



**VOLUNTEERISM** by Michael Pelz-Sherman

AS THE SUMMER WINDS TO A CLOSE, the High Holidays draw near and parents and teachers prepare for another school year, I would like to help renew the call to fulfill the mitzvah of participation in our wonderful Jewish community and school. In his graduation address of 2002, Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, wrote: “[T]he mission of the synagogue is to make Jews. Its ritual, educational programming and social action imbue Jews with a sense of peoplehood and communal responsibility. The need for a minyan bespeaks the centrality of community. We offer our prayers in the plural. At Yizkor, we honor the memory of our loved ones through the giving of charity. And our synagogues face east to affirm our ties to Israel. Judaism turns on acts of loving kindness the cumulative goal of which is to mend the world, tikkun olam. Citizenship in the Jewish polity springs from belonging to a synagogue. . .

.Our collective survival in the open society rests upon turning Hillel’s ancient plea of ‘al tifrosh min ha-tzibbur, do not withdraw from the community’ into the supreme commandment of contemporary Jewish life.”

Last year, the Gan HaLev board of directors decided to add a requirement of 20 volunteer hours and attendance of at least 6 congregation services and events to our Sunday school enrollment package. At our last meeting, the board decided to renew these requirements. Yet, we found ourselves struggling to find the right words to use in our Sunday school enrollment materials. Obviously, we all recognize how hard it is to make time for these things, and we know all too well how hard it is to pry kids away from their TVs, computers, game consoles, and cell phones long enough to have real shared community experiences of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**LEARNING MORE**

by Patti Breitman

*Days of Awe*

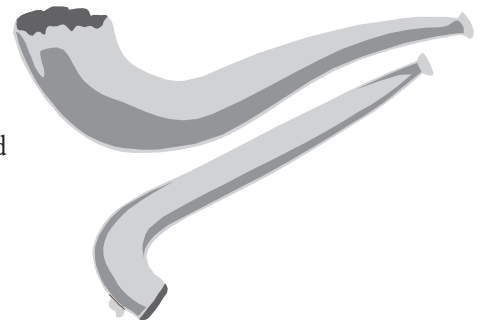
A PERIOD OF REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE, THE DAYS OF AWE begin on Rosh Hashanah and end ten days later on Yom Kippur. The Days of Awe are a time to make amends with anyone we have wronged during the past year. The Talmud explains that on Yom Kippur we can atone for sins against G-d, but for sins against other people, we need to ask those people for forgiveness and do our best to right the wrongs we may have committed against them.

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish new year, and it is said that on this day G-d opens a book in which he writes the names of those who will live and those who will die, those who will suffer and those who will prosper in the coming year. During the Days of Awe, we can repent, pray, and do good deeds to influence G-d’s decree. In fact, it is believed that teshuva (repentance), tefilah (prayer), and tzedakah (good deeds, most often charity) do influence His inscriptions in the book of life. On Yom

Kippur, the day of atonement, the book is said to be sealed.

This is why the greeting on Rosh Hashanah is L’shanah tovah tikatev v’taihatem—May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year. The shorter version, La Shanah Tova (For a good year), is more frequently heard.

To learn more, I recommend the website Jewfaq.org. May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year. ♻



“[T]he mission of the synagogue is to make Jews. Its ritual, educational programming and social action imbue Jews with a sense of peoplehood and communal responsibility.”

~Rabbi Ismar Schorsch,  
Chancellor of the Jewish  
Theological Seminary of America

*Netivat HaChakirah*  
**Exploring the Jewish Spiritual Path**  
*by Rabbi Shula Stevens*

THIS NEW GHL ADULT EDUCATION CLASS begins November 5, and will be led by Rabbi Shula Stevens. Join fellow seekers for an in-depth exploration of Judaism, as we acquire the skills which lead to deeper spiritual practice. Special emphasis will be on Biblical Hebrew, navigating sacred texts, understanding the siddur (prayerbook), and the hidden beauties of the holiday cycle. The class will also touch on the centrality of music in Jewish spiritual practice, through the study of cantillation (chanting the Hebrew Bible), nusach (prayer melodies) and niggun (wordless songs which facilitate spiritual awareness).

The class is open to everyone: those who are new to Judaism, or who may be considering conversion, as well as those who wish to deepen their knowledge base. The basic class will run for 12 months and includes a weekend retreat (TBA). For students who wish to go farther, and become B'nai Mitzvah, an extension class will follow, leading to a joint Adult B'nai Mitzvah service and celebration.

