

The Chadeish Yameinu Aleph Branch Newsletter

Jewish Renewal Community of Santa Cruz & the Monterey Bay Region
Vol. Five No. 4 www.cysantacruz.org Fall 2007

The Rebbe's Corner

As always with the coming of the High Holidays, it is a time to reflect back, not only on the past year but on years past. For some, this may be a fairly new tradition, and you may wish to ask yourself how this tradition is evolving in your life. What has it come to mean? How does the richness of the season come through?



For some of us, our observance

of the "Yamim Noraim" ("Days of Awe") stretches back over many years, perhaps over our whole lives. We may ask ourselves, what are the earliest memories we have of them? How do these memories influence or shape how we approach the Holy Days today? How have our traditions changed and in what ways have we carried something of the earlier years into the present?

My own history begins with a mostly Conservative upbringing. My early memories of the High Holy Days are filled with the special melodies of the season and with a sense of the importance and holiness of these days. *(continued on page 4)*

"It is good to look at the many High Holiday seasons of one's life."

On the Meaning of Community

Clearly, one of the most compelling reasons to belong to a congregation is the sense of community. Indeed, some CY members attend services, some attend classes, some both, some neither. Some just want a place of refuge in family transitions, and some just want to know they are contributing to a sense of Jewish continuity. In any of those cases, we need to know others are there because we can't do these things by ourselves.

This year in CY, we are making this community even stronger through many new endeavors: by starting Chavurot (a group of "friends" that meet for Jewish social, educational or religious reasons on an informal basis), by having a retreat in early September so we can really prepare ourselves for High Holidays and can get to know each other in a more intimate setting, by having a community visioning meeting during that retreat, by offering rides to seniors for events, by having yartzeits announced at services so people can support us in remembering our loved ones, and by having more Shabbat services so we can celebrate one of the core threads of our tradition together more often.

Being a community means that, for many of the things that CY does, we ask people to give a little time (as well as money). That's what makes it all work so we can receive all of these benefits. *(continued on page 8)*

SUKKOT...The Harvest Hut

Dear Friends,

While we are beginning our preparations to bring in the New Year, let us remember that Sukkot follows closely on the High Holidays. Last year we had our own incredible SUKKAH. Let's do it again.

We need help to make this happen. According to our hosts at The Garden, we need two people who are really good at construction--meaning that they can come with their own power drills and can work efficiently and effectively on a building project. Similarly, we need two such folks (perhaps the same two) for deconstruction. The work will probably take in the neighborhood of about three hours to put it up and two hours to take it down. Construction will take place Monday, the 24th of September... time TBA. We can use help with decoration on Tuesday, the 25th. Deconstruction will likely be on a Sunday, aiming for Sunday, October 9th. We will also need folks to help transport the "s'chach" (the branches for the roof).

If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact me (lchaim@jps.net or 831- 419-6574) or Joe Katzman (831-438-6278) as soon as possible.

Many blessings for a meaningful Elul and a beautiful end of summer.

Batya

The following events are planned for our beautiful CY Sukkah at The Garden (3070 Prather Lane):

Wednesday, September 26, 7-8:30 pm: Welcoming Sukkot. Evening service.

Thursday, September 27, 7:00 - 8:30 pm: Sukkot Family Learn

Friday, September 28, 7:00 - 8:30 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat with the Zikr community (movement and chant)



Convenient Ways to Support CY

Buy a Leaf on our living Tree of Life (planted at The Garden) to honor friends and family. Send \$18 or more with your tribute to CY, PO Box 3578, Santa Cruz, CA 95063-3578.

New Leaf Market - gives us a percentage of all our purchases. Just get a New Leaf card from Shira (karenbelford@sbcglobal.net) and show it when you buy your groceries.

Escrip - donates a portion of your purchases at selected area merchants, including Safeway. To enroll, visit the website at www.escrip.com/program/welcome.jsp. Our group ID for Chadeish Yameinu is 500002562.

The CY Store - purchase gorgeous shirts, cards, calendars, mugs, magnets and more with our fabulous logo designed by Michael Yosef Robinson. Go to store.cysantacruz.org or just follow the link from our website easy!

