



CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

CHESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET 5770

Congregation Netivot Shalom's Annual Membership Meeting

Annual Meeting Recap

On November 15, 2009, Netivot Shalom (CNS) held its annual membership meeting. On page 3, CNS President Jeff Rosenbloom explains the new format of this year's meeting. At the meeting, David Birnbaum, the new CNS Treasurer described the congregation's financial picture, which is summarized on page 4. The 113 congregation households present, constituting a quorum, voted for the new Board Officers. These and new Committee chairs are listed below. Congratulations to all the newly elected leadership!

Board

Second Vice President - Steve Bileca

Secretary - Edna Stewart

Treasurer - David Birnbaum

At-large - Joanna Weinberg

At-large - Gerri Levitas

At-large (1 year) - Tammy Plotkin-Oren

At large (1 year) - Betsy Cottle Ross

Committee Chair Changes

Bikur Cholim - Tobie Lurie

Chevra Kadisha - Karen Friedman & Carol Cunradi

Building & Grounds - Joshua Polston & Michael Feeley

Gemilut Hasadim - Serena Heaslip

Membership - Tamar Fendel and Judith Breakstone

PR/Marketing - Jerry Berkman

Social Action - Sharon Priven and Karen Hecht

Greeter Coordinator - Justin Garland

Some of the new committees include:

Job Search - Norma Kaufman

Dreaming/Mission - David Callen

V'Zot Israel - Judith Penso

House (resurrected) - Eugene Berg

We Asked and You Told Us

At the annual meeting, attendees were surveyed about the newsletter. While those attending did not constitute a significantly unrepresentative sample, we learned the following:

- 84% said they read the previously mailed newsletter
- 68% said they read the first electronic only newsletter in September
- 95% read the electronic newsletter on the computer as opposed to printing it out. This means we have made this edition a more computer friendly reading format.

The 10 most widely read items were as follows:

1. Rabbi's column
2. Articles on upcoming events
3. Member profiles
4. President's column
5. NS's new projects
6. Articles on past events
7. Adult education offerings
8. Community building and life long learning articles
9. Donations

The survey undercounted the proportion of households likely to read youth education articles since families with young kids were less likely to be in attendance at the annual meeting.

Congregants want the newsletter to have articles by visiting scholars and rabbis in the congregation, on movie and book reviews, with *parshot*, and containing artists' works, volunteer opportunities, wish lists, and more pictures.

When asked what format readers preferred, 63% said to keep the newsletter a self-contained .pdf format since this format was easier to read and would enable the newsletters to be part of CNS's archives. Thanks for the feedback!



Shmirat HaGuf: Caring for the Body of Conservative Judaism

By Rabbi Menachem Creditor

I share this piece with our Netivot Community because our continued affiliation with the Conservative Movement is a conversation, not an assumption. When Rabbi Kelman's retirement process began, the search for a new rabbi eventually led to Netivot Shalom's affiliation with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. We were committed, as a condition of our affiliation, to work for a changed Movement, specifically in the area of GLBT inclusion. That commitment has borne fruit that might not have grown without our entering into a formal relationship with the Movement.

We, shul and rabbi, have recently been engaged as leading participants in *HaYom: The Transformation of Conservative Judaism*, by taking part in a strategic overhaul of the entire organization of USCJ. Because of our continued affiliation, I was also recently appointed to Chancellor Eisen's Rabbinic Leadership Council at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. These two leadership roles we've been asked to assume are both demanding and fulfilling. They enable us to contribute our strength to a struggling Jewish synagogue network based on a kindred vision for Judaism and the world.

When you care about someone or something, you do what you can, and perhaps more, to make sure they thrive and endure. Caring isn't easy, it isn't simple, and it is demanding. I care about Conservative Judaism. I've grown up in its schools, shuls, and camps. The melodies of my davening, the flavor of my teaching – everything I do as a rabbi, as a Jew, as a person – began as a gift of Conservative Judaism's ideas, programs and teachers. I have overflowing love and gratitude in return.

Which is why we are part of a fight for its future. And, I hope, why we as a shul recognize that the strength and vision we embody does not end with our local shul life, or with our local community.

There is a large difference between Conservative Judaism and the Conservative Movement. One is a system of ideas and commitments; the other is a series of institutions born during particular moments in attempts to give the dream a body, a vehicle for becoming real.

We believe in the eternity of the soul, that a life doesn't require a body to be connected to this world.

But that's not good enough.

Conservative Judaism lives today in a constellation of institutions, some of which function well, and some which do not. What is important to remember, as the vitality of each is assessed, is that each was born to respond to a specific need. As conditions (and therefore needs) change, institutional realities must shift. And while that's not how things usually work – *institutions fight change at all costs* – it is necessary to look beyond institutional survival if each is to truly function as a living body for the spirit of Conservative Judaism. We are one such successful organization, a shul of promise realized through a precious blend of dynamism and traditionalism.

We can't know what comes next in the life of Conservative Judaism. We are positioned, though, to influence the journey. May we merit a place in a renewed Conservative Jewish community which touches the soul of many, many people with inspiration and strength.

New Directions to Help Netivot Shalom (CNS) Move Forward

By Jeff Rosenbloom

Annual Meeting

At this year's Annual Meeting, we made a conscious decision to honor the "participatory" nature of who we are by focusing on the Committees that are the lifeblood of our congregation. We kept the Board member presentations brief, gave an opportunity for questions on such issues as finances in a smaller discussion group, and devoted most of the meeting time to Committee Chair introductions and short descriptions of upcoming committee undertakings. After the meeting, congregants could nosh, mingle, and talk to the various Committee Chairs about getting involved. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the new format. People seemed very excited to talk with the Committee Chairs and Chairs said they connected with many congregants they had never met before. This was a great follow-up to Rabbi Creditor's High Holiday drash about finding authentic ways to connect within our community.

Yamim Noraim

Another new direction that received positive responses was the holding of *Yamim Noraim* at CNS this year. While the Ritual Committee is pouring over the survey responses to help us improve services for next year, there appears to be overwhelming support for having services in our home. While there were comments on how to improve the experience, it seems that holding services here was an incredibly positive experience for most congregants. Thanks again to the Ritual Committee, our professional staff, and countless members who volunteered to make this happen.

Strategic Planning

While it is very exciting to look to the future and think of all the possibilities, it is important to stop occasionally and honor those that spent conservable time and effort to build our foundation. I want to thank those that have come before us: Rabbi Kelman, David Stein as Executive Director, and Past Presidents and Board members. Their tremendous past work allows us to focus on long-term strategies. And in order to do so, the Board is creating Board Committees that will work between Board meetings and present their findings/conclusions/recommendations at the Board's monthly meeting. This will require a bit more work on the part of the Board members, but this approach will provide the full Board a better analysis of issues and subsequent committee recommendations. Thus, Board meetings will be more action/decision oriented rather than working sessions.

Committees' Focus

The Board Governance committee is looking at issues such as improving the leadership skills within the Board itself, as well as, for Committee chairs and future Board members. Steve Bileca chairs that Committee and is already working with Rabbi Creditor on a leadership curriculum and an improved Board decision-making process.

The Long-Range Development Committee will look at developing fundraising mechanisms that do not rely on our annual fundraising activities. My goal is to have this committee look at sustainable financing sources for CNS that will ensure financial viability and security. This Committee will be composed of both Board members and congregational members in a consulting capacity. The Development Committee will also consult with our existing Finance Committee who continues to make great strides in improving our day-to-day financial operations as well as budget reviews.

