

# The Aleph Branch

*News & Views of Chadeish Yameinu*

Jewish Renewal Community of Santa Cruz & the Monterey Bay Region

Vol: Five No. 1

December 2006



## The Rebbe's Corner

*By  
Rabbi Eli Cohen*

So when is a "house" a "home"? The distinction between these two concepts is one we may have pondered on occasion. Interestingly, in Hebrew there is no such distinction. In Jewish understanding, a house is never merely a structure. It is always defined by the relationship between the structure and the people who live or intend to live there. Where we live, where we encounter our families - this is our home.

This understanding extends to our communal "structures" as well. The ancient Temple of Solomon was called a "house," because this is where we encountered the Divine Presence. And today, there are three names used in Hebrew for a synagogue or shul: Bet Tefilah (House of Prayer), Bet Midrash (House of Study) and Bet Knesset (House of Assembly), or, in other words, a House of Yearning, Learning and Gathering. The house is defined by its relationship to the people who gather there.

In essence, our Chadeish Yameinu community is really such a structure. It is a home, which allows us to gather for celebrations, prayer, study and coming together as community. When we contribute, whether it be our money or our time, our hearts or our minds, we strengthen our house as our home. This past year at Chadeish Yameinu has been an amazing one in this regard.

We have celebrated our holidays, from the beautiful and participatory High Holiday services, to our stunningly beautiful pumpkin- and redwood-decorated Sukkah, put together with the help of so many. We co-hosted a well attended and fun Simchat Torah celebration, *(continued on page three)*

## We Are Growing Up!

*by Jeanne Rosen*

Mazel tov to the entire CY community upon reaching an important milestone this fall: we have turned 13! We are growing up, and our new maturity shows. In this, the year of our Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration, we would like to take note not only of where we are going but also of where we have been. Some of us remember back to that amazing first year of 1993-94, when we started meeting almost every Shabbat morning in each other's homes for a do-it-ourselves service, which often didn't get underway until after we had spent an hour (or two, or more) getting to know each other in our marathon check-ins! What strong, lasting friendships were formed in those early days as we explored where Jewish Renewal might take us, both individually and collectively.

Many of you have joined us since then, adding your talents and visions into the mix. We have become increasingly diverse as we have welcomed people with many different backgrounds into our community. This diversity has enriched us all immeasurably and helped shape what we have become.

We invited a few people to share their memories of those first years. This has evoked wonderful responses, only snippets of which can find space in this newsletter article. We would like to collect these and other stories eventually into a Memory Book, to which everyone is invited to contribute.

So how did it all begin? Over some beers in a bar in the summer of 1993. Paula Marcus and Aryeh Nanas had just attended the Jewish Renewal Kallah in Berkeley, *(continued on page two)*

## **We Are Growing Up!** *(cont.)*

Ron Feldman had just come back from Eilat Chaim, the Jewish Renewal camp near Woodstock, NY. They happened to meet at a concert at the Seabright Brewery and shared their excitement. "We spent the concert telling about our experiences," says Ron, "and about our desire to start a Jewish Renewal group in Santa Cruz." Aryeh remembers sitting at his dining room table with Paula and creating the first service for what would come to be called Chadeish Yameinu. "A wonderful group, beyond our expectations, showed up for the first Shabbat service at our house," he recalls.

Shlomo Cooperstein and Devorah Stark were part of that original group. In the mid-1980s, while still living in New York, Shlomo was very active in the Jewish Renewal movement. He attended Eilat Chaim in 1992, its first summer, where he met Devorah, who was living in Pacific Grove. Two months later Shlomo moved out here; their beautiful wedding in 1994 was the first of many such simchas we have celebrated. They too were at the Berkeley Kallah in 1993, where they connected with Paula and Aryeh. Thus at the very outset was forged our Pacific Grove-Monterey-Carmel link.

