

Yes, You Heard It Through



THE GRAPEVINE

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New Friday Night Children's Service

Sarai Brachman Shoup

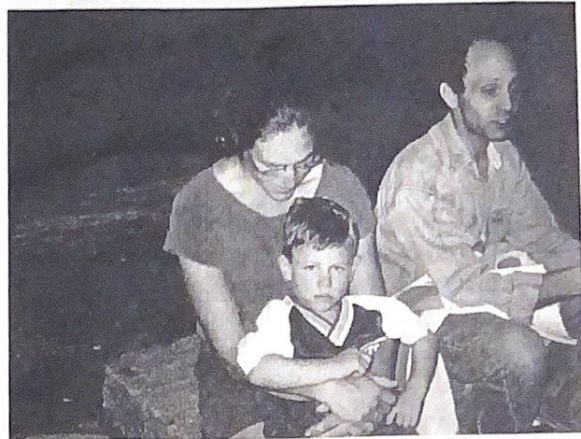
The Havurah is pleased to announce a new format for its Friday night children's service. Starting with the Havurah's regular October service on October 28, we will have two music-filled, age-appropriate services/programs for our children.

Leading the services for children age 6 and up will be Lowell Fletcher, who teaches the K-2 class in our Beit Sefer. Alan Piracha, a senior at Pioneer with songleading experience at Camp Raanana and for the JCS Sunday School, will run the Pre-K services.

The Friday night schedule is also new. Those families that want to have a pizza dinner before services should arrive at the JCC at 6:00 PM. Services now begin at 6:15, and we invite all families to welcome in Shabbat together.

After candlelighting, at 6:30, Alan and Lowell will lead the children to Maas Lounge for their service. Alan will lead the entire group in song, and then the children will divide up by age. Lowell will lead a mini-service while the younger children will hear stories, sing and do crafts. Children will return, as usual, to the main service for the children's blessing and kiddish by 7:25.

Parents will need to provide the pizza dinner. Please be sure to let Sarai Brachman Shoup (sbshoup@comcast.net) or Carol Lessure (clisure@gmail.com) know if you are available to bring pizza, veggies or drinks. This new children's program is part of the Havurah's ongoing commitment to create fun and meaningful rituals for the children in our community. Please join us for this year!



Sarai Brachman Shoup, Caleb Shoup and Jon Engelbert sitting by the campfire at last summer's BBQ. Photo Credit: Elie and Julia Piper

High Holy Days Schedule

Kol Nidre services will be held Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 PM at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Ann Arbor, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road.

Yom Kippur services will be held Thursday, October 13 at 10:00 AM at the First Unitarian Universalist Church. Torah discussion will be held at 3:00 PM, Yizkor will be held at 4:30 PM and Neilah will be held at 7:00 PM. The community break-fast will begin at 8:00 PM. If you want to attend the break-fast and have not yet reserved a space do so immediately by emailing Allison Stupka, the Havurah Coordinator at astupka@globalbiz.net or info@aaecon.org.



Annual Sukkot Retreat...Not too late to register!

The Sukkot retreat Friday, Oct. 21 – Sunday Oct. 23 is going to be a lot of fun! Many activities are planned for kids and adults of all ages. Among them are Shabbat candle making, Magen David picture frame refrigerator magnet making, bookmark making, and more! Retreaters can also join in a Feldenkreis movement workshop and folk dancing. Back by popular demand, caterer and chef Wendy Williams has planned a delicious menu. Of course, the usual evening singing and storytelling will also take place.

There will also be a facilitated discussion of future directions for the Havurah – details to emerge later. This retreat is an excellent time to help give voice to your vision of meaningful community through the Havurah – another great reason to attend.

More activities may be planned on the spot – it can be that kind of a weekend – plus the location offers its own range of activities, including canoeing, swimming (in October??! Maybe just for the brave of skin), sand-castle-building, volleyball, forest hikes (the autumn leaves should be exploding with color), Sukkah decorating, and a screened-in porch from which to survey the beautiful outdoors while curled up with a cup of hot tea, a good book, and a warm blanket.

Sleeping arrangements are dormitory-style, which in past years has meant a men's cabin, a women's cabin, and a young families' cabin. The number of cabins offered this year will once again be determined by the number and needs of registrants.

