

*Yes, You Heard It Through*



## THE GRAPEVINE

*A Publication of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah*

January 2010

Tevet/Shevat 5770



*Havurah Board 2009*

### Notes from the Board

Alicia Kent, Board Secretary

At the Board's last meeting of the calendar year the board welcomed newly elected members and made plans to keep the momentum going for next year, while also it also celebrated the work it had accomplished this past year.

**Election results:** The Board voted unanimously to accept the election results: Audrey Newell (1-year term), Sarai Brachman Shoup and Debbie Zivan will serve on the Board. Their terms will begin January 1, 2010.

**Prioritize issues from congregational meetings:**

Based on the discussions at the congregational meetings, the issues identified as priorities appear to fall into three major categories:

- Activities for all age groups
  - adult education/programming

- social activities
- Saturday services, learning service
- programs for teens
- bringing in adults to teach specific topics at Beit Sefer
- Religious leadership that empowers people to be involved, is inclusive, facilitates, teaches, and involves members, and does not exclude
  - ways to enable people to actively participate in services
- Community development, develop volunteers
  - a structure that makes it easy for people to volunteer successfully
  - an active Mitzvah committee
  - tikkun olam, social work action emanating from the Hav
  - opportunities for closer relationships among Hav members (e.g., small groups)
  - geographic chevrot

Mark Schneyer suggested that the Board invite Jennifer Cohen and Aura to the Board retreat in January to get their input on how to prioritize and accomplish these objectives. Mark will organize this portion of the retreat.

**Web site content:** Sally Goldberg suggested that financial reports be available in the members-only section of the web site. Keith Kurz will work with web master Joel Goldberg to do this.

**Financial report and future upkeep:** Keith received a \$250 rebate for the Hav credit card.

Keith asked the Board for input about what kind of reports it would like to receive regularly and which report would be most useful to put on the web. The Board decided that the annual budget should be on the web site. Keith will e-mail the Budget vs. Actual report to the Board monthly for review.

**Treasurer proposal:** The Board approved Keith's proposal that the bookkeeper take care of Payroll as well as data entry for Quick Books. Keith outlined several administrative tasks that he has been doing but that should be assigned to an administrative assistant, including sending out donation acknowledgements, membership packets, special announcements, election ballots, and various membership items (such as the directory, mailing labels, updating reconanounce). The Board agreed that help with administrative duties is needed and will explore this at a future meeting.

**Allocations for small groups:** At Marcy Epstein's request the Board discussed the possibility of allocating money for a small groups discretionary fund (to bring in specialists, for operating expenses, for creating materials for the congregation, general hospitality and travel costs, etc.). These groups might include: mitzvah; tikkun olam; best practices in congregational practices; adult education; Bereshit; possibly geographic chevrot; and Judaica. Keith proposed that the Board revisit this issue at the next meeting after looking at the financial report in more detail. Mark suggested that the Board also discuss criteria for what constitutes a small group.

**Plan for quarterly review of Rabbinic Student Intern:** The terms of the contract for rabbinic student intern Aura Ahuvia specifies that she should be reviewed quarterly. The Board established a subcommittee and process to carry out a review with Aura.

**New member packet:** The Board will work to create a new member packet, which will include the Beit Sefer brochure, the Hav bookmark, the Hav brochure, "What is Reconstructionist Judaism?" sheet and a directory/member list. The directory will also be available on the Hav's web site in as a printable and downloadable pdf.

**Grapevine concerns:** Some members have expressed a concern that the *Grapevine* is not read in electronic format. Marcy will send an e-mail to reconanounce to ask for more feedback from members.

**Update on conflict resolution:** Sally Fink provided an overview of conflict resolution efforts. The Board gave approval to continue these efforts.

**Planning for next term:** The Board retreat was set for Sunday, January 3, 2010, from 9 am to 1 pm at Shari Fox's home. Audrey will invite Jen and Aura to attend for a portion of the retreat.

**Kudos:** Harry Fried for leading services with 6 hours notice after Abby Weinberg's and Rabbi Nathan Martin's baby decided to come early; outgoing board members Alicia Kent and Sally Goldberg for their hard work on the board.

**Welcome:** Sarai Brachman Shoup and Debbie Zivan, new board members starting in January.



*Latkes! And who makes them better than Jen Cohen?  
Photo credit: Hallie Levine*

# UPCOMING HAV EVENTS

## Learning Services Continue

Last month we saw an amazing yellow rope looping around the room, our “timeline of Jewish history.” This month, the rope will return, along with some of the fascinating historical stories that occurred at various points along the way. Some of these stories explain how certain of our prayers got composed or included in our services!

Learning Services are held the first Saturday of every month from 10am – noon at the JCC. *NOTE:* they do start on time, not on “Michigan time,” so if you plan to attend, please try to get there by 10:00. They are open to non-members, and no RSVP is necessary. For more information, contact Aura at (734) 975-9045 or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

### Session 5, Jan. 2, 2010

**The Sources of Tefillah II: History.** Now that we’ve been introduced to *who* contributed to the siddur, in this session we’ll learn *why*. In what historical context did our contributors live? What hardships did they endure, and what blessings did they enjoy? How did these influence their writing?

### Session 6, Feb. 6

**The Shema.** Why does this prayer stand at the center of Jewish faith? How can we unpack its theology? This session seeks to understand the Shema on multiple levels

### Session 7, March 6

**The Amidah.** Why does this prayer stand at the center of the Jewish service? How is it qualitatively different than the prayers which precede and follow it? How can we work with it in a more meaningful way?

## Lay Leader’s Training

A new class has formed in connection with the desire to learn more about leading prayer. The first gathering of “Opening the Door” was a wonderful combination of personal sharing, reflection, and examining the outline of the Friday night service. Five people attended. The next gathering is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 3,

from 2-4 p.m. at Aura & Aaron’s house. Call Aura, 975-9045, if you have any questions about this group.

## Recon Salon

Thanks, Aaron Ahuvia, for coming up with the catchy moniker “Recon Salon,” for our Second Saturday discussions! Here, briefly, are upcoming topics. More details will come out via the Reconannounce listserv as we get closer to the dates. All Recon Salons run on Saturday nights from 7 – 9:00 p.m. at the JCC. Light snacks and a brief Havdallah included. Questions? [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

January 9 – Aaron plans on leading the discussion. He has two favorite topics that he’s mulling over... either an interesting take on the Garden of Eden story, or something on the psychology of the Israel-Palestine peace process. Feel free to lobby him now with your preferences!

February 13 – UM Professor Anita Norich will share a teaching. Since her specialty is on Yiddish poetry, we might be treated to some literary analysis, of course including the historical and political context in which it was composed. Anita also mentioned, however, the possibility of considering feminist writings. Specifics TBA.

March 13 – We’re currently talking with the ICPJ, Interfaith Council on Peace and Justice, about sponsoring this discussion. Topic hasn’t been settled on yet as of this publishing date... more TBA.





*Our Menoroth at the annual Chanukah party*  
*Photo credit: Hallie Levine*

## Mitzvah corps

Dear Chevre,

For some months now I have been considering the needs of our community to have a functioning mitzvah corps and what that would look like. It seems like there is no shortage of heart and energy and effort to do good deeds among our members, and when there is a special need, like a birth or a death, it has always been met. But there are some community members that may have more subtle or ongoing needs and have not known how to ask...needs like weekly phone calls, or healing chants, or being remembered in prayer at a service. I would like to coordinate an effort to have a mitzvah corps that can be responsive to providing help and support for many different needs. In the near future there will be a survey sent to inventory needs we might have and who might be available to meet them. Until then, if you have ideas about the mitzvah corps, please send them to me at [anita1018@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anita1018@sbcglobal.net).

Wishing you all a happy, healthy holiday season.

B'shalom,  
Anita Rubin-Meiller

## EDUCATION: News from our Beit Sefer

The Beit Sefer just concluded a successful first semester, with some students having learned their first Hebrew letters, and others challenging themselves (and their teachers!) to develop their theological views. Last month, the older students went on a field trip to a place called the Global Village, a collection of model houses and slums from throughout the world. While there, students learned how others around the world live, and got a tangible sense for how our tzedakah dollars can be helpful to people half-way around the planet.

When our new semester opens January 10, it will be with *three* classrooms, not the current two; the Beit Sefer has a roster of 8 students in the newly named oldest classroom, or *G'dolim*, eight more in the middle classroom, the *Yeladim*, and six in the youngest classroom, called the *K'tanim*. Current teachers Brian Duchemin and head teacher Shoshana Maloff Jackson will remain teaching the *G'dolim* and the *Yeladim*. We're also thrilled to welcome Sophia Blumenthal, a freshman at U-M, as our new *K'tanim* teacher. Sophia is fluent in Hebrew, having graduated from Hebrew Day School and spent a year in Israel with her youth group. She also has plenty of prior experience both in the classroom and babysitting. When she visited the classroom in December, she made herself immediately at home making Hanukah cards with the other kids.



*Beit Sefer kids in action!*  
*Photo credit: Emily Eisbruch*



## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

### T'chiyah Event

At T'chiyah, one of two Reconstructionist congregations in Detroit, we have several congregants who have published their own literary works in the past few months and we take great pride in their accomplishments.

Mayapple publisher Judith Kerman published a new BOA Editions book, *Praises & Offenses: Three Women Poets of the Dominican Republic*.

Roz Schindler has published her mother's memoir, *(Re)Vision of a Life: My Mother's Holocaust Story*

Rhoda Stammel has published *The Art of Ruin*.

I'm thrilled to announce that T'chiyah will sponsor a book publication party for all three of our talented congregants. Please save the date of Sunday, January 17, 2010 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. at the new Chazzano Coffee on 9 Mile Road in Ferndale. It will be our opportunity to celebrate along with Judy, Roz and Rhoda... and to hear them read from their books while enjoying delicious coffee and treats.

### Sh'ma: Sacred Listening

What is the magic of truly being heard and deeply listening? How can we direct ourselves to hearing from the depth within?

This workshop, to be held Saturday January 24, 2010 10am - 4pm, is designed to assist you in the cultivation of your natural ability to hear and amplify your capacity to be with not knowing. Chant, silence, and meditative practices will be brought to bear on releasing blocks to clarity and focused awareness.

This day long workshop led by Barbara Boyk Rust, Ph.D. is open to all. For more information, please call or message:  
barbara.boykrust@sbcglobal.net, 734-994-5032.

## FROM THE JRF

### Reprint of Mordecai Kaplan's Book

The Jewish Reconstructionist Federation is proud to be partnering with the Jewish Publication Society in reprinting Mordecai Kaplan's classic, *Judaism as a Civilization*. Mel Scult, Kaplan's biographer, was happy to provide JPS and JRF with a new introduction for this edition. The book will be available from JPS in January, and copies will be available through the Reconstructionist Press as well. This has been the first step of a JRF initiative to make sure that all of Mordecai Kaplan's books become available for use by both the Reconstructionist movement and the larger community.

### New Book from Reconstructionist Press

*Change Happens: Owning the Jewish Holidays in a Reconstructionist Tradition*

Rabbi Sheryl Lewart has created a wonderful book that offers a Reconstructionist perspective on the Jewish holiday cycle. The book is user-friendly and interactive, meant to be an active part of your holiday celebration. It's colorfully illustrated, full of ritual and prayer suggestions, has places for personal reflections and notes, and consistently offers dynamic new ways to add to your own holiday observance through history, meditation, and even recipes. *Change Happens* should be with you at your shul on Shabbat, beside your menorah on Hanukah, and a living, breathing, addition to your High Holy Days experience. It is meant to be both an introduction for those new to Jewish and Reconstructionist observance and a dynamic resource that can add new "tools" to those who teach, lead services, or have practiced for a lifetime. As Reconstructionist Jews, we own our Judaism, and Rabbi Lewart has given us a wonderful new conduit just for that.

*Sheryl Lewart is a spiritual teacher who serves as a rabbi of Kehilat Israel, the largest Reconstructionist congregation in the world, serving more than 1,000 households in Los Angeles, California, and gives seminars regularly on values-based decision making.*

## California Dreaming

Save the Dates November 11-14 2010 for the JRF biennial conference, this year to be held at the Hyatt Resort in Newport Beach, California. Please see [www.jrf.org/convention2010](http://www.jrf.org/convention2010) for more information.

## Strategic Plan for National Reconstructionist Movement

JRF would like to share its Strategic Plan with you. In addition to statements of our mission, general vision and programmatic vision, it contains 3-5 year goals relating to education, strengthening congregations, strengthening the Reconstructionist Movement, as well matters relating to operations, governance and administrative systems.

We would particularly bring your attention to three themes:

1. Developing data base and technological tools to provide sophisticated support for networking among our congregations based on shared circumstances and challenges.
2. Focusing our programmatic work on what our congregations have consistently identified as their key challenges: growth, branding, governance, rabbi-congregational relations.
3. Building on the success of Camp JRF and our expanding support for congregational schools, with innovative work connecting the programs and methodologies of informal and formal education.

4. Exploring new relationships between the JRF, the RRC the RRA and rabbis collectively to foster collaboration on movement-wide initiatives to support movement-wide goals. To read the entire plan visit the jrf web site at [www.jrf.org](http://www.jrf.org)



## SIMCHAS AND SORROWS

Mazel Tov to the Weinmartin family as they greeted their new member, Yehudah Meir on Thanksgiving day. He weighed 8 oz.



*Nick Tobier and Paul Resnick at our annual Chanukah party  
Photo credit: Hallie Levine*

## January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 <b>Learners Service 10 am-12 noon</b>
3 <b>Lay Leaders meeting 2-4 pm Ahuvia home</b>  <b>Board Retreat 9 am – 1 pm Fox home</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9 <b>Dayenu Meditation Group 2-4 pm Location TBA</b> <b>Second Saturday Discussion 7-9 pm</b>
10 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	18	19	20	21	22 <b>Shabbat Services 6 pm</b>	23
24 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>						

## February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>Learners Service 10 am-12 noon Ahuvia home</b>
7 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	8	9	10	11	12	13 <b>Dayenu Meditation Group 2-4 pm Location TBA</b> <b>Second Saturday Discussion 7-9 pm</b>
14 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	22	23	24	25	26 <b>Shabbat Services 6 pm</b>	27
28 <i>Purim</i> <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>						

**ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE JCC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**



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**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund Donation Form**

Here is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please:

- write your check out to the **Jewish Community Foundation,**
- in the "memo" line, write: **"Progressive Jewish Giving Fund"**
- include this coupon with your check
- Send your check to the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, PO Box 7451, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.  
We will log it in and send it on to the Jewish Community Foundation.

Your contribution is tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt from the Jewish Community Foundation.

Thank you very much for your contribution!



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*Rabbi Amy Eilberg*

### **Spiritual Practice & Social Action Event**

*Steve Merritt*

The Havurah is co-sponsoring the third annual community program on Jewish spirituality, which will feature Rabbi Amy Eilberg. She will lead a workshop entitled *The Soul of Tikkun: Spiritual Practice & Social Action* on Sunday, February 21, at 9:30 am at the JCC.

"We will explore the interconnectedness of spiritual practice and our work in the world," says Rabbi Eilberg. "Both spiritual practitioners and social justice activists can expect to find the usual boundaries between 'inner' and 'outer' questioned."

The workshop format will include lecture, experiential practice, discussion, and a chance to

reflect on the ideas presented with a panel and small breakout sessions.

Rabbi Eilberg was the first woman ordained as a Conservative rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. She has extensive experience in both the realms of spiritual and community work.

She is nationally known as a leader of the Jewish healing movement. Rabbi Eilberg co-founded a Jewish healing center and directed its hospice care program. She also co-founded a center for Jewish Spiritual Direction.

Her current focus is more outer-directed, leading interfaith dialogue programs in St. Paul, Minnesota. She teaches compassionate listening and is involved in peace and reconciliation efforts around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Rabbi Eilberg also works with issues of conflict within the Jewish community.

She will use the Sunday workshop to show how inner spiritual work and outer work in the world can be used to inform and nourish each other.

Rabbi Eilberg will also make two other appearances which are open to the community.

She will visit at Temple Beth Emeth on Friday, February 19. Her topic will be "Shema Yisrael: The Mitzvah of Sacred Listening." There will be a dinner at 6 pm and a service at 7:30 p.m. For more information or to reserve a dinner, go to [www.templebethemeth.org](http://www.templebethemeth.org) or call 734-665-4744.

Rabbi Eilberg will appear at Beth Israel on Saturday, February 20, and will speak on "Listening for the Sacred in Our Lives." The program will begin with havdallah at 8 pm and be

followed by refreshments. For more information, call 734-665-9897.

Rabbi Eilberg's visit is being co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, Beth Israel Congregation, Hillel at the University of Michigan, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, the Jewish Cultural Society, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, Pardes Hannah, and Temple Beth Emeth.

The cost for the Sunday workshop, including vegetarian meals, is \$30. Students with an ID may attend for \$5. Limited scholarships are available.

For more information or to register, go to [www.jewishannarbor.org](http://www.jewishannarbor.org) and click on the *Soul of Tikkun Workshop* link. For scholarships or other questions, please email [Dorrie.Rosenblatt@gmail.com](mailto:Dorrie.Rosenblatt@gmail.com) or call Dorrie at 734-665-4186.

## Learning Services Continue

Last month became a living art museum, and participants became docents, as we revisited the “timeline of Jewish history” – a bright yellow rope looping around the entire room—and shared stories of war, peace, roiling disagreements, judges who were warriors, kings who behaved badly and more. Upcoming months promise to be no less colorful, even as the topics shift from history to specific prayers themselves. See below for the next few months’ topics.

Learning Services are held the first Saturday of every month from 10 am – noon at the JCC. *NOTE:* they do start on time, not on “Michigan time,” so if you plan to attend, please try to get there by 10:00. They are open to non-members, and no RSVP is necessary. For more information, contact Aura at (734) 975-9045 or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

### Session 6, Feb. 6

**The Shema.** Why does this prayer stand at the center of Jewish faith? How can we unpack its theology? This session seeks to understand the Shema on multiple levels

### Session 7, March 6

**The Amidah.** Why does this prayer stand at the center of the Jewish service? How is it qualitatively different than the prayers which precede and follow it? How can we work with it in a more meaningful way?

### Session 8, Apr. 3 (first day after conclusion of Pesach)

**The Torah Service.** How did it evolve into its current form? What was its original intent? Why is it seen as the highlight of the service? How can Reconstructionist communities address the challenges this service poses, including making its deeper meanings more apparent and felt?

## PURIM

*Nosilla Akputs*

Please join us for the annual Purim party on Sunday, February 28 noon until 2 at the JCC. Lunch with RSVP will be served at 11:30 am.

We are ordering a catered Mediterranean lunch which will be served at 11:30 then at noon we will begin the festivities complete with a megillah reading, spiel, hammentaschen and fun. The Beit Sefer kids are cooking up some spiels and so are some adults.

Lunch will cost 5\$ per person and 10\$ per family. Let Jen Cohen know by Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> if you are interested in lunch. Email her at [mamacohen@comcast.net](mailto:mamacohen@comcast.net).

See you there!



*New Board officers Debbie Zivan and Sarai Brachman Shoup with grapes! Photo credit: Keith Kurz*

## **January AARH Board Retreat Far from Boring**

*Marcy Epstein*

There is a Jewish proverb that runs along this line: “A pessimist, confronted with two bad choices, chooses both.” What I noticed most from the annual Board Retreat earlier this month was nearly the complete opposite of this teaching: a gathering of optimists and realists; a confrontation of important status, change and growth in the Havurah with many good possibilities from which to choose; the inevitable burgeoning of membership opinion, and – most salient to you the reader—the setting of priorities, and eyes on affecting good choices.

Of course, the Proverb warns us more against a certain mindset, the mind that assumes a negative outcome, the mind that sets up false choices when there is only one bad choice to be made, the mind that fails to choose at all. The Board holds these retreats as insurance against pessimism, disorganization, and its habit of poorly differentiated choices, and this is how we spent most of our time. In the next months, look for our progress: we’ve processed and identified the feedback from our congregational meetings, setting priorities and considering possible ways to use our resources to realize our goals.

Specifically, these goals range from ensuring and enhancing participation and volunteerism to

multigenerational Jewish education to the nature and structure of religious and spiritual leadership. In the next months, you’ll be hearing about how your ideas are coming to fruit. Note that Board meetings have switched from first Tuesdays to first Wednesdays of the month, at 6:30 pm. It is fairly obvious to everyone that everything cannot be done at once, but the Board feels confident in meeting the common goals of our Havurah and in preserving the diversity and difference of membership within our unique and authentic community.

