



גן הלב Gan HaLev

Garden of the Heart

NEWSLETTER

MAY-JUNE 2005
www.ganhalev.org

415.488.4524

NISAN-IYAR-SIVAN 5765
shalom@ganhalev.org

LEARNING MORE

by Patti Breitman

Shabbat Remembrance

by Davo Knepler

Shavu'ot

SHAVU'OT IS ONE OF THREE MAJOR JEWISH FESTIVALS that have both agricultural and historical meaning. (The others are Sukkot and Passover.) On the agricultural side, Shavu'ot commemorates the time of year when the first harvest was brought to the Temple. Historically, the holiday celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai.

We count the days between Passover and Shavu'ot—called counting the *omer*—or Lag B'Omer—to note the time between the Exodus and the giving of the Torah. "Omer" refers to the bundle of barley taken from the season's first barley harvest and offered at the Temple on the second day of Passover. Starting on that second day of Passover, it was traditional for farmers to worry over the harvest, and to count the *omer*, or barley bundles, every day for 49 days. Shavu'ot falls on the 50th day after the second day of Passover.

Whereas the Exodus was a time of physical liberation, the giving of the Torah represents a spiritual liberation. With Passover commemorating our literal freedom, and Shavu'ot commemorating our spiritual freedom, the two holidays remind us of the importance of freedom to the Jews.

It is noted that we talk about the giving of the Torah, and not "receiving the Torah," because it is believed that we continue to receive the Torah every day. The anniversary of the first time it was given to us, however, is the day we celebrate as Shavu'ot.

To learn more, visit www.jewfaq.org or read *The Jewish Year, Celebrating The Holidays* by Barbara Rush. ☪

"Whereas the Exodus was a time of physical liberation, the giving of the Torah represents a spiritual liberation. With Passover commemorating our literal freedom, and Shavu'ot commemorating our spiritual freedom, the two holidays remind us of the importance of freedom to the Jews."

God gives us no burden greater than that which we can handle.

It is from those words that we find strength in moments of grief. Whether the loss of a parent has occurred recently or further in the past, the observances of Mother's Day and Father's Day can often trigger emotions that have remained bottled or unexplored.

For the past several years, Gan HaLev has offered a combined Mothers and Fathers Memorial Service. Members of the community can share thoughts, memories, tears and laughter about a parent that they are missing. Please bring photos or other keepsakes so that we may know a part of them, too.

We will again combine this observance to coincide with Shavuot. The second day of Shavuot falls on Monday night, June 13, and is one of the four times a year that we ask God to remember those we mourn and to grant them proper rest through a Yiskor Service. Please remember to

light a Yahrzeit candle that evening, at sunset, in memory of all your departed family and friends.

Our combined Memorial/2nd day of Shavuot Yiskor Service will be Saturday, June 11, from 10 A.M.–noon at the San Geronimo Valley Community Center and will include a light Kiddush brunch. It will be led by congregant Davo Knepler; please call him at 488-0241 with any questions or concerns. ☪



Commencement Announcement

Penina Maier Children's School Commencement
Sunday June 12, 10 A.M.–12:30 P.M. at the Upper
Campus of San Geronimo School.

You are cordially invited to help us acknowledge and
celebrate the childrens' accomplishments, commit-
ment and hard work. Parents, family, friends and
congregants, and of course the students are all invited
to enjoy the festivities.

- Torah Reading
- Student and teacher acknowledgements
- Please bring a light snack to share

For questions call Julie Vogt at 488-4524. ☎



Board Retreat

Gan HaLev Board of Directors will be convening for an
annual retreat on Memorial Day Weekend. This is the time
of year when the Board re-evaluates the congregation's goals,
purpose and activities. If you have an issue that you would
like the Board to address during the retreat, please send an
email to shalom@ganhalev.org, or contact one of the mem-
bers of the Board. ☎

הגהלב ✪ Gan HaLev

The Jewish Congregation of the San Geronimo Valley

P.O. Box 280, Woodacre CA 94973-0280
voicemail: 415.488.4524

shalom@ganhalev.org www.ganhalev.org
Julie Vogt, *Administrative Aide*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laurie Chorna, <i>Treasurer</i>	488.1428
Patti Breitman, <i>Executive Committee</i>	459.1666
Davo Knepler	488.0241
Suze Lipman	383.4248
Michael Pelz-Sherman, <i>Executive Committee</i>	444.0822
Suzanne Sadowsky	488.4861
Steve Shaiken	459-4762
Diane Whitten-Vile, <i>Executive Committee</i>	479.3040

NEWSLETTER

Julie Vogt, Editor
Laurie Chorna & Davo Knepler, *Proofreaders*
Bonnie Fisk-Hayden, *Design and Layout*

Lag B'Omer— An Outdoor Celebration

*Sunday School in Bolinas
at the Tacherra's*

Sunday, May 29, 10:30 A.M.

