

KEREN OR

Keren Or (Beam of Light) is a publication of Or Shalom Synagogue
High Holyday 5776 Edition

A Rosh Hashanah Message from Rabbi Hannah Dresner

On Rosh Hashanah we will pray: “Hayom harat olam!” “*Today* the world is created!”

Our Torah describes Creation as God’s word manifesting in physical form: “Let there be... And there was... And it was good!” We emulate God’s process, declaring our intention for the life and the community and the world we will create in the coming year. We affirm: “Let there be...” believing in our power to manifest our own words in palpable form.

The Zohar describes Creation unfolding like a blooming rose, every petal’s opening the unfurling of a new revelation. We emulate this process of perpetual becoming as we rededicate ourselves to the pure naiveté of rebirth into the new year. With the world’s re-creation on Rosh Hashanah, *we* are recreated and gifted fresh opportunities to be surprised by the Mystery.

Isaac Luria describes Creation as a big bang, such a strong emanation of light that God’s first outpouring of creative energy shattered the vessels God had prepared to receive the Divine creative expression. If we imagine Creation at the center of God’s infinity, something broke in God’s center, in God’s heart, as God sacrificed Her Oneness in favor of multiplicity. We endure God’s pain as we break our own contours in order to create our worlds anew.

Little is created without shattering some preexisting form, and it hurts to let go of what we are in favor of who we wish to become.

Still, our sloughing of what holds us in our present forms is as natural as the shattering of the ethereal chrysalises from which emerged the Monarch butterflies my three daughters always raised at this time of year. It is as natural as the rupturing of maternal waters during birth so that new life can come forth, the baby’s body breaking away from her mother to enter the world and the baby’s soul breaking away from God to come alive in this newborn creature.

There are so many levels on which we create our worlds anew at Rosh Hashanah and I wish to be present for all of you in all of it. May we enact our personal resolutions for the year ahead with the power of the One who spoke and the world came into being. And may we be equally effective in enacting our collaborative vision for Or Shalom, setting the stars of our highest dreams on their courses in our communal sky.

May we each blossom, flowering closer and closer to the centers of who we most authentically are. And may we flower as a spiritual community, opening deeper, closer to the divine spark at our center even as we support one another to open wide, more available to the world around us, sharing our fragrance, bringing joy.

And may we be willing to sustain the ache of stretching beyond our present forms, willing, even, to shatter the barriers to our becoming.



Or Shalom Synagogue is a Jewish spiritual community in Vancouver, BC, affiliated with ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal.
We are creative, egalitarian, traditional and participatory.

For more information about Or Shalom, visit our website www.orshalom.ca, contact the
Or Shalom office, 604-872-1614 or email office@orshalom.ca

BOARD REPORT

FROM PAT GILL AND DAVID KAUFFMAN, CO-CHAIRS

It has been a year of transition, a year of decisions, and a year of renewal. We began by hiring Rabbi Louis Sutker to support our transition and continued with the intense process of hosting Shabbatonim for our prospective rabbis. We finally welcomed Rabbi Hannah Dresner as our new spiritual leader in July.

Rabbi Hannah has settled into their new home and her husband Dr. Ross Andelman is soon to follow. Rabbi Hannah has quickly stepped into her new role with confidence and competence. She has already met with Or Shalom committee members and lay leaders to share her initial vision and thoughts for our future together. She will lead our High Holyday services along with a trusty band of volunteers.

We are pleased and excited to announce that Rabbi Hannah has been named a fellow in the Clergy Leadership Incubator, a two-year mentorship program of Clal: The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership. Her project will focus on creating a “truly intergenerational community” at Or Shalom, drawing together younger folks and long-standing members.

Welcoming new members, as well as re-welcoming “old” members, has been a priority for this board. Systems are in place to ensure prospective members get the information they need and new members feel they have a place in our community. In addition to hosting a “New/Old Members” Shabbat, we have published a Membership Directory that is available to all our members. Hard copies are available at the office, or an electronic copy can be mailed upon request.