We have new, wonderful energy to help us do so. Delightfully, Debbie Zivan joins the Board for the first time, and Sarai Brachman-Shoup rejoins us after several years’ hiatus. Both brought wonderful ideas to the mix and will be tremendous assets as we examine big issues affecting membership and policy in the year to come. They come with sons big and numerous enough to compose a basketball team. See them in unusual repose with a cluster of grapes that I thrust into their hands, representing the abundance they bring to our local vineyard.

The Board manages well as a group in managing the life of the Havurah, but we also operate as liaisons to various committees and groups active at any given time. Debbie will be working closely with recently retired Board member Sally Goldberg on marketing and public information, while Sarai resumes her work on membership. Sally Fink serves as a liaison for legal and policy concerns. Marcy (hello!) serves as liaison for Event Planning, as well as facilitator for Small Groups (*chevrot*) such as Bereshit, Judaica, the Mitzvah Corp, Tikkun Olam/Social Action, Opening the Door, Best Practices Committee, and more.

We are pleased to announce the officers of this year’s Board. Audrey Newell continues in her extension year as Chair, organizes congregation-wide concerns, and minds our Progressive Giving Fund. In addition to working with Aura Ahuvia, Shoshana Jackson, and Eileen Dzik as liaison to our Beit Sefer, Mark Schneyer steps up as Board Secretary and will be providing minutes from Board meetings. Shari Fox continues in her role as Assistant Chair, giving input on development issues, while Keith Kurz continues in his roles as Treasurer and liaison of budget and finance.

Finally, the Board extends kudos to Mark and Shari for organizing the retreat, and to Shari and Ben Fox for hosting the Retreat. Most of all, the Board wishes to thank our membership for its commitment, openness, and engagement in our congregational meetings last fall. If the Board possesses great optimism for this year, returning to our Jewish proverb, it is because you help us to know and face our concerns. You give us endless ideas and the wide berth to enact them wisely and in good time. I came away from the meeting with a sense of direction and happiness to lead our Havurah in our next year together as friends and fellows.

To help you to know your Havurah this year, I've generated the following table of "Core Activities", which consists of on-going activities and some newer programming we hope will continue from year to year:

<b>Core Activity</b>	<b>Contact Person, Email</b>
Ist Saturday Learner's Service	Aura Ahuvia (aura613@gmail.com)
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday Kabbalat Shabbat Potluck	Aura & Jennifer Cohen (teamcohen@comcast.net)
Beit Sefer (Religious school)	Aura & Eileen Dzik (erdzik@gmail.com)
Teen Chevra	Jennifer & Eli Cohen (teamcohen@comcast.net)
Dayenu (Jewish meditation/Buddhism)	Emily Milner (eemilner@aol.com) Evelyn Neuhaus (eneuhaus@sbcglobal.net) Steve Merritt (smerritt2@sbcglobal.net)
Bereshit (Adult Judaisms/growth)	Marcy (dr_marcy@hotmail.com) & Deb Kraus (debkraus@ameritech.net)
Judaica (Arts enclave)	Marcy & Idelle Hammond-Sass (hammond_sass@msn.com)
Tikkun Olam (Social Action)	Debbie Zivan (djzivan@yahoo.com)
Mitzvah Corps (Caring community)	Anita Rubin-Meiller (anita1018@sbcglobal.net)

Holidays:	
High Holidays—Slichot to Yom Kippur	Jennifer
Sukkot/Simchat Torah Retreat	Allison Stupka (alstupka@gmail.com) & Marcy
Chanukah	Jennifer, Allison, Debbie, & Marcy
Purim	Allison, Jennifer, & Marcy
Shavuot Retreat	Marcy & Jennifer
Tu B'shevat	Jennifer & JCS
Pesach—Second Seder	Audrey Newell (audreyaarh@gmail.com)
Home for Shabbat	Marcy & Alicia Kent(aakent@umflint.edu)
Annual Meeting	Audrey & Shari Fox (sharifox06@comcast.net)
Open the Door (Service Leaders)	Aura
Adult Education Sunday Programming	Still in formation as of January 2010
Grapevine	Allison
AARH Website	Joel Goldberg (j.goldberg@charter.net)
Reconannouce and Reconchat (listservs)	Evelyn
Best Practices (Policy, Travel)	Marcy & Leora Druckman (leorad@aol.com)

Please DO NOT WAIT to get in touch with the contacts for these groups to get involved. We not only need more people to steward these developments of community and *olam*, but also these resources are here for our enjoyment and personal growth. Whatever you decide, the Board wishes you a warm, productive winter.

## Lay Leader's Training

The new lay-leader's group, "Opening the Door," has decided to begin meeting monthly indefinitely, following an enlightening and thought-provoking second session in early January. The topic was how to formulate *kavannot*—intentions or ways to direct prayers—as well as how to construct little nuggets of teaching around prayers. Look for some of the eight people attending these sessions to try their hand at leading various aspects of services in the future!

"Opening the Door" will continue to meet on **third Sundays, 2-4 pm at Aura's house**, except for April, when the date will be different. Each month will be on a different topic pertaining to service-leading, to be determined by the collective needs of the group. Here are some tentative topics for upcoming months (subject to change.). Please RSVP if you'd like to drop in, to [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

1. **Feb. 21: Transitions.** How can transitions be smoothly made between prayers? Are there mistakes that can be avoided? Are there techniques that work well? We'll actually "lab" a variety of transitions, and then process them.
2. **March 21: Leading Music.** Making musical decisions, effecting musical transitions. Instruments or not? Dynamics (volume, tempo, rhythmic choices) and their uses in service of the service. Using the voice, accompanying with instruments. If you're a musician, bring your instrument to this gathering.
3. **April DATE TBD. How To Lead A Discussion; How To Construct A Good Question.** What makes a question a good one? Is there such a thing as a bad question? How can you tell the difference? How can you encourage people to contribute? How can you tactfully balance between the talkative and the shy? When will you know that the conversation is over? What are some benchmarks for evaluation?

4. **May 16: Kavannot/Teachings Revisited.** This time, we'll actually take time to write some sample kavannot/teachings for each other, try them out, and then discuss both the process of researching/composing them, and the process of leading them. We may take the same kavannah/teaching, and try leading it in different ways.



*The G'dolim!*

*Photo credit: Emily Eisbruch*

## EDUCATION: News from our Beit Sefer

By the time you read this, our Beit Sefer will have begun an exciting new semester. With enrollment up we opened a new classroom for our youngest complement of kids—6 as of this writing—who will have Sophia Blumenthal as their new teacher.

As our Beit Sefer grows, we've added class names to the new groupings. They are *K'tanim* (little ones), *Yeladim* (children), and *G'dolim* (older ones). Roughly speaking, these include late preschool to 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Altogether this numbers 22 students.

While Sophia will be focusing on group cohesion, listening, and learning in a fun, safe setting, Head Teacher and *Yeladim* teacher Shoshana Maloff Jackson and *G'dolim* teacher Brian Duchemin will be focusing on Shabbat, the value of "Shalom Bayit," good deeds vs. mitzvot—what's the difference? and, finally, Tu B'shvat at the end of the month.



## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

### Hadassah presents “Heart Health and Healthy Eating for Women”

On Tuesday, February 9 at 7:30 pm at the Jewish Community Center Hadassah will present Lisa Jackson, MD, U-M cardiologist, and Kathy Rhodes, PhD, RD, a cardiology nutritionist. Dr. Jackson will speak about cardiac concerns for women, and Dr. Rhodes will present heart-healthy versions of favorite Jewish recipes. The program is free and open to the community. Heart-healthy appetizers will be served, and Dr. Rhodes will provide recipes for them. Bring your filled red Hadassah tzedakah boxes or loose change to fill our empty tzedakah boxes. RSVP by February 1 to Martha Young at [youngmarth@comcast.net](mailto:youngmarth@comcast.net) or 734-769-7523.

## SEEDLINGS AND THANKS

### Hav Members Help with Area’s Homeless

*Rebecca Kanner*

Thank you very much to the following Havurah volunteers who made the time to help out during Beth Israel's hosting of the Shelter Association's Rotating Shelter from December 21 through January 4:

Avi & Emily Eisbruch  
 Debbie Zivan  
 Don Levitt  
 Evelyn Neuhaus  
 Martha Kransdorf  
 Rebecca Kanner

Altogether there were over 80 volunteers who drove the guests each morning to and from Beth Israel, some stayed overnight or made phone calls

to recruit volunteers. Each year that I coordinate this project, I appreciate the help Beth Israel gets from the rest of the Jewish community. Each night for two weeks, we provide a warm place for up to 25 men to sleep during these cold winter nights. The guests expressed much gratitude to the many volunteers.

There will be a need for Beth Israel to host again, unfortunately. So I hope the Hav urah will help with even more volunteers next time. This is really one satisfying mitzvah - just ask Avi, Emily, Debbie, Don, Evelyn, Martha or me!



## SIMCHAS AND SORROWS

Congratulations to Malama Chock . She has accepted a job offer in Texas. She will be leaving Ann Arbor on February 12, 2010.

She has been hired as the environmental engineering manager for the Clean Water Team in the Environmental Division of the Directorate of Public Works for the U.S. Army at Fort Hood, Texas which is one hour south of Austin. If anyone in the Havurah has any contacts in that area, she would appreciate getting connected with them.

Malama has been a very active member of the Havurah for many years and she will be greatly missed.

## February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>Learners Service 10 am-12 noon</b>
7 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	8	9	10	11	12	13 <b>Dayenu Meditation Group 2-4 pm Location TBA</b> <b>Recon Salon (formerly known as Second Saturday discussion 7-9 pm)</b>
14 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	15	16	17	18	19 <i>Rabbi Eilberg at TBE</i> 7:30 pm	20 <i>Rabbi Eilberg at Beth Israel</i> 8 pm
21 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b> <b>Lay Leaders Class 2-4 pm</b> <i>Ahuvia home</i> <b>Soul of Tikkun 9:30 am</b>	22	23	24	25	26 <b>Shabbat Services 6 pm</b>  <i>RSVP Jen Cohen for Purim lunch</i>	27
28 <i>Purim</i> <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b> <b>Havurah Purim Party 11:30 – 2 pm</b>						

## March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>Learners Service 10 am-12 noon</b>
7 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	8	9	10	11	12	13 <b>Dayenu Meditation Group 2-4 pm Location TBA</b> <b>Recon Salon 7-9 pm</b>
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Here is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please:

- write your check out to the **Jewish Community Foundation,**
- in the "memo" line, write: **"Progressive Jewish Giving Fund"**
- include this coupon with your check
- Send your check to the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, PO Box 7451, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.  
We will log it in and send it on to the Jewish Community Foundation.

Your contribution is tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt from the Jewish Community Foundation.

Thank you very much for your contribution!



## THE GRAPEVINE

*A Publication of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah*

March 2010

Adar/Nissan 5770



*Jacob Schneyer looks out a window during a visit to Global Villages in Howell. Photo credit: Amy Tracy Wells*

### UPCOMING HAV EVENTS:

#### Learning Service Series Continues

Drop-in Learning Services continue monthly at the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. The program, described recently by Shari Fox as “the most creative thing I’ve ever seen under the guise of Jewish learning,” is designed to be highly

interactive, integrating active learning experiences with prayer time.

The topic of the **March 6** session is “**The Amidah.**” Why does this prayer stand at the center of the Jewish service? How is it qualitatively different than the prayers which precede and follow it? How can we work with it in a more meaningful way? These questions and more will be addressed on this date.

On **April 3**, the topic will be “**The Torah Service.**” Key questions explored will include: How did it evolve into its current form? What was its original intent? Why is it seen as the highlight of the service? How can Reconstructionist communities address the challenges this service poses, including making its deeper meanings more apparent and felt?

Learning Services are held the first Saturday of every month from 10 am – noon at the JCC. They are open to non-members, and no RSVP is necessary. For more information, contact Aura Ahuvia at (734) 975-9045 or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

#### Recon Salon

“**Religious Pluralism: How do we accept the truth of others without jeopardizing our own beliefs?**” will be the topic of the March 13 Recon Salon. In a special format for Recon Salon, we welcome specially trained facilitators from the Interfaith Council on Peace and Justice (ICPJ), who will first screen the documentary film *Fremont, U.S.A.*, and then lead a guided discussion about the film afterwards.

The film *Fremont, U.S.A.* is the result of the Pluralism Project at Harvard University, and offers a glimpse of religious diversity on the local level. Fremont, California is a city transformed by new immigration, in which thriving Hindu,

Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Sikh, and other communities all live side by side. Through civic engagement and interfaith action, strangers have become neighbors in this American city. Yet Fremont has also faced real challenges, especially after 9/11. The film's run time is approximately one hour. (To learn more about Harvard's project, go to [www.pluralism.org/fremontusa/](http://www.pluralism.org/fremontusa/)).

After the film, we'll participate in a facilitated discussion on living and working together in a religiously pluralistic community. The program takes place Saturday March 13, 7 – 9 pm at the JCC. A brief Havdallah ceremony plus light dessert are included. An option to remain until 9:30 pm will be open to those who want to continue talking. RSVP to Aura Ahuvia at (734) 975-9045 or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

#### *Coming Ahead...*

April 10 – J.P. Dessel, UM Archeology Professor, on "Evidence (or the lack thereof) for the Exodus from Egypt." Presentation will include a power-point presentation on archeological and other types of evidence pertaining to Israelites, Israelite culture, and various theories on how they ended up in the land of Canaan.

May 8 – Keren McGinity, UM Judaic Studies research fellow, on Jewish men's and women's differing experiences of intermarriage in America today.

June 12 – The final Recon Salon for the season. Stay tuned for details.

## **Pesach 5770**

Passover begins the night of March 29. Our Havurah will once again be hosting a second seder on March 30 in the early evening. Once again, Audrey Newell is organizing this annual event and once again we will have it at the JCC in the gym and read from our Haggadah.

Please contact Allison Stupka if you plan to attend and tell her what potluck item you would like to bring. Email Allison at [alstupka@gmail.com](mailto:alstupka@gmail.com) or call 996-8570.

Also in the works is a "Passover Exchange" where one can advertise if one has an extra seat at their table for Passover or if one desires to attend a seder at a Hav member's home. Stay tuned.

## **Special Shabbaton Weekend this Summer**

Save the date! On the weekend of June 25-26, the Havurah welcomes David Lefkovich to town, to help lead services and provide music. David is a musician and long-time lay leader at Darchei Noam, a Reconstructionist synagogue in Toronto, Canada. He and his wife, who is a storyteller, plan on visiting our Havurah that weekend.

In addition to Friday night, the Havurah is looking into offering a Saturday morning service on June 26 as well, extending the opportunity to chant Torah or offer a d'var Torah to anyone who is interested. Some of the B'nei Mitzvah kids (those who have had a bar or bat mitzvah already) have mentioned some interest in this... perhaps there are some of you adults who would be interested, as well.

Details for the Shabbaton are in the planning stages now. If you'd like to offer an idea for the weekend, please let either Aura or a board member know.



# NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Mark Schneyer, Board Secretary

These are the board minutes from the February 3, 2010 meeting held at Debbie Zivan's house.

Attending: Audrey Newell, Keith Kurz, Sally Fink, Debbie Zivan, Sarai Brachman Shoup, Marcy Epstein and Mark Schneyer  
Not attending: Shari Fox

1. The Board reviewed a draft outline of 2010 priorities and agreed to publish it in the Grapevine. The outline was an outcome of the January Board meeting, taking into consideration member input at the two 2009 member meetings.
2. The board discussed committee structure and agreed to name a point person for each area but not appoint formal committees. Point people will work with other Havurah members/parents as required by each area's needs. The topics and assignments are:
  - a. Membership-Sarai
  - b. Finances-Keith
  - c. Tikkun Olam-Debbie
  - d. Events-Marcy
  - e. Beit Sefer-Mark
  - f. Publicity-Not confirmed--Audrey will pursue filling this spot
1. Discussed the meeting Audrey and Shari had with Aura to review Aura's mid-year evaluation, reviewed the evaluation and confirmed there would be one more to be done at the end of Aura's term.
2. Marcy updated on progress of small groups.
  - a. Mitzvah Corps is without a point person; Marcy will cover that role until someone is found to take it. We will start using a website that is designed to make volunteer signups and administration much easier.
  - b. Bereshit has disbanded its monthly meetings until fall, but chevruta for Hebrew language, trope, Jewish service leadership (Open the Door) continue.
  - c. Marcy will work on evolving the Best Practices group, since policy for B'nai Mitzvah and other practice needs review.

3. Discussed requests for printed copies of the Grapevine. Audrey will send an email to the membership explaining the financial reasons behind last year's decision to start sending only electronically. A few copies will be printed and mailed each month to those members who request it.
4. Discussed Progressive Giving Fund allocation policies. Voted to :
  - a. approve policy that changes must be made by a Board quorum
  - b. validate the policy of not investing this money over the course of the year but keeping safe at no interest, with annual dispersal.
  - c. agreed to allocate 2009 contributions as previously agreed in past yearsThe next meeting is March 3, 6:30 pm  
location to be announced.



*Beit Sefer parents and kids at Global Villages.  
Photo credit: Amy Tracy Wells*



## **EDUCATION: News from our Beit Sefer**

### **Visit to Global Villages**

*Amy Tracy Wells*

In January we visited Heifer Global Village homes in Howell, MI, where world population, hunger and resource issues were highlighted. We stepped inside housing modeled on rural construction techniques and urban slums from around the world. This gave everyone a chance to feel, if only briefly, how different housing can be and, in many cases, is inadequate to our own. Other differences in resources were also highlighted such as food and entertainment options with, as we learned, the majority of the world having much less than we enjoy each day.

### **Beit Sefer Update**

*Shoshana Jackson, Head Teacher of Beit Sefer*

Last month in Beit Sefer, *K'tanim* (the youngest group) worked on learning the Alef-Bet through song and made Purim crowns. Some of them learned to write their own names in Hebrew! *Yeladim* (middle group) talked about how the Jewish calendar is different from the civil calendar and how Feb 14 was Rosh Hodesh - the Head of the Month of Adar. They were given moon-chart calendars on which they were asked to chart the phases of the moon for the next four weeks of the month of Adar. They are to bring the calendars back with as many days completed as their busy schedules (and Michigan's tendency towards cloudy evenings) will allow on the 28th of Adar (March 14). The *G'dolim* (the oldest group) spent all of their class time writing the Purim spiel that was performed at the Purim celebration on February 28th.

## **B'nei Mitzvah Class Update**

The Havurah's b'nei mitzvah class had a unique diversity training session on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, when local teacher Rachel Goldberg came to guest-teach the class. The group, which is composed of post-bar and bat mitzvah kids, explored times in school when they were bullied for being different, or made fun of, or tried to intervene on behalf of someone who was being teased. They also studied Jewish texts which teach about the importance of loving the stranger as yourself. Rachel had them consider the consequences of following this teaching, and of not following this teaching. This included an analysis of a Primo Levi poem (he was a Holocaust survivor), as well as the poem by Niemoller, found in our Reconstructionist machzor (High Holy Day prayer book), which stresses the importance of sticking up for others because otherwise nobody will be left to stick up for you. The session concluded with the true story of what happened in Billings, Montana in 1993, when the KKK came to town and began menacing several minority groups there. The town responded by banding together to paint over swastikas left on Native Americans' houses, attending African American church services, posting Hanukah menorahs in their windows, and marching together in the streets. Eventually, the KKK left.

This year, the b'nei mitzvah class has also had book discussions, served as volunteers for fundraisers, and attended services together.

## **Holocaust Museum Field Trip**

Mark your calendars now for a Havurah field trip to the Holocaust museum on Sunday, April 18. More details in next month's Grapevine. The post-bar-mitzvah age b'nei mitzvah class will attend and participate in a guided tour, thanks to the help of Hav member Andy Orosin-Weine, whose mother is a docent there. Tours of the Holocaust Museum are recommended for ages 13 and up.



## Long Distance Caregiving

The next Caregiver's Conversations which is co-sponsored by the Havurah will meet on Thursday, March 18, 2010 6:30-8:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center.

Many adult children are caring for aging parents who live at a distance, which poses unique challenges. Join us to learn the best ways to coordinate care, access resources, and be a support for your long-distance aging loved ones.

This is free and open to the public.

To register, contact Abbie at 769-0209 or [abbie@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:abbie@jfsannarbor.org)

## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

### Sh'ma: The Journey of Sacred Listening

In this day long workshop, Sunday, March 7, 2010 10 am-4 pm, participants will work with a central prayer from Hebrew liturgy which offers guidance, direction, and structure for moving from confusion to clarity, opening the way for deep listening, inner knowing and personal revelation. Meditation, chant, movement, personal reflection and expressive arts will enhance the process of unfolding the journey in personally meaningful and relevant ways.