Meet at Mesa Park

Community invited to attend

*Games • Farm Yard Tours • Traditional
Bonfire • Potluck picnic and more*

Take Sir Francis Drake west to Olema. Turn left
and drive south on Hwy 1 for about 10 or so miles.
Turn right around road marker number 1700. It is an
unmarked right turn off Hwy 1 and before the head
of the Lagoon (so if you're driving next to Bolinas
Lagoon, you've gone too far.) Turn left at the next
intersection—there is no road marker. Follow the
road around the Lagoon. Turn left at the Horse Shoe
Hill sign. Turn right onto Mesa Road. Turn right
into the parking lot of Mesa Park which is next to the
Firehouse.

Call Susan at 868-1477 for more information.



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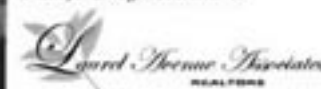
Julie Vogt

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Email: Julie.Vogt@comcast.net



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Larkspur, CA 94939
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B'nai Mitzvah Announcements

Amelia Cohen will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, June 18 at 10 a.m. at the Montgomery Chapel in San Anselmo.



The Rader family is proud to announce that their daughter, Kaija Rose Rader, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, June 25. Services will be at the San Geronimo Community Center and will begin at 10 A.M. A kiddush will follow.



Sarah Egger-Weiler will be called to the Torah as a Bas Mitzvah July 2, at 10 A.M. at the Woodacre Improvement Club.



Please join us in celebration, when Serenoa McLamb Steiner is called to the Torah on Saturday, July 9 at 10 A.M. for her Bat Mitzvah at the San Geronimo Valley Community Center. Oneg Shabbat to follow service.

Rabbi Shula Stevens will be officiating at all of the above ceremonies.



Mickey Sobel will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on June 16 at Rodef Shalom.

A Mazel Tov to all from the Congregation.

Member in the News

Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and Gan HaLev member and parent Katherine Ellison was interviewed in the May 2 issue of *Time Magazine* in connection with the publication of her new book *The Mommy Brain: How Motherhood Makes Us Smarter*. Congratulations and Mazel Tov Kathy! ☺

GAN HALEV T-SHIRTS

Hot off the press! Beautiful floral design in all sizes: both kids and adults. They are white, with water color flowers on the front, and Gan HaLev in Hebrew on back—with short sleeves, 100% cotton. The adult shirts sell for \$15 and kids \$12. A great way to donate to the synagogue while displaying pride in Gan HaLev.

Call 488-4524 to place your orders now.

The May 21 FUNDRAISER GALA

has been rescheduled for early September. Watch this space for details about Silent Auction, raffle, and future fun event.

We are continuing to solicit and accept donations for the Silent Auction. More information to follow.

**For more information please call
488-4524**

Life Cycles

Mazel Tov to Dorit, Mel and Hannah on the birth of Refael Nathan-Israel, a healthy and gorgeous girl at 9.1 lbs. The baby was born on Friday, March 4, 2005, just 6 hours and 1 minute after Dorit's beloved mother, Fay Israel passed away in Israel. ☺

Faith's Partnership Grant

Gan Halev has received the Faith's Partnership Grant from the Marin Community Foundation (MCF) for the past three years. This grant is designed to promote community building, volunteerism and the collaboration of faith-based organization and community nonprofit programs. We use the grant to encourage and expand our Volunteer Outreach program. The MCF, in partnership with the Center for Volunteers and Non-profit Leadership offers consultants, technical assistance and an opportunity for members of our community to meet with other faith organizations during the year. This Grant opportunity has been extended for another year. Any comments or suggestions for this year's application, contact Dahlia Kamesar at 415-488-1919 or dahliakam@comcast.net. ☺

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Thank You to Our Generous Congregants

SHABBATS

Diane and Sheldon Whitten-Vile for their continued coordination of the music, and to the Shir HaLev music group for great Shabbat music, and carrying on without the leaders!

Rabbi Shula for leading us in Shabbat services.

Bob Cahn for hosting Shabbat gatherings

PURIM

Jennifer Lipson and Leonard Levy for planning and coordinating the Purim Party.

Susan Tacchera for reading the story and preparing the meal.

Julie Egger and the members of the Oy Vey Klezmer Band

Andreas Wittenstein & Joanne Sobel for making the Hamantaschen Baking Party possible

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

To all the parent volunteers helping in class during the last two months: Margie Schwartz, Jennifer Lipson, Karen Bayles, Michael Pelz-Sherman, Shelley Katz, Sheldon Whitten-Vile, and to Suzanne Sadowsky for the Parent Newsletter

To the Knepler-Koenigs (Shoshanna & Sylvie) and to Julie, Erica & Stephanie Vogt for Barton's distribution

NEWSLETTER

Susan, Phillip and Joshua Witt for newsletter labeling

PASSOVER SEDER

All who brought desserts, kugels and eggs

Those who helped set up and clean up, especially the crew captains Steve Shaiken, Davo and Karen Knepler and families

Suz Lipman for picking up the chicken

Susan Tacherra for making the chopped liver

Andy Rader for making the haroset

Michael Pelz-Sherman for leading the service

Suzanne Sadowsky for coordinating the Seder

Yes, I support Gan HaLev!

