

MINYAN MONTHLY



Vol. 4, No. 6

NOVEMBER 1988 KISLEV 5749

High Holiday Childcare - looking back

Although it seemed an awesome exercise in organization, teamwork led to successful High Holiday Childcare this year. Pre-registration helped eliminate the bottleneck at the front desk, and we had a sufficient supply of babysitters.

Many children spent long hours at the shul, but they had lots of interesting activities to occupy them. Amy Wallk, our rabbinic intern, had a game room just for the "big kids" after Junior Congregation was over. There were new toys, games and puzzles, provided by Rabbi Joel Rembaum. The kids rotated through the play yard also, and of course there was food!

There are a few people who deserve special thanks for their help in facilitating the program: Rachel Green for her
(continued on p. 6)

Sukkot, Zecharia and Tikun Olam

I was sitting in my succah the other night after dinner, alone, thinking about the Ushpizin, the custom of inviting the seven distinguished guests of Israel into the succah -- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron and David. All of a sudden there appeared in front of me an old man, wrapped completely in a large white tallis, and wearing sandals. I hadn't heard the gate opening, nor the back door of the house. Yet there he was at the entrance to my succah. Behold, Father Abraham, come to visit me in my succah! I immediately stood up and welcomed him. "Avraham Avinu..." I began.

"I'm afraid I'm not who you think I am," my guest interrupted me in English.

"That's all right," I replied, "I'm probably not who you think I am either."
(continued on p. 3)

Did you know?

Although we come to Beth Am every Shabbat, a lot of us may not be aware of other happenings at the shul. Did you know that....

- * Enrollment at the Pressman Academy Day School has grown by over 20% this year.
- * Beth Am has received grants from the Council on Jewish Life of the Jewish Federation Council of Los Angeles to develop two innovative programs:

-ATID, a model program headed by Dr. Hanan Alexander that recruits and trains new synagogue leaders. The first 16 graduates of this unique leadership development program have already assumed key leadership positions in Beth Am, and 25 members have enrolled in this year's training program. (Over half the ATID participants are affiliated with the Library Minyan.)

- KESHER BEN HADOROT, an intergenerational model program in it's second year, that recruits, trains and places active senior citizens to work as volunteer aids in our schools - linking generations in a meaningful manner.

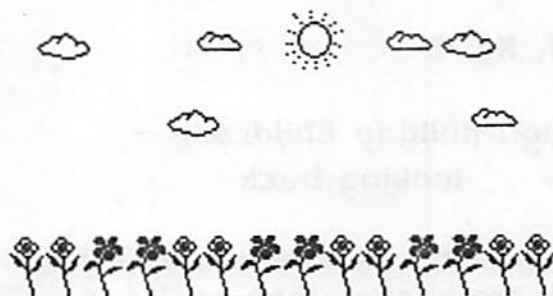
- * Beth Am's USY chapter recently received the Most Improved Chapter Award from Far West Region USY.
- * In conjunction with Jewish Family Service, Beth Am hosts approximately 8,100 senior citizens each weekday for lunch. 500 seniors come to our award winning annual Thanksgiving Day Luncheon.

- * Beth Am's havurah program is seen as a model for other synagogue based programs.

- * 3000 people worshiped at Beth Am's High Holiday services this year.

- * Approximately 40% of Beth Am's 1130 unit adult membership (not including children) are under 45 years old. There are approximately 460 children under 12 years old in the synagogue.

-Frieda Huberman



Trivia Corner

While we're on the subject of surprising statistics, here's some not from the main shul, but from our very own Library Minyan. Did you know...

- * Library Minyan membership now stands at 181 families, representing 281 individuals.
- * 30% of those people have joined the Minyan in the last 16 months.

- The Editor

(Zecharia - continued from p. 1)

"On the contrary," he said, "you're Ronnie Cohen, and you're on the Minyan List. You know, Avraham and the other six can't visit every succah. So the rest of us help out. My name is Zechariah ben Berechya ben Iddo."

Have you ever had this dream, that you were in the middle of an Oral Exam in a subject you knew absolutely nothing about? He looked at the blank expression on my face and continued, "If you were in Shul yesterday, you probably heard some of my poetry."

"Of course," I replied, "Zechariah the prophet. You lived during the end of the Babylonian exile and the building of the Second Temple. You know, I have a confession to make. My Hebrew is pretty good, but I have a really hard time with your writing."

"I know, I've been hearing that for the last 2500 years. But I had to write in the style that was popular at the time, which unfortunately was obtuse, obscure, complex poetry that no one understood. I would much rather have put my message across in a detective novel, believe me. But enough about me. How have you been enjoying Sukkot?"

"Well," I cleared my throat, "it's ok, but really, it's hard not to feel that it's sort of anti-climactic. I mean, first you have Rosh Hashanna, then Yom Kippur, the most important day in the Jewish calendar, and then four days later another holiday."

