



Yes, You Heard It Through The.....

Grapevine

A Monthly Publication of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah

Simcha Simchat Torah Bash to Raise Money for Torah

Simchat Torah is one of the more joyous times of the year, where we affirm our love of Torah. This year, the Reconstructionist Havurah plans to be even more joyful than usual, as we use the occasion to kick off our efforts to buy our Torah.

The Torah we have been calling our own has actually been on long term loan from EHNTJC (Ezra Habonim Niles Township Jewish Congregation) in Chicago, Illinois. They have given us the opportunity to buy it from them. Counting needed repairs, we will need to raise approximately \$10,000 by next fall. We are asking members of the community who can, to help us with large starter gifts, and will try to raise the rest with small donations from friends and members. All

gifts are tax deductible.

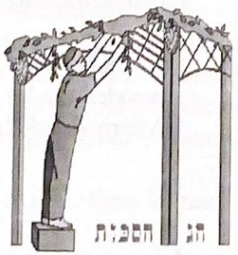
Our celebration of Simchat Torah will be on October 9, starting at 7PM, at the JCC. Musicians from our group (and beyond) will jam, and interspersed with traditional readings and blessings, members of the community will be asked to engage in a game of charades, based on biblical stories. There will be a dessert potluck, so there's a little something for everyone.

Come join us for some hamish fun as we celebrate our love for the Torah and Our Torah. For further information, contact Deb Kraus as 663-5585 or deb@4you2imagine.com.

Sukkot Potluck

Please join us on Sunday, October 7 at 11:00 AM at Emily and Avi Eisbruch's house, 2561 Bunker Hill.

There will be a brief service followed by a veggie/dairy potluck brunch in the sukkah. If you're interested in helping set up, decorate, clean up, play a part in the service or for more information call Emily at 665-0533.



October, 2001
Tishri-Heshvan 5762

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Contributors to this month's Grapevine

- Jeff Alson
- Emily Eisbruch
- Rachel Foran
- Rebecca Kanner
- Dina Kruz
- Linda Kurtz
- Steve Merritt
- Anita Rubin-Meiller

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Erev Sukkot	2 Sukkot	3 Sukkot	4	5	6 Shabbat Services 11 AM JCC
7 Crop Walk Sukkot Celebration - 11 AM Eisbruch's	8	9 Simchat Torah 7PM at the JCC 2935 Birch Hollow Drive	10 Simchat Torah	11	12	13 Cari Weinst's Bat Mitzvah 8:00 PM at Temple Beth Emet
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Shabbat Services 11 AM JCC
21	22	23	24	25	26 Shabbat 6:30 JCC Followed by pot- luck dairy veggie	27 Sarah Karm's Bat Mitzvah 11 AM at the JCC
28	29	30	31			

Corrections:

Apologies to Emily Eisbruch for omitting her name as a contributor in last month's issue of the Grapevine. She wrote a wonderful article on the Torah Mannel, but was not credited properly.

Editor**Donations:****TORAH FUND DONATIONS:**

Leslie Maloff, in honor of the three girls' Bat Mitzvahs

Sally & Joel Goldberg, in honor of the birth of Rachel Oppenheimer

GENERAL DONATIONS:

Mildred Seidman, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter, Sarah Karm

In appreciation to Alan Haber for fabricating a new wooden top for the Torah cover from the Karm, Merim, Merrin/Hackel, and Eisbruch families.



REBECCA KANNER WRITES FROM PRISON

Silent Meditation

It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals; they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out; yet I keep them. Because in spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can't build my hopes on a foundation of confusion, misery, and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness. I hear the approaching thunder. I can feel the suffering of millions. And yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will all come out right one of these days, that this cruelty will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again.

In the meantime, I must hold on to my ideals for perhaps the day will come when I shall be able to carry them out.

*- From The Diary of Anne Frank,
"Letter to Kitty, July 15, 1944"*

Monday, 17 September 2001

Dear Hevre,

I've now been here at Pekin Federal Prison Camp for two months: over 8 weeks without a Jewish community, without my congregation. It's very challenging feeling part of the Jewish people as the only Jew here, out of 210 women and assorted staff. Plus the people here, including my sister protesters, are clueless about Judaism. Of course, my feelings of isolation are heightened during these days of teshuvah, these high holy days. But at the same time, my isolation is alleviated by all the support I'm receiving from Havurah members. Thank you for including me in your prayers and thoughts; I am uplifted and deeply touched. I am grateful to be included in your simchas and I join you in spirit as you celebrate together.

