

KEREN OR

THE NEWSLETTER OF OR SHALOM

Or Shalom Jewish Spiritual Community, Vancouver, B.C. orshalom.bc.ca Tishrei/Heshvan/Kislev 5761 October/November 2000

**Tishrei/Heshvan/Kislev 5761
October/November 2000**

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KEREN OR

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Or Shalom Jewish Spiritual Community, Vancouver, B.C. orshalom.bc.ca Tishrei/Heshvan/Kislev 5761 October/November 2000

TIME FOR YOUR ANNUAL SPIRITUAL CHECK-UP

By Rabbi Hillel Goelman

Typically, we go to the doctor for a physical check-up, to the dentist for our dental check-up, and during the tax season we might sit down with an accountant to review our financial health and status. Starting in the Hebrew month of Elul (which corresponds this year to September) we are invited to engage in a process of checking in with and checking up on our spiritual well-being in preparation for the High Holy Days.

We remember that our spiritual well-being consists of the flow within and between the four Kabbalistic worlds: the physical, emotional, intellectual and transcendent worlds. As we begin to engage in this process of *heshbon ha'nefesh* (self-reflection), I've prepared a set of 32 questions that you might want to use in thinking about the past 12 months and the coming 12 months. The number 32 corresponds to the word for heart in Hebrew (*lev*) and is often used in Kabbalistic and Hasidic works that prompt us to examine our hearts.

You might want to take one or two questions a day to focus on. You might want to sit with a friend and discuss your reflections out loud. You might want to leave the form aside and go for a long walk, just you and your heart.

Wishing you all a year that is as round as an apple and as sweet as honey,

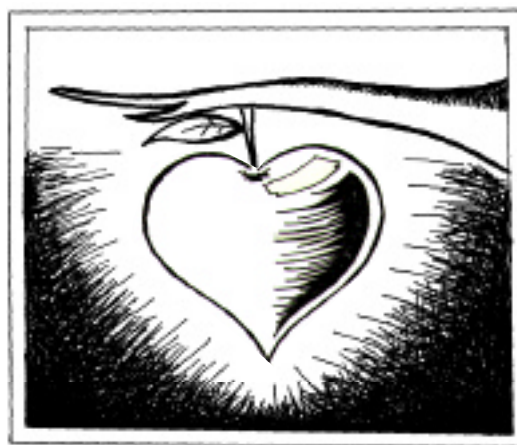
B'vracha,
Hillel

THE REB SITE

32 QUESTIONS

My relationship with God

- 1) The last time I felt God's presence was when . . .
- 2) The last time I felt angry with God was when . . .
- 3) The last time I thanked God was . . .
- 4) The last time I looked for but couldn't find God was . . .
- 5) The last time I looked for and actually found the Divine Presence was . . .
- 6) My spirit soars when . . .
- 7) I have never, ever felt the Divine presence in my life. This makes me feel . . .
- 8) I take care of my soul by . . .
- 9) I need to take care of my soul better by . . .
- 10) The hardest part of my relationship (or lack of relationship) with God is this . . .



— Lisa Mallin

My relationships with others

- 11) When was the last time I really listened to someone?
- 12) When was the last time I really spoke to someone from my heart?
- 13) What is it that I know I need to do in my relationships with others but keep avoiding?
- 14) In what ways am I too harsh on myself?
- 15) In what ways am I too harsh on others?
- 16) The most important question I have to ask others this year is . . .
- 17) The most important question others have to ask me is . . .

My relationship with fixing the world

- 18) What parts of "tikkun olam," the fixing of the world, draw me the most? *See next page*

YOUR SPIRITUAL CHECK-UP

Continued from previous page

- 19) What part of tikkun olam do I tend to turn away from?
 20) What am I doing to fix these broken vessels?
 21) How can I improve on the way I do tikkun olam?

