



CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

ELUL/TISHREI 5769/5770



Shacharit at the Robinson's Arch



Riding camels

Netivot Shalom Israel Trip 2009



The border with Lebanon



Tzfat Artists' Market

By Jerry Berkman

Rabbi Creditor led a group of Netivot Shalom families on a trip to Israel for two weeks in August. The trip was fantastic. We saw incredible scenery, experienced the country's diversity, and learned so much history. The trip was organized by Keshet, <http://www.keshetisrael.co.il>. We had three fantastic Keshet staff members on the tour: Jared Goldfarb who was the tour director, Ayal Beer who worked with All photos of Israel trip by Jerry Berkman.

the teens and young adults, and Tamar Cohen who worked with the younger kids. The families received an informative source book with a lot of background for the visited sites.

We visited sites key in the evolution of Judaism: Zippori (where the *Mishnah* was written down), Tzfat (the center of *Kabbalah*), Masada (the last stand of the Jewish rebellion against the Romans in 73 B.C.), and Jerusalem. The group leaders and Rabbi
(continued on page 2)

Printed on request. Call the CNS office at 510-549-9447, ext 101, for a printed copy.

(continued from page 1)

Creditor taught us how Judaism changed to meet successive challenges, such as the switch from a Temple centered to a text based religion, from Temple priests as leaders to Rabbinic leadership, and from Jews in their own land to Jews in the diaspora.

The trip also focused on the development of the Jewish people and of the state of Israel. We visited sites which were key in this evolution, such as Independence Hall in Tel Aviv where Ben Gurion proclaimed the independence of Israel in 1948, Ben Gurion's tomb, Yerucham (a development town trying to incorporate new immigrants into Israel), and Rabin Square (the site of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin).

My two favorite cities were Tzfat and Jerusalem. Tzfat is so beautiful, clinging to the side of a mountain in the Galil. Tzfat became an important Jewish center after the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492. Here Jewish mysticism and the *Kabbalah* took root. In addition to being the center of Jewish mysticism, a Jewish artists' colony thrives there.

My other favorite city is, of course, Jerusalem where we spent both Shabbats. We visited the Western Wall (*Kotel*) plaza controlled by the ultra-Orthodox, which requires separation of men and women. Thus, we could not have services there. Instead the group prayed at Robinson's Arch at the southern end of the Western Wall controlled by the Antiquities Authority, *davening* our first *Kabbalat* Shabbat there. We returned there on a Monday to *daven Shacharit*. Many people choose to have Bar/Bat Mitzvahs at the site on Mondays since the Torah is read as part of the service, and there are no Shabbat restrictions on photographing and videotaping the ceremony. We *davened Shacharit* sharing the site



Blowing the shofar at Robinson's Arch.



Mosaic at Zippori

area with others: with three or four *B'nei Mitzvot*, and groups of tourists and young soldiers. It was noisy and full of distractions (there are even rent-a-drummers), yet still moving and inspirational.

The group toured many archaeological sites, including the Western Wall Tunnel running about 1600 feet long from the Western Wall plaza to the north end of the Wall, under a Muslim neighborhood. In the tunnel, we saw how King Herod and others after him built the Wall to create and support the Temple Mount plaza where the First and Second Temples stood. The stones in the wall are large, weighing between two and eight tons. The largest, called the "Western Stone" weighs about 570 tons! It is 44.6' long, 9.8' high, and 10.8' thick. How did they ever quarry and move a stone that big? It was here in 1996 where the order to add a northern exit to the Tunnels sparked riots in which 80 people were killed. We also looked for our own antiquities at Tel Beit Guvrin, conquered by the Maccabees.

In Hezekiah's water tunnel, built to trap and divert water from Jerusalem's springs to a reservoir inside the city in case of a siege, we walked the entire third of a mile length of the narrow, dark, and not very tall (less than 5 feet in spots) tunnel using glow sticks for light. It had several feet of water flowing through it though it had not rained in months.

We also talked with many Israelis. One, Eitan, a member of Kibbutz Malkiya on the Lebanese border, in charge of the kibbutz's orchards, took us to a nectarine orchard right on the border pointing out a Hezbollah outpost. There, the group met soldiers patrolling the border and prayed for their safety in their presence. At Kibbutz Ein Dor a Haganah fighter, Aryeh Malkin, who was born in the Bronx and made Aliyah to help cre-

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

ate the state of Israel spoke to us. He had been a crew member of a ship smuggling Holocaust survivors into Israel by tricking the British. In Jerusalem, Rabbi Jerry Epstein described to the group his struggles as head of the Masorti (Conservative) Yeshiva, and we were his guests for lunch and studied Talmud there with a student, Ilana Kurshan.

We visited several non-profits trying to improve life in Israel: Nalaga'at Center for the deaf and blind in Tel Aviv and Yad LaKashish providing craft work opportunities for the elderly. We prepared a meal at the Hazon Yeshayah soup kitchen, and picked onions for Project Leket which distributes fresh produce to the poor.

Visiting the Israeli Supreme Court, we learned there are major differences between their system and ours: they have no trial by jury, they have a separate religious court system dealing with marriage and divorce, and their Supreme Court justices are selected by committee hence there are often long vacancies. We learned about Theodore Herzl's role in the establishment of the State of Israel.

On the second to the last day, we visited Yah Vashem, Israel's center for commemoration, documentation, research, and education about the Holocaust. We started our visit in the Valley of the Communities, a maze of high walls of Jerusalem stone listing throughout the names of the 5000 Jewish communities destroyed in the Holocaust. Though on the western end of Yad Vashem and incredibly moving, it is rarely visited.

I found Israel inspiring, seeing the Israelis trying to solve problems and making the Jewish State and the world a better place. I appreciated that everything shuts down



Picking onions for the poor

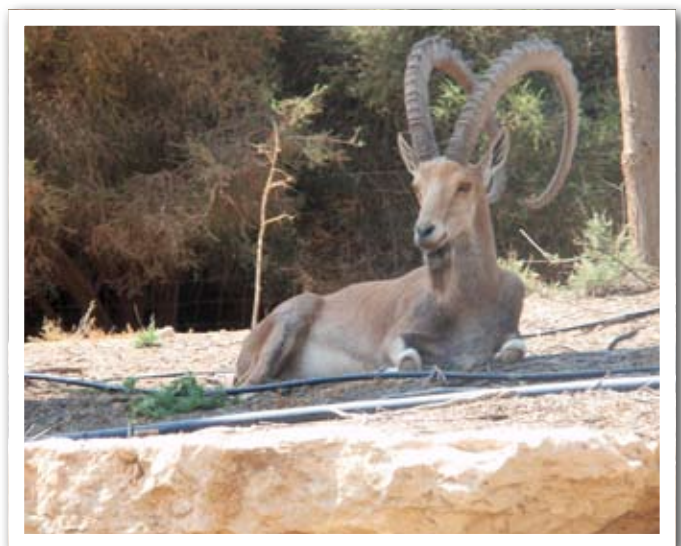
in Jerusalem beginning about 2 or 3 p.m. on Friday to prepare for Shabbat, and that their street names mean something to me. I'd rather live on a street named after Vladimir Jabotinsky or Ben Yehuda than Eton Ave (who/what was Eton?).

For more on the trip, see the Netivot Shalom website, or talk to one of the people who went on it: Rabbi and Liz Creditor, Jerry Berkman and Carolyn Koestel, Sandra Gore and Ron Sires, Andy Kahn and Janet Schneider, Norma Kaufman and Michael Meltzer, Lauren and Shannon Kindorf, Corey and Rita Largman, and Diana Wood, or their children, who were on the trip.

If you want to go on a tour, Rabbi Creditor is leading another trip next summer starting June 21 ...



Group photo of the adults



Ibex

God's Loneliness

By Rabbi Menachem Creditor



Regular encounters with death have taught me to look into people's eyes and to hear their words with both urgency and patience. There is such holiness waiting in all people. We need only to listen to their voices.

Birth has taught me that everything we do reverberates in the souls of others. No act is neutral. We have deep power within to heal ourselves and those around us. The human capacity to alter the cosmos can be used – must be used – for good.

I've learned that flaws are holy, that the deepest forms of joy and comfort come after accepting personal vulnerability. And once we learn to see and cherish our own imperfections, we can learn to more honestly accept and love others.

Deep breathing is good.

Crying is good.

Laughing is good.

Holding each other is exquisite.

Granting each other space is healthy.

I've learned that God's loneliness birthed us and is a source of deep love. I've learned that we are never truly alone.



Rabbi Creditor and Raya



Rabbi Creditor and family

Creating and Strengthening Our Community: The Berkeley Synagogue Partnership is Officially Launched!!!

By Jeff Rosenbloom

“Lovely idea. I am unaffiliated and have tried to figure out where to “affiliate,” but so far have failed. This opportunity to roam about throughout the holidays is a fabulous idea and I am happy to support this effort at building a more cohesive community in Berkeley.”

Response to Passport Program

Although we live in very fluid Jewish community, with many people having multiple memberships at different congregations and attending various services, there were no “official” connections between the various Berkeley Synagogues. A few months ago I floated the idea of creating a coalition of Berkeley Synagogues. Since there seemed to be a strong desire among other Board leaders and members, I decided to test the waters.

