

KEREN OR

Special Bulletin Edition

Or Shalom Jewish Spiritual Community, Vancouver BC orshalom.ca Tammuz/Av 5763 July 2003

Why Is This Newsletter Different From Any Other Newsletter?

Question:

On all other months, Keren Or is like a booklet, filled with articles and reports. Why this month, is it smaller and contains only announcements and necessary items?

Answer:

This is because we wanted to save some costs and to make the next issue August/September in time to accommodate the High Holiday materials. A July-only bulletin will also get us back in sync from the time that the editor missed an edition because she was sick. The next issue will be a nice substantial edition that will help introduce newcomers to our community who join us for the holidays . Stayed tuned for reports about the retreat and the Kallah in the next issue.

There are now announcements on the Or Shalom office voice mail if you need quick updates, and Al Pasternak and I strive to keep orshalom.ca current. If you would like to join our email list, contact me at unbeldi@shaw.ca

Please start preparing your submissions for the next issue. The deadline will be July 14, 2003. I will not be able to accommodate late submissions as my time is tightly budgeted over the two weeks before publication.

Enjoy this bulletin,

Your editor
Pauline (Leah) Rankin



An Observation from Montreal

Re: May/June Keren Or

Beautiful - made me feel quite isolated out here in Montreal - let people know - there is only one Or Shalom -take care of it - it's a flower amidst a lot of dross!!

Susan Landau-Chark

W

hile the sun brightens and lengthens our days this time of year here on the coast, the Or Shalom board will meet over the summer months to continue the many projects that are already underway. Governance and membership are still under discussion. The Personnel Committee has been grinding out formal job descriptions, employment agreements, and employee guidelines. Our annual retreat with Reb Gershon Winkler and Miriam Maron Emhoff was a resounding success.

The ritual committee that organizes davvening (Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat morning and the Wednesday minyan), is also extremely busy and is involved in almost every aspect of shul life. This includes our regular services to organizing Holiday events. The board is spending some time looking more closely at our cherished Hebrew school so that we can develop ways to enhance enrollment and bring greater visibility to our school within the larger Jewish community. The role of Program Director is under active planning. Once this is in place, it will become a little easier to manage our overall planning of the many different areas of shul life .

We wish to remind you that you are always invited to come to any of the board meetings and feel free to approach any of us on the board with your ideas, your hopes, your wisdom. Together we are embarking upon some exciting times!

Reb David Mivasair's contract with Or Shalom ends June 30, 2003. As Rabbi from 1995, he provided learning, inspiration and support to many during his tenure here. As he journeys onward on his spiritual path, we trust that he will continue his holy work from a place of passion and wisdom. May Hashem bless Reb David, Michal, Yehuda, Sophie and Miriam with love, health, and joy.

Carol Ann Fried, on behalf of the Or Shalom Board and Community

Dear Chevra,

We are writing to let you know of the progress that has been made in our rabbi search. A committee has been formed which will act in accordance with the Terms of Reference below. The board has invited the members listed here to serve as the search committee based on an understanding that they will listen to the community and endeavor to act in a fair and open manner. All community members are invited to engage in the process as outlined below. We also encourage you to contact any of us if you have questions or ideas to share *Please note*. There is a dynamic tension between transparency and confidentiality. On the one hand, we will make every attempt to be open and informative with the community and will welcome and encourage ideas, suggestions, and feedback. However, some things may require discretion and judicious handling so that we do not engage in 'lashon harah' or humiliate or shame another person (*Lashon harah* means "evil tongue," or as we might say in English "bad mouthing"). So in keeping with such important Jewish values, we may have to walk a fine line and balance these two approaches. We would like the community to be aware of this.