The following businesses donate a percentage of their earnings from sales made by CY referrals:

Jay Dravich, Realtor (831) 479-9278

Julie Lorraine, Event planning & invitations (831) 688-0888

Marigold Fine, Full Circle Video Productions (831) 459-8300

Michael Yosef Robinson, Yosef's Dreams Jewish Art
www.yosefdreams.com



**FULL CIRCLE
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS**

CAMERA • EDITING • SCRIPTWRITING
EQUIPMENT RENTALS • CONSULTING

MARIGOLD FINE
Producer • Director
Santa Cruz • California

831-459-8300
www.fullcirclevideo.com
marigold@fullcirclevideo.com



Yosef's Dreams
Jewish Art & Design

Michael Yosef Robinson
michael@yosefdreams.com

www.yosefdreams.com
Prints Cards Apparel & More

Rabbi Leah Novick's long awaited CD, featuring seven guided meditations, with great keyboard and flute music by "Desert Wind", is now available by mail.

Reb Leah's voice takes you on wonderful journey through history with Shekhinah, the Cosmic Jewish Mother. The meditations are related to different time periods, and are based on Reb Leah's teachings over the last twenty years. They will also be included in her upcoming book, to be published by Quest Theosophical Publishers in the fall of 2008.

To order the CD, please send \$18 (postage included) to:

Rabbi Leah Novick
POB 222304
Carmel, 93922

Reb Zalman says about this CD: "For the last 22 years, Reb Leah has been "receiving" from the realm of Shekhinah and sharing that consciousness with us in her teaching and davenning. Now, she complements the male tradition with woman-mind, making her unique insights available to a wider audience on this CD. Hearing her voice and the inspiring music transmits Shekhinah awareness directly, into our hearts and our homes."



Submissions for the Aleph Branch

To submit articles for the next issue of the Aleph Branch, email all copy to **Alisa Klaus** at alisaklaus@yahoo.com, **no later than October 28, 2007**. All articles must be in Times New Roman 12 pt, no spacing between paragraphs, no special formatting, and no borders. The Aleph Branch welcomes submissions of poetry, essays, book reviews, and news. Contact **Alisa Klaus** at alisaklaus@yahoo.com or **Michael Yosef Robinson** at yosef@eishzarah.com with your suggestions.

Classified Advertisements

Ads cost \$18 for 4 lines and \$36 for 9 lines. Professional listings \$18/listing of 4 lines. One line consists of 5-7 words. Class listings of 6 lines cost \$18/listing. E-mail your ads/listings to **Michael Yosef Robinson** yosef@eishzarah.com and mail your payments to **Chadeish Yameinu**, PO box 3578, Santa Cruz, CA 95063-3578 The Aleph Branch is published quarterly. **The deadline for our next issue is October 28, 2007.**

Yashir Koach to our CY Board

Howie Schneider, President

Jan Leinenger, Treasurer

George Lewis, Secretary

Barbara Nicoara

Batya Kagan

Shira Belford, Evelyn Bernstein, Holly Blue Hawkins, Philippa Gamse, Richard Klein and Evelyn Bernstein are stepping down from their posts. We are grateful for their dedicated service and hard work.

Todah Raba for Your Contributions

Julie Lorraine, in honor of **Griffin Lay's** Bar Mitzvah
Sam and Anne Singer, in honor of their grandson **Milo's** 13th birthday

Nanci Rosenberg, in honor of **Reb Eli**

Anna Levy, in honor of **Eda Balsam**

Jeanne Tovah Rosen in honor of **Reb Eli** and everyone who made this past year such a phenomenal one

Herb and Lil Safran, to help support the community retreat

Holly Blue Hawkins and **Philippa Gamse**, in honor of their kiddushin

Yetta Lippman, in appreciation of **Rabbis Eli and Lori**

New Leaf Markets

Karen Barad, in honor of **CY's** Bar Mitzvah

Debra and Anthony Sloss, in support of Family Learning

Harriet Korakas, in support of Adult Ed

Lisa Dilles, in support of Adult Ed

Lynn Myers, in honor of **Reb Eli**

Holly Blue Hawkins, in honor of **Reb Eli**

Philippa Gamse, in honor of **Reb Eli**

Holly Blue Hawkins, in honor of **Reb Lori**

Philippa Gamse, in honor of **Reb Lori**

Herbert and Lil Safran, in support of The Aleph Branch

Marian and Len Cohen, in honor of **Ed and Lynn's** anniversary and **Herb and Lil's** new home, and in memory of **Dick Klein's** stepmother

