

The Chadeish Yameinu Aleph Branch Newsletter

Jewish Renewal Community of Santa Cruz & the Monterey Bay Region

Vol. Five No. 3

www.cysantacruz.org

Summer 2007

The Rebbe's Corner

By Rabbi Eli Cohen



The first Chadeish Yameinu / Santa Cruz Jewish Community Spiritual Journey to Israel was an amazing success. Our goals for the trip were myriad: seeing the Land, meeting people, lending a helping hand, exploring history and archaeology, learning about our own connection, having

a spiritual experience, learning about some of the politics, having fun, seeing the tourist places, eating well, and of course, shopping – all while trying to not “overdo” it and taking time to celebrate Purim (which in Jerusalem is celebrated for two days) and observe two Shabbats.

One of the most beautiful things we did was just sit and watch the play of light on Jerusalem from our hotel. We explored level upon level of Jerusalem's history, from the Biblical and Temple periods, to its lively market neighborhoods as everyone prepared for Shabbat. We prayed at the Wall and went to “egalitarian Orthodox,” Conservative, Mizrahi and Sephardi synagogues. We visited Shlomo Carlebach's moshav (community), dressed up silly for Purim, visited a workshop that employs the elderly in crafts, and served a meal at a soup kitchen. We visited the very moving grounds of Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial, and read the graffiti preserved at the site of Yitzchak Rabin's assassination in Tel Aviv.

We floated in the Dead Sea, shouted echoes off Masada, and visited the botanical gardens, date groves and oasis of Ein Gedi. We saw wildflowers in the valleys and hills – cyclamen and anemones; caught the new shoots of the fig trees and the blossoms on the almond trees. We dined at the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), on the Dan River, and in a cave. We went birdwatching and waterfall viewing on the Golan, and wandered the stone alleyways of the holy city of Safed and the beachfront promenade of the Mediterranean.

We saw the infamous security barrier, and visited the graves of Oskar Schindler, Golda Meir, Yitzchak Rabin, Rabbi Akiva, the Ramchal, Hannah Szenesh, and the Yom Kippur War fallen. (continued on page 2)

“We experienced something very wondrous.”

From Strength to Strength

By Jeanne Rosen

Mazel tov, once again, to the entire Chadeish Yameinu community as we near the end of this, our bar/bat mitzvah year!

In last winter's newsletter we reminisced a bit about those early days when we began to sense the excitement of bringing Jewish Renewal to our area. Among the highlights of our first years were fashioning our own shabbat morning service; learning from each other and from an inspiring array of visiting rabbis; exploring new forms of Jewish spirituality as we prayed, chanted, meditated and studied together; and finding our perfect name. Momentum built and we officially joined Aleph, the Jewish Renewal family of communities.

As we found our “renewal” voices both individually and collectively and continued to grow in size and commitment, we began to ask ourselves new questions about our identity. Was it important that we have our own Torah? How about our own rabbi? Why not our own place? And how we were going to “get organized” and still retain the spontaneity, warmth and joy, as well as the vital sense of shared leadership and lively participation, that had become our hallmarks?



Rabbi Eli Cohen with our CY Torah.

The answers to these and other questions did not come easily as we wrestled with constraints of energy and resources. Moreover, we had differing visions of what kind of community we did -- and, quite emphatically, did not -- want to become. We argued and listened, sought advice from other renewal groups, and groped our way forward.

An opportunity to buy a Torah presented itself, so we took that step. Not wanting to choose between having our own rabbi and continuing to enjoy the

amazing talents of our many gifted lay leaders, we eventually compromised -- we would have both! (So Reb Eli became our part-time Rabbi while others continued to play a large role in leading services on shabbats and especially on the High Holidays. We said “no” to our own place, then found a wonderful solution: “The Garden” adopted us and became on many occasions our home. (continued on page 3)

Rebbe's Corner (continued from page 1)

Some of us found our Hebrew names, our talitot, our G-d connection, our Judaism, our life's path, our Torah crowns, our politics or a good bargain.