OR SHALOM RABBI SEARCH COMMITTEE: TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To discern the community's perceptions of a compatible rabbi for Or Shalom using research already done within the Community and using this research, establish clear criteria for potential candidates.
2. To maintain active communication with the Or Shalom Board and Community throughout the process through the Or Shalom email list once a month, Keren Or on a bi-monthly basis as it is published, and the Or Shalom website.
3. To research with rabbis and Board members from other synagogues their opinions regarding the appropriate duties and responsibilities of a rabbi for a congregation the size and composition of Or Shalom and collect any written job descriptions for a rabbi available from these synagogues.
4. To research rabbi's salary ranges, benefit packages and additional rabbinic income.
5. To seek out suitable rabbinic candidates from all compatible streams of Judaism with no gender restrictions.
6. To establish a timeline for the search and decision making process.

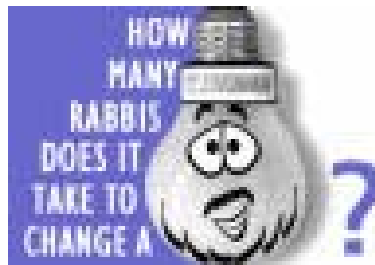
Outline of Process:

- a) Establish criteria for potential candidates
- b) Develop a valid measuring tool for establishing a short list of candidates
- c) Recruit potential candidates
- d) Review applications
- e) Telephone/teleconference interview with potential candidates.
- f) Short list candidates
- g) Observation, if possible, of short listed candidates
- h) Shabbaton plus interviews of short listed candidates including all segments of the community
- i) At each Shabbaton members can receive a questionnaire with ample room for writing about each event. The Committee will collate the results to assist them in establishing the prioritized short list
- j) Establish prioritized short list
- k) If resources allow, the Search Committee recommends that Or Shalom bring back the recommended candidate for a second Shabbaton/interview.
- l) Recommend to the Or Shalom Board a prioritized short list of candidates from which they can proceed to make a final decision or ask for repeat of the process if none of the short listed candidates are felt by the Board to be appropriate.

There will be communication on a regular basis with Or Shalom's davenologist, Hillel Goelman, throughout the process. Daniel Siegel will be retained as a consultant. As a final step, the Search Committee will recommend to the Or Shalom Board that they convene a special general meeting of the Community at which they seek the community's support for the recommended candidate.

Here is a list of committee members and their contact information. Please call us with your ideas and opinions.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| • Vicki Robinson, co-chair: | vrobenson@hotmail.com | 604-874-8978 |
| • Gloria Levi, co-chair: | glorialevi@shaw.ca | 604-873-0078 |
| • Peter Ballin: | pjballin@shaw.ca | 604-222-2354 |
| • Azima Buell: | abuell@jfsa.ca | 604-731-0572 |
| • Fran Goldberg: | fgoldberg@sageplanners.com | 604-734-0342 |
| • Joseph Kahn-Tietz: | Jtietz@jfsa.ca | 604-225-0007 |
| • Rory Richards: | roryrichards@hotmail.com | 604-669-0664 |
| • Bette Thompson: | bette_thompson@telus.net | 604-736-4317 |
| • Hana Wosk | hanawosk@shaw.ca | 604-261-5558 |



Answer on page 6

Heidi's Back!

Please note there has been a change since Keren Or went to the printers in late May. Heidi Adie, the child-minder at Or Shalom, is still with us and we are thankful that this has happened. Alizah Shatsky



Last week, the Or Shalom Hebrew School held its annual year-end celebrations. This event honoured the progress of our students in their Judaic studies. All students received certificates noting this achievement. We also graduated four students. Our congratulations go to Jake Kalmakoff, Anne Nadler, Naomi Vogt and Shannon Malkin. These grads will all have their b'nei mitzvahs in the coming year. We look forward to seeing them lead our community!

Please Help Recruit New Students

Our Hebrew School needs to register new students for the fall, and we request the community's help. Please talk to others about our successful school program.

For information about our school and the registration process, please contact:
Bat-Ami Segal at 604- 875-6560 or email bfsegal@shaw.ca or binki_segal@yahoo.com



Mahtovu Children's Shabbat Services by Raziel Ross

We have completed our pilot program. A decision will be made about its continuation when the new Or Shalom Program Director comes on board in August. We would like to thank all the families who participated during the year. We look forward to seeing you at the High Holidays.

