



NETIVOT SHALOM

FEBRUARY 2000
SHEVAT/ADAR I 5760

I'm never quite sure why certain events are timed to occur simultaneously - or at least within a short time period of each other, but that's what happened to me at the beginning of February. My renewed driver's license appeared one morning along with a "Donor Dot" (red dot) which, if applied to the driver's license, says that my specified organs may be donated. Every time I get the card, it usually sits on my desk for a while, but this year I've finally decided to put the dot on my license.

Around the same time that the dot arrived, I learned that the Northern California Board of Rabbis had received a grant from the Jewish Community Newhouse Fund of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, to promote the mitzvah of organ donation. "If one is in the position to donate an organ to save another's life, it's obligatory to do so, even if the donor never knows who the beneficiary will be. The basic principle of Jewish ethics - 'the infinite worth of the human being' - also includes donation of corneas, since eyesight restoration is considered a life-saving operation." These words, written by Rabbi Moses Tendler, Chair of the Bioethics Commission of the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox), should serve as a primary assumption from which to build our belief system and our actions. Along with a bunch of supporting materials, came the suggestion that all congregations designate the Shabbat of March 3-4, 2000, Shabbat Shekalim, as the Shabbat on which we "inform the congregation that the giving of organs and tissue is a supreme mitzvah because this can save a life" (the words of the letter from the

Northern California Board of Rabbis.)

Frankly, I was disappointed that the Board of Rabbis took this rather mild position. Their statement reads like a recommendation, i.e., if you want to, then donate. The Rabbinical Assembly, two years ago, was much more forceful in their statement:

RABBI'S COLUMN

by Rabbi Stuart Kelman

The Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled that one is OBLIGATED (my caps) to permit post-mortem transplantation of his or her organs in life-saving medical procedures and that withholding consent for such organ donation is contrary to Jewish Law". Simply put, it is an obligatory mitzvah to donate.

Five other statements underlie this position:

1. The body of an organ and/or tissue donor is always treated with care and respect (K'vod ha-Met)
2. There is no charge to the donor or to his or her family for donation
3. Organ and tissue donation will not delay funeral arrangements
4. Studies show that organ donation helps to shorten the time needed by members of a bereaved family to recover from their loss
5. The traditional Jewish belief in resurrection in no way precludes organ donation.

The donor card from the Rabbinical

Assembly, reads in part: "This is to inform you that I want to be an organ and tissue donor if the occasion ever arises. Please see that my wishes are carried out by informing attending medical personnel that I am a donor. In so doing, you will be acting as my partner and agent in the Mitzvah of Pikuach Nefesh, saving lives.



In keeping with the Jewish belief that the human body is God's creation, and is thus to be accorded sanctity even after death, please see that all appropriate steps are

taken on my behalf to maintain K'vod ha-Met (honor to the deceased). As soon as needed organs or tissues are retrieved in accordance with my instructions, see that the rest of my remains are buried in a Jewish cemetery, in accordance with Jewish law and custom."

So, I urge each one of us to participate in this most serious of mitzvot. I should add, that this in no way interferes with the work of our own Chevra Kadisha, in particular our Taharah Committee which prepares the body for burial.

Stop by the office or look in the information stand in the lobby on Shabbat; pick up a donor card; fill it out (two witnesses are needed); discuss this with your family; and attach it to any "living will" that you may have executed. As Rabbi Isaac Klein stated: "There is no greater K'vod ha-Met (honor to the deceased) than to bring healing to the living."

Questions? Concerns? Give a call.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Saturday Shabbat Services & Torah Study

Torah Study – 9:00 am
 Services at 9:45 am
 BRJCC
 1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley

Wednesday Morning Minyan

7:15 a.m.

Meditative Minyan

Third Shabbat of each month at 9:30 a.m.

Tot Shabbat (Shabbat B'Yachad)

Second and Fourth Shabbat of each month at 11:00 a.m.

DONATION CARD

I/we wish to make a donation. Enclosed is my check payable to:

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 Friday 9:00-4:00 P.M.
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PRESIDENTS LETTER

BY: PAULINE MORENO

I want to start by reminding everyone that the Annual Membership Meeting will take place on February 13th, at the same location as last year's meeting, the North Berkeley Senior Center at the corner of Martin Luther King and Hearst St. The meeting will start at 9:30 AM. Your attendance is VERY important. We need you there to vote for the Board of Directors and to hear what's been happening in the last year, and plans we have for the coming year. Please set aside the time and date. This is also a great opportunity to network with other members that you may have not had a chance to meet.

