

chai-lights



November/December 2005

Cheshvan/Kislev 5765

WEEKDAY SERVICES:

Shacharit at 1630 Bancroft Way: Mon-Fri 6:30 a.m.; Sunday & Legal Holidays 8:00 a.m.

Mincha/Ma'ariv at Chabad of Berkeley, 2643 College Ave. Sun-Thurs. 5 minutes after candle lighting

SHABBAT SERVICES:

Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat at 1630 Bancroft Way (5 minutes after candle lighting). Morning Service 9:15 a.m.

Shabbat Mincha immediately following kiddush, approximately 12:30 p.m.

See detailed schedule at pages 10 and 11

from the rabbi

On Simchat Torah we filled our new building with amazing energy and joy. Clutching the Torah scrolls, we joined hand in hand in celebration. Babies, toddlers, children, teens, adults, senior and super-seniors joined together, singing songs and dancing around the Torah. As we transition from the *chagim* into our 'year-round' lives, it is my blessing and hope that we will continue to engage in and develop this celebration. It is time to look at the expansive schedule of classes offered throughout the week and find a place to deepen our understanding.

As in years past, Beth Israel is thrilled about the full array of dynamic classes in Torah, Tanach, Talmud, Jewish Philosophy, Halachah, Musar and Modern Hebrew, which we are offering this fall. Please see page 10 for a detailed listing of these wonderful classes.

I am particularly excited about our new open beit midrash night which, beginning November 16th, will take place every Wednesday night from 7:30 p.m. on, here at Beth Israel. The single greatest feature of the yeshiva is the *chevruta* (learning

(Continued on page 2)

from the president

I'd Rather Be Right And President

Communal decision making is a delicate job. Everybody wants to do the right thing, but opinions differ as to where the correct decision lies. We try to sublimate our personal wants to the common good, but we can't help but project onto the group some of our own preferences. We want to let everybody be heard, but we need to rely on expert opinion, don't we? I try to keep an open mind, but how can we ignore the lessons of our individual values and personal histories?

More than one synagogue (and family, and business, and friendship) has shattered along these lines. Though we have many basic decisions behind us, new ones keep coming around. Unless you want to make me the permanent decisor of all things (hey, I'm OK with that), creating and maintaining a good resolution model for community questions is a pretty critical task. A friend of mine dealt with that issue recently.

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from the rabbi

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partner) with whom you can delve into the text and grow together. We are blessed in our community with many who study Torah independently or in their own *chevrutot*. My hope is to unify these diverse study groups. I know that there are many reasons why it might seem easier to study in the comfort of your own home, however the power of a beit midrash is precisely the shared intellectual and spiritual experience of the study of Torah, the diverse voices of our tradition harmonizing and blending together.

Bring that Jewish book or Jewish topic that you've always wondered about and come to our Beit Midrash, staffed with a number of *shoelim u'mashivim* — resource people/reference librarians who will help you uncover the passion of independent Torah study. My vision is that just as we dance together hand in hand on Simchat Torah, so too over this year we will study together, young and old, experienced and those who are looking at the texts for the first time. The true joy of the Torah is in fact its study.

With the blessings of the joy of Torah study.

Rabbi Yair Silverman

BETH ISRAEL COMMITTEES

Design Committee: Kathleen Bloom, Michael Feiner, Michael Piotrkowski, Denise Resnikoff, Steve Silberblatt

Finance Committee: Chairperson - Stanley Wulf. Committee Member - Marvin Winer

Fundraising Committee: Joan Sopher

House Committee: Chairpersons - Joan Sopher and Seth Greenberg. Committee Members - Bella Barany, Barbara Budnitz, Avraham Burrell, Alan Finkelstein, Nae Golomb, Irene Resnikoff, Susan Schickman, Steve Silberblatt, Maxine Winer

Kitchen Committee: Chairperson - Maxine Winer. Committee Members - Bella Barany, Barbara Budnitz, Alan Finkelstein, Nae Golomb, Joan Sopher, Doreet Stein, Marty Zedeck

Landscape Committee: Chairperson - Rita Kohl. Committee Members - Susan Schickman, Steve Silberblatt,

Membership Committee: Chairperson - Leslie Valas; Committee Member - Barbara Budnitz, Juliet Stamper