Fairly recently, Netivot Shalom member Mike Irwin called me to say that his contact at Beth El (Dan Magid—their VP) was interested in connecting with us. Then, after a flurry of emails, we had our first meeting with Congregations Beth El and Beth Israel. Within a THREE (!) meetings, we formed the Berkeley Synagogue Partnership (BSP).

The subsequent level of excitement and enthusiasm is amazing. There really was a pent-up demand for a more overt connection within our community. Some initial BSP members knew each other through our children attending Jewish day schools; still as presidents of Berkeley’s largest *shuls*, we were virtual strangers. We quickly realized that we are all struggling with the same concerns: membership, leadership, budgets, and building projects. We individually have learned lessons and re-invented solutions.

I have always wanted to encourage the unaffiliated Jews in the East Bay to check out the various synagogues. Given the fact that there are about 5,000 unaffiliated Jews in the East Bay with the synagogues being so different, I don’t really see our various synagogues competing with each other.

Our first project is a Passport to attend ALL of the Berkeley Synagogues for this year’s High Holidays. The BSP wants to communicate that we are a community and invites folks to check us out and see the diversity as well as connection among the various congregations. Due to the high level of cooperation within a month advertisements were placed in the Berkeley Monthly, Express and Hills Newspapers. There are now six members of the BSP: Beth El, Beth Israel, Chabad,

Chochmat HaLev, Aquarian Minyan as well as CNS. Stan Wulf from Beth Israel summarizes our other areas of interest:

Joint Programming

Over the years the synagogues have enjoyed a number of joint events, but the frequency and success have varied. These occasions came about if someone happened to think about it. The past year has seen an increased number of well attended and successful events; however, there has still not been a process of evaluation and improvement. For many years our biggest shared event was the Simchat Torah celebration – until it ended abruptly one year over the nature of the celebratory activities. Now that the BSP has been established, we will plan ahead, organize with sensitivity to various needs, and deal with issues with respect and understanding in order to increase and strengthen our bonds.

Co-operation and Support

A practical application of the BSP is to capitalize on efficiencies of various kinds – both material and intellectual. The free flow of ideas between our presidents will inspire us with new ways to serve our members. Joint planning will lead to efficiencies ranging from shared janitorial staff to bulk purchases, from furniture rentals to advertising. There are opportunities waiting to be explored.

A Joint Voice

While we have differences within and between our individual communities, there are some circumstances in which we need to unite as one community. When we are challenged by anti-semitism and anti-Israel activity, we must respond, when appropriate, with a common voice. Our rabbis study together, and now our presidents meet together. When it is necessary, our communities will be able to stand together.

Community Outreach

Besides our HH Passport, we will look at other opportunities such as a BSP *sukkah* tour. Let me know if you have other ideas on how to “cross-pollinate”! It is the collective growth of the Berkeley affiliated community that is our overarching goal.

I am thrilled with what has been accomplished in so short a time. Please provide any and all ideas to me that I can share with the BSP—from joint events to ways that we can strengthen our community.

As we enter the New Year, may we grow stronger by sharing with and learning from each other. I wish a *Shanah Tovah* to the members of the Congregation Netivot Shalom community along with all the members of the synagogues in our community.

Another Perspective on the Israel Trip

By Gerry Gartenberg

Netivot Shalom members were joined on the Israel tour by several non-bay area families. This article was written by a member of the Gartenberg family from New York on the first Shabbat after the trip concluded.

“Time it was and what a time it was.”

Hi there Group:

As Shabbat approaches (sooner for us than for most of you), I am thinking about, dreaming about our “Shabbat Circle” in Jerusalem...It is easy to peer through recent memory, and see all of us gathered together in evening’s light...

The beautiful light of that togetherness blends with the sounds of our song, and the sights of Jerusalem dancing across time while somehow standing radiant and still—for us.

How to stop time?...or even to slow it down just a little so we might drink-in all of this?

I asked myself that question last week as we all were linked together in so many ways.

I’m asking myself that question today.

It was only when I looked at each of you, moving from face to face in that rather expansive and protean circle, that time seemed to take a respectful pause, perhaps basking as I was, in the glow of all of us.



Valley of the Communities, Yad Vashem, with our leader, Jared.



The Kotel (Western Wall)

We had in that moment, despite everything that might be different about us—a sense of shared purpose....and a sense of wonderful possibility...I think we went “past possibility” in those moments, and through all of the days together.

A few days ago, as I walked the streets of New York City and dreamed the streets of Jerusalem, I thought how that sense of shared purpose is part of the lifeblood of Israel. It may be rooted in cultural conditioning and historical necessity, but it is THERE...

In my longing for the Land and its lifeblood, it was easy to think of all these jaded New Yorkers (me, among them, if I wasn’t careful), going their very separate ways, barely affected by the beat of others...

My New York street experience reminded me how easy it is, at least for me, to get caught up in this swarm of benign indifference and emotional numbness and to lose sight of that sense of connection and involvement and higher purpose.

At moments like that, perhaps always, I need Israel to call back to me and remind me to not lose sight of what’s most important...HERE in America, there in the Land. Funny how the Israel I just met is the one I now need...always...

I have such wonderful memories to draw upon, such “teachable moments” to turn to, such narratives and experiences to draw from, thanks to all of you and to that rather big stake in the ground we made together.

Let’s keep digging.

Shabbat Shalom



Photos by Alice Webber.

The Netivot Shalom 2009 Biennial Retreat Has Been Meaningful to Me Because...

By Janet Schneider

From all accounts the 2009 Biennial Retreat was a huge success with kudos once again to Dan and Traci Siegel. Overall, the evaluations were extremely positive with “getting to know other members” and “experiencing the warmth of the Netivot Shalom community” as highlights repeated over and over again. Other highlights included:

- Kabbalat Shabbat outdoors
- Rabbi Gillman’s scholar-in-residence
- Youth activities
- Being in nature and hiking opportunities
- Music and singing
- Quality time with my own family
- Pool
- Circus arts
- Art projects

- Opportunity to relax
- Opportunity to study

Folks wanted more structured opportunities to get to know new people, better organization during meal times, less announcements, increased ADA accessibility, and of course, BETTER FOOD!

Reading the evaluations, I was struck by the many comments about Rabbi Gillman’s sessions.

“The sessions with Rabbi Gillman were wonderful. I felt that they brought us to a new deeper level of conversation about our religious practices.”

“Dr. Gillman stretched my head, enabled me to think in many different ways.”

“The opportunity to be, study with, learn from R. Gillman in the context of our community has been life affirming-an incredible gift and a huge opening.”

For those who didn’t attend Rabbi Gillman’s sessions, Barry Kamil wrote this accompanying article. I missed the 2009 retreat but based on what I read, I won’t miss the 2011.

Connecting the Dots with Rabbi Gillman

By Barry Kamil

Rabbi Creditor brought one of his rabbinic mentors to be scholar-in-residence at our recent retreat, providing a unique opportunity to reexamine Jewish theology together. Rabbi Gillman did something I have never encountered before in my entire Jewish experience; he approached head-on all of the most difficult, unanswerable questions about God and the meaning of human existence, and attempted to address them in a comprehensive, systematic way. He introduced himself by reviewing his own growth process and described his extensive background in philosophy and theology. He discussed the core insights he had gained to present us with a framework within which to pursue our joint investigation.

Rabbi Gillman challenged our assumptions that we really know what we think we know. A central premise of his approach to our pursuit of knowledge is that we naturally “connect the dots” of our sensory experience of the world, forming our own hypotheses to make sense of it. When we contemplate the ultimate questions about our world and our place in it, particularly the most challenging ones involving our own human condition and our relation to God, we use a set of symbols and metaphors that constitute what he calls our *mythic* system. As we can never know God’s essence with our limited minds, we must use our own human-made mythic system to try to represent the very things that challenge our capacity for understanding.

Relating his experience as student and then professor and Jewish Theological Seminary dean, he reviewed Rabbis Mordechai Kaplan’s and Abraham Joshua Heschel’s ideas and how they shaped his own thinking. Rabbi Gillman’s concepts broke through the entire set of traditional categories of thinking I had taken for granted throughout my life, and allowed me to glimpse a new set of possibilities. At one point near the end of our first full day in dialog with him, I found myself asking him three things that seemed to crystallize the many questions he had provoked in me. “Does God exist separately from us?”

“No,” he replied. “Is God volitional?” “With an independent will? Yes,” he stated. Finally, “Does God exist?” I asked. “No,” he replied; “God does not *exist*, because to exist is to be limited, finite, to have an end... God *is*.” Those answers allowed me to move into a new way of looking at the questions before us.

That evening at *Havdalah*, as we gathered to bid farewell to *Shabbat*, over two hundred of us sat outside on a large deck under the deepening twilight sky. Rabbi Creditor *davened Mincha* and talked to us about Rabbi Heschel, student of the Baal Shem Tov and great-grandfather of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, whom we had talked about repeatedly during the day. Then, Liora Brosbe dramatized two Hasidic tales for us that enacted the triumph of hesed over selfishness. As the evening grew dark, we stood in a circle many people deep, chanting the Havdalah prayers led by Claire Sherman.