The Young Adult Committee has been actively getting the generations together with Kabbalat Shabbat at the park and the beach, while the Children, Youth, and Family Committee sponsored numerous gatherings throughout the year, including free family Shabbat dinners, a chocolate Seder, and the Purim party.

To enhance our children and youth programs, we hired Yael Heffer as our program coordinator and Harriet Frost as our b'nei mitzvah consultant. Both bring a wealth of experience teaching children. Together with Rabbi Hannah, they will infuse our programs with enthusiasm and yiddishkeit.

You may have noticed the new look of our website (and if you haven't, go look at it right now!). Thanks to Dave (chair of the Communications Committee, as well as our board co-chair) and to Jason Ryant, we now have a “green” internet provider.

Our annual retreat (something else you shouldn't have missed) was blessed with five rabbis, all bringing their unique and diverse gifts of teaching, leyning, and davenning to our unique

and diverse retreaters, numbering more than 100. Check out the photos on our website and then mark your calendar for next year. It's always on the long May weekend and always unforgettable.

The board voted to bestow the honorary titles of Rabbi Emeritus/Emerita on rabbis who have served Or Shalom professionally and who continue to be part of Jewish Renewal and the Or Shalom community. Initial recipients include Rabbi Daniel Siegel, Rabbi Hanna Tiferet Siegel, Rabbi Hillel Goelman, and Rabbi Laura Duhan Kaplan. We thank them for their service, past, present, and future.

As you know, we raised the annual membership dues to \$980 per adult member. This was the first increase in three years and is significantly less than the \$1,320 per member it costs to finance the shul. The board appreciates your understanding of the need for this increase and your continued commitment to pay your full dues.

That said, we also passed a proposal that allows people who can't afford the full dues to set a lower dues level without speaking to the treasurer. We hope this encourages more families to join Or Shalom and that as their financial situations change, and they are able, they will increase their dues to the full amount.

The annual campaign was a stunning success, enabling us to extend our Children & Youth programs and to enhance our B'nei Mitzvah program and adult education. Kudos to the Strategic Financial Planning Committee, campaign canvassers, and the many Orsh members who answered the call and gave generously.

To maintain our tradition of providing an open, inviting space for any Jew to observe the Days of Awe, we will, as we do every year, rent a space more than three times the size of our shul and welcome 500 people to join us. With an annual bill of \$18,000, the High Holydays are our most expensive event.

Seating tickets for Or Shalom members have been mailed out. If you did not receive a ticket, please contact the office. Seating for non-members is limited due to fire regulations, but we try to accommodate everyone who arrives. Although tickets are complimentary, we encourage non-members to make a contribution so that we can continue to provide our truly “high” High Holyday services to anyone who desires to daven with us.

Blessings to you and your loved ones as we welcome the new year and eagerly anticipate the renewal of body, mind, and soul that 5776 will undoubtedly bring!

– Pat Gill and Dave Kauffman, Co-Chairs

AN INVITATION FROM RABBI HANNAH

JOIN HER DURING CHAG HASUKKOT

Dear Kehilah Kedoshah - Dear Holy Community,

As I begin to serve Or Shalom I am eager to get to know each and every one of you, hear your stories and come to understand what Or Shalom means to you. Come hear a bit of my story and share a bit of your own journey with me and with a small group of Or Shalom friends.



A series of small after-dinner gatherings will be held in my home during the festival of our joy - Chag HaSukkot.

Please sign up for the date of your choice using our online poll, first come, first served, or call Shira Macklin (604-677-2737), who can offer available slots by phone.

If community response is great, we will open more evenings in the weeks after Sukkot to accommodate all who wish to share in this way.

Lshalom,

Rabbi Hannah

Please take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet with Rabbi Hannah and start the dialogue with her about Or Shalom past, present and future. Use the poll which you will find on our website, orshalom.ca. Look under SHARING OUR STORIES.

Prayer for Peace

May we come to know the thing that shines inside us all, that we all have in common.

May we come to know the great power inside us to act for justice, to connect with others, and to change the world in big ways through small gestures.