My relationships with Jewish practice and observance

- 22) I feel most comfortable with these aspects of Jewish practice and observance...
 23) This past year I learned about and have enjoyed these aspects of Jewish practice and observance:
 24) These aspects of Jewish practice and observance that I feel most resistant to are...
 25) These are the aspects of Jewish practice and observance that I would like to learn more about in the coming year:
 26) This is how I'm going to go about learning more about these aspects of Jewish practice and observance:
 27) These are some of the teachers, mentors or guides I would like to connect with in learning more about these aspects of Jewish practice and observance:

In continuing my journey through life

- 28) In continuing my journey through life, this is the baggage I need to leave behind:
 29) And these are the things that are so valuable that I will hold onto them for at least one more year:
 30) The one thing I ask of God for this year is:
 31) The one thing I want God to ask me is:
 32) The most important question not on this list of questions is:

THE MIVASAIRS IN JERUSALEM

By Lorne Mallin

These are the first High Holy Days in six years for our community without Rabbi David Mivasair and his family, who left Vancouver in early August for a sabbatical in Jerusalem. David did a marvelous job to make sure we were well covered in his absence, but still we feel a hole in our whole.

Or Shalomniks on the e-mail list have been receiving vivid reports from David about his impressions and their experiences. Here is an excerpt from a message Sept. 15: "Shalom uvracha mi-Yerushalayim! The dusty, sunlit streets just outside our window are filled with an air of calm expectancy. Shabbat is coming again in a few hours. Yerushalayim will welcome her with open arms and eager hearts. Sophie and Yehuda are home

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur



SCHEDULE FOR SERVICES — 5761

All Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur Services will be held at the Jewish Community Centre, Wosk Auditorium, 950 W. 41st Avenue.

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Friday night, Sept. 29:

Candle-lighting, 6:35 p.m.
 Ma'ariv, 7 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH, Day 1

Saturday, Sept. 30:

Shaharit, 9 a.m.
 Children's service, 10:30 a.m.

ROSH HASHANAH, Day 2

Sunday, Oct. 1:

Shaharit, 9 a.m.
 Children's service, 10:30 a.m.
 Singles Potluck Lunch, 2-4 p.m.
 Tashlich, 5 p.m., Queen Elizabeth Park

EREV YOM KIPPUR

Sunday night, Oct. 8:

Kol Nidre, 6:15 p.m.

EREV YOM KIPPUR

Monday, Oct. 9:

Shaharit, 9 a.m.
 Children's service, 10:30 a.m.
 Yizkor/Musaf, 12 p.m. (approximately)
 Meditation with R' Yehuda Angel, 4:30 p.m.
 Minh'a, 5 p.m.
 Neilah, 6:30 p.m.
 Havdala and Break Fast, 7:12 p.m.

from school early, baruch ha-Shem, each with a new friend. Miriam's napping. Michal's in our kitchen.

"Another week in the seemingly eternal cycle of time here in Yerushalayim is about to settle down into the pause of Shabbat before being finished, its deeds and omissions etched forever in the great and awesome cosmic record of life, the great Sefer ha-Hayyim which is itself about to be renewed with Rosh ha-Shanah the very week after next."

Their address is 20/8 Ha-Ma'apilim, Jerusalem, Israel. Phone (02) 561-7053. E-mail: Mivasair@aol.com

COME BREAK THE FAST WITH US AFTER YOM KIPPUR

By Sue Ackerman

Everyone is invited to Break-the-Fast at the Jewish Community Centre following Yom Kippur services on Monday, Oct. 9. This has become a great way to get together following the intensity of the High Holy Days. We are primed and ready to begin the New Year and to enter the Season of Joy.

As is our tradition, we are planning to break the fast following Ne'ila when we will gather in the Seniors Lounge at the JCC and eat the First Meal together, relax, schmooze and garner strength for the New Year.

We are asking for a donation of \$5 per person (under 13 free). Please bring it on Erev Yom Kippur.

Please read the break-fast plans below and seize your opportunity to do your first mitzvah of the New Year (you are not responsible for doing the whole thing).

BREAK-THE-FAST PLANNING:

1. Food & beverage contribution:
Last name A-L please bring beverages;
Last name M-S please bring kosher desserts;
Last name T-Z please bring salads.
2. Helping out in advance of Yom Kippur by shopping, shlepping, food prep and, just as important, setting up the afternoon of erev Yom Kippur, Sunday, Oct. 8.
3. MORE setting up for the meal on Yom Kippur

afternoon during the break between about 2 and 4:15.