Provide Input

While this column may not be especially exciting or provocative, it is nice every once in a while to report that things are going well and, that in fact, we are now beginning to think in a more long-term strategic way. Speaking of which, I really encourage everyone to contact David Callen, the Chair of our Mission Statement /Dreaming effort. He is gathering input to help form and clarify our direction for the next few years. Reach him at davidcallen@gmail.com and he could use both people on his committee as well as people offering to participate in various dream cafes and other ways to provide valuable input!!

Happy Chanukah!

Since this is my last article for 2009, I want to take a moment and wish everyone a healthy and happy (secular) New Year. Please plan to come to our Chanukah event on December 6th to celebrate with our growing and vibrant community (and get those raffle tickets while you can!!!).

Creating a Balanced Budget

By David Birnbaum

At the annual meeting held on November 15, 2009, I presented an outline of our three prime financial goals:

- Establish and manage a stable, balanced budget.
- Stabilize long term financial items; both first and second mortgages.
- Coordinate fundraising activities.

In order to create a balanced balance, this year a small group of Board and staff members reviewed past budgets carefully in order to determine what conservative, achievable levels of income we could count on and what consistent spending we could expect in the current fiscal year. Preschool and the Lifelong Learning programs were asked to make separate detailed budgets for their portions of Netivot Shalom operations. I want to thank Joe Meresman and Lauren Kindorf for the Preschool program and Rabbi Bochner for the Lifelong Learning program who did outstanding jobs.

We estimated conservative increases in membership dues revenue; while we have had increases in membership and a 3% dues increase, we also expect that the current bad economy will limit the overall dues income. We also tried to reduce the fundraising goals to be more in line with our past experience. On the expense side, which is dominated by personnel costs, we worked hard to identify cost savings. In particular, we made significant reductions in Kiddush expenses, newsletter printing and mailing and a few other items.

Lisa Gershony, our Executive Director, has also developed a reporting system that gives committee chairpeople a monthly accounting of their income and expenses. Each committee has a limited contribution from the operating budget and is expected to become self-funding after that. Some of the committees also have restricted funds which add to their operating budget contribution.

The Congregation's long term finances are dominated by the two mortgages and the state of the Building fund. The first mortgage is an amortizing mortgage with a 7 and 3/8% interest rate making our current monthly payment slightly over \$23,000 per month. We currently take \$16,000 per month out of the Building Fund to cover the major part of the mortgage payment. We have started discussions with Fremont Bank about renegotiating the terms of the mortgage payment with the goal of reducing our monthly payment to the \$16-17,000 per month range.

The second mortgage is actually composed of a set of loans from individual congregants. Almost \$300,000 of the original balance has been forgiven either as a contribution or through the Capital Campaign. However, since the second mortgage is due in full this coming April we are contacting individual holders to see if they are willing to forgive or rollover their loans. Our proposed new terms are a 5-year loan with a 5% interest rate (which will be raised if the rate we negotiate for the first mortgage is higher). For those mortgage holders who wish to be paid, we will replace them with other congregants who are interested and willing to pick up a part of the second mortgage.

The Building Fund creates our cash flow to pay off the mortgages. The recent Critical Appeal resulted in 158 congregants now making monthly contributions from \$10 to more than \$100 per month. The average contribution is within a few cents of our goal of \$45 per month. This has enabled us to extend the life of the current Building Fund to over two years at the current drawdown rate. Longer term we will need to establish the means to balance the Building Fund in order to continue to pay the mortgages on an ongoing basis.

Finally, the Board recognizes "fatigue" on the part of donors and solicitors for all the extra fundraising we are doing. We have tried to reduce the number of separate fundraising events and set more modest goals that we can meet. We also want to establish a way to coordinate all the different fundraising.

In future newsletters, I'll publish the annual budget's year-to-date progress and discuss those results. In the interim, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Light the Up dark days of December!

Sunday, December 6, 1:30-4:30

*A fun filled
Chanukah concert
and celebration
for the young and
young at heart!*

food; menorahs,
gifts, dreidels,
candles,
children's books;
and a jumpy house

Raffle: win \$1000 towards
synagogue membership!
(Call 510-549-9447 for tickets.)

Tickets on sale
at www.brownpapertickets.com
\$6.00/child (age 12 and under), \$14/adult
Limited ticket sales at the door.

For more information
call 510-549-9447 or
email rimmonim@netivotshalom.org



Live performance by Fran Avni,
*internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter
and children's recording artist*

*"Fran Avni is an
international treasure.
She reminds us that
music is best when
shared with many,
allowing us to build
bridges of spirit, hope,
community and song"*
Craig Taubman

Opening songs, 2:00
by Rabbi Menachem Creditor

Chanukah stories, 2:15
by Liora Brosbe

Fran Avni, 3:00

Congregation Netivot Shalom
1316 University Avenue, Berkeley

Sponsored by: Congregation Netivot Shalom
Co-sponsored by: Camp Kee Tov, Camp Tawonga, URJ Camp Newman-Swig,
Camp Ramah of California, Tehiyah Day School, Oakland Hebrew Day School,
Local business supporters: Afikomen and Semifreddi's

Promoting Israel

By Judy Penso, Chairperson

V'Zot Yisrael is a new Netivot Shalom group created to promote the congregation's and congregant's identity and connection with Israel. This vibrant committee has been meeting monthly since July. Its programs aim to provide a tangible and authentic Israel experience while at the same time be inclusive and non-divisive and build community.

V'Zot Yisrael's principals and guidelines include:

- Israel is the Jewish Homeland
- Ahavat Israel – The love of Israel
- Commitment to Israel's survival and security

The committee's primary goals are the following:

- Promote identity with Israel independent of political perspective
- Integrate this identity into Netivot Shalom congregants' lives through prayer, increased awareness, educational programming and symbolic acts. Its emphasis will be on experiences that bring the Netivot Shalom community together.

Upcoming programs include:

- January 31, 2010-Professor Yael Chaver will lecture on the controversy that ensued when deciding whether Yiddish and Hebrew would be the national tongue in Pre-State Palestine.
- Date TBA-An Israeli Cooking class with Netivot Shalom's own Chef Arnon Oren will teach congregants how to prepare Israeli food, which will then be enjoyed by the class.
- March 14, 2010- Netivot Shalom will host the Honorable Akiva Tor, Consul General of the State of Israel, when he will discuss "Diversity, Innovation and Politics in Israel Today".
- May 1, 2010-an Israeli-style Lag B'Omer Bonfire for the whole family.

Congregant Hilda Kessler is organizing a photo exhibit of congregants' Israel trip pictures. Congregants who have interesting pictures of Israel, contact Hilda Kessler at hildakess@gmail.com.

As a new committee we welcome your new ideas and energy. Please join us at future meetings to contribute your thoughts and enthusiasm. If you would like to speak with someone about this committee, please contact Judy Penso, Chairperson at judypenso@sbcglobal.net.



Ahavat ISRAEL





Connecting Jobs with Job Seekers

By Norma Kaufman

In the current economy, many synagogue and community members are unemployed and struggling to find jobs. How can Netivot Shalom members help job seekers?

JOIN LinkedIn.com, a professional networking website.

When registering, PLEASE include information on at least your current employer.

Most important, BECOME A MEMBER of LINKEDIN.COM GROUP "Berkeley Synagogues." (Click on Groups in the left column, click on the Groups Directory tab, click on our group's name, then click Join Group.)

By joining the Berkeley Synagogues LinkedIn group, you are enabling job seekers from Berkeley synagogues and other job seekers in our community to connect with you when they are searching for positions at your companies. Since job searches are much more successful when job seekers know people at their target companies, group members may ask you about your company or if you could help get their resume to the right person in your company.