But perhaps the most amazing of all were our encounters with the people along the way. We learned from Kabbalistic artists in Safed who opened up our minds, and studied Torah

with the Goldfarbs, formerly of the Aquarian Minyan in Berkeley. We met with soldiers on the Lebanon border, who showed us how small the country really is and who put a human face on the military machine. We saw relatives and friends we hadn't seen in decades, and met new friends who touched us deeply. We sang with a young couple who heard us celebrating

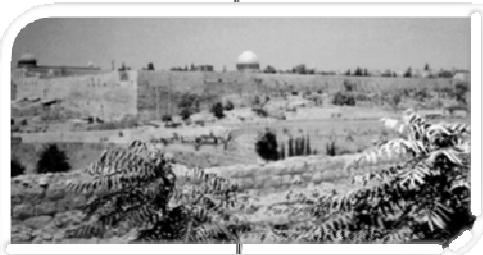
Shabbat and stopped by to join with us. We toured the gardens and excavations of Ein Gedi with Daniela and Yehudah, long time residents who were proud to show us around one of the most amazing and successful kibbutzim in the Land.

We learned from Jamal, our Druze host, about his amazing people, whose semi-secret religion reveres Moses' father-in-law Jethro, teaches hospitality, and calls on its adherents to be absolutely loyal to their host country. We met with Tzvi Griner, also known as Father Grzygrz Pawlowcki, a distant cousin of mine who, as a young boy, survived a massacre in Poland during the Holocaust and who is now a Catholic priest in Jaffa. We sat in pain and helplessness with Noam and Aviva, the parents of Gilad Shalit, the young soldier held captive and isolated by Hamas in Gaza since last summer without any visits, even from the Red Cross. We visited Adina, an Ethiopian Jewish activist and heard her wrenching and heroic story of surviving a harrowing journey across deserts and frontiers to come the land of her family's dreams. And we met her bedridden old mother, whose sweet smile moved us all to tears. We meditated with Reuven

Halevi, a phenomenal Jerusalem mystic with whom we stepped back in time. And we stood on the Mount of Olives with Ibrahim, an Arab peace activist with friends in Santa Cruz, and our beloved guide Phil, a reserve soldier, reciting poetry and songs of peace, with olive branches in our hands.

And we experienced something very wondrous. Over and over we saw that even a small group such as ours, from the far Diaspora town of Santa Cruz, can have a real impact all the way across the globe in the land of our ancestors.

"But perhaps the most amazing of all were our encounters with the people along the way."



Numerous times we heard that people were responding to us in openhearted ways not seen with other groups. And our guide, a long time resident of an Orthodox kibbutz, shared with us that we opened his eyes to another way of being Jewish in the world.

This is Renewal, Santa Cruz style.
 - Rabbi Eli Cohen

"Getting" Israel

By Evelyn Bernstein

I have been hearing and reading about Israel since the beginning of World War II, when I was 10 years old. This past March, I was able to actually have my feet on the ground in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the West Bank, the Golan Heights. It wasn't until I was actually there that I "got" Israel – and what it has meant to us as Jews. I felt it in a very visceral way.

For the first time in my life, I was not a minority. I was not "the other." A very strange and different feeling. Also, with my feet on Israeli ground, I realized how small a country it actually is – a 3-hour drive from east to west, a 6-hour drive from south to north. Truly a

"For the first time in my life, ... I was not 'the other.'"

country surrounded. What a people are the Israelis! They live day to day with the very presence of war.

While in Israel, I started to suspect we have a mysterious, common, undiscovered Jewish gene predetermining the presence of a lot of food. Wherever and whenever we ate, whether it was breakfast, lunch, dinner, or snacks, the food was healthy, plentiful (it always came served on huge platters), and served with gusto.

I was taken by surprise by the feelings that overcame me many times during this two-week visit, as were others in our small CY group. Meeting with the Ethiopian woman who trekked across the desert with her children and mother to get to Israel, was emotional. Visiting Masada was uplifting and beautiful. But the wall – the Western Wall – did me in. Standing in the women's section, hearing their prayers, seeing their tears, feeling the hope and pain of so many women putting their little pieces of

folded paper with requests and prayers into the chinks of the ancient wall, brought me to tears. (continued on page 9)

"We are a very ancient people, with an old and treasured history and dialogue with God."



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

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 May 9, 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 May 9, 2007.**



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HIGH HOLIDAYS

The Chadeish Yameinu Board of Directors would like 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 put on meaningful, accessible, and spiritually fulfilling High Holiday Services. These talented leaders, with so many other heartfelt volunteers, have given our High Holidays the real sense that we are all working together as a community. Many people look forward to Chadeish Yameinu's deep and spiritually moving High Holiday services.

This year, we are very happy to announce that Rabbi Eli Cohen will also be with us for the Holidays. This is a wonderful opportunity to augment the work of our other High Holiday leaders.