"At some point," says Ron, "we wanted a name, to identify us more than calling ourselves 'the Chavura.' I do remember having/receiving the inspiration to come up with Chadeish Yameinu, out of the prayer in the Torah service (which, in turn, comes from Lamentations). This was met with enthusiasm." And so we acquired our perfect name.

Richard Klein adds, "We were famous for our check-ins. They served a very spiritual purpose, giving the congregation a picture into the soul of each member, and we bonded spiritually. In the beginning, the service, depending upon the preference of the host family, included prayers and poetry from other traditions, with a strong influence of the Native American and other indigenous traditions; it was very eclectic. As we grew, these Shabbat services became more and more Jewish in tradition but in a very Renewal form. One early year, we met every Shabbat and went through the entire Torah; it was a great learning experience."

We had some inspiring guest rabbis in those early days. They included Rabbis David Wolfe-Blank of blessed memory and David Zaslow, both from the Pacific Northwest, David Zeller from Jerusalem, and Leah Novick from Carmel. Most amazing of all, thanks to the efforts of Juliet Goldstein, Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach of blessed memory graced us with his visit in March 1994. It seemed to me after that event, a big opening of all kinds of Jewish activities happened in Santa Cruz." Aryeh says of that Shabbat, "Shlomo took us all to the next step. The vision of him with the Torah, in a rainbow tallis on the Kleins' deck, is forever emblazoned in my mind." Shlomo passed away later that same year, but his impact on us has endured. Several in our community received their Hebrew names from him that day, and his melodies remain an integral part of our services.

Yet another high was when more than a dozen of us went together to our first Jewish Renewal Kallah in Fort Collins, Colorado. It provided a wonderful opportunity to meet and study with Jewish Renewal's founder, Reb Zalman, and other gifted teachers. We understood that we were part of a larger movement that was spreading across the country, bringing new spirit to Jewish life. And, above all, none of us who were there will forget that wondrous Friday evening when, a thousand strong, we gathered outdoors against the backdrop of the Rocky Mountains, a sea of people clad in white, to welcome the Shabbat queen with song, dance and joy.

"Over the years," reminisces Richard Klein, "CY has nourished many souls and heightened its members' spirituality. CY, through many life cycles--some sad and horrific and some very happy--has provided strength and support to its members." In gladness we have celebrated weddings, births, bar and bat mitzvahs, and other simchas; in sadness we have prayed for those who were ill, attended funerals of beloved friends, and offered consolation for the loss of parents and children. We have joyously counted each other's blessings and deeply mourned each other's losses. After only a few short years, we were well on our way to becoming a community, a village, a home.

## The Rebbe's Corner *(cont)*

and enjoyed a Tu Bishvat seder, a Matzah Brei Freedom Brunch, a Lag B'Omer beach bonfire, and a magical second night of Shavuot, with great teachings from so many members of the community.

Our Chadeish Yameinu Children's School has been a true success, with our first School Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, including Dylan Buxbaum, Sahara Johnson, Eli Bristol-Davis, Genna BloomBecker, David Ledwith, Rowan Sloss, and Noah Bistrin, as well as Jake Pruger, Hannah Malone, Jesse Honig, and Samson Perks. We have a monthly Parents of Bnai Mitzvah support group. We have added a new entry level class for younger kids, and are forming a post-Bnai Mitzvah youth group to begin next semester. We have had wonderful Family Learn programs, including a Chanukah party and a family Tu Bishvat Seder, as well as Jerry Falek bringing his storytelling talents to a special program for kids about the Holocaust. The school has brought in numerous new families to CY. But perhaps most important are the friendships and sense of connection among both the parents and the kids.

Our Shabbat services are going strong. We have gone from one Friday night service per month to two, and are looking into expanding the number of Saturday morning services and Shabbatons (25-hour Shabbat celebrations) as well. We have also moved to a regular schedule (first and third Fridays, and second Saturdays) so people can better plan and attend.

