



# CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM

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## A Renewed Perspective on Israel

By Jeff Rosenbloom

I knew that this trip to Israel with the Masorti Foundation (Conservative Judaism in Israel) was not going to be a pleasure cruise, but I was unprepared for the mission's scope and depth. It had been 34 years since I was there; the changes were beyond description. My memories were of a place that hardly seems to exist now. The Old City and major landmarks within Jerusalem are constants, but everything else represents a land that has been catapulted into a modern, sophisticated country.

From the Negev to Haifa, we criss-crossed Israel and visited 12 kehillot (Masorti communities), the only conservative movement kibbutz, and a student village. We met with two government officials, a Jerusalem Post reporter, and the IDF. We even managed to squeeze in a winery (even this meeting was substantive).

The Masorti movement believes that there are two inter-related conflicting forces causing the decay of pluralism in Israeli religious society: 1) the rise of secular Zionism providing an alternative to traditional Jewish connections that occurred with the founding of Israel,<sup>1</sup> and 2) the rise in power of the Haredi community (ultra-orthodox) in Israel, creating a politically powerful group that rejects both the notion of Zionism as well as the religious legitimacy of all other Jews.

Up until the mid-80's, the Haredi were not politically savvy. However, they then realized that their growing constituency's power could be wielded quite effectively within the coalition government structure.<sup>2</sup>

The decay of egalitarian Jewish practice due to the Haredi influence was most recently seen when a Jewish woman (Nafrat Frankel) was arrested simply because she wore a tallit (prayer shawl) and held a torah while praying at the women's section of the Western Wall. However, she wasn't just arrested, but a Jewish policeman bumped her and laughed as she carried a torah. After the millions that have died throughout the centuries so that we may

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1 In his book, *Israelis and the Jewish Tradition*, David Hartman succinctly describes the phenomenon where the founding of the State of Israel allowed Zionists no longer to need traditional Judaism, creating a schism between religious and secular Israelis and Jews in the Diaspora.

2 The Haredi have become quite facile at forging alliances over the last 25 years that have brought them significant political and economic benefits: 1) exemption from military service (there are about 100 Haredi that have chosen to serve in the IDF), 2) obtaining 98% of the Minister of the Interior's spending on religious institutions for salaries of orthodox rabbis/construction of orthodox synagogues, 3) forcibly creating segregated seating on public buses (which was recently sanctified by the Israeli government and now set for Israel Supreme Court deliberation), and 4) controlling of the Kotel.

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have not just religious freedom, but a Jewish state, I found this situation to be repugnant and intolerable. When I met Frankel, who is barely 5' tall and travels to Jerusalem at 4 a.m. once a month for Rosh Chodesh services, I could not believe she was seen as such a threat.

Tzipi Livni, the leader of the Kadima party, expressed deep concern about the situation with Jewish practice and the Haredi. She stated that at their current rate of population growth, the Haredi will double in size in 10-12 years growing to 1.2 million and having inordinate strength within the government's coalition structure. Without reversing the Haredi's religious discrimination, any sense of religious tolerance for non-orthodox Jews would be lost. She believes that if the Haredi influence remains unchecked, she sees Israelis only identifying on a nationalist basis and not as Jews in a Jewish state. She has already spent time with the Masorti leaders at their request to help figure out a way to develop options for Israelis to connect with egalitarian, participatory Judaism.

We also met with Dan Meridor, the deputy Prime Minister. He also expressed serious concern about the Haredi's power and near-monopoly over resources that flow to Jewish institutions. However, he seemed resigned to the situation. To read more see the article that made it to the J.Post (English) [www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com) and YNET(Hebrew) [www.ynetnews.com](http://www.ynetnews.com).

So what does all this have to do with the Masorti movement? The Masorti movement's goal is to provide a different avenue for connection to Jewish traditions. The Masorti foundation, which is located in the US and whose mission is to support the conservative movement in Israel, does so by helping establish kehillot. This movement is small—there are only 56 or so kehillot with an average of 150-200 members. However, over 900 Israelis attend conservative services on Yom Kippur; many more are turned away for lack of room. Only 16 kehillot have their own buildings (this is because the government will only pay for the construction of ultra-orthodox synagogues and rabbanic salaries).

Last year the Masorti Foundation gave \$950,000 from the US and \$50,000 from Canada to the Masorti movement. The Legacy Heritage Foundation, which funded our Rimmonim program, also provided funding. Kehillot members themselves also paid dues. This is problematic since Israelis don't understand why they have to pay for religious services. The budget for the ENTIRE Masorti movement + Kehillot is \$4.5M (less than four times OUR budget). In exchange, the Masorti movement pays for half of the rabbis' salaries at the kehillot and supports a number of programs to expand opportunities (described below) for Israeli's connection to egalitarian, pluralistic Judaism.

Yet, there is a growing demand for change and Israelis are beginning to check out the Masorti Kehillot. I spoke with Israelis who wanted a spiritual connection, were tired of having to fly to Cypress to get married (since weddings are conducted by orthodox rabbis only), hated having conversions discredited by certain rabbis or desired Jewish traditions when they buried a parent. Consequently, the kehillot are growing at about 5% per year. And there are AMAZING communities and rabbis to meet this need. We met a dynamic rabbi, Chaya Rowen-Baker at Jerusalem's Kehillat Ramot Zion who, between creating innovative children's programming and outreaching to local secular schools, is building a congregation of Israelis who would have never stepped in a syna-

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David Lissy



Rabbi Chaya Rowen Baker, of Congregation Ramat Tziyon in Jerusalem



With Rabbi Yoav at Kibbutz Hannaton

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gogue. She stated that she felt like the Masorti movement is the new Palmach fighting for Israel's soul.

One of the rabbis on our trip donated a torah to one of the Masorti kehilla in Hod Harashon. We paraded with 50 families who were excited and thrilled that we brought a torah into their community since they receive no support from the government, indifference from the local municipality, and hostility from ultra-orthodox. I cried uncontrollably when they opened their humble arc housed in a multi-purpose room and we all sang Etz Chaim. In contrast to my experience at the Kotel, here I felt a spiritual connection filled with joy and passion.

We were honored to be included at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a facility for a Masorti youth group, known as NOAM. Through the sheer determination on the part of local Masorti staff and parents working with a Tel Aviv deputy mayor the city finally agreed to provide a space for the youth group: a bomb shelter. I was so moved by the excitement and joy the parents and kids expressed when cutting the ribbon and showing off the bomb shelter.

The Masorti movement also supports college-age students. We went to a student village in the Negev that is part of the Alyim program set up by the Israeli government to encourage students to study in the Negev and Galilee. The students truly saw themselves as expanding into areas in Israel that have been largely ignored in favor of the big cities. They feel that they are building something to benefit local communities and Israel as a whole. The Masorti movement provides funding for program directors to offer study sessions and events such as Shabbat dinners with Kiddush and study sessions. Services are next on the agenda, but not until there is a stated demand by the students. Many students come from secular Jewish homes so while there they are exposed to Jewish religious practices for the first time.

While all of this was marvelous and heartwarming, I don't want to conclude without discussing a more controversial topic—the Israeli army. I wasn't quite sure why we were going to an IDF base to talk with the Education Corp. But it turned out to be an incredible visit. And even if half of it was propaganda, it was worth doing. The IDF has an entire Education Corp that works with all commanders on ethics and teaching soldiers on how to deal with the stress of battle. I was struck that the Brigadier General was pretty candid in stating that there were military operational mistakes and that they needed tools to help young soldiers grapple with the resulting moral and ethical issues. To that end, he was supportive of the Masorti movement as it provided, in his opinion, an alternative religious structure that would speak to a number of the soldiers. He felt that this exposure to Jewish teachings and values was beneficial to their efforts to provide for the overall mental and spiritual health of the IDF soldier, especially when they returned back to society.

This trip was transformative for me. I don't say that lightly. Before this trip, I had four pre-conceived notions about Israel: 1) Jewish practice was structured much like ours, 2) it is democratic and egalitarian in its Jewish

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religious practice, 3) the influence of the Haredi was limited to putting up chains across roads on Shabbat in Mea Shearim and spitting on the occasional tourist who didn't dress modestly, and 4) the Israeli army's behavior in the Gaza/ West Bank (as portrayed in the media) was embarrassing and hard to defend.

Now, I believe that the Masorti movement can facilitate a reconnection and revitalization for secular Israelis to Jewish practice. However, it will take serious effort and money to help provide this option to Israelis. We can support the Masorti movement through our youth programs, telling others who are concerned about Israel's egalitarian and pluralistic Jewish practices, and directly funding their efforts through the Masorti Foundation.

Both Rabbi Creditor and I think that we should establish a USY youth group at Netivot Shalom and become a sister-youth group with the Tel Aviv chapter of NOAM. What better way to get our kids engaged with issues outside of Berkeley and with Israeli youth? We could see if we could have parallel projects with our USY group, the local Muslim community here, and the NOAM group in Tel Aviv and a local Muslim community there.

Despite the concerns I have described, I now look at the Israeli flag with renewed pride and hope. Many of us work for social justice in the US despite our concerns about US foreign policy decisions; we can also support our fellow Palmach "Soul"diars who are fighting for an egalitarian and democratic Israel, an Israel that can't afford to lose its Jewish Soul.





## Rabbi Menachem Creditor's Journal Notes from his Masorti Foundation Leadership Mission to Israel 5770/2010

### Jan 31: Picking Up Nofrat Frankel

The power of driving on a bus and speaking with leaders of the Conservative Movement from North America and the Masorti Movement in Israel...from Tel Aviv to Beer Sheva... Trying to take in the Israeli air, and learning from Nofrat Frenkel, who is after all, a medical student and a normal Israeli, not just a tallit-wearing headline. Truly surreal.