On a related note, and one that I will be discussing at that meeting, is the new lease negotiation with the JCC. You probably remember the very painful rent negotiations of last year. The JCC attempted to raise our rent from \$1133 to \$5400, a rate we could not pay. After months of negotiating and searching for a replacement in case we were not able to come to terms, we finally did come to an agreement. Our rent was raised 100% to \$2400 for the first year of the lease (1999-2000) and \$2600 for the second year (2000-2001).

At a recent meeting with the new CFO at the JCC (Joel Bashevkin), we agreed that it was time to start rental negotiations for the years 2002 and 2003. The fact is, the JCC is not our home. We are tenants there. When the day comes that we cannot afford their stipulated rent, we will have to leave. Our current budget already reflects a total of \$87000 in rental payments. This reiterates the need for us to find our own home, and reminds us of why the Board

voted to establish a building assessment to make that possible. Unfortunately, the amount of that fund to date is very disappointing.

In February, 2001, I will hand over the presidency to another volunteer. I hope that between now and then we will have taken additional positive steps towards the establishment of our own home. We must communally understand the need for a place of our own, and we need to understand what is it going to take. This goal will not be reached without your energy, time and money commitment. We can then guarantee a place to worship, celebrate and learn, not only for us today, but also for many generations to come.

If you would like to discuss this issue with me, please take the time to contact me. My home number is 428-1048.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to those Board members whose terms have expired. Turi Adams, who got the newsletter to us in a timely manner and looking fantastic. Cori Kesler the Newsletter's graphic designer will stay on and work with our new Publicity Chair. Mary Lukanuski, Membership chair, Norman Rosenblatt, Treasurer, Joe Meresman, Secretary, Barbara Wezelman, Adult Education and Julie Weissman, Community Building are all exiting. When you see any of these people please take the time to extend your appreciation for their commitment and leadership.

BShalom, Pauline Moreno



WANTED: CELEBRANTS

For our June 1 issue, we would like to publish a list of those who are graduating from day school, high school, college (undergrad and graduate) and any other such personal *simchas*. Call the synagogue office by the middle of April so we can congratulate those who give you *nachas*.

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by Sanne DeWitt, and Barbara Wezelman

SPECIAL EVENTS

A NEW LOOK AT AN OLD STORY

Professor Robert Alter will read from his new book, *The David Story* for Netivot Shalom members and friends. The event will be held at the synagogue office at 1841 Berkeley Way on Sunday, February 6, from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Professor Alter will discuss his translation, with commentary, of 1 and 2 Samuel. Copies of his book will be available for purchase and signing. Refreshments will be provided.

YET MORE MAIMONIDES

We will continue our studies of Maimonides with our teacher, Nitzhia Shaked beginning Monday, February 7. In this eight-session course we will begin our study of 'The Guide of the Perplexed' and its place in world philosophy. Among the topics to be discussed are:

- Good and Evil
- The Purpose of Obeying Mitzvot
- The Nature of God
- Prophecy
- The study of biblical topics such as the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the Suffering of Job.

The class meets Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 pm at the Netivot Shalom offices. Tuition is \$55 for Netivot Shalom members and \$75 for non members. It is not necessary to have taken the previous courses on Maimonides in order to participate. An introductory lecture will summarize what has already been discussed. The text we'll use is the two volume translation of Moses Maimonides "The Guide of the Perplexed", translated by Shlomo Pines; University of Chicago Press. Books may be obtained at Afikomen or Black Oak books. The course is being co-sponsored by Lehrhaus Judaica and Netivot Shalom. You may pre-register by calling Lehrhaus Judaica at (510) 6420. You may also register at the time of the first session of the course. Please call Lehrhaus or Sanne DeWitt at (510)845-2098 if you have any further questions.

INTERESTED IN DEEPENING YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF JEWISH MEDITATION?

Shalom Spencer will lead a meditation workshop on Sunday morning, February 20, from 10-12 at the office. A period of silent meditation will be followed by text study. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Shalom at 548-3321.

ETHICAL DILEMMAS FACING THE ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES

Asa Kasher, Professor of Ethics and Philosophy of Practice at Tel Aviv University, and the author of the code of ethics for the IDF, will lecture on Tuesday evening, February 22, at 7 pm at Beth El, 2301 Vine. Cosponsored with the Israel Center and Beth El, this event will be free for CNS members.