As I watched the flame of the *Havdalah* candle, I could feel all the “dots” connecting themselves – connecting the Baal Shem Tov to Abraham Joshua Heschel, to Rabbi Gillman, to Rabbi Creditor, to Liora Brosbe, to us, to the flame of the *Havdalah* candle – converging in an encompassing Presence. Later that evening, we went to Dr. Les Garfinkle’s Crystal Bowl meditation where he told us to breathe in and out deeply, to think of our breathing as “God’s C.P.R.,” breathing life into us, sustaining us. It was a powerful way to end what had been a most extraordinary day of re-thinking and re-living our Jewish existence.



Photo by Traci Siegel.

Post Script From the Retreat

Rabbi Gillman's suggested reading list

Will Herberg, *Judaism and Modern Man: An Interpretation of Jewish Religion*

Paul Tillich, *Dynamics of Faith*

Eugene Borowitz, *Renewing the Covenant: a Theology for the Postmodern Jew*

Neil Gillman, *Sacred Fragments: Recovering Theology for the Modern Jew, Encountering God in Judaism, and Doing Jewish Theology*

Judith Plaskow, *Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective*

Joseph Campbell, *Thou Art That: Transforming Religious Metaphor*

Study Group Formed

Barry Kamil continues... Since the retreat, I have followed up on Rabbi Gillman's reading recommendations, among them his groundbreaking *Sacred Fragments*, his cogent *Encountering God in Judaism*, and his recent *Doing Jewish Theology*. In these books he surveys the history of Jewish thinking, allowing us to re-encounter Rabbi Luria and his concept of our partnership with God for redemption, Martin Buber and his work on illuminating the I-Thou relationship with God, and Rabbi Heschel's prophetic view of God's role in our worldly struggles. Rabbi Gillman directly addresses the most difficult theological and human problems, suffering and evil in the world, and the ultimate meaning of our existence. He ends the first two books by encouraging his readers to form groups to read and discuss the ideas he presents, and the questions they provoke. A group of congregants who were moved by Rabbi Gillman's dialog has already formed to do just this, and we encourage others who are interested to form more study groups. Our own Rabbi Creditor has graciously agreed to consult with any group that is engaged in attempting to incorporate these inspiring new perspectives into their lives.



Photos by Sue Sheftel.

Kol Truah Moving Back to Netivot Shalom

By Cantor Pam Sawyer

Ten years ago, Sanford Schneider, ז"ל, an accomplished musician and member of CNS passed away. I wrote an article for the newsletter shortly after his death. It appears now, with very few changes.

"As I write this, I am sitting at my desk, surrounded by stacks of music I have spent blissful hours examining. Where did this music come from? Several months ago, Helen Schneider and I went through her late husband, Sandy's, boxes and shelves of music, deciding what to do with it. While we were doing this, Helen told me that Sandy had no formal cantorial training. Unbelievable! I had known Sandy as a musician par excellence: a performer, both on piano and vocal, and a composer. He had played me recordings of pieces he had written, beautiful pieces for vocal ensembles and solo. We had discussed my choir in Alameda performing some of his pieces. But it never happened, for one reason or another. Sandy was also a real advocate of new music by contemporary Jewish composers.

OK, so what does all this have to do with the stacks of music, you may ask. In 1974, Sandy ז"ל, upon the urging of Rosalyn and David Moss (then Berkeley residents), created a professional Bay Area chorus, KOL TRUAH. Auditions were announced. "KOL TRUAH...the newly-formed professional Jewish chorus in the Bay Area. Under the direction of Sandy Schneider, a native Berkeley musician... We will explore Jewish music from the 15th - 20th centuries.... music reading ability preferred but not required." The first rehearsal was in February 1975. In the two years that followed, the chorus performed at various synagogues, Home for Jewish Parents in Oakland and at the East Bay Israeli Independence Day Celebrations.

Since 1977, when the chorus disbanded, the choir music folders have been boxed up. When I looked through the boxes I found about 60 folders, with probably enough music for three choral programs. Each complete folder held the music of such great Jewish composers as Lewandowski, Sulzer, Rossi, as well as many less known composers, and even pieces based on Biblical writings written by J.S. Bach and translated (back) into Hebrew. One piece is by contemporary composer, Ernst Toch, called "Geographical Fugue." The piece is rhythmic and driving, and is not sung but spoken. It was written in German, and travels the globe, reciting names of cities, rivers, and mountains. The version found in Sandy's folders has changed the German to Hebrew, and included Tel Aviv.

This collection of choral music was not given to me. Helen would like to see (and hear) a new Jewish Choir performing the music that Sandy loved."

Since I wrote that article, I worked briefly with a choir at CNS. For whatever reason, it did not succeed. At the urging of a member of Temple Israel, Alameda, where I was their cantor, I revived *KOL TRUAH*. We have been rehearsing and performing for the past five years in the Bay Area. Our members come from Alameda, Oakland, El Cerrito, and Berkeley. We also have members from several church choirs, making us the Jewish Interfaith Choir of the East Bay. In the spirit of Sandy Schneider, we are dedicated to the preservation, dissemination, and performance of Jewish music for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of the Congregation Netivot Shalom community, the Jewish community in the Bay Area, and the community at large. We are now relocating to our new home at CNS, where we will be rehearsing on Thursday nights beginning September. We welcome all singers.

So, I would like to thank Helen Schneider for making me aware of *KOL TRUAH*. Please join us in keeping Sandy's dream alive.

Please contact me at cantorpam@mac.com if you are interested in singing beautiful music.

Netivot Shalom Music Festival, May 2009



Board Report

By Karen Bovarnick

Finances

Finances dominated discussions at the Board meetings in April, May, and June. The Board is attacking the financial situation on various fronts. We initiated the “\$45 to stay alive” campaign seeking 100% participation from congregants for a monthly contribution to the building fund. This would ease our cash-flow issues and make us more attractive for refinancing our loan. We held a meeting at the retreat and another meeting at the synagogue to educate members about why this campaign is necessary. As a result of these membership discussions, we have made difficult decisions to help live within our means (e.g. making the newsletter electronic; foregoing linens and disposable silverware at *kiddushes*). We continue to solicit other cost-saving ideas from congregants and to seek pledges for the Capital Campaign to pay down the principal debt on the building.

As for operating expenses, we are soliciting sponsorships for the Torah Commentaries, a collection of drashot given by religious leaders and congregation members. The Board also voted on having two major fundraisers—a Fall Chanukah event to be managed by Shabbat B’Yachad and Rimonim programs, and a Spring Fundraising event. Second Vice President, Andrea Altschuler, met with staff and committee chairs to plan the major events for the next calendar year, a process we hope to make a yearly event.

President Jeff Rosenbloom is forming a Long Range Planning and Development Committee to research and recommend longer term strategies for gaining financial stability.

Israeli Flag

Displaying the Israeli flag in the lobby prompted discussion. A Board subgroup met to discuss ways of having a greater congregation-wide discussion of the concerns raised.

Yamim Noraim

The Board approved moving this year’s services for Yamim Noraim from Northbrae Church back to Netivot Shalom, using nearby facilities (Montessori School, The Way Church).



Another Way to Prepare for Yamim Noraim

By Joan Bradus

Kever Avot will be held at 10 AM on Sunday, September 13, at Tel Shalom at Rolling Hills cemetery. Around the *Yamim Noraim*, it is traditional to visit the graves of loved ones to remember, to be grateful for their influences in our lives, and to acknowledge that they are missed.

For some of us, our loved ones are buried at Tel Shalom. For most of us, our loved ones are buried elsewhere and we are unable to visit. Still, all of us can do the mitzvah of *Kever Avot* – honoring our ancestors, and our community’s members who have gone. We can say *kaddish* at the gravesites of our community and support those who are still in mourning. We can say *kaddish* among the gravesites for our own losses. I have found this brief ceremony to be of great comfort when I cannot make it back to my parents’ cemetery and invite everyone to try it out.

The *Kever Avot* is at the Tel Shalom section of Rolling Hills Cemetery. Take the Hilltop Mall exit off I-80 East, turn right at the end of the ramp, and the entrance is the first available right and is well signed. To get to the *Tel Shalom* section, keep to the left, over a rise, past a house and down to the left as you descend.

Your Father Is Dead and My Pot Roast Is Ruined

Reflections on the Torah of “Six Feet Under”

By Noach Dzmura

Published in Jewish Daily Forward, August 18, 2009, issue of August 28, 2009. www.forward.com.

There is a moment directly after a loved one’s death when thought and action cease. It’s an instant of dissociation from everything before the tragedy, and everything that will follow. The hit HBO television show “Six Feet Under” took advantage of that moment once a week for five seasons to educate viewers about death and preparation for burial in a dramatic and entertaining way. As I watched the first season of the show in 2001, it seemed to me that rather than selling products, these weekly lessons about dying were meant to enhance the viewer’s life. I am accustomed to thinking of television as an ethical wasteland, and of Torah — not television — as the weekly lessons meant to enhance my Jewish life. This show seemed to bridge the gap.