Memorial Plaque Committee: John Pilkington

Ritual Committee: Chairperson - Bobby Budnitz; Vice-Chair - Joel Resnikoff. Committee Members - Ezra Hendon, Naomi Brenner, Avraham Burrell, Jonathan Gruber, Eric Seder

Scrip Committee: Naomi Stamper

Sherut L'eumi Committee: Chairpersons - Linda Levy and Irene Resnikoff. Committee Members - Laura Lipman, Daniela Malmuth, John Pilkington, Doreet Stein

Social Action Committee: Jonah Markowitz

Youth Education committee: Chairpersons - Rona Teitelman and Tanya Schweig. Committee Members - Kenny Bamberger, Ilana Fodiman, Lauren Greenberg, Cynthia Scheinberg, Doreet Stein

Chai-lights

Vol. 11, No. 11, November/December 2005

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We welcome submissions to *Chai-Lights*.

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Office Hours: Monday 12:00-5:00, Tuesday 9:00-3:00

Wednesday 9:00-5:00, Thursday 9:00-5:00, Friday 9:00-3:00

from the president

(Continued from page 1)

Rabbi Moti Bar-Or is the Director of an Israeli institution called Kolot on Rehov Rachel Imenu in Jerusalem's German Colony. He and his family live in Talpiot. Kolot's general mission is to bring together the many Israeli voices, religious and secular, through the mechanism of text study. We hope to bring Moti to spend a Shabbat with us at Beth Israel soon.

In the weeks leading to the Gaza disengagement, Moti stayed in the Gush Katif area, discussing with local residents and rabbis how Jews can live together in times of dispute. Among the texts he used for that discussion was one of the Talmud's most famous (if overused) pieces of agadah: the story of Achnai's oven (Baba Metzia 59a) and the dispute over whether the oven was ritually pure.

Rabbi Eliezer held that it was pure, but the majority disagreed. Eliezer then invoked miracles to prove the correctness of his view – replete with flying trees, waters flowing uphill and, finally, God Himself voicing His support for Eliezer's interpretation. Nonetheless, majority rule was enforced and established as the law. The story is generally cited as the cornerstone of the Talmudic decision making process, as Rabbi Yehoshua declared to God that legal rulings “are not in the Heavens” and God joyously replied that “my children have defeated me.”

But the settlers of Gush Katif read the story differently. They see Rabbi Eliezer as a miracle worker for whom God responded personally as He did for our Biblical figures. They see Eliezer as a man who was demonstrably right, but who was voted down by a misguided majority. They see themselves through Eliezer's eyes – experiencing the miracle of turning Gaza green, of surviving amid great hostility for generations, of being demonstrably right in God's view – but being overpowered by an erroneous majority.

[I pause to caution not to assume that I oppose the disengagement from Gaza. If it brings peace to the region, I am all for it; nor am I sure that it wasn't

inevitable. If we'll vacate King David's first capital, Hebron, for the sake of peace, the same seems true of Gaza City. Nor do I know if Rabbi Eliezer or Yehoshua correctly ruled on Achnai's oven, nor does it matter. Nor does this column speak for CBI, or anybody other than myself. All I know is that the end of this Talmudic story is something to avoid.]

After the ruling on Achnai's oven was made, Eliezer was banished from the ruling body, and all of his decisions were reversed. The natural world sympathized so much with his pain and loss that a third of the world's crops were destroyed, and the President of the Sanhedrin, Raban Gamliel, ultimately died. The Talmud established the concept of majority rule, but it clearly warns against the Machiavellian philosophy which would banish and silence the losing camp. That path leads to death and destruction.

As a community, a thousand decisions face us, great and small, from Mid-East peace, to the rules for synagogue use to whether a particular window should be open or closed. Sometimes, we know what's right, often we know what is popular, and we hope there is a high correlation between the two. Our tradition puts a premium on truth, and recognizes the importance of community will; but the greatest value lies in maintaining peace through it all.

The best decisions synthesize the truths in two opposing view, and always allow both sides to be heard, considered and respected – even if not adopted. As we make our decisions as a community, I hope we are right, and I hope we reach broad consensus; but I hope most of all that we act in a way which leaves nobody feeling ignored or slighted.