For full disclosure, LinkedIn's T's & C's for groups include the following language: "You warrant to LinkedIn Corporation that you have the right to provide LinkedIn with a list of the names of your Group Members. Additionally, you warrant to LinkedIn that, should you choose to provide LinkedIn with the email addresses of your Members, you have the right to do so." We don't anticipate being asked for names but, if this is a concern of yours, then please do not join the group.

JOB SEEKERS: Beginning January 7, we will meet every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to network, offer each other support, etc. Our first meeting will be held in Netivot Shalom's library (1316 University Avenue, Berkeley). At the first meeting, we will decide on a meeting rotation schedule and develop the meeting format. Meetings are open to all job seekers; synagogue membership is not required. Please let your unemployed friends know about this group.

Thanks in advance to everybody for the assistance you can provide our job seekers and to those who have already joined the Berkeley synagogues LinkedIn group.

If you have any related questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Norma Kaufman (normakauf@comcast.net, 510-612-3940).

Dov Rosenfeld &
Cathy Shadd Rosenfeld
invite you to share in a simcha on
January 16, 2010 ~ I Shevat 5770
Parshat Vaera
when their daughter
Anna Rosenfeld
will be called to the Torah
as a bat mitzvah.

Rebecca Schwartz & Jonathan Berk
invite you to share in a simcha on
January 2, 2010 ~ 16 Tevet 5770
Parshat Vayechi
when their daughter **Hannah Berk**
will be called to the Torah as a bat
mitzvah.



More to Come with BAYCC

By Karen Juster Hecht

On Sunday, August 30, CNS hosted “Fasting in the Jewish and Muslim Traditions: An Evening of Sharing.” More than 75 people attended the Iftar-breaking of the Ramadan fast jointly co-sponsored by CNS and Bay Area Cultural Connections (BAYCC). Cooks from both organizations prepared the meal consisting of a Greek fish recipe, salad, and roasted vegetables.

On Sunday January 3, 2010, our friends at BAYCC will come to CNS again to share the Ashure with us. Ashure, which is also called Noah’s Pudding, is a Turkish dessert that is made of a mixture consisting of grains, fruits, and nuts. It is a part of Turkey’s culinary tradition, as well as, many of the surrounding countries.

This dish is believed to have originated when Noah’s Ark came to rest on Mount Ararat in northeastern Turkey and they celebrated by preparing a special dish. Combining limited supplies, they formed a pudding from the primarily grains, dried fruits and the like.

Traditionally, Ashure, made in large quantities to commemorate the ark’s landing, is distributed to friends, relatives, neighbors, colleagues, classmates, etc. with little regard to the recipients’ religion or belief system; it is an offering of peace and love. Whether the origins are from Noah’s ark or some other source, the Ashure symbolizes – in one delicious message – friendship and sharing.

Plan to attend this pleasing to the palette, educational, and fun event – a great mix – like the pudding recipe! Stay tuned for further details and be sure to save the date: January 3, 2010.



Rabbi Creditor addressing the group about fasting in Jewish tradition.



BAYCC chapter president Oytun Eskiyeenturk teaching the dinner guests about fasting in the Muslim tradition.



In the kitchen, we have the evening’s cooks. From L to R, Ester Alkanli, Hatice from BAYCC, Tobie Lurie, Sharon Priven, Ednah Beth Friedman, and Andy Cassidy.

SEE YOUR NAME IN A PHOTO CAPTION!

We’re looking for photos of Netivot events! Please send shul event photos to newsletter@netivotshalom.org. Use cell phone, camera or other digital photo devices.

Congregation Beth Israel

presents

An Evening of World Class Comedy

with

Australia's foremost exponent of
Jewish stand-up comedy and satire



Starring
Robert Weil
and his alter ego
*“Rabbi Mordy
Katz”*

Admission
\$20 Adults / \$10 Students
Financial Assistance Available

Sunday 3rd January 2010
7.30pm

**Social Hall, Congregation Beth Israel,
1630 Bancroft Way, Berkeley CA. 94708**



Meet New Member Sue Douglass

Sue was born in Oakland, but raised in Reno, Nevada. She returned to the Bay Area in 1966 to get her teaching credential at SF State and stayed to work. She is now a retired teacher of visually impaired students and works part time as a vision impairment specialist for Blind Babies Foundation (BBF). Through BBF's *Off to a Good Start* program, she provides family-centered early intervention services to blind and visually impaired children birth to three years. And coincidentally, she shares clients with two other CNS members, Gail Gordon and Ruth Konoff.

She joined Netivot Shalom because it felt like the right place at the right time. She appreciates the warm welcome she has received at Netivot Shalom, looks forward to getting to know more people, and hopes there is a lot of interest in a congregational trip to Israel next year.

She has two daughters: Sonia, 30 and Sonia, 26. Both come from Central America. Older Sonia is married and has two daughters, Leila who is 28 months old, and Seleste who is five months. For the past two years she has had the pleasure of being a hands-on Nona to her granddaughters, as "Mama" Sonia and her family live with her. "Auntie Sonia" lives with her too.

She loves to read, take pictures, design toys for her clients, and music. She sang Eastern Europe music with a group, and right now she is passionate about Sephardic music.



Calling Netivot Shalom New Members!

The Newsletter would love to print a small article about you (with a picture) to introduce you to our community. It can be as simple as one or two paragraphs that you supply. Please send this to us at newsletter@netivotshalom.org

Cooks Deserve Applause!

By Ruth Konoff

I have had the pleasure of acting as Netivot Shalom's "New Baby Meal Coordinator" for the past four and a half years. Whenever I learn of a new addition to one of our families, I contact the family and offer meals to help them through the rough, sleep-deprived first few weeks. If they accept the offer, I contact volunteers in our community to arrange for food to be brought to the new (or newly-enlarged) family. Usually, that means cooking a meal, but sometimes, a family prefers help with grocery shopping.

As I looked over my list of volunteer cooks, I realized I have never formally thanked them! I am making up for that now, with a HUGE expression of gratitude to those who made life easier for all of those families. Since I took over the position in the middle of 2005, over 30 babies have been born to our families, many of them in just the past few months (and I understand several more are on their way...). To the right is the list – almost surely incomplete, given my sloppy record-keeping – of households who have provided meals for New Baby families in the past few years. I know there are many more who have done this *mitzvah* without my arrangement, and thanks go out to them, as well. Because I really don't know who has done the actual cooking, delivering, or just helping out, I've tried to list all adults in the household (based on the membership directory); I apologize to those left out, and to those who did all the work but have to share the thanks. I would also like to thank Shari Rifas, who coordinates her own army of volunteers to prepare batches of food in the CNS kitchen for any family who needs it.

If you, too, would like to participate in this rewarding *mitzvah*, please send me an e-mail at newbabies@netivotshalom.org. Include your name, your zip code, and whether you keep a kosher kitchen (kosher kitchen is not required; each family lets me know its dietary needs, and I match them up with volunteers who can meet those needs). Thanks to you all!