This past spring, a Jewish storyteller, or magid, put a Jewish spin on “Six Feet Under” in a class, offered to stimulate the Berkeley, Calif., community’s thoughts about Jewish burial customs, in advance of the annual hebra kadisha (burial society) conference the following month. It helped me to understand that television could be Torah.

I decided to attend the class because I knew magid Jhos Singer’s reputation in dealing with challenging material. If anyone could pull the Jewish meaning out of this show, Singer could. I first encountered Singer teaching at a Jewish meditation center in Berkeley, where he led services, with an unerringly sharp d’var Torah and music that spoke to my bones. Sometimes synagogue can lull people to sleep but with Singer, nobody dozed.

“The Torah of ‘Six Feet Under’” opened a window into Jewish life for the class. We watched all 13 emotionally jarring episodes of the award-winning first season. Though it’s not about Jews, the show is ideally suited to an exploration of the techniques and ethics of Jewish preparation for burial: Each episode brought another kind of death, leading to the preparation of a different kind of body for burial and the challenge of another family’s bereavement. After each episode, Singer guided the discussion with a prepared vort introducing the themes of the show discussing how the Fisher family (owners of the show’s funeral home) can be viewed in the context of Torah, Talmud or a practical guide to Jewish burial customs.



Singer taught that rather than hiding death or minimizing its impact on the living, Jewish tradition considers death a time of transition no less worthy of our honor and attention than birth or marriage. Because four of our classmates were active members of the synagogue’s hebra kadisha, participants conversed weekly with people who honored a Jewish commitment to the end of life. We gained a personal understanding of how the principle of kavod ha-meit (honoring the deceased), compels one to behave during tahara (the process of preparing a body for burial). Because of kavod ha-meit, a body must be covered modestly while it is being prepared, and only the team that prepares the body for burial is permitted to view the deceased.

At the funeral parlor of Fisher & Sons, the preparation room often contained an unclothed corpse: Friends, family members and business associates would enter the room at the time when a body was being prepared, often to discuss matters unrelated to the deceased. Although some of this is admittedly to advance a plotline, the dialogue never addresses the idea that this might be disrespectful. While the Fisher family embalmed each cadaver to preserve the body so that family members from distant places were able to view the corpse in an open casket, kavod ha-meit calls for burials to happen the day after death or as soon as possible thereafter. Because of kavod ha-meit, a Jewish body’s fluids are not replaced by artificial embalming fluid; the fluids that carried our human vitality do not become medical waste. The Fishers mostly prepared elegantly dressed bodies for ornate, open-casket funerals; kavod ha-meit requires a plain white linen shroud, a simple wood coffin and a closed casket. Rabban Gamliel established this precedent for Jews of all times and places after seeing how Jews who were poor were made to feel shame because they could not afford all the trappings that richer families provided.

Because of the hebra kadisha members in our class, each week provided an opportunity to learn about the preparation for burial of Jews in our community. With exem-

(continued on page 13)

(continued from page 12)

ply discretion, the identities, situations and locations of the deceased remained confidential, but challenging aspects of a burial were brought to the attention of the group, and hevrá kadisha members described how they were able to honor the deceased in all cases — whatever circumstances surrounded the death.

Could tahara be performed at home? Yes.

If the deceased wished to be cremated, could tahara be performed? Well, a hevrá kadisha, we learned, is a fairly autonomous structure guided primarily by tradition or custom rather than rabbinic authority. So for our community's hevrá kadisha, the answer to this question is yes. But for others, the answer may be different. This weekly connection to real bodies meant I wasn't just seeing a playacted death on each new episode, I was remembering my father's funeral and thinking ahead to my own.

Singer's teachings showed participants that deep lessons can be found in those moments when death slams into the living, and paradoxes of truth emerge from the collision. In the first episode of "Six Feet Under," for example, the Fisher family is broadsided by the sudden loss of its patriarch. Eldest son Nate, coming home for the holidays, waits for his father, Nathaniel, to pick him up at the airport. Nathaniel is killed by a bus en route. Matriarch Ruth, at home cooking pot roast for the family's reunion dinner, is the first to hear the news. She collapses to the floor. When son David walks in to see what the commotion is about, Ruth says, (in a voice that separates now from yesterday and tomorrow), "There's been an accident, the new hearse is totaled, and your father is dead. Your father is dead, and my pot roast is ruined." With this simple line, we witness Mrs. Fisher's encounter with *The End* in a blend of the quotidian with the utterly singular. This is a moment when Jhos's instruction on paradox shines like a laser: Sometimes a pot roast isn't just a pot roast. Singer quipped, "Kavod ha-meat." But he was not going for blasphemy, nor was he attempting to disgust his listeners; he was shining light on Ruth. Fisher, who is in a state in which the pot roast, the symbol of a mother's loving care of her family, and her deceased husband are meat of equal merit, the commonplace and the profound, both losses equally worthy of honor and awe.

In the episode "An Open Book," the funeral of a porn starlet shocks uptight Ruth, but also provides an opportunity to explore the characters' secret lives: David is gay; Nate is sidling up to a midlife crisis; daughter Claire flirts with drugs; even the puritanical Ruth has an affair. Alongside these storylines, porn aficionados and

hustlers whose lives were powerfully transformed by the deceased attend the porn star's funeral. Their heartfelt expressions of pleasure, passion and joy in remembering her provide a unique forum for kavod ha-meit. It's clear that even this life is honorable.

In counterpoint, Singer recounted the Talmudic story of a devout man who had one failing: He visited prostitutes. He travels across the sea to visit the best in the world, and climbs into her bed, only for his tzitzit to slap him in the face. He climbs off the bed. The prostitute asks how she failed. He insists the error is not hers: "Just now, these four tzitzit appeared to me as four witnesses, testifying to the truth" (Babylonian Talmud, Menachot 44a). A simple story would end there, and in fact one of the first lessons of the story is that a spiritual practice can guide our steps. But the story continues with the prostitute's conversion. She sells all her possessions and travels to the yeshiva of the rabbi who taught her tzitzit-wearing customer. She knocks on the yeshiva door, and approaches the rabbi with her request to convert. The rabbi takes one look at her and accepts her as a student. The lesson of the prostitute — and the porn star — is that even those actions that appear to transgress may shine light on another's path.

But Singer unfolded yet another set of meanings: regarding a woman student in an all male setting, the appropriateness of a former prostitute as a candidate for conversion, and the spiritual discipline required by a rabbi to see instantly beyond the surface. "He was a tzadik [holy man]," Singer said. "Can you imagine that situation today? An ex-prostitute tells this story, and the rabbi said, 'Come into my yeshiva, worthy proselyte'?" Singer laughed and then continued: "He looked through the skin and into her soul. I need that lesson!" I say, don't we all?

Indeed, not all of the Torah of "Six Feet Under" is about death. Ruth learns the wisdom of the pot roast and the prostitute — that life can turn on a dime toward damnation or redemption. Certainly these are lessons for the living. And often the most favorable classroom for learning those Torah lessons may be found in that moment directly after a loved one's death when life has shattered us, and all thought and action cease.

Noach Dzmura edited the forthcoming anthology "Balancing on the Mechitza: Transgender in Jewish Community" (North Atlantic Books, 2010).

Meet the New Shabbat B'Yachad Coordinator Liora Brosbe

By Liora Brosbe

I come to this position with a great deal of passion and enthusiasm for early childhood informal education. Although some people insist that I work so well with this age group because my nature so resembles that of a 3 year old (!), I can't help but acknowledge that the youngest members of our community are in many ways the greatest teachers. In 2006, I completed a two-year intensive *Maggidut* study/training program with *Maggid Yitzhak* Buxbaum. I have been involved in the local Bay Area Jewish community as a storyteller-in-residence for the Israel@60 program through the Israel Education Initiative. I have enjoyed telling stories and offering programs throughout the Jewish Bay Area, including here at Netivot Shalom and the preschool.

My day job as a drama therapist keeps me very busy, serving families in crisis in Alameda County. My clients are ages 2-10, and I love working with them and their caregivers. I am also currently collecting hours toward my license as a Marriage and Family Therapist. Although my professional life gives me much pleasure, I am also well known in the community as the mother to Elijah and partner to Rabbi Daniel Isaacson.

I am thrilled, beginning in August, to be working with the families involved in Shabbat B'Yachad, a place where my family feels connected and a sense of belonging.

Some goals for Shabbat B'Yachad, not in order of importance, are as follows:

- Empowering the participants of Shabbat B'Yachad to take leadership roles within the program and encouraging the programming to be more parent-driven (as opposed to solely directed by the coordinator).



Photo by Traci Siegel.

- Programming approximately three community-wide events in connection with significant Jewish holidays for families with Shabbat B'Yachad-aged children
- Coordinating *Shabbat Yaldeinu*, a specific Shabbat service in the main sanctuary that welcomes, honors, and incorporates families that participate in the Shabbat B'Yachad program.