4. MORE help needed for cleaning up and shlepping after the meal. This will happen between 8 and 9 and won't take too long. We will pack utensils, leftovers, etc., and do a light clean-up.

5. We would like seven or eight coolers with freezer packs. If you can plan to bring yours to JCC before Kol Nidre services on Sunday afternoon, we would appreciate it. Please let us know.

6. It is our custom to bring dairy vegetarian — no shellfish or "not kosher" gelatin.

7. ALLERGY ALERT: If you have food allergies please tell us or bring something you can eat. Anyone who would like to have their items or a portion of their food placed on the allergy table is welcome to do so. Please provide Helen Aqua with a complete ingredient listing of the item you bring. You may contact Helen by phoning 430-5046 or e-mail her at: haqua@ultranet.ca.

8. If you can bring your food contribution in a SMALL cooler with an ice pack we'd appreciate it as it is a challenge to keep the food fresh. Three or more families may put their contributions into a large cooler with freezer packs. Please label your cooler with your name.

9. Is there anyone willing to bring

a bottle of whisky or shnapps?

For inquiries or offers of help, contact organizers Susan Ackerman (736-8221) or Martha Barker (986-6309).

SINGLES POTLUCK OCT. 1

You're invited to a potluck vegetarian lunch for singles and singles with children after services on the second day of Rosh HaShana on Sunday, Oct. 1, from 2-4 p.m. at the Jewish Community Centre.

Please bring kosher food in a new disposable container. Adults are asked to pay \$5 and children \$3. Cheques should be made payable to Jewish Singles and sent to Malcolm Pinteau at 950 West 41st Vancouver, B.C., V5Z 2N7.

RSVP to Sue Ackerman at 736-8221 or e-mail susan@intergate.bc.ca

SUKKOT AND THE ENVIRONMENT: A FAMILY CELEBRATION OCT. 15

By Steve (Shlomi) Lipari

Adam va'Adamah, B.C.'s Jewish environmental group, will hold an innovative, family Sukkot program on Sunday, Oct 15, at 2 p.m. at Or Shalom. The program will combine traditional Jewish teachings about the holiday with contemporary themes of agriculture. Participants will learn about Sukkot and current environmental issues (such as local vs. distance produced food, organic vs. non-organic foods) and, of course, we will have fun.

The program will run for 90 minutes, and will consist of experiential activities for children and presentation/discussion for adults and teens.

Appropriately, food will have a big role, both as a way to illustrate the connection with the holiday and the environment and to add a festive, social aspect. What's a Jewish event without food? For more information, including dates and locations of other Adam va-Adamah events, contact Steve (Shlomi) Lipari at steve_lipari@alum.mit.edu or call 875-9846.

EVENT OF THE YEAR IS COMING ON JAN. 21

By Helen Waldstein

Picture this: It is another rainy Sunday in January. By 4 p.m. the seemingly endless grey clouds have been swallowed by darkness, but the dismal drizzle continues. You, however, are full of excitement.

Why? Because you are going to an extraordinary evening of entertainment. You will be attending a magic evening under the musical direction and production guidance of Wendy and Ron Stuart whose Theatre Under The Stars has brought smiles to millions of Vancouverites. In the enchanted evening that lies ahead, you are about to be swept away by A World of Jewish Music .

Mark your calendar now for Sunday, Jan. 21, 2001. On this day, you will participate in an Or Shalom fund-raiser that will bring joy to your heart and brightness to your step. Plan to be there with your friends because this is going to be the best ever. An evening with a difference.

This time, we're going to build bridges from the musical talent in our own community to the artistry beyond it in order to introduce you to new sources of musical delight. And we haven't forgotten the extras that put icing on the cake. Fabulous food and time to mix and mingle as you sample the delicacies. Surprises, small and large are being planned to make this a most memorable evening with fun and treats galore.

That date again to mark on your calendar now: Sunday, Jan. 21, 2001.

OR SHALOM YOUTH GROUP LAUNCHED

By Linda Peritz

Or Shalom has begun a new Youth Group to engage youth in learning and practice of Jewish values within our community and the larger Jewish and secular communities. Noam Dolgin will lead the group in monthly activities such as: participation in religious services at Or Shalom, community service projects, social events, outdoor activities related to environmental issues, and events organized by other Jewish youth groups in Vancouver.