Of course, additional volunteers are still fully welcomed and invited to contribute. Together, we can look forward to services that continue to enrich us and bring us to our highest spiritual truths.

We will keep you informed about the location, times and other info. The dates are:

Erev Rosh Hashana - Wed., Sept. 12

Rosh Hashana – Thurs., Sept. 13

Erev Yom Kippur – Fri., Sept. 21

Yom Kippur – Sat., Sept 22

Chadeish Yameinu Community School

Summer Registration for 2007-08 Classes

Great class offerings coming this Fall...

Kitah Aleph Class - Jewish Studies (for 9- & 10-year-olds)

B'nai Mitzvah Class (for 11- & 12-year-olds)

Youth Group (for 13+ year-olds)

Family Learns - fun activities for the whole family

Registrations due by Aug. 15th - Classes begin in early September. Continuing students will receive registration forms by mail in July. New students can contact Stephanie Barnes-Castro at sbc@sbcarch.com to receive registration forms.

Yashir Koach to our CY Board

President: Howie (Chaim Leib) Schneider

Vice president: Batya Kagan

Treasurer:

Secretary: Holly Blue Hawkins & Philippa Gamse

Board members: Richard Klein, Karen Shira Belford, Evelyn Bernstein

Todah Raba for Your Contributions

Jay Dravich and his sister **Harriet Alpert**, for the gift of our beautiful new "Rimonim", the silver Torah finials/crowns, presented to Chadeish Yameinu in memory of their mother **Chai Sarah bat Mendeleb**. The Rimonim were hand made in the holy city of Tsfat in northern Israel. May we be inspired by their beauty and by the generosity of **Jay and Harriet**.

Ed Garner and **Lynn LeRose**, in memory of **Miles Lacey, Ron Lacey's** beloved father

Joan Levine, in memory of **Evan Kuhn**

Sara Isenberg, in memory of **Cynthia Isenberg** and **Irvin Isenberg**

Ed Garner and **Lynn LeRose**, in memory of **Jasmine Berke's** beloved mother

Dick and Diane Klein, Ida and Irving Privler, in memory of **Abram Kaplan**

Dick and Diane Klein, Irene Reti, Ed Garner and **Lynn LeRose, Jeanne Rosen, Karen Barad**, in memory of **Ingrid Reti, Irene Reti's** beloved mother

Jeff and Deb Roisman, Karen Barad, Jeanne Rosen, Ed Garner and **Lynn LeRose**, in honor of **Sam Cooperstein, Shlomo Cooperstein's** beloved brother

Ed Garner and **Lynn LeRose**, in memory of **Dick Klein's** beloved stepmother, **Hilda**

Ed Garner and **Lynn LeRose**, in memory of **Nicholas George, George Lerek's** beloved father

Nanci Rosenberg and **Eiji Suzuki, Ed Garner** and **Lynn LeRose, Karen Barad**, in honor of **Eliayhu Goodman** on his Bar Mitzvah

Dick and Diane Klein, Jeff and Deb Roisman, Nanci Rosenberg and **Eiji Suzuki, Karen Barad, Joan Levine, Jeanne Rosen, Lynn LeRose** and **Ed Garner, Marian Cohen, Steven Gabay**, in honor of **Akindele Bankole** on his joining the Jewish people

Ed Garner and **Lynn LeRose**, in honor of **Julie Stultz** on her joining the Jewish people

Holly Blue Hawkins and **Philippa Gamse, Kristen Ayer, Chris Goldstein, Karen Zelin** and **Bill Underwood, Marigold Fine**, in honor of **CY's 13th birthday**

Gloria Levin, Jeanne Rosen, Lori Klein, Irene Reti, Ed Garner and **Lynn LeRose**, in honor of **Reb Eli Cohen**

Jillian Aronstam, Julie Stultz, Donations from non-members, in support of **CY Adult Education**

John and Linda Byrne, in support of the **Shabbat Camping Out Project**

Jeff and Deb Roisman, in honor of **Deborah Stark, Lynn LeRose, Jeanne Rosen, Scott Roseman** and **Jasmine Berke**