Danny Boyarin taught us in his Sunday morning CBI Talmud class that there is too much truth in the world for any one person or philosophy to contain it all. We should remember that as we ponder our upcoming personal, familial and communal decisions.

hachnassat orchim

The Hachnassat Orchim Committee would like to thank the following families who welcomed guests into their homes recently:

Laura Lipman
Desmid Lyon
Denise Resnikoff
Muni and Tania Schweig
Jeff and Doreet Stein
David & Rikki Sudikoff
Leslie Valas & Alan Finkelstein

We express our profound gratitude and best wishes for a speedy recovery to Laura Lipman who has been the coordinator par excellence for the Hachnassat Orchim for the past year and a half.



Lehrhaus Judaica
 the Taube Center for Jewish Life
 of the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco
 and the Bureau of Jewish Education
 present:



Multicultural Heritage of the Bible

Sunday, December 4, 2005 • 12:30 – 7:00 pm

at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco
 3200 California Street at Presidio Avenue

Twenty-two different workshops on themes related to the Bible with Bay Area scholars, clergy and master teachers including Rabbis Stephen Pearce, Sydney Mintz, Alan Lew, Gordon Freeman, Michael Lerner, and Shlomo Zarchi, Professors Robert Alter, Chana Bloch, David Biale, Chana Kronfeld, and Naomi Seidman, and many others.

- **Keynote: Israel and the Bible, Then and Now**
 by Professor Richard Elliot Friedman
 author of *Who Wrote the Bible?*
- Dinner
- Concert: The Bible in Song
 with Linda Tillery of the Cultural Heritage Choir
 and Linda Hirschhorn of Vocolot

Registration and information: www.BiblebytheBay.org or 510.845-6420

kiddushim

Kiddush Sponsors, Shabbat September 24: **Albert Benichou** in memory of the yahrzeit of his father, Messa'ud ben Avraham; **Shay Lavi** in honor of shabbat; **Chanah Piotrkowski**, to celebrate the start of her new job as Technical Project Manager at Peet's Coffee & Tea.

Kiddush Sponsors, Shabbat October 1: **Daniel Kazhdan; Ari Berger and Naomi Brenner**

Kiddush Sponsors, 1st Day of Rosh Hashanah: **Circle of David** in recognition of the diverse and wonderful Beth Israel community

Kiddush Sponsors, 2nd Day of Rosh Hashanah: **Denise Resnikoff** in memory of her father, Irving Lipton, on the occasion of his 28th yahrtzeit; **Jonah Markowitz** in honor of the holidays; **the Valas-Finkelstein Family** in honor of Alan's birthday

Kiddush Sponsor, October 8: **Congregation Beth Israel**

Kiddush Sponsor, Break the Fast, October 13: **the Press-Wulf family; Joan Sopher; Jeff and Doreet Stein** in honor of celebrating the New Year in our new shul

Kiddush Sponsor, October 15: **Congregation Beth Israel**

Kiddush Sponsor, October 22: **Kenny, Max and Isaiah Heitler Bamberger** in honor of the birthday of Sara Heitler Bamberger, and sponsored by the entire Heitler Bamberger family in appreciation to Rabbi Yair and Ilana Fodiman-Silverman and the CBI community for the warm welcome we have received in Berkeley.

Kiddush Sponsor, Shemini Atzeret, October 25: **Jennifer Shy and Michael Feiner**, in honor of their 13th wedding anniversary and 24 years together

Kiddush Sponsors, Simchat Torah, October 26: **Bella Barany; Henri and Violette Sibony** in honor of Simchat Torah; **Lauren and Seth Greenberg** in honor of the 3rd anniversary of Eliana's bat mitzvah and the first anniversary of Shoshana Kelly's bat mitzvah; **Michael Kelly and daughters** in honor of the first anniversary of Shoshana's bat mitzvah; **the Diamond family** in honor of the first anniversary of Shoshana's bat mitzvah; **Linda Wulf** in honor of Ami's belated birthday; **the Garelick family** in honor of Avi's birthday

Kiddush Sponsors, October 29: **Jory and Lisa Gessow** in honor of Sam's 8th birthday

occasions

Mazal Tov!

To Rabbi Yehuda and Miriam Ferris' daughter, Shanie, and her husband Yirmy Emmer, on the birth of a beautiful and healthy baby boy.

To Rabbi Yair, Ilana and Hadar Fodiman-Silverman on the birth of a baby girl, Ananya Eden Yam, to their brother and sister in law, Noam Silverman and Maya Bernstein in Palo Alto.