"Another holiday?!" he broke in, eyes suddenly alive. "Anti-climax?! Not in my day. To us Sukkot was the holiday, the climax of the entire New Year celebration. We even called it HeChag, The Holiday. You can't imagine the rejoicing. The sacrifices, the celebrating in Jerusalem. And so many symbols: booths,

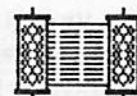
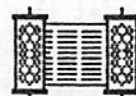
lulav, etrog, processions, beating the willow branches, the water ceremony, the prayer for rain."

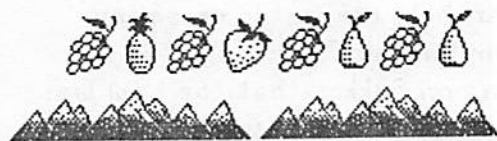
"It was on Sukkot that the Law was read aloud, every seven years. On Sukkot the Temple was dedicated. Sukkot was so important, when the Maccabees finally won their war, they were so upset about not having been able to celebrate Sukkot, that they had it two months late. And to this day, Jews all over the world celebrate the Maccabee's Sukkot, but they call it Chanukah. No, Sukkot was The Holiday."

"More important even than Yom Kippur?" I challenged him.

"More important?" He shrugged his shoulders. "That's irrelevant. They're parts of the same structure, elements in the 23-day celebration of the yearly cycle. All of them mark the end of the old year and the beginning of the new year. Sukkot is the harvest festival, the celebration of the end of the year's work. Yet we end it with a prayer for rain. Because it's also the beginning of the next year's work. And so the cycle begins again. And even though it comes at the beginning of the year, right after Rosh Hashana, it's also the last holiday of our calendar year. There are no more major holidays after Tishrei, the seventh month. So this holiday season in one sense represents the first holidays of the year, and in another the last."

(continued on p. 4)





(Zecharia - continued from p. 3)

"Also, within the holiday period, there is a cycle created by the swinging of a pendulum back and forth between the two aspects of the human condition, the struggle to survive and the urge to learn, or in traditional terms between kemach (flour, food) and Torah."

"We start on the spiritual plane, on the level of Torah. Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur focus our thoughts on our essence, our spirituality, our behavior. On Yom Kippur we are so occupied with Torah that, like Moses on Mt. Sinai, we ignore food. Quite literally, we have Torah to the exclusion of Kemach."

"Never-the-less, this exalted spirituality ends in a joyful reassertion of our physicality. We drink wine and eat bread, and in the old days, the bachelors eyed the maidens dressed in white. In short, it's the release after 10 days building up to spiritual climax."

"But we don't spend this release on a one-night binge. We harness it in frenzied preparations for a week long celebration of Kemach. We celebrate the harvest that just finished; we offer up - on behalf of the entire world - gifts of thanksgiving; and we give up the security of our comfortable homes, becoming completely open and vulnerable as we seek God's blessings, water, rain for next year's kemach. And then at the end, after an entire week of kemach, we turn again back to Torah, literally, to the actual scroll. Only this time, we celebrate Torah with the essence of distilled kemach. So you see, it's all one holiday season. Yom Kippur may be the

focal point, but it's not the end. Rosh Hashana leads to Yom Kippur which leads to Sukkot."

"Well," I said finally, "I can see how it started out all as one. But it's difficult for me to envision how Sukkot can regain its status as the major holiday."

"Envision?" he laughed. "That's my specialty, envisioning. Now first envision the rebuilding of the Temple, and the reinstatement of sacrifice."

"Wait a minute!" I broke in. "We can't rebuild the Temple without starting another war. And I can't believe that God really wants us to start offering up calves and lambs in the waning years of the 20th century."

All of a sudden, I felt his smooth fingers across my lips. "Don't envision with your tongue. Envision with your eyes, your heart, your soul. Come with me. I'll show you the Third Temple. It's here, behind you." And so saying, he took my hand and led me through the back wall of my succah into a place I'd never been before. It was Jerusalem - but it wasn't. There was an enormous structure, an all-encompassing Temple that included both the Dome of the Rock, and the Western Wall, churches and holy places of every kind. And I saw people coming from all over the world into this temple, carrying boxes and suitcases.

"What are they bringing?" I asked.

"What people have always brought to the Temple of the Lord - sacrifices."

"But those aren't animals. What's in those boxes and suitcases?"

"I said reinstitute sacrifice. I never said animal sacrifice," he chided me gently. "2500 years ago, animals meant wealth. Those animals represented

(continued on p. 5)

(Zecharia - continued from p. 3)
people's most valuable resources. What is your most valuable resource today? Time. These people are bringing clothes and provisions so that they can devote some time to the Temple, to God's work, to Sukkot."

