf

For enrollment information:

(510) 233-3013 ext. 239 autstein@tehiyah.org



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 Koret Foundation, and the Jan Joseph Foundation



Titi Singer and Yoram Litwin invite you to share in a simcha on March 7, 2009 - 11 Adar 5769

Tetzaveh

when their son, Tal Litwin will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah

Laurie Greenhut invites you to share in a simcha on March 14, 2009 - Adar 18, 5769 Ki Tisa

when her son, Benjamin Michael Zell will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah.

Deborah Yager and Barry Muhlfelder invite you to share in a simcha on March 28 2009 - Nissan 3, 5769 Vayikra

when their daughter; Mira Elan Muhlfelder will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah.

Dina Tasini
invites you to share in a simcha on
April 25, 2009 – Iyar 1,5769
Tazria-Metzora
when her daughter, Emma Koger
will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah.



MAZAL TOV!

Mazal Tov to Rebecca Cover and Jason Moses on their recent wedding!

Mazal Tov to Ron Skupsky and Abigail Gilbert on their recent engagement!

March 1
Kimu V'Kiblu-Megillat
Esther

APRIL

Sundays in March & April Torah of 6 feet under-

March 3 A day of Feasting & Eating

March 9

Erev Purim festival

March 29
Sandy Schneider
Memorial concert

Sunday	Monday	Tuesdav	Wednesday	Thursday	Fridav	Saturday
	`	`	7:15 AM Morning Minyan 10:00 AM Baby Group 1:00 PM La'ssok: Adult Torah Study in the Library 7:30 PM Entering the Talmud w/R. Carol Caine	8 Nisan 10:30 AM Pre-School Time 3:30 PM Kadima Classes 7:30 PM Back To the Torah - The Book of Exodus	3 9 Nisan 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat 7:15 PM Candle lighting	Shabbat HaGadol 9:00 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Shabbat Services 10:30 AM Rimmonim / children in grades K-2 8:16 PM Havdalah
3:00 PM Class: The Torah of Six Feet Under with Jhos Singer 5:00 PM Social Action Cooks at Dorothy Day Men's Shelter	6 I2 Nisan Education Office Closed 10:30 AM Pre-School Time	7 3:30 PM Kadima Classes	B 14 Nisan Erev Pesach - Offices close at 1:00 PM Ta anit Bechorot Preschool Closed 7:15 AM Morning Minyan 10:00 AM Baby Group 7:20 PM Candle lighting	9 IS Nisan Preschool Closed Pesach I - Offices & Schools Closed 9:00 AM Services	Preschool Closed Pesach II - Offices & Schools Closed 7:22 PM Candle lighting	Pesach III (CH"M) 9:00 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Shabbat Services 10:00 AM Meditative Minyan 11:00 AM Shabbat B'Xachad-Program families and children under five 8:23 PM Havdalah
12 I & Nisan Pesach IV (CH"M) 3:00 PM Class: The Torah of Six Feet Under with Jhos Singer	13 Posach V (CH"M) Education Office Closed 10:30 AM Pre-School Time	Pesach VI (CH"M) 9:00 AM Kadima Classes canceled for Pesach 7:25 PM Candle lighting	Pesach VII - Offices & Schools Closed 7:15 AM Morning Minyan 10:00 AM Baby Group	16 22 Nisan Pesach VIII- Offices & Schools CI 9:00 AM Services 8:27 PM Havdalah	17 23 Nisan 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat 7:28 PM Candle lighting	24 Nisan 9:00 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Shabbat Services 10:30 AM Rimmonim/ grades K-2 8:29 PM Havdalah
9:30 AM Shacharit Minyan and Program 2:00 PM Amitim's Tzedek (social action) Sunday 3:00 PM Class: The Torah of Six Feet Under with Jhos Singer	26 Nisan Education Office Closed 10:30 AM Pre-School Time	21 S7 Nisan Yom HaShoah 3:30 AM Kadima Classes resume	7:15 AM Morning Minyan 10:00 AM Baby Group 1:00 PM La'asok: Adult Torah Study in the Library 7:00 PM Jewish Federation Leadership initiative	29 Nisan 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	30 Nisan Rosh Chodesh Iyyar 12:30 PM Preschool Shabbat 7:35 PM Candle lighting	Rosh Chodesh Iyyar Bat Mizvah of Emma Koger (daughter of Dina Tasini) 9:00 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Shabbat Services 11:00 AM Shabbat B'Yachad-Program families and children under five 11:00 AM Orah VeSimchah Youth Services (3-5 graders) 3:00 PM Learning with Aviva Zomberg at Beth Israel 8:36 PM Howdolgh
26 2 Iyyar 10:30 AM Learning with Aviva Zornberg at Beth El 3:00 PM Class: The Torah of Six Feet Under with Jhos Singer	27 3 lyyar Education Office Closed 10:30 AM Pre-School Time	28 4 lyyar Yom HaZikaron 3:30 PM Kadima Classes	Yom HaAtzma'ut 7:15 AM Morning Minyan 10:00 AM Baby Group 1:00 PM La'asok: Adult Torah Study in the Library	30 6 Iyyar 10:30 AM Pre-School Time 3:30 PM Kadima Classes 7:30 PM Back To the Torah - The Book of Exodus		