Refuah Shleima:

To **Ethel Price**; To **Laura Lipman**, who is recovering at Herrick Hospital; To **Rebecca Landes**

Baruch Dayan Ha'emet

On the passing of **Arthur-Avraham Kaplan z"l**, beloved father of Beth Israel member Isaac Kaplan in New York on the second day of sukkot.

On the passing of **Meyer Kagan z"l**, father of Risa Kagan and husband of Ethel Kagan.

On the tragic passing of **Gulliver Boland, Nechemiah ben Devora v' Gershon Yitzchak z"l**, the son of Gary and Dale Boland.

On the passing of long time Beth Israel member **Bernard Finkle, z"l**. Bernard's daughter Claudia may be reached at (510) 547-1424.

May God may comfort them among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

todah rabah

GENERAL FUND

Rhoda Agin, in memory of Gulliver Boland. Condolences to his loving father Gary and his sisters and mother

Ronald and Bella Barany for Yizkor

Liora Brosbee, wishing members of CBI shana tova

Lisa Duhl in honor of Francesco Giacomo Ortiz

Jacob Edery

Bruce and Iris Emmer

The Gordon-Kirsch family, Nancy, Ken, Nina and Andrew, in memory of Mayer Kagan

Irving and Ellen Haber

Noah Kaye

Sara Levi in loving memory of Judy Frankel's father, Gilford Bradbury; in loving memory of John Wehausen, father of Sarah Wikander; and in honor of Rabbi Silverman for an inspiring Yom Kippur service

Barbara Oseroff in memory of Mayer Kagan

Richard Rabens for the privilege of saying kaddish

Mitchell Ritter in memory of my Mom, Evelyn Roth Ritter, my Dad, William Ritter, and my Grandmom, Sara Anaise Roth

Florence Ross in honor of the Women of Sisterhood

Michael Smith in honor of Leslie Provence
David Sumner
Ingeborg White

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Alexandre Aleskovsi and Inna Guerlovina, in honor of Rabbi Silverman and in appreciation of the community

Rivka Amado Feeley for the Yzkor of Yom Kippur for my father, Benjamin Amado z'l, my grandmother Rivka Amado Mandil, z'l, and my grandmother Kaden (Ziva) Barbut Kalma

Oliver Baker and Sophie Petersen in honor of our marriage and in appreciation to the congregation and Rabbi Silverman for officiating

Aaron & Barbara Blumenfeld with gratitude to God for Barbara's recovery

Sam and Rose Ginsburg, in memory of Gulliver Boland; for yzkor; and in appreciation of the High Holiday Outreach program

Daniel Hoffman

Seymour and Hilda Kessler

Michal Kohane in gratitude to Rabbi Silverman and the Beth Din

Linda Nied

Hnery & Violette Sibony for Yizkor

Noam Silverman and Maya Bernstein in honor of Rabbi Yair Silverman and Rabbanit Ilana Fodiman

Jeff and Doreet Stein in memory of Leslie Provence

Karen Horowitz Weiner

BUILDING FUND

Lisa Duhl

Jane Falk

Norman and Beverly Feldman

Mark and Susan Schickman

Carol Shivel

Rabbi Yair & Ilana Fodiman-Silverman in honor of our parents and grandmothers' visit to Berkeley over the *chagim* and in memory of Gulliver Boland z"l, Meyer Kagan z"l, Avraham Kaplan z"l and in the merit of a refuah shleima for Rebecca Landes and Laura Lipman



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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Congregation Beth Israel *chai lights*

SHABBAT PARSHAT LECH LECHA

Second Annual Singles Shabbaton

Here at CBI

Friday and Saturday, November 11th & 12th

Candle Lighting	4:43 p.m.
Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat	4:50 p.m.
Morning Service.....	9:15 a.m.
Educational Childcare.....	10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Mincha	12:30 p.m.
Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends	5:42 p.m.

SHABBAT PARSHAT VAYEIRAH

Friday and Saturday, November 18th & 19th

Candle Lighting	4:38 p.m.
Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat	4:40 p.m.
Morning Service.....	9:15 a.m.
Educational Childcare.....	10:15 a.m.
Shabbat Mincha	12:30 p.m.
Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends	5:37 p.m.