We gather every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, September through July beginning September 12th. We welcome specifically families with children ages 0-5 as well as congregants of all ages to come and celebrate together. Feel free to contact me (sby@netivotshalom.org) with any questions or comments, or to inquire about the many opportunities for involvement in the upcoming year.

Finally, many thanks and appreciation to Lara Hornbeck for her leadership and diligence as the past Shabbat B'Yachad Coordinator. The program thrived under her leadership for which we are grateful. Thank you.

So Many Choices

By Diane Bernbaum

It's time to begin all over again and what a year this is going to be. Midrasha in Berkeley's Sunday classes begin on September 13 at Beth El from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Besides core classes (Ethics for 8th graders, Jewish Identity for 9th graders, Israel for 10th graders and The American Jewish Experience for 11th and 12th graders), we have a wide range of electives that will make you wish you were Midrasha-eligible ages:

- Two levels of conversational Hebrew
- Jewish history through Broadway musicals
- Jewish meditation and yoga
- Rastafarian musical traditions and the Bible
- Jewish themes in children's books by Steig and Sendak
- Cooking food from Jewish cultures around the world
- Jewish women's history, literature, and biblical characters
- Oil painting and drawing inspired by *Kabbalah* and mystic traditions
- Portraying Jewish life through mosaics
- *Mussar* - concrete steps for living the good life
- Genesis using Rashi's wisdom
- Improv and theater games
- Comparative religion
- "The Ethics of Wizardry," will look at Harry Potter.
- The elderly which takes students several times to the Jewish Home in San Francisco
- Ethics and the Holocaust
- Abraham's Vision–Unity Program where Jewish and Muslim 10-12th graders come together to learn about each other's cultures and transform conflict.

In addition we have a Monday afternoon text class, which meets at Beth Israel beginning September 14. The surprise theme of the class (which gets followed through various books in the *Tanach*) will be revealed on the first day of class.



If anyone wants to read about these classes in more detail, or about Midrasha in general, go to our website, www.midrasha.org. If you have not yet received registration materials in the mail, you can download them from our website as well. And hopefully by the time you read this the parent handbook will be up on the web too, so check it out. And one more thing, Midrasha now accepts cars for tax donations. If you have a clunker (or even a car that isn't a clunker that you want to part with), call the Midrasha office, 510-843-4667.

DO YOU HAVE MUSICAL TALENT?

Would you or your musical group like to perform at the

***2nd Annual Netivot
Shalom Music Festival***
on Saturday, January 9, 7-10 pm?

If so, please let Festival co-planners Dan Siegel and Steven Bileca know of your interest in performing by September 30 at community@netivotshalom.org. Talented musical performers of all types and ages are encouraged to participate.

So Much To Do, So Little Time

By Edna Stewart

This past year we have seen incredible intensification in our adult education offerings. Great credit goes to Rabbi Shalom Bochner, who took on the aptly re-named post of Director of LifeLong Learning last July. As Rabbi Bochner puts it: “Netivot Shalom was founded with a strong emphasis on continuing adult Jewish learning.... The mission of the Adult Education Committee is to enable every adult member of the congregation to make Jewish learning a continuing, ongoing part of her or his life...” Here is a summary of what we’ve been up to and what we’re planning for the year to come.

Shabbat morning Torah study, our bedrock offering since the *shul* began, was led by scholars Nitzhia Shaked and Naomi Seidman and by regular participants and guests. New since January is a flourishing Wednesday lunch-time program, “*La-asok b’divre Torah*” (“to occupy oneself with words of Torah”), led by Rabbis Creditor and Bochner.

Our after-*kiddush* programs have developed into regular weekly offerings, mostly led by congregants. Last year we featured a monthly conversation about the nature of God, organized and led by Robin Braverman, as well as monthly presentations by the Social Action committee and the Rimmonim / Middot Initiative (character traits) program. Many thanks to Joel Gerwein and Cathy Shadd for scheduling these programs. The fourth Shabbat of the month featured the ever-popular “Sage of the Month,” with presentations by members, organized by Stephen Tobias. This year, besides social action, *middot*, and sages, the program will include a monthly presentation on a topic from “*Nakh*”: Prophets (*Neviim*) or Writings (*Kethuvim*).

Twice monthly, on the second and fourth Sundays, of the month, we have a *Minyan*, Brunch and Speaker series, organized by Art Braufman. There, members speak about their diverse, fascinating work (building a museum, designing a *mikvah*, helping manage a city, teaching business administration in Slovakia, researching AIDS in Africa... the list is endless). Occasional guests offer insights on *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world).

Rabbi Creditor offers teachings that help to put our work and practice in a Jewish context. In 2008, the series was called “Living a Mythic Life (mythic time, mythic space, mythic conduct...).” Last year’s series was “Dynamic Judaism” (for example: “Why not pork and shellfish?”). This year...?

Last year we partnered with Lehrhaus Judaica to host several classes at NS, among them an Exodus series with Ken Cohen; The Wisdom of Rebbe Nachman with Rabbi Carol Caine; and, also with Rabbi Caine, Entering the Talmud.

Some other offerings for adults of varying levels of learning have included:

- Advanced Torah Trope Workshop with Joel Siegel
- When Do I Bow? A series, with Rabbi Creditor
- The Holiday Series, with Rabbi Bochner
- Talmud Bavli: Tractate Berachos, appropriate for all learning levels, with Rabbi Creditor
- Heschel and Klein on Shabbat, appropriate for all learning levels, with Rabbi Bochner
- *Mishnah* Shabbat, for intermediate learners, with Rabbi Bochner
- The Torah of Six Feet Under, with *Maggid* Jhos Singer.

And in four talks squeezed into one memorable weekend at the biennial NS retreat last May, Rabbi Neil Gillman, philosopher and theologian, shared his spiritual autobiography and his insights into problems of modern faith.

This year will feature a similarly broad range of offerings for learners at all levels:

Rabbi Bochner will offer a monthly “learner’s minyan,” as well as continuing teachings about the Holidays, and will offer an intermediate-level Talmud class on *Tractate Berachot*.

Rabbi Stuart Kelman will teach a series that focuses on particular prayers from the traditional liturgy and unpacks the ways they “work.”

This year we will host Lehrhaus series on matters as various as King Tutankhamen (with Dr. Jehon Grist) and Jewish Alchemy (with Ira Steingroot), as well as more basic subjects, such as Modern Hebrew (beginning, intermediate, and advanced at Beth El in Autumn and at NS in Spring).

Through Lehrhaus, Rabbis Creditor and Bochner will begin a two-year, six-part series called “Discover Judaism.” This year’s meetings, all on Tuesday evenings at NS, will be on Torah Discovery; Jewish Holidays; and Spiritual Practice and Jewish Law.

Finally, as always, there were many one-time opportunities to learn with special guests, including Rabbi Yosef Leibowitz on the *Shma* (accepting God’s kingship),

(continued on page 17)

Life Long Learning Report: The Year in Review and a Look Ahead

By Rabbi Shalom Bochner

As we head into the High Holidays, and the start of my second year here, I am thrilled with how much has been accomplished. I'm also very excited about the plans for the new year. This past year has been a fact finding mission: exploring how things are done here and assessing where changes and improvements were needed. From our new approach with the Kindergarten Hebrew Infusion program to the new weekly Wednesday Laasok Torah classes, we have created wonderful educational opportunities for all ages. This year we will continue to ensure that there are many high quality and varied opportunities for life long learning here at Netivot Shalom.

Here are some of the highlights from this past year:

- Implemented an improved way of *Bnai Mitzvah* dates being scheduled with families getting their preferred dates.
- Explored a closer relationship with the Regional Office of United Synagogue Youth (International Conservative Movement High School Youth Group) and *Kadima* (Junior High Youth Activities)
- Improved Purim children's schedule and held a dinner fundraiser for youth education activities
- Held *Amitim* and Hebrew Infusion program think tank and town hall meetings
- Organized *Tu BShevat* Seders in the pre-School, hebrew school and for the entire congregation
- Conducted New Adult Ed Classes and Series: Wednesday *Laasok* Torah classes, Holiday Series, Shabbat series, *Mishnah* Series, *Birkat HaChamah* class
- Sponsored *Rimmonim's* Rick Recht Concert, Shabbat *Naareinu*, Shabbat *Yaldeinu*, and Midrasha/JCHS Shabbat

- Began new monthly *Orah VeSimchah* Shabbat Youth Services for 3rd-5th graders
- Added new Torah blurbs in the Shabbat announcements

New in 5770, look for these exciting programs and improvements:

- *Amitim* starting in January for 6th graders and running through December so all the participants and their families will be fully ready for their *Bnai Mitzvah*. Expanding parent / family learning, improving retreat structure, and partnering with Congregation Beth El for *Tzedek* (social action)
- Adult Ed holding new weekly *Talmud* class, new *Haftorah* class, a Discover Judaism Series, and new Lehrhaus classes including Jewish Alchemy, King Tut, as well as hosting multi-level Hebrew classes here at Netivot Shalom in the Spring (at Beth El in the Fall and Winter)
- Expanding the Hebrew Infusion afternoon program to 1st through 3rd grade;
- Improving one-day only Kindergarten program, adding *Middot* curriculum, and expanding Tefillah and Torah studies, using new Hebrew language materials and more learning through games, movement, and hands-on activities
- Creating new all ages holiday programs for *Sukkot* (October 7), *Tu BShevat* and Purim
- Sponsoring monthly Friday night Family Dinners and a Chanukah Concert, Carnival and Fair on December 6
- Welcoming you back to re-organized classrooms and youth library

I hope you'll take advantage of the many offerings for all ages and I wish you all a happy, healthy, meaningful, and learning-filled New Year 5770!

