

KEREN OR

ב"ה

THE NEWSLETTER OF OR SHALOM קרן אור

Or Shalom Jewish Spiritual Community, Vancouver, B.C.

orshalom.ca

Shvat/Adar/Nissan 5761 February/March 2001

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WHEN WE DISAGREE

By Rabbi Hillel Goelman

A short time ago Sheryl and I were teaching a class to this year's Bar and Bat Mitzvah students and their parents. We were introducing some material from classical Jewish texts and I pointed out that the rabbis in the texts had disagreed with one another. With tongue in cheek, I suggested to the class that it must be very surprising to find Jews disagreeing with Jews. In fact, I pointed out, vigorous debate, argument and disagreement have always enriched Jewish life. Sure one enough, one of the parents raised his hand and said, "Hillel, I disagree with that."

True enough, Jews disagree over politics and how to tell a joke right. We disagree over matters both financial and ceremonial. "Two Jews, three opinions." "That's the shul I wouldn't go into if you paid me." And yet, somehow, through exile, persecution, emigration, dislocation and genocide, somehow through it all, the Jewish people has continued to live, to thrive in some ways. Our learning, our culture, our art, our theology, our practices, our music. Somehow, despite all of the external pressures that have been brought down on us AND despite our near-suicidal tendency to be tendentious, argumentative and just plain difficult with each other on matters large and small, we're still here. And so we argue about why we're still here, whether we'll continue to be here and what the future holds for us.

Without going too far in this direction, I want to suggest that it may be precisely because of our tendency to argue that we are still here. Thousands of years of

THE REB SITE

Jewish life have been characterized not just by the arguing, but by the passion and concern that generates the arguing. For thousands of years we have had something to argue about: How do we keep Judaism a living, breathing, vital force in our lives and how do we keep Judaism a force for constructive social change in the world at large?

And so, we argue with passion and compassion because the stakes are high. Our tradition gives us some guidance about how to live respectfully in a culture that encourages debate and argument. First, we must remember that the Talmud records BOTH

the majority and minority opinions adopted by the rabbis. This would not be the case if there were not a healthy respect for divergent views. At times of intense disagreement that prevented the rabbis from coming to a decision, they would invoke the phrase, "Gam zu, v'gam zu Elokim hayim" – that is, "BOTH this view AND that view are the words of the living G!D."

You can see where I'm going with this. Our community – and the entire Jewish world – has been racked with intense disagreement over the political situation of the Israelis and the Palestinians. Again, we argue because we care, passionately, about the issues of human rights and human

suffering. We argue, I think, out of a sincere sense of *abavat Yisrael*, a love for the people, the history and land of Israel. And we argue out of a sincere sense of *abavat ha ger*, to love those who are NOT Yisrael and to treat them with respect.



— Lorne Mallin photo

Tired of the makeshift sign outside the bayit, Bette Thompson carved a new sign that now graces the railing outside the rear exit. She carved it out of cedar, which will weather to match the railing, and painted the lettering white. Bette's study of carving in her native New Zealand included learning from a master Maori carver.



TU B'SHVAT FOUR WORLDS SEDER ON FEB. 7

Come celebrate with us again at Louis Brier Home and Hospital, 41st and Oak. Rabbi Hillel Goelman will be leading an interactive, intergenerational Four Worlds Seder with teachings, stories, music, singing, fruits, nuts, wine and juices. The Seder begins at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 7. This is a community event organized by Adam va-Adamah and sponsored and supported by Or Shalom, Louis Brier, Congregation Shaarey Tefilah, and UBC Hillel. Contact Lorne Greenberg 732-1403 or Noam Dolgin 872-4406/879-4366.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: JOIN THE 'URBAN MITZVAH CORPS'

By Gloria Levi

Habitat for Humanity, which builds simple, decent, affordable houses in partnership with people in need, started as a Christian organization open to volunteers of all faiths. In the Vancouver Habitat, we tend to see ourselves as an inter-faith group. It would be particularly special if we could go out as a group and perhaps call ourselves the "urban mitzvah corps." I will be contacting other synagogues regarding our project and call for volunteers.