For more information, please contact Barbara Boyk Rust, Ph.D.  
[barbara.boykrust@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barbara.boykrust@sbcglobal.net)  
734-994-5032



*Animals at Global Villages*  
Photo Credit: Amy Tracy Wells

### A Different Blood Drive Event for BIC...With Fresh Baked Cookies.

*Tamar Weaver, Beth Israel Congregation Social Action Committee*

This year BIC faces a special challenge since the Red Cross requires at least 45 people commit as donors in order to confirm a date. In the past Beth Israel has had less than 30 donors. We are in danger of not being able to have a blood drive at BIC, which makes it more inconvenient for those members who wish to perform this very important mitzvah of saving a life.

We want to respond to the new requirement in a few ways. As an additional enticement we are offering this year freshly baked chocolate chip cookies and a selection of hot chocolates.

We ask that people who prefer donating blood at work consider to do it at Beth Israel this year so we can attain the numbers we need in time.

Please commit to the March 7 blood drive by emailing Tamar Weaver at [weaverta@umich.edu](mailto:weaverta@umich.edu).

## Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice plans Middle East Trip

ICPJ's Common Ground for Peace delegation is working to organize an interfaith, inter-cultural, inter-generational delegation to Israel and Palestine for 2010. The date is tentatively set for this May or June and will be set to work with participant's schedules.

Our trip is being organized by MEJDI (<http://mejdi.net/>), which is led by Rabbi Marc Gopin and Aziz Abu Sarah. We will visit areas of both Israel and Palestine, meeting with both Israeli and Palestinian individuals and peace groups. Specific itinerary will be developed by participants themselves and sample itinerary from past MEJDI trips will be provided as a resource. you interested in helping to make this exciting trip a reality?

Read more about the delegation at [www.icpj.net](http://www.icpj.net) and see the options for how you can get involved.

Please contact Grace Kotre - email [gracek@icpj.net](mailto:gracek@icpj.net) or call (734) 663-1870 - to let us know how you'd like to be a part of this effort!

## From the JRF Tetzaveh: Creating Sacred Space Parashat Tetzaveh Exodus 27:20 - 30:10 *Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton*

Our congregation, Beit Tikvah, rents space from a wonderful community. The sanctuary of First Christian Church/Disciples of Christ offers a peaceful haven to both of our religious communities and to other groups as well. Its distinctive shape can be seen by all those driving up Roland Avenue, towards Lake. Glance up towards the west as you approach the end of the boulevard, and you see an uncommonly-shaped building. The sanctuary itself also offers a relatively uncommon vista. There is no stained glass, no organ pipes. There is nothing imposing in the architecture, but rather, a great deal that is inviting. Softly colored wood.

Pews arrayed in circular ranks, three quarters of the way around the space. Simple furnishings. Very little overtly religious symbolism. The sanctuary is very easily transformed into Congregation Beit Tikvah's space prior to our Friday night services, or on holidays. Our ark is easily wheeled in from its resting place in a discreet corner of the social hall. A few details - including a beautiful six-pointed cloth for the reading table - and our sacred space is ready. Last fall, as services were about to begin one Shabbat, a recent Bar Mitzvah signaled me in urgent fashion, pointing to the ark. "The ner tamid !!" We had forgotten to re-kindle, and set atop the ark, what I have come to call our ner somewhat tamid, our almost eternal light. Given our tenancy status, and our frugal portable equipment, our ner tamid set up suits us quite well - though a tall-enough person isn't always part of the set-up team, hence the "somewhat" aspects of our eternal light. Another recent Bar Mitzvah, along with his mother, gave the congregation a beautiful glass holder for the chunky candles that we use, that perfectly matches a stained glass magen david that sits on one side of the aron hakodesh during services. Along with the priestly garb, ner tamid and other sanctuary appurtenances, Parshat Tetzaveh lavished a great deal of detail on the appearance of the mikdash, the first sanctuary, or Tabernacle. Leha'alot ner tamid, "to continually kindle[a] lamp," is a task to be undertaken and monitored by the Aaron and his sons, the priestly family. Aaron and his sons have so many tasks, it's hard to imagine how they did it all wearing the elaborate garb described in the parsha. But the most intriguing piece of clothing is a small addition to the high priest's headdress, described in Exodus 28:36-38. A plate with the words kodesh ladonay, "holy to Adonay," is to be attached so that it hangs over his forehead, visible for all to see.

The ner tamid of the desert sanctuary is not exactly the same as the one we hang in our shuls, though we ascribe its origins to the one described above. And of course, what remains of the role of the kohanim has devolved to a ceremonial liturgical role, without the fancy garb of Aaron and his sons. No pomegranate shaped bells for their robes, no robes for that matter! In some congregations, some special blessings during

festival services; the first aliyah reserved for descendants of the clan. No special signs on the forehead.

Back in Parshat Yitro, as the Israelites have just encamped at the foot of Mt Sinai, God speaks to Moses, instructing him to repeat these eloquent words to his flock, as translated by Everett Fox: "You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to me. So now, if you will hearken, yes, hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be to me a special-treasure from among all peoples. Indeed all the earth is mine, but you, you shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation." [Exodus 19:5-6]

The poetry of this passage always takes my breath away. It came to mind as I read the description in this week's parsha about the statement to be affixed to Aaron's headdress. What if we were all to truly consider ourselves representatives of a mamlekeht kohanim, a realm of priests, vegoy kadosh, a people infused with holiness. Better still, what if we were to perpetually see on all our sister and brother Jews, especially those with whom we pray in community, a headdress that proclaimed such an identity?

What would be different? I would like to imagine that the reminder would be superfluous, that it would not make us treat each other with more deference our courtesy, that we need no reminders that we are all imbued with the Divine spirit, and that we are all due the highest kavod, respect.

*Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton is a Reconstructionist rabbi at Beit Tikvah in Baltimore, Md. To read more d'var torah see the JRF website, [www.jrf.org](http://www.jrf.org)*



*Beit Sefer students running at their visit to Global Villages. Photo credit: Amy Tracy Wells*



## March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>Learners Service 10 am-12 noon</b>
7 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	8	9	10	11	12	13 <b>Dayenu Meditation Group 2-4 pm Location TBA</b> <b>Recon Salon 7-9 pm</b>
14 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	15	16	17	18 Caregiver Conversations 6:30-8 pm RSVP	19	20
21 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b> <b>Lay Leaders Class 2-4 pm</b> <i>Ahuvia home</i>	22	23	24	25	26 <b>Shabbat Services 6 pm</b>	27
28 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	29 <i>Passover First night</i>	30 <i>Passover Havurah annual Second Seder 6 pm</i>	31			

## April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Passover</i>	2 <i>Passover</i>	3 <i>Passover</i> <b>Learners Service 10 am-12 noon</b>
4 <i>Passover</i>	5 <i>Passover</i>	6	7	8	9	10 <b>Dayenu Meditation Group 2-4 pm Location TBA</b> <b>Recon Salon 7-9 pm</b>
11 <i>Yom Hashoah</i> <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b> <b>Trip to the Holocaust museum</b>	19 <i>Yom Haatzma'ut</i>	20	21	22	23 <b>Shabbat Services 6 pm</b>	24
25 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	26	27	28	29	30	

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djzivan@yahoo.com

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please:

- write your check out to the **Jewish Community Foundation**,
- in the "memo" line, write: **"Progressive Jewish Giving Fund"**
- include this coupon with your check
- Send your check to the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, PO Box 7451, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.  
We will log it in and send it on to the Jewish Community Foundation.

Your contribution is tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt from the Jewish Community Foundation.

Thank you very much for your contribution!

## Yes, You Heard It Through



# THE GRAPEVINE

*A Publication of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah*

April 2010

Nissan/ Iyar 5770



*Beit Seifer teachers, Brian Duchemin, Shoshana Jackson and Sophia Blumenthal  
Photo credit: Emily Eisbruch*

## Learning Service Series Continues

Drop-in Learning Services continue monthly at the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. The program is designed to be highly interactive, integrating active learning experiences with prayer time.

On **April 3**, the topic will be “**The Torah Service.**” Key questions explored will include: How did it evolve into its current form? What was its original intent? Why is it seen as the highlight of the service? How can Reconstructionist communities address the challenges this service poses, including making its deeper meanings more apparent and felt?

**\*\*NEW DATE!!\*\*** On **May 8** (formerly May 1), the topic will be “**The Prophetic Voice.**” Where is the voice of the prophets heard in the course of a prayer service? How does it compare and contrast with the other voices found in the siddur? Where is prophesy’s place today?

Learning Services are held the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. – noon at the JCC. They are open to non-members, and no RSVP is necessary. For more information, contact Aura Ahuvia at (734) 975-9045 or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

## Recon Salon...Should it keep going?

Attendance at Recon Salon has been anemic for several months. I’d like to take RSVP’s for the next couple of Recon Salons. If attendance is too low, one of these talks may be cancelled. If you’re considering attending one of the upcoming Recon Salons, please let me know!

~ Aura (write me at [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com))

**April 10** – J.P. Dessel, UM Archeology Professor, on “**Evidence (or the lack thereof) for the Exodus from Egypt.**” Presentation will include a power-point presentation on archeological and other types of evidence pertaining to Israelites, Israelite culture, and various theories on how they ended up in the land of Canaan.

**May 8** – Keren McGinity, UM Judaic Studies research fellow, on “**Mixed Marriage.**” Research on Jewish men’s and women’s differing experiences of intermarriage in America today.

June 12 – The final Recon Salon for the season. Stay tuned for details.

## Holocaust Museum Field Trip

The Havurah is sponsoring a field trip to the Holocaust museum in Farmington Hills, Michigan on Sunday, April 18, one week after Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day. The two-hour tour will run from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, and will be led by Havurah member Andy Orosan-Weine's mother, who is a docent there. The tour will probably conclude with a visit from a survivor. The trip is appropriate for ages 13 and up. Admission is free, but a voluntary donation will probably be requested.

Steve Merritt is coordinating carpools for those who would like to drive there and back together. The trip will take just under an hour from door to door, so plan on leaving just after 9:00 a.m. and returning to Ann Arbor around 1:00 p.m. (possibly later for those wishing to lunch together). Steve is also collecting RSVP's for the Museum, which would like to know how large a group to anticipate. Please let Steve know if you plan on attending, and whether you'd be interested in carpooling. The Holocaust Memorial Center is located on 28123 Orchard Lake Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-3738. The website is [www.holocaustcenter.org](http://www.holocaustcenter.org).

**RSVP deadline:** Sunday, April 11  
**RSVP to Steve Merritt,** 730-2776, or [smerritt2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smerritt2@sbcglobal.net)

## Beit Sefer Tours—Do You Know Someone Who's Interested?

We'd like to grow the Beit Sefer for next year. Therefore, we'll be offering tours to anyone who might be interested in enrolling their children who are currently in grades pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup>, for next fall. Several current Beit Sefer families have already volunteered to privately lead a tour...now we just need to know who'd like one!

If you know anyone with kids who might be a good fit for our Sunday morning religious school, please call or write Aura with their contact

information. Tours will be offered every Sunday morning when school is in session, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., between now and the last day of religious school, May 23.

The curriculum includes both self-paced Hebrew language study, as well as a cultural and ethical component. The school is designed to maximize participation both of students within the Havurah's services, holiday celebrations, and volunteer events, as well as of Havurah members who may serve as volunteers in the school.

To schedule a tour, or for more information, contact Beit Sefer Director Aura, at 975-9045 or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

## Special Shabbaton Weekend this Summer

Save the date! On the weekend of June 25-26, the Havurah welcomes David Lefkovich to town, to help lead services and provide music. David is a musician and long-time lay leader at Darchei Noam, a Reconstructionist synagogue in Toronto, Canada. He and his wife, who is a story teller, plan on visiting our Havurah that weekend.

In addition to Friday night, the Havurah is looking into offering a Saturday morning service on June 26 as well, extending the opportunity to chant Torah or offer a d'var Torah to anyone who is interested. Some of the B'nei Mitzvah kids (those who have had a bar or bat mitzvah already) have mentioned some interest in this... perhaps there are some of you adults who would be interested, as well.

Details for the Shabbaton are in the planning stages now. If you'd like to offer an idea for the weekend, please let either Aura or a board member know.



Susan Sheiner

## New Member Spotlight

Sarai Brachman Shoup

The Havurah extends a warm welcome to all of our new and newer members!

### Welcome Susan Sheiner

**Interests, hobbies, jobs:** I enjoy the creative process and collaborating on photography and writing projects. I do that in my job at Wayne State University in the Academic Success Center and through personal projects as well. A year and a half ago I exhibited my photography, my father's photography as well as my son Dan's photography in an exhibit called "Three Generations of Photography."

**Children's names, ages and interests and hobbies:** Daniel (Epstein) is 24 years old. He just had a birthday and lives in Toronto. He is a writer and photographer too. Justin (Epstein) is 20 and is a junior at Michigan State. He is in the James Madison College and wants to pursue a dual degree in finance and public policy. Julian (Epstein) is 17 and a junior at Berkley High School. He loves music and philosophy. He plays guitar in a rock band called Onna.

**Why I like the Havurah:** I like the Havarah because of the people who make everything happen. I am impressed with the community of warm, intelligent, and talented people. I enjoy the community and spiritual feeling of the Kabbalat Shabbats.

**Favorite Jewish holiday:** Truly, Shabbat is my favorite holiday. I especially liked sharing a

relaxing and unusual Shabbat at the Havurah Retreat. I like Rosh Hashanah too.

**Something unique about me/anything else you want to tell the Havurah:** I am new to the AARH, but not to Reconstructionist Judaism. I have been a member of Congregation T'chayah (in Oak Park) for over 10 years, but wanted to expand my horizons this year.

### Welcome Sara, Karin and Isabel Ahbel-Rappe

**Interests, hobbies, jobs:** Karin is a psychoanalyst on faculty at Michigan Psychoanalytic Council, and Sara is a professor of Greek and Latin and University of Michigan. They enjoy hiking, camping, swimming and gardening.

**Children's names, ages and interests and hobbies:** Isabel is 5 1/2 and goes to Eberwhite Elementary School. She enjoys dancing, gymnastics and nature.

**Why we like the Havurah:** We love the warm community, its diversity and its authentic commitment to Jewish practice.

**Favorite Jewish holiday:** Shabbat.

**Something unique about us/anything else you want to tell the Havurah:** Karin likes running. Sara was raised in a Conservative/Reform environment but has also been practicing Buddhist meditation for many years.



Isabel, Sara and Karin Ahbel Rappe

# Board Sets Priorities for 2010

*Mark Schneyer, Board Secretary*

Following last year's two membership meetings, the Board synthesized the feedback we gathered, organized it into themes, met as a group and with Aura and Jennifer to determine priorities and have come up with 3 focuses for our work in 2010 to strengthen and grow the Havurah. Each focus is broken out into more specific objectives, and some are updated with activities that are already under way as of January. Periodically through the year we'll update on this in the Grapevine as we make progress and as the goals evolve.

As always, feel free to contact a Board member with questions or feedback.

## 2010 Havurah Focuses:

### 1. Reinvigorate member involvement by creating volunteer structures that make it easy for every member to find ways to participate and help build the community

#### a. Lead services

- i. Aura leading a series of classes to train interested members to lead services or lead portions of services
- ii. Aura creating service templates to be used by lay leaders
- iii. Jen scheduling lay leaders to lead Fourth Friday services that Aura is not scheduled to lead (4 out of 12)

#### b. Participate in services in active roles

- i. Aura to seek out and schedule interested members to contribute music, readings, midrashes or other elements to Fourth Friday and possibly other services

#### c. Other Volunteering--make it easy to participate and serve community

- i. Board, working with Jen and Aura, will implement a structure for volunteering to help with administration, services setup/cleanup, event organization/setup/cleanup and organization of Havurah activities/groups

1. Participating in JRF regional call to learn how other congregations are handling this.
2. Marcy/events committee will brainstorm ideas on how to do this in relation to events.

### 2. Maintain and build on existing community and programming in ways that foster more social connections and support our values

#### a. Maintain/support

- i. Publicize learning service with emphasis on value to adults as well as kids
- ii. Find format/topics that attract critical mass of attendance for Second Saturday/Recon Salon, or consider redirecting energies to organization of Sunday morning activities
  1. Board to evaluate in May or June

#### b. Build

- i. Cross generational activities--identify a theme that will carry across programming at a particular time, across different Hav sub-communities
  1. Board will ask for input on this--possibly will build on Kaplan discussion group now being formed
- ii. Adult programming every month
  1. Goal: ensure there are activities for adults going on every month
- iii. Sunday morning focus--appoint a point person to organize a few others to start some volunteer-led adult activities during Beit Sefer: education and/or recreation and/or discussion/schmoozing time--Audrey Newell will be point person on this
- iv. Tikkun Olam--appoint a point person to organize several opportunities for members to work in the community, possibly with JFS.--Debbie Zivan to be point person on this.
- v. Emphasize "communities within community" by continuing to build small groups formed around common interests--Marcy Epstein is point person on this

### 3. Create structures for attracting and keeping new members

- a. **Attract:** Name point person responsible for implementing steps to creatively publicize Hav services and events to appropriate Ann Arbor audiences
  - i. includes repeatable way of identifying new attendees and approaching them, making sure they feel welcome and get information on future activities and benefits of joining
- b. **Keep:** Name Board member responsible for implementing steps for recognizing and welcoming new members when they join and ensuring that they are integrated into the community. Sarai Brachman-Shoup will be point person on this.
  - i. Includes making a welcome packet and ensuring there's a repeatable procedure in place that delivers a welcome packet to any new member, new members get added to email lists and directory and that new members are kept in touch with their first year and become involved.

## Be a Camper at Camp Tavor

*Dafna Eisbruch*

Habonim Dror Camp Tavor, the summer camp in Three Rivers, MI, is now accepting campers for this summer! Camp Tavor is inspired by the progressive Labor Zionist values of social justice and Judaism from a cultural perspective. Many Havurah kids have found a welcoming community at Camp Tavor. Campers entering fourth through tenth grades can sign up for sessions from two to seven weeks long. For more information, including scholarship information, contact Kate Sandler at registrar@camptavor.org or visit [www.camptavor.org](http://www.camptavor.org). Year-round programming is also run through Habonim Dror's local Ann Arbor chapter, Ken Pardes, with an upcoming Shabbat sleepover event on Friday, April 23 and a social awareness outing to Detroit planned for May. For information about local events, contact Yael Warshai at [yaelw07@hotmail.com](mailto:yaelw07@hotmail.com)



## NOTES FROM THE BOARD

*Mark Schneyer, Board Secretary*

1. The Board approved the February meeting minutes.
2. Mitzvah Corps--Marcy will be sending a survey to gather information both on member needs and on types of assistance members can offer others. Shari will help review and communicate results to the community. The Board will discuss results and next steps at the April meeting.
3. Sunday morning activities--the Board is interested in building up our adult activities on Sunday morning during Beit Sefer. Currently there is Hebrew study/tutoring and a new monthly book discussion group. Audrey will be sending members a message asking for ideas. The Board is not planning on securing more space at the JCC yet, but may as this grows and becomes more formal.
4. Publicity--Audrey confirmed that Sally Goldberg has agreed to continue in the role of point person for Havurah publicity.
5. Mark updated the Board on results of the Beit Sefer parents meeting on Feb 14. Parents are generally happy with their kids' experience at the school, very pleased with the teachers' performance, and gave Aura constructive feedback. The Board will discuss potential changes to tuition and Havurah subsidy of Beit Sefer at a future meeting.
6. New member procedures--Sarai has begun calling potential new members who attend services and sign up at the front table. We will begin announcing new members in the Grapevine, sharing profiles of new members with the community, and reaching out to new members to ensure they are welcomed and integrated procedurally into the Havurah. The

Board also discussed a proposal to begin a series of shabbat dinners where new members will be invited to learn about Reconstructionism.



