
Dear Website Readers of Keren Or

Due to concerns about privacy and security, all personal information has been removed from this version of Keren Or.

If you need to contact any of the people mentioned in this publication, please leave a message at 604-872-1614 or by email at orshalom@telus.net

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KEREN OR

THE NEWSLETTER OF OR SHALOM: BULLETIN EDITION

Or Shalom Jewish Spiritual Community, Vancouver BC

October/November 2004

Cheshvan/Kislev 5765

This Issue - Keren Or: Reader's Digest Version

Pauline Leah Rankin

This issue of Keren Or is smaller than usual and will contain mostly information. Unfortunately I was rendered non-functional by a persistently re-occurring virus that I thought I had beaten on several occasions only to have it rear its nasty head again. My cardiac status is improving and I am enjoying many things that seem miraculous to me—like the ability to walk the two blocks to my bus stop without gasping, careening and grabbing onto lamp-posts and trees. I am sure the neighbours thought I was the town drunk! I can also climb stairs, ride the buses without exhaustion and show up where I am supposed to be most of the time—except for this flu. Thanks again for those who helped me get there. I have a few months of the Healthy Heart program at St. Paul's to help rebuild my stamina and further improve my cardiac function. Then I can take a longer look at future plans. My new mechanical valve ticks like a clock at times, reminding me of where I have been and where time may take me.

Recently, Or Shalom member Phoenix Wisebone, who was featured in One in a Minyan in the December/January 2003-4 issue, was diagnosed with a brain tumour and underwent surgery at Vancouver Hospital. Fortunately the tumour was benign and she is recovering well at home. We all wish her the best with her healing.

We have been through the High Holidays and emerge into a new year. We look forward to the arrival of our Rabbi, Laura Duhan Kaplan, at the beginning of the secular new year. This has been a time of personal change for many individuals (like Phoenix and I) and a time of community transition. As the heart of the community, like my valve, ticks on we are reminded of both our beginnings and our evolution, our traditions and transformations. We start the new year with some of our friends and family no longer with us. And we also start it with new lives, as we witnessed on October 17 at the Bris/baby—naming of twins, Alex & Yaelle, born recently to Ron Ritch and Cathy Paperny. The twins are the grandbabies of one of our community matriarchs—Fran Ritch. Mazel tov to her and her clan.

As editor of Keren Or, I extend my appreciation on behalf of the community for all those who worked so hard to promote both changes and traditions—the Board that will change again on October 24; all the organizers of our holidays, rituals, and celebrations; those whose search efforts culminated in Reb Laura;; those who deal with the practical matters of shul life. Of course there is Reb Laura herself and her family and their great leap of faith as they leave behind their old lives to join us here. And of course there is the entire community that stood steadfast through everything and the new members who have joined us. To anyone I have forgotten, you know who you are and I thank you. At least I hope you know you are—you should!





Or Shalom Annual General Meeting

**Sunday October 24, 2004
7:30 p.m
Or Shalom**

Featuring:

- ◆ **Maariv lead by R' Laura Kaplan**
- ◆ **Teaching on Tzedakah by R' Yair Hillel Goelman**
- ◆ **Annual Reports by the Co-chair and Treasurer**
- ◆ **Election of new Board members**

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to be involved with your community!

OK—so it's not that exciting—but it is very important!

For more information contact Hana Wosk or Lorne Greenberg.



Did You hear the One About the New Vancouver Rabbi? by Susan Shamash

Or Shalom's new rabbi, Laura Duhan Kaplan, will be present in Vancouver for a week in October and another in November prior to her official start date in January 2005. She will lead davvenen, teach and attend meetings. Please join us for these important events.

Thursday October 21 7:30 p.m.
Board meeting

Friday October 22 2 p.m.
Laura and Charles lead singing before Shabbat at the Louis Brier. (This is not a public event, but if you like to attend and help out with the service, contact Nomi Fenson by message at Or Shalom—604-872-1614.

Saturday October 23 10 a.m.
Shabbat morning services –R' Laura will lead the Torah service and the Torah discussion

Sunday, October 24 9 a.m.
B'Yachad (Bnei Mitzvah family group)

7:30 p.m.
Annual General Meeting at Or Shalom

The November schedule has not been finalized. Updates will be available through the email list and the website or you can call the office at 604-872-1614. There will be recorded updates on the outgoing message which are available 24 hours a day. Below are the tentative dates.

Wednesday November 17 4 p.m.
R' Laura will teach at the Or Shalom Hebrew School

7:30 p.m.
Combined Committee Meetings. This will involve the Ritual Committee and Children, Youth and Family Committee as well as School and B'nei Mitzvah groups.