John and Linda Byrne, to support the rabbi's professional and spiritual development

Michelle Newman, in honor of **Reb Leah Novick, Akindele Bankole, Reb Eli Cohen, Ed Garner and Lynn LeRose**

In Response to CY's Spring Fundraising Appeal

Pedro and Stephanie Castro, Jan Leininger, Debra and Anthony Sloss, Ethel Herring, Anne and Sam Singer, Steve Cooperstein, Nina and Ron Lacey, Janice Rose

Leaves on the Tree of Life

Ethel Herring, in honor of **Holly Blue Hawkins** and **Philippa Gamse** on their kiddushin

Shalom and Michaela Braveman, in honor of **Holly Blue Hawkins** and **Philippa Gamse** on their kiddushin

Jay Dravich and **Tofah Eileen Yragui**, in honor of **Holly Blue Hawkins** and **Philippa Gamse** on their kiddushin

Ethel Herring, in honor of **Holly Blue Hawkins** and **Philippa Gamse** on their kiddushin

Dick and Diane Klein, in honor of **Holly Blue Hawkins** and **Philippa Gamse** on their kiddushin

Ed Garner and Lynn Le Rose, in honor of **Holly Blue Hawkins** and **Philippa Gamse** on their kiddushin

Richard and Diane Klein, in memory of **Ron Feldman's** father, **Saul Feldman**

Richard and Diane Klein, three leaves in honor of **Reb Lori Klein**

Richard and Diane Klein, mazel tov to **Shalom Braveman** on the publication of his book

Nanci Rosenberg and **Eiji Suzuki**, in honor of **Lynn LeRose** and **Ed Garner**

Nanci Rosenberg and **Eiji Suzuki**, in honor of **Dick and Diane Klein**

Nanci Rosenberg and **Eiji Suzuki**, in memory of **Zalmo Bloombecker**

John and Linda Byrne, in honor of the **Bravemans**

John and Linda Byrne, in honor of the **Roots**



CY offers special thanks to the following people for their gifts:

Ralph Alpert and the **Tides Foundation** for the gift of a directed grant to benefit CY.

Jeanne Tovah Rosen for her generous gift to fund new CY programs.

Families of the B'nai Mitzvah class for their gift of 200 siddurim, and particularly to **Susan Schwartz** and to **Cliff Feldman**, who spearheaded the project. The students (and their parents) are: **Jesse Abrams (Doug and Rachel Abrams)**, **Milo Barisof (Steve and Bonnie Barisof)**, **Elena Castro (Stephanie and Pedro Barnes-Castro)**, **Rachael Castro (Stephanie and Pedro Barnes-Castro)**, **Antonio Cazzato (Ornella Bonnamassa and Andy Cazzato)**, **Alex Feldman (Sara Isenberg and Cliff Feldman)**, **Adam Gabay (Steve and MaryAnne Gabay)**, **Max Kauert (Janet Silverglate and Micha Kauert)**, **Micah Kornberg (Scott and Amy Kornberg)**, **Griffin Lay (Susan Schwartz and Thorne Lay)**, **Dylan Troderman (Lorin and Jill Troderman)**, **Kobi Zelin Underwood (Karen Zelin and Bill Underwood)**, **Zev Zelin Underwood (Karen Zelin and Bill Underwood)**.

Correction: In the Summer 2005 edition of the Aleph Branch, a donation from **Linda and John Byrne** was incorrectly listed as a donation from **Community Health Charities of California**.



Yahrtzeit List

I am happy to announce that Chadeish Yameinu will now be offering a very important service to our members: we are compiling a Yahrtzeit list.