Rosh Chodesh Women's Group by Melanie Yearow and Raziel Ross



The Rosh Chodesh group is not meeting during the summer months. We have received a grant from The Women's Endowment fund to subsidize a women's retreat. We are planning this in early September at the Sea to Sky Retreat Centre near Squamish. You can go to their website for pictures and more information at www.siddharthasintent.org/SSRC/location. Please contact us as soon as possible if you are interested in participating in our first Or Shalom women's retreat. You can call Raziel at 604-873-5537 or Melanie at 604-737-9907.

Tidbytes from the Community

Of Tablecloths and Tallitot

from **Bette Thompson**

I have three hand painted and sewn tallitot (plural of tallis or pray shawls), complete with tzitzit (special fringes). I also have seven or eight hand-painted, machine washable tablecloths for sale. If you are interested or if you need more information, please call 604-736-4317, or email bette_thompson@telus.net

Retreat Lost and Found

from **Nomi and Motti**

I have brought back with me "souvenirs" of several of you that I am sure you did not plan to leave. These are the lost and found items that Motti and I located when we did a quick "scope" of Camp Hope. These include a child/ young person's scooter, a tallit, a Research Forest hat, a pair of sunglasses, an actual *pair* of socks and some sundry items. We will bring these to Or Shalom the next time we are in town. You can call us before then at 604-947-9212, or email rabbini18@aol.com

Combat Poverty in the Jewish Community

from **Melanie Yearow**

I am looking for volunteers to get involved in a new sub- group of the Yad B Yad program, on behalf Yad B Yad, The Coalition on Poverty and Laraine Kaplan, who runs the program. This group will focus on outreach and education within the Jewish community. Poverty among Jews in Vancouver is rampant. We must get out and let people know just how dire the situation is in order to make changes. If you would like to get involved in this wonderful project, please contact me at 603-729-7255, karmicangel@shaw.ca or Laraine Kaplan at The Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver office at 604-257-5100.

Summer Mini Ulpan

from **Lorne Mallin**

The Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver is offering immersion courses in Modern Hebrew: Aug. 18-22 Aleph (Beginners), Aug. 25-29 Aleph Plus (Beginners Plus); Aug. 25-29 Bet (Low Intermediate). Taught by expert Israeli instructors Rahel Halabe (604-879-2677, rahel@telus.net) and Shoshana Hofman (604-273-0424, Hofmans@shaw.ca). Hours of study are 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday at the JCC located at 950 West 41 Avenue in Vancouver. The cost per course is \$299 if registered before Aug. 1 and \$325 afterwards. Materials are \$20. JCC members receive a \$25 discount. Online information: http://www.jccgv.com/adult/mini_ulpan.htm

Jewish Meditation

from **Raziel Ross**

A Jewish Group is now meeting at the home of Raziel Ross on alternate Wednesdays. The evening consists of teaching and participation. Everyone is welcome and experience is not necessary. There are no set fees- the course is available by donation only. If you have any questions or If you would like to attend and need directions, please call Raziel at 604-873-5537.

And the answer to the riddle on page 4 . . .

How many Jewish Renewal rabbis does it take to change a light bulb? Answer: It depends.

- One if it's an eco-kosher bulb that isn't going to be lit from electricity from nuclear power.
- Two, as long as a man and a woman rabbi have equal turns putting in the bulb.
- Three, one to change it, one to do a Buddhist mindfulness practice during the change, and one to document the paradigm shift in a best-selling book called "The Jew in the Lightbulb."
- Four, same as above plus an additional rabbi to study the psycho-halachic implications of such a change and then lead a weekend retreat on the experience.

Taken from <http://members.tripod.com/~jewishjokes/j-lite-bulb.htm>

Jewish? Single? 45+? Read On!

from Susan Ackerman

Jewish Singles 45+ is a group of volunteers who provide an opportunity for the unattached in the Greater Vancouver community to get together for social activities. Please come and join us for an evening of enlightenment, fun, laughter and coffee at 7:30 p.m., Saturday June 28 in the adult lounge of the Jewish Community Centre, 950 West 41 Avenue, Vancouver. The cost is \$10 if you pre-register or \$15 if you pay at the door.