We are presently building four townhouses in Burnaby, our first building phase. We hopefully may be starting preliminary work on our second phase of four more townhouses some time this winter. Eventually we will be building 27 townhouses on this site. By the end of January, beginning of February, we will begin the framing of the houses. We will be able to use all the volunteer labour we can get. The site will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays and Sunday afternoons. If you wish to volunteer, you need to attend a safety orientation meeting prior to going on site. Phone the Habitat office at 681-5618 for more specific information. The website is www.vancouverhabitat.bc.ca/

We can always use carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and unskilled labourers. We also need office volunteers. Come and see our site. It is at 8745 Government St., Burnaby – near Gagliardi Way. Once you volunteer, you'll find yourself bitten by the bug of Habitatitis.

In 1974, Habitat for Humanity was founded by Millard Fuller in Americus, Ga. His story is that of a very bright successful young entrepreneur, caught up in the rat-race, who experienced a personal crisis and realized

that there was more to life than merely acquiring things. He and his wife replaced the virus of "affluenza" – the drive to acquire material goods – with the passion to do some good in the world.

As they looked around, they realized that shelter; i.e. basic decent housing, was fundamental to the health and well-being of all people. How could they make this happen? They looked to the Bible for guidance. It said in Leviticus that one should NOT charge interest. "OK," they said, "We won't charge interest." Always aware of the need to honour and respect the dignity of a person, they said, "OK, you do not have the money for a down payment, but you have a strong back, a

good mind, willing hands. How about giving 500 hours of sweat equity as a down payment?" Tapping into the wellspring of good will in the community that lies just below the surface, the Fullers went to corporations, unions, service organizations, and individuals and they received money, goods, services, and labour, all donated. Together with the prospective homeowner families, they began to build houses. As the Habitat homeowners pay their interest-free mortgages, that money is used to build

other houses. Today, there are over 100,000 Habitat for Humanity homes in more than 70 countries around the world.

Habitat for Humanity is a unique model, a way of providing decent affordable home ownership that taps into the best that is within all of us. It is a regard for human dignity through a self-help process. A sense of community that we are all our brothers' keepers through our donors and volunteers, and a sense of partnership with each other, rich and poor, religious and secular, skilled and unskilled. This is truly love concretized and I feel privileged to be part of this endeavour.



— Burnaby News-Leader photo
Gloria Levi on the site of the Habitat project in Burnaby.

END OF AN ERA: FRANK SEGAL RETIRING FEB. 28

By Miriam Caplan

Some of you may already know that Frank Segal has submitted his resignation as Or Shalom administrator and will be leaving the position at the end of February. This is a happy event for Frank, as he is moving into semi-retirement, and a life of more freedom to do the things he loves to do.

Frank has served Or Shalom as administrator for six years. He began in January 1995 when the shul was in the midst of renovations. We are deeply grateful to Frank for all his hard work, for his friendly availability to anyone who calls, for his kindness and perspective and so many things that he has offered us all as administrator.

We are planning the kiddush on Feb. 24 to be a potluck lunch in honour of Frank for his work as administrator. Please come, bring an offering of food or kosher wine, and tell anyone you know who may want to join us in this special event.

If you have questions about what to bring to the lunch, please call Sue Ackerman at 736-8221.

We look forward to seeing you there.

REB DAVID'S TRIBUTE TO FRANK

By Rabbi David Mivascir

My appreciation and respect for Frank Segal only grew deeper and stronger through our five years of working together for the Or Shalom community. Frank's care for the community was evident every day.



In mid-January this year, Frank Segal turned 65. "It seemed like a good time to make a change." In retiring as administrator, "I'll be doing everything I've been doing up to now, just a lot more of it, such as making more bread and wine and eating and drinking it. At the end of January, the Board was close to hiring his successor.

Frank was always reliable. Being one of the long-time members of Or Shalom gave him a perspective on the community that was invaluable to me on many occasions. Frank's gentle humour, his modesty, calm sincerity and willingness to help people all embody the teaching of the great sage Hillel in Pirkei Avot: "Omer me'at, va-aseh bar-beh, ve-bevei mekabbel et kol ha-adam be-sever panim yafot – Speak little, do much, and receive every person graciously."