New Baby Meal Volunteers

Yael Biederman & Jon Galinson	Elissa & Alan Kittner
Susan Lawrence & Andy Cohen	Sue Sheftel & Robert Meola
Babbie Freiberg & Lee Bearson	Melissa Mednick & Jeff Rosenbloom
Turi & Scott Adams	Elisabeth Kashner & Jonathan Stern
Jenny & Joshua Kirsch	Lee & Paul Feinstein
Anna & Michael Fogelman	Wendy Rosov & Peg Sandel
Dina Beck	Lisa & Mel Sibony
Chalyn & David Newman	Laura Benton
Angela Alonso & Steven Bileca	Ruth Konoff & Ben Hermalin
Tamar & Yossi Fendel	Alice Webber & Stephen Tobias
Betsy Cottle Ross & Tracy Ross	Katya & Joel Gerwein
Andi & Michael Cassidy	Cathy Shadd & Dov Rosenfeld
Serena & Meldan Heaslip	Maia & Brett Singer
David & Laura Callen	Karen Friedman & David Marcus
Cathy Bolding & Joe Meresman	Jenny & Barry Schwartz Groody
Sarah Herman & Joel Bashevkin	Toby & George Gidal
Claudia Valas & Carl Buchin	Judy Breakstone
Carol Dorf & Nathan Landau	Jenna Lewis
Robin Braverman	Gail Krowech
Deb Lewis & Martin Myers	Jerry Derblich
Tamir Scheinok & Mimi Choi	Billi Romain & Douglas Berman
Rena Dorph & Peter Wahrhaftig	Diane and Edwin Bernbaum
David & Martha Rock Birnbaum	Jennie & Steve Chabon
Marissa Moss & Robert Scheifer	Sharon & Mark Priven
Rachel Brodie & Adam Weisberg	Debby Graudenz & Rom Rosenblum
Judy & Glenn Massarano	Liora Brosbe & Rabbi Daniel Isaacson
Yonit Levy	Jeanne Reisman & Leonard Goldschmidt
Mindy Geminder	Elizabeth Weber & Daniel Handwerker
Rachel & Eric Seder	Deb Fink & Aaron Katler
Lorraine & Norman Rosenblatt	Joan & Kang Kiang
Meredith & Edward Gold	Rabbi Mimi Weisel & Paul Hamburg
Claire Sherman & Ed Anisman	Joanna Weinberg & David Levine
Janet Schneider & Andrew Kahn	Carly & Matt West
Marcia Brooks	Barbara Wezelman
Anne & Michael Marx	
Helen Schneider	
Liz & Rabbi Menachem Creditor	
Kara Vuicich & David Radwin	

Help Your Shul, Support a Local Small Business, and Keep Note Writing Alive!

By Cathy Shadd

Isn't it nice to get real mail, which comes hand delivered to your house that you hold in your hand, anticipating its contents? And once it's opened you savor and keep it not only because of what it says but because the writer actually touched it. Well, I know I do and my experience of receiving this pleasure is becoming rarer.

You can do your part to keep this lovely form of communication from dying, and help support educational programs in our *shul* and a small local business. With the new Netivot Shalom greeting card project, you can have lovely cards right in your desk, ready for any occasion.

Lisa Sibony spearheaded this card creating project and steered it to a local company, Brandes Printing. It's been here in Berkeley since 1924 and run by a brother and sister who practically grew up in the shop. Rather than ordering cards on-line, which may be cheaper and certainly more impersonal, Netivot Shalom has connected with this local business to print congregant-created cards for different occasions.

You want to express your hope that a friend whose loved one has just died will find comfort? Use the lovely card Brenda Goldstein created. Your friend is sick? Lee Bearson created a card guaranteed to bring cheer. Lisa Sibony's unique and beautiful card will get anyone's new year off to a great start. Tell friends you are thinking of them during the holidays with Lydia Brose's "*shalom*" cards conveying warmth and love. Claire Sherman, Shira Anisman and Lee Bearson have made bar or bat mitzvah cards. And Lee's "*mazel tov*" cards will convey your joy and pride in hearing of friends' achievements. For other occasions check out one of the really beautiful *hamsa* mosaic cards created at last year's retreat by Claire Sherman or Mira Muhlfelder.

You can buy these cards on Dec. 6 at the Netivot Shalom Chanukah fair and concert. After that, they will be available through the front office and through the Netivot website. But if you come on Dec. 6, you will get to thank the card creators. You will also get to support other local businesses: Afikomen, who will be selling all kinds of Chanukah related supplies and gifts and EKS Publishing's Chanukah or children's books. These purchases will help our educational programs right here at Netivot Shalom!



Second Annual

Netivot Shalom



Music Festival

Saturday, January 9, 2010
7:00 - 10:30 PM

Cantor Jennie Chabon/Julie Batz

Rabbi Menachem Creditor/
Rom Rosenblum

"The Way" Gospel Band

Kol Truah Jewish Choir

NS Musical Comedy Group

Pacific Boychoir

NS Jazz-Klez Band

John Erlich of Za'atar

Nagila Klezmer Ensemble

Cantor Sharon Bernstein

NS Teen Singers

Admission

\$15 adults, \$5 youth

No advanced sale

Light dinner and desserts for purchase

Raffle prizes!

A fundraiser for community building
and other programs at Netivot Shalom

For more info, contact Dan Siegel/Steven Bileca
at community@netivotshalom.org



Congregation Netivot Shalom
1316 University Avenue, Berkeley

Shabbat B'Yachad Continues to Grow and Inspire!

By Liora Brosbe

I am happy to report that *Shabbat B'Yachad* (SBY) has had a strong beginning this year. I am enjoying my role and learning about the wonderful families in our congregation with children ages newborn to five!

We welcomed the New Year with many Rabbi Shalom Bochner and his team's planned and facilitated services. Our annual *Parshat Noach* animal parade was well attended and contained many different animals! We continue to welcome new families to our program, collaborate with the Nursery School and their students, as well as, rely on our strong base of committed parents who contribute to the SBY's success.

Behind the scenes I continue to encourage the participation of new and not so new families to SBY. As in many areas of our shul, lay-leaders often fall into the category of a small and committed group of folks that regularly fill the roles needed to make our shul so, well...participatory! While I encourage the stable base to keep up their efforts, I also train, inspire, support, and delegate leadership to others who may have an interest, but haven't taken the next step. This is a long term process, and with the support of Rabbi Shalom Bochner, Director of Life Long Learning, I am having personal conversations with parents about their needs. I am also implementing initiatives to achieve the broader goal of an inclusive, parent-driven, low pressure atmosphere as the basis for *Shabbat B'Yachad*. And, of course, this is all in the name of sustaining an early childhood program that models for our youngest children a joyous involvement in Judaism, with shared responsibility and active engagement with synagogue life.

Specifically, there are a number of programs to look forward to in the coming months:

The congregation is sponsoring a Chanukah Fair and Concert on Sunday, December 6th from 1:30-4:30pm featuring music by Fran Avni. There will also be upcoming workshops to inspire and teach parents how to lead SBY services and storytelling.

As always, we welcome you to enjoy the *Shabbat B'Yachad* program on the 2nd and 4th Shabbat of the month. Services begin at 11 a.m. and we are eager to include you in our special "corner" of our *shul* community.

Mazal Tovs:

Mazal Tov to
**Beth Zygielbaum
and Jason Dietrich,**
on the birth of a baby boy!

Mazal Tov to
**Elizabeth and Dan
Handwerker,**
on the birth of a baby girl!

Mazal Tov to
Rebecca Simon,
on her Bat Mitzvah on
Saturday, November 14, 2009.
Rebecca did beautifully.
Mazal Tov to her parents
**Susan Stanfield
and Hiram Simon.**

Welcome New Members:

Matthew & Edona Abarbanel
Patricia (Patti) Hannah Batya Bennett
Willa Mamet & Dana Berge
Susan Douglass
Leonard Fellman & Trudy Rubinstein
Emily Galpern
Karen Goldberg
Michelle (Mihal) Grunfelder &
David McCoy
Toby & Michael Hopstone
Seth Levine & Stacey Schwartz
Marika (Marian) Wertheimer

SEE YOUR NAME IN A PHOTO CAPTION!

We're looking for photos of Netivot events! Please send shul event photos to newsletter@netivotshalom.org. Use cell phone, camera or other digital photo device.