RABBI JOSEPH LEIBOWITZ will be in the Bay Area for his annual February round of classes open to the community. In the past people have enjoyed his teaching on such topics as prayer, Mishna, and Biblical subjects. This year he has agreed to add a text-based workshop for mental

health professionals who are interested in deepening an appreciation of Jewish thought and theology relevant to the practice of psychotherapy. The proposed plan is to study selected texts from Bereshit on the concept of the soul. This will be a one session three-hour class, tentatively set for Tuesday evening, February 22. The fee is \$20. Please call or email Alison Jordan for more details at 540-8081 or ajordan8@mciworld.com

LEARNER'S MINYAN

Cantor Pamela Rothmann Sawyer leads this introduction to the Shabbat morning service, on one Saturday morning each month, from 9 to 9:45 am at the BRJCC. The Learner's Minyan meets next on February 19, and again on March 25. (There will be a break in April.) No experience or Hebrew knowledge is necessary, just a desire to learn. Childcare is available and newcomers are welcome. For further information, please call Eric at 521-7084.

WANT TO BE A PERSON OF THE BOOK?

A new book group is forming that will focus on contemporary Jewish life, sociology and history (from the 18th century to the present), with perhaps an occasional novel thrown in. This group will hold its second meeting on Sunday evening, February 27, from 7 to 9 pm, at the synagogue office. Childcare will be provided. Please call Carol Dorf at 848-4701 for more information.

VASHTI REVISITED: FEMINIST INTERPRETATION OF RABBINIC COMMENTARIES

Dr. Leora Lawton will join us in our library for a pre-Purim look at Vashti, on Sunday evening, March 5 at 7 pm. Vashti is vilified in rabbinic commentaries, while in recent years she has been glorified by feminists as someone who fought against sexism. This seminar will look carefully at the text of Megillat Esther and the commentaries. In doing so we will get to the core of misogyny and anti-semitism. Co-sponsored with Lehrhaus, this event will be free for CNS members

ET TU, TROPE?

A class on chanting the Torah *trope* will begin on the Ides of March, and continue for seven additional Wednesday evenings, starting at 7:30 pm at the office. Taught by the incomparable Glenn Massarano, class participants will learn to read and chant a standard Ashkenazi *trope*. No musical ability is required -- only the ability to read Hebrew. Pre-registration with Glenn (644-0654) is encouraged, since the class size will be limited.

FAMILY STORIES AND GENEALOGY

While not sponsored by Netivot Shalom, our very own Lois Silverstein will be teaching a class through Lehrhaus and the BRJCC entitled "L'Dor V'Dor: First Steps in Finding Your Jewish Family History" on Sundays, February 6 through April 2, from 11 to 1. For more information about fees, registration, class content or location, contact Lois at 464-3051, or refer to the Lehrhaus catalog.

ONGOING CLASSES AND STUDY GROUPS

Torah Study, with Nitzhia Shaked and guest teachers, meets every Shabbat at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4 at the JCC. Child care also begins at 9 a.m.

Talmud Study, with Rabbi Kelman, meets every Tuesday evening from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., at the synagogue office.

B'nai Avraham v'Sarah, a *chavurah* for Jews by choice and their families, meets monthly at various members' homes. For information call Denise Moyes-Schnur at 526-6445.

Judaism Revealed, a group for Jews and their non-Jewish partners, meets monthly. For information call Rose Levinson at 526-1322.

COMING UP

ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PRAYER,
BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

No topic will be off limits in this hard-hitting four-part series taught by Rabbi Kelman. He will address such hitherto taboo subjects as petitionary prayer, *keva* and *kavanah*, and comparative *siddurim*. Banned in Boston, this program could only be possible in a community like ours. The classes will be held Sunday mornings, from 10 - 11:30 at the office, on February 20th, 27th, March 5th and 19th. Look in the February email and Shabbat announcements for the confirmed schedule, or contact Rabbi Kelman.



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TORAH STUDY SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

Feb. 5 Rabbi Arthur Gould
Feb. 12 Nitzhia Shaked
Feb. 19 Shachar Pinsker
Feb. 26 Nitzhia Shaked

MARCH

Mar. 4 Open
Mar. 11 Nitzhia Shaked
Mar. 18 Yehuda Sherman
Mar. 25 Nitzhia Shaked

COMMUNITY BUILDING

By Julie Weissman

Better late than never! Because of this newsletter's publication schedule, this is my first opportunity to share the wonderful success of Netivot Shalom's "Bring Chanukah Home" project. This Chanukah, Netivot Shalom members celebrated the holiday together in small neighborhood gatherings. We all had fun eating, playing games, and singing Chanukah songs. A very special thanks to Debby Graudenz and Rom Rosenblum for producing our Chanukah songtapes! Special thanks to Jerry Derblich of Afikomen and Bob of Gand Bakery for making it possible for us to enjoy dreidel games and delicious *sufganiot*. Special thanks to Don Fischer for leading us in Kabbalat Shabbat services!