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 Textural 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-inresidence 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.

We appreciate the following donors for contributing to one of our funds during the months of December 2008 and January 2009. We apologize if we have inadvertently missed anything including a name or donation.

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Toby & George Gidal

Lucille Kulwin: in memory of Jan Fischer **Ruth Weisberg**: in honor of the Heinsteins

Building Fund

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Charlene Stern & Michael Irwin: in honor of Peter Dale Scott's 80th birthday

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Gemilut Hasadim

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Social Action Fund

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(continued on page 20)

NOTICES DONATIONS, CONT.

One Summer...Two Choices! Spend Summer 2009 on PanimWorks: An Activist's Adventure!

PanimWorks: DC JAM, on the campus of The George Washington University, is a leadership training program for teens passionate about politics, community service, activism, and Judaism. Become a leader in the political world and the Jewish community today! Learn about key issues impacting the U.S. and the world through interactions with leading U.S. policymakers and experts, while exploring the connection between Judaism and advocacy. Participate in meaningful handson service projects, while earning community service-learning hours. Develop the skills to pioneer change and impact the issues you care about. Two 2-week sessions or a four week session (including a bonus opportunity of a placement in DC agency) will be offered for students currently in grades 10-12. www.dcjam.org

Contact: Reisa Shanaman 301-770-5070, x 217 or dcjam@panim.org

PanimWorks: Southwest is a cultural exchange and community service program on a Native American Reservation in the American Southwest. Make a difference as you live in rustic accommodations on a Native American reservation, interacting with members of the Zuni and Hopi Nations while working together to promote positive change. This trip in the majestic Southwest includes hands-on service projects as well as outdoor recreational activities. Make lifelong friends and learn about the ethical values that define Jewish life while earning up to 45 community service-learning hours. Three sessions will be offered for students currently in grades 9-12. www.panimworks.org

Contact: Hershel Cohen 301-770-5070, x209 or panimworks@panim.org

Celebrating a Bat/Bar Mitzvah at Netivot Shalom within the next three years (2009, 2010, or 2011)?

Do you have a son or daughter who is in 5th, 6th or 7th grade? If you have not already been in touch with Rabbi Shalom Bochner, Director of Life Long Learning about the date; please contact him: education@netivotshalom.org as soon as possible with your child's English/Gregorian birthday and time of birth so he can figure out their Hebrew birthday. We are improving the process of how Bnai Mitzvah dates are chosen and confirmed and need to be in touch with every family who will be celebrating a Bar/Bat Mitzvah within the next three years. This is for all families: Hebrew School, Day School, public school, private school, etc.