THANKSGIVING

Thursday, November 24

Shacharit	8:00 a.m.
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Friday after Thanksgiving

Shacharit	8:00 a.m.
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SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARSHAT CHAYEI SARAH

AMI WULF'S BAR MITZVAH – MAZEL TOV!

Friday and Saturday, November 25-26th

Candle Lighting	4:34 p.m.
Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat	4:40 p.m.
Morning Service.....	9:15 a.m.
Educational Childcare.....	10:15 a.m.
Shabbat Mincha	12:30 p.m.
Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends	5:35 p.m.

ROSH CHODESH KISLEV

Thursday night and Friday, December 1-1

SHABBAT PARSHAT TOLDOT

Friday and Saturday, December 2-3

Candle Lighting	4:32 p.m.
Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat	4:40 p.m.
Morning Service.....	9:15 a.m.
Educational Childcare.....	10:15 a.m.
Shabbat Mincha	12:30 p.m.
Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends	5:33 p.m.

Sunday, December 4th

We begin reciting Tal Umatar in the weekday amida beginning with Ma'ariv Sunday night.

SHABBAT PARSHAT VA'YEITZEI

Friday and Saturday, December 9-10

Candle Lighting	4:32 p.m.
Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat	4:40 p.m.
Morning Service.....	9:15 a.m.
Educational Childcare.....	10:15 a.m.
Shabbat Mincha	12:30 p.m.
Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends	5:33 p.m.

SHABBAT PARSHAT VA'YISHACH

Friday and Saturday, December 16-17

Candle Lighting	4:33 p.m.
Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat	4:40 p.m.
Morning Service.....	9:15 a.m.
Educational Childcare.....	10:15 a.m.
Shabbat Mincha	12:30 p.m.
Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends	5:35 p.m.

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARSHAT VAYEISHEV

Friday and Saturday, December 23-24

Candle Lighting	4:36 p.m.
Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat	4:40 p.m.
Morning Service.....	9:15 a.m.
Educational Childcare.....	10:15 a.m.
Shabbat Mincha	12:30 p.m.
Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends	5:39 p.m.

CHANUKAH

25 Kislev-2 Tevet

December 26-Jan. 2nd

FIRST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH

Sunday December 25th

Light Chanukah Candles after.....	5:36 p.m.
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SHABBAT CHANUKAH/ROSH CHODESH

PARSHAT MIKETZ

Friday and Saturday, December 30-31

Light Chanukah Candles before shabbat candles.	
NOTE: the Chanukah candles on Friday night should burn for a half hour after nightfall; this means that ideally one should use a candle or oils which will burn for an hour and a half. At all times, be aware of any potential fire hazards.	
Candle Lighting	4:41 p.m.
Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat	4:40 p.m.
Morning Service.....	9:15 a.m.
Educational Childcare.....	10:15 a.m.
Shabbat Mincha	12:30 p.m.
Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends	5:43 p.m.

2ND DAY OF ROSH CHODESH TEVET

Sunday, January 1st

Squirrels in the Schach and Glowing Grape Clusters?



Now that I have your attention... Our Sukkah Hop was a great break from cooking for chagim and catching up at work during these short holiday weeks. Kol hakavod to our warm "Open Sukkah" hosts, Chanah and Michael Piotrkowski, Rikki and David Sudikoff, June and Bob Safran, Kayla and Morey Garelick, Rachel Schorr and David Spieler, Laura Lipman and Family, Oren and Renee Rahat, and Sara Leya Schley. The afternoon was a fun mix of singing, noshing and kibitzing with friends old and new. The tour was an art show as well, showing sukkah decorations ranging from posters of Israeli fruit, shalom bayit and the history-of-the-world, to light-up grape clusters, noisy squirrels and comfy armchairs. We hope this will become an annual event!

Desmid Lyon, Sisterhood Coordinator

Sisterhood thanks SemiFreddi's, Carol Shivel, Ilene Lee, Bobby and Barbara Budnitz and Ruth Wittman for their donations to defray the cost of refreshments.



*The Wulf family
invites our CBI
community to join us
as we celebrate Ami's
bar mitzvah with joy*

*on Saturday,
November 26, Parshat
Chaye Sarah.*

*A luncheon will follow
the service.*

Gan Shalom is accepting applications for the 2006-2007 school year. Please call Ruth at Gan Shalom (510) 848-3298 and she will send you an application and arrange for a visit. Please note that preferential enrollment is for members in good standing as of September 2005. You must apply by December 1st in order to secure preferential treatment enrollment.