There is still time to register! Simply clip the flyer in this edition of the Grapevine and mail it in. Questions? Call Allison Stupka at 996-8570 or email astupka@globalbiz.net. Get your reservation in soon!



Member Spotlights

Hav member helps with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts

Havurah member Audrey Newell has been spending the past few weeks in New Orleans. As a physician who is a specially trained member of a Federal Disaster Medical Team, she has been helping in disaster relief and recovery. In a recent e-mail, she wrote, "Instead of wearing a *tallis* for the High Holy Days, I may be wearing long rubber boots to fend off snake bites!" Audrey plans to be back in time for the annual Sukkot retreat.

Hav member appointed to the newly-created JRF Regional Advisory Council

Board member Evelyn Neuhaus has been appointed by our Board Chair, Claudia Kraus Piper, to serve as Havurah Liaison to the sub-regional council of the Regional JRF Advisory Council.

Three advisory groups are being set up within our Midwest region, based on congregational size. Within each sub-group, the hope is that member Havurot will share concerns and issues, increase connectedness, and assess needs. The thinking behind the grouping by size, is that size is a major determinant of needs and issues (for instance, the issues facing a congregation of 300 members will be different than one of 20 members), and that groups facing similar issues can help each other problem-solve. Once they have more clearly identified needs that aren't addressable locally, they can advocate for their needs nationally, through their liaison.

There are a total of 17 congregations and Havurot in the Midwest region, which have been divided into three sub-groups: large (200 – 850 member households), medium (65 – 105 member households), and small (14 – 55 member households). The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, with 55 member households, fits into the 'small' category. There are a total of seven Havurot in this grouping. (See sidebar for more details.)

Evelyn will teleconference periodically with the six other Havurot in the 'small' size cohort

participating in the Midwest Regional Advisory Council. Midwest Regional Director Dina April will help coordinate these groups and liaison with staff at the national level. Ann Arbor Recon member Aura Ahuvia, who serves as JRF Midwest Regional Vice President, is also involved in this process. The first teleconference is scheduled to take place in October.

Two Hav Members Demonstrate to Protect Environment

On September 19, Dina Kurz and thirteen year old Aaron Kurz, joined about sixty other Michiganders on an overnight bus trip to Washington, DC to protest drilling in one of our nation's last, wild national treasures, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The September 20 Arctic Refuge Action Day drew 6,000 demonstrators all over the country. In excerpts from a recent letter to the Ann Arbor News about her experience, Dina writes, "I was most impressed by the speech of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. at the demonstration for Arctic Refuge Action Day. He spoke about the importance of preserving ANWR not for the creatures that live there, not for the native Gwich'in tribes whose heritage and continued existence depends on the Porcupine caribou herd and its ability to migrate to the North Slope, but for each of us. He spoke of the importance of wilderness in each major religious tradition; how it is from the wilderness, its existence and our adventures there, that we, as humans, gain inspiration and enlightenment. There is mystery in the wilderness."

Dina urges each of us who feel that the Arctic is worth protecting to let our congressional representatives know and to urge them never to pass any legislation which will allow for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.



LAST MONTH AT THE HAV...

First Service of Healing

Barbara Boyk

Friends Meeting house on Hill Street in Ann Arbor was the setting for the first Service of Healing on Sunday September 18. Men and women, young and older joined in song and meditation for the 75 minute respite from routine activity. The service, co-sponsored by the Havurah, emphasized the journey of the soul, encouraging participants to follow the direction of their inner guidance while moving through a series of chanted prayers for the mincha, late afternoon, and ma'ariv, early evening, transition from day to night. As September closely follows the month of Elul this year, the service brought out the significance of reconnecting with Divine love as we prepare for the high holiday season.

An increasingly peaceful and centering mood gave rise to prayers of gratitude for healing received, restoration for healers and care givers and healing for self and others.

The second service of healing on October 16 will emphasize returning to our essential nature as we come together in the days between Yom Kippur and Sukkot. Please hold this service of healing in your heart for goodness and blessing. Encourage those you know who may benefit to attend, come to find respite for yourself, and to offer your strength to others.

Fall God Workshop

Co-led in October by Havurah member Aura Ahuvia, this workshop on Jewish theological approaches throughout history was a great experience for attendees. Aura and co-teacher Matt Kaplan hope to offer the workshop again in the larger Detroit metro region. We'll let you know where and when, once those details become available, in case you missed it the first time!