May we learn the lesson that through apathy we give our power away to those who do not have our best interests at heart.

And may we learn that the bystander is the same as the participant.

May we find the path to a fair and just world. A world in which those who destroy and contaminate most are the ones who experience the consequences of their behaviour the most.

And may we all find ways to come together to heal and renew.

May we find belonging in this world, spiritual and physical. May we find home for ourselves and our people in peace and solidarity with the peace and empowerment of every other people. May we find guidance in connecting to the great power for love that exists in our universe, that is always there when we look for it.

May we use our free will to choose compassion and empathy, and to build the peace we pray for.



– Ariel Martz-Oberlander

INTEGRAL HALACHA

RABBI DANIEL SIEGEL EXPLORES INDIVIDUAL PRACTICES IN COMMUNAL HALACHA

Or Shalom, along with all of what we call Jewish Renewal, demonstrates that thousands of Jews written off as lost were only “waiting for this moment to arrive.” Yet, there are those who minimize us, saying that we are Judaism lite, that we don’t really study, and we are not really traditional.

Martin Buber tells this story in *Tales of the Hassidim: Later Masters*:

When Rabbi Noah, Rabbi Mordecai’s son, assumed the succession after his father’s death, his disciples noticed that there were a number of ways in which he conducted himself differently from his father, and asked him about this. “I do just as my father did,” he replied. “He did not imitate, and I do not imitate.” (p. 157)

It is traditional to recite the prayers our ancestors wrote; it is also traditional to write prayers, as our ancestors did. What if Rabbi Amnon had not used his pain to compose the *U’netaneh Tokef* prayer? Or if Rabbis Judah, Safra, and Alexandri had not written personal meditations for ending their Amidah prayers? Or if the Hassidim had not composed melodies, showing us how music lifts us higher and deeper than we dreamed possible? Where would we be if Moses de Leon had not compiled the Zohar?

And we study! This may mean deep contemplation of the books written into our souls, or allowing the Divine to emerge in colour on paper, canvass, or silk, or listening to the music of our souls, emerging in chant and *niggun*. It means discovering our traditional meditation practices or delving into our sacred literature to uncover levels of meaning and spiritual richness waiting for us to rediscover.

We live in the midst of a great paradigm shift. We respond by seeking its meaning, just as our ancestors did when the Temple service ended, just as the kabbalists did as they reflected on the upheavals they experienced.

As Reb Zalman z”l teaches, one aspect of this paradigm shift is the heightened significance of individual experience in the development of communal practice – what Reb Zalman called the Psycho-Halachic Process and what we now call Integral Halachah. This too is traditional – a natural corollary to our belief in the divine nature of the soul within each person, *chelek eloah mimaal mamash* / a piece of the transcendent God, for real.

Practice, *halachah*, must work for those who observe. This is a significant test of whether particular practices can be continued or need modification or replacement. Integral Halachah reconnects us to *minhag*, popular customs which work, as a part of the larger *halachic* process, encouraging us to be comfortable with a variety of practices co-existing, creating a rich and colourful tapestry of Judaism.

This interaction does not license us to do whatever we want, to “make Shabbat for ourselves.” Rather it calls us to learn, to be insightful and compassionate, so that we learn to balance individual needs with that of a functional and healthy community.

May we all be counted among the truly learned, the *talmidei chachamim*, who bring peace to hearts, homes, and the world.



MERITING MERIT

BY ROSLYN KUNIN

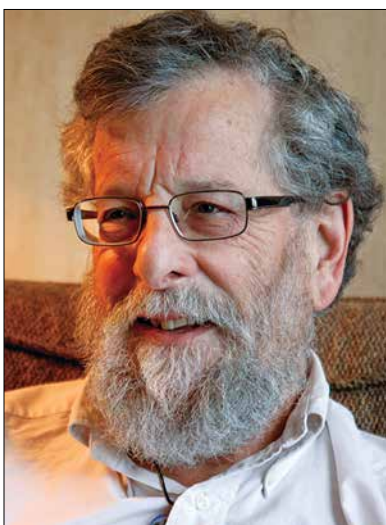
In academia, a professorship is an esteemed and honourable position. It is more than a job with the usual demands, limitations and pay of a high level position. It is the recognition that one has knowledge, wisdom and experience and is willing to share this with students, colleagues and others. When a professor retires, the job demands, limitations and pay disappear, but the knowledge, wisdom and experience do not nor, in many cases, does the willingness to continue to contribute and share although perhaps in a less structured fashion. This change is recognized with the title Professor Emeritus or Emerita.