DONATIONS

(continued from page 19)

Christopher Romer & Amy Nelson: Holiday Dinner Drive

Todd Rumph & Ruth Elowitz: Holiday Dinner Drive

Maxim Schrogin: Darfur Benefit
Mel & Lisa Sibony: for Dorothy Day
Homeless Meals

Peter & Nan Strauss: in honor of Peter's 75th Birthday

Stephanie Davis Fund

Gus & Sue Davis: in honor of Ruth Meisel's 90th birthday

Gus & Sue Davis: in loving memory of their daughter, Stephanie Davis

Yom Kippur Appeal

Joseph & Dorothy Becker
Chauncey & Shirah Alice Bell
Carol & Jim Cunradi
Ed Anisman & Claire Sherman
Lee Bearson & Babbie Freiberg
Chauncey & Shirah Alice Bell
Jerry Berkman & Carolyn Koestel
Joan Bieder
Nina Birnbaum
Robin Braverman

Herman & Shelly Bruch Carol & Jim Cunradi Clara Davis & Rachel Krantz Carol Dorf & Nathan Landau Sharon Friedman & Leo Meier
Barry Groody & Jenny Schwartz
Charlene Stern & Michael Irwin
Jack Joseph & Gail Gordon
Elisabeth Kashner & Jonathan Stern
Ellen Lent-Wunderlich
Michael McCullough & Judith Lesser
McCullough
Robert Milton & Lisa Frank
Judy Penso
Nancy Rothschild
Rebecca Schwartz & Jonathan Berk
Rita Stein
Adam Weisberg & Rachel Brodie

Deborah & Michael Feiler

YOUTH EDUCATION

Our **Preschool**, serves children between 2 and 4 years of age. "Inspire Our Hearts, Light up our Eyes." The program provides a learning environment rich in Jewish content, with a focus on Hebrew language. Learning is interactive; children cook, garden, sing, listen and tell stories, perform math and science projects, dance, and celebrate Jewish holidays. For more information contact Lauren Kindorf, Preschool Director, at 549-9447.

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.

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 *tefillahl* 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.

Religious School for children in grades K–6. Hebrew Bilingual Program (K- 2nd grade) meets on Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.; K is just on Tuesday. Kadima School (3rd - 6th grades) meets on Tuesday and Thursday 4:00-6:00 p.m.

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 *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. For children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade.

Shabbat B'Yachad: 11:00 a.m., 2nd and 4th Shabbat each month. For families with children up to five years old.

Orah VeSimchah: 11:00 a.m., monthly. For children in 3rd through 5th grades.

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 Service for all ages (especially 3-9 year olds), with singing, a Torah story and the minimum *halachic* service. Meets monthly. 6:00 p.m. snack, 7:00 p.m. service followed by dinner and concluded with stories.

SOCIAL ACTION

Claremont House Kabbalat Shabbat 4500 Gilbert, Oakland, 5th floor lounge. 7:00 p.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.

V-1	7.1	1. 1 1	3.7 1		1 1	1 1
Yahrzeits	Lichronam	lıvrachah —	- May the	ir memories	be b	lessed