I join the rest of the community in wishing Frank the very best in this next stage of his growth and learning. I know that for Frank retirement doesn't mean idleness but that he'll be able to devote more himself to his family and to projects he's interested in.

Frank, may you be blessed for many years to come with continued good health, with the love of your family and the well-deserved respect of your community. I'll miss you from the office during the week and will look forward to davening with you on Shabbat.

R' TIRZAH FIRESTONE OUR GUEST AT RETREAT MAY 18-21

By Marty Puterman

It's not too early to mark your calendars for Or Shalom's annual get-away/retreat. Once again, it will take place on the Victoria Day weekend, May 18-21 at Camp Hope, about 1.5 hours east of Vancouver near Hope. Last year more than 100 members of our community took part and even more are expected this year.

This year's retreat will again feature an outstanding guest teacher – Rabbi Tirzah Firestone, who is the

founding rabbi of the Jewish Renewal Congregation in Boulder, Colo. She is a Jungian therapist, author and popular lecturer on the topics of Jewish spirituality and the future of Judaism. Her personal journey through interfaith marriage and back to Judaism is chronicled in her dramatic memoir, "With Roots in Heaven," hailed as "spiritual autobiography at its very best," and a "must read" for spiritual seekers. (Banyen Books has it in paperback for \$19.99.)

Born into a family of respected Orthodox rabbis, Reb Tirzah was raised in a strict environment which

rigidly forbade any deviance from its norms. At age 17, however, she rejected "anything Jewish" and set off on a journey of self-fulfillment. She travelled the world, studied Christian mysticism, knelt at the feet of Hindu teachers, and dabbled in New Age philosophies, constantly in search of spiritual and universal truths. After more than a decade, Firestone married a Christian minister and was disowned by her Orthodox family. Yet she found herself being drawn back to Judaism and in 1992 was ordained by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Jewish Renewal's main spiritual pathfinder.

Camp Hope is nestled in the woods beneath awesome snow-capped mountains. Explore the hiking trails. Relax in the hot tub. Schmooze by the fireplace. Stay up late sharing stories and songs. Enjoy the wildlife (from a distance). Sunday night features the renowned Or Shalom talent show, and do we have talent! Of course, a great program is planned for the kids.



Rabbi Tirzah Firestone

Of course no Jewish get-together would be complete without good food. Last year everyone raved about the food, even the kids, who can be a tough crowd to please. It's all vegetarian and there's lots of it.

But we need your help to ensure the retreat's success. We need volunteers for adult program preparation, teen and children's program, development, publicity, registration and on-site co-ordination. Please contact me at 224-6754 or e-mail marty@coe.ubc.ca if you would like to help out in anyway. Our first organization meeting will take place in early February. Also to streamline this year's registration we would like to set up a web-based registration system. If anyone can do this, please let me know as soon as possible.

Be sure to watch our website, and check out the next issue of Keren Or for further details about the retreat. Registration forms are being prepared.

YOUR CHANCE TO REGISTER WITH OUR NEW YAHRZEIT DATABASE

By Hillel Goelman

"Y'hee Zichron Baruch"

May their memories forever be a blessing . . .

We hope to build a database with the anniversaries – *yahrzeits*– of our beloved friends and family who have died. Observing a *yahrzeit* gives us the opportunity to reflect on a person's life and death; to recall our relationships with them; to feel the ache of what is missing in our lives and to think about how we can keep their memories alive through our actions in the real world.

Our intention is to build, maintain and use the database a way of helping Or Shalom serve as a *nehsama k'lalit* a collective soul, a collective memory that members can use to determine the precise date of person's *yahrzeit* in a given year. We can also determine the Hebrew date of *yahrzeit* for members who may only have the secular calendar day. If you would like to register a person's *yahrzeit* please complete the form here and return by mail to 710 East 10th Ave., Vancouver V5T 2A7 or fax to the Or Shalom office, 872-4406. A volunteer member will verify the information with you and will then enter the information on software provided by Zmanim, a Hebrew calendar program. You may photocopy the form and use it for all friends and family. The form can be used for Jewish and non-Jewish people whom you wish to remember.