Being a rabbi has a lot in common with being a professor and much more besides. It, too, is a job with demands, limitations and pay. But rabbis share much more than their knowledge, experience and wisdom. They help build a community, grow it and hold it together. They run a complex, not-for-profit organization that is a synagogue. They go beyond knowledge and learning into the deep emotional and spiritual aspects of life, playing a lead role in meaningful celebrations and guiding people through sorrow and tragedies.

Thus, rabbis become deeply connected to their communities and these connections do not vanish the day a rabbi retires. At Or Shalom, many rabbis who are no longer on our staff continue to offer our community their support by sharing their skills, knowledge, leadership, music, etc. Or Shalomniks enjoy, appreciate and revel in these gifts, always acknowledging the special role these rabbis have played

and continue to play. They may step back, but they are still in our hearts.

In recognition of this reality, Or Shalom has established the titles of Rabbi Emeritus and Rabbi Emerita and has awarded them to four very deserving people who have graciously accepted this ongoing tie to Or Shalom.



First are Rabbi Emeritus Daniel Siegel and Rabbi Emerita Hanna Tiferet Siegel, our founding rabbis without whom Or Shalom would not exist. Their philosophies, teachings, approaches and music still support us and carry us forward.



It is hard to imagine Or Shalom without Rabbi Emeritus Hillel Goelman. Could we exist without his teachings, his humour and his love of baseball? His willingness to step up and expand his role whenever it was needed and then cheerfully step back to make room for others has made a huge contribution to our ongoing viability.

Then there is Rabbi Emerita Laura Duhan Kaplan. No longer in the 'job' of rabbi, she and Charles are still bringing their smiles, their music, their time and their energy to us.

Kol hakavod to all. You make Or Shalom and the world a better place.



This year's annual Or Shalom Retreat at Camp Hope was one of our BEST EVER!

More than 130 adults and children found their way into the beautiful hills around Hope, BC for a weekend of diverse, inter-generational programs. Rabbi David Ingber, founder of Romemu in New York City, was joined by Rabbis Louis Sutker, Laura Duhan Kaplan, Hillel Goelman, and Hannah Dresner to create a holy place of davenning, sharing, and learning. As always, the retreat had something for everyone: kids' activities, family programs, hiking, singing, and lots of eating and laughing together. The retreat is a great place for new members to meet the community and for old members to renew connections.

Don't miss next year's Or Shalom Annual Retreat – May 20-23, 2016!





OR SHALOM WEBSITE GOES GREEN

DAVID KAUFFMAN EXPLAINS HOW WE'VE GONE CARBON NEUTRAL ON-LINE

For many years, our “webbe-rebbe” Avi Dolgin overcame the limitations of early web design software to create the original Or Shalom web site at orshalom.ca.

For the past couple years orshalom.ca was redirected to WordPress, a more modern web site manager that utilizes improvements made to web technology over the past 20 years and allows more people to post and provide comments. In this third stage we have found a way to combine the legacy web site with the newer WordPress content, all hosted at <http://www.orshalom.ca>.

We've also changed providers of our web site and email servers to greengeeks.com, a Canadian carbon-neutral provider. GreenGeeks™ purchases wind credits in excess of their server power bill so our web site is actually carbon-negative. Another important reason to choose GreenGeeks is that the server resides

in Canada (Toronto) where we are compliant with Canadian privacy policies.

While the new web site will keep you up-to-date on membership info as well as the latest events and happenings around Or Shalom, our legacy web site has hundreds of pages of history, divrei Torah, and discussions that have been preserved for your perusal. Some of the links are broken, but give us some time, and they will slowly relink as we get to them, or if you know of a student with some I.T. volunteering time to spend, please send them our way.