As community building chair, this is my mission, and it was a pleasure to see it develop! But of course, Netivot Shalom being Netivot Shalom, we didn't stop there. With the help of Mark Priven, Social Action Chair, Naomi Horowitz, Membership Chair, and Josh Gressel, we collected

holiday gifts for ten families in need. This *tikkun olam* project reminded all of us about our obligations to the greater community. I want to thank each of the following host families for opening their homes for this event: Shira and Chauncey Bell; Judy Breakstone and Michael Fuss; Ben Donohue and Ellen Peskin; Carol Dorf; Josh and Noga Gressel; Janet Harris and Brad Rudolph; Rita Stein; and Claudia Valas and Carl Buchin. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to Iris Greenbaum for helping to put this project into place. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who participated in this, our first annual "Bring Chanukah Home" project. You spirits made this a truly special & memorable holiday.

On a final note, this will be my last official article as community building chair. The success of the "Bring Chanukah Home Project" shows that we are an incredible community and we can accomplish amazing things!



YOUTH EDUCATION

by Wendy Rosov and Shari Rifas

FAMILY PRESCHOOL

The Family Preschool Program continues its meetings from 10am-12pm at the shul offices one Sunday per month. This unique experience provides opportunities for families to interact around Jewish content in a hands-on fashion. This month's meeting date is February 13th (yes, opposite the shul's annual meeting... so, send one family member to the meeting, and the other with your preschooler to this fabulous program!). Future dates are: March 12, April 9, and May 7. Even if you missed the last events, you are still more than welcome to participate. Please call Wendy at ext. 549-9447 x105 or e-mail <ntvt-edu@ebjfed.org> to RSVP.



FAMILY ROOM

As many of you may already know, our Family Room program did not begin meeting this Fall due to lack of registration. This terrific program, designed by our own Vicky Kelman and facilitated by Debbie Isaak Shapiro, provides scaffolded experiences that enable each family to pursue their own growing and learning together in a Jewish context. Families meet monthly for late afternoon-early evening potlucks and programming in group members's homes. We are committed to providing this amazing experience in the context of our shul's commitment to family education and we welcome your interest. Family room is a two-year commitment that will have a profound effect on the way your family lives its Jewish life together. Family room is appropriate for families with children in grades 1-6. Please contact Wendy Rosov with your questions at 510.549.9447 x 105 or by email at <ntvt-edu@ebjfed.org>.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO WILL BECOME B'NAI MITZVAH DURING THE 2001-2002 ACADEMIC YEAR:

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY RECEIVED A FORM FROM THE SYNAGOGUE REQUESTING INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S BAR/BAT

MITZVAH, PLEASE CONTACT WENDY ROSOV IMMEDIATELY. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR FORM AND HAVE NOT RETURNED IT TO THE OFFICE, PLEASE DO SO ASAP. WE WILL BE CONTACTING YOU SOON TO CONFIRM YOUR CHILD'S BAR/BAT MITZVAH DATE FOR THE

SUMMER CAMP, 2000.

In last month's newsletter, we told you about the availability of camperships through the Rosenheimer Campership Fund. Well, we just received information from the San Francisco Bureau of Jewish Education telling us about an exciting new summer overnight campership initiative underway. Please call Alla Borokovich at the Bureau for more information. Alla can be reached at (415) 751-6983 x 107. Enjoy!!

THE FIRST ANNUAL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BETZALEL FEST WAS A ROUSING SUCCESS

due to the ingenuity of our Religious School Principal, Masha Savitz, and a host of talented Bay area art, music and dance teachers including our own Rabbi Kelman (who led a workshop on Jewish scribal arts). This mid-year arts fest may very well become a Netivot Shalom annual event! Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this a meaningful experience for our Religious School students.

YOUNG JUDEA NEWS

Young Judaea is pleased to announce the following club events for February.

On Sunday, Feb. 13, 3 - 8 graders are invited to attend our clubs, which will meet during the Netivot Shalom annual meeting. There will be another club meeting on Sunday, Feb. 27. March 24 - 26, Young Judaea will hold its dynamic Spring Convention for *Ofarim* and *Tsofim* (3 - 8 grades). The weekend event will take place at Camp Loma Mar, in the beautiful Santa Cruz mountains. 8 - 12 grade students are invited to attend the Bogrim Spring Convention April 13 - 16, in Oregon. This huge convention will include the Pacific Northwest and Desert Mountain Regions. Please call the Young Judaea office to make your reservations: (510) 549-0260. ✡

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Meditative Shacharit (Morning Service)
Saturday, February 19 - 9:30-10:30 am

Join K'vod Wieder and others to participate in a morning service opening the door to traditional Shabbat liturgy through meditation and chanting. It's a special opportunity to sink deeply into Shabbat prayer and silence before joining the rest of the community for the Torah service.