A yahrtzeit (Yiddish for year-time, or anniversary) refers to the anniversary, by the Hebrew calendar, of the death of a loved one. Traditionally, one observes yahrtzeits for parents, and also for siblings, children and spouses. Some have the custom of also observing the yahrtzeit for other loved ones, such as grandparents, or aunts and uncles.

The yahrtzeit is observed by lighting a special 24-hour candle and by remembering the loved one in a number of ways, such as saying Kaddish or giving tzedakah (charity) in his or her memory.

Chadeish Yameinu will now record and keep track of the yahrtzeit, and inform you each year in advance of the date. We will also read the name of your loved one at our Shabbat service during that week.

If you would like to record the yahrtzeits of your loved ones, please send me:

- (1) your name;
- (2) the name of any person for whom you will be observing a yahrtzeit;
- (3) the relationship between you and the loved one;
- (4) the Hebrew name if you know it;
- (5) the Hebrew and/or secular date of passing, including the year.

May their memories remain a blessing through the years.

Reb Eli

Please send your yarhtzeit information to **Rabbi Eli Cohen, Chadeish Yameinu Jewish Renewal, PO Box 3578, Santa Cruz, CA 96060** or to rebeli@sbcglobal.net.

Rebbe's Corner *(continued from page 1)*

Our family had its own customs, such as taping the light switches so that we would not turn lights on or off on Yom Kippur, and Dad reading to us after we came home from shul for Kol Nidre. Later, after my Bar Mitzvah, I would chant Torah each year with the special melody reserved only for this time.

At college, I had my first taste of completely uninspiring services. When, after college, I moved to California, I experienced my first Reform services at Shaar Zahav in San Francisco. The services were creative with the liturgy, open to everyone and yet firmly rooted in the tradition.

A few years later I "discovered" Reb Zalman at an unbelievably magical Rosh Hashanah retreat at Mount Madonna, and my life was never the same. Reb Zalman took creativity to heights I could never imagine, unlocking the deepest wisdom in our tradition and in ourselves. No one who was at those retreats remained untouched. We not only heard the liturgy in wholly new ways, but more importantly, we did the "work" that the Holidays demand of us.

Later, I spent a number of years going to the Aquarian Minyan in Berkeley, finding a whole community following Reb Zalman's approach and inspiration – from translations that didn't hold us back, to breaking up into small discussion groups right there during services. It was hard to leave that community when I took up working with my friend and mentor, Rabbi Arnie, in Michigan. There, I honed my leadership skills and grew for thirteen years with a congregation that really trusted their rabbi's guidance, and with a rabbi who is always open to new horizons. It was also my great privilege to be a bridge for that community, bringing to them the melodies and alternative approaches that I learned in Renewal. (Today, Congregation Shir Tikvah in Troy, Michigan, is the only dual affiliated Renewal/Reform congregation in the world).

But just as the Holidays are a time to reflect back, they are also a time to look forward. This year will be the first time I will have the opportunity to be with Chadeish Yameinu to bring in the New Year. While I will miss my Michigan congregation, I am also very grateful to be with my own community. I truly look forward to sharing in our evolving traditions and to growing together with you.

Chadeish Yameinu, as a community, also has its history with the High Holy Days. I want to take this opportunity to thank the High Holiday Leadership team (Michelle Newman, Shira Belford, Reb Jeff Schulman and Rabbi Lori Klein) for doing such an amazing job for so many years, working long and dedicated hours to help us bring in the New Year in meaningful, accessible and spiritually fulfilling ways. I would especially like to acknowledge Reb Lori for her dedication and guidance these past years. We will miss her over the Holidays, and our love and support is with her on her new path as a chaplain at Stanford Hospital.

May we be blessed, individually and collectively, with a vision of how our coming year may be shaped, and how can we help bring that vision into reality. And may we write the script of our New Year for all things good. L'shanah Tovah Tikateivu.

—**Rabbi Eli Cohen**

"I truly look forward to sharing in our evolving traditions and to growing together with you."

In Memory

Chadeish Yameinu sends its condolences to our members whose loved ones have passed in recent months:

Tom Rooth, on the passing of his half-brother, **George Maxwell Rooth**.

