

MINYAN MONTHLY

Volume 7, No. 3

May-June 1993

Iyar-Sivan 5753

SHAVUOT D'VAR TORAH

"AKDAMUT MILLIN"

--by Norman Saiger

On the first day of Shavuot in some congregations, a special poem called the "AKDAMUT" is chanted as part of the Torah service prior to the first Aliyah. The first words of this poem describe its purpose: to introduce the words of the Ten Commandments -- "akdamut millin". The poem is in Aramaic, and is traditionally ascribed to Rabbi Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai (who lived in the 11th Century C.E.).

The poem praises God as creator and lawgiver, expatiates on Israel's fidelity to God despite all sufferings and temptations, and ends with a description of the apocalyptic events at the end of days and the future glory of Israel. According to the poem, all of us will be able to merit and enjoy that latter splendor by fulfilling the Ten Commandments, the "Ten Words" presented at Mount Sinai by God, which are about to be read.

In East European folk tradition (this poem is an Ashkenazi rite only), the origin of the poem is connected with the legend of how Rabbi Meir saved the Jewish community of Worms by invoking the help of a miraculous emissary of the Ten Lost Tribes from across the Sambatyon River (a mystical place). The Akdamut also celebrates a victory over Jew-baiters.

Unfortunately for the Library Minyan, our Siddur Sim Shalom does not see fit to offer the entire poem in translation. The music used for the chant is also very unique and of an older psalmic style. May the study and hearing of this prayer move our community closer to the meaning of Shavuot. Hag Sameach.

UPCOMING STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Minyan Steering Committee meeting will take place on Sunday, June 6, at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Rachel and Norm Green, 1172 Hi Point Street, Los Angeles.

CHAIR'S COLUMN

BOARD CONSIDERS A VARIETY OF ISSUES

-- By Norm Green

The congregation's Board of Trustees sometimes gets to consider interesting issues, although their meetings are rarely as stimulating as those of the Library Minyan's Steering Committee. For example, at the March 30 meeting, the synagogue adopted a Masorti congregation, Kehillath Netzach Israel in Ashkelon, as a "sister synagogue." A principal goal of the adoption is raising \$2,000 for their congregation. Meanwhile, consider stopping by next time you're in Ashkelon for Shabbat.

Closer to home, you can visit one of Beth Am's Torah scrolls in Las Vegas. No, it is not collateral for a gambling debt. A small congregation there has borrowed it for the year. Hopefully, they are putting it to good use.

The Board also considers some Tachlis issues, such as approving contracts for the congregation's clergy and other professional staff, adding 7th and 8th grades to the Day School, and adopting the annual budget. Only about 30% of the annual budget comes from dues.

WILKOF'S NEW ADDRESS

Please be advised that the Wilkof family has moved (again!). The new address is:

2486 Brian Drive
Beechwood, Ohio 44122
(216) 831-4585

BABY SITTING CO-OP STARTED

Six families with children under the age of five have banded together to combat the "no-sitter" affliction which attacks many parents of very young children.

Armed with "baby bucks" (scrip) to keep track of the baby-sitting transactions, parents once again enjoy an occasional night out without little one(s) in tow.

The parents using the service generally bring their children to the home of the baby-sitter, where inordinate amounts of junk food are consumed and, in general, a good time is had by one and all.

If you're a parent of young children and interested in participating in the baby-sitting co-operative, please call Michelle Krotinger Wolf at (213) 954-8681.

MINYAN TREASURER WANTED!!

No Experience Necessary!!!

Must be capable of writing one (with a remote possibility of two) checks per month and show up at a few steering committee meetings per year. Must be a member of TBA, "lo" paying job, lots of "yichus", plus a vote on the steering committee. Yes, you can make important decisions for your community! Please respond ASAP to Sandra Braun, (213) 934-3231.