***'Td like to sell my house but-
It will create havocI don't know what my home is worth ...I don't have a realtor I can trust."***

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FEBRUARY 2000

SHEVAT/ADAR I 5760

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday



6

10 am
Book Reading by
Robert Alter

4:30 pm
Family Room

7

7:30 pm
Maimonides
Workshop

Social Action
Committee

1

25 Shevat

7:30 pm
Talmud Shiur
with Rabbi
Kelman

2

7:15 am
Minyan
7:30 pm
Hebrew Classes

26 Shevat

9

7:15 am
Minyan

7:30 pm
Hebrew Classes

3

27 Shevat

10

4

6:30 pm
Kabbalat
Shabbat at
Alison Cohen's

Candle Lighting
Time: 5:18 pm

28 Shevat

11

Kabbalat
Shabbat at the
Bells

5

9:00 am
Torah Study




9:45 am
Shabbat Services
Mispatim

29 Shevat

12

9:00 am
Torah Study
Learner's Minyan with
Cantor Pam Sawyer

9:45 am Shabbat Services
Terumah

3PM TIFERET MEETING Young Judea Event 30 Shevat	1 Adar I 14 7:30 pm Maimonides Workshop	2 Adar I 15 7:30 pm Talmud Shiur	3 Adar I 16 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Hebrew Classes	4 Adar I 17	Lighting Time: 5:26 pm  5 Adar I 18 Mishpacha Kabbalat Shabbat Candle Lighting time: 5:34 pm  12 Adar I 25 Candle Lighting time: 5:41 pm  19 Adar I 20 Adar I	Shabbat B'Yachad 6 Adar I 19 9:00 am Torah Study 9:45 am Shabbat Services <i>Parasha Tezaveh</i> NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
13 9:30 am Annual Meeting at North Berkeley Senior Center 10 am Family Pre School Young Judea Activity 1 pm Chevra Kadisha Annual Meeting 7 Adar I	8 Adar I 21 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TODAY OFFICE CLOSED (MLK DAY) PRESIDENTS DAY 15 Adar I	9 Adar I 22 7:30 pm Talmud Shiur NO AMITIM 16 Adar I	10 Adar I 23 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Hebrew Classes 17 Adar I	11 Adar I 24	13 Adar I 26 9:00 am Torah Study Learner's Minyan with Cantor Pam Sawyer 9:45 am Shabbat Services <i>Parasha Ki Tissa</i> 11:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad Kiddush sponsored by Midrasha Families	
14 Adar I 27 10:00 am Shabbat B'Yachad Meeting 3PM TIFERET MEETING 7pm Book Club Meeting 21 Adar I	22 Adar I 28 7:30 pm Maimonides Workshop 23 Adar I	16 Adar I 29 7:30 pm Talmud Shiur	18 Adar I 20 Adar I	19 Adar I 20 Adar I	20 Adar I 20 Adar I	

DONT MISS OUT!
February 13: Chevra Kadisha Meeting at 1pm;
1841 Berkeley Way
February 13: Congregational Meeting 9:30 am at the
North Berkeley Senior Center,
Hearst and MLK Jr. Way.
Childcare available!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU'S:

Rom Rosenbloom for providing the synagogue with a microphone and stand for us to use at the JCC. • Jurgen Bernhardt and Diana Beck for their work in the library. • Hilda and Seymour Kessler for their donation of *Siddurim* to be used in a *shiva minyan*, in memory of Sandy Schneider, (z"l). • Carol Robinson and Rabbi Art Gould thank those who helped them during this period of mourning for Carol's father, Lou Robinson (z"l). • The Moyes-Schnur family for their donation of the platters for Kiddushim • Camp Ramah for their donation of Hebrew Songbooks

THANKS TO OUR DONORS:

ADULT ED FUND

John Reynolds
Noriko Obinata

BIKKUR CHOLIM FUND

Bracha and Percy Tannenbaum in memory of Izzy Sherman, Flo Pripstein's father

BUILDING FUND

Shari Rifas, in honor of her parents, Bert and Bernice Rifas, fiftieth anniversary,
Celia Concus in honor of Jim and Carol Cunradi, Josh and Noga Gressel,
Bernard and Gwenda Wasserman, in honor

of the marriage of Ari Kelman and Amie Dorman, and in memory of Florence Marson.