A Poem About Ami's Barmitzvah and the New Beth Israel Building

I loved the old building.
The old Beth Israel
The simple wood windows with flaking paint.
The stained-glass Magen David in the ceiling, with panes replaced in the wrong colors.
The concrete stairs outside where each generation of children taught the next
The arcane rules of the jumping game called Watermelon.

The new building is still raw.
The wooden floors do not bounce yet, but go clip-clop underfoot.
There are no marks, no scars, no layers of history. (Yet.)
We are like recent winners of a lottery
Awkward in our pristine new home

But look carefully:
The Magen David in the doors ... from the old shul
The lights in the library ... copied from the old shul
The arched sturdy façade ... after the style of the old shul
The memorial board with my parents' names in the left corner ... brought from the old shul
And hanging before the Ark, always lit, impervious to change,
The ornate old ner tamid.
Out of place,
Yet defining this space,
As a continuation of Congregation Beth Israel.

I am starting to love the new building.
The airy circles of light suspended from the ceiling
The varnished wooden windows that open so smoothly
The fresh smell and evenness of the floorboards
The cleanness of the walls, uncluttered.

Only a handful of barmitzvahs here so far.
Ami's barmitzvah is today.
Then there will be ten - another hundred - simchot.
The others are in the air. They just haven't happened yet.

Bar mitzvah boys of the past
walk up to the bimah in our memories
A long line, in their first suits, awkward, excited.
The last one extends a hand behind him.

Ami takes it and a line forms behind him.
Step over the cusp,
Bridge the old building and the new,
The chain is unbroken.
Beth Israel is the same.

Linda Press Wulf

Special High Holiday Thank You!

Nae Golomb and Michael Feiner for set-up
Rita Kohl, Jory Gessow, Susan Schickman, Violette and Henry Sibony and others for the exterior cleanup in preparation for the High Holidays
Rona Teitelman and Doreet Resnikoff for childcare coordination and Albert Benichou, Kathleen & Tony Bloom, Andrea Brott, Tirzah Brott, Danielle Diamond, Malcolm Feeley, Michael Feiner, Ari Finkelstein, Ilana Fodiman-Silverman, Cheryl Friedman, Sarah Garelick, Eliana Greenberg, Lauren Greenberg, Molly Greenberg, Kate Haber, Joe Hellerstein, Kenny Hendon, Valerie Huang, Sara Jasper, Amira Kipnis, Hillel Kipnis, Rebecca Landes, Laura Lipman, Jenn

Lubin, Jonathan Lyon, Sam Lyon, Ezra Malmuth, Isaac Malmuth, Batsheva Miller, Jennifer Panish, Ari Resnikoff, Yehoshua & Leah Safran, Ory Sandel, Barbara Schubert, Tania Schweig, Jeff Shannon, Jenny Shy, Liza Silver, Stacey Simon, Efrat Singer, Doreet & Jeff Stein, Evan Strauss, Eliana Sudikoff, Michal Vas, Hila Wishovsky, Ami Wulf, Linda Wulf
Our shlichot and youth for the beautiful decorations of the sukkha
Maya Bernstein, Sara Heitler and Zack Johnston for facilitating the free service.
Ari Berger, Saul Friedman, Dror Givon, Jonathan Gruber, Eliahu Klein, Mark Schickman, Steve Silverblatt, Noam Silverman for leading services over the Holidays.

MID-RASHA

I don't know if you're like me. I get a huge number of solicitations mailed to my house. I tend not to open them (unless I'm led to believe they have cute little return address stickers in them. Those are useful.) I think of myself as a generous person who gives a lot of tzedakah. But I have my favorite organizations, or those that friends ask me to contribute to and so I don't always read the 5 or 6 solicitations that come to my house every day.

I hope you're different. Or at least different when it comes to Midrasha. Unlike those other organizations, which you can count on to send you a solicitation each quarter, or maybe even each month, Midrasha only sends out one a year. And it's something that we work hard at, crafting a document that we hope you'll like reading. We look at it as an annual newsletter, not just asking you for money, but instead, giving us an opportunity to tell you about the great things that have happened over the last year.