Or Shalom Yahrzeit Registration Form

Your name

Home phone number.....

Home mailing address

.....

.....

E-mail address

English name of the person whose memory you wish to honour

Hebrew name of the person whose memory you wish to honour. Please write clearly in English letters. If you don't know the person's Hebrew name, leave blank. For a non-Jewish person, also leave blank.

.....

The day, month and year on the secular calendar that the person died

Was this before or after sunset

The day, month and year on the Jewish calendar that the person died. Please write clearly in English letters. Don't know? Leave blank.....

Please include any additional information that you would like us to note in the Yahrzeit register (i.e., country, city or circumstances of their death).

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COME TO THE NEW MEMBERS' KIDDUSH ON FEB. 3

Mark Shabbat Feb. 3 on your calendar. New members will be introduced and we, the Shalom/Welcome Committee (Sue Ackerman, Martha Barker and myself) will be hosting the kiddush. Since this annual event brings out large numbers of Or Shalomniks, we are also requesting food or drink contributions from "seasoned" members. New members, please do not bring food contributions as you are being honoured.

As it can be difficult for those new to Or Shalom to get to know us, we hope you will welcome them by spending time socializing during the kiddush.

Thanks to my committee colleagues, editor-in-chief Martha and chef extraordinaire Sue.

– Carol Pearlstone

NEW MEMBERS

Melissa Davis is originally from Montreal and moved to Vancouver from Kingston, Ont., in 1996. She has attended services at Or Shalom occasionally for the past several years. She says it was "true basherte that I met Hillel Goelman on an airplane returning to Vancouver." This past October, after her father died in Montreal, she contacted Rabbi Goelman to reconnect with him and with Or Shalom in order to "join the shul as a base from where I could recite kaddish for my father," says Melissa.



Melissa Davis

Originally from California, **Joseph and Lisa Kahn-Tietz** lived in Israel before moving to Vancouver. They have three children – Jordan, 11, Natan, 9, and Amya, 6. Joseph is director of Vancouver's Jewish Family Service Agency and Lisa is a counsellor.

Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta moved to Vancouver in 1996 after living in Jerusalem for seven years. She considers herself a (non-Christian) Quaker Jew. Maxine "loves the singing and the enthusiastic participation of Or Shalomniks" and she feels that "Or Shalom's concept of God in every person is compatible with the Quaker view."

Jude Platzer is originally from England and her husband **Ben** is from the Netherlands. Their daughter Nisha is enjoying learning about her roots and preparing for her Bat Mitzvah, which will be celebrated this May.

Steve Sacks is an American Jew and **Marika Sacks** is a first-generation European Jew. For Steve, Judaism is a faith whereas for Marika it is an ongoing process and a lifestyle. They are new to Or Shalom where they both feel comfortable.

Mary Anne Sturley returned to Vancouver and to Or Shalom after a couple of years at Trent University to complete her degree in Native Studies. Now she is doing web design for a living ("I'm sure they're connected somehow," says Mary Anne) with Minerva Technical Group. She has recently become a member of Or Shalom's board and heads the Bayit and Youth committees. When she's not at shul, you can see her around town on her Yamaha SRX 4.



Mary Anne Sturley

New members or those wanting to find out more about Or Shalom are encouraged to contact Carol Pearlstone, 669-5173 or Martha Barker, 986-6309.

KIDDUSH CORNER

SCHEDULE IS FILLING UP

By Ellen Frank

The kiddush schedule is filling right up. Don't miss your kiddush mitzvah opportunity.

The kiddush schedule is now on the website calendar at orshalom.ca. – thanks Avi Dolgin – so you can check to see who is sponsoring, if it is potluck or to see which dates are in need of a host. They are going fast, so have a look!