CAMP RAMAH FUND

Rabbi and Vicky Kelman

CUBA FUND

Scott Adams and Turi Ryder Adams

SHABBAT B'YACHAD FUND

Rachel Seder

GENERAL FUND

Marcia Brooks in honor of Serena Eisenberg
Celia Concus in memory of Rose Fierstein, Chana Bloch's mother, Raymond Richman, Lorraine Rosenblatt's father, Norman Wezelman, Barbara Wezelman's father and Belle Lipsett.
Barbara Wezelman in memory of Louis Robinson, Carol Robinson's father

HOMELESS DINNERS

Vicky Kelman in honor of the marriage of Ari Kelman and Amie Dorman

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YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

Robert Saper and Ruth Paris in memory of Itzhak Saper's *yahrzeit*

MAZEL TOV:

Tali and Elad Ziv on the birth of their daughter, Maayan Sarah
Jonathan and Connie Heller on the birth of Isaak Heller
Ben Lehrman and Judy Hahn on the birth of Samuel Isaac

CONDOLENCES TO:

Ruth Morris on the death of her father, Bernard Laytner
Diane Bernbaum on the death of her father, Irving Lowe
Lisa Fink on the death of her father, Stanley Fink
Carol Robinson on the death of her father, Louis Robinson

ANNOUNCING GAN SHALOM PRESCHOOL'S PURIM PACKAGE PROMOTION!

Surprise your far-flung family and friends with *Mishloach Manot* this Purim!

Two packages to choose from:

QUEEN ESTHER PACKAGE \$18.00
(assorted baked goods* and treats)
WHOLE MEGILLAH PACKAGE \$21.00
(includes above PLUS a Purim fun pack)
*all ingredients are certified kosher

Look for order form in this newsletter and at the JCC, Hillel, or call 525-4997 to request one sent to you!

PURIM IS MARCH 20th -- ORDER NOW!

COME OR DON'T KVETCH!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

FEB 13TH, 9:30AM

NORTH BERKELEY SENIOR CENTER,
ON THE CORNER OF MLK AND HEARST.

SPEAK OUT ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE CONGREGATION, TO MEET THE NEW SYNAGOGUE BOARD, AND VOLUNTEER.

WANT TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE TAKING OUT YOUR CHECKBOOK?
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!

CHAI FOR CHANUKAH DONORS

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the enormous success of the 1999 CHAI FOR CHANNUKAH!!

If you forgot to send in your CHAI FOR CHANNUKAH FORM and donation, don't feel bad, send it in now . (It will make you feel better, we promise)

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CHAUNCEY AND SHIRAH BELL Meyer Kaplan	BRENDA GOLDSTEIN AND DAVID SHRAGAI Gershon Shragai Penina Shragai		NORMA KAUFMAN AND MICHAEL MELTZER In memory of Carol Robinson's father STEVE AND KAREN BOVARNICK BRUCE STARKMAN

VOLUNTEERING REVISITED

BY TURI RYDER ADAMS, PUBLICITY CHAIR

It's another synagogue board election season, and my arm has just about healed from Pauline Moreno, our intrepid shul president, twisting it to get me to sign on for a year of board service. Granted, the arrival of our baby (now six months old) has made attendance at board meetings all but impossible. Still, memories of the past twelve months loom vivid in my mind, not to mention those hard-to-shake nightmares of the monthly rush to get the newsletter out on time (which, if I do say so myself, it mostly was...at least in the shul office, if not in your mailbox. For that, call the bulk mail center. For kudos, call Cori Kesler, my personal hero and a swell graphic artist with the patience of Job.)

Here are a few things I have learned (re-learned, actually, as my mother tried to teach them to me years ago):

- 1) Mistakes are just that. If one takes an omission or an error personally, one is wearing a "kick me" sign, and one's life will be mostly unhappy.
- 2) There is no such thing as "one small change."
- 3) Everybody's life is busy, including yours.
- 4) Cheerful people get more. Amusing, cheerful people who say "thank you" can have anything in this world that they want, because they lighten the days of everyone who deals with them, and that's worth a lot. (Note: if you ever wondered why somebody got extra attention in the newsletter, there's the reason)
- 5) If you don't ask, you don't get (that's my grandma's rule, actually---I don't know that I used it too much doing the

- newsletter, but it's a good rule, so I'm putting it in.)
- 6) In any group of people, the volunteers make the best friends.
- 7) Try not to say "no," find another way to do it.
- 8) Sometimes one has to say "no."
- 9) Few things go as planned. Ask the Mars Lander engineers if you don't believe me.
- 10) When you volunteer, you will always get more out of it than you give.