Our green website project was led/organized/facilitated by Jason Ryant (<http://www.jasonryant.com>) who provides technology consulting services to the synagogue. Thanks, Jason!

Or Shalom Jewish Spiritual Community Association
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday, October 18, 2015, 7 p.m.

Or Shalom Synagogue
710 East 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

AGENDA

- Ma'ariv
- Teaching by Rabbi Hannah Dresner
- Approval of Minutes from 2014 AGM
- Co-Chairs' Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Nominations for the new Board and Election
- Closing niggun followed by tea, coffee and dessert

Or Shalom welcomes everyone to the Annual General Meeting. Our bylaws provide that only members in good standing can vote. A member in good standing is defined as "... a member who was in good standing as of the end of the previous fiscal year."

OR SHALOM'S KIDDUSH PLEDGE

PLEASE CONSIDER TAKING THE KIDDUSH PLEDGE

OR SHALOM'S KIDDUSH PLEDGE

Or Shalom's potluck Kiddush is sponsored by all of us, in honour of all of us. As a guest of the Or Shalom Shabbat Kiddush I promise to:

- bring food for potluck events when I can and, if I can't, consider making a donation to Or Shalom to support Shabbat Kiddush
- take only what I can eat, so no uneaten food is left on my plate
- take smaller sized helpings so that the people behind me can have similar size helpings, knowing that there may be seconds if everyone has "firsts" first
- after eating, scrape my plate of any food into the compost bin, ensuring it goes into the bag
- place my dishes, cups, and cutlery in the bus-bins
- help clean up the buffet table and sometimes wipe the tables
- join us for a brief prayer after eating
- consider joining the Kiddush team, and take your turn helping with set up and clean up



B'Tayavon!

One of the long-standing traditions at Or Shalom is that we eat together after Shabbat services. Many people bring delicious food to share, but did you ever wonder who makes sure the coffee is ready when we come downstairs, or how the plates, cutlery and napkins appear on the serving table? A small group of people have been doing most of the set up and clean up for many years. It's time to give more people the opportunity to contribute to this community activity.

The "kitchen committee" has been working to develop a clear and complete list of things to do. Our plan is to create a rotation of volunteers, who will be responsible for setting up and/or cleaning up. While we are fortunate to have a custodian who does most of the cleaning up, we are responsible for clearing the buffet table and getting the dishes into the kitchen, as well as a few other tasks. New volunteers will be paired with an experienced person, so they can easily learn the routine. Our goal is to have many people on the roster, since we all know that many hands make light work.



If you are willing to take on this important role, please let us know (again, if you did so in the past). Email Linda (linda.peritz224@gmail.com) or Pat (pat-gill@telus.net).

Today!

OR SHALOM'S ANNUAL FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

TODAH RABAH FOR MAKING IT SUCH A SUCCESS!



During this transitional year, the community's commitment to supporting our congregants was outstanding. We are truly a participatory group with more than 50% of the congregants giving essential and generous monetary gifts, raising more than \$116,000 this year. Many of the opinions and ideas generated during this campaigning process have already been integrated into this year's synagogue's activities. With your on-going support, you make Or Shalom viable and sustainable so that our entire community can enjoy what it offers.

Todah rabah to the following people who participated in our Annual Community Campaign:

Aardema, Ineke	Ezzy, Robert
Adlersberg, Mary & Thorne, Sally	Fedder, Danny & Venis, Janie
Albersheim, Susan & Barer, Steven	Ferera, Martin & Suzanne
Asch, Sandi	Fishman, Jan & Konkin, Carol
Bakan, Joel	Fridkin, Elaine
Ballin, Peter & Shirley	Fried, Carol Ann
Barer, Philip & Lori	Friedman, Joel & Patricia
Barker, Martha & John	Geller, Michael & Sally
Beck, Ishtar	Gill, Patricia
Berson, David	Goelman, Hillel & Sorokin, Sheryl
Bloch, Maurice & Susan	Goldstein, Earl & Kirk, Bryan
Bloomfield, Nina & Mitchell	Greenberg, Lorne
Caplan, Miriam	Gordis, Yonatan & Chesick, Robbie
Carlin, Richard & Francine	Gotfrit, Martin & Gruben, Patricia
Chiasson, Mary	Guincher, Luis
Chiryk, Ruth	Hamer, Ellen
Cohen, Charles & Sandra	Hamm, Gwen
Corber, Michael	Hayden, Michael & Sandy
Danzig, Orna (Aur)	Heyman, Jane & Johnston, Lionel
Daskal, Ann	Kaplan, Laura Duhan & Kaplan, Charles
Day, Jacqueline	Karovitch, Susan
Dolgin, Avi	Kauffman, Daniel
Dominey, Erna	Kauffman, David & Schalkwyk, Tilly
Dresner, Hannah & Andelman, Ross	Kipnes, Rozanne
Drew, Mark & Jordison, Jenna	Klein, Bonnie
Eguchi, Miriam	Kolodny, Vita & Krajden, Mel
Enchin, Harvey	Kunin, Jack & Roslyn
Esseiva, Effron & Janet	Laskin, Irv & Kronitz, Naomi

If your name has been omitted from this list, please accept our sincere apologies and let the office know so that we can rectify our mistake.

Donors Continued

Laufer, Lucy	Ritch, Fran
Lemer, Harriett & Einblau, Ron	Rothstein, Harley & Boyle, Eleanor
Lev Dolgin, Valerie	Rozenberg, Mark
Levi, Gloria	Rubin, Wendy & Jordan, Andrew
Macklin, Shira	Salja, Lily & Spalding, Eric
Malkin, Reva	Segal, Barry & Hill, Amanda
Mallin, Lorne	Segal, Bat Ami & Frank
Malt, Joshua & Fitt, Gordon	Segal, Zelik & Adams, Dale
Mann, Malgosia & Michael	Shamash, Susan & Yom
Mannis, Heidi	Shane, Judy
Mehler, Audrey & Paperny, David	Siden, Hal & Gorsuch, Anne
Menkis, Richard & Best, Cathie	Sniderman, Jack
Mercy, Rabbi Dina-Hasida	Solomons, Kevin & Tobias, Deborah
Miller, Anton	Soucie, Michelle
Milner, Cheryl	Stewart, Ruth & Hsu, David
Moses, Phillip	Tennenhouse, Esther & Klassen, Ron
Newman, Murray & Koster, Harry	Tischler, Aron & Neri
Oberlander, Cornelia	Tortell, Philippe & Maldonado, Maria
Oberlander, Judy & Wexler, Mark	Ury, Nini
Oberlander, Tim & Martz, Julie	Virtue, Jennie
Oberlander, Wendy	Wassersug, Richard
Ostrove, Clo & Globerman, Judy	Weidenbaum, Shira
Papania, Lisa	Welch, Tiferet & Mark
Peritz, Linda	Winston, Mark
Prupas, Lorne	Winters, Lu
Puterman, Martin & Katzenstein, Dodie	Wosk, Mordehai & Hana
Rabinovitch, Karen & Lis, Motti	Wright, Jenny & Steve
Rabinowitz, Barry & Myrna	Wvong, Russil & Abigail
Rayne, Arayana & Klein, Louis	Zalik, Marsha (Leora)
Rev, Marianne	Zetler, Peter & Rudner, Karen
Ritch, Adele & Liscumb, Dianne	Zimmerman, Jim
Ritch, Avron & Paperny, Cathy	Znaimer, Sam

L'shana tova umetuka!

May all of you – our Campaign volunteers, donors and community at large – be inscribed in the Book of Life.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR ANNUAL CAMPAIGN.