ADULT EDUCATION

(continued from page 16)

Rabbi Benjy Siegel on the Song of Songs, Rabbi Elie Spitz on Healing from Despair, and more. This year we will again be on the lookout for more such opportunities.

So if all of this is not a good reason to read your weekly Shabbat announcements, what is?

Marcia Brooks chairs the Committee. The other members are Rabbi Shalom Bochner (as staff), Jerry Derblich, Ethel Murphy, Bill Stewart, Edna Stewart, and Stephen Tobias. Contact us with new ideas -- and better yet join us! We meet only four or five times per year and do much of our work by email, so the time commitment is not outrageous.

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*, *siddurim*, 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.

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

R S Donations

Vicki Sommer & Seth Kimball, in honor of Judy Massarano

Legacy Heritage Fund Limited

Peter and Nan Strauss, in memory of Robert Shadd

Open Door Fund

Jean Bass Bradman, in memory of Fred Sonenberg

Preschool Scholar Fund

Tracy Ross, in honor of Betsy, Benjamin and Elias' Birthdays

Tracy Ross, in honor of Betsy Cottle Ross' 40th birthday

Henry & Sarah Pruden, in honor of Betsy Ross' 40th birthday

Liora Brosbe and Rabbi Daniel Isaacson, in honor of the Callens

Tracy & Betsy Ross, in memory of Eliot Ross

Adult Ed Donations

Cheryl Zlotnick, in memory of Martin Zlotnick

Barbara Wezeman, Torah Study - in memory of Daniel Bartlett

Jacob & Rena Harari, Torah Study, in honor of of Sheila & Art Braufman's 50th anniversary & Sheila's Birthday

Tzedakah Fund

Joanna Weinberg & David Levine, in honor of their new grandchildren, Mira and Carlo Weinberg

Jean Bass Bradman, in honor of Rebecca Dorf-Landau's Bat Mitzvah

Larry Hanover, in memory of Rivka Hanover

Scott & Turi Adams, *Maot Chitim*

(continued on page 19)

(continued from page 18)

General Donations

Joanna Weinberg & David Levine, *Bikkur Cholim* Fund - in memory of Doris Kudisch, Donald Weinberg, Sadie & Sylvia Rice

Reuvain & Dina Beck, *Bikkur Cholim* Fund - in memory of Daniel Fox

Cathy Bolding & Joe Meresman

Ellen & Herb Brosbe, Elijah A. Isaacson, in honor of your first steps

San & Miriam Hyman

Andrea Altschuler & David Finn

Helen Schneider, in honor of Art & Sheila's 50th wedding anniversary & Sheila's birthday

George & Toby Gidal, in honor of Art & Sheila Braufman's 50th wedding anniversary

Susan Seeley, in honor of Art & Sheila Braufman's 50th wedding anniversary

Robert & Sandra Silver, in honor of Art & Sheila Braufman's 50th wedding anniversary

Denah S.Bookstein, in honor of Barbara Fritz

Ellen Peskin & Ben Heschen, in honor of incoming presidents Rosenbloom and Obama

Martha & David Birnbaum, in honor of Judy Lieberman - R'fuah Sh'leimah

Susan David, in honor of Barbara Fritz, and in honor of David Stein

Herbert & Babette Maccoby, in honor of Sheila & Art Braufman's 50th wedding anniversary

Ann & Stewart Chalem, in honor of Sheila & Art Braufman's 50th wedding anniversary

Ellen Peskin & Ben Heschen, in honor of Sheila & Art Braufman's 50th wedding anniversary

Hilda & Seymour Kessler, in honor of Sheila & Art Braufman's 50th wedding anniversary

Alison Jordan, in honor of the congregation

Celia & Paul Concus, in memory of Ethel Hellman

Martha & David Birnbaum, in memory of Helen Fabrikant

Steve & Karen Bovarnick, in memory of Helen Fabrikant

Steven Bond & Shari Rifas, in memory of Helen Levy

Max & Raquel Wolf, in memory of Henry Greenberg and Gitla Zac

Rhoda Agin, in memory of Jan Fischer, may her memory be a blessing

Cantor Pamela Rothman Sawyer & Margaret Rowland, in memory of Margaret Lath and Benjamin Rothman

Hilda & Seymour Kessler, in memory of sister, Sarah Atik

Martha & David Birnbaum, in memory of Robert Shadd

Diane & Ed Bernbaum, in memory of Robert Shadd, and in memory of Brenda Gerwin

Dan Edidin & Tanya Christiansen, in honor of Abby Friedman

Joseph & Dorothy Becker, in honor of Art & Sheila Braufman's 50th wedding anniversary

Jerry Berkman & Carolyn Koestel, in honor of Bobbie Drinkard

Morris & Sandra Dolmatch, in honor of Sheila & Art Braufman's 50th wedding anniversary

Ralph & Hadassah Kramer, in honor of our new great-granddaughter

Gail & Ron Joseph, in honor of Sheila & Art Braufman's 50th anniversary

Steven Bond & Shari Rifas, in honor of Yamim Nora'im at home

Phyllis Zisman, in memory of Brenda Gerwin

Ralph & Hadassah Kramer, in memory of Debby Kramer Shalev

Cantor Pamela Rothman Sawyer & Margaret Rowland, in memory of Edward L. Sawyer, and in memory of Elvira Rowland

Art & Sheila Braufman, in memory of Ethel Hellman

Rita Stein, in memory of her parents for Yizkor

Ellen & Herb Brosbe, in memory of Lillian Brosbe

Karen Roekard, in memory of Sara Lee and Jack Rosenfeld

Dr. Perry & Malka Scheinok, in memory of Sarah Gerstel

Elana Reinin & Marshall Platt, in memory of Stephen Platt and Oded Reinin

Amy & Eugene Baker

Marjorie & Mark Medress, in memory of Gabriel Medress

Matt & Carly West

Social Action Fund

Jean Bass Bradman, in honor of Linda Blachman's first grandchild

Cheryl Zlotnick, in memory of Martin Zlotnick

Fundraising

Hilda & Seymour Kessler, in memory of Sandy Schneider

Kiddush & Oneg Fund

Eugene Berg

Ben Krefetz

Susan & Robert Goldstein, in honor of Ben Goldstein & Cheng Li

Fran Quittel, in honor of David Stein

Vicki Sommer & Seth Kimball, in honor of Shari Kimball's anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah

Margalit Mathan & Peter August, in memory of Gerda Mathan

Leslie Gordon

Rita Stein

Ari Pomerantz & Sarah James-Pomerantz, in honor of baby-naming of Sadie Rose

Rosenheimer Fund

Allen & Karen Guggenheim, in honor of Sheila & Art Braufman's 50th wedding anniversary, and in honor of Sheila Braufman's birthday

Wendy Rosov & Peg Sandel, in memory of Celia Popell

(continued on page 20)

(continued from page 19)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Ethel Murphy

Ben & Helen Stern

Martin Myers & Deborah Lewis, for those in need

Joan & Michael Sinai, in honor of Shalom and Orli's wedding anniversary

Perl Perlmutter & Meghan Starkey, in memory of Dr. Al Perlmutter

Matthew Dimond & Robin Mencher, in memory of Michael Dimond

Karen Friedman & David Marcus, in honor of Lee Feinstein

Liora Brosbe & Rabbi Daniel Isaacson, in honor of Liz and Menachem's 10th anniversary

Vicki Sommer & Seth Kimball, in honor of Shari Kimball's anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah

Lisa & Gary Gershony, in honor of the Birnbaums

Reuvain & Dina Beck, in memory of Abraham Fox

Wendy Rosov & Peg Sandel, in memory of Elizabeth and Myer Ziner

Raymond Lifchez, in memory of Jenny Burkom Lifchez

Jean Bass Bradman, in memory of Judith Bloom's son, Jim Bloom

David Shragai & Brenda Goldstein, in memory of Penina Shragai, zl"

Alice Webber & Stephen Tobias

Ayala Rosen

Mark & Sharon Priven

David Stein & Bill Stewart

Jeff Rosenbloom & Melissa Mednick

Peter & Nan Strauss

Mel Sibony & Lisa Tranter Sibony

Diane & Ed Bernbaum

Rabbi Stuart & Vicky Kelman

Gail & Jay Israel

Stephanie Davis Fund

Karen Friedman & David Marcus, in honor of Rebecca Dorf-Landau's Bat Mitzvah

Liora Brosbe & Rabbi Daniel Isaacson, in memory of Brenda Gerwin

Library Fund

June & Bob Safran, in honor of David Stein and Mina Gobler

Jean Bass Bradman, in memory of Harry Bass

Chevra Kadisha Fund

Andrea & Michael Cassidy

Dale Friedman & Joan Bradus, in memory of Jerry Friedman & Shirley Kreitzer Bradus