I always assemble my favorite quotes from graduation speeches and e-mails from parents and send them off to our graphic designer. I sit at my desk, grinning to myself, as I re-read how meaningful Midrasha has been to so many people. As I write this, I don't yet know which quotes she's going to use. I hope she uses the story of the student now at Santa Cruz, who called me in an effort to re-connect with one of his Midrasha teachers. The former student has embarked on a life as a community organizer and realized that his Midrasha classes with this teacher were the first time he was introduced to history from a social action point of view. He wanted her to know how influential she had been on his life. Or maybe our designer will include the letter from the parent telling me that at a time when nothing else was going right for her daughter, Midrasha was the one place that validated her and made her feel good about herself. Or maybe this year's mailing will include the graduation speech by the member of the class of 2005 who found himself in Los Angeles, listening to a rabbi talk about the lack of Judaism in people's lives. This student said he wanted "to grab the rabbi by the ear, like an old Jewish mother, and drag him up to Berkeley to show him the dozens of students who get up at the crack of nine every Sunday, heads still swimming from the previous evening's activities, and carry themselves to Midrasha for yet another day of learning."

We will be mailing our annual fundraising appeal during the first week in November. My point in writing

all this, of course, is to urge you to not only open the mailing, but to read it, and then to reach for your checkbook and to be more generous than ever. This year is very difficult for us financially. Both because of the costs of moving to our new building, and because we are in a demographic blip with fewer students than we've had in a long time, we find ourselves predicting a large deficit this year. We are dedicated to giving financial aid to any student who needs it and to paying our staff an appropriate wage. We can't pull this off without a lot of help from you. When the envelope comes, remember any student you know who has been touched by their studies at Midrasha, anyone who's come back happy from a retreat, or someone whose life has been changed by the faculty and friends they've met at Midrasha. Or maybe think of someone yet too young to attend Midrasha, who is taking it for granted that Midrasha will be there for them when they get old enough. Then take out your checkbook. And keep us on your list of favorite places to send contributions to mark a birthday, anniversary, simcha or death. We gladly send out cards to anyone you'd love to honor or memorialize. Midrasha is counting on YOU.

Diane Bernbaum, Director

Who Says Jews Can't Agree on Anything?



FIRST PLACE

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JOIN THE LEARNING AT CBI

SUNDAYS

SUNDAY MORNING TALMUD CLASS

A class structured to appeal to Talmud students of all levels. We are studying the festivals and the relationship between the individual and the community in the Temple in Jerusalem through *Tractate Chagigah*.

Daniel Boyarin , Sunday, 9-10 am

MONDAYS

MIDRASHA TANACH B'IVRIT

Explore biblical narratives in their original text; delve into the social, ethical and historic significance of these texts. Beginning September 13. Open to all high school students, please register through Midrasha.

David Henkin, Monday, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

HEBREW CHAT

Join Hila & Efrat in casual conversation as you unlock the power and beauty of the Hebrew language
Monday, 7:00 p.m. at the Alper's home

TUESDAYS

CONCEPTIONS AND MISCONCEPTIONS IN HALAKHA

A chance to explore the development of Halakha from the Talmud to modern Halakhic authorities. We will explore intriguing Halakhic scenarios and their conceptual underpinnings.

Ilana Fodi-Silverman, Tuesday, 10:30-11:30 am

COMMUNITY-WIDE TALMUD

Sponsored by Netivot Shalom and Beth Israel, meets at Beth Israel. Enter the world of Talmudic discourse and reasoning. Study Tractate Sanhedrin regarding the necessary qualifications for judges.

Ilana Fodiman-Silverman, Tuesday, 8:00 -9:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

LATTE AND LEARNING

Explore Judaism with Ahron Glazer of the East Bay NCSY; for more information, contact Kenny Hendon or Sam Lyons, Berkeley NCSY vice presidents

Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Starbucks, 1600 Shattuck , corner of Shattuck & Cedar

OPEN BEIT MIDRASH

Join our Open Beit Midrash every Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Library/Beit Midrash will be open. As Rabbi Silverman has often said: "the single greatest feature of the yeshiva is the *shoel u'mashiv*, the resource person who is present in the house of study to guide the students towards the appropriate books or tools to help with a particular issue." Bring that Jewish

book or Jewish topic that you've always wondered about and come to our Beit Midrash, staffed with a number of *shoelim u'mashivim* — resource people/reference librarians who will help you uncover the passion of independent Torah study.