If you have not been contacted by a volunteer canvasser, you can call Lily at the office (604-872-1614) and make a pledge over the phone. OR complete the form below and fax (604-872-4406) or mail it to the office (710 E. 10th Ave. Vancouver, BC, V5T 2A7)

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Post Code _____

2015 Campaign Pledge \$ _____ Cheque enclosed

Credit card # _____ Exp. ____/____ CCV # _____

Name on card (PLEASE PRINT) _____

INTRODUCING SOME OF OUR NEW MEMBERS

BY SHIRA MACKLIN

AVRIL ORLOFF

I started thinking about coming to Or Shalom largely because my community at Ahavat Olam was dispersing and Or Shalom seemed like the best place to find a congenial Jewish community where I felt I would fit. I attended services and events for several months before I was ready to commit to membership. Once it was clear to me that I would continue to attend and be involved, it seemed right to “put my money where my mouth is” and commit to being a member, with all the responsibilities that entails.

What do I love about Or Shalom? Community is what matters most to me in choosing a congregation, and Or Shalom has a lot of really nice people, some of whom have been long-time friends of mine and some of whom I’m enjoying becoming friends with. We may not all agree on all things (we wouldn’t be Jewish if we did!) but I think there is a sense of shared values if not always shared opinions. Also, though I don’t regard myself as the most spiritual person around, I do appreciate the kind of spirituality I find at Or Shalom. I appreciate the fact that creative approaches to text and prayer are welcomed (well, usually!) and the musicality of our congregation always uplifts my soul.

I look forward to becoming more integrally involved with Or Shalom as time goes on and contributing my talents and skills in creative - and hopefully useful - ways.

AUR DANZIG

It has been a journey of discovery, finding my way to Or Shalom. I had been drawn to Jewish renewal long before I set foot at Or Shalom, but life had other plans for a while longer before it was time for me to explore this movement. I love the creative spirit of the Or Shalom community; I love the joyful, soulful and inspiring services. I feel I have come home.

For most of my life I’ve been a fiber artist and am now transitioning to a new medium that hasn’t yet taken form.

I’m a mother of three wonderful adult children and with the recent birth of my first granddaughter, I’m now discovering the joy and magic of grandma-hood.

I moved to Vancouver from Jerusalem more than three decades ago, and, although Jerusalem will always be home for me, here on the North Shore, on the edge of Lynn Canyon is my second home, where the forest spills into my backyard and the sound of Lynn Creek is my constant music and companion, where I know the forest trails like the back of my hands, as I once knew the Judean hills around Jerusalem where I grew up, the landscape I carry with me still.

SHAYNA PLAUT

In September 2015, Shayna Plaut, PhD will be starting a new position as the Post-Doctoral Research Fellow of International Law and Human Security at the School for International Studies at Simon Fraser University. She has also been in Vancouver for 6 years and finally, finally went camping for the first time.



in the enclosed brochures:

- **Days of Awe** about the High Holydays at Or Shalom
- **Or Shalom for non-members**
- **Adult Education and Spiritual Enrichment** with an insert for Children and Families and
- **B'Yachad**, Or Shalom's Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program

*The land smells of honeysuckle
suckling babes
mewling like lambs
again we come full up with hope
and remorse
and relief
that the door to another year
has been flung open
wide
like the arms of a child
spinning round and round
in a field of
forever green*

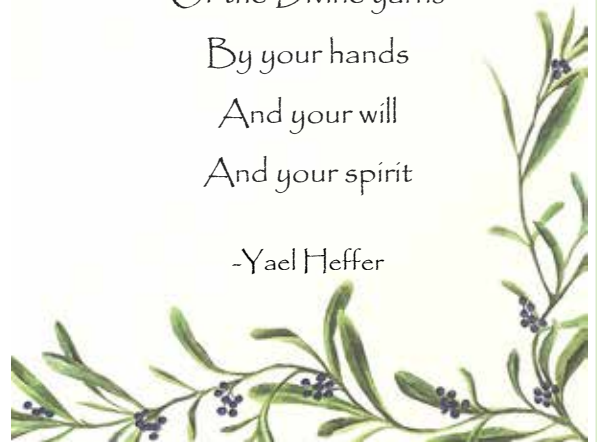
*Once again
we come full up
with hope
and honey
and hold this time
tenderly
like feathers
falling into dreams
of better days
ahead*

Shana Tova.