We have had so many beautiful and special events this past year. We continued our tradition of an annual Sufi Dance Shabbat Service at the Garden, which this year was in tandem with a successful fundraising effort for our Living Tree of Life. We had a Summer Shabbaton and Havdalah in Pacific Grove, participated in the Ruach HaAretz Jewish renewal retreat in Bonny Doon, and celebrated the smicha (ordination) of our own Reb curly (Rabbi Lori Klein). We have increased our co-sponsorship of events with other Jewish groups, including Purim with Temple Beth El, and the Rabbi David Zeller concert and teaching.

We also suffered the devastating and shocking loss of one of our founders, Zalmo BloomBecker. Through this unbearably tragic event, we again saw the beauty and power of our community, as it came together to support the family and hold a beautiful celebration in his memory.

Our adult education continues to be one of our strongest offerings, with continuous weekly

classes throughout the year and our wonderful series of Scholar Talks, with presentations by Reb Lori, Rabbi Chaya Gusfield, Rabbi SaraLeya Schley, and Professor Karen Barad, and are planning another series for this coming winter and spring. We had a deep Elul/High Holiday study combined with a housewarming, studied Ecclesiastes in the sukkah and began a series looking at Jewish roots in Poland and the Ukraine. We anticipate many interesting topics for the coming year, including a revisiting of the Jewish roots of Christianity.

Our Co-caring committee has been reinvigorated and is looking to present a workshop on Ethical Wills. Our newsletter and website have been graced with new volunteers working to keep us all informed and connected. We again had a contingent in the Santa Cruz Gay Day Parade, where Hebrew melody could be heard wafting over the festival participants. We saw great consensus and cooperation among all Jewish groups in town in opposition to a highly offensive speaker, and we participated in follow-up inter-community dialogue to help heal the wounds. Our members have been active in dialogue with the Muslim community, and in issues of justice, housing and the environment. And we are planning our first-ever congregational trip to Israel, anticipated for this coming Purim. Finally, this past year we instituted a formal working Board of Directors, and much of our current energy can be attributed to their dedication and hard work.

As we approach the festival of Chanukah, which literally means "rededication" and which historically stems from our relationship to the ancient Temple, the House of Gd, may we give ourselves the best Chanukah gift of all ... the gift of connecting with our community and strengthening our home. **Chag ha-urim samayach, Happy Chanukah, R' Eli**



## Todah Raba for your Contributions

- Ralph Alpert and the Tides Foundation for a very supportive grant.
- Lynn LeRose: In honor of her beloved husband, Ed Garner's, 60th birthday
- Ed Garner and Lynn LeRose, Three leaves on the CY Tree of Life for Lean Kushner and her family, Irene Reti's mother, Ingrid, and Karen Barad's mother, Edith
- Ed Garner and Lynn LeRose, for two months rent at the Garden
- Ed Garner and Lynn LeRose, in honor of Reb Eli and Reb Lori for taking us to higher ground; Michael Yosef's birthday; Michelle Hodah, Jeff Schulman, Shira Belford, Akindele Bankole for holy service; all the angels that volunteer and sustain CY; Jay Dravich and Sukkot; our children Jesse and Ian Garner; Rabbi Shalom Bochner for the joyous Simchat Torah celebration; Reb Eli's parents Marian and Len Cohen; Mazel Tov to Jason and Maia and son Oshri on his 3rd birthday; Diane Brayman for tikkun olam; Howie and Dianas 20th wedding anniversary; Scott Roseman for tikkun olam
- Jeanne Rosen, Mazel Tov to Lynne LeRose on her retirement, in honor of Pam Ernst on her 50th birthday, Leah and family for healing, Howie and Diane on their 20th wedding anniversary, blessings to Karen Barad's mother Edith for healing, and Batya's birthday
- Marian Cohen, in honor of Jay Dravich, Jeanne Rosen, Holly Blue, Howie Schneider and all my wonderful friends in Chadeish Yameinu
- Julia Lorraine, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Noah Bistrin (10% of invitation sales) and the Bar Mitzvah of Jesse Honig
- Kaleo Kaluhiwa, in honor of Genna BloomBecker
- Jacob Sidman and Kris Sidman-Gale
- Herbert and Lillian Safran, for defraying the costs of the Aleph Branch, and an additional donation
- New Leaf scrip program
- Margaret and Lee Jaffe