I am also putting in my rules for Kiddush Etiquette, because it's my last newsletter, and I want to:

- 1) The time to schmear your bagel is after you leave the line.
- 2) There are many better places to hold a long, personal, conversation than in front of the lox platter.
- 3) Kiddush is not the time to teach your kids about proper use of utensils, how to serve from a bowl, etc.
- 4) It is not important that every vegetable in the salad be represented on your plate.
- 5) A child carrying a dessert plate piled higher than a minivan, is not being adequately supervised.

Finally, my appreciation to all the board members and organizers who e-mailed me all I needed every month. My thanks to Ellen Peskin, who will be taking over the publicity responsibilities next month, and my undying gratitude to Cori Kesler, who can make anything look good on less than an hour's notice. See you in shul. ☆

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Iris Greenbaum, MSW, Program Coordinator

I am writing to you today, knowing my words won't reach you until February. I feel surrounded by a pervasive awareness of time. The symbolic force of this particular December 31 in our larger culture has prompted reflections upon the past century, hyped preparations for festivities, and subdued panic as crowds have swarmed upon stores to stock up on supplies just in case Y2K poses a problem.

I am actually relieved that this particular December 31 eve coincides with Kabbalat Shabbat. I can be free of the hype. I welcome the joyful anticipation of celebrating Shabbat with friends and others from Netivot Shalom. Many special thanks to Stan Dorn and Carla Ellern, and Glenn and Judy Massarano for warmly welcoming Netivot Shalom members to their homes for this special Kabbalat Shabbat celebration. Many special thanks to Stan Dorn and Carla Ellern for inspiring us with their taped Top Ten Shabbat

Zemirot of the Millenium, and many special thanks to our masterful musician and producer, Rom Rosenblum! Many thanks to Vicky Kelman for compiling Torah study materials and family activities for our Shabbat celebrations!

In February, we as a community will be coming together for our annual meeting to reflect upon our communal aspirations. Last February, I stood before you to share ideas about creating community closeness within neighborhoods, and families with young children. Together, we have created Etzleinu and have celebrated Kabbalat Shabbat and holidays within the warmth and intimacy of member homes. Many of you have opened your homes for Etzleinu gatherings - my deepest thanks to all of you who have participated as either hosts or guests. May we continue to share with each

(continued on next page)

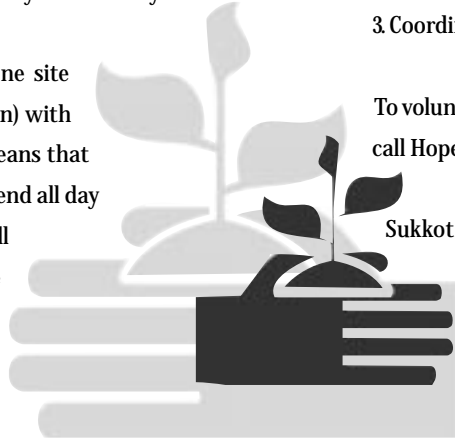
SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

by Mark Priven

SUKKOT IN APRIL

Netivot Shalom will be joining more than 15 other synagogues and Jewish organizations for the first ever region-wide East Bay Sukkot in April on Sunday, April 30. The one-day community effort will help low-income, elderly and disabled people to live in warmth, safety and decency.

Netivot Shalom will be co-sponsoring one site (either a home or non-profit organization) with other local Jewish organizations. This means that on April 30th we will arrive at the site, spend all day fixing/repairing/painting (OK, maybe we'll nosh a little in the middle), and then we're done. Eric Strimling has generously volunteered to be our "House Captain". If you see him, THANK HIM!



We need volunteers to:

1. Help with repairs/renovations of a home or non-profit organization. No previous skills are required, and all volunteers must be 14 or over.
2. Help raise funds to sponsor our renovation project
3. Coordinate FOOD!!

To volunteer, make a donation to support this event or for more information call Hope Hutman at 558-1056.

Sukkot in April is being co-sponsored and coordinated by the Volunteer Action Center of the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay, the East Bay Social Action Networking Forum (comprised of the social action chairpeople of East Bay synagogues), and three area Christmas in April chapters. ☆

SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 7: SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING @7:30PM IN THE SHUL OFFICES

(Neighborhood News continued from previous page.)
other in the joy and celebrations of our tradition.

Together, we have created Shabbat B'Yachad. If you ever want to experience the wonder of davening when davening is all so new, come to Shabbat B'Yachad! Our children and families lovingly embrace Judaism. Our parents lead in the family Shabbat service and make Torah stories come alive in the telling. We celebrate our children's birthdays and new growth, such as the day we sang a "Shehechianu" for Lena Siboney who walked into Shul for the very first time ever as a one year old big girl!