Making Us Aware of Disabilities

By Diane Bernbaum

Many of you read this column month after month and still wonder what actually goes on at classes at Midrasha. Let me give you a little glimpse, our annual 8th grade Disabilities Awareness Workshop. When the 9th graders are away on a retreat, we have the perfect opportunity to do something special with the whole 8th grade class for the entire 3 hour class time on a Sunday morning. This year it happened October 25.

Students were asked to put “yes” or “no” in one corner of their nametags if they knew someone who was disabled, a “yes” or “no” in another corner if they considered themselves disabled and a star if they had ever assisted someone disabled. Then, they moved to different corners of the room to express their opinions on disability, ability and dignity.

They, then, broke into small groups and discussed various Biblical and Talmudic texts such as “You shall not curse the deaf nor put a stumbling block before the blind,” from Leviticus, relating those texts to the disabled in the world around them today.

The students then watched “How difficult Can this Be? F.A.T. City.” This is a film of a workshop taught by a Learning Disability Specialist to a group of teachers. Through simulations, he makes them feel what it is like to sit in a classroom with a learning disability and how a teacher telling one to “try harder” doesn’t help the student get a right answer, perceive the picture, read the word etc. Several students have always found this film life-changing since they can for the first time see what their peers go through.

A panel discussion followed the film with people who are either disabled or work with the disabled. The panelists were: Debbie Graudenz, a therapist who works with both disabled adults and children, Talia Geliebter, a Midrasha graduate with cerebral palsy and Mark Geliebter, her father who is a physician, Lorraine Rosenblatt, a former Midrasha parent with multiple sclerosis who does workshops for disabled adults, Masha Aleskovski, a Midrasha student who sustained brain damage in a car accident, Pierra Miller, a Midrasha graduate now a language and speech therapist who works with autistic children, Annette Blachman, a former Midrasha parent who is a therapist, working mainly with people with Asperger’s Syndrome.

At the end of the program we asked the students how this program changed them and what they had learned. They wrote: “I now know that disabilities are hidden among everyone.”; “I will be more observant and now will know what causes most of disabled people’s actions.”; “I will start helping people with disabilities more.”; “I will directly address the disabled person, not their care -giver.”; “The fact that disabilities is mentioned in the Torah is very important.”; “I really think the video taught me how the world is from a disabled person’s eyes.”; “I love the Jewish views on disabled people. I feel like it’s really fair and just.”

These programs and our students’ reactions make the teachers (and me) happily wake up early each Sunday morning, knowing we are doing our little part to change the world.

Channukah 5770 at Netivot Shalom is full of great events for many ages and interests! For more online resources to help you prepare for Channukah, please visit MyJewishLearning.com, an incredible website for all things Jewish!

Chag Channukah Sameach!

Friday, Dec 11 - First Night of Channukah!

December's 2nd YA Friday event is delightfully aligned with the first night of Channukah! Plan to join us for services and a meal followed by games, songs, and merriment. RSVP for dinner to ya@netivotshalom.org to let us know you're coming!

Saturday, Dec 12 - First Day of Channukah!

Human Rights Shabbat 2009: (cosponsored by Rabbis for Human Rights-North America, and K'vod Habriot: A Jewish Human Rights Network) - Rabbi Creditor's Drasha during Shabbat services will touch on Netivot Shalom's abiding Channukah/Dedication to Human Rights.

Sunday, Dec 13 - Second Day of Channukah!

Joel Ben Izzy Benefit Concert for Easy Does It: Come gather for an afternoon of stories with traveling storyteller Joel ben Izzy. The performance will be held on December 13th from 3pm-5pm at Netivot Shalom, 1316 University Ave, Berkeley. Tickets are sliding scale children \$7 -\$10, adults \$10-\$18. To purchase tickets, please visit <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/17211>. This performance will benefit Easy Does It Emergency Services, which provides crucial assistance to the Berkeley Disability Community such as emergency attendant care and transportation. For more information visit www.easydoesitservices.org.

Monday, Dec 14 - Third Day of Channukah!

Annual East Bay AIPAC Dinner: V'Zot Yisrael, Netivot Shalom's Israel interest group, has arranged for a full CNS table at the AIPAC dinner, demonstrating one approach among many within our community's relationship with Israel. Contact chair Judy Penso for more information!

Tuesday, Dec 15 - Fourth Day of Channukah!

Discover Judaism: Jewish Holidays class: 7:30pm (cosponsored by Lehrhaus Judaica) - Rabbi Bochner will be teaching this night, as part of Netivot Shalom's ongoing “Discover Judaism” series. This night will cover Chanukah and include candle lighting too!

Wednesday, Dec 16 - Fifth Day of Channukah!

7:15 a.m. - Morning Minyan

1 p.m. - Adult Haftarah Study Class in the Library (Bring your own lunch!) Rabbi Creditor will lead a lunchtime conversation about gold, pomegranates, and King Solomon based on the upcoming Haftarah (1 Kings 7:40-50).

Thursday, Dec 15 – Rosh Chodesh Tevet/
Sixth Day of Channukah!

7:15 a.m. - Special Rosh Chodesh Morning Minyan enjoy special Treats for Tevet!

4:30 p.m. - CNS Hebrew School Chanukah Assembly!

Another Year of Expanding LifeLong Learning Opportunities

By Rabbi Shalom Bochner, Director of LifeLong Learning

Here at Netivot Shalom our opportunities for learning are varied and frequent and available for all ages of students.

Adult Education

On Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., we explore and discuss the *Haftorah* reading. Taught by Rabbi Menachem and me last year, we covered the entire annual cycle of Torah readings.

On Thursdays at 5:45 p.m. – 6:45 p.m., I facilitate a weekly opportunity for delving into the *Talmud* where we slowly make our way through the Tractate of Blessings and discover the origins of the *Siddur*, the Jewish approach to prayer and study, and many delightful ancient tangents and streams of consciousness.

Every Shabbat morning at 9:00 a.m. our well-known Torah Study meets, taught by different scholars.

Every week after *Kiddush* is a regular schedule of adult education opportunities such as Scholar of the Month, Social Action, the *Rimonim Midot* (values), and *NaCh* (sections from the books of Prophets and Writings).

Twice a month on Sundays is a wonderful series of speakers and topics including a series that Rabbi Menachem and I offer on themes of Community.

Our new Discover Judaism series runs through February and offers three series that are each 5 weeks long with a focus on Torah, the Holidays, and Spiritual Practice and Jewish Law.

Our new partnership with Lehraus Judaica has brought us learning opportunities on Jewish Alchemy as well as *Tutankhamun* and a very exciting range of Hebrew classes that will take place here at Netivot Shalom in the spring.

We also have special classes such as *Liturgy in Depth* with Rabbi Stuart Kelman and *Bringing Buber into Practice* with Jake Birnberg.

Also, new this year is a weekly Torah blurb included in the Shabbat announcements and weekly e-mails.

The Adult Ed Committee is happy to have your involvement and your ideas; please speak to Marcia Brooks to become active with this committee. Please see our Green Pages handout or online *shul* calendar for more details.

Youth Education

Our Hebrew school registration is off the charts. We have experienced close to a 33% increase in enrollment due to a large *Amitim Bnai Mitzvah* class, as well as, the addition of new students in every class. Our goal for the school for the year is to enhance the sense of community for our families. We currently offer a Hebrew Infusion Program from Kindergarten through 3rd Grade, a comprehensive program focused

continued on following page

Curious about Shabbat Morning Torah Study?