		chronam livrachi
Norma Blankstein Lewis	March I	Adar 5
Martin Trow Murray Walter	March I March 2	Adar 5 Adar 6
Krusa Kieliszek	March 3	Adar 7
Bette Ann Spielman	March 3	Adar 7
Susan Fendel	March 4	Adar 8
Joseph Jacobson	March 4	Adar 8
Henrietta Mandel	March 4	Adar 8
Florence Bernstein	March 5	Adar 9
Harry Clay Frank	March 5	Adar 9
George Popell	March 5	Adar 9
Esther Lipow Susan Shackman	March 6 March 6	Adar 10 Adar 10
Blanche Birnbaum	March 7	Adar II
Benjamin Gottlieb	March 7	Adar II
Abraham Levine	March 7	Adar II
Irving Liebman	March 7	Adar II
Beverly Lowsky	March 7	Adar II
Julius Gottleib	March 9	Adar 13
Marc Rappaport	March 9	Adar 13
Blanche Block	March 10	Adar 14
Helen Gould Morris Lifschitz	March 10	Adar 14
Melvin K. Sires	March 10 March 10	Adar 14 Adar 14
Henry Cohen	March II	Adar 14 Adar 15
lean Taylor Coy	March II	Adar 15
Esther Eva Yachelson Goldman	March II	Adar 15
Henry Greenberg	March II	Adar 15
Joan Ruth Groody	March II	Adar 15
Jack Jacobs	March II	Adar 15
Louis Woolf Meltzer	March II	Adar 15
Tillie Zimmerman Alter	March 12	Adar 16
Seymour Bradus	March 12	Adar 16
Joseph Hornstein	March 12	Adar 16
Stella G. Dorman Morris Spelfogel	March 13 March 13	Adar 17 Adar 17
Eileen Sheila Derblich	March 14	Adar 18
Wilson Kelman	March 14	Adar 18
Stephanie Davis	March 15	Adar 19
Herman Gold	March 15	Adar 19
Judith Gold	March 15	Adar 19
Gertrude Schorner	March 15	Adar 19
Myer Sefkin	March 15	Adar 19
Jules Shuchat	March 15	Adar 19
Ralph Dubin	March 16	Adar 20
Rose Lowsky	March 16 March 16	Adar 20
Sara Lee Rosenfeld Ruth Schwartz Banen	March 16	Adar 20 Adar 20
Carl Slater	March 18	Adar 20 Adar 22
Laurette Goldberg	March 19	Adar 23
Jerome Grossman	March 19	Adar 23
Morris Rothstein	March 19	Adar 23
Marjoie Alper	March 20	Adar 24
Rachel Press	March 20	Adar 24
Ben Shuchat	March 20	Adar 24
Robert Finegold	March 21	Adar 25
Frieda Kittner	March 21	Adar 25
Claire Abrahams	March 22	Adar 26
Clarence Kaufman	March 22	Adar 26
Mira Kon Esther P. Matthews	March 22 March 22	Adar 26 Adar 26
Pearl Pripstein	March 22	Adar 26 Adar 26
Bennett Hornstein	March 23	Adar 26 Adar 27
Nathan Brandwynne	March 24	Adar 28
David A. Lesser	March 24	Adar 28
Helen Rosenthal	March 25	Adar 29
Renate Berk	March 26	Nissan I
Max Falk	March 26	Nissan I
Anna Margueleis Schuman	March 30	Nissan 5
Barbara Strauss	March 30	Nissan 5
Frances Keller Jack Berger	March 31 April 3	Nissan 6 Nissan 9