### Feb 1: Resonances I wish weren't

To hear from Nofrat Frenkel's own mouth the mocking she received from the Israeli police, while holding a Torah... To imagine her being shoved while holding the Torah... She is, after all, not so tall, not loud — she travels from Be'er Sheva at 4am every Rosh Chodesh to get to the Kotel with Women of the Wall — and to be treated with contempt...

We've been mocked before, while holding the Torah. How can we be doing the mocking ourselves? How dare we let this continue! This Rosh Chodesh Adar, I pray hundreds of women with tallit converge and reclaim the Kotel for all Jews. There were 42 women that November day - many of whom were wearing tallit — but they pulled Nofrat aside for holding the Torah. May the distinction of holding Torah be a point of dignity and pride for Jewish Women and Men, at the Kotel and everywhere else.

### Feb 1: Two shuls, or “here and there”

So interesting to visit two Masorti shuls, in Be'er Sheva and Omer, to learn with their rabbis, educators, and lay leaders, to see so many similarities between tfutzot (diaspora) and Israeli shuls.

Many North American Jews presume a solid Jewish framework and identity in the “typical” Israeli — however, because of a lack of Judaism being lived in family experiences, the pre-schools are developing family education here too... The majority of Jews in the world now live in Israel — and, despite very different conditions, we're all working in the same direction and against similar trends of Jewish disconnectedness....

Foundations like the Legacy Heritage Foundation have seeded many programs here and in North America, but that funding doesn't continue indefinitely, then where will (non-Orthodox) Israeli Jewish educators turn?

### Feb 2: IDF and Education

The Goldstone Report gets the headline creating the assumption that there is no internal critical moral reflection and evaluation as part of the established IDF ethos and practice. Additionally, it goes unnoticed that there was only testimony from Palestinians under Hamas “supervision.”

This is not a blanket approval of IDF actions, nor does it change my conviction that Israeli occupation is problematic or that there should be, soon and in our days, a Palestinian state.

I affirm my trust that the IDF doesn't need the Goldstone Report to regain its moral standing. The IDF is a moral organization, with a Jewishly-connected and universally-grounded ethical education at its core. It is easy to forget this from a distance due to my media-filtered life; IDF soldiers are taught to never forget the humanity of the Palestinians, and that the public debate over the Goldstone Report is embraced by the very army it criticizes.

### Feb 3: History in the Past, Facts and Passion on the Ground

Meeting with Matthew Wagner from the Jerusalem Post, and confronting the recent move by the Haredim to create gender segregated buses... Examining the notion of a (Durkheimian)

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‘civil religion’ which isn’t the active choice of Israelis but rather the result of the emerging set of national symbols, including the chief rabbinate and Charedi monopoly on religious certification and ritual... Connect this with the winery which, in order to have rabbinate kashrut certification, the owner, whom we met yesterday (a deeply spiritual Israeli man), is not allowed to TOUCH his grapes, machinery and casks, since he’s not Shomer Shabbat (this is completely political, in order to employ untold numbers of Charedim at the expense of Jewish/human dignity for many, not to mention alienation from Jewish tradition).

Couple this with our participation yesterday in the dedication of the very FIRST dedicated space in Tel Aviv for NOAM, the Masorti Israeli youth movement. The first? This is, as a dynamic rabbi in Jerusalem, Rabbi Chaya Rowen-Baker, put it, the new “pioneer” demand.

The Jewish nature of Israel is at stake in a very immediate way. Rabbis of all kinds are not allowed into ‘secular’ Israeli schools, further separating Israelis from their Jewish identity. Many Masorti shuls with funded rabbis who would change the Israeli world, are, lately, losing their jobs because their communities receive no funding from the government.

This trip has opened my eyes to the urgency and the passion that just requires continued funding. At the end of Rabbi Rowen-Baker’s presentation, I said to Yizhar Hess “Tell us what it would take to fund these vital communities who are doing the best outreach I’ve ever experienced to their largely-secular Israeli communities.” And he said: “I can tell you the number — about \$70,000.” SEVENTY-THOUSAND DOLLARS!!!

I’m committed to help bring about change, through the passionate, skilled leadership of the Masorti Foundation (led by David Lissy) and the Masorti Movement (led by Yizhar Hess and countless other Israeli leaders).

So, the question isn’t how important this is. It is, rather, how many of us will step up and change the world when the call for funding a healthy Jewish identity for Israelis through seedling Masorti communities is only \$70,000?

Please God, may we make the pitch well. And may we all answer that call, which is well within our means.

#### **Feb 4: Standing in Your Soul**

Every time I’ve visited Israel, it’s been harder to leave. But in past trips, it’s the magic of the place that’s torn at my soul. Not this time.

My soul reverberates with Israel’s mystic history, but this trip has opened my eyes to the real magic. Visit Kibbutz Hannaton and witness resurrection of dynamic Masorti Jewish pluralism between a religious and secular divide (similar to the “black and white” divide, as if either were an accurate description and as if they were clear categories).

People’s souls are being lost, and all it will take to heal the Jewish soul for untold thousands of our brothers and sisters in Israel is money — and Jewish tradition teaches that nothing is more important than saving a life. This vision is not of a coercive Jewish environment — it’s the pluralistic response to one. Rabbi Yoav Ende at Hannaton is out to change the world, and I’m with him.

The Masorti Leadership Mission participated in the dedication of a Sefer Torah at the shul in Hod Hasharon yesterday and the groundbreaking of Rabbi Tzvi Berger’s life work: a building for the long-established Masorti Community of Kfar Vradim, which will take money to complete. The Kfar Vradim mayor received a letter from a 10-year-old community member, which helped cement his participation in the project, as well as his passionate address at the groundbreaking.

The ceremony ended with Hatikvah, and I heard the words “as long as the Jewish heart

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years.” And that’s what this is all about. If these passionate skilled rabbis and their passionate visionary communities don’t receive the support they need and deserve, from within and without, where will the yearning Jewish soul turn?

### **Feb 5: Building Blocks**

During our too-infrequent visits together, my father and I like to pull out the old Camp Ramah songsters, painstakingly hand-typed, mimeographed, and vocalized. We sing together classic Zionist songs, Shabbat melodies from various traditions, and indescribable memories. I’ve enjoyed swimming in my father’s memories of the songs, and have, over the years, discovered them waiting in my own soul as well.

I never traversed the dangerous border to the “Sela Ha’Adom”, the red rocks of Petra, but I weep when I sing the song of three who went out on that journey, full of dry sand, mystery, and death. I did not participate in founding a Kibbutzim or making the desert bloom, but these shared soulful memories inspire my heart to sing, as I metaphysically walk through Eucalyptus groves and smell the fragrance of the coming evening when the flocks of sheep return.

Just now, in chilly, rainy Jerusalem, I remembered that Karen Friedman asked me to bring back some stones, to be used as grave markers back home in our shul’s Wall of Memory. I kept forgetting to gather some memory-rocks while on this whirlwind trip through Israel, but one moment it occurred to me, as I looked down to avoid the rain, that the stones that today build memory for our people are not just to be found in fields — they were all around me. I picked up some pieces of scattered stone from a construction site and put them in my pocket, caressing them the way I have while in Yad Vashem’s Valley of the Communities.

These stones and those stones mean something. They are not the red stones of Petra, they are not an idealistic reflection of the founding of the state. But someone should write a song about them, because they are living touchstones of our People’s memories created every day.



## V'Zot Yisrael: News From 21st Century Israel

By Hilda Kessler and Art Braufman

### Did You Know?

Israel is one of the world's leading countries in developing water technology. No wonder. Israel, following the example of Moses, has struck water, turning a desert into a thriving green zone. That miracle is being imported to our own state of California, especially the southern agricultural areas around Fresno. "California suffers", a spokesman from Mekorot, the Israeli water tech company said, "from the same problems that Israel suffers from and it needs to overcome these difficulties." These collaborative water development projects will also create jobs and save energy, making the region more economically and ecologically sound. This could mean that when you bite into your next orange, it may be brought to you with the compliments of Israel as well as your California farmer.

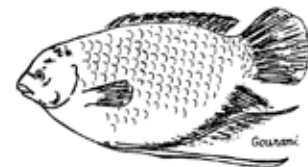
### Peace Initiative Comes in Many Forms: A Solar-powered COMET Lights Up Palestinian Homes

Palestinians in the exceptionally impoverished south Mount Hebron region of the West Bank live with the irony of seeing power lines crisscrossing their view of the sky, while they lack electricity in their homes. Elad Orian and Noam Dotan, two Israeli physicists, have started a solar energy and wind project, named COMET, to supply power to Palestinians left in the dark. The core of the project is the provision of basic energy services for off-grid communities that are both environmentally and socially sustainable. So far they have installed solar power for individual homes for about 400 people.

They have also developed a small wind-turbine project and last summer held a wind turbine construction workshop attended by Palestinians from all over the West Bank. Their hope is to see solar power go much further than the village of Susiya to Palestinian communities in the Jordan River area, and off-grid Bedouin villages in Israel's Negev Desert. They are also training villagers to service and monitor the equipment, making them self-sustaining. Orian describes the project as a collaborative effort between "communities who believe that barriers of hostility can be overcome by joint, concrete work..." and to send a clear message that Israeli-Palestinian cooperation can work.

### Other New Israeli Developments

1. Scientists in Israel found that the brackish water, drilled from underground desert aquifers hundreds of feet deep could be used to raise warm-water fish. The geothermal water, less than one-tenth as saline as sea water, free of pollutants, and a toasty 98 degrees on average, proves an ideal environment.
2. Available to US consumers next year; Lumus-Optical's lightweight and fashionable video eyeglasses feature a large transparent screen, floating in front of the viewer's face that projects their choice of movie, TV show, or video game.