Karen Barad, in honor of **Lynn LeRose**

Ed Garner and **Lynn LeRose**, in honor of **Diane Klein's** birthday

Gloria Levin, in honor of **Jeanne Rosen**

Vera Brown and **David Schwartz**, in honor of **Ron Feldman**

Nanci Rosenberg and **Eiji Suzuki**, in honor of the **CY Board**

Herb and Lil Safran, for quarterly support of the **CY newsletter**

Deborah Ruiz and **George Lerek**

Community Health Charities of Sacramento

Dick and Diane Klein

John and Linda Byrne

Ralph Alpert

Howard Schneider

Ed Garner and **Lynn LeRose**, for healing of **Noga Vilozny** and **Karen Barad's** father

John and Linda Byrne, in honor of **Pesach**

In Response to CY's Spring Fundraising Appeal

Gary and Sena Dolowich, Ed Garner and Lynn LeRose, Tom and Persis Rooth, Douglas and Rachel Carlton Abrams, Roanne Wilson, Karen Barad, Karen Zelin and Bill Underwood, Susan Schwartz, Andrea Berrin Les Reichek, Diane Brayman, Barbara Nicoara, Sara Isenberg, Jessica Pollatsek, Eda Balsam, Julie Stultz Nancy Collins, Steven Gabay, Kristen Ayer, Holly Blue, Philippa Gamse, Howard Schneider, Dick and Diane Klein, Eugene Markowitz, Evelyn and Leonard Bernstein, Sequoia Hughes, Vera Brown and David Schwartz Christopher Goldstein, Lorin and Jill Troderman, Adrienne Momi

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Santa Cruz, CA 95063-3578



Chadeish Yameinu

Renew Our Days

Membership Form

Please choose one of the following:

Enclosed is my 2006-2007 donation of \$475-\$950 for my Chadeish Yameinu membership.

I pledge _____ per month (\$40 minimum). Enclosed is my first payment.

Please contact me about a direct deposit for my monthly contributions.

(No one is turned away due to lack of funds) I would like to speak to someone about a reduced membership donation or payment plan.

I'm new to CY and not ready to become a member. Please put me on the mailing list on a complimentary basis until the High Holidays. (A donation to help sustain CY is appreciated. Suggested donation is \$90.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Members, check one:

Yes___ No___ include my above information on the member roster, available to the CY community.

For more information, to volunteer or join a committee, please contact:

Membership	Shira Belford	(831) 426-9271	karenbelford@sbcglobal.net
Shabbat Committee	Batya Kagan	(831) 419-6574	lchaim@jps.net
Adult Education	Jeanne Rosen	(831) 685-8350	jeannerosen@sbcglobal.net
School & Family Learning	Laura Davis	(831) 464-9417	lauradavis@lauradavis.net
Social Action/Co-caring & Spirit in Action	Shlomo Cooperstein	(831) 655-8670	stevec360@sbcglobal.net

**Please complete & return this form to:
Chadeish Yameinu
PO Box 3578
Santa Cruz, CA 95063-3578**



Santa Cruz Hillel: An Israel Success Story

By Rabbi Shalom Bochner

We all have heard that it's a hard time to be a supporter of Israel on American college campuses. Certainly there are very disturbing challenges facing today's Jewish college students and UCSC has its share of these problems: faculty that use their classrooms for harsh criticism of the Jewish state; a recent "post-Zionism" conference that described Israel as a racist colonialist enterprise that uses Nazi tactics; and, most pervasive, apathy. With all this depressing news it is very easy to lose sight of the real picture on campus.

Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) was celebrated with great style on the UCSC campus. Hillel and SCIAC (Israel Action Committee student group) sponsored the third annual IsraelFest outdoors in the Porter Quad. Israeli flags decorated the entire area. More than 240 Jewish and non-Jewish students attended the event, eating felafel, learning Israeli Folk Dancing, picking up brochures and information about Israel, dancing to live Hebrew music by Dror Sinai and Universal Language and singing HaTikvah at the conclusion of the evening. Two nights later almost 100 people attended an Israeli Hip Hop concert at the E3 Playhouse Downtown.

In mid-May a UCSC student group sponsored Palestine Awareness Week complete with sidewalk dramatics at the Baytree Plaza. SCIAC and Hillel students responded with love and pride in Israel. They handed out information, answered questions, and were joined by many students who wanted to learn more about the Middle East in a more balanced way. These students were calm, articulate, and comfortable showing their support for Israel despite the harsh tactics of other students just a few yards away. A group of Jewish and Muslim students have formed the Social Coalition for Unity where they engage in interfaith dialogue and cultural gatherings.