The group is open to students in grades 7-9 inclusive. The cost of running the group will be borne by the participants, and will depend on the numbers involved.

For more information, call Noam at 879-4366.

POETRY

MOUNTAINS

Sometimes I feel
I'm in love with the mountains.
Sometimes I think that
They love me too.
We give each other gifts.

For my fragility
They give stability
For my awe
They offer grace.

In their snowcaps and glaciers
They dress up to meet me
We stretch out together
On a beautiful day.

Other times it seems
That they have deserted me
Clouds have run off with them
Into the grey.

I'm lonely without them
On a rainy day.

— Naomi Katz

OR SHALOM MEMBERS TO RECEIVE NEW MENORAH MAGAZINE

By Dodie Katzenstein

Members of Or Shalom are now entitled to a free subscription to New Menorah magazine, a quarterly journal produced by ALEPH, the Philadelphia-based Alliance for Jewish Renewal. The Network of Jewish Renewal Communities (NJRC), of which Or Shalom is a member community, recently decided to combine its own newsletter with the larger New Menorah, edited by Reb Arthur Waskow. The joint publication will reach a greater number of people affiliated with Jewish Renewal.

The current issue of New Menorah includes:

- an essay by Reb Zalman on future directions for Jewish Renewal;
- an account by a parent of facing the knowledge that a child in utero would be very severely life-damaged;
- Rabbi Daniel Siegel's exploration of a new relationship between ALEPH and the Network of Jewish Renewal Communities;
- reports from NJRC communities;
- a thought-provoking piece by Or Shalom's Leonard

Yehudah Angel, author of *The Book of Miriam*, about the role of science and physical causality in the thought of Jewish Renewal.

Any Or Shalom member who DOES NOT wish to receive *New Menorah* should contact Frank at the Or Shalom office to request being removed from the magazine's mailing list.

GO AND STUDY

RESPONSE TO SAME-SEX MARRIAGE PROMPTS CLASSES

By Dodie Katzenstein

In two summer community meetings and in a flurry of e-mail exchanges, Or Shalom members debated the decision of Rabbi David Mivasair to conduct a wedding ceremony between two Jewish women. Although Rabbi Mivasair did not perform the ceremony in his official capacity as Or Shalom's congregational rabbi, the event raised many questions within the community about how to address the issue of same-sex marriage.

Recognizing the need for further discussion, a four-week learning program has been scheduled for the fall. Reb Hillel Goelman will lead a class on "Sexuality, Gender and Marriage in Judaism" on four consecutive Wednesday evenings, Nov. 8, 15, 22, and 29, starting at 7:30.

The following statement was prepared by Reb Hillel and the Or Shalom Board to respond to questions about the August ceremony:

"On Sunday, August 13, Rabbi David Mivasair officiated at a wedding ceremony between two Jewish women. Rabbi Mivasair decided to conduct this ceremony based on his deep personal beliefs that Jews of the same sex who are involved in committed, exclusive and sacred relationships should have access to all aspects of Jewish ritual life. Rabbi Mivasair made it clear to the participants in the ceremony and to the Board of the Or Shalom Synagogue that he was officiating at the ceremony out of strong personal convictions, in his capacity as a duly ordained rabbi, but not as the congregational rabbi and spiritual leader of the Or Shalom community.

"Recognizing that same-sex marriage is an important contemporary and religious issue, the Or Shalom Board of Directors has made a commitment to a period of community discussion and study on the subject. This process is consistent with the basic principles of the Or Shalom community. That is, we hold that participatory discussion and decision making is essential to the life of our community. We hold that as part of the Jewish people and as inheritors of the Jewish tradition we are

committed to understand and dialogue with that tradition. We hold that our expression of Judaism must be authentic, legitimate and respectful of all members of our community. We hold that all members of the Jewish community, heterosexual, gay and lesbian, are welcome in Or Shalom and that all members will be treated with the respect accorded to all human beings, all of whom are created in the image of God."

The Board encourages members to participate in the classes and in the community discussion, in order to gain understanding and to learn together about this challenging issue. For more information about the November classes, please contact the Or Shalom office.