Ron Feldman, on the passing of his father, **Saul**.

Alissa Goldring, on the passing of her sister, **Betty**

CY Adult Ed

Adult Ed will continue this fall on Wednesday evenings (7:00-8:30 pm) at the Aptos Firehouse. Keep your eye out for details.

Please Support Chadeish Yameinu

We need your Mitzvah of Time, Talent and Treasure

In honor of:\$_____ In memory of:\$_____ Tree of Life:\$_____

(please note preference(s) and enter amount(s))

Please Print Clearly

Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Phone _____ E-mail_____

Donation is for:

Please notify the following of the above gift

Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Notifications are hand-done by one volunteer and may arrive 4-8 weeks after receipt

I want to donate the Valuable Gift of my Time

Name:_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip_____

Phone _____ E-mail_____

Interested in assisting with:

Please complete & return this form to:

Chadeish Yameinu

POB 3578

Santa Cruz, CA 95063-3578

CY Shabbat Schedule

September – December 2007



We are excited to begin offering additional Friday night services each month, starting in October. (Note, all Friday services begin at 7 pm). The general schedule for each month (with certain modifications listed below) will be:

1st Friday at the Garden Sanctuary (meditation/ chanting Shabbat).

2nd and 3rd Fridays at the Center for Conscious Living (for 2nd Friday, "style" of service will vary; 3rd Friday will lean towards traditional).

4th Friday, the community is encouraged to host dinners at their homes, to have a gathering for a chavurah, or to organize a community-led Shabbat at a home or other location. Batya will be available to help people make e-mail announcements and to help with logistics.

In addition, we will continue to offer services on the **2nd Saturday** of each month. Saturday services will be at 10 am, at the Center for Conscious Living. Note that there are often additional Bar/Bat Mitzvahs to which all are invited.

The Garden Sanctuary is located at 3070 Prather Lane, off Soquel Drive, near Sutter Hospital and the Drive-In.

The Center for Conscious Living (CCL) is located at 1818 Felt St., off 17th Ave. near the Simpkins Swim Center.

In addition, we schedule other Shabbat gatherings from time to time, including community member led services, havdallah, Torah study ... All are encouraged to lead and participate. They are announced on our listserve and website.

If you would like to host a Shabbat event

please contact Batya Kagan at (831) 419-6574 or Lchaim@jps.net

We look forward to celebrating Shabbat with you.

Saturday, September 15 – Parashat Ha'azinu, Bar Mitzvah of Alex Feldman, at UCSC Women's Center (Cardiff House). Please RSVP to Sara Isenberg at sara@isen.com. **Time:** 10:00AM **Location:** UCSC Women's Center (Cardiff House)

Friday, September 28 – special Sukkot with the Zikr community. **Time:** 7:00PM **Location:** The Garden

Friday, October 5 – chanting Shabbat in Sukkah. **Time:** 7:00PM **Location:** The Garden

Friday, October 12 – **Time:** 7:00PM **Location:** Center for Conscious Living

Saturday, October 13 – Parashat Noach. **Time:** 10:00AM **Location:** Center for Conscious Living

Friday, October 19 – Traditional service. **Time:** 7:00PM **Location:** Center for Conscious Living

Friday, October 26 – Community Shabbats, chavurot and dinners.

Friday, November 2 – Chanting/ meditation. **Time:** 7:00PM **Location:** The Garden

Friday, November 9 – **Time:** 7:00PM **Location:** Center for Conscious Living

Saturday, November 10 – Parashat Toldot.

Time: 10:00AM **Location:** Center for Conscious Living

Friday, November 16 – **Time:** 7:00PM **Location:** Center for Conscious Living

Saturday, November 17 – Parashat Vayeitzei, Bat Mitzvah of Sasha Pollatsek. **Time:** 10:00AM **Location:** Center for Conscious Living

Friday, November 23 – Community Shabbats/ chavurot/ dinners.

Friday, November 30 – Community Shabbats/ chavurot/ dinners.