Most exciting, perhaps, is our news about Taglit-birthright Israel:Hillel. Santa Cruz Hillel is completing its first year with a full time Israeli Shalichah (emissary), and Santa Cruz Hillel had more applicants for these trips to Israel than any other school on the entire west coast! Forty students will travel with Einat (our Israel Shalichah) and me this summer and almost two dozen more will be exploring their heritage on other Taglit trips. These ten-day free trips to Israel are paid for by private Jewish philanthropy and introduce college students to Jewish history and culture in an Israel travel setting. These young adults are our people's future and they are part of a group of 23,500 Taglit-birthright Israel participants this summer alone.

What do we do next after all these success? We are already making plans for next year! In addition to SCIAC and a new Stand With Us chapter at UCSC, there will also be a Hamagshimim presence on campus as well. Hamagshimim is

Excitement is Building for 2007 Aleph Kallah in Albuquerque

With hundreds of registrations just a month after brochures were released, the upcoming ALEPH Kallah is proving once again that this premier Jewish Renewal event strikes a chord and meets the spiritual needs of Jews around the world.

Those new to Jewish practice as well as long time scholars and religious professionals will find meaningful courses to deepen their relationship with text, ritual, prayer, community, family and G'd. As in past years some of the finest teachers not only in the Jewish Renewal world, but in all of Judaism will be present. Just a few of the forty-eight classes are:

"Elulian Mysteries: From Devastation to Renewal," where Jewish chant pioneer **Rabbi Shefa Gold** and **Rachmiel O'Regan** will unfold a map for the journey from Tisha B'Av to Elul

"Davennen' through the Worlds: A Master Class in Making Prayer Come Alive" taught by **Rabbi Marcia Prager**, Dean of the ALEPH Rabbinic Program and **Rabbi Shawn Zevit**

"Eshet Hazon--Ish Tzaddik: Empowerment Rituals for Community Leaders" offered by liturgical composer **Rabbi Hanna Tiferet Siegel**

"Sing Me Sacred: Songs, Prayers, Funny Tunes and Niggunim" led by **Rabbi Jack Gabriel**, who has been writing songs for five decades

"Everyday Holiness: Mussar Lesons on Connecting to Community and G'd" taught by **Alan Morinis**, the Director of the Mussar Institute

"Peacebuilding 101: Tools and Rules for Interfaith Engagement," led by the co-directors of ALEPH's Rodef Shalom School for Peace, **Eliyahu McClean** and **Ruth Brojde-Sharone**

This year's gathering also promises an impressive class list for life long learners seeking serious study, including:

"Teachers and Friends, Lovers and Adversaries: The Holiness of Relationship in Jewish Mystical Teachings" led by **Elliot Ginsburg**, author and professor of Jewish Thought and Mysticism at the University of Michigan

"Mysterious God, Mysterious Humanity: Spiritual Dimensions of Ethics" taught by the former Chair of Philosophy at UNC at Charlotte, **Rabbi Laura Duhan-Kaplan**

"Heart-work: Davennen as a Daily Spiritual Practice" offered by professor of Religious Studies and mystic, **Rabbi Miles Krassen/Moshe Aharon**

The Kallah program, along with information about selling at the shuk, being a healer or a performer, participating in the Keshet Program for young adults, and more, can be viewed at www.aleph.org/kallah.html.

the university Zionist Movement sponsored by Hadassah. They are a pluralistic student-led organization that works to strengthen Israel and Jewish identity. We hope to send even more students to Israel and have hired an Israel Intern to work with our new Israeli Shalichah. There will also be an enhanced effort to recruit for MASA (Journey) long-term travel programs in Israel. Santa Cruz Hillel makes all this possible with your generous support.

All the best,
Rabbi Shalom Bochner
Director of Jewish Campus Life for Santa Cruz Hillel

P.S. If anyone has a car they are not using we are hoping to provide transportation and auto insurance for our new Israel Fellow.



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.



In Memory

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



Jasmine Berke on the passing of her mother, **Bee**.

George Lerek, Debra Ruiz and Alexander Lerek on the passing of George's father, **Nicholas George Lerek**.

Ron Lacey and his family on the passing of his father, **Miles**.

Sephy Elizai on the loss of his cousin,

Lisa Margarita Moreno.

Dick Klein on the loss of his step-mother, **Hilda Klein**.

From Strength to Strength

(continued from page 1)

And, finally, we even got comfortable with having a formal Board and using terms like "members" and "dues." Clearly we were growing up!