TREASURER'S COLUMN

--by Sandra Braun

The library minyan would like to thank the following people for their generous contributions to our growing kiddush fund:

- Eddie, Barbara and Amanda Levine
- David and Jackie Ellenson & Family
- Mitch and Phyllis Miller & Family
- The Swerdlow Family

Thank you to the following people for contributions in honor of Aliyot:

- David Braun
- Beatrice and Merle Kane
- Leon and Anne Kramer

DONATIONS/TRIBUTE CARDS

The Library Minyan welcomes contributions for any occasion. Donations may be specified for the Library Minyan general fund or the Kiddush fund, and may be in any dollar increment. We also send cards for tributes (i.e. sympathy, honors, birthdays, bar/bat mitzvah, etc.) Contact Sandra Braun (213) 934-3231 if you wish to send a tribute card.

MODERN HEBREW POETRY CLASS

A Modern Hebrew Poetry class, with Professor Jacob Somerman, will be meeting on the first and third Shabbat of each month from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. It will be held at the home of Marshall and Hannah Kramer, 6406 Lindenhurst Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90048 (3 blocks north of Wilshire, 2nd house west of La Jolla).

AMERICAN ZIONIST MOVEMENT
RECONSTITUTED TO PUT ISRAEL ON TOP
OF JEWISH COMMUNAL AGENDA

--By Michelle Krotinger Wolf

Since the founding of the State of Israel in 1948, American Zionists have sought to affirm the centrality of Israel in Jewish life and to encourage aliyah. Both of these goals, however, have been increasingly difficult to attain in recent years, as less than 30 percent of American Jews have even visited Israel and only 1 percent have made aliyah.

In recognition of the growing gap between Israel and American Jews, the umbrella organization for Zionist organizations in America, formerly known as the American Zionist Federation, has restructured itself and is now called the American Zionist Movement (AZM). One of its main goals is to educate the generation born after the establishment of Israel, and to create a living movement which links the identity of the Jewish people to Israel.

Mercaz, the Zionist Organization for Conservative/Masorti Judasim, has been involved in the restructuring of AZM and is firmly committed to assisting in this historic challenge of reaching out to the younger generation, to whom Zionism is viewed as merely history.

If you are interested in being part of the revitalized AZM, please call Michelle Wolf, at the American Zionist Movement office at (213) 655-7710.

ATTENTION BARGAIN HUNTERS, PACKRATS
AND JOB SEEKERS!!!

Announcing the Minyan Monthly
"Recycle, Reuse and Rehire" Column!

The Minyan Monthly will be publishing a column of classified ads. We will list a variety of items such as reusable furniture, cars, computers and help wanted/jobs sought. Items for children such as strollers, toys, etc. will probably be in great demand, but all kinds are accepted. Prices negotiable!

CLASSIFIEDCLASSIFIEDCLASSIFIED

Tricycle - for ages 2-3, red metal, \$10 obo.

Kiddy slide - 3 ft. tall, red and yellow plastic. \$15 obo.

Plastic sit-and-push car, yellow and red. \$20 obo.

Wading pool, 5 ft. diameter, one foot deep, hard molded plastic, \$25 obo.

"Baby Songs" Video Tape Series, \$6 each.

For any of the above items, call Carl or Tove Sunshine (213) 934-7889.

FREE to a good home or worthy cause!
A slice of computer history in perfect working order. 1982 KayPro II, one of the first portable computers, about the size of a suitcase, does word and data processing on a little green screen. Included is a daisy-wheel "letter quality" printer, patch cord, all original books, software including some games, and a handy carrying case. Call Dianne Winocur at (310) 652-4597 for more information.

THRIVING MINYAN "HAVURAH" MAKES
GETTING ACQUAINTED A LITTLE
EASIER

--by Sharon L. Williams

Many members will remember Elisheva Hettinger, now relocated to Phoenix to pursue her residency. When she attended the Library Minyan, Elisheva regularly hosted a large number of members and visitors for lavish spreads on Shabbat. Well, her legacy lives on in the form of ongoing Friday night dinners and Shabbat afternoon lunches in the homes of various members of the "Pico-Robertson Havurah."