I wish to become a member of the Congregation
(Annual dues are 1% of adjusted gross income)

I wish to make a donation in the amount of:

\$1000 \$500 \$360 \$180

\$100 \$50 \$36 other \$ _____

\$ _____ per month for one year

I plan to make an online donation through CharityBox.com

I am interested in automatic bank deductions.

I'd like to contribute time and/or my business resources.

I'd like this gift to remain anonymous.

This gift is *in memory of* OR *in honor of*

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DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM

Bob Cahn for the Passover water

Richard Leland for our Shabbat and Passover wine

Cliff Saron

Joanne Sobel

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Making a difference

There will be a Shabbat potluck and Discussion June 3 at Bob Cahn's at 6:30 P.M. The theme is *Volunteering: Values, Tzedakah, and Volunteering for Community Building*. Why volunteer? When does it work? When doesn't it? What about our children's contributions? Teen volunteers? Laurie Chorna and Dahlia Kamesar will co-facilitate and may have a surprise or two to kick off the exploration and exchange of ideas related to our Congregation and volunteer activities. Any questions or suggestions: Dahlia at 415-488-1919 or dahliakam@comcast.net. ☺



Parent Gathering and Israeli Independence Day

On Sunday, May 15, the parents of Sunday School students will join together for an informal gathering and discussion. Parents are invited to share their feedback about the school, student activities and general congregation plans as we look forward to next year.

The parents will then be invited to join the teachers and students in the classrooms at 11:15 A.M. to celebrate Israeli Independence Day. Everyone is welcome at this celebration, made possible through our school enhancement grant from the Bureau of Jewish education. ☺

All-Music and Childrens' Shabbat Service!

The All-Music Shabbat will be combined with the Childrens' Shabbat service on May 13 at 7 P.M. Everyone is invited to participate in the Music Shabbat at the San Geronimo Valley Community Center West Room, and those with younger children may enjoy some child-oriented singing, storytelling, and candle lighting with Suzanne Sadowsky in a separate space. Everybody will come together for the Oneg after the services. Please bring a light snack or dessert to share. ☺

Yahrtzeits in memory of. . .

Richard Lieberman	May 2, 2000	27 Nisan	5-6-05
Sam Borg	May 28, 1996	10 Sivan	6-17-05
Daniel Olonoff	May 31, 2004	17 Sivan	6-24-05
Alan Hayden	June 4, 1993	15 Sivan	6-4-05
Marie Chadwick	June 4, 1996	17 Sivan	6-24-05
Ada Borkon	June 21, 1991	1 Tamuz	7-8-05

Let us hear from you!

Send your input for this Newsletter by the 15th to:

P.O. Box 280 Woodacre CA 94973

e-mail: shalom@ganhalev.org.

A subscription to the Newsletter is included in the membership fee. Subscriptions for non-members are available with a minimum donation of \$36 per year.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2005, 7 P.M. – All Music Shabbat and Children’s Shabbat Service

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2005 10:30 A.M. - Lag B’Omer Celebration in Bolinas

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 6:30 P.M. - Shabbat Discussion at the home of Bob Cahn. The topic is *Making a Difference*.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 10 A.M.–noon - Shabbat Remembrance

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 10 A.M. - Commencement Celebration

PENINA MAIER CHILDREN’S SCHOOL

SUNDAYS, 10 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (LAG B’OMER) JUNE 5, 12 (COMMENCEMENT)

Classes run thru early June 2005. Call 488-4524 for further information.

Except as noted, Congregation events are held at the San Geronimo Valley Community Center (SGVCC), 6350 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Geronimo (5 miles west of Fairfax). Sunday School classes are held on the upper campus of the Lagunitas School District.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

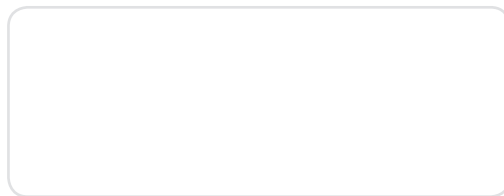
Volunteer needed 1-2 hours every other week to assist IN SPIRIT quadriplegic client in San Rafael with writing letters and help with clerical organization.

Call Laurie at 488-8827 to sign up or to learn about other volunteer opportunities.

Candlelighting Time and Parsha

MAY	PARSHA	TIME
6	Kedoshim Leviticus 19.1-20.27	7:48pm
13	Emor Leviticus 21.1-24.23	7:54pm
20	Behar Leviticus 25.1-26.2	8:00pm
27	Lag B’Omer Bechukosai Leviticus 26.3-27.34	8:06pm
JUNE		
3	Bemidbar Numbers 1.1-3.22	8:10pm
10	Naso Numbers 4.21-7.89	8:14pm
12	Shavuoth	8:15pm
17	Baha’alotecha Numbers 8.1-12.16	8:17pm
24	Shelach Numbers 13.1-15.41	8:18pm
July		
1	Korach Numbers 16.1-18.32	8:18pm

Time Value – Please expedite



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