— May their memories b	e blessed	
Julius Rock	April 3	Nissan 9
Morton Berger	April 4	Nissan 10
Bernhardt Dorman	April 4	Nissan 10
Florence Greenhut	April 4	Nissan 10
Morris Louis Sheftel	April 4	Nissan 10
Hyman Feinstein	April 5	Nissan I I
Charlotte Koltun	April 5	Nissan I I
Betty Falk	April 6	Nissan 12
Reggie Hyne	April 6	Nissan 12
Aharon Horowitz	April 7	Nissan 13
Ellis Liebman	April 7	Nissan 13
Saul Sherman	April 7	Nissan 13
Mary Jane Dannenbaum	April 8	Nissan 14
Jacob Gordon	April 8	Nissan 14
Chaya Koslow	April 8	Nissan 14
Penina Shragai	April 9	Nissan 15
Gabriel Medress	April 10	Nissan 16
Sandy Schneider	April 10	Nissan 16
Coya Alkanli	April I I	Nissan 17
Isaac Barzilay	April I I	Nissan 17
Sarah Gordon	April I I	Nissan 17
Rifka Radousky	April I I	Nissan 17
Rosemary Levinson Ilan Gabriel Biederman	April 12	Nissan 18
	April 13	Nissan 19
Morris (Moishe) Brose	April 13	Nissan 19 Nissan 19
Margaret McCullough Jerew lack Maslan	April 13	Nissan 19 Nissan 19
Samuel Nathan Schwartz	April 13	Nissan 19
Mayer Wiesel	April 13 April 13	Nissan 19
Sadie Estry	April 14	Nissan 20
Devorah Fox	April 14	Nissan 20
Gitla Zak	April 14	Nissan 20
Shimon Nusan ben Yosef Chaim	April 15	Nissan 21
Fred Marcus	April 15	Nissan 21
Ethel Wilonsky	April 16	Nissan 22
Max Slavin	April 17	Nissan 23
Rose Feige Kaplan	April 18	Nissan 24
Morton Quittel	April 18	Nissan 24
Abraham Jacob Tolmach	April 18	Nissan 24
Marian Wagner	April 18	Nissan 24
Rabbi Samuel Haim Dresner	April 19	Nissan 25
Joseph C. Swidler	April 19	Nissan 25
Leah Jacobson Reingold	April 20	Nissan 26
William Schwartz	April 20	Nissan 26
Ursula Felton Sherman	April 20	Nissan 26
Sara Atik	April 21	Nissan 27
Sara Ruth Bat Avraham	April 21	Nissan 27
Chana Goldberg	April 21	Nissan 27
Rose Raffel	April 21	Nissan 27
Rybacky Family	April 21	Nissan 27
Maurice B. Strauss	April 21	Nissan 27
Frieda Valfer	April 21	Nissan 27
Herman Valfer	April 21	Nissan 27
Michael Dimond	April 23	Nissan 29
Itzolin Garcia	April 24	Nissan 30
Sol Gidal	April 26	lyar 2
Harry Greif	April 26	lyar 2
Mark Brass	April 27	lyar 3
David Goldman	April 27	lyar 3
Pauline Wise Levy	April 28	lyar 4
Sadie Samet Rice	April 28	lyar 4
Richard Jaeger	April 29	lyar 5
Hermine Rosin	April 29	lyar 5
Shirley Fain	April 30	lyar 6
Deborah Richmond Maccoby	April 30	lyar 6

We Extend Our Condolences to the Families of:

Chana Valder, z"l, grandmother of Elad Ziv Josephine Walter, z"l, mother of Laurie Marson Jan Fischer, z"l, mother of Rachel, Rebecca, and Sheila Fischer

along with all others who mourn Zion and Jerusalem.



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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Netivot Shalom

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

THE 24TH JEWISH MUSIC FESTIVAL

MARCH 21-APRIL 2, 2009

A PROGRAM OF THE JCC OF THE EAST BAY
WITH CONCERTS THROUGHOUT THE BAY AREA

This year's hopping lineup presents a boatload of artists from Germany, New York, Toronto and the Bay Area. The Festival Week opens Saturday night, March 21st, with Kosher Gospel featuring Joshua Nelson and the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. Highlights include performances by America's First Lady of Sephardic music, Flory Jagoda; klezmer and bluegrass giant Andy Statman at Yoshi's SF; several concerts celebrating the work of Swiss-American, local composer Ernest Bloch. The Festival is presenting the American premiere of Canadian Yiddish swing sensation Sisters of Sheynville and hosting the CD release party for pioneering, radical Yiddish group Daniel Kahn and the Painted Bird.

Group discounts and info: $510.848.0237 \times 118$ Tickets are on sale, 800.838.3006 or www.jewishmusicfestival.org

Announcing the

Netivot Shalom Israel Trip!

August 2-16, 2009

Please contact Rabbi Creditor for more information.

Leshanah Haba'ah BiYerushalayim -Next year in Jerusalem!