There is also the lovely "Guide to Kiddush, Kitchen & Kashrut" — a how-to document which covers virtually every aspect of food at Or Shalom. You find it on the website from the Foods section of the Assiya page on the website.



Remember, sponsoring a kiddush does not need to be an ordeal. Simple is good. E-mail me or call – between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. only – at 524 4641 to book one.

A VIEW FROM JERUSALEM: WE ARE ALL CONNECTED HERE

By Rabbi David Mivasair

Here in Jerusalem, it feels like everyone is related to everyone else. We Jews as well as the people on “the other side” are deeply connected to this land and therefore to each other. Our roots are mingled, our fates intertwined.

I'm on the sidewalk with little Miriam in my arms and a cab driver going the other way stops in traffic to shout across the street at me to pull down the baby's shirt over her tummy because she's cold. The cashier in the supermarket smiles sweetly “Shabbat Shalom” with her heavy Russian accent and conveys a sense that she's glad we're here with her. The Palestinian maintenance man in our apartment building wants to talk politics. Whatever affects me, affects him as well. We are all connected here.

Our people's great challenge is no longer the physical ingathering of our exiles or the concrete tasks of building roads and houses. The Zionist movement, which began in earnest only little more than 100 years ago, has met the physical challenge of creating a Jewish national home in Eretz Yisrael. More than five million Jews live here in a secure, economically thriving country.

The challenge now is the moral and spiritual building that will enable this land and all its people to be at home together. Meeting this challenge – which only months ago seemed to be coming within reach – now could be even farther off than the 100 years it took us to get this far along. Distrust, pain, and hatred of the



David, Michal and Miriam in Eilat with Nici and Kevin Solomons, who were visiting daughter Emma, in Israel on the Habonim Workshop program.

other are visceral sensations here and are growing worse with each day's headlines. Generations may be required before we children of Sarah and children of Hagar can recognize each other as brothers and sisters, different sides of the same family.

And with all this, I am grateful to be here, to be able right now to walk this land, breathe this air, take in this sunshine, to study sacred texts and to share words of hope and peace as well as grave concern with those who make this land their home.

I pray every day for shalom, wholeness, for all of Israel and for all the peoples who live in this land. And sometimes I try to turn prayers into deeds.

MEETING A REMARKABLE MAN: RANKO SLADOJEVIC

By Lorne Mallin

Bosnian refugee Ranko Sladojevic is an undiscovered intellectual treasure in Vancouver's West End. The 49-year-old author, poet, translator and university lecturer arrived in Vancouver on May 23 last year and is co-sponsored by Or Shalom and the Mennonite Central Committee.

Effron Esseiva and I recently visited Ranko in his tiny, neat apartment. In a conversation in fluent German and serviceable English over a lunch of Bosnian blintzes called palachinkas, he spoke of his life.

Ranko was born in 1951 in Fojnica, Bosnia-Herzegovina, in what was then Yugoslavia. Ranko was always interested in the history of ideas and immersed himself from a young age in books. He went to high



Ranko Sladojevic

school in Sarajevo and enrolled in the University of Sarajevo, emerging with a PhD in German Literature. He taught at the university for 10 years, authoring four books of stories and three of poetry. Ranko also translated many books from German into Serbo-Croatian, including “Justice, Not Revenge” by Simon Weisenthal.

That book gave Ranko, who is not Jewish, an entree into the Jewish community in Sarajevo. During the Bosnian civil war in 1992, he was able to join a Jewish convoy and flee to Stuttgart, Germany, where he stayed as a refugee for eight years before coming to Canada. His sister Sonya is here as well.

One day in Stuttgart, Ranko found a German translation of excerpts from the Zohar. In gratitude, he has given the book, “Der Sohar,” to Or Shalom and it will be going to the University of B.C. Library.

Ranko has been studying English in Vancouver and in February begins courses in desktop publishing and communications.

A WORLD OF JEWISH MUSIC



Olam performs at the gala in a set that included a stirring arrangement of "Jerusalem of Gold."