Find out about Etzleinu events and Shabbat B'Yachad in our weekly announcements! Feel free to call me with your questions and ideas!

It has been my pleasure to work with so many within our congregation. My thanks to Julie Weissman, Community Building Chair, and my coplanner for holiday events. ☆

SHOPPING WITH VALUES: LOOK FOR THE RUGMARK!

Keving Bales writes in Disposable People, 'One of the worst industries in India for the abuse of child slaves has been rug and carpet making. If you have an oriental rug on your floor right now, there is a good chance that it was woven by slave children...activists proposed that people should look for a special tag (Rugmark) on handmade rugs that guaranteed that they were not made by slaves. To earn the Rugmark, producers had to agree to only three things: not to exploit children, to cooperate with independent monitoring, and to turn over 1 percent of the carpet wholesale price to a welfare fund for child workers. Special effort was put into building up a sophisticated monitoring team that can detect fake labels, knows carpet making inside out, and can't be corrupted. Today the German, U.S. and Canadian governments have recognized the Rugmark...plus major retailers in the United States, Germany and Holland now import only Rugmarked carpets. To find out more about Rugmarks point your browser to www.rugmark.org

Gan Shalom Preschool's Purim Package Order Form

Select from the following Purim Packages:

QUEEN ESTHER PACKAGE:

Hamentaschen, cookies, chocolates, nuts, chocolate-dipped apricots – \$18

WHOLE MEGILLAH PACKAGE:

Includes all of the above plus a Purim fun pack (grager, masks, jokes) - \$21

- all ingredients are certified kosher -

Provide the following information for each recipient

(Please print clearly. Photocopy this form for additional orders.)

Name of Recipient: _____

Recipients Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone #: _____

Message Enclosure: _____

Order: _____ #Queen Esther pkgs. @ \$18.00 ea. _____ #Whole Megillah pkgs. @ \$21.00 ea.

Name of Recipient: _____

Recipients Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone #: _____

Message Enclosure: _____

Order: _____ #Queen Esther pkgs. @ \$18.00 ea. _____ #Whole Megillah pkgs. @ \$21.00 ea.

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For further information, call 525-4997

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FEBRUARY 2 TO MARCH 13, 2000

IF YOU'D LIKE TO ADD
A NAME(S) TO THE
YAHRTZEIT LIST,
FILL OUT THE
INFORMATION BELOW AND
MAIL, E-MAIL OR FAX

*(include only names of departed
parents, spouses, siblings and
children)*

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1841 Berkeley Way,
Berkeley, CA 94703

E-MAIL TO: ntvt-office@eb.jfed.org

FAX TO: 510.549.9448

NAME OF DECEASED:

(ENGLISH NAME)

(HEBREW NAME - IF POSSIBLE)

DATE OF DEATH:

(CIVIL DATE)

(HEBREW DATE - IF POSSIBLE)

YOUR NAME:

RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED:

date entered: (office use only)

2/2/00	Joseph E. Gould	26 Shevat	2/24/00	Franklyn Ephraim Landes	18 Adar
2/2/00	Cynthia Walter Drazen	27 Shevat	2/28/00	Celia Weitzner	22 Adar
2/4/00	Lee Valas	28 Shevat	2/28/00	Donald Weinberg	22 Adar
2/4/00	Molly Cinnamon	28 Shevat	2/28/00	Norman Pollner	22 Adar
2/5/00	Fanya Cohen	29 Shevat	2/28/00	Maurice I. Neipris	22 Adar
2/5/00	Flora Spitz	29 Shevat	3/1/00	James Bloom	24 Adar
2/6/00	Florence B. Levine	30 Shevat	3/1/00	Warren Oscar Smith	24 Adar
2/7/00	Murray Walter	1 Adar	3/2/00	Benjamin Sutz	25 Adar
2/7/00	Ruth August Berman	1 Adar	3/2/00	Marjorie Alper	25 Adar
2/8/00	Ida M. Cohen	2 Adar	3/2/00	Rachel Press	25 Adar
2/9/00	Marion Morris	3 Adar	3/3/00	Leah Jacobson Reingold	26 Adar
2/17/00	Abraham Levine	11 Adar	3/3/00	Pearl Pripstein	26 Adar
2/17/00	Benjamin Gottlieb	11 Adar	3/3/00	Esther Redel	28 Adar
2/19/00	Mrs. Clara Kalter	13 Adar	3/3/00	Nathan Brandwynne	28 Adar
2/21/00	Henry Cohen	15 Adar	3/11/00	Milton Weintraub	4 Adar II
2/22/00	Tillie Zimmerman Alter	16 Adar	3/13/00	Norman Schachter Avers	6 Adar II
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