Michael McCullough & Judith Lesser McCullough, in appreciation of the seventh annual conference held at Netivot

Michael Slater & Shoshana Waskow, Thank you for hosting the *Kavod v'Nichum* Conference

Gemilut Hasadim

Cantor Pamela Rothman Sawyer & Margaret Rowland, Thank you to *Gemilut Chasadim* for help during Pamela's recovery

Steven Bond & Shari Rifas, Tobie Lurie for chairing *Gemilut Hasadim* in her absence

Donation for Paths of Torah

Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern

Vicki Sommer & Seth Kimball, in memory of Salomon & Frieda Kalisch

Rabbi David & Irene Winston

Diane & Ed Bernbaum

Tara Shaw Heaslip & Meldan Heaslip

Ann Swidler & Claude Fischer

Dov Rosenfeld & Cathy Shadd Rosenfeld

Steven Bond & Shari Rifas

Rita Largman

Adam Weisberg & Rachel Brodie

Aliza Shapiro

Barbara Wezelman

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh & Mike Steinbaugh, in honor of Rabbis Stuart Kelman & Marty Ballanoff

Peter & Nan Strauss, in honor of our children & grandchildren

Bruce Trauner, in honor of Meredith Trauner

Daniel Handwerker & Elizabeth Weber Handwerker, in honor of Amira Yonina Handwerker

Vicki Sommer & Seth Kimball, in memory of Salomon & Frieda Kalisch

Building Fund/Critical Appeal

Scott & Turi Adams

Hope Alper

Eugene & Nancy Bardach

Julie Batz & Jhos Singer

Ben & Helen Stern, in honor of Martha Birnbaum's birthday and Martha & David's anniversary

Ben & Helen Stern, in honor of Helen's birthday & Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern's anniversary

Eugene Berg

Jerry Berkman & Carolyn Koestel

Steven Bileca & Angela Alonso Bileca

Linda Blachman

Jeffrey Black

Nicole Bloom

Esther Brass

Marcia Brooks

Lydia Anne Bros

Bruce Starkman, in memory of Madelaine Starkman

Herman & Shelley Bruch

Cynthia Whitehead

(continued on page 21)

DONATIONS

(continued from page 20)

Diane & Ed Bernbaum, in honor of Lev Marcus' Bar Mitzvah

Deborah & Michael Feiler

Mark Geliebter & Robin Keller

Matthew Gill

Laurie Greenhut

Milton & Margaret Greenstein

Josh & Noga Gressl

Barry Groody & Jenny Schwartz Groody

Karen Hecht

Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern

Barry Kamil & Nancy Gurian

Ellen Kaufman & David Weiner

Kathy Khuner & Theda Haber

Vicki Sommer & Seth Kimball

Rabbi Daniel Kohn & Deborah Stachel

Ben Krefetz

Lev Marcus, in honor of his bar mitzvah

Stuart & Gerri Levitas

Yonit Levy

Judy Lieberman & Allen Samelson

Michael Lieberman

Liora Brosbe and Rabbi Daniel Isaacson, in memory of Elmer Heller

Liora Brosbe and Rabbi Daniel Isaacson, in memory of Helen Fabrikant

Mary Lukanuski

Tobie Lurie

Betty Martinez

Glenn & Judy Massarano

Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern, in honor of Art & Sheila Braufman's anniversary

Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern, in honor of Martha & David Birnbaum's anniversary

Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern, in honor of Sheila Braufman's birthday

Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern, in honor of Yakov Harari's birthday

Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern, in honor of Norman Stern

Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern, in honor of Rachel and Eliyahu's wedding

Milton & Margaret Greenstein, in memory of Hannah Leah Greenstein

Arnon Oren & Tammy Plotkin-Oren

Peter & Nan Strauss, in honor of Sheila & Art Braufman's 50th anniversary

Elijah & Ginette Polak

Blair & Helaine Prentice

Shifra & Stephen Pride Raffel

Ellen & Warren Reier

Reva Fabrikan & Sol Weingarten, in honor of Karen Bovarnick's birthday

Karen Roekard

Dov Rosenfeld & Cathy Shadd Rosenfeld

Philip Rosentha & Sherrin Jean Packer-Rosenthal

Wendy Rosov & Peg Sandel

Sandra Gore & Ron Sires, in honor of Art and Sheila Braufman's wedding anniversary

Rabbi SaraLeya Schley

Helen Schneider

Aliza Shapiro

Feyna, Meyshe & Tobie Helene Shapiro

Elana Shever & Jonathan Levine

Mel Sibony & Lisa Tranter Sibony

Efrat Simhi-Aloni & Shaul Aloni

Brett & Maia Singer, in memory of Annette Singer

Edna Stewart

Tree Gelb Stuber

Stan & Judi Taubman

Robert & Braha Trabin

Jill Tracy

Arne & Gail Wagner

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh & Mike Steinbaugh

Barbara Wezelman

Rabbi David & Irene Winston

Jeannie Witkin

Debora Yager & Barry Muhlfelder

"How wonderful it is that no one need wait a single moment to start to improve the world."

Anne Frank



Tehiyah Day School
 30 years of Innovative Jewish Education



Please join us
Kindergarten Information Evening
 Thursday, October 22, 7 p.m.

To schedule a personal tour of our campus where you can experience our school's excitement and excellence firsthand, please contact: Amy Utstein, 510.233.3013 ext. 239 or 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 Kesher Foundation, the Koret Foundation, and the Jim Joseph Foundation.



Long-Term Care Insurance
Protection for you and your family

Sure it's about maintaining personal and financial independence, but as a fundamental part of your retirement plan, having long-term care insurance can signify so much more to your loved ones. Most of all, it can include more choices for living life the way you see fit.

Talk to a New York Life Insurance Company producer. Find out if long-term care insurance is right for you. They offer knowledge and experience to help protect your retirement assets and income, standard of living and quality of life.

Judith Breakstone
 (510) 601-3378
jbbreakstone@ft.newyorklife.com

The Company You Keep®

351662CV-B
 The purpose of this material is solicitation of insurance. An insurance producer may contact you. 2007 New York Life Insurance Company, 51 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10010.

Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy



SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
 Chevra Kadisha
Susan Lefelstein-FD# 656
 Associate Executive Director
 3415 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, CA 94549
 FD# 1523
(925) 962-3636


For all Pre-need and At-need Jewish Funeral Arrangements
www.sinaichapel.org

Tikkun Olam begins at Home...
Shop Local for a Vital Community



www.afikomen.com
 510.655.1977
 3042 Claremont Ave Berkeley 94705 mail@afikomen.com

Congregation
Netivot Shalom's
CALENDAR of
ACTIVITIES &
EVENTS for
SEPTEMBER
& OCTOBER
is online.





Mazal Tov!

Mazal Tov to all the families on the birth of their beautiful babies in the last several months:

Tamar and Yossi Fendel, on the birth of a baby boy;

Andy and Sarah Frank, on the birth of a baby boy;

Deb Fink and Aaron Katler, on the birth of a baby boy;

Anne and Michael Marx, on the birth of a baby boy;

and Laura and David Callen on the birth of a baby girl!



Welcome New Members:

Cynthia Colvin

Justin Garland

Jane Gottesman and Geoffrey Biddle

Ellen Kaufman and David Weiner

Raymond Lifchez

Ari Pomerantz and Sarah James-Pomerantz

Nina Schulman and Hal Ruddick

David Sklansky and Deborah Lambe

Peter Weinstein

Beth Zygielbaum and Jason Dietrich

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 Nan Strauss at roshchodesh@netivotshalom.org.

NETIVOT SHALOM NEWSLETTER

September/October 2009 • Elul/Tishrei 5769/5770

Editor

Janet Schneider

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: Nov/Dec Deadline: Sept 24, 2009

Printed by request. Call the office at 510-549-9447.



Diana Wood and Mark Rasmussen invite you to share in a simcha on Saturday, September 12 ~23 Elul 5769 Parshat Nitzavim-Vayelech when their son Kai Rasmussen will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah.

Ellen and Warren Reier invite you to share in a simcha on Saturday, October 17 ~ 29 Tishri 5770 Parshat Bereshit when their daughter Zoe Reier will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah.