**LUMUS**  
A VISION AHEAD

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3. The Israeli research community is well on its way to finding a treatment for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease, through the advanced work of the Israeli Association for ALS in both embryonic and adult stem cell research which already has a proven track record with neurodegenerative diseases.
4. Israeli start-up Veterix has developed an innovative new electronic capsule that sits in the stomach of a cow, sheep, or goat, sending out real-time information on the health of the herd to the farmer via Email or cell phone. The e-capsule, which also sends out alerts if animals are distressed, injured, or lost, is now being tested on a herd of cows in the hopes that the device will lead to tastier and healthier meat and milk supplies.
5. The millions of Skype users worldwide will soon have access to the newly developed KishKish lie-detector. This free Internet service, based on voice stress analysis (a technique commonly used in criminal investigations), will be able to measure just how truthful that person on the other end of the line really is.
6. Beating cardiac tissue has been created in a lab from human embryonic stem cells by researchers at the Rappaport Medical Faculty and the Technion—Israeli Institute of Technology's Biomedical Engineering facility. The work of Dr. Shulamit Levenberg and Prof. Lior Gepstein has also led to the creation of tiny blood vessels within the tissue, making possible its implantation in a human heart.
7. Israel's Magal Security Systems is a worldwide leader in computerized security systems, with products used in more than 70 countries around the world, protects anything from national borders, to nuclear facilities, refineries, and airports. The company's latest product, DreamBox, a state-of-the-art security system that includes Intelligent video, audio and sensor management, is now being used by a major water authority on the US east coast to safeguard the utility's sites.
8. It is common knowledge that dogs have better night vision than humans and a vastly superior sense of smell and hearing. Israel's Bio-Sense Technologies recently delved further, and electronically analyzed 350 different barks. They find that dogs of all breeds and sizes bark the same alarm when they sense a threat. The firm has designed the dog bark-reader, a sensor that can pick up a dog's alarm bark and alert the human operators. This is just one of a batch of innovative security systems to emerge from Israel, which Forbes calls "the go-to country for anti-terrorism technologies."
9. Israeli company Bio Control Medical sold its first electrical stimulator to treat urinary incontinence to a US company for \$50 Million. Now, it is working on CardioFit, which uses electrical nerve stimulation to treat congestive heart failure. With nearly five million Americans presently affected by heart failure, and more than 400,000 new cases diagnosed yearly, the CardioFit is already generating a great deal of excitement as the first device with the potential to halt this deadly disease.



**veterix**



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**BIO  
CONTROL  
MEDICAL**

## Liberating the Wall

Editorial Published January 06, 2010, issue of January 15, 2010 ( <http://e2ma.net/go/6575116677/208078508/211050672/334444/goto:http://forward.com/issues/2010-01-15/> ).

Imagine, if you will, a group of devout Jews who regularly gather to pray at an ancient synagogue. Sometimes they are left alone, but other times they are verbally and physically harassed, spit at, cursed. If this were taking place in a country unfriendly to Jews, we would admire the worshippers dedication and perseverance, perhaps publicize their plight.

Then, imagine that one day, one of the worshippers is arrested, hauled into police custody for doing nothing more than offending the sensibilities of others, whatever that means. A month later, the leader of the group is questioned by police, fingerprinted and warned that she is at risk of arrest. Imagine the uproar! Imagine if this were Sweden or France or Argentina, and suddenly prayer became a crime. The Jewish defense organizations would broadcast their collective outrage with the speed of a send button.

So what do we do when these real events happened in Israel, at Jerusalem's Western Wall?

The arrest in November of Nofrat Frenkel of Women of the Wall for the alleged crime of carrying a Torah and wearing a tallit in the shadow of the Kotel's ancient stones cannot be dismissed as yet another oddity of Israeli life. Especially when that was followed, on January 5, by the interrogation and fingerprinting of Anat Hoffman, director of the Israel Religious Action Center, who has led Women of the Wall for its 21 years and who was told that she is now suspected of a felony.

These outrages cannot be ignored by American Jews and must be viewed for what they are: another chapter in the ongoing struggle to determine whether Judaism's most sacred site will belong only to a distinct, intolerant minority or whether it can truly welcome all the Jewish people.

This is not just an Israeli concern. There's a legitimate question as to how far American Jews can and should go in challenging the Israeli government on internal matters of defense, national security, domestic policy and so on, but this is different. The Kotel is not just another shul to be avoided for the more hospitable one around the corner. It is the iconic national, spiritual, religious heartbeat of the Jewish people, the destination of our prayers, the symbol of our survival. It cannot become the sole province of the ultra-Orthodox.

But that is what's happening. In the last couple of years, the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, which answers directly to the prime minister's office, has reduced the area allowed for female worshippers, by raising the height of the mechitza and moving it farther south. Significant events that used to take place in the ever-shrinking public space adjacent to the prayer sections the symbolic distribution of ID cards to new immigrants, and the performances by the Israel Defense Forces choir have been curtailed or cancelled by the authorities.



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The awe-inspiring, radiant entrance to the Wall has been turned into the foyer of a Haredi synagogue.

Meantime, the egalitarian alternative prayer space at the southern end of the retaining wall to the Temple Mount, known as Robinsons Arch, is overwhelmed by demand. When an agreement between the Masorti movement and the Israeli government first allowed men and women to pray together there in 2000, only 10 services were held that year. In 2009, there were more than 450.

Those services are supposed to end by 10:30 every weekday morning; if they run into over-time, as they often do because of overcrowding, the participants must pay 30 shekels a person just to occupy the space, since it is primarily a tourist site. Rabbi Andrew Sacks, director of the Rabbinical Assembly in Israel (Masorti), says he will work hard to expand those hours when he renegotiates the agreement with the government later this year.

His good efforts deserve our support. But American Jews who care about maintaining an egalitarian, pluralistic presence in Jerusalem must do much more. When visiting delegations meet with Israel officials, they must stress the need for pluralism and religious tolerance just as they might in other countries, and demand answers and guarantees. Even our own State Department, in its latest annual report on International Religious Freedom, for the first time cited Israel's refusal to allow women to wear prayer shawls and read from the Torah at the Western Wall as evidence of the curtailment of basic freedom.

And we must stand behind and with the brave consistency of the Women of the Wall, who have congregated at the Kotel every month for more than two decades, despite assaults from Haredim and, increasingly, from the government of Israel. The stepped-up intimidation of this growing group of women is a terrible reflection on Israeli democracy.

“Our prayer is authentic, it is pure, it is not a provocation”, Anat Hoffman told the Forward a day after she was detained by police, the black ink still staining the tips of her fingers. “We are part of the fabric of the Wall.”

Indeed, if Jerusalem, in whatever form, is to remain the capital of Israel, then it must truly be the capital for all Jews. The practices of a small number of fundamentalists, a minority in Israel, in the United States and around the world cannot be allowed to dictate the religious future of the Jewish people. That is close to happening now, and unless this current destructive trend is stopped and reversed, the precious City of Gold will become a place of alienation to a sprawling Diaspora it, ironically, must count on to survive.

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## Solidarity in Union Square

By Janet Schneider

On Sunday morning January 10, 2010, I took BART into the city and exited at Powell Street. I headed towards Union Square, but unlike other times when that was my destination, I wasn't there to shop, see a play, or ice skate. I was there to pray along with 200 other women and men who had gathered there to support Women of the Wall (WofW), a group of women who gather each Rosh Chodesh to pray and read Torah on the women's side of Jerusalem's Western Wall.

This particular service was organized to support both Anat Hoffman (WofW leader), who in January was taken into custody for violating rules of conduct at the Wall, and Nofrat Frenkel, who in November was arrested while wearing a tallit and reading from the torah in the women's section of the Wall. This gathering consisting of rabbis, cantors, and Jews from across the Bay area sang and prayed in full public view on this sunny Sunday morning. And when asked to do so, we all pulled out our tallit and wrapped them around our bodies. I must admit I felt slightly uncomfortable doing this surrounded by on-lookers. But standing amidst hundreds of tallit-covered women I felt strong and connected. Seeing women put on a tallit for the first time reminded me of my first time at age 43 and how nervous I felt. Rather than viewing it as the sacred object it is, I had viewed it as the forbidden object. Now I can't imagine davening without my tallit, which now contains a silver string in solidarity with the Woman of the Wall.

My inspiration for participating in such a public act was the direct result of my trip to Israel this summer with the Netivot Shalom congregation. I was there with my husband Andy and my 15 year old son Aaron. During our visit to the Kotel, I felt a mixture of anger, frustration, and ultimately sadness that I was separated from my family there, of all places in Israel, and had to approach the wall alone. This was not the first time in my life I had experienced sexism but the limit of my access to this sacred space was the most explicit. I not only felt the pain of my forced segregation but shame that my son witnessed his mother treated by members of our religion as a second class citizen. Growing up as a Netivot Shalom member, Aaron has only experienced our egalitarian, participatory practices. His Kotel experience left him confused and I was unable to say anything that satisfied either of us. Although I was inspired by many things during my visit in Israel, Israel's lack of support for equality for women in worship continues to distress me greatly.



Photos © Bill Wilson.



Rabbi Bochner speaks to gathering.

## Berkeley Jewish and Muslim Communities Celebrate Joint Heritage

By Yusuf Toprak

On Sunday, January 3, 2010, we hosted Bay Area Cultural Connections members (BAYCC), a Turkish Muslim organization, to celebrate *Ashure*. Seventy enthusiastic participants shared dessert and conversation.

*Ashure* is a dessert particular to Turkish culture, although variations exist in the Middle Eastern and Balkan countries (former parts of Ottoman Empire). A porridge, made from various grains and dried fruits, *Ashure* is a dessert that has origins to Noah's time. When the ark landed, due to exhausted food supplies, the survivors reportedly mixed all the remaining food creating a delicious pudding for a feast. It is a Turkish tradition to make and share this dessert with friends, neighbors, and other loved ones. The Turkish community living abroad has extended this tradition by sharing *ashure* with their colleagues, friends, and more recently, churches, synagogues, and other communities.