These decisions opened up many new possibilities for us. We were able to add regular Friday evening services, adult education classes, bar and bat mitzvah classes, and a variety of special programs. All of these activities have enriched us immeasurably. We have done all this -- and we have still retained the qualities that were so precious in our early years. One of our younger members, Julian Lacey, expresses so well what this means to him: "CY is my favorite place to drum anytime...and I like drumming to the prayers, because it is not just like drumming to music. Sometimes I don't feel like saying the prayers so I say them with my hands instead of my mouth." Like Julian, each of us is invited to find our unique place in Chadeish Yameinu.

"Each of us is invited to find our unique place in Chadeish Yameinu. "

So yes, we are "growing up" and changing. And yes, we have been able to retain much of what made us a loving, welcoming, vibrant, spiritually uplifting community from our earliest days. Just as we often bless someone celebrating a bar or bat mitzvah, so may we bless Chadeish Yameinu in the same way: "May we go from strength to strength!"

Jeanne Rosen

"Getting" Israel (continued from page 2)

We are a very ancient people, with an old and treasured history and dialogue with God. I got that – at the wall, from the prayers, the desert, the oasis of Ein Gedi, the waitress who said to me with a smile, "We like to make sure no one goes hungry."

A major experience for me was our visit to soldiers stationed at the Lebanese border. Those very young, very serious faces, training with their weapons to be ready in case of attack. They pointed to the border: "See that line of trees, that road, right over there, that's where they fire at us from." Boys and girls become adult soldiers when they become 18 and graduate from high school. It's mandatory to become a member of the Israel Defense Force at age 18 – they have to go from being kids to being grownups. Three years of enlistment for males, two for females.

Way too many stories to tell about the first annual CY of Santa Cruz visit to Israel. If you can make it for the second annual visit to Israel, I tell you with honest feeling, it is well worth the effort. This trip has enriched my life. I thank R. Eli for his determination to make this happen, and I sincerely thank my fellow travelers for sharing this part of their lives with me.

Shalom.

Evelyn Bernstein

The Living Ocean Initiative: Central Coast Religious Leaders and Ocean Stewardship

By Michelle Hodah Newman

For the past year, I've been on the planning committee for a new interfaith initiative that is connecting religious leaders with ocean stewardship issues. On Tuesday, Feb. 20, we sponsored an all-day retreat at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, including Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, many different Christian sects, Catholics, and others.

Chadeish Yameinu is one of 50 congregations on the Central Coast selected for this pilot program sponsored by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Program and the Monterey Bay Aquarium, in partnership with Upwellings Ministry of Environmental Stewardship and Santa Clara University's Environmental Studies Program.

"We believe we are the very first effort in the nation to connect religious communities and ocean issues ..."

Howie Schneider, Batya Kagan (President and Vice-President of the CY Board, respectively), and Jeanne Rosen, attended this conference with 150 other representatives of congregations from throughout

the Monterey Bay area, including Rabbi Leah Novick's Spirit of the Earth, Congregation Beth Israel of Carmel, Temple Beth El of Salinas, Temple Beth El of Aptos, First Congregational Church on High St, Santa Cruz Zen Center, Holy Cross Church, Twin Lakes Baptist Church, Center for Conscious Living, Bosch Bahai, Inner Light Ministries, Quaker Meeting of Santa Cruz, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Resurrection Catholic Church and Trinity Presbyterian Church.

The morning started with an early meditation, followed by an Interfaith Service in front of the Outer Bay Window, watching all the big ocean creatures swimming around. Rabbi Leah led the invocation for the day with the creator of the initiative, Reverend Deborah Streeter, followed by keynote speaker, Dr. Carl Safina. Safina, president of the Blue Ocean Institute and author of more than a hundred scientific and popular publications on ecology and oceans, has been instrumental in working with evangelical groups regarding environmental issues.

Science and religion both share the desire "to understand with some certainty who we are, where we're going and what surrounds us," Safina said, and science was largely developed by religious people in an effort to better understand creation. "Some scientists have faith; some religious have scientific curiosity." Humankind needs to understand, Safina said, that the ocean is more than "a resource and a sink" -- it's the source of life on the planet. If there were no dry land, life would still exist in the oceans. Safina decried the "politicization" of environmental issues, most recently the arguments over global warning. He pointed out that one Republican president, Richard Nixon, signed much of the legislation that became the basis of U.S. environmental policy, while another, Ronald Reagan, allowed the Republican Party to

be "hijacked by radicals" unfriendly to environmental causes.