"What is it that they do?"

"What is it that they do?" he continued. "They do the water ceremony, the prayer for rain. 2500 years ago, water was synonymous with a bountiful crop. Today we have a whole science of agronomy, and in our rebuilt Temple, people from all over the world give of their time, and use their knowledge, their wisdom, their Torah - to insure adequate supplies of food for the Bangladesh's and Ethiopias of the world. They see to the adequate production and distribution of the world's food, energy, clothing and shelter."

And as he spoke, I saw his vision, and I recalled his prophecy, and now I understood him: "And all who survive of all those nations that come up against Jerusalem shall make a pilgrimage year by year to bow low to the King Lord of Hosts and to observe the Feast of Booths. And to rejoice in God's bounty."

There's enough kemach in the world to feed everyone. And we have the torah, the knowledge to distribute it properly. God grant that we, and the whole world accept Torah, so that we understand that we were given this kemach so that we could all live. That's the true meaning of sacrifice - giving of our resources to accomplish God's work, and feed the world with this bounteous harvest, for which we are very thankful and joyous.

Chag sameach.

(Drash reprinted by popular request, courtesy of Ronnie Cohen.)

Aid to Ethiopian Jewry

The North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ) sends missions to Ethiopia several times a year, bringing funds, clothes, medication etc. to the Jewish community in Ethiopia. They also provides assistance the Ethiopian Jews already settled in Israel. They can present a program, consisting of a speaker, slide show, request for donations, and handicrafts display and sale, for the Minyan. If you have a large enough home to hold a group of 20 or more people, and would like to volunteer it for a fund raiser, or if you can't host, but would like to help provide refreshments for such an evening, please call Fay Wouk (397-4567).



Opportunities for Learning

What does it mean to be a Conservative Jew? This 6-week mini-course will meet in private homes Tuesday nights with Rabbi Pressman and Wednesday nights with Rabbi Rembaum, beginning the first week of November. \$5.00 book fee. The text will be the recently published Emet V'Emunah. For details and to register call the shul office at 652-7353.

Maimonides' Mishneh Torah Class led by Rabbi Rembaum every Tuesday evening from 8-9:30 P.M. in the Beth Am Library. Book fee: \$14.00

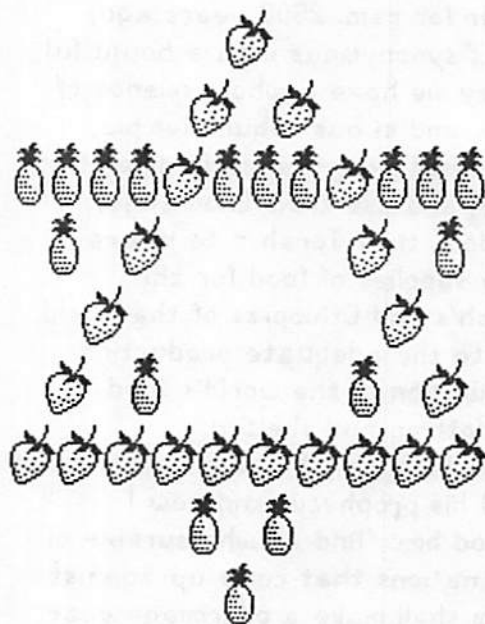
Thanks for supporting us!

The minyan would like to thank the following people for their generous contributions:

Myron & Sara Hecht
Arnold & Shirley Levitsky
Mayer & Faith Schames
Arnold Stengel
Sharon Kushner
Marilyn Brody
Chaim Kline
Renalee & Robert Pflug
Michael Rosen & Karen Fox
Jody Myers & David Ackerman
Aaron & Edith Maniker
Louis & Judy Miller
Barbara & Jerry Rabin
Amos & Linda Amit
Mayer & Sandy Brenner
Sukie Port
Caty Konigsberg
Kenneth Krug & Andrea Scharf
Batya Silverman
David Connie
Janice Gelb
Selwyn & Glynis Gerber
Harry Gottesman
Steve & Frieda Huberman
Judy Lederich
Jim & Amy Leserman
Marci Maniker & Maury Leiter
Phyllis & Mitch Miller
Regina & George Sanchez
Allan Tobin & Janet Hadda
Mollie Wine
Louis Hersh
Steve & Fredi Spiegel
Barbara Bloom
Glenn & Judy Massarano
Esther Cooper
Julia Arango
Esther Lerner Brenner
David Conney

Sheldon & Gail Dorph
Sally Goodis & Steve Zipperstein

The Treasurer of the Minyan would like to thank everyone who made pledges on Simchat Torah for the Hakafot. Please remember to send your contributions to Eddie Rabin. Thank you to those who have already sent in your donations.