The program included a talk from Jewish and Islamic viewpoints on the lessons that can be learned from the story of Noah. BAYCC President shared the following remarks:

- The word *ashure* comes from the 'ashr' (the number ten) in Arabic. The Day of *Ashure* is a religiously honored day in Muslim tradition that falls on the tenth of *Muharram* (this year it corresponded on Dec 27, 2009), the first month of the Year on Muslim calendar. Many Muslims, all over the world, fast on that day.

Noah is one of the 25 prophets mentioned in the Quran. He is mentioned by name 43 times in 28 chapters, most notably chapters 11 and 71. Except the chapter exclusively dedicated to Noah (71), the Quran presents this story among the stories of other prophets going through

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BAYCC President addresses the group.



Preparing the Ashure.



Ashure ready to serve.

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 similar hardship, arguing with the audience in similar ways, and making similar supplications to G-d. In this regard, Noah's story is neither an outlier, nor unique. There are several unique aspects of the story, such as the choice of flood as the way of punishment, and the fact that the entire humankind re-populated the earth afterwards. But other than those, the story is really blending in with the stories of other prophets who were sent with the same mission.

- The Quran informs that Noah's wife and son are not saved from the flood, as they were not believers. While not much detail is provided on his wife, Noah's attempts to save his son are reported in some detail, as follows: When the springs start to gush forth and rains come pouring down, Noah embarks upon the ark with the other believers. But his son, who pretended to believe until then, reveals his disbelief by refusing to embark upon the ark. While Noah tries to persuade him to join them waves come in between them and his son is among the drowned. Noah prays to G-d for him stating that his son is family (hence should be saved by the divine promise made earlier). But G-d informs him that his son was among the disbelievers and is not covered by the promise. Hence, the story teaches that being a close relative of a prophet does not secure salvation. Rather, salvation depends on sound faith and actions of the individual.

- The story is a vivid depiction of the compassion and dedication of Prophet Noah, a Prophet determined to go to all lengths to fulfill his mission. It teaches to persevere in the face of extreme difficulty.

- Quran, as in cases of other stories, is concise and omits many details. Among those, are: how many people were on board, how long the flood lasted, was it a local or global flood, and what did Noah and the other survivors do afterwards?

On this account, Rabbi Bochner elaborated on the account of Noah in Torah (Book of Genesis) which provides more details on the story. Rabbi Bochner specifically highlighted the following aspects:

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BAYCC members cooking the Ashure.



Karen Juster Hecht and Janet Schneider tasting the Ashure.

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- Jews study the Torah by seeing it as holy and wrestling with its meaning beyond the simple literal words. A specific example is how Noah is described in the opening sentence of his story (Genesis 6:9): “Noah was a righteous man, in his generation, and he walked with G-d”. In this context, scholars have asked the following questions: What does it mean “in his generation”? Was his righteousness *compared* to those around him or *despite* those around him? Both of these interpretations found supporters among important Jewish scholars. In summary, to achieve deeper insights, it is important to study the text with diligence.

- Noah is a role model for fulfilling G-d’s word exactly. While he didn’t go beyond what G-d told him to do (like Abraham did when he bargained for the sinful people of Sodom and Gemmorah), he did save all the animals and his family. A Midrash says that he did try to save the other people, but they responded by trying to stop him from boarding the Ark. Therefore, following his example, believers should follow G-d’s commandments exactly.

- The story teaches Noah’s compassion to animals. It is a big logistical challenge to feed all different types of animals, having different types of food, and being fed at different times throughout the day. Moreover, some animals are inclined to eat another. To keep them alive, as G-d commanded, Noah had to carefully tend to all those animals through their trip. We should show similar sympathy and compassion, not only towards fellow humans (human life is holy in both traditions), but also towards all living creatures.

- We also learn that a single person doing the right thing can change the world. Torah states that the divine intent was to wipe out the entire human race altogether due to their wickedness, but Noah, through his righteous attitude, received the help to be saved. And through him, all of us are saved.

After presentations, the audience had delicious *ashure* together and conversed on how the story of Noah is similar and different in various aspects, among other things. Both communities look forward to similar events where they can discover and celebrate their shared heritage in diverse ways.

Special thanks go to the Congregation Netivot Shalom Social Action Committee, as well as the ladies of BAYCC who prepared *ashure* at Netivot Shalom.



Ashure event organizers include Netivot Shalom members Sharon Priven and Karen Juster Hecht.

**SEE YOUR NAME IN A PHOTO CAPTION!**

We’re looking for photos of Netivot events!

Please send shul event photos to [newsletter@netivotshalom.org](mailto:newsletter@netivotshalom.org). Use cell phone, camera or other digital photo devices.

## Our Cuban Friends

By June Safran

### Part 1: Jewish Culture and Activities

Bob and I have just returned from a two-week visit to the Jewish community of Cuba where we visited the communities of Camagüey, Sancti Spiritus, Caibarién, Santa Clara, Cienfuegos, and Havana. Unfortunately, we did not have enough time to travel to Santiago de Cuba or Guantanamo.

The communities we did visit have stronger than ever religious commitments to Judaism. They celebrate holidays and Shabbat and study Jewish subjects, but unfortunately, the provinces lack the teachers and study materials to do so consistently. We brought several hundred dollars worth of new Jewish books in Spanish to augment their library collections and hopefully inspire the members. Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer of Bethesda, MD, who will be in Cuba in February, will carry books and study materials to the provinces, including Guantanamo and Santiago de Cuba. Spirits in each community were very positive. Since many people are married to a Jewish person or are children or grandchildren of a Jewish person (but either from the father's side or Jewish males lacking the *brit milah*), the JDC is beginning conversion studies in the provinces. The studies will take place in Sancti Spiritus, which is located in the center of the island.

Congregants are seriously involved in their respective synagogues, meeting for weekly services in all three synagogues and daily at Adath Israel, the Orthodox Synagogue. We visited Adath Israel one evening where 15 men filled the men's section and 6 women and I sat behind the glass wall. The synagogue also has a preschool and an afterschool class run by a woman who just returned from Israel where she and her husband (Brezniak) studied Orthodox Jewish life for six months. There, she had an Orthodox conversion and they remarried. Her husband joked that they were married three times-Cuban civil, Jewish conservative, and Orthodox in Israel. He is also trained to *shecht* both chickens and beef and to be the mohel; he is the only *shomer* Shabbat man in Cuba. The only *mikva* in Cuba is also located in the building and the only kosher butcher shop is three blocks away.

The Patronato services are inspiring. Several lay leaders are training others. To our delight, David Budegen and Robelard Segal from Santiago de Cuba were in Havana while we were there to participate in a 10-day JDC seminar with Argentinean Youth. On Shabbat morning, David was included in the group leading services and he was also one of three who *leynes* Torah. Having watched him grow from a sweet 7-year-old child into a young adult of 22 and a religious leader of his community makes us so proud. We sat there beaming and I leaned over to my neighbor, a visitor from the U.S., and proudly told him that this was a very special young man.

Centro Sefaradi in Havana is doing well under the direction of President Mayra Levy and Vice-President Esther Jequin. The community is not growing much but is maintaining and taking good care of its

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Evening prayer service at Adath Israel Orthodox synagogue



Final evening dinner with members of the community in Havana





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members, particularly the seniors. They have done many repairs to the building but the bathrooms still need remodeling. They also lack a library. They may take me up on my idea to put a temporary bookcase in the President's office where almost everyone spends some time. Their hazzan, whose vocal cords were damaged a few years ago, needs a microphone since he is hard to hear.

The adults meet at Centro Sefaradi and the children meet at the Patronato for Sunday school. We went with them to the Tu b'Shevat tree planting activity in a park in Miramar where we planted twelve trees and discussed the holiday. All the communities did programs with fruit and nuts, and Santiago did the seder that they have had for many years since Rabbi Kelman started the tradition during a Netivot Shalom trip.

In Havana, social groups meet every week. Centro Sefaradi just finished a yearlong Jewish cooking class and is beginning a quilting and embroidery class based on Jewish subjects. They hope to create enough objects not only to have for their own homes, but also to sell to support the synagogue and the needleworkers. People are excited to make Jewish objects for their homes. Adath Israel women who do not have jobs meet each day to make dolls and other handmade items to sell. The women also make challah for both their own Shabbat and for Centro Sefaradi.

The Patronato could be called the Cuban Jewish Federation and JCC. There is a youth center for those between 15 and 30 years old that has a lounge with a TV and computers for games, a small kitchen, and a meeting room. At the back of the building, there is a gym with exercise equipment, a room for classes, and bathrooms with showers. The main room is the social hall for Beth Shalom, el Gran Synagoga de la Habana. This is where the community has its meals, many groups meet, and various events take place for the whole community, not just the Beth Shalom members.

The next newsletter issue will address health care and transportation issues in Cuba.

Planting trees for Tu b'Shevat.





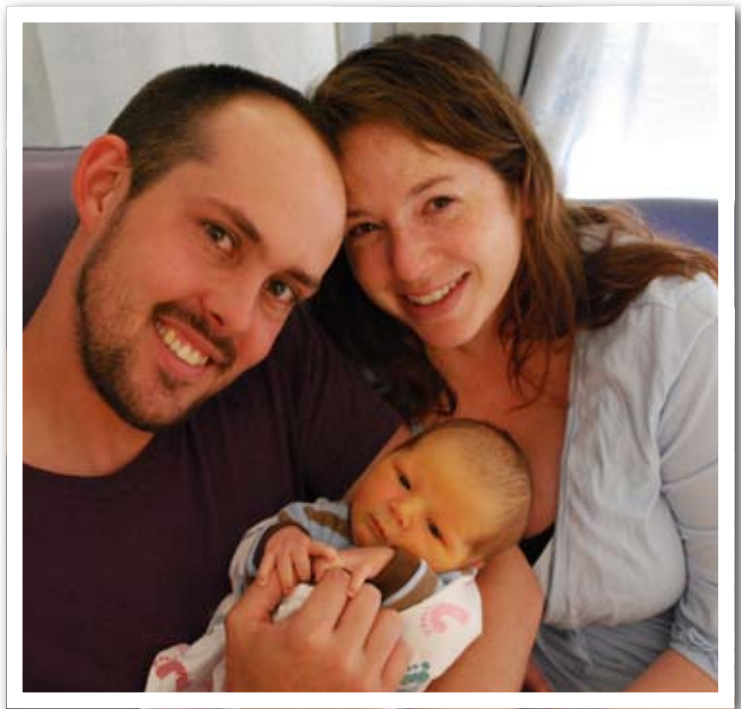


## Meet New Members the Dietrich/ Zygeilbams

Beth and Jason both grew up in the greater bay area, Beth in Santa Rosa and Jason in Livermore. They met as undergraduates at UC Santa Barbara in 1999. They celebrated their second wedding anniversary in August and in September, they welcomed the blessing of their first child, Jonah Arthur Dietrich.