After Safina's talk, everyone joined in "Pilgrim Groups," spiritual journeys through the Aquarium. Then we listened to a conversation among the panel of speakers, including Reverend Deborah Johnson of Inner Light, Reverend Dave Grishaw-Jones of First Congregational Church on High St, and Dave Epel, an ocean research scientist who is also a member of Congregation Beth Israel. Reverend Johnson spoke eloquently about the economic imperatives of capitalism that have led to human stress on the oceans, based on values that assert that "the earth is just here for us, that resources are scarce, more is best and everyone operates in his own interest." Those attitudes, she said, lead to hoarding and destructive exploitation.



In the afternoon, there were five different focus groups. The groups I led had lively discussions about youth and education ideas, and ways to include ocean stewardship in religious services and community life. As we concluded our day, Alisa Fineman and I led a Hallelujah. Afterward, people were offered free time to wander around the Aquarium.

The clergy and lay leaders had wonderful comments about being able to share their time together in a multi-faith environment in support of ocean stewardship for the Monterey Bay. Follow-up groups have begun to meet and many youth groups from the congregations are now getting involved with each other to create activities.

We believe we are the very first effort in the nation to connect religious communities and ocean issues; we know that this is the first time that prominent national leaders in ocean science and conservation, such as the National Marine Sanctuary and the Monterey Bay Aquarium, have sought alliances with the religious community. These scientific and conservation organizations are impressed with the historic role religious communities have played in affecting social change in our nation and world, and they value the role religious leaders play as messengers for faithful action.

Mazel Tov to...

- Jeremiah Svendsen**, son of **Bonnie Eskie** and **James Svendsen**, on the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah. (*Parashat Shlach, June 9*)
- Griffin Lay**, son of **Susan Schwartz** and **James Lay**, on the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah. (*Parashat Balak, June 30*)
- Milo Barisof**, son of **Bonnie** and **Steve Barisof**, on the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah. (*Parashat Ekev, August 4*)
- Julian Lacey**, son of **Ron** and **Nina Lacey**, on the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah. (*Parashat Shoftim, August 18*)
- Adam Gabay**, son of **Maryanne** and **Steve Gabay**, on the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah. (*Parashat Ki Teitsei, August 25*)
- Glenn Saltz** on celebrating his son **Alex** becoming Bar Mitzvah.
- Julie Stultz** on joining the Jewish people.
- Nanci Rosenberg** on the birth of her niece, **Ruby**.

Michelle Hodak Newman

CY Goes Camping

Mark your calendars for June 22-24 for a wonderful camping Shabbaton with CY at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park in Felton.

Look forward to:

- *Shabbat Services with Reb Eli both Friday night and Saturday morning
- *Singing around the campfire
- *Swimming in the San Lorenzo River
- *Hiking if it isn't too hot
- *Community, getting to know each other better, having relaxed time with family
- *Jewish environmental teachings/outdoor ed hikes with Batya Kagan
- *Time in nature, a chance to pray in the temple of creation

Because of the difficulty of getting campsites at this

prime summer period, we only have two sites reserved at this time which means we can only accommodate a total of 16 people. We will be looking into cancellations at Henry Cowell to see if we can find another site should more people want to come. We will also try to make arrangements for people who want to just join us for services. In the meantime, if you can and will commit to the adventure, make a reservation with Batya and she will hold your spot. (Contact info: Lchaim@jps.net, (831) 419-6574). We will be sending out e-mails to give you details about things like what to bring, how we will do food and which campsites we have reserved. Dogs can come but are only allowed in the campsite on a leash, and not on trails.

We hope we can accommodate everyone who wants to come. If you can't make it to this one, we will be having another camping trip, September 7-9.

Rabbi Leah Novick - Scholar Talk & CD Release Party

Aleph teacher and pathfinder Rabbi Leah Novick will be teaching from her upcoming book, "On Wings of Shekhinah" (Quest books 08), and sharing meditations from her recently released CD. Please join us for this special event, Saturday, June 2, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, at the home of Ellen Abrams, 1412 King St, in Santa Cruz (831-423-8570).

Bring sweaters or jackets, as we will be outside for part of the time. CDs will be for sale following Havdalah. Please RSVP to Rabbi Eli Cohen at 831-429-6936 or at rebeli@sbcglobal.net



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