7. Tikkun Olam--Debbie is planning on building up our “piggybacking” on existing Tikkun Olam efforts by other congregations as a first step in reinvigorating Havurah participation. She will begin forwarding to all members information on opportunities to join other congregations’ volunteer efforts, and will coordinate Havurah member participation.
8. Donations--The Board approved a plan to allocate \$500 annually for recurring \$250 donations to the Jewish Film Festival and Jewish Book Festival. When the Board plans the budget for next year, additional money will be allocated for ad hoc donations during the year as well. The Board also agreed to sponsor a table at Celebrate Israel as we have in past years.
9. JRF call--Mark reported on a JRF regional call in February on the topic of building up participation and leadership within our communities. Mark, Jen and Aura gathered some concrete ideas for improving our efforts from ideas described on the call.
10. The Board will be building a calendar for the rest of the year on decisions that need to be made and work that has to be completed in particular months, to guide Board work for the year and ensure that priorities for the year are followed up on. The Board is inviting Aura and Jen to an upcoming meeting to discuss objectives and next steps, what is going well and what can be improved.
11. Kudos to Steve Merritt for bringing Soul of Tikkun to the community, to Sally Goldberg for agreeing to continue as publicity point person, to Audrey Newell for updating and republishing the directory and to everyone who participated in the very successful Purim celebration, including all talent show performers.



*Hav folks at last month’s field trip to Global Villages in Howell Photo credit: Amy Tracy Wells*

## **Local Opportunities for Tikkun Olam**

### **Serve the Elderly**

In conjunction with Jewish Family Services, the Havurah will be training a small group of interested individuals to lead a 30-minute long Kabbalat Shabbat service once a month on Friday afternoons, at area assisted living facilities. Volunteers will be free to lead just one such service per year, or all 12, or any combination in between, according to their desire. The location of this mini-service will rotate every month, so that each of the five facilities that JFS works with would get the opportunity to have this mini-service at least twice per year. No such opportunity exists for the residents of these facilities on a consistent basis now.

The chance to do this important work came about as the result of a meeting that Aura had with Deborah Renner, head of JFS, in February. The meeting sought to find out whether any of the tikkun olam projects currently organized by JFS could be fulfilled by members of the Reconstructionist Havurah who are seeking to deepen or make more regular their communal volunteer work.

Training will likely take place in late April or early May, at a date to be decided. The actual Kabbalat Shabbat celebrations are likely to begin in May. So far, there are five interested volunteers. If you'd like your name added to the list, please call or write Aura. This work is for adults and mature teenagers; it is not appropriate for young teens or children. If you take the training, you will be free to sign up for leading one of these services per year, or all 12—it will be up to you. The training session will be roughly 90 minutes long, and will include an outline and review of the 30-minute abridged "service," which will include about five prayers and songs. The outline will include all words necessary, and hopefully also a CD with the melodies. In addition, we'll briefly address what to expect, boundaries as to what you'll be doing (talking/singing) and what you will *not* be doing (like lifting residents out of their wheelchairs, etc.), and we will look at some of the Jewish texts from Torah and *Tanakh* which root this holy work. While these will be Jewish songs and prayers, all members of the assisted living facilities (including non-Jews) will be invited. Therefore, we'll also develop some language for introducing or explaining the context for the service to the residents.

If you would be interested in attending a one-time training session in leading such a service, please contact Aura, 975-9045 or Aura613@gmail.com. If you have questions about what the experience of this kind of volunteer work feels like, please call Leora Druckman, at 730-3399 or 769-0310.

### **Help with Pesach**

On April 1st, Thursday 5-7, Jewish Family Services is hosting a Pesach gathering for older adults. JFS needs volunteers to serve food and spend time with guests. To volunteer, please contact Deborah Renner at (734) 769-0209

### **Teach Reading**

Washtenaw Literacy does not have enough tutors to meet their current demand. They have a new tutor training program starting on April 8th, and will be spread over three five hour sessions. The 15-hour training program will equip you with all the tools you need to get started. Please consider becoming a volunteer tutor! The experience can be life-changing for both tutor and learner. For

more information or to register, please call Washtenaw Literacy at (734) 879-1320 or go to [www.washtenawliteracy.org](http://www.washtenawliteracy.org).

### **Help out at Alpha House**

St. Clare's and Temple Beth Emeth will be providing volunteers for Alpha House during the week of April 18-25. Volunteers are needed to fix meals, play with kids and stay overnight. There is always at least one staff person on site, and, if you are volunteering for the first time, an experienced volunteer will be there with you. To volunteer, please Debbie Zivan ([djzivan@yahoo.com](mailto:djzivan@yahoo.com)) for more information.

### **Caps for Patients**

Hav members are getting together to knit/crochet hats and caps to donate to hospital oncology inpatient units and hospice programs. If you'd like to take part in this project, contact Debbie Zivan ([djzivan@yahoo.com](mailto:djzivan@yahoo.com)). No experience necessary!



### **Note from Hav College Student**

Hello all! I hope everyone has had a wonderful year. I am going to be returning to Ann Arbor this summer and I am looking for work opportunities. For those of you who do not know me, I am a sophomore photo student currently attending Kendall College of Art and design. I have worked with families and friends in the past to shoot events and portraits and I would love to expand my experience. I have just recently created a free viewing site for some of my work which can be found at [http://www.meillemphoto.printroom.com/GHome\\_main.asp?evgroupid=0&domain\\_name=meillemphoto](http://www.meillemphoto.printroom.com/GHome_main.asp?evgroupid=0&domain_name=meillemphoto).

In addition to my photo experience, I really enjoy spending time with children and have been a mother's helper and babysitter for about 7 years. I also love to bake desserts for events and have some experience in cleaning and organizing! If you would like to get in touch with me about

babysitting or any of my other services, you can reach me at Heylookastaple@aol.com or 734-904-5292

Peace to all,  
Melissa Meiller

## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

### Heart Health for Women

Heart Disease is the number one killer of women in the United States. On Tuesday, April 13 at 7:30 pm at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, the Ann Arbor Chapter of Hadassah will present Elisabeth Jackson and Kathy Rhodes of the University of Michigan Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. Dr. Jackson, a cardiologist, will discuss risks and treatments, and Dr. Rhodes, a clinical dietitian, will present heart-healthy versions of favorite Jewish recipes. Heart-healthy appetizers will be served, and recipes for them will be distributed. The program is free and open to members of the community.

RSVP by April 3 to Martha Young at youngmarth@comcast.net or 734-769-7523

### Events Sponsored by Jewish Family Services

Thursday, April 1

#### Community Seder for Older Adult and Their Families

Rabbi Robert Levy and Cantor Annie Rose from Temple Beth Emeth will lead the annual Senior Seder. The seder is from 5:30-7:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center and costs \$25 per person. RSVP by March 26 to Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson (abbie@jfsann Arbor.org or 769-0209). Transportation is available.

Wednesday, April 14

#### Achieving Social Justice Through Group Work

This course will take place 9:00 am-3:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center and costs \$80 per person (includes catered lunch.) Emeritus Professor of Social Work Charles Garvin and JFS Resettlement Program Director Mira Sussman are presenting this course. One can earn 5 CE credits.

Register online at [www.jfsann Arbor.org](http://www.jfsann Arbor.org) or by calling Mira Sussman at JFS (769-0209) by April 7.

Sunday, April 25

#### Movies and Discussion for Caregivers of Aging Parents

View and discuss humorous, heart-wrenching, and thought-provoking selections from several popular films that depict caregiving relationships. This event is co-sponsored by the Turner Senior Resource Center and will be held 1:30-4:00 pm at Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Road

RSVP encouraged to Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson (abbie@jfsann Arbor.org or 769-0209)



### Seedlings and Thanks

Thanks for the anonymous donation to the Havurah.

### Simchas and Sorrows

Refuah Shlema to Anita Rubin Meiller.

Condolences to Danny Steinmetz and Molly Kraus Steinmetz. Norbert Steinmetz (Baruch Naftali ben Asher Zelig and Chanah), father of Danny Steinmetz and grandfather of Molly Kraus-Steinmetz, passed away in March suddenly at home after a long period of illness.

## April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Passover	2 Passover	3 Passover <b>Learners Service 10 am-12 noon</b>
4 Passover	5 Passover	6	7	8	9	10 <b>Dayenu Meditation Group 2-4 pm Location TBA</b>  <b>Recon Salon 7-9 pm</b>
11 Yom Hashoah <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b> <b>DEADLINE for Holocaust Museum Trip</b> Contact Steve Merritt 730-2776, smerritt2@sbcglobal.net	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b> <b>Trip to the Holocaust museum 10-noon</b>	19 Yom Haatzma'ut	20	21	22	23 <b>Shabbat Services 6 pm</b>	24
25 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	26	27	28	29	30	

## May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31					1
2 Lag B'Omer <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8 <b>Learners Service 10 am-12 noon</b> <b>Recon Salon 7-9 pm</b> <b>Dayenu Meditation 2-4 pm</b>
9 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	17	18	19 Shavuot	20	21	22
23 <b>Last Day of Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	24	25	26	27	28 <b>Shabbat Services 6 pm</b>	29

**ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE JCC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**



PO BOX 7451  
ANN ARBOR, MI 48107  
(734) 445 1910 (24 hour voicemail)

AARECON.ORG INFO@AARECON.ORG

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**Debbie Zivan**  
djzivan@yahoo.com

**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund Donation Form**

Here is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please:

- write your check out to the **Jewish Community Foundation,**
- in the "memo" line, write: **"Progressive Jewish Giving Fund"**
- include this coupon with your check
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Thank you very much for your contribution!

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*Jonathan Saltzman second on top left with other youth in Israel. Read more about this on page 3.*

## **Learning Service Series Continues**

Drop-in Learning Services continue monthly at the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. The program is designed to be highly interactive, integrating active learning experiences with prayer time.

On May 8, (not May 1<sup>st</sup> which would be the ordinary Learning Service date) the topic will be “The Prophetic Voice.” Where is the voice of the prophets heard in the course of a prayer service? How does it compare and contrast with the other voices found in the siddur? Where is prophesy’s place today?

On June 5 we will have Siyyum, or end-of-year celebration. The year of Learning Services concludes with a fuller davening experience, including incorporation of participants’ original compositions. It will include time to reflect on what was learned throughout the year.

Learning Services are held the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. – noon at the JCC. They are open to non-members, and no RSVP is necessary. For more information, contact Aura Ahuvia at (734) 975-9045 or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

## **Recon Salon Update**

The May 8 Recon Salon, which was scheduled from 7-9 p.m., has been cancelled. Last month, RSVP’s were sought for upcoming Recon Salons, due to consistently low turn-out all year (the highest attended event drew 9 people; the lowest drew 5). Well, the votes are in, and we’re a busy bunch of people! For the May Recon Salon, fully 22 people out of 33 respondents, or 66%, said they would “probably” or “definitely not” attend. Another 7 gave it a 50/50 chance, and a mere 4 individuals said they were “likely” to attend. Given the low numbers, the board decided that perhaps Recon Salon is not exactly what we’re looking for as a community... at least for now. If you have other ideas about what you would like to participate in the Havurah, discuss it with a board member, or better yet, consider starting it yourself!



## Special Shabbaton Weekend this Summer

Save the date! On the weekend of June 25-26, the Havurah welcomes David Lefkowich to town, to help lead services and provide music. David is a musician and long-time lay leader at Darchei Noam, a Reconstructionist synagogue in Toronto, Canada. He and his wife, who is a story teller, plan on visiting our Havurah that weekend.

In addition to Friday night, the Havurah is looking into offering a Saturday morning service on June 26 as well, extending the opportunity to chant Torah or offer a d'var Torah to anyone who is interested. If you'd like to offer an idea for the weekend, please let either Aura or a board member know.

## Generations After Sinai: Shavuot 2010 with the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah

*Marcy Epstein*

This invitation begins with a wonderful newsflash with back-story.

The mother of an adult member of our Havurah, Abby Weinberg, Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg has just published an "atypical religious memoir" (*Surprisingly Happy*, White River Press, 2010). In it, she revisits some of the great moments in her personal life that collide in the creation of our collective Jewish memory: the summer of her father's death, the sanctification and study of a Torah, and the way that Torah connects the author to her father, her family to its faith, and a disappeared congregation (Aduv Israel) of childhood to its many descendants among myriad Jewish communities across the country to which we retreat.

Stay tuned: we hope to hear more from R. Peltz Weinberg in a reading in Ann Arbor later this year. But not coincidentally, the Rabbi's narrative starts in summer, the time hearkened by Shavuot, when the Torah is thought to have originally been

given, when Jews paused in our wandering to make covenants *dor v'dor*, generation to generation and place to place, and the first outbursts of summer harvest are offered. A Torah, in the Rabbi's story, finds attention, repair, and new life, stitching together the heart of Shavuot with its people. So it is that the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah comes together at the stitching of summer and spring, generation to generation, Tuesday, May 18, 2010, 6:30 pm-midnight at the Jewish Community Center.

This year we pick up on the themes of Shavuot with an exploration of collective memory, progressive religious study, celebration of Torah, and intergenerational sharing. The evening will begin with a simple potluck dairy vegetarian meal, with holiday delicacies prepared by Havurah members, plus songs, blessings, and introduction to the holiday appropriate for people of all ages. Rabbinical intern Aura Ahuvia will lead an exploratory teaching on Shavuot, with other lay-leaders to follow, paired study (*chevruta*), relaxing meditation, and more. As the evening deepens, topics for these teaching include "Dor v'Dor: weaving Torah from Etz Chayyim though Spiritual Memoir" and "Repairing the Torah in Practice and Interpretation", to a reading of the Book of Ruth. Participants are encouraged to arrive and depart as schedules and energies permit. At midnight, our group will sojourn to the UM-Hillel for extended study and teaching with Rabbi Nathan Martin, Rabbi Peltz Weinberg's son-in-law and Associate Director. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a chomesh (Torah text) if you have one. All are welcome.

## Save the Date!

On August 21<sup>st</sup> Isaac Shore will celebrate his bar mitzvah. Stay tuned.

## Hav Youths' Recent Visits to Israel

Jonathan Saltzman, a fourteen year student, was one of seven Jewish students from Ann Arbor who participated this February in an exchange program with Nahalal, an agricultural town in the Galilee. Jonathan stayed with two different Israeli families, hanging out with Israeli teenagers and getting extensive opportunities to practice his spoken Hebrew. He liked the opportunity to observe the everyday lives of Israeli kids, something very different from the typical tourist experience.

Elie Piper, is spending a gap year between high school and college travelling and working. One of her adventures was an intership at the Palestine-Israel Journal, which is based in Jerusalem. The following is an excerpt from her blog and is titled **Things get a Little Political.**

“Sheikh Jarrah is a neighborhood in East Jerusalem that is close to the Old City and so is desired by both Israelis and Palestinians. The neighborhood is primarily dominated by Palestinian families who have been living there since the 1948 War in Israel. Now the Israeli government says that the land originally belonged to the Jews and are evicting Palestinian families from their homes and replacing them with nationalist Jewish families.

Every Friday there is a protest at Shiekh Jarrah. The protests have been gaining attention because prominent people have been attending. It has also been widely publicized because the police have been arresting the peaceful demonstrators--including internationals.

This weekend I attended the usual protest at Shiekh Jarrah.

The weather was scorching (my mother informed me that it was 99 degrees since she has her homepage programed to tell her the weather in Jerusalem). All I know is thst as my friend and I walked to the protest at Sheikh Jarrah, I felt my Michigan-pale skin start to fry. About 200 people marched to the site with signs. As they approached, Palestinian children on the sides of the streets started hopping up and down yelling

““they're coming, they're coming!”” The group wanted to peacefully protest in front of the house where the first family was evicted but the police barricaded it and wouldn't let us through even though it was completely legal. The courts have recently deemed these protests legal after a recent media frenzy where a bunch of protesters were roughly arrested, including internationals. Even though the protests are now legal, the police have been going against the courts' decision and making arrests anyway.

When the police wouldn't let us protest in front of the house, a small group of us split off and walked around behind the police to get to the house and to protest in front of it. We started chanting and clapping peacefully. After a while, right-wing protesters came up to us and started chanting back at us to try and drown us out, mocking us and calling us Jew Haters and displaying Israeli flags which they clutched around their shoulders like capes.. At first the police just watched us from the side walk, then suddenly they started marching toward us simultaneously in one unit--like a single body. My friend turned to me and told me that I could go now or stay and get arrested. I asked him what that would mean. He said it would mean being held in prison for 24-hours or so then getting released. Call it a bout of craziness, but I stayed. I wasn't doing anything wrong. I wasn't hurting anyone. I wasn't deriding the other side. I was just clapping and chanting and standing up for something I believe in. Just peacefully protesting for justice. That is the whole reason I came to Israel and if it takes spending 24 hours in prison to bring the injustice to the public attention, then I will do it. The police reached us and starting shoving people away from the house. The protesters erupted into yells as they were pushed and were pushed against the wall. Some protesters resisted and sat down on the sidewalks and the police kicked them and picked them up, carrying them away from the house. One man I had met earlier, clung to a pole as the police tried to carry him away and he was arrested. We were forcibly pushed back to the main protest. The man next to me wiped away blood from his face. My friend's arm was bleeding. It was one of the most scary yet empowering moments of my life. When we joined the main protest again, we saw protesters getting arrested and getting shoved into

a police van for doing exactly what we had been doing just moments earlier. Don't get me wrong-- I love Israel. In general, Israelis are wonderful, warm and generous people. Even the police at this protest most of the time opted to merely carrying protesters back to the main protest site rather than arrest them. But as one who loves Israel and wants the rest of the world to feel the same way, I think it's important to hold Israel to high standards. As Haaretz columnist Bradley Burston said "" What kind of Zionist will go to the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah this weekend, and the next, and the one after that, to protest against a takeover of Palestinians' homes by settlers who sing paeans to Jewish terrorists? The kind who cares about the future of Israel. The kind who cares about the present-day Jerusalem. The kind who believes that the mayor and police of Jerusalem must not engage in incitement, or do the bidding of foreign millionaires competing to pry Palestinians from their homes in order to install settlers."" Amen."

While there, Elie also joined a soccer team named "The Jerusalem Soccer Chicks."

To read more of Elie's adventures see her blog at <http://eliesgapyear.blogspot.com/>



*A protester at Shiekh Jarrah being carried away.  
Photo courtesy of Elie Piper*

## New Shabbat Celebrations for the Elderly

In conjunction with Jewish Family Services, we will officially begin offering mini Shabbat celebrations every month at different assisted living facilities in the Ann Arbor area. Volunteers are being sought from the local Jewish community to receive training, and then to sign up to lead anywhere from one to 12 of these celebrations per year. Volunteers need not belong to the Reconstructionist Havurah to participate.

"We're excited about being able to offer this to the community," said Abigail R. Lawrence-Jacobson, Director of Older Adult Services for JFS. The program will be jointly administered, with the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah providing training and volunteers on a monthly basis, and JFS setting up the times and locations of the monthly celebrations. The 30-minute-long Shabbat services will include familiar Jewish prayers and songs, as well as a "mini-Kiddush" with grape juice, challah, and candles. Until now, JFS has been able to offer Jewish holiday celebrations to residents at area assisted living facilities, but less so regular Shabbat celebrations, according to Lawrence-Jacobson. The local congregations, as well as individual volunteers, have steadily provided Shabbat celebrations at some of the local assisted-living facilities. With the new training, more members of the community will be able to get involved on a more regularized basis.

"It was very moving to see someone who had lost the ability to speak begin singing along with Yedid Nefesh, with tears flowing down their face," said Leora Druckman, a member of the Reconstructionist Havurah who helped lead such Shabbat celebrations a few years ago. Leora got involved because her own mother, Sylvia, was herself one of the residents in a number of local memory-care facilities before passing away in 2008. Leora's going to serve as one of the trainers, as well as lead some of these mini-Shabbat celebrations herself.

The Shabbat celebrations will tend to be offered around 6:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m., at area assisted-living facilities, on a rotating basis. The reason

for this timing is because many of the residents take afternoon naps, after which they eat dinner. "The 6:00/6:30 p.m. time is good for them, because it insures that more people would be likely to attend," said Lawrence-Jacobson. These celebrations will not only be serving area Jewish elderly, but also non-Jewish residents. Thus, there may be room for a bit of explanation of prayers or songs on occasion.

A training session is being held on Sunday, May 16, at 4:30 pm at the home of Aura Ahuvia. It will also be open to members of the larger Jewish community. To sign up for training, please RSVP to Aura Ahuvia, at 975-9045 or via e-mail, Aura613@gmail.com.