Jason has spent his years since UC Santa Barbara playing in bands and working as a sound engineer. He currently works for a company that provides sound and lighting for events and meetings at a large hotel in downtown San Francisco. Beth has spent time since graduation working as an entertainment event planner, traveling, practicing and instructing yoga, and completing a Masters degree in geosciences at San Francisco State University. Since September, Beth has been a stay at home mom to Jonah. In his spare time, Jason enjoys cycling, woodworking, playing guitar, and beer brewing. Beth enjoys yoga, reading, knitting, and all manner of outdoor activities. Together they enjoy camping, live music, volunteering, traveling, movies, board games and socializing with friends.

Beth and Jason joined Netivot Shalom after attending a few services with Beth's lifelong friend and NS member Liora Brosbe. The warm hearted members, diversity of membership and programming, and inviting space made Beth and Jason feel they had found the right synagogue for them. They look forward to getting to know all of the NS members better and to sharing their learning, celebrations, projects, joys and challenges.



### **Welcome New Members:**

Vivian Clayton  
Michael & Maggie Liftik  
Nina Meigs & Doran Bennett  
Jennifer Worth Isacoff

### **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](mailto:newsletter@netivotshalom.org)

## I Didn't Know

By Art Braufman

I had a “Shabbat Shalom” acquaintance with Tom Graff, but never got to the point of finding out much about him. I also had talked a number of times with his wife Sharona Barzilay and had presented their son Ben and their daughter Rebecca their Bnai Mitzvah certificates and gifts from the congregation. I was also aware that Tom, unfortunately, was diagnosed with cancer several years ago. When I saw him at shul on occasion over the last couple of years, I greeted him and checked on how he was doing. His name kept appearing on the misheberach list. And then the “*Hamakom Yenacheim*” announcement came from the shul – Tom had died. Searching the San Francisco Chronicle, I was stunned to see a five-column obituary in which he was described as “the godfather of environmental politics who had the ability to inspire California’s political movers and shakers ...” It included comments from Governor Schwarzenegger and Senator Dianne Feinstein. I felt bereft and saddened that I had never taken the time to find out more about Tom and his contributions to making our world a better place.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case. There have been many times when I have gone to a funeral and come away saying, “I didn’t know that he/she had done that work or had accomplished so much. I wish I had taken the time to have talked to that person and learned from them.” I felt so sorry that I had missed the opportunity. By then, it was too late.

By talking to others in our congregation, I know that I am not alone in those feelings. That is one of the reasons I initiated the Sunday morning *Minyanim* and Speakers series. I wanted to give us the opportunity to hear from the wonderful members of our congregation, who have such interesting work and hobbies. The talks are a way of developing our sense of community and being aware of the rich, diverse membership of our shul. We are blessed with world-class astronomers, professors, bible scholars, and others occupied in a myriad of activities that make our society tick. We have so much to learn from them and many are eager to share with their community. Please let me know if you would like to speak one Sunday or if you would like to recommend someone else as a speaker.

I know that I don’t want to feel “it is too late” again.



### Schedule of Upcoming March-April Sunday Speakers:

**March 7** Elad Ziv  
“Genetics of Jewish Populations”

**March 21** Rabbi Shalom Bochner  
“The Place of Generations”

**April 11** Rabbi Menachem Creditor  
“A New High Holidays?  
Mythic Days for Moderns”

**April 25** To be announced

Check the on-line calendar for details.

### V’Zot Yisrael Speakers:

**March 14** Israel’s Consul General  
Akiva Tor “Diversity, Innovation  
and Politics in Israel Today”

**April 18** Rabbi Hanan Alexander  
“Israel and Its Critics: Toward a  
Mature Zionism”

**Kol Hakavod to Norma Kaufman**, and so many others from Netivot Shalom and our Berkeley Synagogue Partnership for generating a shul-based response to the the serious unemployment realities facing many members of our community. Read the J-weekly archived story and please contact Norma at [normakauf@comcast.net](mailto:normakauf@comcast.net) with any questions about connecting with the job networking group!



Mazal Tov to  
**Robin Mencher & Matthew Dimond** on the birth  
of a baby girl, **Marnina Mencher Dimond**

Mazal Tov to  
**Josh & Jennry Kirsch**  
on the birth of a baby boy, **Menashe Peretz**

Mazal Tov to  
**Jennifer Worth and Ehud Isacoff**  
on the birth of a baby girl **Yael**

Mazal Tov to  
**Avi Shorer** on his Bar Mitzvah on  
February 13, 2010.

Thank you and Mazal Tov to  
his mother **Ruth Shorer**  
for making the simcha possible.

Mazal Tov to  
**Orli Ziv** on her Bat Mitzvah on  
February 20, 2010.

Mazal Tov to  
her parents, **Tali and Elad Ziv**  
on the beautiful simcha.



Michael Ore and many friends  
invite you to share in a simcha on  
March 6, 2010 - 20 Adar 5770

Parshat Ki Tisa  
when his daughter  
**Michella Ore**  
will be called to the Torah  
as a Bat Mitzvah.



# The Rosh Chodesh Group



**Wednesday, April 14 -**  
with Rachel Brodie – Jewish  
Milestones and New Rituals  
for Women.

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](mailto:roshchodesh@netivotshalom.org).

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



## Midrasha Has a Gift for You, Actually Two Gifts

By Diane Bernbaum

**G**ift Number One: On Sunday, March 7, at 10:30 a.m., at Congregation Beth El, Midrasha invites you to join us free of charge to see “Freedom Song” presented by *Beit T’Shuvah* in Los Angeles. This is the only addiction treatment program in the United States that integrates Jewish traditions and spirituality, a 12-Step program and traditional psychotherapy. “Freedom Song” is more than a musical play. Using contemporary music, Freedom Song juxtaposes personal stories of internal conflict and family dysfunction with the story of Passover. The play not only draws parallels between being a slave in Egypt and being a slave to your addiction, but forces audiences of all ages to take a look at themselves instead of pointing the finger at everyone else. It highlights the historic universality of the struggle to free oneself from external oppression and internal bondage. This original production was written by Stu Robinson, Cantor Rebekah Mirsky, and James Fuchs and produced by Craig Taubman, Rabbi Mark Borovitz, and Harriet Rossetto. Midrasha is inviting the entire community to share the morning with us. The performance will be followed by a conversation between the cast members and the audience.

We would also like to invite you to join us for our annual “Midrasha Seudah” which will be held on Sunday, March 14, at 5 p.m. at Congregation Netivot Shalom. Our speaker is Frances Dinkelspiel, the author of *Towers of Gold: Isaias Hellman, Banking, and the Role Jews Played in the Development of California*. I can’t wait to hear her speak since I recently read the book and learned a lot about the history of the early Jews who settled California. But don’t just come for the speaker, come for the food and wine which will be delicious or for the jazz guitarist Howard Barkan, or for the introductory remarks by alumna Rachel Finkelstein. There’s something for everyone. Tickets can be purchased from the Midrasha office, 843-4667. Please let us know by March 1 if you can be with us. And whether you can come or not, don’t forget to buy raffle tickets. You might win a year’s free Midrasha tuition, a weekend at Sea Ranch, a trip flying above the Bay in a two-seat plane, some really fine wine or even some baseball cards with Jewish players. See you there!

## PSALM ENCHANTED EVENING

By Pamela Sawyer

**K**OL TRUAH Jewish Choir of the East Bay, conducted by Cantor Pamela Sawyer, will be presenting *PSALM ENCHANTED EVENING*, a celebration of Psalms, at Netivot Shalom on Saturday, March 13, at 8 p.m.

From the countless musical settings of the 150 Psalms, Cantor Sawyer has selected representative pieces from the Renaissance to the present, by Jewish and non-Jewish composers. Two different settings of Psalm 150 will serve as bookends for the program. The performance will open with German composer Louis Lewandowski’s widely known 19th century *Halleluyah*, and will close with Linda Mankin’s *Halleluyah*.\*

The program will include Psalms set by Italian Renaissance composer Salomone Rossi, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Johannes Brahms, Cantor Gerald Cohen, Bobby McFerrin, Cantor Eric Contzius, and others. Each musical setting uniquely reflects upon the meaning of the text, as well as reflecting the period in which it was composed.

In coordination with the concert, we have the pleasure of exhibiting artwork by Rabbi Gordon Freeman, Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation B’nai Shalom in Walnut Creek. Rabbi Freeman, an accomplished calligrapher as well as artist, has been working on a calligraphic interpretation of the Book of Psalms using several media. Of his work he has said, “The art part is subordinate to the Hebrew letter. For me, there is a certain energy in the Hebrew letter.” Rabbi Freeman works in a variety of media including ceramic, collage, ink, and acrylic on paper. His exquisite artwork based on the Psalms will be on exhibit for two weeks beginning with the *PSALM ENCHANTED EVENING*.