GLORIOUS, SUCCESSFUL GALA SENDS GRATEFUL AUDIENCE FLYING

Upwards of 400 people filled the Arts Club Theatre on Granville Island on Sunday, Jan. 21, for Or Shalom's major fundraiser of the year. Fran Ritch, who was in charge of ticket sales, says the event netted about \$25,000, our most-successful fundraising event. The high-energy, gloriously tuneful program was called "A World of Jewish Music: One People, Many Voices." The first voice we heard was emcee Adam Growe, a Toronto comedian originally from Vancouver who kept us in stitches through the evening.

The amazing performers were Michael Braverman, Martin Fisk, Steven Levin, Harold Micay, Olam, Jo-Ann Pezzaro, Myrna Rabinowitz, Wendy Rubin, Wendy Bross Stuart and Tzimmes. Artistic co-ordination was by Wendy and Ron Stuart.

The gala's co-ordinators were Pam Ratner and Ruth Hershler. Volunteers, listed here whether they worked an hour or for months, included Sue Ackerman, Mary Adlersberg, Martha Barker, Philip Be'er, Michael Corber, Janice Cramer, Ann Daskal, Carol Ann Fried, Kymn Grostern, Ellen Hamer, Cecil Hershler, Ruth Hess, Jane Heyman, Roma Katz, Dodie Katzenstein, Mel Kaushansky, Penny Keene, Carol Konkin, Sarah Leavitt, Micha Menczer, Sandi Moussadji, Aimee Promislow, Marty Puterman, Lisa Renert-Tomlinson, Rory Richards, Fran Ritch, Shawna Rothman, Kevin Solomons, Nici Solomons, Sharna Searle, Jack Sniderman, Sally Thorne, Helen Waldstein and Hana Wosk.



HERE TODAY, MAÑANA MEXICO

A beaming Seth Klein displays the envelope with his gala raffle grand prize: a week's vacation for two in Mazatlan, Mexico, courtesy of Quest Travel.

By Isaac Rosenberg

PARASHAT BEREISHIT: OCT. 29, 2000

Editor's note: Isaac Rosenberg became Bar Mitzvah in Nelson during a Shabbat morning service led by Rabbi Hillel Goelman. Peter Clement was Isaac's tutor.

The portion I sang this morning is about the seven days of creation of the world.

The first day was when God created light. The Torah doesn't say exactly what kind of light. Since the sun wasn't created yet nor fire, I think that it's interesting to wonder what it was, because it was just light, not any kind of specific light. There are legends that say it was such a pure and holy light, it could be seen from one end of the world to the other.

The second day was when God created the sky, which was an expanse between the water below and the water above.

Did you know that there is a word in this verse, which is one whole sentence in one word!

The word is *shammayim*, which means sky in English but literally means "there is the water."

In other words, one Hebrew word can mean a lot.

The third day was when God created the earth, the seas and the vegetation. That means grass and, if this day hadn't happened, it would be a pity because there would be no soccer.

The fourth day, was when God created the sun and the moon. To tell time and mark holidays and rituals.

The fifth day was when God created the animals and other living things, but not yet humans because the sixth day was when God created humans.

The seventh day was God's day of rest. Where would we be without rest? Jewish people rest every seven days to celebrate creation. This is one way to observe the Sabbath.

Reb Hillel told me a story about God creating many universes and wiping them all out because they weren't right. In this story, this universe was the per-

fect one. I asked, what if this, our life, is just another test and we're just another experiment?

The rabbis in Talmud had a similar argument. Seeing what a mess we were making of the universe they tried to decide if God was right in creating it. They came to an amazing conclusion that maybe God shouldn't have created the universe in the first place. But since it's here now, then it's our responsibility and our job to make it work as best we can. And I hope that the people in the Middle East are doing the best they can, so that peace comes soon and lasts.

I learned some stuff while preparing for my Bar Mitzvah; I'm sure most of you already knew that.



These are some of the things I learned.

If you drop the Torah you must fast for 40 days and even if you just see the Torah drop, you also must fast for the 40 days. This tells us how sacred the Torah is, and how important it is to take care of it.

I also learned that when you become a Bar Mitzvah you're expected to do kind and just deeds. For example, it's a custom for all adult Jews to give some of their wealth to people in need.