HILLEL TO TEACH ON SEXUALITY, GENDER AND MARRIAGE IN JUDAISM

By Rabbi Hillel Goelman

This past summer the community began a spirited discussion on the topic of same-sex wedding ceremonies in Judaism. As a means of continuing and focusing the discussion and as means of educating myself more on this topic I decided to offer a course this year on "Sexuality, Gender and Marriage in Judaism." The course will meet for four nights in November and all Or Shalomniks are invited to attend.

A couple of words about context and preparation. You'll notice that nowhere does the course promise to address "everything you've always wanted to know about same-sex marriage in Judaism but were afraid to ask." This is a huge topic. What I want to do is to begin to explore with you some of the many different ways in which the Jewish tradition has dealt with questions of human sexuality and gender differences, the theological underpinnings of marriage and the liturgical expressions of life-long exclusive, monogamous and holy relationships.

One thing I promise: The course will offer no easy answers and will probably raise more questions than you came in with. In my own reading, discussing and preparation for the course I am struck by how polarized the discourse has become. For example, on the importance of Halacha, the body of Jewish ritual and civil law, there are those who argue that Halacha is God-given law that can never be changed. At the other end of the spectrum, there is the view that we are essentially living in a post-Halachic world, beyond the reach of traditional strictures and structures. I strongly believe there is a viable middle ground in which Halacha (which means pathway) can inform and guide our way in constructing and maintaining a spiritually meaningful life that is relevant to the 21st century. I also believe that Halacha is the result of a dynamic interaction and discourse between persons in different social and cultural realities and that it includes

processes for the continuing development and enhancement of Halacha itself.

This is what I ask of those who will be taking this course:

1) If you are interested in the class, please register ahead of time (so I have an idea as to how many people are coming).

2) If you come, come to all four classes. This is in fairness to me and to the other students. In the past I have found that people dropping in and out disrupts any sense of continuity. (Obviously there may be unforeseen circumstances that might prevent you from coming on one occasion). But if it's clear ahead of time that you will definitely miss two or more classes, I'll have to ask you to pass on taking this class right now.

3) The course is free for Or Shalom members but there may be a fee for reading materials. The course fee for non-members is \$36. Please send a cheque made out to Or Shalom to 710 East 10th Ave., Vancouver, V5T 2A7.

4) "Empty your tea cup." This was the advice offered to the novice by the Zen teacher who felt that the novice was certain and keen, that there was no room for any new understandings. Be prepared to be challenged. Be prepared to encounter material you will disagree with. Ask yourself, "What don't I know about this topic that I would like to learn?"

5) The class is focused on exploring and learning, not coming to consensus or making decisions.

I look forward to sharing this journey with you.

JEWISH FAMILY EDUCATION BEGINS AGAIN ON OCT. 22

Would you like to grow Jewishly alongside your children, experiencing Judaism as a family and community? Here's your opportunity! Or Shalom families will be exploring the joy and meaning of being Jewish in the modern world in a uniquely creative way this fall.

Following our successful inaugural season, Jewish

Family Education returns in the New Year. Sessions will be interactive — engaging children and adults spiritually, emotionally and intellectually through song, play, crafts, movement, story circles, prayer, dance and study. Highlights from the upcoming year include programs on Shalom Bayit, Shabbat, Torah, the bedtime Shma, Eco-Judaism and Jewish holy days.

A FAREWELL TO NURIT FOX

On behalf of the Or Shalom Hebrew School, the school committee would like to express their gratitude for the six years of service Nurit has given as the principal of the school. The warmth and caring she has demonstrated has always been a great benefit to her students. This approach has been instrumental in setting the tone for the creativity, kindness and love which are essential goals for a proper learning environment. Her dedication for developing the school is appreciated by the parents, staff, children and Or Shalom community as a whole.

Everyone who attended the school while Nurit was there will always remember her wonderful welcoming smile. We would like to express our sincere thanks for her efforts and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

— Or Shalom School Committee

Just like last year, the program will be geared towards families with children aged six to nine years old and will be facilitated by Rafael Richman and a guest facilitator each month with a different specialty to bring to the session.

Child care for preschoolers may be arranged for at extra cost if there's sufficient interest. Older children interested in participating in the program with their families should first speak with Rafael.