There is an interesting connection between Kol Truah and Rabbi Freeman. The founder of Kol Truah, in 1974, was Sandy Schneider, ז”ל, who was also Rabbi Freeman’s uncle. We are honored to bring together the artistic endeavors of Rabbi Freeman with the musical efforts of his uncle.

Please join us for this celebration of the musical and visual beauty of the Psalms on Saturday, March 13, at 8 pm.

For more information, e-mail [cantorpam@mac.com](mailto:cantorpam@mac.com). Tickets will be available at the door on a sliding scale, \$10–36.

\*Linda Mankin is Professor Emeritus of Music at Foothill College, Los Altos, California.

## LifeLong Learning Update and New Omer Class in the Spring

By Rabbi Shalom Bochner, Director of LifeLongLearning

If you have participated in any of our adult ed classes or witnessed the excitement of a Hebrew School holiday celebration or weekly *Beit Midrash* experience, then you know that meaning and joy are felt during life-long learning experiences at Netivot Shalom. If you have not yet done so, I strongly encourage you to check out one of our weekly classes:

*La'asok Haftorah* class on Wednesdays at 1-2 pm

*Talmud Berachot* class on Thursdays at 5:45 - 6:45pm

Torah Study on *Shabbat* from 9- 10:15 am

The after-*kiddush* learning programs every *Shabbat*.

We also have a variety of ongoing and special classes which speak to many different interests and learning styles including a complete selection of Hebrew classes that we are co-sponsoring with Lehrhaus as well as Rabbi Kelman's monthly liturgy classes on Monday nights. Check out the website calendar or the Adult Green pages available in the lobby for more information.

If you would like to see how our children learn, a visit to the *Amitim Bnai Mitzvah* program on Tuesday afternoons will inspire you. Every Thursday at 4:30 pm our students in 1st through 5th grade join together for an interactive exploration of a "Torah Mystery" in our new *Beit Midrash* program.

I am pleased to announce that I will be offering a new class during the seven weeks of the Omer (between the second day of Passover and Shavuot). This time period contains many historical explanations and lessons. Among these is an understanding that these are days of spiritual purification and emotional alignment. Through an eight part class, we will use the 49 days of the Omer period to frame our own journeys of self discovery and personal realization. By exploring and discussing the *Sephirot*, the mystical divine attributes that are a focus of the counting of the Omer, we will both encounter new understandings of God and also our own inner powers. This class does not assume any background in *Kabbalah* or Hebrew reading and will include text study, compassionate listening, journal writing, and exploring how the Omer period and the Jewish community can be powerful tools in becoming the people we want to become.

### New Omer Class Schedule:

**Sat., March 27, 1:15 pm** (After *Kiddush* Learning) What is the Omer? Why do we count these days? How do we count these days?

**Thurs., April 1, 7:30 pm** First Week of the Omer: Loving Kindness

**Thurs., April 8, 7:30 pm** Second Week of the Omer: Boundary Setting/ Inner Strength

**Tues., April 13, 7:30 pm** Third Week of the Omer: Balance

**Tues., April 20, 7:30 pm** Fourth Week of the Omer: Endurance

**Tues., April 27, 7:30 pm** Fifth Week of the Omer: Being Present

**Tues., May 4, 7:30 pm** Sixth Week of the Omer: Foundational Strength

**Tues., May 11, 7:30 pm** Seventh Week of the Omer: Grounding Spirituality in the Physical

To register for the class, please e-mail Rachel Schorr at [office@netivotshalom.org](mailto:office@netivotshalom.org). Class Fee: \$40-\$120 (sliding scale, no one turned away for lack of funds). For more information, e-mail [education@netivotshalom.org](mailto:education@netivotshalom.org)

## Our Adventures in Thursday Afternoon's Talmud Class with Rabbi Bochner

By Martha and David Birnbaum

Have you ever been tempted to enter a ruin to *daven mincha*? Or have you ever returned home late at night from a wild party and wondered whether it was too late to recite the evening *Shema*? At first glance, such questions may seem far removed from the life you lead. But if you come to our Intermediate Talmud class at 5:45 on Thursday afternoons, you will discover uncanny relevant and thought-provoking applications.

We are a group of about 12-16 members. We differ in our levels of Hebrew/ Aramaic facility and Judaic learning. But all of us are progressing in our knowledge of how our culture grew and developed into the Judaism that we see all around us today. Some of us are secretly delighted at how our facility at reading Aramaic is improving. Others are pleased that our magnifying glasses enable us to read the small fonts in the compact Art Scroll (Schottenstein) edition of tractate "*Berachot*." All of us enjoy the intense and stimulating discussion facilitated by Rabbi Bochner that the Talmud arouses.

Although an "intermediate" class, few of us are fluent sight-readers. The gentle pace and Schottenstein's translation, which is clear and thorough, enable us to take part in a life-long, ancient, world-wide *chevreh*. Eager, we continue the ancient rabbis' far-ranging, deep-probing, wide open conversation. Talmud study has made us "the people of the book" that we are today. And it will contribute to what we become tomorrow. Please join us.

For more information, contact Rabbi Bochner, [education@netivotshalom.org](mailto:education@netivotshalom.org), or Stephen Tobias, 654-4561, [stephen.tobias@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.tobias@gmail.com).



## 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.

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## Donors

Donors: We sincerely thank the following members for contributing to the funds listed below for donations made during the time period of mid-November through mid February. We apologize if we have inadvertently missed anything including a name or donation. Please email Rachel at [office@netivotshalom.org](mailto:office@netivotshalom.org) with any corrections so that we may note it in the next newsletter. (Please note: We are not listing payments of any kind except for the Yom Kippur Appeal in the Newsletter.)

### Building Fund

**Mark & Tinsley Cohen**

**Hilda & Seymour Kessler:** in memory of Cheryl Kessler

**Wendy Rosov:** in memory of George Popell

**Sam Salkin:** in memory of Herman J. Salkin

**David Stein & Bill Stewart:** with thanks to Lisa Gershony

**Peter & Nan Strauss:** in memory of Dorothy Becker and Moshe Aronstein

**Meredith Trauner**

**Rabbi David & Irene Winston**

### Youth Education

**Judith Alpert**

**Carl Buchin & Claudia Valas:** Shabbat B'Yachad

**Leonard Goldschmidt & Jeanne Reisman:** in memory of of Robert Shadd & in honor of Cathy Shadd & her commitment to youth education

**Barry Kamil & Nancy Gurian:** in memory of Frieda Gurian

### Preschool Donations

**Henry & Sondra Bochner:** Preschool Grandparents Appeal

**Robert & Marla Boden:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Ellen & Herb Brosbe:** in memory of Naomi Rudolph; in honor of the engagement of Rebecca Rudolph & Jason Fitch; to Janet Harris, in appreciation of her good health

**Ellen & Herb Brosbe:** in memory of David Abrahams

**Jeffrey & Susan Callen:** Grandparent Appeal

**Beatrice Corman:** Preschool Grandparents Appeal

**William & Judith Cottle:** Preschool Bounce-a-Thon

**Amy Rachel Coty:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Mark Dinaburg & Jean Weinberg:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Elena Felder:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Daniel & Nina Fendel:** Preschool Grandparents Appeal

**Yossi & Tamar Fendel:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Anna & Michael Fogelman:** in honor of Ayelet Wahrhaftig's 5th birthday

**Ed Fogelman & Michelle Kelley:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Sharon Deborah Friedman:** Preschool Grandparents Appeal

**Mina & Jack Gobler:** in memory of Sylvia Weiner & Hester Fox Liebman

**Brenda Hoffman:** Preschool Bounce-a-Thon

**Janet Harris:** in honor of Dorph-Warhaftig Family

**Sharon McCauley:** in honor of Ari Fendel

**Jennifer & Joshua Kirsch:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Jakob & Tamar Loewenberg:** Preschool Grandparent Appeal

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**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 25)

**Avrum Loewenstein & Fredda Band:** Preschool Grandparents Appeal, in honor of Adiel Potok

**Susan & Marc Mangel:** Preschool Grandparents Appeal

**Marc & Jill Mante:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Linda Marcus:** in honor of Moshe & Raya Creditor

**Debra & Oren Massey:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Honey Massey:** Preschool Grandparents Appeal

**Beatrice Papo:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Yehuda Potok & Shira Loewenstein:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Russell & Joan Pratt:** Preschool Grandparent Appeal in honor of the Fogelman Children

**Russell & Joan Pratt:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Marc & Jennifer Price Wolf:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Rabbi Dorothy Richman & Michael Steinman:** in honor of Preschool Teachers & Lauren Kindorf & Rena Dorph's birthdays

**Betsy & Tracy Ross:** Books in honor of Ben's Friends, Shai & Levi

**Betsy & Tracy Ross:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Perry & Malka Scheinok:** Maytal Hojoon Scheinok Preschool Enrichment Fund, in memory of Shalva Sorani

**Arieh & Ruth Schifrin:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Elana Schlafman & Erin Weltzien:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Joan & Michael Sinai:** Preschool Grandparents Appeal

**Barbara Soloman:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Carol Steiber:** Preschool Grandparents Appeal

**Theodore & Carol Steinman:** Preschool Grandparents Appeal in honor of Richman-Steinman Family

**K. Taylor:** Preschool Bounce-a-Thon

**Barbara Wezelman:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**April Witkin:** Preschool Bounce-A-Thon

**Adult Ed Donations**

**Mark & Tinsley Cohen**

**Basya Gale:** Torah Study

**Michael Irwin & Charlene Stern**

**Susan Jaeger:** Torah Study, in memory of Beatrice Jaeger

**David Stein & Bill Stewart:** with thanks to Susan David

**Nan & Peter Strauss**

**Alice Webber & Stephen Tobias:** in memory of Jan Fischer

**Cheryl Zlotnick:** in honor of Barbara Wezelman

**Tiferet Fund**

**Steve & Karen Bovarnick:** in memory of Lawrence Zacks

**Carl Buchin & Claudia Valas**

**Lee Irwin:** thanks for the wonderful welcome during HHD

**Tzedakah Fund**

**Diane & Ed Bernbaum:** in memory of Moshe Aronstein

**Larry Hanover:** in memory of George Levine

**Ethel Murphy:** Thank you for the aliyah at Rosh Chodesh Minyan

**General Donations**

**Andrea Altschuler & David Finn:** in honor of Hannah Berk's Bat Mitzvah

**Joseph Becker:** in memory of Jack Becker

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**Steven Bond & Shari Rifas:** in memory of Millie Gold