Friday, December 7 – Chanukah Shabbat. **Time:** 7:00PM **Location:** TBA

Saturday, December 8 – Parashat Mikeitz. **Time:** 10:00AM **Location:** Center for Conscious Living

Friday, December 14 – **Time:** 7:00PM **Location:** Center for Conscious Living

Saturday, December 15 – Parashat Vayigash, Bar Mitzvah of Jesse Abrams. **Time:** 10:00AM **Location:** Long Marine Lab

Friday, December 21 – **Time:** 7:00PM **Location:** Center for Conscious Living

Friday, December 29 – Community Shabbats/ chavurot/ dinners.

Mazel Tov to...

Holly Blue Hawkins and **Philippa Gamse** on the celebration of their kiddushin.

Debbie Newstat on the engagement of her daughter, **Jenny**.

Milo Barisof, son of **Bonnie** and **Steve Barisof**, on the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah (August 4, parashat Ekev).

Julian Lacey, son of **Ron** and **Nina Lacey**, on the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah (August 18, parashat Shoftim).

Adam Gabay, son of **MaryAnne** and **Steve Gabay**, on the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah (August 25, parashat Ki Teitzei).

Francesco and **Antonio Cazzato**, sons of **Ornella Bonamassa** and **Andy Cazzato**, on the celebration of their Bar Mitzvahs (September 8, parashat Nitzavim/Vayelech).

Alex Feldman, son of **Sara Isenberg** and **Cliff Feldman**, on the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah (September 15, Shabbat Shuvah, parashat Ha'azinu).

Amelia Rojas, daughter of **Lisa Strugala** and **Emil Rojas**, on the celebration of her Bat Mitzvah (October 6, Shabbat Breisheet).

Max Kauert, son of **Janet Silverglate** and **Micha Kauert**, on the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah (November 10, parashat Toldot).

Sasha Pollatsek, daughter of **Jessica Pollatsek** and **Karl Goldfield**, on the celebration of her Bat Mitzvah (November 17, parashat Vayeitzei).

Jesse Abrams, son of **Rachel** and **Doug Abrams**, on the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah (December 15, parashat Vayigash).



On the Meaning of Community

(continued from page 1)

And as we all know, the giving of this time, from the heart, is its own benefit and can be a lot of fun. That's what makes it all work so we can receive all of these benefits. And as we all know, the giving of this time, from the heart, is its own benefit and can be a lot of fun.

There are a few tasks that are a few tasks that are vital to the functioning of CY that need to be filled at this time. We need you to volunteer! Diane Brayman has stepped forward as the Volunteer Coordinator and wants to hear from you if you can help in any of the following ways:

- **Shabbat Services:** We need people to help set up or clean up after services especially, but not limited to, people who can set up chairs. We now have a new space for services at the very beautiful Center for Conscious Living. This space allows for a larger number of people than at the Garden but will require a little more set-up time and help. If everyone who could, signs up for three services this year, we can make this work!!
- **Offer rides to seniors** for services or make calls to find rides for them.
- **Make calls** to inform folks that don't have e-mail about new events that are not in the newsletter.
- **Write thank-you letters** for donations to CY.

- **Host a Shabbat dinner** at your house for new members.
- **Host Shabbat dinners** for our 4th Friday Shabbats.
- **Serve on the Board of Directors.**
- **Start a Chavurah** or helping someone else coordinate one.
- **Be an "ambassador" at Shabbat services** to help orient and guide new people coming to services for the first time.

Obviously there are many ways to serve. Your new idea may just be the perfect thing we've been waiting to have happen.

I appreciate and honor the amazing volunteer energy that already goes on to make CY flourish ... from newsletters to our website, from challah making to hosting events. This coming High Holidays we have an opportunity to give our heartfelt thanks special to anyone you know who has given their time to help CY. We have come a very long way to make us in good enough shape so we can even dream of these new ideas. Thank you all.

So... call Diane.... call her now while you are thinking of it... call her to say, I am the volunteer we've all been waiting for. (831) 425-7779.

Many Blessings,

Diane Brayman and Batya Kagan



Chadeish Yameinu
Jewish Renewal Community
PO Box 3578
Santa Cruz, CA 95063-3578