To learn more and to sign up, call Reb Shula at 510 848-2352. ☺

**A Message from  
 Armin Rosencrantz**

I'VE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO LEAD the congregation's High Holyday services since our inception in 1992. These "reconformodox" services may be unique in the Bay Area

**High Holiday Schedule**

*All services will be led by Rabbi Shula Stevens.*

**OCTOBER 3, 7 P.M.** – Rosh Hashana Evening (SGVCC)

**OCTOBER 4, 9:30 A.M.** – Rosh Hashana Morning (SGVCC)

**OCTOBER 5, 11:00 A.M.** – Rosh Hashana second day Morning & TASHLICH at Samuel P. Taylor Park

**OCTOBER 12, 6:30 P.M.** – Yom Kippur Kol Nidre (SGVCC)

**OCTOBER 13, all at (SGVCC):**

- 9:30 A.M. Yom Kippur Morning Service
- 12:30 P.M. Yizkor/Memorial Service
- 5:30 P.M. Yom Kippur concluding service

for inclusiveness and participation. Gan HaLev's board has chosen Rabbi Shula Stevens to lead this year's services. I believe that this is a step forward for the congregation. Although I was asked to assist Reb Shula, I felt that she should have the opportunity to lead the services in her own way. I'm sure she'll respect our traditions of ecumenicism and inclusiveness. I'll be assisting with High Holyday services at Stanford. I urge all of you to give Reb Shula your full support.

With best wishes for a New Year of peace, health and happiness,

*Armin Rosencrantz*



**גן הלב 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**

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Davo Knepler, <i>Executive Committee</i>	488.0241
Suze Lipman	383.4248
Michael Pelz-Sherman, <i>Executive Committee</i>	444.0822
Suzanne Sadowsky	488.4861
Steve Shaiken, <i>Executive Committee</i>	459-4762

**NEWSLETTER**

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

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**Announcement**

- **Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class**
- **Taught by Rabbi Shula Stevens**
- **Beginning November, 2005**
- **Meet bi-weekly-in West Marin and Berkeley**

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*Please join Gan HaLev in a*  
**Sukkot Celebration**



**Sunday, October 23, 10 A.M.**

The word "Sukkoth" means booths, and refers to the temporary dwellings that Jews live in and eat their meals during this holiday. The sukkah is decorated with ornaments and fruits and vegetables of the season. This year the Congregation will be celebrating Sukkoth at the home of Karen Bayle and Jeff Sandler, 27 Oak Tree Lane, in Fairfax. We will be decorating the sukkah, singing and enjoying a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share and folding chairs or blankets and pillows for outdoor seating. For directions and to RSVP, call Karen at 460-9808 or email baysand@comcast.net.

*Thank You to Our  
 Generous Congregants*

**SHABBATS**

Suz and Michael Lipman for hosting the Shabbat Discussion in their home on August 26

**DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM:**

Michael Zimmerman in honor of Davo Knepler and

Laurie Chorna for work at Springfield Place

The "Mens Poker Group"

Bureau of Jewish Education for a grant award of \$1000 to be used for Professional Development during the year 5766

**NEWSLETTER**

Davo Knepler and Laurie Chorna for their careful editing of the Newsletter

Philip, Susan and Joshua Witt for newsletter labeling

*Yahrzeits in memory of. . .*

Ida Zamist	9/22/86	18 Elul
Joseph Manfred Israel	9/13/1987	20 Elul
Lillian Fagan	10/1/2003	5 Tishrei
William Seiden	10/15/62	26 Tishrei
Karen Senyak	10/20/94	15 Cheshvan

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## Volunteerism

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

almost any kind. We are aware that most families fell well short of meeting these requirements last year. Yet we felt it was important not to lower our standards, but rather to try and clarify the reason for their existence. Our intent in establishing these requirements is to indicate the critical importance of participation in our school and congregation activities, without which a Jewish education can have little meaning. We wanted to help foster the culture of participation that has been one of the hallmarks of Gan HaLev since its inception. Gan HaLev is unique among the Jewish congregations of Marin County in terms of the level of openness and participation we expect and encourage in our members. While the professional teachers and religious leaders of our community are of course exceptional, it is the contributions of individual members that give our community its signature spirit (“ruach”) that makes it so colorful and special. In a relatively small community like ours, every single person who makes the effort to come to an event, spends an hour helping out in a Sunday school classroom, makes a few phone calls to let folks know about an upcoming event, or helps set up chairs or clean up after a service, makes a huge difference to the quality of the Gan HaLev experience. Serving on the board and/or committees (education, finance, spiritual) is a unique and immensely rewarding opportunity to help define that experience, and to help our synagogue fulfill its mission of “making Jews.” Our congregation’s—indeed, our people’s survival literally depends on the participation—in ways both large and small, of all of its members. ☺

## Hosting Shabbat

What a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge a simcha, do a mitzvah for the community, and be a host for Shabbat!