Apples and Honey

The Havurah staffed a booth at this annual event held by the JCC to introduce families in the area to the Jewish community. Several good conversations were held when people curious about Reconstructionism stopped by. Thanks to all who volunteered!

2nd Annual Game Watch

Okay, maybe it wasn't directly a Jewish event, but while most attendees immersed themselves in the annual MSU/U-M College Football game, there were some folks on the side watching Sarai Brachman Shoup attempt to make apple strudel just the way her grandmother did (though frozen philo dough certainly makes the process easier). (You'll have enjoyed the results at the Break-The-Fast following Yom Kippur)

The game was good for the Wolverines and a pity for the Spartans. Despite some people's sadness, the game was exciting (went into overtime!) and a good time was had by all. Thanks to David Shoup for hosting, we hope you're no longer hoarse.

Rosh Hashanah luncheons

Thanks to Student Reb Ezra for suggesting this idea! Four Havurah families opened their homes to post-Rosh Hashanah luncheons, on a variety of topics from 'Just Eat and Have Fun' to 'Jewish Summer Camp Experiences,' 'Growing Young Jewish Families,' and 'Hineini: Hearing and Answering The Call.'

Many thanks to the families who hosted these pot-luck-style lunches, respectively: Aaron and Stephanie Kaufman, Dina and Keith Kurz (double-thanks to them for also hosting Ezra during his Rosh Hashanah stay), Paul Resnick and Caroline Richardson and Harry and Allison Fried who hosted a kid-centered luncheon and Aura and Aaron Ahuvia.

The topics were chosen by the folks who hosted. If you did not host a luncheon this year, think about what key questions or topics interest you, and consider volunteering to host your own luncheon next year at Rosh Hashanah! It's a terrific way to start a new year, and make new connections with our members.



Notes From the Board

Claudia Kraus Piper

Over the past few months the board has been working on several important issues having to do with program content and organizational structure.

Shabbat Morning Services

Last month, service leaders Deb Kraus and Aura Ahuvia attended the board meeting to discuss low attendance at Saturday morning services and how to proceed. After difficult wrestling with our vision, hopes and the present reality, we came up with the following decision. Until January, there will be a hiatus in formally led Saturday morning services. Since we have already rented space on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month at the JCC for the rest of this calendar year, anyone who would like to go ahead and use the space for Shabbat prayer or study may do so. (Anyone who would like to invite others to join in an informal service can contact me or Allison Stupka to put an e-mail out on Reconannouce.) In the mean time, there will be a formal Shabbat morning service in October at the Fall Retreat. At the retreat we will also take some time to envision our future path for offering Saturday morning Shabbat services to our membership. Starting at the beginning of January and going through summer the Havurah will be celebrating several B'nai Mitzvah at Saturday morning services. At that time we will reassess and proceed based on the needs, energy, and resources of the Havurah. The board welcomes ongoing creative and constructive discussion of this issue.

New Bylaws and Annual Business Meeting

Last year it came to the attention of the Board that our current bylaws, written in 1995 and amended in 1997, were no longer adequate to support the complexity of the organization that we have become. A committee consisting of Danny Steinmetz, Kevin Norris, and Jonathan Weinberg have worked hard over the past six months to develop a new document that speaks to our values and is also legally sound. The Board has been reviewing the document and will present it for discussion and input at the annual business meeting at the Fall Retreat. All members, whether you will be coming to the whole retreat

or not, are invited to this meeting (and to stay for dinner), which will take place on Saturday late afternoon. The Board and Bylaws Committee will take all of your thoughts and ideas, and discuss and integrate them into the document. Based on your input, we will then decide how to proceed in ratifying the final document. Copies of the document will be sent to you via e-mail attachment prior to the business meeting. If you wish to obtain a hard copy, please contact Allison Stupka.