- Rabbi Paula Marcus
- Geoffrey Jackson
- Kaleo Kaluhiwa, in memory of Zalmo BloomBecker
- Gina and Charles Rose, in memory of Jay BloomBecker
- The Malone family, in honor of Reb Eli Cohen with gratitude and appreciation for Hannah's Bat Mitzvah, Sephy Elizai with appreciation for his teachings and beautiful singing and Rowan Sloss for his Bar Mitzvah

## High Holy Day Donations

The Heinegg family, Diane Bluer, Paia Levine and Jeffrey Brody, Diane Bloch, Shalom and Michaela Braveman, John and Linda Byrne, Lester Reichel and Rima Lieben, Marilyn Lucier, Mark Buxbaum, Eugene Markowitz, Barbara Nicoara, Tom and Persis Rooth, Ed Garner and Lynn LeRose, Steven and Mary Ann Gabay, Jeanne Rosen, Mark Zaloua, Donald Cirlin, Randy Ruth Peysner, Philippa Gamse, Nina and Ron Lacey, Jan Leininger, Greg and Nancy Rimberg, Richard Smith and Wendy Elder, Richard and Diane Klein, Carol Skolnik, Lesley Harris, Deborah Ruiz, Beila Krow and Nicholas Rodin, Laura Davis, Diane Brayman, Steven Barisof and Bonnie Singer Barisof, Janice Rose, Thomas Witz, Linda BloomBecker, Joanna Daum, Judith and Daniel Phillips, Alisa Klaus, Shamaga Barton, Marceya Kagan, Bettina Aptheker, Christine Sublett, Carolyn Blackman, Jenny D'Angelo, Louse Caraco, Sam and Sarah Clarkson, Claudia Shargel, Jason and Maia Zohara, Lisa Strugala

## In Memory

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

Janice Rose, on the loss of her father,

**Sam Fidelman**

Noga Vilozy, on the loss of her grandmother,

**Rivka Vilozy**

Micah Perks, on the loss of her grandfather,

**Eli Tannen**

John Byrne, on the loss of his uncle,

**Tom Dunlevy**

# CY Annual Meeting Report

by Reb Howie Schneider

On a beautiful, warm, sunny Sunday in October, CY members and supporters came together to chart the future of our community. Led by our board of directors and our rabbi, Reb Eli, we introduced ourselves, sang, laughed, ate and worked together for an afternoon. We reflected on our early experiences, what prompted our search for Jewish renewal and Jewish community, how we decided to become involved, and sharing how important the CY community is to us.

Board member Shira Belford and I led the first discussion, about what it means to be a member. We discussed the benefits and responsibilities we have as citizens of the CY community. Among the benefits of membership are: having a collective structure to plug into, being able to support the principles and the movement for Jewish renewal in a concrete way, supporting a Hebrew school for Bar/Bat Mitzvah students, having an online discussion forum, adult education classes, access to rabbinic guidance, life cycle events, being part of decision making, learning to lead services, and being part of a Jewish spiritual community. We are committed to remaining an open, welcoming, accessible community that is sensitive to provide for all seekers. We discussed the importance of financially supporting CY to the fullest extent possible to assure meeting our commitments to Reb Eli and to the whole CY community.

We were informed all that Reb Eli's contract for the next year includes having him co-lead high holiday services for CY. He has agreed to give up his long term role of co-leading services in Michigan, and instead, will remain here with his community.