## NOTES FROM THE BOARD

The April meeting was held at Debbie Zivan's house. Attending were Keith Kurz, Sally Fink, Debbie Zivan, Sarai Brachman Shoup, Mark Schneyer

Not attending were: Audrey Newell, Shari Fox, Marcy Epstein

1. Keith proposed changes to the Treasurer's role that would move certain bookkeeping tasks, including the generation of checks from Quickbooks, to our contracted bookkeeper Sandra Helm. The changes will require additional spending of about \$300/year but will make the Treasurer's tasks more manageable and add an additional level of checks and balances. The Board approved the motion to delegate those tasks.
2. The Board discussed several budget topics in advance of a June discussion to finalize the new year's budget. Three particular areas of discussion were possibly subsidizing Beit Sefer, salaries and the fall retreat. The Board also discussed the question of building a reserve for future needs vs spending income each year.
3. Aura and Jen will be attending the May Board meeting to coordinate planning for the year.

Next meeting: May 5, 6:30 pm

## Wines for Passover

Joel Goldberg

*Editor's Note: The following are suggestions for wines to drink during Pesach. The lucky attendants at this year's Havurah Second Seder got to taste each one.*

The number four figures prominently in the Seder: Four Questions, Four Children, Four Cups.

As Reconstructionist Jews, we mediate respect for the traditions of Judaism with consideration of how best to reinterpret and adapt those traditions to today's society. One way to do this might be to fill each Seder cup with a wine selected to express a different Pesach theme:

### The Kosher Cup

Out of respect for the religious traditions that underpin Jewish civilization, we drink one cup of Kosher wine at Passover to symbolize our oneness with the past and future generations of our people liberated from enslavement in Mitzrayim.

2009 Bartenura Moscato, Pavia, Italy (slightly sweet and fizzy; low alcohol)

2007 Golan Merlot, Galilee, Israel (dry)

### The Worker's Cup

Out of respect for the freedom and dignity of labor, we drink one cup of wine from union-grown grapes at Passover to symbolize our solidarity with workers around the world who struggle for fair wages and humane working conditions.

2007 Columbia Crest Chardonnay, Horse Heaven Hills, Washington (dry)

2007 Columbia Crest Merlot, Horse Heaven Hills, Washington (dry)

## **The Human Community Cup**

Out of respect for the diversity and connectedness of humankind, we drink one cup of locally-grown wine at Passover to symbolize our economic and social interdependence with others in the communities where we live.

2008 Chateau Grand Traverse Semi-Dry Riesling, Michigan (fairly sweet)  
Tabor Hill "Red Arrow Red", Michigan (dry)  
St. Julian "Sholom" Concord, Michigan (very sweet; also Kosher)

## **The Earth Cup**

Out of respect for the earth's abundance and the return of Spring, we drink one cup of biodynamic wine at Passover to symbolize our goal of harmonizing human needs with those of the planet over which we exercise stewardship, and the other species with which we share it.

2008 Ca' del Solo Muscat, Monterey County, California (slightly off-dry)  
2006 Ca' del Solo Sangiovese, San Benito County, California (dry)



## **Beit Sefer Tours—Do You Know Someone Who's Interested?**

We'd like to grow the Beit Sefer for next year. Therefore, we'll be offering tours to anyone who might be interested in enrolling their children who are currently in grades pre-K – 5th, for next fall. Several current Beit Sefer families have already volunteered to privately lead a tour...now we just need to know who'd like one!  
If you know anyone with kids who might be a good fit for our Sunday morning religious school,

please call or write Aura with their contact information. Tours will be offered every Sunday morning when school is in session, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., between now and the last day of religious school, May 23.

The curriculum includes both self-paced Hebrew language study, as well as a cultural and ethical component. The school is designed to maximize participation both of students within the Havurah's services, holiday celebrations, and volunteer events, as well as of Havurah members who may serve as volunteers in the school. To schedule a tour, or for more information, contact Beit Sefer Director Aura, at 975-9045 or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

## **COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS**

### **Hav to Sponsor First Aid Tent at Celebrate Israel**

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12:30-3:30 at the JCC Ann Arbor Jewish groups will celebrate 62 years of innovation and Jewish statehood at the 6th annual Celebrate Israel. The event will feature Israel-themed activities and entertainment for the entire family. For more information, please contact Eileen Freed at 677-0100.

The Havurah will sponsor and man (or more aptly "woman") a first aid tent which will feature a kids duplo block building activity. Volunteers to help Audrey Newell are needed. Contact Audrey at [audreyaarh@gmail.com](mailto:audreyaarh@gmail.com)

### **Sacred Listening: Chakra by Chakra**

A workshop offered May 16, 2010 from 10am-4pm

Sacred Listening is our ability to hear our own information clearly, to recognize it as our own and intuitively know how to follow the direction it offers. Sacred Listening may arise at any time. It is generally most accessible to out awareness when we are quiet inside.

The aim of this one day workshop is to identify and clear impediments to the natural and healthy development of Sacred Listening. The chakra system is one comprehensive model of the energies that sustain our lives. Direct awareness of the processes involved in each of the seven major chakras provides an effective way to ascertain and assess blocks to inner quiet and help us expand our ability for sacred listening. For more information or to register: contact Barbara Boyk Rust, Ph.D. 734-994-5032 [barbara.boykrust@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barbara.boykrust@sbcglobal.net) Registration fee \$100

## Hebrew Day School Openings

Hebrew Day School is still accepting applications for the 2010 school year. For more information about this complete K-5 education and to download an application, go to <http://www.hdsaa.org> or contact the school at 734-971-4633, [info@hdsaa.org](mailto:info@hdsaa.org).

## Interfaith Delegation to go to Israel and Palestine

The Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice will send a diverse interfaith team on a 10-day delegation to Israel and Palestine from June 11th-20th, 2010. We will visit historic locations and meet current peacemakers in Israel and Palestine (specific trip itinerary to be determined by delegates). Cost is estimated at ~\$2,800 - \$3,000/person, including airfare (we can support you in fundraising from friends and family - contact [gracek@icpj.net](mailto:gracek@icpj.net) for more information).  
Trip Goals:

- 1) To hear narratives from both sides
- 2) To develop partnerships with peace groups on the ground and local fair-wage business
- 3) To strengthen our own community of peace-builders and to explore how we can better promote peace in the region

The tour of Israel/Palestine will be organized and led by The Middle East Justice and Development Initiative (MEJDI, based at George Mason University, led by Rabbi Marc Gopin and Aziz

Abu Sarah). Visit MEJDI at [www.mejdi.net/diplomacy](http://www.mejdi.net/diplomacy).

For more information and to sign up, contact Ron ([rgregg@patientfocussystems.com](mailto:rgregg@patientfocussystems.com), 734-996-9232) or Grace ([Gracek@icpj.net](mailto:Gracek@icpj.net), 734-663-1870)



## SEEDLINGS AND THANKS

Thanks to Sally Fink and Steve Josephson for their donation in memory of Susan Lehotsky (their cousin) and Norbert Steinmetz.

Thanks to an Anonymous donor for their donation in honor of Norbert Steinmetz and Maury Hammond.

Thanks to Idelle Hammond Sass for her donation thanking Barbara Boyk for leading her father's shiva service last month.

Thanks to Drake Meadow for leading dancing over the last few years. We look forward to more dancing in the future!

## SIMCHAS AND SORROWS

Condolences to Idelle Hammond Sass whose father, Maury Hammond died in February.

Condolences to Mike and Jake Ehmann . Rhoda Gayle, Jake's grandmother and Mike's mother-in-law, passed away April 6.

Cari Merritt won a Telluride Foundation scholarship to study in Cape Town, South Africa for a year.

## May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31					1
2 <i>Lag B'Omer</i> <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b> <i>Celebrate Israel Day 12:30-3:30 pm</i> <b>RSVP</b> <b>Audrey to help at Hav tent</b>	3	4	5 <i>Board meeting 6:30 pm</i>	6	7	8 <b>Learners Service 10 am-12 noon</b> <b>Dayenu Meditation Group 2 pm</b>
9 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	10	11	12 <i>Jerusalem Day</i>	13	14	15
16 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b> <b>Service Training 4:30 pm</b> <i>Ahuvia home</i>	17	18 <i>Erev Shavuot</i> <b>Dinner and Study 6:30 pm</b>	19 <i>Shavuot</i>	20 <i>Yizkor Shavuot</i>	21	22
23 <b>Last Day of Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am</b>	24	25	26	27	28 <b>Shabbat Services 6 pm</b>	29

**ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE JCC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**

## June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 <b>Learners Service 10 am-12 noon</b>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 <b>Dayenu Meditation Group 2 pm</b>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 <b>Shabbat Services 6 pm</b>	26 <b>Special Service with David Lefkovich Details TBA</b>
27	28	29	30			

**ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE JCC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**



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**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund Donation Form**

Here is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please:

- write your check out to the **Jewish Community Foundation**,
- in the "memo" line, write: **"Progressive Jewish Giving Fund"**
- include this coupon with your check
- Send your check to the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, PO Box 7451, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.  
We will log it in and send it on to the Jewish Community Foundation.

Your contribution is tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt from the Jewish Community Foundation.

Thank you very much for your contribution!

*Yes, You Heard It Through*



## THE GRAPEVINE

*A Publication of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah*

*June 2010*

*Sivan/Tammuz 5770*



*Beit Sefer teens visit a Rabbit Sanctuary!*

*Photo credit: Mark Schneyer*

### **Musical Shabbaton June 25-26th**

*Aura Ahuvia*

We hope you're in town on June 25 – 26, when our Havurah welcomes the music/storytelling duo David Lefkovich and Debbie Gilbert. David and Debbie hail from Darchei Noam

Reconstructionist Congregation in Toronto, where they have been active in the educational and cultural life of the Reconstructionist community. David is an accomplished guitarist, songwriter, and singer, and has served as a shaliach tzibbur (lay leader) for nearly 20 years. Debbie is also an accomplished story teller and educator of many years.

Several special services and events are planned for the Shabbaton. On Friday, June 25, the Havurah will hold an extra musical Kabbalat Shabbat service starting as usual at 6:15 pm, followed by a dairy/vegetarian potluck at approximately 7:30 pm. For those who wish, you may opt to pre-pay for dinner, at the rate of \$10/adult, \$4/age 12 & under, as an alternative to bringing food to the potluck.

On Saturday, June 26, services will begin with almost non-stop music at 10:00 am, with a lengthy discussion of the parsha plus a story during the Torah service. There will be a vegetarian/dairy luncheon at approximately 12:30 pm., followed at about 1:15 pm. with a special learning session, entitled "Songs of the Siddur," during which alternative or newer melodies to common prayers will be taught. As with the night before, you may choose to either bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch, or pre-pay the same amount, \$10/adult, \$4/age 12 & under, to help pay for your contribution to the meal.

The evening program opens at 8:00 pm with a story by Debbie Gilbert and mini-concert by David Lefkovich, followed by Havdallah and a kumsitz, or community sing-along. Lyrics will be projected on the wall, and attendees will be able to call out the names of the songs they would like to sing. This event is free. Feel free to bring a dessert or fruit to share, if you wish. RSVPs for any of the weekend's events would be appreciated, so that the correct quantity of chairs and food can be arranged. All programming is scheduled to take place at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. You can download the RSVP form from our website, [www.aarecon.org](http://www.aarecon.org), or simply contact Jennifer Cohen, 975-6527 or [mamacohen@comcast.net](mailto:mamacohen@comcast.net), or Aura Ahuvia, 975-9045 or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).



## Enrollment Open for September

If you know anyone who might be interested, tell them that enrollment for the Reconstructionist Sunday School Beit Sefer will be open all summer. School begins mid-September. In addition, two special events in August will provide prospective families an opportunity to informally check out the Reconstructionist Havurah, and find out whether or not the school might be a good fit for them.

The first event is a potluck picnic and bonfire in August, most likely at Bandemeer Park, on the north side of the city. (It is the only park in Ann Arbor that allows bonfires.) The Beit Sefer director and teachers are expected to be on hand to greet families, and answer questions about the school. Details about this event will be posted to the Havurah's website later this summer.

The second event is the "Bring-A-Friend" Kabbalat Shabbat Service on Friday, August 27. On that evening, newcomers and prospective Havurah members are invited to attend services and a dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner afterwards, hosted by current Havurah members. Many Beit Sefer families will be in attendance. These services are musical in nature, and include the playing of instruments. Services begin at 6:15 pm, and the potluck begins at approximately 7:30 pm. No RSVP is necessary. To learn more about either event contact Aura Ahuvia, student rabbi and Beit Sefer director, at 975-9045 or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com), or check the Havurah's website at [www.aarecon.org](http://www.aarecon.org).



*Several Beit Sefer families got together to make Hamantaschen last February*

*Photo credit: Carol Lessure*

## NOTES FROM THE BOARD

*Mark Schneyer, Board Secretary*

On May 5<sup>th</sup> The Board met with Aura and Jen to discuss progress on our 2010 goals and ideas for the upcoming months.

A big focus for us this year will be better structuring opportunities for members to volunteer and participate in strengthening our community. As part of that we will be sending members a list of specific volunteer roles helping with events and services, participating in aid to our own members as part of the mitzvah corps and building the larger community as part of our Tikkun Olam activities. This list will be sent out as part of the Membership/High Holidays packet in July.

The Board believes there have been many positive impacts to Jen and Aura's new roles this past year and that we're in a good place to build on that this next year.

Attendance at Recon Salon (2nd Saturday evening topical discussions) has been sparse and the last couple planned occurrences have been canceled. We are discussing other ideas for adult conversation/education to try this year. A potential time/place for this is Sunday morning during Beit Sefer; more to come on this.

We have made progress this year identifying potential new members who attend Havurah

events, following up with them and more formally and publicly welcoming new members. We plan to continue and strengthen these as a successful way of building membership.

Kudos to:

- Debbie Zivan for helping facilitate Shavuot so well, plus to Nathan, Elliot Ginsburg, Danny, Marcy, and Aura for teaching on Shavuot,
- Nathan for helping to lead the Second night seder,
- Joel for organizing a wine tasting activity at the seder
- Joel for setting up a way for people interested in contacting the Havurah to leave voicemails that get forwarded for followup
- Marcy for creating and printing new Havurah stationery.

## ***Save the Date! Isaac Shore's Bar Mitzvah is August 21<sup>st</sup>!***



*A bunny at the Rabbit Sanctuary  
Photo credit: Mark Schneyer*



*Another creature at the Rabbit Sanctuary  
Photo credit: Mark Schneyer*

## **Beit Sefer Students Visit a Rabbit Sanctuary**

On Sunday, May 2, both the Teen Group and Brian's Gedolim class went on a field trip to the Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary. Here is a description of what they did below, as told by their teacher Brian Duchemin, who works there.

“Today the G'dolim class took a field trip to the Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary in Willis, MI. Students received a tour and explanation of what the organization does and got to meet some of the animal residents. We then spent some time helping out around the sanctuary. Some students cleaned up after the rabbits, others cleaned up after the pigs, and one group helped clear out an empty yard where a group of rabbits used to live. Students worked very diligently and we were able to get a lot done in a short amount of time. We ended our trip by spending some time feeding and interacting with the potbellied pigs. Everyone had a great time and observed one way of putting the Mitzvah (commandment) that we studied last week, showing compassion towards animals, into practice. Thank you to the parents that were able to join us, provide transportation, and chaperone the trip.”

## Error in Last Grapevine

The Grapevine erroneously printed a thank you to Sally Fink and Steve Josephson for their donation in memory of Susan Lehotsky (their cousin.) Susan Lehotsky is Keith Kurz's cousin. Apologies to Sally, Steve and Keith and condolences to the Kurz family.



## Letter from Beverly Warshai

The intent of this letter is to share some info about the Torah reading table and the table covering that has been used by th hav for torah service. Let me start with some background. When we started attending the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah we were similar to several other families in that we held dual membership in another congregation at the same time. In our case we belonged to T'chiya the Reconstructionist congregation in Detroit. There were other families that held dual memberships with TBE and Beth Israel. All of these other congregations, including T'chiya, had structures in place for B'nai Mitzvah. A year before Gal's Bat Mitzvah our family made the decision to follow T'chiya's format but to have the service jointly between the two congregations, and to do it out here in the Ann Arbor with the Havurah where we were members. That meant a tremendous amount of work especially since the Havurah had never even held a Shabbat morning service, let alone a Bat Mitzvah.

Amongst the first things needed were items to facilitate the structure for a Torah service. Alan Haber was consigned by the Havurah to build an Ark. A Torah scroll was loaned to us from a Reconstructionist congregation in Chicago that had merged with another and therefore had an inordinate number of scrolls. Yuval Warshai and Harry Fried went there to receive it and bring it back to Ann Arbor. For a reading table we brought my father's drafting table out to Ann

Arbor. As for a cloth covering over it, we used a large piece of woolen fabric that my mother still had which had been from her grandfather, who was an immigrant tailor from Europe. My mother carefully and lovingly sewed golden trim along the edges to help make it look the part. These items, needless to say, added a very special meaning to Gal's bat mitzvah, having things from her grandparents and great great grandparents as part of the supports for her to read Torah.

These items have been enjoyed by others in the Havurah for many years since and we are proud to have helped initiate the Torah service. While I was teaching and helping to establish the Beit Sefer I enjoyed sharing these items with the families and students I taught, relaying the story behind them as a concrete way of connecting the kids with the generations that came before us. The last set of students I taught- Eli, Lilly, and Anna became b'nai mitzvot last summer. With the culmination of that I decided to bring the table and cloth back to our family's home. I am confident that the congregation will be able to obtain another table, one which will hopefully be much more portable and lightweight, as anyone who has helped shlep it over the years to various Havurah observances would probably agree is a good idea. Also, then someone can commission a suitable cloth covering for it too.

As our children have grown up and graduated college our family has moved in other directions. I have written this article being sure that the congregation will understand how these items are very precious to our family and why I would like to keep them close.

*Editor's note: A very large thanks to the Warshai family for sharing these family treasures with us for many years.*



## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

### Advocating for the Homeless

Thursday, May 13, 6:00 pm- Advocacy 101 Seminar for People of Faith, with State Rep. Rebekah Warren: Sponsored by the Social Justice Team of Northside Presbyterian Church, in partnership with SOS Community Services. This Seminar is meant to be a “kick start” for those of us who want to learn about how we might more effectively advocate for the homeless. Rep. Warren will discuss effective ways to network and contact government officials so they will listen. At the conclusion of the seminar it is hoped that attendees will consider supporting one of several possible advocacy efforts. Location: SOS Administration Office at 101 S. Huron in Ypsilanti. RSVP's requested by May 6 to: Chelsea Clark, SOS Community Relations Coordinator, at (734) 484-9900 or [chelseac@soscs.org](mailto:chelseac@soscs.org).

### Unite with people of faith and conscience across the country at the US Social Forum

June 22-26th – U.S. Social Forum in Detroit – ICPJ wants to support you in getting to the U.S. Social Forum in Detroit! This is a once-in-a-lifetime, right-in-our-own-backyard kind of event. The USSF will convene social movements from across the United States and globally. Strengthen your ties with other faith communities and organizations doing similar work; learn about improving social conditions from our community to Detroit to New York to California; enhance your congregations work on current social issues. The USSF will take place at Cobo Hall and Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit. Read more about this very exciting effort at <http://www.ussf2010.org/>. Email [gracek@icpj.net](mailto:gracek@icpj.net) to get your congregations signed up to be a part of this exciting grassroots movement for peace and justice!

## SEEDLINGS AND THANKS

Thanks to Jayne Harary for her donation to the Havurah in memory of Susan Lehotsky (Keith Kurz's cousin.)

Thanks to Aura and Aaron Ahuvia for their donation to the Havurah in memory of Edwin Feinberg.



*Hamantaschen making! Photo credit: Carol Lessure*



## June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 <b>Learners Service 10 am-12 noon</b>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 <b>Dayenu Meditation Group 2 pm Location: TBA</b>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 <b>Shabbat Services 6 pm</b>	26 <b>Special Service with David Lefkovich 10 am-12:30 pm Morning services 1:15 pm Special Siddur song learning  8 pm evening program RSVP Jen or Aura</b>
27	28	29	30			

## July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 <b>Dayenu Meditation Group 2 pm Location: TBA</b>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 <b>Shabbat Services 6 pm</b>	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE JCC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**



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**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund Donation Form**

Here is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please:

write your check out to the **Jewish Community Foundation**,  
in the "memo" line, write: "**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund**"  
include this coupon with your check

Send your check to the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, PO Box 7451, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.  
We will log it in and send it on to the Jewish Community Foundation.

Your contribution is tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt from the Jewish Community Foundation.

Thank you very much for your contribution!

## *Yes, You Heard It Through*



# THE GRAPEVINE

*A Publication of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah*

*July/August 2010*

*Tammuz/Av/Elul 5770*



*Debbie Gilbert shares a story about David's harp while her husband, wonderful singer/guitarist/layleader David Lefkowich looks on, at the Sat. June 26 Community Sing-Along.*

*Photo credit: Emily Eisbruch*

## UPCOMING HAV EVENTS

In July will be having our regular end of the month musical Shabbat services and vegetarian potluck on Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Planning is in the works for a Barbeque sometime in August. Details to be forthcoming via email.