The havurah came into being to fill the void many of us felt after Elisheva left, in terms of wanting a place to go for lunch after Shabbat services, or in the case of Friday nights, a place to welcome the Shabbat with a group of like-minded people. A phone list of current members is available upon request, and new members are welcome. The only requirement for membership is being able and willing to contribute a dish or drinks to any meal you wish to attend. Most of our members are single; however, several couples, some with children, also come regularly.

If you or someone you know is looking to join an informal havurah, or would like to get to know a diverse and interesting group of people, please call Judy Bacherman (310) 652-9280, Georgia Beller (310) 854-0275, or Sharon Williams (310) 838-1316 for more information. Dinner or lunch is being held somewhere almost every week, so feel free to come check it out!

MINYAN COMMITTEES/CONTACTS

EDITOR'S COLUMN

- Chair, Steering Committee
 - Norman Green (213)938-8110
- Minyan Treasurer
 - Sandra Braun (213)934-3231
- Reading Torah or Haftorah
 - Lida Baker (213)934-3663
- Gabai'im-Shabbat/Holiday Services
 - Torah Honors
 - Alan Broidy (213)933-8894
 - Stan Goldstein (310)837-5503
 - Art Metz (310)276-6905
 - Itzhak Yaron (310)657-3760
- Drashot
 - Mark Rothman (310)659-0269
- Torah Gabai'im
 - Norman Saiger (310)837-5927
 - Evan Greenspan (818)760-0774
- Child Care
 - Matt Chazanov (213)936-3901
 - Teri Cohan Link (213)272-7401
 - Fran Grossman (213)933-5040
- Child Care Volunteer Coordinator
 - Robin Boroda (818)763-2762
- Hospitality
 - Abby Harris (310)556-7778
- Kiddush
 - Judy Weinstock (213)933-1772
 - Carl Sunshine (213)934-7889
- Membership
 - Michael Rogson (213)939-5124
- Mailing List
 - Leon Rogson (310)202-1329
- Minyan Guide
 - Carl Sunshine (213)934-7889
- Minyan Monthly
 - Sharon Williams (310)838-1316
 - Dianne Winocur (310)652-4597
 - Michelle Wolf (213)954-8681
- Ritual Committee
 - Ronnie Cohen (213)658-8057
- Scheduling Events-Master Calendar
 - Lida Baker (213)934-3663
- Shiva Minyans
 - Norm Saiger (310)837-5927
 - Rachel Green (213)938-8110

--by Sharon L. Williams

About three weeks ago I announced I was taking over editorship of the Minyan Monthly. Only two weeks previously, Dianne Winocur announced she had filled this position, recently vacated by Susan Grinel. No, it's not a game of musical editors. Dianne and I had already conferred about working together on the Monthly when she was laid off from her job as a copy editor. She found the strains of looking for another position too draining and time-consuming to assume full responsibility for the newsletter, though she will continue to serve as "contributing editor", along with Michelle Krottinger Wolf. Any other members who want to be a part of the team, feel free to contact one of us.

Our first priority was to send out a new Minyan list. Next month we hope to bring you interviews with long-time members, exploring the fabled past of the Library Minyan, and how it's changed since the "good old days". New members will also be interviewed for their insights and impressions of the Minyan, coming in future issues.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES
 TO THE MINYAN MONTHLY**

Care of: Sharon Williams
 9114 Olin Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90034
 Or Call: (310) 838-1316 (H)

Next month's hot topic will be: Do Library Minyan members accept "Torah from Sinai"? (as R. Eliezrie denies in the May 20th issue of the Jewish Journal.)

**DON'T FORGET WE'RE STILL COLLECTING
 CANNED AND PACKAGED FOODS FOR
 SOVA**