Reb Eli discussed a very impressive list of accomplishments during the past year, including 15 bnei mitzvot, four adult conversions in progress, co-sponsorship with other organizations, a full Hebrew school with a waiting list, great adult ed classes, the formation of a board, fundraising events, holiday events and services. A complete discussion of these accomplishments is included in Reb Eli's column elsewhere in this newsletter. Board vice president, Batya Kagan, led a very animated brainstorming session on what we could be adding or doing differently. Ideas included having more meditative, deeper fulfilling spiritual experiences, drumming and music, making the newsletter available online, more community oriented bnei mitzvah rituals, social action activities, fundraising, Friday/Saturday shabbatons, quarterly teaching shabbatons, full weekend retreats,

mitzvah day, a community studies intern, more PR and outreach, members' pictures on our Yahoo site, a welcoming committee, buddy system at services, chavura/Friday night dinners, caring committee/Bikur Cholim, social events such as Saturday night music and movie nights, challah baking, discussions about what's important in our spiritual life, and concepts of G!d and the language we use to describe G!d, alternatives to meeting at the Garden because of environmental allergies, having our own place to meet, a relationship with another community, adult day camp, and more communally led services. We formed three breakout groups to discuss specific ideas in the areas of fundraising, spiritual life and shabbatons.

1. Fundraising - Develop a fund raising committee, take credit cards and direct deposit for membership fees/contributions, acquire an intern to write grant applications, increase membership through in-reach and out-reach, develop conversion study program, bar/bat mitzvah celebration of CY's thirteenth year, talent show/concert fundraiser.
2. Spiritual Life - Define "cornerstone" prayers for CY, learning songs that helped connect us to Judaism as children, learn new songs/prayers as done in other places, how to make our special experiences meaningful to others, look at ashram model, which includes spontaneous experience of bliss, connection with teacher more than community, Friday night candle lighting with theme for discussion, schedule an all meditation Shabbat.
3. Shabbatons - Add first weekend of the month for Friday night and Saturday morning services (back-to-back) at Center for Conscious Living, or the fourth Shabbat in a month could be a full shabbaton and Saturday morning service would be lay-led. People could stay overnight, which would be easier for those who come from outside Santa Cruz county and for those who do not drive on Shabbat.

This is just the beginning of our discussions. Your board will be talking about all of these ideas and implementing many during the coming year. Everyone in our community is invited to continue giving your input and consider becoming more involved in CY's leadership.

The three hours we had scheduled for the meeting flew by quickly, and by the end, we felt closer to each other and more committed than ever to Jewish renewal and Chadeish Yameinu.

### **OROT HARAV**

The Chanukah Lights of Rav Kook, With Rabbi Itzchak: Grant us the light of Your revelation,  
*Satisfy our thirst for Your light,  
Illuminate us with Your light*

Join us this Chanukah as we kindle our menorahs together and bask in their radiance as Rabbi Itzchak shares the mystical poetry and teachings of Rav Kook, the High Priest of Israel.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 7 PM, location TBA. Suggested donation: \$18-\$36 but no one will be turned away. Rabbi Itzchak Marmorstein is ordained by Rabbi Z.N. Goldberg of Jerusalem (1989), Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, zl (1992) and Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi (1996). He teaches the theology of Rav Kook, Ophanim and Kabbalah and authored MILA YOMIT: The Torah, Word By Word.

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### **ALEPH KALLAH 2007:**

*Building Sacred Community in Albuquerque*  
**July 2-8, 2007,**

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque  
The biennial ALEPH Kallah is the cornerstone event of the Jewish Renewal Movement, a trans-denominational phenomenon grounded in the richness of the past that invites Judaism into the future with creativity, relevance, joy and spirituality. The Kallah week excites hundreds of Jews from diverse backgrounds to learn, pray, celebrate and deepen their experience of Judaism. The theme this year is "Gathering in Sacred Community -- HaMakom: BaMakom Hazeh". Past Kallot have drawn as many as 800 people from all over the world, including hundreds of rabbis, teachers, performers, artists and leaders offering all kinds of courses and programs. Other exciting programs will include the Keshet program for leadership development for young Jews in their 20s; the Kids Kallah & Teen program; the Healing Center, offering massage, acupuncture, and other modalities; Spirit Buddies, smaller groups to facilitate integrating the teachings on a personal level; and a variety of daily prayer and Shabbat services.