Guest speaker Carol Ann Fried will facilitate "Married vs. Single." We'll debate the age-old question: is the grass *really* greener over there? Don't miss this invigorating, interactive and fun evening! On Saturday July 19, 8 p.m. we will be holding a Summer Pot Luck House Party, hosted in Kitsilano. The cost is \$5. Bring your friends and enjoy a friendly gathering. Please contact Sue for the details of this event.

For reservations to events, more information or to add your 45+ single Jewish friends to our mailing or e-mail lists, please contact Sue at 604 736-8221 or susanackerman@telus.net.



Dorah Barden celebrates her bat mitzvah on July 12, 2003. The community is invited to join her family in a kiddush to honour the occasion.

We will gather to observe Tisha B'Av, most likely on the evening of August 7, 2003. The details will be announced when the event is finalized.

The Oops Department

Co-op Radio at 102.7

In the information about Anthology of Jewish Music on Page 9 of the May/June Keren Or, and on the Calendar, the band number of Co-op Radio is incorrect due to some misinformation on their website, where I looked up the number. It's "102.7", not 109.2 and it still runs on Sunday mornings 10-11 a.m.

Roy Wood's Correct Phone Number

In the article "Chavurah continues to rise on the Sunshine Coast" on page 14 of the May/June Keren Or, Roy Wood's phone number is listed with the wrong area code. It is correctly 604-885-9769.



Ongoing Goings-On

(Or how to make sense of the calendar)
For the latest information, check the website at orshalom.ca, contact the people listed in the items below or call the office at 604-872-1614.

Joys of Judaism- two Mondays per month. Contact Richard at 604-872-1614 to join, or Itzchak Marmorstein for course info- milayomit@uniserve.com

The Shvesters study group for women meets generally on Sunday mornings but times, place and opportunity to join varies. Contact Carol Fishman at cjkonkin@shaw.ca or call 604-876-6899.

Board Meetings are open to members. Contact John Fuerst 604-254-9230 fuerstandgill@telus.net or Hana Wosk, 604-261-5558 - hanawosk@shaw.ca to discuss the agenda.

The Ritual Committee meets on the first Sunday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Contact Susan Shamash, 604-222-1980 or susan.polsky@wcat.bc.ca

For information on the morning minyans or Kabbalat Shabbat services, contact Effron, 604-469-6981

effron_esseiva@yahoo.ca Morning minyans are on the third Wednesday of the month at 8 a.m. Kabbalat Shabbats are on the last Fridays, 6-7 p.m.

Anthology of Jewish Music CFRO 102.7 10 –11 a.m. on Sundays. Hosted by Ethan Minovitz

Tikkun Vancouver Discussion group meets Monday nights, 7:30 p.m. Meditation retreats Saturdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Both at 865 Durward Street, Vancouver. Contact 604-876-6925 or slangel@telus.net

Yeshivat Or Shalom has been suspended for the summer and will resume in the fall. Contact Susan Shamash, 604-222-1980 or susan.polsky@wcat.bc.ca

To be added to our email list, write

Donations

unbeldi@shaw.ca

Community Fund

In appreciation of Hillel
In memory of Len Wexler z'l
In honour of Aliza Markovitch's Bat Mitzvah
In memory of Edward Susser's sister, Susie z'l
In honour of Mia Francl's Bat Mitzvah
In honour of Barry Goodman
In honour of Arielle Bandel's Bat Mitzvah

Yesod Fund

In memory of John Rev
In honour of Roma Katz

Please contact the Or Shalom office, 604-872-1614 or orshalom@telus.net, if you would like to make a

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Please submit articles by email with 'Keren Or' in the subject line. Call me if this is a problem.

Thanks to all those who contributed to this bulletin and to my mom, Evelyn for

Next Deadline is July 14, 2003. Action Packed High Holiday Issue! No exceptions as time is tight! Get Writing!



donation in

someone's