Thursday November 18 7:30 p.m.
Board meeting

Saturday September 20 10 a.m.
Shabbat morning services with Family Shabbat.
R' Laura will lead Shacharit

2 p.m.
Shiur (Class)

Sunday November 21 10 a.m.
R' Laura will attend Shvesters Women's study group.
(at Kim Goodman's house)



Reb Laura with Charles, Eli & Hilary on the Sunshine Coast

What Shakin' in Communication?

Moving Closer to the Wired World

by Heidi Mannis

The Or Shalom Board has for some time contemplated switching Keren Or to electronic delivery. Starting, we hope, with the next issue, Keren Or will be emailed to all Or Shalom members in PDF format. The newsletter will be read with Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is a free, safe, downloadable software program available directly from the Internet. Each time you receive Keren Or via email, the link to download Adobe will be provided. Our local Jewish Federation made this change recently and no longer sends its magazine by land mail. If they can do it, we can do it too! The Finance Committee estimates a cost savings of at least \$3,000 per year by emailing the newsletter to most of Or Shalom's members. That \$3,000 can be spent on other important priorities.

We do know that some Or Shalom members do not have email or the suitably up-to-date computer technology. You will also have the option to read or download the newsletter from the website, if you prefer. We will continue to mail out a hard copy for those people, who cannot receive the file by email. Pauline Leah Rankin, Editor and email manager, will contact folks before the next issue to find out what format will work for you and to get your correct email contacts. Please respond promptly to her enquires. Spare hard copies will be available at Or Shalom, should you have something special in a specific issue and you would like a professionally printed hard copy.

There are other advantages besides the money we will save. Trees will be saved, too. The electronic Keren Or is ready ahead of the print issue, and you will get the news at its freshest. Also, electronically, you can view the graphics in colour and make the issue as big as you like on your screen. You can print all or any part of it you want. The editor will not be as limited as to the size of an issue and she can make them even more interesting!

The Board thanks you for your cooperation and we hope we will have a smooth transition to this new method of distribution. If you have any concerns or questions about this new policy contact Heidi Mannis, or leave her a message at Or Shalom—604-872-1614., For questions about format or technology, contact Pauline Leah Rankin at Or-Shalom-owner@yahoogroups.com.



New Email List Up and Running

After many years, our original list format has been closed and replaced with a Yahoo list format. This is more user-friendly and has more options for message delivery. You can receive individual messages, a daily digest or opt for special notices.— means that you will receive only postings strictly relevant to our Or Shalom community. If you were scared off of the list by the volume of email or the sometimes vehement nature of the list debates, those matters have been resolved.

The list is the best method to keep up-to-date and I encourage anyone with email capacity to give it another try. You can contact me at orshko@telus.net or subscribe to the list by sending a message to Or-Shalom_subscribe@yahoogroups.com

This list is still moderated by Pauline Leah Rankin and Al Pasternak, who is the back-up moderator. Many thanks to Sally Thorne who was the inside contact for the old list at UBC. Many thanks for your patience for my months of threats to get the list started. However, I think we will enjoy the benefits of the new list format.

So You Think Abraham and Sarah Had it Rough?!

Transitions

by Reb Laura Duhan Kaplan

Just when we had figured out how to get a cat and a bunny across the border from the U.S. into Canada...a parrot flew down from a tree and joined our family.

Just when our daughter became excited about making new friends in Vancouver...her best friend returned home from a two-year stay in Israel.

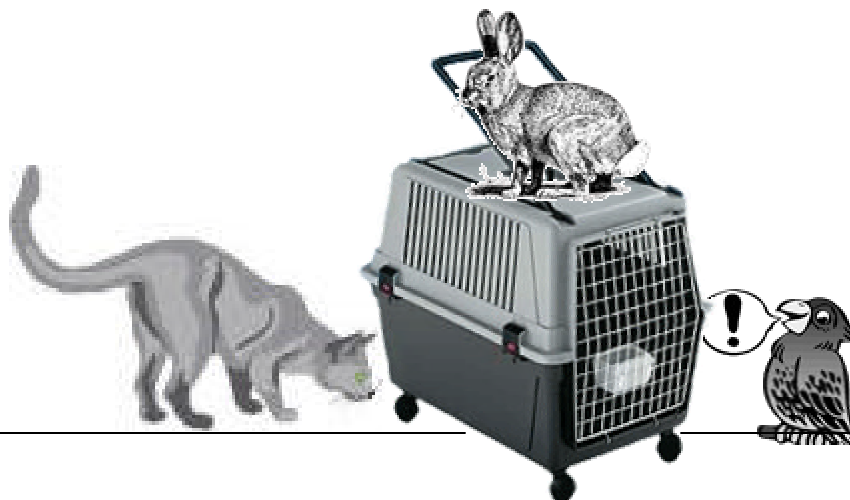
Just when the house was ready to be put up for sale...the upstairs bathroom flooded and the ceiling collapsed.