I do believe that I must have one of the largest collections of Jewish books, siddurim, and periodicals in all of the Bureau of Prisons facilities! Between the books I brought in, had sent, and what others have sent me, I have a very nice Jewish library. It was a great day when I received the Kol Haneshama Siddur and machzor. All of these books and texts have been essential for my observance of Shabbat. Each Friday night I lead a Kabbalat Shabbat service for a small group—some from my SOA group and other women, some who come once to see what a Jewish service is like and some who come back several times. There are usually only 5 or 6 of us, which is fine since we only have 5 of the Friday night prayer books. During these services I have to do it all—from getting the grape juice and bread in the kitchen, to setting up, to preparing and leading the service, explaining fundamental parts of Judaism and the service and even leading singing. (For those of you who know my voice—you know leading singing is not my thing, but there is no one else, so I do it and if we're out of tune—who's to know?)

Then on Saturday morning, I daven by myself. This is usually interrupted when we all must return to our housing units for our 10 AM count. We are counted 5 times a day during the week: 4 PM, 10 PM, midnight, 3 AM and 5 AM. Plus a 10 AM count each Saturday, Sunday and holiday (not Jewish holidays, though!).

Last Friday was very exciting. Eight members of Peoria's Jewish community came for services that one of the group lead. It was such a pleasure to be a member of the congregation and not the leader. It took over a month to set-up. My brother made some calls when he came to visit at the beginning of August. Other members of the community will be back for other services—including Day 2 of Rosh Hashanah and Friday night of Sukkot. In the "it's a small world" category, the executive director of Peoria's Jewish federation is from Ann Arbor, a Beth Israel member, along with her husband—both are Pioneer High graduates. Now I do have a Jewish community of sorts.

In the wake of last week's terrorist attacks, there is much sorrow and heartbreak here at Pekin, just as

Rebecca's letter continued on page 5



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to New Members

Carolyn R. Zaleon & Rosemary R. Berardi
Andy & Pam Orosan-Weine, Anna and Gabriel
David & Sarai Brachman Shoup, and Eli
Harry Fried & Allison Stupka

Join the Crop Walk

Help Feed the Hungry

On Sunday, October 7, the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice are sponsoring the 27th Annual CROP Hunger Walk. This walk is a great opportunity for our Havurah to participate together in the spirit of *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*.

The walk consists of a 6-mile or 1-mile route through Ann Arbor. Each walker gathers pledges and the money raised funds local, national and international food programs. You can participate as a walker or as a sponsor of a walker

Our family participated two years ago, and it was a wonderful feeling to be part of such a large community effort.

For more information, call Anita Rubin-Meiller at 663-2585.

Join Us for a Shabbaton in the Woods!

October 19 - 21, 2001

Take time from your ordinary routine to celebrate Shabbat with other Reconstructionists, at the beautiful Perlstein Center in Lake Delton, Wisconsin,

Contact JRF Midwest Regional Director Phyllis Friedland, 847-679-1964, JRFMidwest@aol.com or see the information on the Web site.

The Way of the Flame

A Weekend of Jewish Spiritual Retreat

Discover and explore the mystical path of Jewish meditation with one of today's foremost teachers and founder, Dr. Avram Davis, of Chochmat HaLev, a Jewish Meditation Center in Berkeley, California.

The retreat will be at the Northport Bay Retreat, 30 miles north of Traverse City, October 19-21.

Call Linda Kurtz, of Pardes Hannah, at 665-9160 for details.



Bat Mitzvah

Cari Merritt, Saturday, October 13, 2001
Parsha Bereshit

We'd like to warmly invite all Havurah members to the Bat Mitzvah of our daughter, Cari, on Saturday, October 13th, at 3:00 p.m. The service will take place in the sanctuary of Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard Road, Ann Arbor.