**Steven Bond & Shari Rifas:** in memory of Dorothy Becker

**Robin Braverman:** in memory of Abraham Braverman

**Mark & Tinsley Cohen**

**Celia & Paul Concus:** in memory of Dorothy Becker

**Celia & Paul Concus:** in memory of Alice Webber's mother, Edith Webber

**Aimee Durfee & Tamhas Griffith:** in memory of Simon Levine

**Easy Does It Emergency Svc:** on behalf of East Bay: Prof Development - Life-Long Learning

**Norma Kaufman & Michael Meltzer:** in memory of Toby Gidal's brother, Moshe Aronstein

**Hilda & Seymour Kessler:** in memory of Cheryl Kessler and Joseph Waxman

**Josh & Jenny Kirsch:** in honor of their simcha

**Alan & Elissa Kittner:** in honor of Anna Rosenfeld's Bat Mitzvah

**Ralph & Hadassah Kramer:** in honor of Steve Bileca's drash about his parents

**Asher Cohen:** in memory of George Cohen

**Andrew Cohen & Susan Lawrence:** in memory of Andy's father, George Cohen

**Andrew Cohen & Susan Lawrence:** in honor of Martha Birnbaum

**Marsha Maslan:** in honor of Celia Concus

**Elana Reinin & Marshall Platt:** in memory of Herman Platt

**Yiskah Rosenfeld:** in gratitude of Netivot Shalom

**Philip & Sherrin Rosenthal:** in memory of Jack & Helen Rosenthal and Jordan Packer

**Hiriam Simon:** in honor of Rebeccah's Bat Mitzvah

**David Sklansky & Deborah Lambe:** in memory of Gloria Sklansky

**Ben & Helen Stern:** in honor of misheberach—the blessing of healing Helen & Clarisse

**Bracha Tannenbaum:** in honor of Gene Bardach & Phil Siegelman

**Stan & Judi Taubman:** in memory of Seymour Taubman

**Meredith Trauner:** General Operating Support (JCEF)

**Matt & Carly West**

**Robert E. White:** Thank you for hospitality and aliyah

**Max & Raquel Wolf:** in memory of Jose Zac; Bertha Greenberg; Nathan Wolf; Cantor Morris Wolf

### **Yom Kippur Appeal**

**Ruth & Larry Amernick**

**Joseph Becker**

**Patricia Bennett**

**Steve & Karen Bovarnick**

**Ellen & Herb Brosbe**

**Michael & Theresa Cooper**

**Milton & Margret Greenstein**

**Rabbi Daniel Isaacson & Liora Brosbe**

**Ellen Kaufman & David Weiner**

**Herb Klar**

**Robert Milton & Lisa Fink**

**Harry & Judith Radousky**

**Amy Nelson & Christopher Romer**

**Rebecca Schwartz & Jonathan Berk**

**Marjorie & Dan Stamper-Kurn**

**Kara Vuicich & David Radwin**

**Arne & Gail Wagner**

**Peter Wahrhaftig & Rena Dorph**

### **Rosenheimer Fund**

**Michael & Betty Rosenheimer:** in memory of Max Rosenheimer

**Michael & Betty Rosenheimer:** in memory of Ceceila Rosenheimer

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

**Ester Aklanli:** in memory of Estrella Sherez

**Hope Alper**

**Sharon Barzilay:** in honor of Rabbis Creditor, Kelman and the Chevra Kadisha

**Reba Connell:** for My New Red Shoes

**Ednah Beth Friedman**

**Jerry Garfield**

**Joel & Katya Gerwein**

**Edward & Meredith Gold:** in memory of Millie Gold

**Howard Gorin:** in appreciation of the Gurwein Family

**Josh & Noga Gressel:** in memory of Phillip Gressel

**Burt Jacobson & Diane Elliot:** for My New Red Shoes

**Alison Jordan**

**Ellen Kaufman & David Weiner**

**Rabbi Stuart & Vicky Kelman**

**Hilda & Seymour Kessler:** in memory of Dorothy Becker

**Jenny & Josh Kirsch:** in honor of the birth of Menasha

**Rita Largman**

**Raymond Lifchez:** in memory of Isaac Henry Lifchez

**Nina Meigs & Doran Bennett:** Masorti Tzedakah

**Deb Lewis & Martin Myers:** in memory of Theodore Myers

**Francesca Rizzardi:** in honor of Cathy Shadd

**William Rodarmor**

**Betsy & Tracy Ross:** Masorti Tzedakah

**June & Bob Safran:** in honor of Michella Ore's Bat Mitzvah

**Brenda Goldstein & David Shragai:** in memory of Gershon Shragai

**Alice Webber & Stephen Tobias:** Masorti Tzedakah

**Alfred & Constance Weissman**

**Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh & Mike Steinbaugh**

**Martin White & Caryn Lai**

**Max & Raquel Wolf:** in memory of Pascal Greenberg

**Cheryl Zlotnick:** in honor of Rabbi Creditor

### **Kelman Fund**

**Ann Swidler & Claude Fischer:** for yahrzeits

Thank you to all who participated in purchasing of Mahzor Lev Shalem for Congregation Netivot Shalom. The books are on order and Lee Feinstein has graciously prepared the bookplates to be affixed to the Mahzors upon their arrival. Below is a list of contributors :

(We apologize in advance if we have inadvertently missed anything including a name or donation. Please email Rachel at office@netivotshalom.org with any corrections)

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**Barbara Bibel:** in memory of Lillian Chaikin

**Joan Bieder:** in memory of Ida & Irving Bieder

**Steven Bileca & Angela Bileca Alonso:** Rabbis Kelman & Creditor; in memory of Rabbi Samuel Etter; Rabbi Moshe Etter

**Cathy Bolding & Joseph Meresman**

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**Judy Breakstone:** in honor of my children: Ilan, Ari & Rina Breakstone

**Mary & Tom Breiner:** in honor of the Shul

**Marcia Brooks:** in memory of Florence Bernstein

**Ellen & Herb Brosbe:** in honor of our children Liora, Gabe, Shira & Ruben Brosbe; in honor of the retirement of Vicky Kelman; in honor of Brad Rudolph & Janet Harris; in honor of Rabbi Stuart & Vicky Kelman; in honor Rabbi Daniel Isaacson & Liora Brosbe & Elijah Abrahams Isaacson; in memory of Lillian Brosbe; in memory of David & Claire Abrahams

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**Ednah Beth Friedman:** in memory of Margot B. Lucoff

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**Rivka Greenberg:** in memory of Bea & Leo Greenberg, zl"

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**Ruth Konoff & Ben Hermailin:** in honor of son, Noah, daughter Rose & Rabbi Menachem Creditor

**Steve Koppman:** in memory of Lion Koopman

**Ralph & Hadassah Kramer**

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**Ben Krefetz:** in memory of Morris and Minnie Krefetz

**Rita Largman**

**Susan Lawrence & Andrew Cohen:** in memory of George Cohen, Lillian Cohen; in honor of Asher, Elana R.L. Cohen

**Vida Lehmann:** in memory of Eva Lazarus Thompson

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**Judy Lieberman & Allen Samelson:** in memory of Libby & Jerry Lieberman; in honor of Rosalia & William Samelson

**Raymond Lifchez:** Judith Lee Stronach, in loving memory - RL

**Tobie Lurie:** in memory of my parents

**Dana Berge & Willa Mamet:** in memory of Charlotte Potok

**Stuart & Laurie Marson:** in memory of Cynthia Walter Drazen, Murray Walter, Josephine Walter, Florence Marson, Samuel Marson

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**Michael & McCullough & Judith Lesser McCullough**

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**Annon Oren & Tammy Plotkin-Oren:** in memory of Evelyn Harwood Plotkin

**Karen Pliskin & Peter Jacobs:** in honor of our parents

**Ginette & Elijah Polak:** in memory of Janet Fischer

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**Rabbi Dorothy Richman & Michael Steinman**

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**Jane Rubin**

**Thelma Rubin:** in memory of Augusta Rothstein

**Todd Rumph & Ruth Elowitz**

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**Sam Salkin:** in memory of Herman & Harriet Salkin

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**David & Nadine Samuels:** in memory of Herbert N. Samuels

**Perry & Malka Scheinok:** in memory of Shalva Sorani

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**Helen Schneider:** in honor of Rabbi Stuart Kelman; in memory of Sandy Schneider

**Denise Moyes-Schnur & Ken Schnur:** in honor of Ken Schnur

**Thomas & Betty Seaton:** in honor of Helen Schneider (to help off-set shipping Mahzor Shalem)

**Serena Shaw Heaslip & Meldan Heaslip:** in honor of Rabbi Stuart Kelman

**David Shragai & Brenda Goldstein:** in honor of Alice & Sidney Goldstein; in memory of Gershon & Penina Shragai

**Joel Siegel:** in memory of Doris Rose

**Philip & Ellen Siegelman:** in memory of David & Pearl Yonoff

**Lois Silverstein:** a gift from Lois Silverstein & Dick Coleman

**David Sklansky & Deborah Lambe:** in memory of Gloria Joy Sklansky

**Kate Smalenburg**

**Bruce Starkman:** in memory of Clara G. Shorr, Madelaine, Blanche, Jack Starkman

**David Stein & Bill Stewart:** in honor of Rabbi Stuart Kelman

**Ben & Helen Stern:** in memory of our our loved ones who perished in the holocaust

**Richart Stern & Risa Kagan:** in honor of Adam Benjamin Kagan Stern; Gretchen Sara Kagan Stern; Lily Kagan Stern and in memory of Faye Kagan Hanfling; Myer Kagan; Irving Stern