By Stephen Tobias

Rabbi Bochner's LifeLong Learning Report, lists current adult education classes and events at Netivot Shalom, many of them ongoing and always open, and some new opportunities to begin in January and beyond. For those who may have wondered what a class is like, I'd like to describe Shabbat morning Torah study.

We gather in the library around 9:00, say a *bracha*, and start to read and discuss parts of the week's Torah portion. There may be 10 or 15 us – the "old" regulars (those coming for years), the "new" regulars (those coming for months), irregular participants, and visitors. Some know more Torah, some less, and some are just beginning to learn. We read Torah in various ways, according to our predilections. Some attendees are more tradition-minded and some much less, some more into history than God-talk and some more into literature. But together we try to focus together on what each week's portion says—about us and about life as we interpret it.

We are blessed with renowned teachers, Nitzhia Shaked and occasionally, Naomi Seidman. They don't lecture; they comment on passages and then ask how we see the passage. Sometimes, we don't wait to be asked. In alternate weeks, one of us takes responsibility for choosing passages to focus on and then facilitates the conversation. We go on for an hour or more, until we hear the Torah service starting in the sanctuary down below. Then, some of us join the service, others may go elsewhere. The next week, we gather again, eager to learn together. We're blessed with one another.

If you've never learned on Shabbat morning with us, or if you have but not lately, please come by.

continued from previous page

on Prayer book skills, Jewish history, and ethics in the 4th –5th grades, and *Amitim*, a unique and successful program that prepares Hebrew School and Day School students for becoming Bat and Bar Mitzvah.

All of the grades participate in Torah study and holiday celebrations and we have added a focus this year on the monthly *Rimmonim middot* values. Also, new this year is a weekly *Beit Midrash* activity where first through fifth graders join together every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. for an interactive exploration of a mysterious line from the weekly Torah reading.

We welcome three new teachers to our Hebrew School classes this year: Jessica Dell'Era, an experienced 5th grade teacher and Oakland *trop* instructor, is teaching our new 6th grade pre-*Amitim* class and will continue with *Amitim*. The 4th and 5th grade teacher is Leor Frankel who has many years of Hebrew and Judaica experience in many educational settings. Our new *Gan* teacher is Tahle Sendowski who brings her experiences as a student at Tehiyah Day School and her college leadership with Israel celebrations and programs to the classroom.

Our *Amitim* program will now run from January of 6th grade through December of 7th grade ensuring that all students are ready before their dates and that the families feel fully supported through parent education classes and family retreats. Our current 16 student *Amitim* class recently enjoyed a three day retreat at Cazadero Camp that included discussions, ice-breaker activities, powerful outdoor *Tefillot* and Torah studies, and a chance to really grow and bond as a group of families.

Also, new this year, our *Bnai Mitzvah Amitim* social action program has partnered with Congregation Beth El on four projects involving healing the environment, responding to international and local hunger, and helping local homeless families. We have maintained our active involvement in the *Midrasha* Program which provides education and a social setting for our teens after they have completed *Amitim*.

Soon we will be offering supervised *Shabbat* childcare for 2 years olds through 5th graders on a regular basis. This is in addition to the *Shabbat B'Yachad* program for 2 to 5 years olds, *Rimmonim* for Kindergarten through 2nd graders and their parents, and *Orah VeSimchah* Youth Services and Torah Study for 3rd-5th graders. Please consult the website calendar for schedule details about these incredible Shabbat morning programs.

We have plans to start a youth group at Netivot Shalom to involve our junior high and high school students with regional and international *Kadima* and USY programs through the Conservative Movement. Please join us on Thursday night, December 10th at 7:30pm for a Youth Group Think Tank to help move these plans forward. We are looking for parent volunteers to help support this important effort while we explore ways to fund an USY/*Kadima* Advisor position here.

We are exploring having all-ages program for *Lag B'Omer* in addition to our new and improved *Purim* Festivities. To get involved with our Youth Education Programs please speak to Deborah Lewis, our Youth Ed Chair, or Lara Hornbeck, our school Parent Volunteer Coordinator. Please speak to me to get involved with youth group activities or holiday celebrations or if you have any questions or ideas about LifeLong Learning at Netivot Shalom.

The Rosh Chodesh Group

Thursday, December 17 -
Vicky Kelman on Hannukah
and the Symbolism of Light in
the Jewish Tradition.

Sunday, January 17 -
Jewish Sacred Dance with
Miriam Peretz.

Meetings begin at 7 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.



Designated Funds at CNS

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

Stephanie Davis Fund

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

Young Adults Fund

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

Ethelyn Simon Fund

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

Sifrei Kodesh

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

Open Door Fund

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

Tzedakah Fund

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

Kelman Liturgy Fund

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

Youth Education Fund

Supports the needs of our various youth education programs.

Preschool Scholarship Fund

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

(continued on page 19)

Donors

We sincerely thank the following members for contributing to the funds listed below for donations made during the months of September through mid-November 2009. We apologize if we have inadvertently missed anything including a name or donation. Please email Rachel at office@netivotshalom.org with any corrections so that they may be noted in the next newsletter. (Please note: We are not listing pledge payments of any kind except for the Yom Kippur Appeal in this newsletter)

Adult Ed Donations

David Bradford, Torah Study

David Stein & Bill Stewart, in honor of Rabbi Shalom Bochner

Alice Webber & Stephen Tobias, Donation for Torah Study

Barbara Wezelman, Torah Study - in memory of Norman Wezelman

Larry Bernard, in honor of Judith & Michael McCullough's birthdays

Barbara Wezelman, Torah Study, in memory of her relatives

Dan Kaplan & Marianne Koch, Support of Saturday morning Torah Class

Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern, in honor of Rabbi Shalom Bochner teaching at La'asok Adult Haftorah

Building Fund Donations

Martha and David Birnbaum, in memory of Corey Largman

Ralph & Rosette Fischer, Gift to the Building Fund

Clifford Fred, Building Fund- Yizkor Service

Rita Stein, Building Fund Donation

Preschool Donations

Kirsten Barrere, in honor of the brit milah of Rami Fendel

Frederick Isaac, in honor of brit milah of Rami Fendel

Rabbi Daniel Isaacson & Liora Brosbe, in honor of Nafatlin-Kelman, Judah Callen, Hazel Kirsch, Evan Ratner

Jewish Community Endowment Fund, Grant for Preschool School

Robert Knoll, in honor of brit milah of Rami Fendel

Low Income Investment Fund, Grant for Preschool Susan Mangel

Debra & Oren Massey, in honor of Ari Fendel's birthday

Debra & Oren Massey, in honor of Rena & Ezra Witkin & Naomi Fogelman's birthdays

Sheldon Schaffer, in honor of brit milah of Rami Fendel

Daniel Schifrin & Abby Friedman, in honor of baby Fendel

Mark Travis, in honor of brit milah of Rami Fendel

General Donations

Perry & Malka Scheinok

Chauncey Bell & Shira Alice Bell, in memory of Meyer Kaplan

Janet & David Berg, in honor of Art & Sheila's anniversary & Sheila's birthday

Steven & Karen Bovarnick, in honor of Mary Breiner, a woman of valour

Art & Sheila Braufman, in memory of Harry Gottlieb

Art & Sheila Braufman, in memory of Moshe Aronstein

Celia & Paul Concus, in honor of Lee Bearson

(continued on page 19)

(continued from page 18)

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.