(Child care - continued from p. 1)
diligent attention to the details of planning, procedure and supervising of personnel; Fran and Joel Grossman for clerical help and the use of their house til the wee hours; David Ackerman for allowing us to use the school facilities and cheerfully providing his savvy when it came to caring for large quantities of children; Bill Strick for authorizing synagogue funds to pay for the baby sitters; Sonia for the apples and honey; Rita for the beautiful flyer. Here's hoping next year is even better!

- Ruth Askren

To Volunteer

Contact the following people to help:

To daven:

Judy Lederich	(818) 908-9112
Elishava Hettinger	652-6825
Georgia Beller	854-0275
Ron Ostroff	836-4648

To read Torah or Haftorah:

Lida Baker	934-3663
Sharon Kushner	659-1926

To give a drasha:

Fred Landau	657-7903
-------------	----------

To get help preparing a drasha:

Levi Shnairson	653-9439
----------------	----------

To learn to daven or read Torah or Haftorah:

David Rubin	937-1437
-------------	----------

To help with child care:

Ruth Askren	935-1567
Fran Grossman	933-5040
Rachel Green	938-8110

To sponsor a kiddush:

Judy Bacherman	652-9280
----------------	----------

To host a Shabbat lunch for Hachnasat Orchim:

Robin Moss	652-2261
Georgia Beller	854-0275
Sharon Kushner	659-1926
Judy Massarano	551-0162

To contribute to the *Minyan Monthly*
Fay Wouk 397-4567

Upcoming Events

Nov. 5 - Square Dance, 8:00 P.M.
Professional Caller, Refreshments. \$7.00 in advance, \$8.00 at the door. To reserve, call Frieda Huberman at 652-7353.

Nov. 12 - General Ephraim Sneh will speak on democracy in Israel, at approximately 11:00 in the main shul, and at lunch afterwards. Lunch \$10.00.

Nov. 16 - New Havurah Get-Together. A havurah is a group of 20 adults who meet monthly to participate in cultural, religious, educational and social activities. Types of havurot can include: singles, young marrieds, families with young children, families with teenagers, empty nesters. For info call Frieda Huberman at 652-7353 (x 107).

Nov. 29 - Making Menchen: helping our children know what is right, 7:30 P.M. workshop led by Dr. Steve Bailey, clinical psychologist and educator. For info call Bonnie Selk at 652-7353.

Dec. 2 - Singles' Potluck Shabbat Dinner 7:00 P.M. For info call Amy Walk at 655-6401.

Dec. 9 - Beth Am's Family Hanukkah Celebration.

Announcements

Kabbalat Shabbat - Many of us meet each Friday night for Kabbalat Shabbat services. All members of our community are invited to join us at the following places and times:

Oct. 28	6:30	Fred & Diane Landau	905 S. Ledoux #3
Nov. 4	6:30	Steve Morgen	814 S. Sherbourne #4
Nov. 11	6:30	Fred & Diane Landau	905 S. Ledoux #3
Nov. 18	6:30	Brad & Sharon Grob	1021 Stearns Drive
Nov. 25	6:30	Glenn & Judy Massarano	1449 S. Canfield
Dec. 2	6:30	Alan Broidy	1043 S. Stearns Drive
Dec. 9	6:30	Steve Morgen	814 S. Sherbourne #4

If you have any questions, please call Brad Grob (933-8872) or Glenn Massarano (551-0162).

Position Wanted - Are you looking for a professional, detail-oriented, organized and dependable administrator with LOTS of public contact experience? If so, look no further, but contact me, Judy Lederich (818-908-9112). I am looking for a professionally-oriented administrative position, preferably in program management or research, in a company or agency involved with public service or environmental issues.

Housing Needed - Looking for a place in the \$200-400 range. I prefer a guest house or studio but am open to shared housing. Minimum requirements: fast freeway access, quiet space for study and exercise, smoke-free. I am 33, female, a post-doc psych intern, non-smoker, active. If you can help, call Hanna Chusid, (days 818-285-2241).

Lamaze Classes by Linda Levenson, R.N.M.N. in Beverly Hills. Call her at 553-5346.

Minyan List Corrections - Please send phone and address corrections to Eddie Rabin, 1181 Hi Point Street, Los Angeles, CA 90035 (930-1939).

Baby Kittens - free to a good home. 2 grey 3-week old kittens, one male, one female. Very cute. Call Ruth Askren (935-1567).

Apple IIe computer for sale - 64k ram, CP/M card, 80 column card, two disk drives, 300 baud modem, dot-matrix printer, lots of software. Call Fay Wouk (397-4567)

The *Minyan Monthly* is published by Sharon Grob, and edited by Fay Wouk. If you would like to publish a letter, announcement, or article in the next issue, please send it to Fay at 4107 Inglewood Blvd, LA 90066. (Phone: 397-4567.)