For my first act of this mitzvah, of sharing with the needy, since I've never really donated any money, I'm going to ask all those of you who have ever made a donation to give me your recommendation on how and who to make my first donation to.

In conclusion I'd like to try to say in one sentence what my Bar Mitzvah means to me: Just like the seven days of creation were only just the beginning of life, I feel like this Bar Mitzvah, with all the time I spent preparing for it, is just the beginning for my life as a responsible person.

SEND IN YOUR DIVREI TORAH

Bnei Mitzvah and their parents are encouraged to e-mail a Dvar Torah after it has been delivered to lmallin@telus.net for inclusion in Keren Or. Please include a colour photo. Info: 222-3379.

GO AND STUDY

HEBREW SCHOOL UPDATE

By Bat-Ami Segal, Hebrew School Co-ordinator

After a long and hopefully peaceful holiday, school is back in session. Older grades were studying the final chapters in the book of Genesis and younger grades were beginning to talk about the holiday of Tu B'Shvat. Nomi Fenson was back from Bosnia and we heard of her adventures.

The school held a very successful Hanuka celebration. Families started off the festivities with lighting traditional Hanukiot made from clay by the students and singing the blessings together. They then sat down to a very delicious potluck dinner, with latkes and sufganiot galore. A very warm and loving atmosphere prevailed throughout the evening. After dinner, we went upstairs to the sanctuary, where the students' presentations were held, community singing, and lastly a mini-maccabiah (sport competition) was held; in our case it wasn't a sport competition, but a Hanuka quiz. Students, teachers and parents participated, including a competitive song fest, where parents from the two teams were asked to sing Hanuka songs. The children and rest of audience of course voted on who would win. Contestants were judged on abilities to sing, clarity, loudness, and presentation. Everyone went home with prizes, Hanuka chocolate gelt, and dreidles.

THE TIME HAS COME TO LEARN TO LEAD

By Hillel Goelman

It is time that YOU learned to lead davening, give a Dvar Torah or read Torah. Yes, that's right, I'm talking to you. You know who you are. You come to shul, you're feeling more comfortable with davening, the Hebrew is no longer a great mystery, the tunes are familiar and you feel that maybe you just might be ready to actually learn some more about the service and how to sing some of the prayers. But you're a bit shy and would really love to have someone sit with you and go over the siddur.

The time has come. Praise the Lord and pass the siddur. Our teacher, mentor and friend, Harley Rothstein, has agreed to teach a davening class to those who want to learn to lead the Shabbat morning service. The class will cover both the traditional "nusach" that has been handed down to us by our ancient tradition as well as more contemporary melodies created by people like Harley, Myrna Rabinowitz, Hannah Tiferet Siegel and others. Not only is Harley an outstanding musician, teacher and davener himself, he himself learned to daven the Shabbat morning service in Or Shalom many

years ago. Primarily, because someone took him aside and said, "You know, it's time."

Please contact me (hillel.goelman@ubc.ca) or the Or Shalom office (872-1614) if you are interested and we will set up a time for the class.

AND . . . we are also considering having a class to teach some of our experienced Shabbat morning daveners the nusach for the High Holy Day services. We are always in need of new voices and talent and we tend to rely on a small group of people year after year. If you are interested in this class, also let me know.

YESHIVA WELCOMES PARTICIPANTS

Or Shalom's Yeshiva Meditation program continues in the months of February and March, with the following dates, all from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Saturday Feb. 3, Sunday Feb. 11, Saturday Feb. 17, Sunday Feb. 25, Saturday March 3, Sunday March 11, Saturday March 17, Sunday March 25. People are welcome to attend full- or part-time. If you plan to be present for lunch around 12:30 please bring a veggie bag lunch. Meditations take place at 865 Durward Ave. (near 33rd and Fraser.). There is no fee. For further information please call Leonard Yehudah Angel at 876-6925.