Wednesday, 7:30-9:30 p.m., starting November 14.

THURSDAYS

PARSHAT HASHAVUA

Seek ethical and philosophical insights by studying a section from each week's Torah portion. We will develop sensitivity to differing approaches of the classical commentaries, with an eye to understanding the questions that they seek to answer.

Rabbi Yair Silverman - Thursday, 12:15-1:15 pm

ZVI SEPTIMUS'S MIDRASHA TALMUD CLASS

Introduce yourself to the world of the Talmudic narrative (Agadata) through the eyes of our sages. Beginning September 15. Open to all high school students, please register through Midrasha.

Thursday, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

PIZZA PASH

If you are blessed with a child in 1st through 6th grade, you now have the opportunity to study serious Torah with them on a weekly basis. Explore the weekly portion through interactive questions and a curriculum created by Rabbi Motti Elon. The Torah that a child is privileged to study with one of their parents is qualitatively different than any other Torah education you are already providing for them. Please contact Efrat or Hila at (510) 528-2460 to sign up.

Thursday, 5:30-6:15 1-3 grade, 6:30-7:15 4-6 grade

MESSILAT YESHARIM

Joint community-wide class studying Messilat Yesharim, by the Ramhal, Rabbi Moshe Hayyim Luzzatto. @ 7:30 PM at Netivot Shalom.

SaraLeya Schley, Thursday, 7:30-8:45/9PM

THURSDAY TORAH CLASS WITH RABBI SILVERMAN

3-part class: The opportunities and prohibitions of reheating and warming food on Shabbat: November 17, December 1, 8 Rabbi Yair Silverman - Thursday, 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

SHABBAT

EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE AT GAN SHALOM

Are you or someone you love climbing off the walls in shul? If so, there is a Shabbat morning program for you! Tefilla, song, Torah, and treats.

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Shoshana Engel, November 1, 2005	Gregg Morris, November 18, 2005
Nina Smith turns 3 on November 2, 2005	Dorothy Rubin, November 19, 2005
Joan Sopher, November 7, 2005	Tamar Engel, November 20, 2005
Jacob Lehmann Duke turns 4 on November 8, 2005	Chalyn Newman, November 21, 2005
Vera Sandronsky, November 8, 2005	Tracy Zedeck, November 21, 2005
Rebecca Simon turns 9, November 8, 2005	Malka Lubin turns 4 on November 22, 2005
Carol Shivel, November 12, 2005	Eliel Tsofia Safran turns 3 on November 24, 2005
Robert Alper turns 16 on November 14, 2005	Yosef-Guy Levi turns 18 on November 25, 2005
Rebecca Hirsch turns 3 on November 14, 2005	Serach Bracha Richards, November 25, 2005
Kenny Hendon, November 16, 2005	Toby Hendon, November 27, 2005
Hannah Efron turns 15 on November 17, 2005	Benjamin Feiner turns 12 on November 29, 2005
Laura Lipman, November 17, 2005	Joel Gerwein, November 30, 2005
Patricia Kipnis, November 18, 2005	

Anniversaries

Joshua and Lisa Polston 5th anniversary

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF LEARNING AT CBI

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
9:00-10:00 a.m. Talmud Class Tractate Chagiagh <i>Daniel Boyarin</i>		10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Halakha <i>Ilana Fodiman-Silverman</i>		12:15-1:15 p.m. Parshat Hashavua <i>Rabbi Yair Silverman</i>
	4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Midrasha Tanach B'Ivrit <i>David Henkin</i>			4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Midrasha's Talmud Class <i>Zvi Septimus</i>
			6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Latte & Learning <i>NCSY</i>	5:30-6:15 & 6:30-7:15 p.m. Pizza Pash <i>Efrat & Hila</i>
	7:00 p.m. Hebrew Chat <i>Efrat & Hila</i>	8:00 - 9:45 p.m. Community-Wide Talmud <i>Ilana Fodiman-Silverman</i>	7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Open Beit Midrash <i>CBI</i> Starting 11/16	7:30 - 8:45 p.m. Messilat Yesharim <i>SaraLeya Schley</i> @Netivot
				8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Torah Class <i>Rabbi Yair Silverman</i> Resuming 11/17

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