Board Election and Nominations

At our last meeting, the Board passed a motion to establish procedures for the election of the 2005/2006 Board. An e-mail was sent out to the membership explaining the need for such a motion, based on the lack of clarity in our current bylaws and the problems this caused in our last election. A copy of the motion was attached to that e-mail announcement. To briefly recap:

- Candidates for each open position will be nominated by a nominating committee.
- Anyone who wishes to run but is not nominated by the committee may be nominated by submitting a petition signed by five members, including the proposed candidate.
- A notice of the election with information on all candidates will be mailed to members (or published in the Grapevine) at least two weeks before the election.
- The election will be conducted by mail, with ballots due back to the Secretary within three weeks of mailing.
- All members in good standing will be eligible to vote, including minors beyond the age of bar/bat mitzvah

The Nominating Committee has since completed its job, creating a slate of three candidates to fill the Board positions open as of January 1st. A ballot will be mailed to members at the beginning of November. There is still time for others to enter their name on the ballot by accruing five signatures and submitting these to Sarai Brachman Shoup, chair of the Nominating Committee. If you have questions or would like a copy of this motion, please contact me at krauspiper@comcast.net or 662-5731. L'shana

Tova and I hope to see many of you at our High Holy Day services!



EDUCATION: News from our Beit Sefer

Bev Warshai

This year the Education column will be written by the teachers and the Education committee. Each author will write on a topic of their choice. The first author for the year is Bev Warshai. This year she is teaching the 6th/7th graders and working on Education committee work as well. She chose to write an overview of the curriculum which reflects the work the Education committee did last summer. Deborah Field is the chair of the Education committee; Other members are: Adam Cohen, Julie Norris and Stephanie Rowden.

Our Beit Sefer continues to grow. This year we have 17 students enrolled. Remember, it was only 4 years ago that the initial 6 students who were being tutored in a member's basement made the transition to become the seeds for the school. Over this past summer the curriculum for our Beit Sefer has blossomed as well. We continue to have three classes of multi-grade groupings. The focus of each curriculum matches with the students' growth from their personal world to the greater community. Starting in the Kindergarten and /1st / 2nd grade grouping, their learning is organized around the topic of 'My Jewish World and Family' through holiday traditions, objects, and simple blessings that they may see at home and in the community. The 4th / 5th graders expand to the topic of 'Our Heritage and its Sources' exploring Torah and Jewish texts to understand Bible as the narrative and the source of our heritage. The 6th/7th graders are focused on 'Taking One's Place in the Community' by learning about Jewish history, peoplehood, and Israel. It also includes taking responsibility to live Jewish values through involvement in social action projects. We look forward to an enriching year for all the classes and with a great set of teachers.



COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Golda's Balcony

A play about Gold Meir and the founding and preservation of the state of Israel is playing in November at the Fisher Theater in Detroit. For more information visit: www.goldasbalcony.com.

Local Event to support Gay and Lesbian Families

Rainbow Families Great Lakes, (RFGL,) an organization dedicated to supporting gay, lesbian, and transgendered families is holding a Family F.U.N. (Families Unite Now,) day in Kerrytown in Ann Arbor. Among the activities are a brunch, a hay ride, and a treat trail. For more information contact: Johanna at (734) 657-8978 or visit the RFGL web site at www.rfgl.org.

Israeli Palestinian Dialogue

Temple Beth Emeth is sponsoring three Israeli Palestinian dialogue events on Sundays at 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. on Oct 16, Nov 20 and Dec 18. They involve a Dialogue between Karem Sakallah, a local Palestinian and U of M Professor and Itzik Henig, a local Israeli engineer and former tank commander in the IDF. Two Hav members know both of them well and highly recommend attending. The speakers plan to demonstrate how a Humanistic and Rational approach can bring people of good will from both sides together. Temple Beth Emeth is located at 2309 Packard and the talks will be held in the social hall at the back of the circular driveway. For more information visit: www.templebethemeth.org and click on "special events." You may also contact Ed Davidson at Davidson@umich.edu

SEEDLINGS AND THANKS

Thanks to an anonymous donor for a donation to the general fund in honor of:

Claudia Kraus Piper for all her enthusiasm and energy, **Evelyn Neuhaus** for handling the finances, and **Allison Stupka** for helping us so very much.

Thanks to **Aaron Ahuvia**, **Rebecca Kanner**, and **Sarai Brachman Shoup** for serving on the nominating committee for the 2006 board elections.

Thanks to **Carol Lessure** and **Jon Engelbert** who made a donation to the general fund "which commemorates their first year with Deron as a member!"



SIMCHAS AND SORROWS

Congratulations to **Elie Piper** on winning the election for president of the 9th grade class at Greenhills School (after only 3 weeks at the school). Her parents are very proud.

Condolences to the **Orosan-Weine family** on the loss of Andy's father, Dr. David Weine. He was a beloved grandfather, father, father-in-law, and friend. He will be greatly missed.