Our end of the month Shabbat services in August will be extra special in that it is our "Bring a Friend" service. Please think about someone you know who might enjoy our wonderful Havurah. Details about that service will also be forthcoming but the date is set for August 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Shore

Please join us for services Saturday, August 21 when Isaac Shore is called to the Torah for his Bar Mitzvah. Services will begin at 10 am at the JCC.

The Seltzer-Shore family will host a dance party (including buffet lunch) immediately following services until 3pm in the JCC gym. An Evite invitation will be sent to Havurah members in July. If you do not receive an Evite by July 14, please email Rena at [Rseltzer@aol.com](mailto:Rseltzer@aol.com) so that we can add you to the list.

Isaac will chant a portion from the Torah that includes the mitzvah to leave the corners of our fields and some of the olives on our trees for the poor. We invite you to act in the spirit of this mitzvah by bringing non-perishable canned and/or boxed food items to donate to Food Gatherers (please no glass containers, items past the expiration date, or open boxes) and gently used clothing to donate to the Kiwanis Sale. We will provide collection boxes outside of the JCC Social Hall.





*Twentieth Century Interpretation of the Mishkan*

## Havurah Explores Its Mishkanic Identity This Summer!

*Marcy Epstein*

Our community has long been blessed with its reliance on people and values over wealth or possession, for its diversity and flexibility, and for its immense reserve of intelligent, vivacious people. When our long-term loan of Torah table and tablecloth (with many thanks to the Warshai family) ended this spring, the opportunity to design a new Torah table and cloth sort of magically and gracefully emerged.

Just like it was written long ago about the creation of the Mishkan to carry the Torah the great distance "home", our artisans have come forward for a wonderful new, multigenerational project. Several of our table woodworkers (Alan Haber, Jack Edelstein, Dale Hammond-Sass, Danny Steinmetz) have combined efforts to supply the best materials and workpersonship; the artists of Judaica (Janet Greenhut, Leora Druckman, Marcy Epstein, Chava Israel, and Idelle Hammond-Sass) have combined their multimedia skills, beautiful supplies, and abilities for the table tapestry.

Soon there is coming the chance for the whole community, including children, to join in on the creative process, a happy event not only because we will create our treasured objects communally, but also because we can share in skill-building and artistic knowledge.

As this summer issue of Grapevine goes to print, we do not have a set timeline for the production of our table and tapestry. Nonetheless, we do have time for anyone who wishes to get involved to join us. We are aiming to have a community table working day in July and a community table tapestry day in August. So please stay tuned to your email, and join us in one of the more artistic chapters of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah's journey.

## NOTES FROM THE BOARD

*Mark Schneyer, Board Secretary*

At our June meeting the following was discussed:

**Budget** - The Board discussed the new year's budget and will be voting on it at the July meeting.

**Membership renewal packets**--These will be going out to members in July.

**High Holy Days** - will be taking place at the Unitarian church again this year. Planning is underway and the Board will be reviewing the plans in July.

**Sukkot retreat** - our former location is no longer available. Marcy reported on the search for a new location.

**Torah table/cover** - A group of Havurah members are planning to build a new table and make a new cover over the summer. (See preceding article.) Marcy updated the Board on the group's plans, which Board members were excited and appreciative to hear.

**Bar/bat mitzvah policy** - Debbie updated on the work to update the Havurah policy, which she is coordinating. More information to come on that.

# Havurah Book Club News

*Benjy Ben Baruch*

The Havurah book club will resume meeting in September. We meet once per month on Sunday mornings at the JCC. This past year we have met the 3rd Sunday of each month.

At the present time we are soliciting input regarding books to be put on our reading list. We will make our decision by mid July based upon input from those interested in participating. (We will conduct our discussion on Reconchat and input should be posted there.) The only commitment required is the intention to participate.

For updates and more information, please go to the temporary book club web page:  
[http://home.earthlink.net/~bbenbaruch/aarh\\_book\\_club.html](http://home.earthlink.net/~bbenbaruch/aarh_book_club.html)

## Summer Reads

Need some summer reading recommendations? Havurah members were asked what they were currently enjoying.

Nathan Martin just finished The Sparrow by Maria Doria Russell, “a great science-fiction and theology novel.”

Deborah Dash Moore finished reading a Steve Stern novel, The Frozen Rabbi. She reports that it is very funny but also sad.

Caroline Richardson recommends these really great books: Cutting For Stone, A Tennis Partner and My Own Country all of which are by Abraham Verghese. She cautions readers with this warning “Dr. Verghese is a doctor and also a very vivid and graphic writer and these books are about medical topics. But the really amazing thing about them is that they are mostly about people, amazing people and average every day people, and people who are both amazing and average every day people at the same time. A Tennis Partner and My Own Country are memoirs i.e. almost true stories, but when you read them you feel like you are reading novels

because they take you so deeply into a different world. A Tennis Partner talks a little about medical training and cocaine addiction and tennis. My Own Country is more about AIDS. Cutting For Stone is his newest book and it is a novel, a fabulous and fascinating novel that talks about surgery, third world medicine and politics, inner city trauma hospitals and the subculture of the foreign medical grads that staff them. The writing is stunning. The images are unforgettable.”

Idelle Hammond Sass writes “My sister in law gave me Saving Fish From Drowning by Amy Tan. I had a really good laugh the other night, some of it quite comedic. Really interesting as it takes place in China and Burma, (how the military gov't does things) bumbling American tourists, and the ghost of an art collector. Haven't finished it yet, but liking it so far! “

Esther L. recommends The Girl From Purple Mountain by May-Lee Chai and Winberg Chai, “This is a beautiful memoir written by a father and daughter about growing up in China and America. The father lived in China during the difficult transition of the revolution, and the daughter grows up trying to understand her Chinese identity. It is written in a dispassionate manner, but the intensity of feeling from both authors is conveyed subtly in this wonderful book.”

Marcy Epstein is enjoying Einstein's God: Conversations about Science and the Human Spirit by Krista Tippett.

Dina Kurz recently read The Road by Cormac McCarthy. She writes: “While the book made me very anxious while reading it, it has come to mind frequently since I finished it. Its message of hope in the face of cataclysmic consequences and the positive power of human relationships have both been important to me. It is a quick read and I highly recommend it.”

Sally Fink read The Help, and couldn't put it down 'til the end. Also, Grand River and Joy by Sarah Messer, about black/Jewish relations in Detroit at the time of the 1967 rebellion. “It was very good, and is now required reading for honors program students at UM. Having grown up in

Detroit and having lived through this period, it was very evocative of my experiences.”

She also read Lorrie Moore’s, A Gate at the Stairs and The Lemon Tree, an Arab Jew and the Heart of the Middle East by Sandy Tolan.

Abigail Weinberg recommends 2 books: Remedies by Kate Ledger. “Very good novel about marriage. Light Jewish content. Written by my best friend from high school!” and “Surprisingly Happy: An Atypical Religious Memoir by Sheila Peltz Weinberg. A great book even if your mother didn’t write it!”

Shari Fox writes “Here are three books I recently read and enjoyed, each very different from the others. Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin – a fascinating story of how one man really made, and continues to make, a difference for the people of rural Pakistan by building schools for girls. The Unnamed by Joshua Ferris. I heard the author read from this book when he came to U-M as part of the Zell Visiting Writers Series. This is a beautiful, somewhat heartbreaking story of how a never-before seen recurring illness affects a family over the course of many years. The Secret Lives of People in Love by Simon Van Booy. This is another writer I heard read from his work at Prairie Lights Book Store in Iowa City, Iowa. The book is a collection of short stories about people in all kinds of love, not only romantic. The writing is simply beautiful.”

Aura Ahuvia has been reading Michael Pollan’s Omnivore’s Dilemma and writes “It’s completely changing what I buy and how I eat!”

Jen Cohen recommends four books: “Just finished Grand River and Joy, by Susan Messer. I really enjoyed the way the author captured a picture of Detroit at a certain time in history. I found the “should we stay or should we go” struggle of the Jewish families very compelling. The latest book in my book club was “Little Bee, by Chris Cleave and it was a page turner. Time and again, it had me wondering what I might do in the various situations the characters found themselves in. The Kindness of Strangers, by Katrina Kittle is recommended with a warning--the subject matter (child abuse) is unpleasant and I found myself haunted by the

story. That said, I found the story to be ultimately hopeful. I saved the best for last--I loved, loved, loved What I Thought I Knew, by Alice Eve Cohen. This is a really well told story of an unexpected, late in the game, pregnancy. I literally couldn’t put this down and read it in one sitting. All of these books are available at the Ann Arbor Library.”

Emily Milner recommends The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, by Rebecca Skloot - An amazing (and true!) story about the life of a black woman, her family, and what happened to her cervical cancer cells. Gives a human face to much of the cell culture, medication and research progress made over the past 60 years. I don’t often read “non-fiction” (being an F&SF fan and having precious little free time!) but this was a delightful read. She also recently finished the 6th, and last, book (mystery and more) by Batya Gur, an Israeli writer who used to write for HaEretz, and writes “These are wonderful books, set in Israel and gives some perspective to life there through the years. The characters and the stories are great. Too bad Gur died and there will be no more books. Look up the titles, but the first is The Saturday Morning Murder: A Psychoanalytic Case.”

Rena Seltzer recommends The Kid (What Happened After My Boyfriend and I Decided to Go Get Pregnant): An Adoption Story by Dan Savage. “Dan Savage is the out and outrageous writer of a nationally syndicated sex-advice column, “Savage Love,” and a regular contributor to “This American Life” on Public Radio. This story about being a gay male couple going through the process of open adoption is a funny and touching page-turner.”

So there you have it, Havnicks...Happy reading this summer!



## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

### Caregiver Conversations

On Sunday, July 18, the Caregiver Conversations group will meet at the JCC from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Join us for a potluck brunch and facilitated conversation about any and all of your caregiving concerns. Share your situation and receive constructive feedback and ideas! We'll provide bagels, please bring a dish to pass.

Jewish Family Services convenes "Caregiver Conversations," a monthly drop-in educational and support group for adult children in a variety of caregiving roles for their aging parents. The Havurah is one of the Jewish organizations that sponsors this group.

RSVP to Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson  
(abbie@jfsannarbor.org or 769-0209)



### SEEDLINGS AND THANKS

Thanks to **Leon Puttler** for his gift of appreciation. He thanks us for allowing his family to borrow our siddurim and chumashim and helping to make their son's Bar Mitzvah a success.

### SIMCHAS AND SORROWS

Congratulations to **Dafna Eisbruch** for being a representative of Habonim Dror at the 36th World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem June 15-17.

Refuah Shlema to **Karen Cooper**.

*From Hav member, Abby Weinberg:*

We are sad to announce that we are moving back to Philadelphia in July. Nathan got a job as Director of Student Affairs at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and our long-time friends and family will be much closer. As we leave Ann Arbor, we wanted to express that our time here was improved exponentially by the existence of the Ann Arbor Recon Havurah. Thank you ALL for being our home-base community for the past four years. Thank you for holding our kids, bringing us food, inviting us over, playing princess, singing loud, and being a warm, welcoming, fun and honest community. Our entire family felt fully embraced by the Hav and an integral part of this community from the first minute we arrived. We will deeply miss you and will bring your spirit with us where 'ere we go!

Please keep in touch via email or cell phone and if you come to Philly, please call & visit!!! We will always be connected via the international Reconstructionist network!

L'vracha/In Blessing,  
Abby Weinberg  
Nathan Martin  
Hadassah & Yehuda Weinmartin



*Haddasah and Yehuda Weinmartin  
Photo credit: Abby Weinberg*

## July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 <b>Dayenu Meditation Group</b> <b>2 pm Location: TBA</b>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Caregiver Conversations 11 am -12:30 pm RSVP abbie@jfsannarbor.org or 769-0209	19	20	21	22	23 <b>Shabbat</b> <b>Services</b> <b>6 pm</b>	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## August 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 <b>Bar Mitzvah of Issac Shore</b> <b>10 am</b> <b>RSVP Rena at</b> <b>rseitzer@aol.com</b>
22	23	24	25	26	27 <b>"Bring A</b> <b>Friend"</b> <b>Shabbat</b> <b>Services</b> <b>6 pm</b>	28
29	30	31				

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kkurz@comcast.net

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(734) 665-5540  
dr\_marcy@hotmail.com

**Debbie Zivan**  
(734) 649-2255  
djzivan@yahoo.com

**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund Donation Form**

Here is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please:

- write your check out to the **Jewish Community Foundation**,
- in the "memo" line, write: **"Progressive Jewish Giving Fund"**
- include this coupon with your check
- Send your check to the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, PO Box 7451, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.  
We will log it in and send it on to the Jewish Community Foundation.

Your contribution is tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt from the Jewish Community Foundation.

Thank you very much for your contribution!

## *Yes, You Heard It Through*



# THE GRAPEVINE

## *A Publication of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah*

September 2010

Elul 5770 / Tishrei 5771

## Happy New Year!



*Photo courtesy of Allison Stupka*

## High Holy Day Services

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah invites you to spend the High Holy Days with us.

Our High Holiday services will be musical, participatory and interactive, community-oriented yet introspective, giving ample opportunity to engage actively and vitally with the process of *teshuvah*, or repentance/return. They will be led by the Havurah's Rabbinical Student Intern Aura Ahuvia, with contributions from Deb Kraus and other Havurah members.

Services will be at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road 48103, the red brick building on the southeast corner of Ellsworth.

Services will be at no cost for current Havurah members. If you are not a member, we ask that you make a contribution of \$126 per household to help cover the costs of these services, or simply

to donate what you can. No one will be turned away from prayer. Contributions may be sent to the AARH address below.

A Break-the-Fast will be held on September 18, following Ne'ilah (around 8:30 pm). Please join us for a catered dairy buffet with traditional Jewish foods. The cost is \$15 for members, \$20 for nonmembers. Payment may be sent to the AARH address below.

Childcare for children 2 years of age and older will be available for portions of the services, but reservations will be required and must be made by Wednesday, September 1. Childcare for nonmembers is \$18 per child per day. Without advance reservation, childcare will be offered only on a space-available basis. Members who have not made a reservation will be asked to pay \$10 per child per day; non-members \$18 per child per day.

Childcare will not be offered on Erev Rosh Hashanah (Sept 8); Kol Nidre (Sept 17); during the afternoon sessions of Yom Kippur (Sept 18; 3:00 – 5:15 pm); or during the Break-the-Fast (Sept 18, 8:30 – 10 pm).

Contributions, childcare reservations, and Break-the-Fast payment may be sent to the AARH, PO Box 7451, Ann Arbor, MI, 48107-7451. You can print out a form from the web site or print the attached forms to this newsletter. There is also a form attached which shows the schedule for all the holidays.

For more information, check our website, [www.aaRecon.com](http://www.aaRecon.com) or contact the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah ([info@aaecon.org](mailto:info@aaecon.org) or 734.445.1910). We look forward to celebrating the High Holy Days with you this year!

## Shabbat Shuvah

A meditative, musical Shabbat Shuvah program is planned for **September 11**, the Saturday evening between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The evening's songs, plus a story or two, will concentrate on the themes of *teshuvah*, return, and the longings of the heart. The program is open to Havurah members and non-members alike. Please bring a cushion, floor chair, or folding chair to sit on; many of us will be sitting on the floor. Held at the home of Aura & Aaron Ahuvia, 1317 King George Blvd., four blocks south of Eisenhower. RSVP to Aura, 975-9045, or email [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

## Learning Services Resume

The year-long "Learning Service Series," a 10-part drop-in-based class held on the first Shabbat mornings of every month, begin Saturday, **October 2**, at 10:00 am at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. These services are geared toward Jewish adults who are largely unknowledgeable about the nature of the Jewish prayer service. Through active learning activities, sharing, singing and discussion, the nature of the Shabbat morning service, its shape and contents, history and contributing characters are all explored.

No RSVP is necessary to attend, and each class is designed to be self-contained. Last year's curriculum included classes on "Postures toward God," "The Service Structure," "The Shema," "The Amidah," "Sources of Prayer: Characters and History," and "The Prophetic Voice." One need not be a member of the Reconstructionist Havurah to attend. For more information, check the website, at [www.aaRecon.com](http://www.aaRecon.com). You can also contact Debbie Field, 332-3487 or [dfield@adrian.edu](mailto:dfield@adrian.edu), or Aura, 975-9045, or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

## New! Monthly Shabbat Morning Services

With the blessing of the Havurah board, the Havurah will begin holding Shabbat morning services on the second Saturday of every month, starting **October 9**, at the JCC. Services will run from 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 pm or so, and will include an opportunity to consider and discuss the Torah parsha in depth. This will be a highly participative service, with volunteers leading prayer, song, and divrei Torah on a rotating basis. Get involved! This service is yours, to make it into a meaningful and fulfilling davening experience. Aura will help lead parts, and will also help teach/coordinate volunteers as needed. Any questions? Ask Aura, 975-9045, or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

## Lay Leadership Group Resumes

As part of the Havurah's commitment to develop both lay leadership from within, and to deepen our individual and collective prayer experiences, the lay-leading development group, "Opening the Door," is set to resume this fall. Last year, this small, intimate group not only learned about the nature of prayer leadership, formulating good discussion questions, building presentation skills, etc., but also shared on a deeper level, exploring questions of belief in God (for instance, how can someone lead prayer when they're not sure they believe in God?), how to express existential issues in a constructive way, and how to turn to community for comfort and support.

Ultimately, participants in this group work toward leading anything from a single prayer to an entire prayer service, at some point during the year. If you have any questions about the group, or think that you might be interested in participating, please call Paul Resnick, 998-1329 or [presnick@umich.edu](mailto:presnick@umich.edu), or Aura, 975-9045 or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).



## EDUCATION: News from our Beit Sefer

### Sunday School to Begin

The curriculum for the Reconstructionist Havurah's Sunday school was upgraded over the summer, adding a prayer leadership component to this year's program. The update will mean that students in each of the three mixed-age classrooms will have the opportunity to lead prayers during the Havurah's monthly Shabbat services throughout the year. The remainder of the curriculum will remain the same, focusing half on ethics and Jewish history, and half on Hebrew, with a brief singing component connecting the two.

The first day of school is Sunday, **September 12**, with a concurrent orientation for parents, which will include bagels and coffee. Questions may be directed to the Beit Sefer's Head Teacher, Shoshana Maloff Jackson, (734) 709-3434, or to School Director Aura Ahuvia, 975-9045, or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com). You may also check the website, at [www.aaRecon.com](http://www.aaRecon.com).



That's Beit Sefer graduate Molly Kraus Steinmetz making challah! Photo courtesy Debbie Zivan

## Elul Story

**Invaluable Lesson** by Rabbi Naomi Levy

*"The smoothest path is full of stones." Yiddish Proverb*

One day my daughter, Noa, who has physical disabilities, asked me if she could have a rock climbing party for her twelfth birthday. I froze. I'd always been so careful to protect Noa from disappointment. I'd gone to great lengths to create parties where she wouldn't get left out or feel that her friends surpassed her. I said, "No, I don't think it's a good idea." "But why?" she pressed me. "It's too expensive," I said. But day after day Noa kept pushing for the rock climbing party. Eventually I gave in. But I was still worried.

On the day of the party Noa put on a climber's harness, and to my amazement, she pushed with her legs and pulled with her arms and boldly made her way up the wall. It wasn't easy, but she climbed and climbed. She was fearless, beaming with joy. I was so wrong about her.

During the party there was a boy about Noa's age who was too frightened to climb. His father was encouraging him, but he stood frozen in his place. His muscles were strong, but his fear was stronger still.

That day my daughter taught me an invaluable lesson: our greatest disability is fear, our greatest strength is courage. In climbing, it is the smoothest surface that is the most treacherous. A rough rocky landscape is fertile ground for ascension. If you want to rise up don't fear the bumps. Turn every stone into a step.

As I looked around the gym that day I couldn't help but wonder if the key to a meaningful life was embedded in that rock wall. The beckoning stones gave me my answer. The challenge in life is as simple as this: Do I stare at the wall or do I climb?

Rabbi Naomi Levy's new book, *"Hope Will Find You"* comes out September, 2010.