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

Anne Frank



(continued from page 18)

Sandra Gore & Ron Sires, in memory of Corey Largman

Rivka Greenberg & Ken Stanton, Yahrzeit Donation

Ralph & Judith Greif, in honor of of Sheila Braufman

Larry Hanover, in memory of Irving Hanover

Joseph Hellerstein & Adene Sacks

Emily Shapiro Katz, in memory of Corey Largman

Hilda & Seymour Kessler, in memory of June Safran's father

Kathy Khuner and Theda Haber, in memory of Moshe Aronstein

Tree Gelb Stuber, in honor of Martha Birnbaum

Joanna Weinberg & David Levine, in memory of Doris Kudisch

Matt & Carly West

Bracha Tannenbaum, with heartfelt thanks to Gene Bardach and Phil

Siegelman for honoring my late husband, Perry Tannenbaum with your prayers and thoughts.

Kelman Fund

Rabbi Stuart & Vicky Kelman, in memory of Patti Kelman Mintz

Yom Kippur Appeal

Andrea Altschuler & David Finn

Eugene & Nancy Bardach

Lee Bearson & Babbie Freiberg

Reuvain & Dina Beck

Karen Ben-Moshe

Jerry Berkman & Carolyn Koestel

Diane & Ed Bernbaum

Barbara Bibel

Joan Bieder

Steven & Angela Bileca

David & Martha Birnbaum

Art & Sheila Braufman

Robin Braverman

Lydia Anne Brose

Herman & Shelly Bruch

Sam Bucovetsky & Jane Sweatman, in honor of Rabbi Ruth Abusch-Magder

Jeff Burack & Shelly Ball

Andrea & Michael Cassidy

Cynthia Colvin

Celia & Paul Concus

Carol & Jim Cunradi

Susan David

Rabbi Sheldon & Gail Dorph

Audrey Franklin

Dale Friedman & Joan Bardus

George & Toby Gidal

Ellen Gobler & Larry Dolton

Mina & Jack Gobler

Alice & Sidney Goldstein

Dina & Adrain Halme

(continued on page 20)

(continued from page 19)

Iris Greenbaum & Stephen Knaster

Milton & Margaret Greenstein

Larry Hanover

Karen Hecht

Lara Hornbeck & John Erlich

Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern

Andrew Kahn & Janet Schneider

Barry Kamil & Nancy Gurian

Dan Kaplan & Marianne Koch

Norma Kaufman & Michael Meltzer

Kathy Khuner & Theda Haber

Seth Kimball & Vicki Sommer

Jennifer & Joshua Kirsch

Ralph & Hadassah Kramer

Gail Krowech

Vida Lehmann

Dennis Michael & Marilyn Levi

Jaimie Levin & Jane Wise

Stuart & Gerri Levitas

Gabriel & Angela Levy

Judy Lieberman & Allen Samelson

Tobie Lurie

Betty Martinez

Glenn & Judy Massarano

Margalit Mathan & Peter August

Claire Max & Jonathan Arons

**Seth (Ted) Mermin, in honor of
Stephanie Mermin**

Ethel Murphy

Lance and Dalia Nagel

Arnon Oren & Tammy Plotkin-Oren

Perl Perlmutter & Meghan Starkey

Elijah & Ginette Polak

Michal Longfelder

Arthur Reingold & Gail Bolan

Leslye & Seth Robbins

Wendy Rosov

Perry & Malka Scheinok

Helen Schneider

Leda Schulak & Brian Anderson

Lisa Schwartz & Michael Feeley

Mel & Lisa Sibony

Brett & Maia Singer

Bruce Starkman

David Stein & Bill Stewart

Ben & Helen Stern

Edna Stewart

Peter & Nan Strauss

**Carol Suveda, in memory of Joan and
Walter Moch**

Ann Swidler & Claude Fischer

Robert & Braha Trabin

Elsa Tranter

Ernst Valfer & Lois Brandwynne

Michael Wachter

Julian & Elsa Waller

Alice Webber & Stephen Tobias

Donna & Stewart Weinberg

Rabbi Mimi Weisel & Paul Hamburg

Matt & Carly West

Barbara Wezelman

Rabbi David & Irene Winston

Nancy & Sheldon Wolfe

Tali & Elad Ziv

Assi & Kim Zvik

Social Action Fund

**Andrea & Michael Cassidy, Social
Action**

**Yossi & Tamar Fendel, in honor of
Amir Fendel's bris**

Raymond Lifchez, Social Action Fund

**Barbara Wezelman, Social Action Fund
for Yizkor**

Rosenheimer Fund

**Claudia Herman, in honor of of Rosh
Hashanah**

**Reva Fabrikant & Solomon
Weingarten, in memory of Michael
Fabrikant**

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Susan Brand, in memory of Corey
Largman**

**Susan & Bruce Creditor, thank you for
the aliyah when visiting**

**Yossi & Tamar Fendel, in honor of
Amir Fendel's bris**

**Barbara Fritz, in honor of Rabbi
Creditor, Ednah Beth Friedman &
Cantor Jennie Chabon**

**Karen Horowitz Weiner, in honor of
the gracious Fendel Family bris**

Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern

**Jewish Community Federation of the
East Bay, in support of the community**

**Ralph & Hadassah Kramer, in memory
of Norman Kramer**

**Moishe & Florence Pripstein, in
memory of Chaim Pripstein**

**Moishe & Florence Pripstein, in
memory of Moshe Aronstein**

David Stein & Bill Stewart

**Richard Stern & Risa Kagan, in
memory of Myer Kagan**

Break-the-Fast/Kiddush Fund

**Mary & Tom Breiner, Rosh Hashanah
Kiddush**

Jerry Berkman & Carolyn Koestel

**Martha & David Birnbaum, in honor
of David Stein**

**Steven Bond & Shari Rifas, in honor of
David Stein**

Steven & Karen Bovarnick

**Art & Sheila Braufman, in honor of
David Stein**

Carol & Jim Cunradi

Susan David

Dale Friedman & Joan Bradus

George & Toby Gidal

Steve Gottlieb & Pat Hellman

**Wendy Rosov, in memory of Jennie
Samuels and Samuel Samuels**

Seth Kimball & Vicki Sommer

Helen Schneider

**Serena Shaw Heaslip & Meldan
Heaslip**

Brett & Maia Singer

Bruce Starkman

Alice Webber & Stephen Tobias

**Joanna Weinberg & David Levine, in
honor of Bill Stewart & David Stein**

**Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh & Mike
Steinbaugh, in memory of June
Safran's father**

Barbara Wezelman

Yahrzeits

Zichronam livrachah — May their memories be blessed**November 1, Heshvan 14**

Sophie Wollach Bardach
Lawrence Freiberg
Eleanor Jeffrey
Ernest Keller
Morris Wollach