The *mifgashim* (sessions) will be held at the synagogue on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to noon, beginning on Oct. 22 and continuing once per month

through to June of 2001.

The cost of the program will be \$215 for the first child and his or her parents plus \$115 for each additional child if paid for before Sept. 30. After the early registration date has passed, the cost will be \$245 and \$145 respectively. Applications for interested families are currently being accepted.

Due to the overwhelming popularity of the program, space will be limited to a maximum of 12 to 14 families (35-40 participants), to keep the program meaningfully interactive, so early registration is strongly encouraged. We will be giving priority to members of Or Shalom. To register and arrange payment or for more information, please contact Frank at the Or Shalom office at 872-1614.

About the facilitator: Rafael Richman, PhD, R. Psych., is a Registered Clinical Psychologist in private practice and a musician. He works with children, families and adults. He has many years of experience leading groups and workshops, lecturing, directing musical productions, and as a camp counsellor. Rafael co-ordinated last year's Jewish Family Education Program at Or Shalom.

MONTHLY FAMILY SHABBAT PROGRAM

Anne Gorsuch and Hal Siden will lead kids and their families in a 40-minute davening and Torah program on a Shabbat morning each month from November to May.

We will combine prayers, singing, story/Torah telling, play acting, and even dress-up in an effort to involve kids and their families in a program that suits their needs, interests, and activity levels. The service will be in the basement of Or Shalom. We will be setting it up this year with the small Sefer Torah so as to make the experience more engaging and real for the kids, and to help them understand what is going on upstairs when they are at the grown-up service.

The program is for kids and families up through grade 3 (though older ones can come, of course, if they wish). We ask that parents sit with their children rather than drop them off as this is meant to be a family service.

The program will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 4, Dec. 9, Jan. 27, March 3, April 21 and May 19.

HEBREW CLASSES BEGIN AGAIN

Modern Hebrew classes taught by Rahel Halabe are getting underway again at Or Shalom. This fall, classes include Level Aleph and Level Beit, with the possibility of a beginner's reading course and a Siddur Hebrew program if there is enough interest.

Janice Cramer is organizing the Level Aleph class. This introductory course to Modern Hebrew will provide the student with the basics of everyday vocabulary together with a good grasp of Hebrew grammar — an emphasis on verbs — as a firm foundation for further learning.

The fall term will be eight lessons, Sundays, Oct. 29 to Dec. 17, 5-6:30 p.m. The prerequisites are an ability to read Hebrew print and read and write Hebrew script.

The cost is \$80 plus \$43 for the text for a total \$123. The text is "Ivrit meenHaHat'hala" by Hayyat, Yisra'eli and Kovliner.

Bette Thompson is organizing the Level Beit class. This is for students who have learned the basics and can focus on building vocabulary, deepening their understanding of grammar and making conversation.

The fall term is 12 lessons, Thursdays, Sept. 28 to Dec. 14, 7:30-9 p.m. The prerequisite is to have completed Level Aleph or an equivalent.

The cost is \$120 plus text, "Ivrit Hayah-Ramah Beit" by Nehamah Barass and Shlomit Hayya (about \$36).

RECENT DONATIONS

Community Fund

- In memory of Eva Comay, z"l
- In honour of Hillel Goelman
- In honour of the marriage of Kim Caplan and David Levine
- In honour of Ben Cooperstone – Bar Mitzvah
- In memory of Dena Wosk, z"l

East Side Food Fund

- In honour of Lorne Mallin

Tzedaka Fund

- In honour of Talia and Alexandre Sinshein – Bnei Mitzvah

Acknowledge a birthday, graduation, any auspicious occasion. Celebrate a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, anniversary, marriage, birth, etc. Honour a Yahrzeit by donating to any of the following Or Shalom funds:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| * Book Fund | * Len Ryant Or Shalom |
| * Building Fund | Children's Fund |
| * Community Fund | * Lisa Nemetz Or Shalom |
| * Education Fund | School Education Fund |
| * East Side Food Fund | * Torah Fund |
| * Rabbi's Fund | * Tzedaka Fund |

While donors' names will not be published, the name of the person being honoured will be acknowledged.

If there is enough interest, the following courses may start as well: Alef-Beit reading course (six sessions) and a Siddur Hebrew course (15 sessions).