We invite you to host a potluck Shabbat in your home or to co-host an Oneg Shabbat following a Friday evening Shabbat service at the San Geronimo Valley Community Center.

Use this opportunity to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, grandparents in town, or just to be a host.

Hosting can be very simple and we will help coordinate it with you. Please call 488-4524 or email to schedule a Shabbat gathering in your home or to co-host at the Community Center. ☺



## Request for Volunteer Opportunities

As a new year cycle begins we look to renewing our commitments. Volunteering effects Community so that we are not isolated in our efforts. We learn new skills. We meet new people. We do a mitzvah.

Are there Volunteer Opportunities you would like to share with the Congregation. Are you already doing Volunteer Work you need support with? Or would like to share? Do you need additional Volunteers for a project, an agency or an individual?

If you have any ideas or requests, contact: Julie at 488-4524 or Dahlia Kamesar at 488-1919 or daliakam@comcast.net. ☺



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## ASK JCI & R

Q: I would like to volunteer in the Jewish community. Do you have information on volunteer opportunities?

A: Volunteering is...chicken soup for the soul...a gift from the heart...and it's good for the soul. Did you know that we operate the Volunteer Placement Project? When you want to volunteer, but don't know where to start, view our VPP website and we will help you find a job that fits your interests. VPP lists more than 200 volunteer opportunities with Jewish organizations. You can escort seniors, write press releases, staff a library, coordinate a food bank, mentor teenagers, teach a class.... and much more. It's your chance to help the community.

*"Whoever practices tzedakah and justice fills the world with loving kindness..." ~Talmud*

For more information about volunteering and connecting to Jewish life, call JCIR 415/777-4545 or toll-free 877-777-JCIR (5247) or e-mail to [Info@JewishNfo.org](mailto:Info@JewishNfo.org)

Jewish Community Information and Referral is a service of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, and the Peninsula. Please visit our websites and ☺

## Bat Mitzvah Mazel Tov

Mira Levy will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 22. Mazel Tov to Mira and her family. ☺

### 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](mailto: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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## Yes, I support Gan HaLev!

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(Annual dues are 1% of adjusted gross income)

I wish to make a donation in the amount of:

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**HIGH HOLIDAYS SERVICES** – see page 2

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23** – Sukkoth celebration in lieu of Sunday School at the home of Karen Bayle and Jeff Sandler, 27 Oak Tree Lane, in Fairfax. For directions and to RSVP, call 460-9808 or email baysand@comcast.net.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28** – 6: 30 P.M. Halloween Shabbat at the Knepler-Koenig home at 24 Oak Grove, Woodacre. Call 488-0241 for more information and directions.

**PENINA MAIER CHILDREN’S SCHOOL**

**SUNDAYS, 10 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

**SEPTEMBER 18, SEPTEMBER 25** – No school

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23** – All Music Shabbat with the Shir HaLev Musicians, 7:30 P.M. at the Dance Palace in Pt. Reyes Station, Corner of 5th and B Streets in Point Reyes Station. Call Carol at 663-9512 for info.

**SEPTEMBER 25, OCTOBER 2 (TODDLER DAY) 9, 16, 30.**

**CLASSES RUN THRU MAY 2006.**

Call 488-4524 for further information.

*Except as noted, Congregation events and school 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.*

## Purim in October??

Celebrate Purim in October on Friday, October 28 at the Knepler-Koenig home for a Halloween Shabbat. Come in costume and bring a vegetarian potluck dish. This family event begins at 6:30 P.M. and will include a potluck dinner, services, and Halloween fun with Davo, Karen, Sylvie and Shoshana. For further info call 488-0241. ☺

**SEPTEMBER 17 & 18** – KlezCalifornia. [www.KlezCalifornia.org](http://www.KlezCalifornia.org)

### Candlelighting Time and Parsha

SEPTEMBER	PARSHA	TIME
16	Ki Teitzei Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19	6:59pm
23	Ki Tavo Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8	6:48pm
30	Nitzavim	6:37pm
October 3	Erev Rosh Hashana	6:33pm
6	Vayeilech Deuteronomy 31:1-31:30	6:27pm
12	Erev Yom Kippur	6:19pm
14	Ha'Azinu Deuteronomy 32:1-32:51	6:17pm
17	Erev Sukkot	6:12p.m
21	Sukkot IV (CH" M)	6:07pm
24	Sukkot VII (Hoshana Raba)	6:03pm
26	Simchat Torah	7:31p
28	Bereshit Genesis 1:2-11:32	5:58pm

Time Value – Please expedite



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