November 2, Heshvan 15

Lillian Gottlieb
Mark Radwin
Bessie Raphael
Lawrence Zacks

November 3, Heshvan 16

Michael Fabrikant
Susan Shuldman

November 4, Heshvan 17

Tamar Kaufman
Ralph Klatt
Oded Reinin
Audrey Silverstein Umanoff

November 5, Heshvan 18

Jacob Joseph Birnbaum
Max Harris
Jerome W. Sidel

November 6, Heshvan 19

Aaron Harry Gobler
Paul Kirsch

November 7, Heshvan 20

Charles Mishkin
Isadore Teger

November 8, Heshvan 21

Dr. Frank Karp

November 9, Heshvan 22

Max Israel
Arthur Rotenberg
Merle Yager

November 10, Heshvan 23

Adam Daniel Cooper
Jack Rosenthal

November 11, Heshvan 24

Joanne Gordon
Irving Hanover
Chaim Pripstein

November 12, Heshvan 25

Thomas Graff

November 13, Heshvan 26

Anita Ku Brodofsky
Sally Louise Raimi Brose

November 15, Heshvan 28

Harry Safran
George Scammell
Sarah Scheinok
Benjamin Wright

November 16, Heshvan 29

Mary Ann Freiberg

November 17, Heshvan 30

Robert Glickler

November 18, Kislev 1

Doris Rice Kudisch
Sadie Weinstein

November 19, Kislev 2

Murray Dvorkin

November 20, Kislev 3

Pauline V. Friedman
Joseph Papo
Samuel Samuels
Shalva Sorani

November 21, Kislev 4

Norman Kramer
Sam Schoenfeld
Harvey Senturia

November 22, Kislev 5

Pauline Kunofsky
Philip Magorian

November 23, Kislev 6

Esther Bernstein

November 24, Kislev 7

Arnold Bloom
Max Brodofsky
Gershon Shragai

November 25, Kislev 8

Ann James Howerton King

November 26, Kislev 9

Harold Cohen
Frieda Gurian
Lillian Grossell Lesser
Sam Marson
Ned Rosen

November 27, Kislev 10

Charles Aronstein
Florrie Kohn

November 28, Kislev 11

Samuel Bernstein
Rudy Radousky
Jennie Samuels

November 29, Kislev 12

Wulf Concus
Jordan Packer
Max Waldman

November 30, Kislev 13

Ruth Black

December 1, Kislev 14

Pauline Braufman
Irene Gabrielle Reier

Marian Dale Scott
Seymore Taubman

December 2, Kislev 15

William Edell

December 3, Kislev 16

Chaim Scheinok
Sylvia Weiner

December 4, Kislev 17

Ethelyn Simon
Gloria Joy Sklansky
Gertrude Swidler
Wittia Zak

December 5, Kislev 18

Jack Becker
Sylvia Lorwit
Estelle Seder
Charlotte Vogel

December 7, Kislev 20

Morris Burack
Toni Magorian
Thelma Proweller
Chana Valder

December 8, Kislev 21

Rose Lang Braverman
Louis Lieberman
Dolan Edgar McIntyre
Deborah Rock Mann

December 9, Kislev 22

Samuel Namiot Koslow

December 10, Kislev 23

Merritt Rowland

December 11, Kislev 24

Jeanette Hart Laner
Anne Schoenfeld
Roslyn Sterling

December 12, Kislev 25

Jan Fischer
Judith Lee Stronach
David Wald

December 13, Kislev 26

Gitel Gerstel
Phillip Gressel

December 14, Kislev 27

Beulah Pride

December 15, Kislev 28

Sol Goldberg
Herman Lewis Gordon
Sam Levin

December 16, Kislev 29

Getel Goldstein
Jacob Levine

December 17, Kislev 30

Samuel Benjamin Caldes

December 18, Tevet 1

Elaine Miller Dorfman
Philip Dorph
Bernard Kilimnik
Gerald Alvan Tranter
Eric Wood

December 19, Tevet 2

Harry Beck
William Bruch

December 20, Tevet 3

Essie Lev
Leo Lowsky

December 22, Tevet 5

Helly Barzilay
Charles Friedman
Matthew Prentice

December 23, Tevet 6

Essie Sadie Sagarsky Berkman
Douglas
Beatrice Jaeger
David Rosenstein
Julie Senturia

December 24, Tevet 7

Theodore Jerome Myers

December 25, Tevet 8

Bertha Brotfeld

December 26, Tevet 9

Nathan Abraham Epstein
Max Rosenheimer
Naomi Rudolph

December 27, Tevet 10

Ida Frank

December 28, Tevet 11

Sophie Chait
Josephine Walter

December 29, Tevet 12

Stan Fink
William Jeffrey

December 30, Tevet 13

David Merton Banen
Irving Lowe
Michael I. Schuman
Rabbi Solomon Zaiman

December 31, Tevet 14

Maya Cooper
Chaim Radousky
Esther Radousky,,

We Extend Our Condolences to the Families of:

Moshe Aronstein z"l, brother of Toby Gidal

Sylvia Finkelman Jacobs, z"l, mother of Edna Stewart

Harry Gottlieb, z"l, father of June Safran

Thomas Graff, z"l, husband of Sharona Barzilay

Paul Kirsch, z"l, father of Joshua Kirsch

Corey Largman, z"l, husband of Rita Largman

Erich Lehmann, z"l, father of Sophia Lehmann

Mildred Weisel z"l, mother of Rabbi Mimi Weisel

Seymour Fromer, z"l.

Rabbi Chanan Feld, Chanan Velvel Simcha ben Eliahu, z"l.

along with all others who mourn Zion and Jerusalem.

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

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



**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.

Congregation
 Netivot Shalom's
**CALENDAR of
 ACTIVITIES &
 EVENTS** for
 current and
 upcoming events
 is online.



Kiddush Coordinator Position Open
 We really need help with the Kiddush Coordinator position and this could be a great opportunity for a team of two to take this on. Please give David Stein a call for more information (davidstein@comcast.net).

**CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM
 NEWSLETTER**

November/December 2009 • Cheshvan/Kislev 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 and provide names of people in each photo.

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

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 *tefillah* (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

Steve Bileca
secondvp@netivotshalom.org

Secretary

Edna Stewart
secretary@netivotshalom.org

Treasurer

Dave Birnbaum
cnstreas@netivotshalom.org

At-large

Tammy Plotkin-Oren
tplotkinoren@gmail.com
Joanna Weinberg
joanna.weinberg@ucsf.edu
Gerri Levitas
levitas@astound.net
Benjamin Krefetz
krefetzboard@netivotshalom.org
Betsy Cottle-Ross
bccottle@yahoo.com

Past President

Joe Meresman
pastpres@netivotshalom.org

COMMITTEES

Adult Ed

Marcia Brooks
adultprograms@netivotshalom.org

Bikur Cholim

Tobie Lurie
bikurcholim@netivotshalom.org

Building and Grounds

Josh Polston/Michael Feeley
bg@netivotshalom.org

Chevra Kadisha

Karen Friedman & Carol Cunradi
chevrakadisha@netivotshalom.org

Community Building

Dan Siegel
community@netivotshalom.org

Fundraising

Laura Callen & Jessica Login
cnsfundraise@netivotshalom.org

Gemilut Hasadim

Serena Heaslip
gemilut@netivotshalom.org

House

Eugene Berg
eberg@juhsd.net

Membership

Tamar Fendel & Judy Breakstone
membership@netivotshalom.org

PR/Marketing

Mary Lukanuski
PR@netivotshalom.org

Ritual

Glenn Massarano
ritualchair@netivotshalom.org

Social Action

Sharon Priven & Karen Hecht
socialaction@netivotshalom.org

Youth Education

Deborah Lewis
youthed@netivotshalom.org

Young Adult Havura

Jennifer Massie
ya@netivotshalom.org

RESOURCES

Cuban Affairs

June Safran
cubanaffairs@netivotshalom.org

Drash Coordinator

Lee Bearson
drash@netivotshalom.org

Greening Group

Susan Lawrence & Joel Gerwin
greening@netivotshalom.org

Greeter Coordinator

Justin Garland
greeter@netivotshalom.org

Kiddush Coordinator

David Stein
kiddush@netivotshalom.org

New Babies Coordinator

Ruth Konoff
newbabies@netivotshalom.org

Newsletter

Janet Schneider
newsletter@netivotshalom.org

Shabbat Hospitality

Katya & Joel Gerwein
shabbathospitality@netivotshalom.org

Job Search

Norma Kaufman
normakauf@comcast.net

Dreaming/Mission

David Callen
davidcallen@gmail.com

V'ZOT YISRAEL

Judy Penso
judypenso@sbcglobal.net

Web

Jerry Berkman
webmaster@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
skelman@netivotshalom.org