For more information, contact Rahel Halabe at rahel@telus.net or call 879-2677. Contact Janice at janice@direct.ca or call 448-1771, and Bette at bette_thompson@telus.net or call 736-4317. For registration, send a cheque payable to "Or Shalom" to the bayit. Or call 872-1614 to pay by credit card.



Photo by Sid Bild

MINI-ULPAN FIELD TRIP (from left) teacher Rabel Halabe, Kitty Hoffman, Susanna Strem, Jan Fishman, Lorne Mallin, Tom Northcott and Jack Sniderman enjoy an afterclass excursion in Hebrew to Granville Island. Sixteen students took the weeklong Hebrew intensive @Or Shalom in August.

RICHARD KAPLAN AT OR SHALOM NOV. 11

Richard Kaplan, a dynamic performer and one of the most knowledgeable and talented Jewish musicologists today, will be our guest on Shabbat, Nov. 11. Many of us know his work from the Aleph Kallah and from his CD. Richard, cantor at Temple Beth Abraham in Oakland, Calif., will be our guest for *davenin* and after a potluck kiddush lunch he will offer a discussion and presentation on Sefardic music. Richard's appearance in Vancouver is being supported both by Or



Shalom and by the Westcoast Sacred Music Festival, which is being held in Vancouver from Nov. 11-13. We want to encourage everyone to take advantage of this unique opportunity to hear Richard Kaplan both at Or Shalom as well as at the Festival.

NEWS AND SCHMOOZE

THANK YOU I'd like to thank all of you who have been responding so positively to my new website: <http://rabbi-mercy.com>. Many thanks also to Linda Peritz for being my web-maven and to Marianne Rev and Jack Sniderman for the photos and to Avi Dolgin for linking my site to the Or Shalom web site. There's a blessing in the weekday amidah that praises God for giving smarts to human beings: Baruch atah Adonai, honen ha'da'at. Amen! — *Dina-Hasida Mercy*

SHALOM CHEVRE We constantly feel privileged to belong to the warm, welcoming Or Shalom community, but never more so than when our second delightful daughter, Shirah, received her name. We had been deeply saddened that we were not able to share our joy with our families, who live in Switzerland and South Africa, and were not able to travel at this time. Their absence left a huge aching void in our hearts that we carried with us to Or Shalom for the baby naming. After our aliyah, Reb David invited any members of the Or Shalom community who wanted to support the giving of the blessings, to come forward. We were overwhelmed when what seemed like the entire Shul made

a huge circle around us and embraced us with love, strength, tenderness and kindness. Our painful emptiness was washed away by your generous, giving, caring spirit. Todah Rabah, Or Shalom, for being our Mishpacha when we needed one. We send you our grateful love. — *Janet, Effron, Zoë & Shirah Esseiva*



Zoë and Shirah

ICE BEYOND COOL Jane Heyman invites members of Or Shalom, particularly those with teenagers in the family, to attend one of the performances of "ICE: beyond cool," which will be playing at the International Village from Wednesday, Oct. 25, to Saturday, Oct. 28, as part of a cross-Canada tour. The play was written by John Lazarus, directed by Jane Heyman and choreographed by Judith Marcuse. The high-energy production integrates dance, theatre and rock music. To learn more, call DanceArts Vancouver at 606-6425.

REB ZALMAN TAPES Twelve tapes featuring Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi are now part of our library and available for loan. Four are talks by Reb Zalman at the 1995 Aleph Kallah. Eight more are lectures by Reb Zalman with Rabbi Shaya Isenberg in a series called "Deep Ecumenism for Twenty-First Century Jews," given in 1998 at Elat Chayyim. — *Fran Horwitz*

BAR MITZVAH IN NELSON The family of Isaac Rosenberg would be delighted to welcome Or Shalom members when he becomes Bar Mitzvah in Nelson on Oct. 28. Rabbi Hillel Goelman will lead the service. Contact Lilli Rosenberg: 1-250-825-0023 or lillisir@netidea.com

ENGAGEMENT Jan Fishman and Carol Konkin announce their engagement. They will be married March 11, 2001 (16 Adar 5761).

KEREN OR קרן אור

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