WOMEN'S BOOK CIRCLE MEETS FEB. 15

The February gathering of the Women's Book Circle is on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at Gloria Levi's home. We are discussing the book: "As a Driven Leaf," by Milton Steinberg. All women are invited to attend. The book is in paperback and can be ordered over the Internet or check the library. Questions may be addressed to Sheryl Sorokin at 876-9790. Look forward to seeing you there.



DAVENOLOGY 101 CONTINUES

Davenology 101 is continuing in February and March. The class/discussion group, launched Jan. 16, focuses on Jewish prayer with particular reference to the Shabbat morning service. Rabbi Hillel Goelman and Shaarey Tefilah's Rabbi Ross Singer are sharing the teaching. The next classes, all on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., are Feb. 13 at Shaarey Tefilah, 785 West 16th, Feb. 27 at Or Shalom, March 13 at Shaarey Tefilah and March 27 at Or Shalom.

RITUAL COMMITTEE MEETING FEB. 26

I've been remiss in calling a meeting of the Ritual Committee, which was once a major focus of dis-

cussion and reflection within the Or Shalom community. Anyone can come to the Ritual Committee and people who lead davening, read Torah, or participate in leading other ritual activities are especially encouraged to come. We will discuss where we are as a davening community, listen to suggestions and constructive criticisms.

The major theme of the meeting is, "*mab sb'yotzeb min ha lev, nichnas el ha lev*" – what comes from the heart, enters the heart.

The meeting will be at my house, 494 E. 18th Avenue, on Monday night, Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. Please RSVP to hillel.goelman@ubc.ca

— *Hillel Goelman*

NEWS AND SCHMOOZE



The wonderful Madrigals, from left, Susan Albersheim, Reva Malkin, Susan Polsky Shamash, Joi Freed-Garrod, Carol Ann Fried and Ruth Shell.

MADRIGALS' CD RELEASED The Madrigals' first CD is here! "Soul Music" features 12 original songs by Joi Freed-Garrod, ranging from contemporary folk to Jewish fusion. On the disc, Joi sings solo on three songs, the Madrigals (Susan Albersheim, Joi, Carol Ann Fried, Reva Malkin, Susan Polsky Shamash, Ruth Shell) together sing nine songs, with Myrna Rabinowitz joining on two of the songs. Some of the tracks are in their signature a-capella style, while others are accompanied by piano, guitar, and/or drums. Complete with explanations of each song and a snazzy photo, the CD can be purchased from Joi (737-2339) for \$12.95.

NORTH SHORE HOME SOUGHT I am looking for a place to live from April 1 after moving to Vancouver. If anyone can give me any leads or info I will be very grateful. I wish to rent a two-bedroom self-contained suite in upper North Vancouver or Horseshoe Bay. If the suite is in a private home, I prefer that the entire house be free of smokers and pets, but pets may be OK if there is no way the dander can get into my part of the house. This is my wish list. I

RECENT DONATIONS

Community Fund

- In memory of Arthur Sorokin, z"l
- In memory of Dena Wosk, z"l
- In honour of Mary Adlersberg
- In memory of Bessie Morinis, z"l

East Side Food Fund

- In honour of Micha Menczer
- In memory of Arthur Sorokin, z"l
- In gratitude and in memory of Alex Wayman, z"l
- Happy Birthday Micha Menczer
- In memory of Allegra Dayan, z"l
- In appreciation, Karen Wohlfarth
- In appreciation, Helen Aqua

Book Fund

- In honour of Rose Kauffman, beloved Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother
- In memory of Pola Kleinman, z"l
- In memory of Izak Kleinman, z"l
- In memory of Mark Rabinowitz, z"l

Len Ryant Or Shalom Children's Fund

- In honour of Micha Menczer

Building Fund

- In memory of Arthur Louis Sorokin, z"l

Adam va' Adama

- In memory of Bessie Morinis, z"l

may eventually have to compromise on something, but I'd like to try for the ideal first. My e-mail address is miriam@gol.com. Or call collect, 011-81-78-752-6654. I live in Japan, so the best time to call is late afternoon (after 3 p.m.) or evening Vancouver time.

— *Miriam Eguchi*

KEREN OR קרן אור

(Beam of Light)

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