Yahrzeits *Zichronam livrachah* — May their memories be blessed

Lena Franc	September 1	Elul 12
Joel Oseroff	September 2	Elul 13
Pascal Greenberg Ellen Rothman Rebecca Schreiber Fruma Szachnes	September 3	Elul 14
Edward Darrow Arthur Gould Edmond Meyer Evelyn Starkey	September 6	Elul 17
Julie Carol Andelman Abraham Potak	September 7	Elul 18
Avraham Braverman Joel Knaster	September 8	Elul 19
Lawrence Manuel Dorfman Frank Jacobvitz Myer Kagan	September 9	Elul 20
Bobbie Cahn Norman Jacobson	September 10	Elul 21
Ruth Berg Leonid Plotkin Jacob Rosenblatt Leah Rosenblatt	September 11	Elul 22
Sylvia Brenner	September 12	Elul 23
Harry Weingarten	September 13	Elul 24
Magda Frei Rabbi Stephen Neil Levinson Martin Spilky	September 14	Elul 25
Esther Berger Dorothy Blumenfeld Erwin Jacobs Victoria Koty	September 15	Elul 26
Hannah Aaron Florence Harriet Andelman	September 18	Elul 29
Evelyn Alba Jacob Lawrence Cohen Sam David	September 19	Tishrei 1
Morris Becker Max Blachman Roberta Chaplan Fannie Stein	September 20	Tishrei 2
Elizabeth Wynne	September 21	Tishrei 3
Adele Mayper Hornstein Sandor (Sonny) Lang	September 22	Tishrei 4
Dora Goldschmidt Meyer Kaplan Sonia Kitsis Sarah Meyer Pearl Weiner	September 23	Tishrei 5
Rebecca Graudenz Mary Jacobson Adam Wynne	September 24	Tishrei 6
Lottie Gidal Norman Kabatznick Benjamin Solomon Klatt	September 25	Tishrei 7
Bernice Epstein	September 26	Tishrei 8
Harry Strauss	September 27	Tishrei 9
Edythe Bernell Bertha Rosenstein Herbert Rubin	September 28	Tishrei 10
Egon Breiner Rebecca Joy Feiler Irving Wolkenfeld	September 29	Tishrei 11
Al Anisman Pauline Hirsch Lang	September 30	Tishrei 12
Faye Ellen Hanfling	October 1	Tishrei 13
Abe Bittker Rabbi Samuel Graudenz David Matthews Albert Stein	October 2	Tishrei 14

Sam Lent Moshe Ben Yaakov	October 3	Tishrei 15
S. Yale Andelman Chana Rosenfeld	October 4	Tishrei 16
Rose Beck Fred Morris Schuman	October 5	Tishrei 17
Salomon Kalisch Sylvia Swersky	October 6	Tishrei 18
George H. Kaplan	October 7	Tishrei 19
Ethel Bass Glickstein Marjorie S. Kaplan Esther Samuely	October 9	Tishrei 21
Lee Mandel	October 10	Tishrei 22
Jack Engel Shijey Shub	October 12	Tishrei 24
Jerome Lieberman Bella Sefkin	October 13	Tishrei 25
Rivka Federbush Horowitz Roberta Oberman Sidel Stephen Lee Taller	October 14	Tishrei 26
Jay Feinstein	October 15	Tishrei 27
Samuel Bearson Herman Valfer	October 16	Tishrei 28
Louis Baron Philip Braufman Ruth Zaiman	October 19	Heshvan 1
Leib Geliebter	October 21	Heshvan 3
Wolf Kujawski	October 22	Heshvan 4
Bernard Kittner	October 23	Heshvan 5
Marilyn Waldman Bearson Lillian Levin	October 25	Heshvan 7
Alan E. Strauss	October 26	Heshvan 8
Adele Eisenberg	October 27	Heshvan 9
Adolfo Guendelman Ruth Strauss	October 28	Heshvan 10
Jules M. Blum Flora Concus Jeffrey Kabatznick Esther Lifschitz Deborah Slater Harry Vogel	October 29	Heshvan 11
Moe Lubin Nathan Schwartz	October 30	Heshvan 12
Peggy Alper Sylvia Ball Harold Burkhardt Max Levine Isadore Sherman	October 31	Heshvan 13

We Extend Our Condolences to the Families of:

Jim Bloom, z"l, son of Judith Bloom
George Cohen, z"l, father of Andy Cohen
Betty Dimond, z"l, stepmother of Matthew Dimond
Helen Fabrikant, z"l, mother of Reva Fabrikant
Brenda Gerwin, z"l, mother of Joel Gerwein
Harry J. Gray, z"l, father of Jill Tracy
Elmer Heller, z"l, grandfather of Josh Kirsch
Sherman Juster, z"l, father of Karen Hecht
Betty Kaplan, z"l, mother of Shirah Alice Bell
Ruth Press, z"l, mother of Phyllis Press
Dorothy Sawyer, z"l, stepmother of Cantor Pamela Sawyer
Robert Shadd, z"l, father of Cathy Shadd Rosenfeld
Carolyn Oleman Smith, z"l, mother of Todd Rumph
along with all others who mourn Zion and Jerusalem.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Our **Preschool**, serves children between 2 years old - Pre-Kindergarten. "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 *tfillah* (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 *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.

Religious School for children in grades K–6. Hebrew Bilingual Program (K- 2nd grade) meets on 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, 4:30-6:30 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 online 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 attending these services who need to say *Kaddish* need a minyan! Please consider becoming a once-a-month attendee to help them fulfill this *mitzvah*. 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.

SOCIAL ACTION

Monarch Place 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.



CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM

1316 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94702

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

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

Office Hours: M-Th 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. • F 8:30 a.m.-3:00 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Jeff Rosenbloom
president@netivotshalom.org

First Vice-President

Mel Sibony
firstvp@netivotshalom.org

Second Vice-President

Andrea Altschuler
secondvp@netivotshalom.org

Secretary

Karen Bovarnick
secretary@netivotshalom.org

Treasurer

Judy Lieberman
cnstreas@netivotshalom.org

At-large

Laurie Greenhut
greenhutboard@netivotshalom.org

Dave Birnbaum
birnbaumboard@netivotshalom.org

Steve Bileca
bilecaboard@netivotshalom.org

Benjamin Krefetz
krefetzboard@netivotshalom.org

Julie Weissman
weissmanboard@netivotshalom.org

Past President

Joe Meresman
pastpres@netivotshalom.org

COMMITTEES

Personnel

Andrew Kahn
hr@netivotshalom.org

Adult Ed

Marcia Brooks
adultprograms@netivotshalom.org

Bikur Cholim

Carol Dorf
bikurcholim@netivotshalom.org

Building and Grounds

Michael Feeley
BG@netivotshalom.org

Chevra Kadisha

Karen Friedman & Carol Cunradi
chevrakadisha@netivotshalom.org

Community Building

Dan & Traci Siegel
community@netivotshalom.org

Fundraising

Laura Callen & Jessica Login
cnfundraise@netivotshalom.org

Gemilut Hasadim

Shari Rifas
gemilut@netivotshalom.org

Membership

Tamar Fendel & Martha Birnbaum
membership@netivotshalom.org

PR/Marketing

Mary Lukanuski
PR@netivotshalom.org

Ritual

Glenn Massarano
ritualchair@netivotshalom.org

Social Action

Sharon Priven
socialaction@netivotshalom.org

Youth Education

Deborah Lewis
youthed@netivotshalom.org

Young Adult Havura

Josh Buchin, Jennifer Massie, Meredith Trauner
ya@netivotshalom.org

RESOURCES

Arrangements

Brett Singer & Joel Gerwein
arrangements@netivotshalom.org

Cuban Affairs

June Safran
cubanaffairs@netivotshalom.org

Drash Coordinator

Lee Bearson
drash@netivotshalom.org

Greening Group

Susan Lawrence
greening@netivotshalom.org

Greeter Coordinator

Marsha Rock Birnbaum
greeter@netivotshalom.org

Kiddush Coordinator

David Stein
kiddush@netivotshalom.org

New Babies Coordinator

Ruth Konoff
newbabies@netivotshalom.org

Newsletter

Janet Schneider & Jessica Sterling
newsletter@netivotshalom.org

Photographs

David Radwin & Karen Hecht
photostash@netivotshalom.org

Security Coordinator

Debbie Graudenz
security@netivotshalom.org

Shabbat Hospitality

Katya & Joel Gerwein
shabbathospitality@netivotshalom.org

Sunday Minyanim & Programs

Art Braufman
sundayminyan@netivotshalom.org

Torah Study Coordinator

Joel Gerwein
torahstudy@netivotshalom.org

RABBI AND STAFF

All phone extensions connected to 510-549-9447

Rabbi

Menachem Creditor, Ext 103
rabbi@netivotshalom.org

Executive Director

Lisa Gershony, Ext 102
exec@netivotshalom.org

Director of LifeLong Learning

Rabbi Shalom Bochner, Ext. 104
education@netivotshalom.org

Pre-School Director

Lauren Kindorf, Ext 110
preschool@netivotshalom.org
Classroom direct line: 510-848-5770

Ritual Coordinator

Sa'adia Massarano
ritualcoordinator@netivotshalom.org

Administrative Assistant

Rachel Schorr, Ext 101
office@netivotshalom.org

Midrasha Director

Diane Bernbaum
diane@midrasha.org
Midrasha Direct Line: 510-843-4667

Coordinator of SBY

Liora Brosbe, Ext 111
sby@netivotshalom.org

Coordinator of Rimmonim

Cathy Shadd Rosenfeld, Ext 111
Rimmonim@netivotshalom.org

Founding Rabbi

Stuart Kelman, Ext 107
skelman@netivotshalom.org