Steve Merritt & Jennifer Merritt Hackel



Bat Mitzvah

Sarah Kurz, Saturday, October 27, 2001
Parsha Lech Lecha

We invite all Havurah members to share in our joy on Saturday, October 27 as our daughter, Sarah, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah.

Services start at 10:00 AM at the JCC. Kiddush will follow the service. Childcare will be provided. Please bring your own siddur if you have one. We hope to see you there.

Our out-of-town family will be joining the Havurah on Friday night, October 26, for the Shabbat service. We hope you will welcome them.

Dina and Keith Kurz

GET PUBLISHED!!

Would you like to see your drawings or cartoon in the newsletter? Make a puzzle? Submit a joke? Have an opinion you'd like to share? Kids welcome to send things in too.

Take your chances with the editor and submit your work to The Grapevine, ATTN: Rachel Foran, Editor. You can e-mail it to reconhav@yahoo.com or send it to PO Box 7451, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.

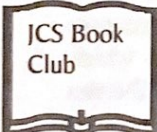


The Jewish Cultural Society Invites Recon Members to Join in the Following Activities:



On Sunday, September 16, at 11:00 AM there will be a meeting of the JCS Players. This is the first meeting of what we hope will become the official JCS theatre group.

Anyone with an interest in acting, directing, set or costume design, or theatrical lighting should contact Larry Kuperman or just come to the meeting. Larry can be reached evenings by telephone at 734-741-8234 or by email at kupe@mi.verio.com. All are welcome and your support is needed



The JCS Book Club will meet the third Sunday, October 21 from 10:00 to noon. We will meet in the Maas Lounge at the JCC. There will be a sign posted letting people know the location.

Our selection is God Knows by Joseph Heller, a zany, sexy version of the story of King David, told as a modern allegory of what it is like for a Jew to survive in a hostile world. The New York Times Book Review called it "original, sad, wildly funny, and filled with roaring. . ."

Heller's King David, a splendid creation, is not so much a man for all seasons as man in all his seasons." The publisher wrote "Joseph Heller's powerful, wonderfully funny, deeply moving novel is the story of David--yes, King David, but as you've never seen him before. We already know David as the warrior king of Israel, husband of Bathsheba, and father of Solomon; now meet David, the cocky Jewish kid, the plagiarized poet, the Jewish father. Hear David tell his own story, a story both ancient yet modern, about growing up and growing old, about men and women, and about man and God. It is quintessential Heller."

Of course, everyone is welcome, even those who don't read the book!

Rebecca 's Letter

Continued from page 4

there is all over the world. We are limited in our contacts with our loved ones and that makes things even harder. I'm enclosing Anne Frank's words that have offered some comfort to me during these difficult days. In her words, we can't build our "hopes on a foundation of confusion, misery, and death." We must hold onto our ideals and work for that day when "cruelty will end, and that peace and tranquility will return."

But still, I want to assure everyone that I'm doing fine here. My time has been a gift, a powerful learning and growing experience. And I am most thankful that as a result of my actions and this prison time, people continue to learn about the SOA/WHISC and its impact on the people of Latin America. As the movement grows, I believe justice will prevail.

Wishing you all a good and sweet new year.
In peace/shalom/salaam,

Rebecca

Rebecca Kanner is serving a 6-month sentence at Pekin Federal Prison Camp for crossing into the School of the Americas training facility in Fort Benning, Georgia. She was protesting the ongoing operation of the school, funded by the U.S. Government, which has been implicated in serious human rights abuses in Latin America by its graduates.



In Memorial

by Jeff Alson

A Memorial Folk Concert and Reminiscence to celebrate the life and work of Hy Kornbluh will be held on Sunday, October 7, from 1:00 Pm to 3:00 PM, at The Ark in downtown Ann Arbor. The event is free and open to the public.

Hy Kornbluh, a long-time labor educator, organizer, and Ann Arbor citizen, died peacefully at his home on May 25. He was 75 years old. Hy was a retired faculty member at the University of Michigan's School of Education, and was Director of the Labor Studies Center at the University's Institute for Labor and Industrial Relations from 1961 to 1989. Hy's career focused on workers' education as a resource and tool to empower trade unionists and expand democratic participation in all levels of America's political and economic structures. He leaves behind a national legacy and countless people whom Hy mentored are carrying on his work all around the country.