[www.nashuva.com](http://www.nashuva.com)

# Havurah Board Members Sought

Dear members of the Havurah:

We will have openings for four or more new Board members, come January. Carol Lessure, Marcy Epstein and I are the current members of the nominating committee of the Havurah. We are looking for four or more new Board members to replace the outgoing Board members, Audrey Newell, Keith Kurz, Marcy and me. It has been a privilege for me to be on the Board for the past three years, getting to know other members in ways that create bonds and connections, and working together to further the ideals of the Reconstructionist movement.

If you are interested in being on the Board, or know any member you would like to nominate, please let us know. Members who have paid their dues and are adults (beyond the age of Bar/Bat Mitzvah) are eligible to serve.

Sally Claire Fink,  
Member of the Nominating Committee

## Congratulations to Isaac Shore!

*Rena Seltzer and Pam Shore*

Isaac Shore celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, August 21.

The Seltzer/Shore family gift to the Havurah in honor of Isaac's Bar Mitzvah is five Reconstructionist siddurim (prayerbooks) to be given to the next five students who will need the book to prepare for their B'nai Mitzvot.

The Seltzer/Shore family is deeply grateful to the Havurah for your support of Isaac's Bar Mitzvah. We would like to thank:

-Deb Kraus for her care and dedication in preparing Isaac so well for his Bar Mitzvah, and for connecting with him on a personal level, so that he feels more at home in the Havurah.

-Aura Ahuvia for leading a beautiful service and teaching Isaac and us about the service, both at the learning services throughout the year and in one-on-one meetings with Isaac.

-The parents of last year's B'nai Mitzvot for their generous instrumental and moral support.

-The Havurah members who transported clothing donations, picked up the flowers, delivered a Torah table, lent a beautiful cover for the Torah table, baked challah, set up, served as greeters, clean-up crew, gave us moral support, and celebrated with us!

Isaac's Bar Mitzvah service was the first event to be held in the renovated lounges at the JCC! (new doors still to come). The JCC is still fundraising to cover the cost of the renovations and for a sound system and projector for the lounges. Donations can be made to the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103



## FROM THE JRF

The biannual National JRF convention will meet in Newport Beach, CA this year Nov. 11-14. Erwin Chemerinsky, an expert on American Constitutional law will be speaking and celebrated singer of contemporary Jewish music, Julie Silver will be performing. Read more about the convention on the JRF web site: <http://jrf.org/convention>.



## Feeling Like a Member

*Allison Stupka, Havurah member*

How did you deepen your feeling of connection to the Havurah? A recent letter to the board suggests that it is difficult for newer members to feel connected to and a part of our congregation.

One suggestion is to volunteer for a task or event. Jen Cohen, the Havurah volunteer coordinator, is the one to contact about getting involved. You can email her at [mamacohen@comcast.net](mailto:mamacohen@comcast.net).

Personally, I found that connections with people in the Hav came easier after volunteering to help plan the High Holidays. After spending more than a few years feeling like mostly an outsider looking in, helping plan the break-the-fast for Yom Kippur was just the nudge I needed to feel more deeply connected to other members. My experience with the Hav began to change.

Do you remember what a turning point for you was in your experience with our congregation? Let's have a discussion of this on reconchat. Or if you would rather express yourself by seeing your words in print then email the Grapevine editor at [alstupka@gmail.com](mailto:alstupka@gmail.com).

L'Shanna Tova.

## Notes from the Board

*Mark Schneyer, Board Secretary*

The board met on Aug 11, 2010

1. **Grapevine editor**--The Board decided to offer the open Grapevine editor position to Marcy Epstein. In the future this role may shift to focus on web content and may include outside communication. As a paid role, this will not start until after Marcy leaves the Board at the end of the year. The Board will approve a transition plan at the September meeting.
2. **Administrative tasks**--The Board agreed to ask Jennifer Cohen to do certain administrative tasks in exchange for hourly pay, in addition to her current events role.
3. **Nominating committee**--Committee members reported on interest so far from potential board members and asked the Board to submit additional names of potential candidates
4. **Treasurer role**--The Board agreed with Keith's proposal that next year's new Treasurer be helped by an Assistant Treasurer who is not on the Board and has specific duties, which Keith is willing to do. The new Treasurer, who is a Board member, will perform all the duties listed in the Bylaws as Treasurer responsibilities.
5. **Rabbinic role**--Shari reported on the Chairs' meeting with Aura to go over the evaluation of the year. On Aura's request for more direct meeting time with the Board, the Board agreed that Aura should attend meetings once a quarter for planning and evaluation of current activities. The Board will also invite Jennifer to meetings where event programming will be planned and evaluated.
6. **Sukkot retreat**--Marcy updated on progress finding a site and the Board empowered Marcy to make a decision on the location and reserve it.
7. **Member meeting**--The Board agreed that the annual meeting should be separate from the

Sukkot retreat, and that it should consist primarily of a visioning session similar to the one done in 1999. We will schedule this for late October/early November. Board Chairs will lead the meeting but may ask for member assistance facilitating the visioning portion. On the specific topic of the future rabbinic leadership, the Board agreed that the member meeting will elicit member opinions on direction, and that we will then form a committee of Board and non-Board members to pursue next steps.

## Glazed Apricot Carrots with Peppers

by Norene Gilletz

(A nice Rosh Hashnah recipe that uses ingredients which are growing in our area right now.)

2 lb. carrots, peeled and sliced  
1 red pepper, diced  
1 onion, diced  
1/4 cup apricot jam (preferably low-sugar)  
2 tbsp. fresh dill, minced  
Salt and pepper to taste

Slice carrots 1/2 inch thick. Cook in boiling salted water until nearly tender, about 10 to 12 minutes. Add red pepper and onion and simmer 4 or 5 minutes longer. Drain well and return to heat. Stir in jam and dill; mix well. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Makes 6 servings

Recipe from:

<http://www.chabad.org/theJewishWoman/>



## SIMCHAS AND SORROWS

Mazel Tov to Amy Rosenberg and Marc Lerner who were married in July.

Mazel Tov to Issac Shore who was bar mitzvah on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Carol Swaney, a woman who provided loving and fun childcare at Havurah events, passed away August 12<sup>th</sup>. She was also a friend of Hav members, Sarai Brachman Shoup and Allison Stupka, who ran many a mile with her.

## September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 <b>Erev Rosh Hashanah services 7:30-9 pm Unitarian Church*</b>	9 <b>Rosh Hashanah services 9 am- 1pm Oneg 1-1:30pm</b>  <b>Tashlich Self led or yoga option 3-4:30 Island Drive Park</b>	10 <b>Second Day Rosh Hashanah services with Pardes Hannah St. Aidan's Episcopal Church</b>	11 <b>Shabbat Shuvah Ahuvia home</b>
12 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30 -11:30 am</b> <b>Beit Sefer Parent Orientation Mtg with bagels and coffee</b>	13	14	15	16	17 <b>Kol Nidre Services 7:15 – 9 pm</b>	18 <b>Yom Kippur Services 10 am-2:45 pm</b> <b>Afternoon sessions 3-4 pm and 4:15-5:15 pm</b> <b>Yizkor 5:30-7 pm</b> <b>Ne'ilah 7:15-8:30 pm</b> <b>Break-the-Fast ~8:30 RSVP required</b>
19 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30 -11:30 am</b>	20	21	22	23 <b>Sukkot</b>	24 <b>Sukkot Retreat Shabbat services Details TBA</b>	25 <b>Sukkot Retreat</b>
26 <b>Sukkot Retreat</b>	27 <b>Sukkot</b>	28 <b>Sukkot</b>	29 <b>Sukkot</b>	30		

**\*All High Holiday services located at Unitarian Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor Saline Rd 48103 unless otherwise indicated.**

## October 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30 -11:30 am</b>					1 <b>Simchat Torah</b>	2 <b>Shabbat Learning Service 10-noon</b>
3 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30 -11:30 am</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9 <b>Shabbat Morning Services 10 am-noonish</b>
10 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30 -11:30 am</b>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30 -11:30 am</b>	18	19	20	21	22 <b>Shabbat Services 6 pm</b>	23
24 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30 -11:30 am</b>	25	26	27	28	29	30

**ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE JCC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**



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**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund Donation Form**

Here is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please:

- write your check out to the **Jewish Community Foundation,**
- in the “memo” line, write: “**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund**”
- include this coupon with your check
- Send your check to the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, PO Box 7451, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.  
We will log it in and send it on to the Jewish Community Foundation.

Your contribution is tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt from the Jewish Community Foundation.

Thank you very much for your contribution!

*Yes, You Heard It Through*



## THE GRAPEVINE

*A Publication of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah*

*October 2010*

*Tishrei/Cheshvan 5771*



*Isabel Ahbel-Rappe decorates the sukkah at the annual retreat. Photo credit: Carol Lessure*

### UPCOMING HAV EVENTS:

#### Learning Services Resume

The first Learning Service of the year kicks off Oct. 2 at the JCC, from 10 am – 12:00 noon. Geared toward adults and older teenagers, they are designed to be actively engaging, intellectually challenging, and personally rewarding. Please come, whether you think you know the service or not! We explore history, culture, language and famous personalities, all in

terms of how they bear on the structure and content of the service we have today. No knowledge of Hebrew is necessary, just the desire to learn more in an open, inquisitive setting. I hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Debbie Field, 332-3487 or [dfield@adrian.edu](mailto:dfield@adrian.edu), or Aura, 975-9045, or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

#### Monthly Shabbat Morning Services starting

With the blessing of the Havurah board, the Havurah will begin holding Shabbat morning services on the second Saturday of every month, starting **October 9**, at the JCC. Services will run from 10:00 am – 12:15 pm or so, and will include an opportunity to consider and discuss the Torah parsha in depth. This will be a highly participative service, with volunteers leading prayer, song, and divrei Torah on a rotating basis. Get involved! This service is yours, to make it into a meaningful and fulfilling davening experience. Aura will help lead parts, and will also help teach/coordinate volunteers as needed. Any questions? Ask Aura, 975-9045, or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

#### Lay Leadership Development to Resume in October

An organizational meeting for those interested in playing a more active role as lay leaders in the

Havurah this year is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, Oct. 16, at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Aura & Aaron Ahuvia. At this initial meeting, we'll develop tangible goals for involvement and learning this year, and share the anxieties and doubts, as well as the hopes and desires, which naturally arise in connection with this heightened involvement. While knowledge of Hebrew and of specific prayers will be quite helpful, this group is open to *all* levels, including those who wish to learn and master something as beginners. Together, we'll learn and grow, and develop our skills, over the course of the year.

This group is named "Opening the Door" because it aspires to help people navigate the sometimes scary threshold into more active lay leadership. Believe me, you can do it! Some people will want to lead entire services; others just a section of the service, or even a single prayer, story, or insight. All levels of participation are welcome. If you have any questions about the group, or think that you might be interested in participating, please call Paul Resnick, 998-1329 or [presnick@umich.edu](mailto:presnick@umich.edu), or Aura, 975-9045 or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

### **Fourth Friday Service in a new/old Space!**

Come to our Fourth Friday service and vegetarian potluck, Friday Oct. 22 at the JCC. The newly renovated space is beautiful, with natural wood replacing the cinder blocks that we used to enjoy so much. Come check out the new look. We look forward to seeing you there!



*The Belman Wells family in Ecuador.*

### **New Member Spotlight:**

Welcome to Dale Belman, Amy Tracy Wells and Livia and Aaron Belman-Wells. Some of you know them because Livia has attended the Beit Sefer for a few years. They have decided to join the Havurah. Mazel Tov!

Dale is a professor of Human Resources and Labor Relations at Michigan State. His hobbies include woodworking, reading, photography & playing. Amy is a consultant to nonprofit organizations, writer and community volunteer.

Livia is 11 and Aaron is 7. Livia likes swimming, math, collecting stones, reading, writing & drawing. Aaron enjoys building, play dates, swimming and sleeping.

They joined the Havurah because they a. moved here from Lansing and b. find that Reconstructionism is the best unifying framework for their belief in community and service.

And what are their favorite Jewish holidays you might ask? The kids love Hanukah for all the reasons one might imagine! Dale enjoys the Purim spiel both for the humor and also, it reminds him of the spring play which took place in the secular community he grew up in. Oddly, the spring play, which was humorous, always

took place around Purim.

Something unique about them is: They spent four weeks in Ecuador. Dale and Amy enjoyed drinking coffee on the apartment's rooftop that overlooked Centro Historico as well as one thousand other aspects of life. Livia's favorite part was not the two volcanoes she climbed, or hiking through jungles or rainforests, but caving! Aaron loved checking out playground equipment after Spanish-language school and sleeping in a hammock.

We extend a big formal welcome to them as new members!



*Mikvah of the brave at the annual retreat! Photo credit: Carol Lessure*



*Members of the ketanim group in our Beit Sefer hold class at our annual retreat. Photo credit: Carol Lessure*

## **EDUCATION: News from our Beit Sefer**

The Beit Sefer is off to a wonderful start, with a record-breaking 28 students enrolled! Our youngest kids, Morah Sophia's *ketanim*, enjoyed making tiny sukkahs out of sticks and leaves up at the retreat, while Shoshana's *yeladim* made everyone a delicious pear tart, and Brian's *gedolim* discussed ethical dilemmas of all kinds. Their Hebrew self-paced study is off to a strong start too; our kids didn't lose as much Hebrew as they thought they would over the summer!



*Claudia Kraus Piper holds our torah. See article below for why she chose to hold it for this photograph.*

## **Rosh Chodesh Service at the JCC**

*Lisa Bernstein*

All are invited to a community egalitarian service on the morning of the first day of Rosh Chodesh, Friday, October 8 at 9:30 am at the JCC. Lisa Bernstein is organizing the service in solidarity with Women of the Wall. Please RSVP by e-mail to [lisapbernstein@comcast.net](mailto:lisapbernstein@comcast.net) so we know we'll have a minyan, and also indicate if you would like to lead a part of the service, read Torah, and/or have an aliyah. Women of the Wall's central mission is to achieve the social and legal recognition of our right, as women, to wear prayer shawls, pray and read from the Torah collectively and out loud at the Western Wall. (Some of you will recall having our pictures taken to upload to the WOW website as a part of the protest a few months ago, just before services at the JCC one Friday night. They were just

uploaded this week! AA) For more information, go to <http://womenofthewall.org.il/>. Thank you to the JCC for providing a room, the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah for the use of their Torah scroll, and to Beth Israel Congregation for providing kippot, tallitot, and siddurim.

A Hasidic Jew walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the loan officer. He says he is going to Europe on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000.

The bank officer says the bank will need some kind of security for such a loan, so the man hands over the keys to a new Rolls Royce parked on the street in front of the bank. Everything checks out, and the bank agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan.

An employee drives the Rolls into the bank's underground garage and parks it there.

Two weeks later, the man returns, repays the \$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$15.41.

The loan officer says, "We are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire. What puzzles us is why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?"

The Hasidic Jew replied, "Where else in New York can I park my car for two weeks for 15 bucks?"

# NOTES FROM THE BOARD

The Board met at Debbie Zivan's house on Sept 1.

Attending were: Shari Fox, Keith Kurz, Mark Schneyer, Sarai Brachman Shoup, Sally Fink, Marcy Epstein and Debbie Zivan.

**Nominating committee update**--Board election ballots will be sent in October. Committee continuing to identify potential new Board members.

**Member meeting**--Julie Norris has agreed to facilitate a visioning session at the annual meeting. A subcommittee consisting of Shari and Mark from the Board and Leora Druckman, who conducted a previous visioning session, will meet with Julie to plan agenda. Meeting date in November to be confirmed

**Volunteer roles/culture**--Board discussed how to make volunteer roles more specific and doable as a way to increase participation and other ways to increase participation.

**High Holidays survey**--Survey was finalized and sent to members.

**Progressive Giving Fund**--Board voted to follow last year's allocation. Board would like to look at local allocations again next year.

**Reonchat/Announce migration to our own server**--Board approved plan to migrate mailing lists to our own server, which will allow members and interested others to sign up, unsubscribe or change addresses themselves on our site.

**New members**--Sarai expressed support for an earlier idea to invite recent new members to a small group dinner to meet some members and discuss Reconstructionism. She would like to see these conducted in a way that catches up with last

several years of new members and going forward. Sarai will pursue getting these started.

**Sound system**--Board approved purchase of some new components of a sound system before High Holidays.

## **Kudos:**

to Aura for recording High Holiday music and chanting and arranging to upload to our website for members to listen to ahead of services and to Joel Goldberg for implementing the upload and listening tools

Also to Evelyn Neuhaus for leading a Selichot meditation



*Now this is the way to study! Members had a lively discussion at the annual retreat.*

*Photo credit: Carol Lessure*



*MUNCHKIN! Kids enjoyed games at the retreat. We count Dan Peisach as a kid too!  
Photo credit: Carol Lessure*

## **Refreshed and Renewed by Havurah's Sukkot Retreat**

*Carol Lessure*

A retreat is a time to get away from it all. Indeed, last weekend everyone made an effort to “unplug” and reconnect with each other. Grownups enjoyed catching up while the children grouped together to play games of soccer, tag, football and “ghost in the graveyard.”

The weekend kicked off with the building and decorating of the Sukkah, as well as a group gathering to shake the lulav and etrog and share the “harvests” we had during the past year. Grownups and younger members were able to share significant “crops” such as starting kindergarten, finishing dissertations, redecorating homes, and learning new skills.

Saturday was a day that included morning services and two chances for torah study with Aura as well as yoga led by Eileen Dzik, games with Dan Pesach, torah tapestry creating with Marcy Epstein. There was also hiking, boating on Lake Bishop and even swimming for a brave few. The evening included Klezmer music with Dan

Pesach and Debbie Gombert and friends, dancing led by Drake Meadow, followed by a campfire with smores and songs.

Sunday brought together most of the Beit Sefer students, even those who did not spend the night! The students and teachers took full advantage of their outdoor classrooms with the younger set (kitanim) built a pipe cleaner people and created a fairy realm while the gadolim or oldest students held outdoor discussions and the upper elementary (yeladim) harvested and baked a pear tart for lunch. Grownups could also participate in morning yoga with Eileen and a sukkot workshop led by Stephanie Rowden. The wonderful outdoor surroundings were enjoyed by all, especially the Emrich garden that offered a real harvest of vegetables as well as pears straight from the tree.

Audrey provided two wonderful breakfast feasts of oatmeal, French toast, fresh scrambled eggs and fruit. Marcy prepared Friday dinner and Sunday lunch. Chava created feasts for both Saturday lunch and dinner featuring a Brazilian food for lunch with several forms of manioc along with other different flavors. Dinner was a “kosher” style Creole meal with vegetarian gumbo, red beans and fried green tomatoes. Children adventurous enough to try some of this food could ring the large Emrich dinner bell. Thank you to everyone kept the fresh coffee brewing as well as the mysterious donors of wine and beer!

A new friend who joined us this weekend commented on how she couldn't believe all that was offered this weekend by the Hav participants. Where, she asked, did the band come from? And how is it that we have members who can lead yoga, torah study, sukkot workshops, folk dancing, and campfire songs? Meanwhile, others can prepare such memorable meals! Indeed, we have much to celebrate and many to thank for creating an enjoyable retreat in a nearby and accessible location.

Toda Raba to Marcy Epstein and many other board leaders and Havurah members who helped her organize and pull off this year's Sukkot Retreat in a new wonderful campsite. The Emrich Retreat Center offered more comfortable and private sleeping arrangements and included many of the other enjoyments we have had at our previous retreat locations.



## SEEDLINGS AND THANKS

Thanks to **Evelyn Neuhaus** for leading a Selichot meditation last month.

Thanks to **Carol Lessure** for her donation to the Havurah in honor of **Eli Cohen, Lillie Schneyer, Mollie Kraus Steinmetz and Jonah Ahuvia as well as Debbie Field and Deb Kraus** for volunteering at "An Evening at the Farmer's Market," a benefit for Ozone House.

Thanks to numerous individuals for their donations to the Havurah for the High Holy Days.

Thanks to **Marcy Epstein** for all her work planning the Sukkot retreat.