— Mary-Lynn Schliifer



Your life is
Not awaiting you
Nor behind you
Not predetermined
And not forever
On Earth
Your life is
All the moments
You have lived
The way you have chosen to live them
All the choices
You have made
And all the ripple effects that followed
Your life is
A pattern of
The soul imprint
God bestowed on you
And the weaving
Of the Divine yarns
By your hands
And your will
And your spirit
-Yael Heffer



JUNIOR KEREN OR

SOLVE THE ROSH HASHANAH PUZZLE

Kindness Calendar Quilt

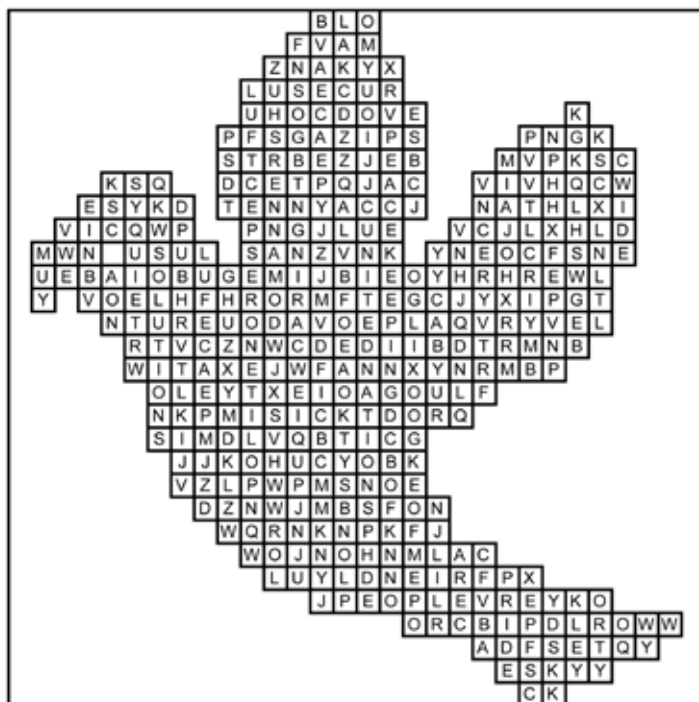
SUPPLIES: colored pencils, markers, paper & paper clips

You plan vacations. You schedule school work. Why not set a date for doing good deeds? Fill your colorful calendar quilt with acts of kindness!

How can you help your family, neighborhood, or other people? You could send a card to an older relative or organize a recycling project. Here's a fun way to make sure your good deeds happen!

Trim a folded recycled file folder. On the front of the folder, fill in imaginative quilt patches with bright colors. On top of these colors, create quilt patterns on each patch!

Cut around all but one edge of each quilt patch to make flaps. Fold open the quilt patches. Slide bright paper inside the file folder. Write a good deed inside each space. Hold the good deeds page in place with paper clips. When you finish all of these good deeds, make a new page!



CALM CARING COUNTRIES DOVE
 FRIENDLY MANNERS PEACE PEACE-KEEPING
 PEACEFUL PEOPLE POLITE PRIDE
 QUIET RESPECTFUL SOLUTIONS UNITED NATIONS
 WORLD

Space still Available for Or Shalom's Awesome B'nei Mitzvah Program Led by Rabbi Hannah Dresner and Harriet Frost

Our B'Yachad students don't have a bar or bat mitzvah – they become bar or bat mitzvah. They become responsible adults in the Jewish community and in the world. They become partners in the work of tikkun, the loving pursuit of justice, and shalom. Through an extended social justice project, students examine core Jewish values, in theory and in practice.

At Or Shalom the process towards b'nai mitzvah gives your child the opportunity to study Torah, to learn the prayers, to interpret weekly Torah portions and explore what it means to be an adult, to be a responsible, productive, and caring person.

The B'Yachad program creates an opportunity for your entire family to explore your own spiritual paths, to deepen your own relationship with the synagogue, and to grow closer to G-d and to Torah.