Since his retirement from the University in 1990, Hy engaged in numerous

social and political campaigns, including organizing educational forums on the political power of the religious right, and a national effort to press TIAA-CREF to divest its cigarette stocks.

Hy is survived by his wife and professional colleague, Joyce; by their three children, Peter, Jane, and Kathe; and by four grandsons, Gabriel, Matteo, Noah, and Hylan.

The memorial folk concert will feature many talented national and local musicians performing songs that inspired and sustained Hy in his lifelong commitment to economic, gender, and racial justice. There will also be personal reminiscences by many of the people who were most touched by Hy. The family is accepting donations to the Hy Kornbluh Workers Justice Fund, which has been established at the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan to continue his important work.

For further information call Joyce Kornbluh at 662-6219.

AMSQASQ-What Does it Mean?

And the winner is . . . Janet Greenhut. Janet guessed that the letters in Arnold Melnick's screen name stand for:

"Arnold Melnick Swindles Quacks
And Steals Quaaludes."

For her creativity Janet wins a gift certificate to Sweetwaters Café.

Other Entries:

A mad scramble quite asunder stills quiescence.
Arnold Melnick says, Quarks are soon quashed!
Amiable majesty should quake and should quiver.
A motto so quirky as such, quit!

The real answer is Arnolds initials are AMM or AMSQ (AM Squared) and he lives in Ann Arbor (ASQ=Ann Arbor Squared).



Return to Sender

If you've changed your address, phone number or e-mail address within the past three months, please let us know. We like to keep our lists current to make sure you get all the Havurah's happenings.

Please e-mail reconhav@yahoo.com with any changes. Of course, you can always call the AARH Hotline at 734-913-9705 with your changes too.



The Board Speaks

September 2, 2001

OPENING (d'var torah, song, etc.)

Deb Kraus gave a brief d'var Torah about getting ready for the spirit of the High Holidays as well as getting ready for the logistics.

KUDOS

- Membership mailing & newsletter—we're looking more professional and organized!
- 40+ people show up for 8/31 Shabbat service—we're doing something right!
- Cool new torah cover made by our Bat Mitzvah girls!
- Higher visibility—front-page story in WJN, Emily Eisbruch submitting story ideas to media.
- Brochures about the Reconstructionist movement have been ordered.
- More people are becoming involved in a variety of roles!

REPORTS

Finance

Final numbers for 2000-2001 budget year?

Joel presented a detailed financial report. The report will be emailed to the board members and other concerned Havurah members monthly.

BOARD BUSINESS

Budget for 2001-2002

We currently expect a surplus of \$1,000. However, we are moving towards an organizational model utilizing paid professionals, which will significantly increase our expenses. The Havurah is preparing to expand its educational activities, which may include hiring professional help in this area. This will increase our expenses beyond our current income.

Torah Fundraiser Plan

We have an unfunded obligation of \$7,000 for the torah. The current plan is to raise new funds to

cover this. The primary goal is to focus on large gifts from members or families of members.

Education Committee Proposal for an Education Director Position

Adam Cohen presented the proposal from the Education Committee. A distinction was made between teaching the Hebrew class and doing the Multigenerational/Community programming & Young Adult programming. We may hire one person for both these roles, or two different people to fill these roles.

Pending clarification of costs \$5000 has been budgeted for Educational programming.

Adam Cohen, Anita Rubin-Meiller, Aaron Ahuvia, and Aura Ahuvia created a hiring committee staffed, this creates a committee with half the membership from the education committee and half from the board.

The board has returned to proposal to the committee to develop the financial analysis in more detail. The board approved a motion saying "The Havurah will provide educational programming and subsidize the costs of Hebrew school with participating member families and individuals."

Torah Insurance

The insurance company needs a letter signed by a Rabbi attesting to the value of the Torah, and a picture of the Torah in order to write insurance.

Kashrut Policy for Official Havurah Events

Events will be veggie/dairy/fish based on the categories of Milchic and Parve.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Scheduled for September 30th from 6:30 – 9:00.