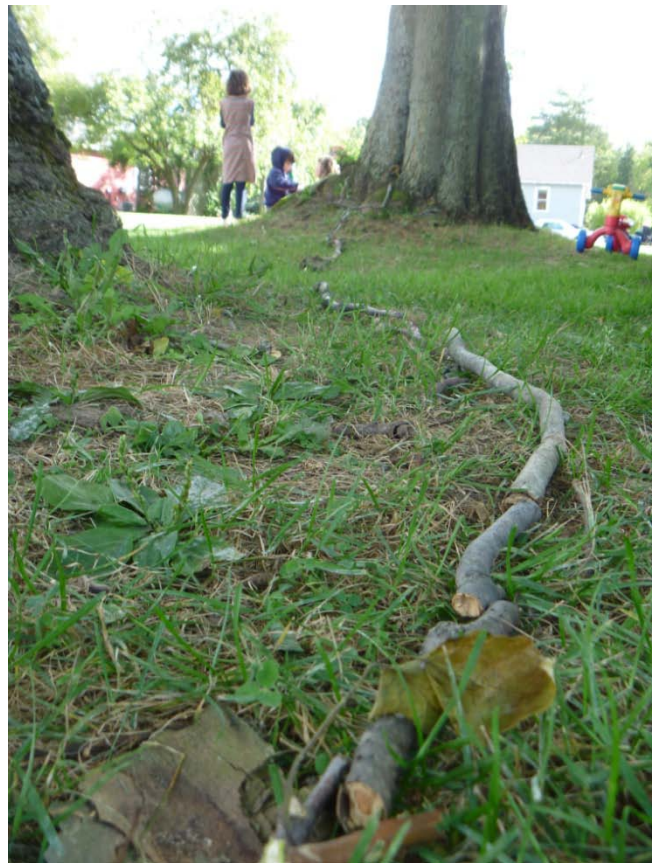
Thanks to **Jen Cohen** for planning such a smooth High Holy Days.



## SIMCHAS AND SORROWS

Condolences to Greg Saltzman and his family on the passing of Greg's father, Bernie Saltzman.

Refuah Shlema to Jeff Basch.



*Photo credit: Carol Lessure*

## October 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 <b>Beit Sefer</b> 9:30 -11:30 am					1 Simchat Torah	2 <b>Shabbat Learning Service</b> 10-noon
3 <b>Beit Sefer</b> 9:30 -11:30 am	4	5	6	7	8	9 <b>Shabbat Morning Services</b> 10 am-noonish  <b>Dayenu Meditation Group 2 pm</b> <b>Location: TBA</b>
10 <b>Beit Sefer</b> 9:30 -11:30 am	11	12	13	14	15	16 <b>Lay Leadership meeting 3 pm</b> <b>Ahuvia home</b>
17 <b>Beit Sefer</b> 9:30 -11:30 am	18	19	20	21	22 <b>Shabbat</b> <b>Services</b> <b>and</b> <b>Vegetarian</b> <b>potluck</b> 6 pm	23
24 <b>Beit Sefer</b> 9:30 -11:30 am	25	26	27	28	29	30

## November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>Shabbat Learning Service</b> 10-noon
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21 <b>Beit Sefer</b> 9:30 -11:30 am	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26 <b>Shabbat</b> <b>Services</b> <b>and</b> <b>Vegetarian</b> <b>potluck</b> 6 pm	27
28	29	30				

**ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE JCC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**



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dr\_marcy@hotmail.com

**Debbie Zivan**  
(734) 649-2255  
djzivan@yahoo.com

**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund Donation Form**

Here is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please:

- write your check out to the **Jewish Community Foundation**,
- in the "memo" line, write: **"Progressive Jewish Giving Fund"**
- include this coupon with your check
- Send your check to the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, PO Box 7451, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.  
We will log it in and send it on to the Jewish Community Foundation.

Your contribution is tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt from the Jewish Community Foundation.

Thank you very much for your contribution!

*Yes, You Heard It Through*



## THE GRAPEVINE

*A Publication of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah*

November 2010

Cheshvan/Kislev 5771



*Alan Haber and our almost completed new Torah table. Photo credit: Dale Sass*

### **Annual Meeting with Coffee and Soup!**

We'll be holding our 2010 Annual Meeting at the JCC on Sunday November 21 from 9:45 am to 12:30 pm. This year the Board has asked Hav member, Julie Norris, to facilitate a visioning session whose objective will be to update the vision statements put together by a much newer and smaller Havurah in 1999. The wonderful news is that many of the 11 vision statements written in 1999 have since become reality, and it's time to refresh them and envision what our next five years could look like. An email with more specific information on what to expect will follow in early November.

Beit Sefer parents: We expect to have childcare available for Beit Sefer kids when classes finish at 11:30.

And there's more!

Bring your favorite coffee mug because we'll have hot coffee to fill it all morning and, when we break from the meeting, Soup's On! A few of our culinarily talented Havurah members will be bringing great pots of delicious soups. You can wander around with your mug for a taste of each or just stick to one that you like. Following that belly-warming break, we have something even more exciting planned.

Many of you have heard about our Torah Table. Several Havurah craftspeople have been working together to create something unique and special for our community. The table was used during High Holidays this year, but it is not quite finished. For that, we need you. We need as many Havurah hands as we can get to sand and rub each piece. We need prayers, names, and wishes from each of you to be written on the splines that will be hidden inside the table top. As Alan Haber says, this is a chance to "assemble this table all together and make it whole, shalom, and receptive for the Torah." So, after a morning of visioning and a mug of soup, make sure you don't miss this opportunity to put your hands on our table and become part of its story. No experience necessary, all prayers are welcome.

## Next Learning Service

Have you experienced the difference between our Havurah's services and services at other synagogues? Can you explain what those differences are, or where they come from? If you're at all curious to explore, come to the Learning Service on Nov. 6 at the JCC, from 10 am - noon. No knowledge of Hebrew is necessary, just the desire to learn more in an open, inquisitive setting. I hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Debbie Field, 332-3487 or [dfield@adrian.edu](mailto:dfield@adrian.edu), or Aura, 975-9045, or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

## Still New! Monthly Shabbat Morning Services

The Havurah is offering a Shabbat morning service on the second Saturday of every month, including **November 13**, at the JCC. Services will run from 10:00 am – 12:15 pm or so, and will include an opportunity to consider and discuss the Torah parsha in depth. This is an ideal opportunity for families of bar or bat mitzvah-age kids, as well as younger families and those in the community who wish to have a highly engaging and thought-provoking Shabbat morning service. This will be a highly participative service, with volunteers leading prayer, song, and divrei Torah on a rotating basis. Any questions? Ask Aura, 975-9045, or [Aura613@gmail.com](mailto:Aura613@gmail.com).

## Fourth Friday Service

Our next Fourth Friday service and vegetarian potluck will be on Thanksgiving weekend, Friday Nov. 26 at the JCC. Take a break from turkey. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Jewish Death and Mourning Traditions

Be sure to read about an opportunity to sit in on two Beit Sefer classes this month, if you're interested in learning more about this topic. Read the article in the following Education section for details.

## Play a Little Ball!

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah invites all community members 12 and up to join them for four Sunday mornings of volleyball!

The time is 9:30 - 11:30 am and the dates are: Sunday, October 24, November 7, and December 5 and 19. Games will be held in the gym at the JCC. Carol Lessure is organizing this. Let her know if you plan to attend at [clesure@gmail.com](mailto:clesure@gmail.com). Drop-ins are welcome too.

Looking for weekday volleyball? Check out Mondays and Wednesday nights at the JCC 7:00-9:00 pm.

### Basketball on Sunday Mornings?

Irwin Weingarten and friends meet in the JCC gym on alternative Sunday mornings - October 17 & 31, November 1 & 14, December 12 and so forth. This pickup basketball game is always willing to have drop in players as well and are a friendly bunch of dads from HDS.



*Group menorah lighting at a Channukah party of year's past*

*Photo credit: Stephanie Rowden*

## **Channukah Party Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>**

Our annual Channukah party will be held Sunday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> in the lounges at the JCC.

We will be having a variety of activities, yummy things (including Jen's latkes!) to eat and a group menorah lighting (It is the 5<sup>th</sup> night of Channukah that night.) If you would like to sign up to bring applesauce, sour cream or juice OR if you want to help out in the kitchen and learn the secret of Jen's latke recipe and technique please email Allison at [alstupka@gmail.com](mailto:alstupka@gmail.com).

Bring your family and friends if you wish and please RSVP to Allison at the email address listed above so we can get an idea of how much food to provide.

Oh, dreidel dreidel dreidel.....

## **Notes from the Board**

The board met on October 6, 2010. Attending were: Audrey, Keith, Sally, Debbie, Sarai, Mark. (Aura sitting in.) Not Attending were : Shari, Marcy

Nominating committee--Sally presented nominees Mike Ehmann, Josh Samuel, Jeff Basch and Pam Shore. The Board voted to approve that slate to put to the Havurah for a vote.

Annual meeting update--Mark summarized the plans so far for the 11/21 annual meeting/visioning session to be facilitated by Julie Norris. The visioning session will be aimed at updating the vision statements produced in 1999. Information on this to go out to members by last week of October.

High Holidays feedback--The Board reviewed results of the web survey, to which 25 people responded. Overall opinion was very positive, with ratings between somewhat and very satisfied for all aspects except the sound system and the break fast. Musical content and the UU space received the highest ratings. Debbie and Aura will be researching potential improvements to the sound system and Keith will be relaying comments to Jen to consider for next year's break fast planning. Kudos go out to all who planned, led and volunteered to make this year's successful services happen.

Retreat feedback--The new location for the retreat received positive feedback. There was discussion of the possibility of moving the retreat to summer next year, and about the complexities of food preparation. The final cost to the Havurah for the event will be reviewed at next month's meeting.

Membership/financial update--Keith updated on how many members have renewed and pledged so far, and the Board made plans to follow up with members from last year who had not yet renewed.

JRF/RRC merger proposal--The Havurah will be voting on a JRF question put to member groups, approving a merger of the Reconstructionist

Federation with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

**Kudos** to Marcy for organizing the Sukkot retreat, to all who volunteered to make the retreat successful and to Aura, Deb, Jennifer and everyone who led, participated in and volunteered to make this year's successful High Holidays happen.



## **Education: News from our Beit Sefer**

This month, the Beit Sefer will be learning about Jewish traditions around death and mourning practices. The Havurah is invited to learn alongside the kids on the morning of Nov. 7, when Aura will teach this sensitive subject. The following week, Nov. 14, the class will take a trip to the local cemetery, Arborcrest, and quietly visit the Jewish section. Havurah members who are interested in attending either or both of these learning sessions can call Aura with questions, or may just show up. Beit Sefer is Sunday mornings at the JCC. The Nov. 7 class will meet from 9:30 – 10:30 am while the Nov. 14 class will leave from the JCC close to 9:30 am.

## **Ann Arbor Jewish Book Festival this Month**

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will hold its 23rd Annual Jewish Book Festival, November 1-14 at the JCC. Bernie Banet, Mimi Chapman, Fran Martin and Esther Ullman are the Book Festival chairs. The event is supported by the Fred and Ned Shure Endowment, as well as many local community organizations, businesses and individuals,

including major gifts from Four Points Sheraton and Simply Scrumptious Catering. Many compelling and diverse authors are scheduled to speak during noontime Lunch and Learn presentations, evening events and on both Sundays. See the JCC web site, [www.jccann Arbor.org](http://www.jccann Arbor.org), for the complete schedule. All author presentations are free and open to the community. Lunch may be purchased at the daily Lunch and Learn programs for \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. The Lunch with the Author's event is \$15. All events will take place at the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor, 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, Ann Arbor. For more information or to RSVP to any of the events, call 734-971-0990.

## **Rosh Chodesh Service at the JCC**

All are invited to a community egalitarian service on the morning of the first day of Rosh Chodesh, Monday, November 8 at 9:30 am at the JCC. Lisa Bernstein is organizing the service in solidarity with Women of the Wall. Please RSVP by e-mail to [lisapbernstein@comcast.net](mailto:lisapbernstein@comcast.net) so we know we'll have a minyan, and also indicate if you would like to lead a part of the service, read Torah, and/or have an aliyah. For more information, go to <http://womenofthewall.org.il/>. Thank you to the JCC for providing a room, the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah for the use of their Torah scroll, and to Beth Israel Congregation for providing kippot, tallitot, and siddurim.



## **Simchas and Sorrows**

Refuah Shlema to Joy Rome who suffered a fall and fractured hip last month.

Sarai Brachman Shoup finished the Detroit marathon last month with a time that qualified her to run the Boston marathon.

## November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 JCC Jewish Book Festival begins	2	3	4	5	6 <b>Shabbat Learning Service</b> 10-noon
7 <b>Beit Sefer</b> 9:30 -11:30 am Volleyball 9:30 am	8	9	10	11	12	13 <b>Shabbat Morning Services</b> 10 am-noonish  <b>Dayenu Meditation Group 2 pm</b> Location: TBA
14 <b>Beit Sefer</b> 9:30 -11:30 am Last day of JCC Jewish Book Festival	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <b>Beit Sefer</b> 9:30 -11:30 am Annual Havurah meeting 9:45 am Finish the Torah Table party 1 pm	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26 <b>Shabbat</b> <b>Services</b> <b>and</b> <b>Vegetarian</b> <b>potluck</b>  6 pm	27
28	29	30				

## December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Channukah begins	2 Channukah 2 <sup>nd</sup> night	3 Channukah 3 <sup>rd</sup> night	4 Channukah 4 <sup>th</sup> night <b>Shabbat Learning Service</b> 10-noon
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12 <b>Beit Sefer</b> 9:30 -11:30 am	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 <b>Beit Sefer</b> 9:30 -11:30 am	20	21	22	23	24 <b>Shabbat</b> <b>Services</b> <b>and</b> <b>Vegetarian</b> <b>potluck</b>  6 pm	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund Donation Form**

Here is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please:

write your check out to the **Jewish Community Foundation**,  
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### Happy Hannukah!



*Issac Meadow gives his input at the annual Havurah meeting. Photo credit: Deb Kraus who feels lucky to have had her phone camera at that exact moment.*

### Welcome New Board Members!

*Mark Schneyer, Board Secretary*

The Board Election for this year wrapped up on Nov. 6, and Havurah members voted to approve the slate of new Board members suggested by the nominating committee. Joining the Board as of January, 2011 will be Mike Ehmann, Josh Samuel and Jeff Basch for three-year terms and Pam Shore for a two-year term. Leaving the Board are Audrey Newell, Keith Kurz, Marcy Epstein and Sally Fink. Thank you to all departing Board members and welcome to the new members!

### NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

#### Welcome to the Covrigarus!

Leila is a pediatric nurse practitioner working at Mott Hospital. Arie is a self-employed computer consultant. They both like to read and watch movies. Leila likes to ski, knit, bake bread and travel. Arie is a snowboarder who likes travel, biking and photography. They have three children.

Kori, age 27, lives in Denver, CO and is the CEO and owner of Planomatic.com. Living in CO is a dream for him as he is an avid outdoor athlete who also is the asst. coach of Boulder High School soccer team who are on their way and fighting hard to take the state championship. Barr, age 22, is graduating in December from Michigan State. He likes to play soccer and snowboard.

Avi, age 12, is a seventh grader at Clague Middle School who, like his brothers, enjoys playing soccer, swimming, and snowboarding.

Why do they like the Havurah? "We like the mix of tradition and culture. The learning opportunities are great, giving a knowledgeable basis to prayers that previously had not been understood. The Havurah has also been very warm and welcoming."

And what are their favorite Jewish holidays? Leila likes Passover. She loves the food and loves the knowledge that all over the world Jews are sitting down at the Passover table to celebrate the

holiday. Arie likes Purim. He loves the hamantashan.

Arie and Leila met when they were assigned to guard duty together in the dorms on Mt. Scopus. Leila went to Israel for one year and ended up staying 5 years, getting married and going to nursing school at Hadassah Hospital.

A warm welcome to them all!



*Arie Covrigaru and his three boys.*



*Arie and Leila Covrigaru*

## Passing the Baton

*Allison Stupka, Grapevine Editor*

This edition will be the last Grapevine compiled and edited by me. Marcy Epstein agreed last Fall to take on the (sometimes daunting) task of creating the monthly Grapevine. I would like to thank everyone who helped me get this newsletter out each month for the past seven years.

Several people, Aura Ahuvia, Sally Goldberg, Danny Steinmetz, Rebecca Kanner, Janet Greenhut and Steve Merritt served on an advisory board for two years and gave great direction on what the mission of the newsletter is and the direction it needed (and continues to need) to go. Aura, Sally, Janet and Steve and Harry Fried also have edited many articles before they went in the Grapevine. Claudia Kraus Piper put a lot of energy into making this Grapevine look good early on when she was board chair. Evelyn Neuhaus makes it possible for everyone to get the Grapevine via email. Joel Goldberg makes it possible for the Grapevine to be up on our web site. Thanks to everyone who contributes articles, photos and news. Thanks to Emily Eisbruch who offers much appreciated feedback and puts the newsletter up on our web site each month.

A big warm thanks everyone, and a big welcome to Marcy who I am sure will bring much enthusiasm and creativity to the task.



# NOTES FROM THE BOARD

*Mark Schneyer, Board Secretary*

The board met on Nov 3, 2010 at Debbie Zivan's house.

The Board heard an update on membership renewals from Keith. We are now at 65 member households, slightly up from last year's total.

The Board will officially confirm officer positions at the January 2011 meeting, the first with the new Board members, but Debbie Zivan has agreed to be Board Chair.

At the January meeting we will also be planning a rejuvenated committee structure, with Board members each acting as point person with a group of member volunteers to work on one area.

Progressive Giving Fund allocations have now been triggered for the year. Audrey will continue to be the point person for the Fund after she leaves the Board.

Kudos to Lillie Schneyer and Eli Cohen for volunteering as madrichim at the Beit Sefer this semester; to Molly Kraus-Steinmetz and Shani Samuel for leading the first Havdalah at the Retreat; and to Sally Fink, Marcy Epstein and Carol Lessure for their successful work on the Board nominating committee.



*Hav members sanded and helped complete the torah table after the annual meeting in November.*

*Photo credit: Evelyn Neuhaus*



*Beit Sefer kids listen intently. Photo credit: Emily Eisbruch*

## Noah Luntz Bar Mitzvah February 26

*From the Luntz Lara family*

We have been so happy getting to know the Havurah for the past 7 years!

We would like to invite the Reconstructionist Havurah to our son Noah's Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at 10 AM.

Please send us your RSVP as soon as possible, but for sure by December 15.

We hope you can join us in this happy occasion  
Please send RSVPs to: [jluntz@gmail.com](mailto:jluntz@gmail.com)



## SEEDLINGS AND THANKS

A hug of gratitude to our spectacular soup chefs: **Allison Stupka, Chava Israel, Dina Kurz, Marcy Epstein, Mark Schneyer, and Rena Basch.** They made our annual meeting delicious!

Thanks to the anonymous donor who made their donation in honor of our hardworking treasurer, **Keith Kurz** and in honor of our talented webmaster, **Joel Goldberg.**

*The Hav supported the recent renovations of the lounges of the JCC. We recently received this letter of thanks from Leslie Bash, JCC Executive Director and Seth Penchansky, President of the JCC.*

As the Center's Executive Director, every day when I walk into our beautifully newly renovated lounges I sigh and say to myself, "if it weren't for the generosity and foresight of our building partners such as the Reconstructionist Havurah and its leadership and commitment to the JCC as its home, this major improvement in our facility would never have taken place.

Therefore, on behalf of the Board and Staff of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor area, we want to thank you for your generous support of the project, which made this wonderful transformation of the Gelman, Newman and Levine lounges possible.

As you know, the Jewish Community Center serves as the central meeting place for Jewish Communal life in Ann Arbor. Your contribution has helped us revitalize the areas where so many gather and make them more attractive venues for the many events that take place within their walls. It was also heartwarming that so many in our community met the challenge, when we put out the message about this project and asked each family for a \$100 contribution. The community

along with the Reconstructionist Havurah, JCS and the Gelman, Newman and Levine families all acted together for this worthy project.

So we toast the Reconstructionist Havurah's extraordinary efforts and look forward to working together in the future for the good of the Ann Arbor Jewish community.



## SIMCHAS AND SORROWS

Congratulations to Janet Greenhut who recently completed the Michigan Sexual Health Certificate Program at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. This qualifies her to be a sexuality counselor and she now offers this as part of her private counseling practice.

Congratulations to Idelle Hammond Sass who has her jewelry at the Detroit Institute of Arts in conjunction with the current exhibition.

Condolences to Aviva Panush and family on the death of her father, Irving Panush on Monday November 22nd.

Refuah Shlema to Alan Haber.

## December 2010

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## January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30 -11:30 am</b>	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30 -11:30 am</b>	10	11	12	13	14	15 <b>Shabbat Learning Service AND Shabbat Morning services 10-noon</b>
16 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30 -11:30 am Parent Meeting 9:30 am</b>	17	18	19	20 Tu B'Shevat	21	22
23 <b>Beit Sefer 9:30 -11:30 am</b>	24	25	26	27	28	29

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