Just when we had packed all of our Jewish education materials...a local chavurah (Jewish community) asked to borrow thematic games and books for high holiday children's programs.

With some envy, I thought about the way Abraham and Sarah made journeying look easy. God said "Lech Lecha...V'heyeh berachah" -- "Go! And be a blessing!" -- and they did. They left Haran to follow their spiritual calling. And they seemed to leave with ease, loading up relatives, property, and their entire religious community. But then I remembered that when they reached their destination they found a raging famine and had to move on down to Egypt.

It looks like our own journey might take the opposite trajectory from that of Abraham and Sarah. Yes, leaving may not be as easy for us as it was for them -- but Or Shalom has already been a nourishing community. The Or Shalom Board and Reb Hillel have been keeping me informed about Or Shalom business. The Rabbi Liaison Committee has been trying to make us comfortable. New friends and an excellent realtor have been scouting out places for us to live. And Leah Rankin keeps saving me a space in Keren Or! Charles and I are greatly looking forward to our visit to Or Shalom in October. Perhaps it is no coincidence that the week's Torah reading during the visit will be Parashat Lech Lecha, a parashah of many journeys.

Charles, Hillary, Eli, and I wish you all the best for the Yamim Nora'im - literally, the Awesome Days. We know that members of Or Shalom are entering these days carrying many sorts of thoughts and feelings with them, ranging from joy to grief and from worry to relief. May your journeys through this season be awesome, and may they carry you to blessing.



We have some wonderful new programs and plans to enrich the spiritual education and experiences of children and families at Or Shalom. Some of these programs began last year: Family Shabbatot, High Holiday children's services, a Sukkah Hop, Hanukkah and Purim celebrations. We are continuing our Wednesday afternoon Hebrew School class for grades six and seven, in conjunction with our strong B'nei Mitzvah program, B'Yachad, which meets on Sunday mornings, every six – eight weeks.

Many of you may have already participated in our successful family Shabbatot. These child-friendly services take place every six to eight weeks, and are aimed at involving the children and youth of Or Shalom in Shacharit and the Torah Service. Our goal is to include our youth in this important aspect of adult life in the congregation. The family Shabbat services we have held so far have demonstrated that it is both fun and educational for everyone when we involve our younger members in the service.

Youth of all ages participate in all aspects of the family-oriented Shacharit service. This includes taking a role in a Parasha play, carrying the Torah as well as leading the congregation in song or prayer. Older teens are encouraged to return on the anniversary of their B'nei Mitzvah, to chant their Torah portion, or to lead a part of the service.

Please attend and participate in these special Shabbatot whether you are a child, a parent or an adult member of the community.

Contact Naomi Rozenberg at 604-872-1614 x1 if you have questions about our Hebrew School or future family programming at Or Shalom.

B'nei Mitzvah Class Helps the Community—In and Out of Or Shalom

The B'nei Mitzvah class of 2003-4 accomplished several incredible Tzedakah projects over the past year. The class ran a very successful clothing drive with Covenant House. They volunteered at Louis Brier and Lookout, a shelter on the downtown eastside. In addition, they raised money to install coloured glass windows in the sanctuary.

After the final B'Yachad class in May, B'nei Mitzvah students and parents shared in an afternoon of gardening. They spent hours weeding, planting and cleaning the exterior of the building. The result was a beautified shul! The Or Shalom Board extends a warm thank-you to last year's B'Yachad class for all the hard work dedication to our Shul and our community during a busy year!

Sukkah Hop 2004/5765

This event is enjoyed by children from ages 0 – 200



Photo by Esther Tenenhaus or Ron Klassen—I'm not sure which one.

Or Shalom Hebrew School has undergone many changes. For the 2004-5 school year, a Grade Six and Seven class, taught by Bella Grinhute, will be held Wednesday afternoons from 4 - 6 p.m. We are developing an exciting curriculum to motivate our students. This will include Hebrew reading and writing and lessons on how to lead and participate in Synagogue services and prayers. We will also study Jewish rituals and customs, history, Torah text, Trop (singing of the Torah) and we will learn tips for writing a D'var Torah. The students will also participate in a group Mitzvah project.