**Edna Stewart**

**Peter & Nan Strauss:** in honor of Rabbi Stuart Kelman

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**Rabbi David & Irene Winston**

**Glenn Wolkenfeld & Nancy Facher:** in honor of Amitim Staff 5770 (2009-10)

**Diana Wood**

**Sharon Wynd:** in memory of Morris David Kane; Eve R. Kane

**Deborah Yager & Barry Muhfelder:** in memory of Ludwig Muhfelder and Helen Jacob

**Chery Zlotnick:** in memory of Martin Zlotnick

## Yahrzeits

*Zichronam livrachah* — May their memories be blessed**March 1, Adar 15**

Harry Breitman  
 Henry Cohen  
 Jean Taylor Coy  
 Esther Eva Yachelson Goldman  
 Henry Greenberg  
 Joan Ruth Groody  
 Jack Jacobs  
 Louis Woolf Meltzer

**March 2, Adar 16**

Tillie Zimmerman Alter  
 Seymour Bradus  
 Joseph Hornstein

**March 3, Adar 17**

Morris Spelfogel

**March 4, Adar 18**

Freda Bond  
 Eileen Sheila Derblich  
 Wilson Kelman

**March 5, Adar 19**

Stephanie Davis  
 Herman Gold  
 Judith Gold  
 Gertrude Schorner  
 Myer Sefkin  
 Jules Shuchat

**March 6, Adar 20**

Ralph Dubin  
 Rose Lowsky  
 Sara Lee Rosenfeld  
 Ruth Schwartz Banen

**March 8, Adar 22**

Robert C. Fite  
 Bernice Rifas  
 Carl Slater

**March 9, Adar 23**

Laurette Goldberg  
 Jerome Grossman  
 Morris Rothstein

**March 10, Adar 24**

Marjorie Alper  
 Robert Finegold  
 Ben Shuchat

**March 11, Adar 25**

Clarence Kaufman  
 Frieda Kittner  
 Rachel Press

**March 12, Adar 26**

Claire Abrahams  
 Mira Kon  
 Esther P. Matthews  
 Pearl Pripstein

**March 13, Adar 27**

Bennett Hornstein

**March 14, Adar 28**

Nathan Brandwynne  
 David A. Lesser

**March 15, Adar 29**

Eileen Kessler  
 Helen Rosenthal

**March 16, Nissan 1**

Renate Berk  
 Max Falk

**March 20, Nissan 5**

Barbara Strauss

**March 21, Nissan 6**

Frances Keller

**March 24, Nissan 9**

Jack Berger  
 Julius Rock

**March 25, Nissan 10**

Morton Berger  
 Florence Greenhut  
 Morris Louis Sheftel

**March 26, Nissan 11**

Hyman Feinstein  
 Charlotte Koltun

**March 27, Nissan 12**

Betty Falk  
 Reggie Hyne

**March 28, Nissan 13**

Aharon Horowitz  
 Ellis Liebman  
 Ellis S. Liebman  
 Saul Sherman

**March 29, Nissan 14**

Rosabell Schuman Bernstein  
 Mary Jane Dannenbaum  
 Jacob Gordon  
 Chaya Koslow

**March 30, Nissan 15**

Penina Shragai

**March 31, Nissan 16**

Sandy Schneider

**April 1, Nissan 17**

Coya Alkanli  
 Isaac Barzilay  
 Sarah Gordon  
 Rifka Radosky

**April 2, Nissan 18**

Rosemary Levinson

**April 3, Nissan 19**

Ilan Gabriel Biederman  
 Morris (Moishe) Brose  
 Margaret McCullough Jerew  
 Jack Maslan  
 Samuel Nathan Schwartz  
 Mayer Weisel

**April 4, Nissan 20**

Sadie Estry  
 Devorah Fox  
 Ethel Hellman  
 Gitla Zak

**April 5, Nissan 21**

Shimon Nusan ben Yosef Chaim  
 Fred Marcus

**April 6, Nissan 24**

Ethel Wilonsky

**April 7, Nissan 25**

Sadie Jacobvitz  
 Max Slavin

**April 8, Nissan 26**

Rose Feige Kaplan  
 Morton Quittel  
 Abraham Jacob Tolmach  
 Marian Wagner

(continued on page 31)

*We Extend Our Condolences to the Families of:*

Rick Isaacson, Tzvi ben Penina, z"l, father of Rabbi Daniel Isaacson, father-in-law to Liora Brosbe, and Grandfather to Elijah.

Simon Levine, Shimon Ben Avraham v' Malka, z"l.

Deborah Potak, Devorah Bat Yizchak Leib Ha Levy, z"l. Deborah was the wife of Milton Potak, mother to Andrea Altschuler (& David Finn), Joanne Altschuler (& Jeff Jacobs), David Altschuler (& Judith) and grandmother to Rebecca, Sarah, Sam, Matthew, and Rachel.

Stevens Manning, Jr., z"l, father of Kim Zvik and father-in-law of Assi Zvik.

Edith Webber z"l, mother of Alice Webber and mother-in-law to Stephen Tobias.

along with all others who mourn Zion and Jerusalem.

**Yahrzeits***Zichronam livrachah* — May their memories be blessed

(continued from page 30)

**April 9, Nissan 27**Rabbi Samuel Haim Dresner  
Joseph C. Swidler**April 10, Nissan 28**Leah Jacobson Reingold  
William Schwartz  
Ursula Felton Sherman**April 11, Nissan 29**Sara Atik  
Sara Ruth Bat Avraham  
Chana Goldberg  
Helen Levy  
Rose Raffel  
Rybacky Family  
Maurice B. Strauss  
Frieda Valfer**April 13, Nissan 28**Michael Dimond  
Freida Weingarten**April 14, Nissan 30**Daniel Fox  
Itzolin Garcia**April 16, Iyar 2**Sol Gidal  
Harry Greif**April 17, Iyar 3**Mark Brass  
David Goldman**April 18, Iyar 4**

Sadie Samet Rice

**April 19, Iyar 5**Richard Jaeger  
Hermine Rosin**April 20, Iyar 6**Shirley Fain  
Deborah Richmond Maccoby**April 21, Iyar 7**

Lion Koppman

**April 22, Iyar 8**

Rose Bittker

**April 23, Iyar 9**Alexander Bolding  
Kurt Irwin  
Celia Ruth Tolmach**April 24, Iyar 10**

David Smuel Mathan

**April 25, Iyar 11**

William Goldbaum

**April 26, Iyar 12**Joan Breitman  
Joan Kabatznick  
Arthur Mayer Pickus**April 27, Iyar 13**Joseph Berck  
James Bloom  
Leonard Kudisch  
Lawrence (Bud) Simon**April 28, Iyar 14**Ann Cordes  
Bernard Abraham Klar  
Philip Ruby  
Ruth Shub**April 29, Iyar 15**

Melvin Roy Derblich

**April 30, Iyar 16**

Goldie Bardach

**May 2, Iyar 18**Alfred Fain  
Margorit Sevy  
Esther Tranter**May 3, Iyar 19**Karene Shadd  
Louis Singer**May 5, Iyar 21**Libby Lieberman  
Libby Meizus Lieberman  
Samuel Raphael**May 6, Iyar 22**Mildred Bolding  
Ruth Landsman**May 8, Iyar 24**Maytal Hojoon Scheinok  
Israel Sherez  
Sam Spiegler**May 9, Iyar 25**

Walter Wise

**May 10, Iyar 26**Rachel Burack  
Johanna Gans  
Ada Wisch**May 11, Iyar 27**Mendel Geminder  
Barbara Petersen  
Stephen Platt  
Yetta Levitan Waldman  
Ethel Witkin  
Lee Wood  
Anne Zuckerman**May 12, Iyar 28**Diana Jurdem  
William Jurdem  
Phil Lewis**May 13, Iyar 29**Henry Creditor  
Sidney Landsman  
Sybil G. RosenblumBenjamin Spielman  
Matthew Wolf**May 14, Sivan 1**Rosie Anisman  
Albert Lepawsky  
Abe Levin  
Betty Schnur**May 15, Sivan 2**Sidney Greenstein  
Rose Matusoff**May 16, Sivan 3**

Daniel Bernard Hamburg

**May 18, Sivan 5**

Arthur Aaron Witkin

**May 19, Sivan 6**David Arons  
Israel Kunofsky  
Benjamin Silberstein**May 20, Sivan 7**

Max Samuely

**May 22, Sivan 9**Helen Fabrikant  
Celia Miller Frank  
Irving Stern**May 23, Sivan 10**George Geminder  
Sylvia Mell  
Jeremy Franks Tranter**May 25, Sivan 12**Harry Jaeger  
Jack Rosenfeld  
Chaya Waxman**May 26, Sivan 13**Yetta Cohen  
Edie Marcus**May 27, Sivan 14**

Betty Dimond

**May 28, Sivan 15**John Ginter  
Fanny Klatt**May 29, Sivan 16**Brenda Gerwin  
Jennie Gottlieb  
May Lansing  
Debby Kramer Shalev**May 30, Sivan 17**Rina Zilcha Bruchiel  
Eva Lazarus Thompson**May 31, Sivan 18**Emanuel Julius Cooper  
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**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 contact David Stein for more information at [davidstein@comcast.net](mailto:davidstein@comcast.net).

**CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM NEWSLETTER**  
 March 2010 • Adar 5770

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 Jessica Sterling

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*Camp Gan Israel is dedicated to enriching the lives of children from diverse Jewish backgrounds and affiliations through a stimulating camp experience.*



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## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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