At present, the Or Shalom school does not plan to offer classes for younger children due to lack of enrollment. We will add classes in coming years when we have enough interested families. In the meantime, we strongly encourage parents to explore other educational options, such as private tutors for individuals or small groups of students. You may consider enrolling in the Beth Israel School that meets on Sunday mornings. We think you will like the nice size of the classes and you will find the egalitarian approach is compatible with the spiritual experiences that your children have at Or Shalom. R' Laura Duhan Kaplan will work with the school during her visits in October and November will take an active role in the education when she arrives in January.

Students enjoy the warm and friendly atmosphere of their religious school and because of this, make excellent progress in their studies. We encourage all of our young people to integrate themselves into community events such as Family Shabbatot, holiday celebrations, and B'Yachad (B'nei Mitzvah program). The education of our youth is our priority at Or Shalom.

Here is a list of tutors available to teach your children:

Rabbi Dina-Hasida Mercy

Sandi Moussadji

Debbie Fenson

Jodi Lassner

Hebrew Tutors:

Bella Grinhute

Faye Hassall

Bat-Ami Segal

Jodi Lassner

D'var Torah Tutors:

Effron Esseiva

Jan Fishman

John Fuerst

Barry Goodman

Rabbi Dina-Hasida Mercy

Frank Segal

Alizah Shatsky

Leave messages for them at Or Shalom—orshalom@telus.net or 604-872-1614

The Barer family would like to thank the extended Or Shalom community for the outpouring of compassion and support during the Shiva and Shloshim period following the passing of Ralph Barer in August. Each of us and our children carry forward the spark that Ralph (z"l) imbued in his family, may his memory be a blessing.

Morris, Philip and Steven Barer & families.

Donations

Community Fund

- In honour of Jacob Kalmakoff's Bar Mitzvah
- In honour of Hillel Goelman
- In honour of Debbie Fenson
- In honour of Kevin Solomons
- In honour of Susan Albersheim
- In honour of Ruth Stewart
- In honour of Bruders de Har Naim
- In honour of Hana and Mordehai's 30th wedding anniversary
- In memory of Peter Clement's father, Jack Clement z'L
- In memory of Lorne Mallin's father, Hyman Mallin z'L
- In memory of Tilly Schalkwyk's father, J.A. Schalkwyk z'L
- In honour of Pauline Rankin
- In memory of Ralph Barer z'L
- In honour of Jamie Hsu's Bar Mitzvah
- Mazel Tov to Fran Ritch
- In memory of Samuel Geller z'L
- In honour of the safe arrival of Alex & Yaelle,- Ron Ritch & Cathy Paperny's twins
- In memory of Dr. Harold Siden's father, Franklin D. Siden z"L

East Side Food Fund

- In honour of Jamie Hsu Stewart's Bar Mitzvah
- In memory of Hyman Mallin z'L
- In memory of Jack Clement z'L

Building Fund

- In honour of Bette Thompson
- In memory of Walter Richards z'L
- In appreciation of Mary Adlersberg

Shiva Fund

- In memory of Ralph Barer z"L
- In memory of J.A. Schalkwyk z'L

Gemilut Chesed Fund

- In honour of Pauline Leah Rankin

Rabbi's Fund

- In memory of Susan Shamash's father

To donate in someone's memory or honour and for the complete list of Or Shalom's funds, contact Richard—orshalom@telus.net or 604-872-1614.

Next Deadline
11:59 p.m.
November 17, 2004



or hissy
fit time

Credits

Keren Or is available on our website, www.orshalom.ca, or it can be sent by email by contacting the editor. It is available both as a word document or as a PDF file.

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Hillel Goelman (calendar)	Esther Tenenhaus and/or
Laura Duhan Kaplan	Ron Klassen
Heidi Mannis	©The Authors, 2004

The Lights of Judaism, in the enclosed brochure, has been cancelled due to lack of enrolment . Contact milayomit@telus.net

Submission Guidelines.

Submission must be submitted electronically by email or on disk. Contact me if you have any problems with this and we will problem solve. Articles should be 500 words maximum and will be edited for brevity, clarity and readability. Items can be submitted as attachments if they are word documents or written into the body of the email. Send to orshko@telus.net

Here is a check list of my expectations:

- Have I put "Keren Or" in the subject of my email?
- Is there a phone number and /or address as well as an email address if I am naming a contact person?
- Have I provided explanations for any Hebrew/ Yiddish words, rituals, etc?
- If I am using an acronym, have I used the full name at least once?
- If I name an agency, or organization, have I included contact information for it?
- Have I included my phone number ?
- Have I included complete details of any event? (time, place, date, costs, supplies needed etc)
- Have I put 604 in my telephone numbers?

Keren Or – A Beam of Light
Published six times a year
by the Or Shalom Jewish Spiritual Community,
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