To find out more about the Kallah and ALEPH, with its 40 affiliated communities, over 100 rabbis, cantors and rabbinic pastors, prayer books, teleconference courses, retreat programs, social justice activities and work specific to elders (sages), young adults, chant leaders and more visit [www.aleph.org](http://www.aleph.org).

### **Writing an Ethical Will - Workshop Series**

In response to interest expressed in our Spirit in Action (Ruach B'Assiya) Co-Caring Group, Holly Blue Hawkins will be leading a workshop series beginning in January on Ethical Wills. Ethical Wills can enable us to pass on wisdom, hopes, dreams, and inspirations to loved ones, and are appropriate to formulate at any age. The workshop will not only give attendees an introduction to the idea of leaving such a legacy, it will also guide those who are interested in actually preparing such a will. Reb Eli will be adding some Jewish perspectives to the efforts. Look for e-mail announcements about the workshop or contact Shlomo Cooperstein at 831-655-8670 after December if you aren't on the e-mail list.

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### **SAVE THE DATE!**

***Purim in Israel,***

***An Experience of a Lifetime***

Chadeish Yameinu/Shir Tikvah Israel Journey  
**February 28 - March 11, 2007**

Join Rabbis Eli Cohen and Arnie Sleutelberg for a journey of discovery and renewal in Eretz Yisrael, the Land of our Heritage. Something exciting for all persons regardless of age. While connecting with the sacredness of the land, (nature walks, waterfalls, Dead Sea) and the vibrancy of its peoples (Ethiopian and Moroccan immigrants, Druze villagers, teachers and activists), we will visit the sites (Western Wall, Masada) important to generations of Jews while experiencing the historical and spiritual roots of our people. Find your spirituality in a land of richness to many diverse cultures. For more information, to express an interest, or to receive a copy of the itinerary, please contact:

Rabbi Eli at 831/429-6936 or [rebeli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rebeli@sbcglobal.net)

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### **Yashir Koach to our CY Board**

President: Howie (Chaim Leib) Schneider

Vice president: Batya Kagan

Treasurer: Chris Goldstein

Secretary: Holly Blue Hawkins and Philippa Gamse

Board members: Richard Klein, Karen Shira

Belford, Evelyn Bernstein



## Professional Listings

**Psychotherapy for the heart, mind and soul.**  
Compassionate and effective.  
**Karen Shira Belford**, LCSW. LCS18429.  
(831) 423-4137.

**Compassionate, Holistic Psychotherapy & Hypnotherapy.** Anxiety/stress reduction classes. Highly Sensitive Persons' Support Group. Anxiety, autogenic training, dating, intimacy, relationships, sexuality, health, women's issues, inner child, codependency, grief/loss, depression, GLBTs, alternative lifestyles. **Beila Krow**, MFT (831) 477-1232. [www.beilakrow.com](http://www.beilakrow.com)

**Realtor** If you are planning a move, I'd like to help you sell your present home and/or buy your perfect haven. At close of sale, I'll donate 50% of my fee income to CY in your honor.  
**Jay Dravich**, Realtor, Century 21 Award Real Estate, (831) 479-9278.

## Classes

**Relationship Enrichment Classes For Couples:** Deepen your connection, have fun and learn practical relationship skills for problem-solving, managing emotions, forgiveness and more. For schedule and more info, **Karen Shira Belford**, LCSW. LCS18429. (831) 423-4137.

**The Writers Journey Workshop** Six-time HarperCollins author **Laura Davis** teaches weekly classes for new and established writers. If you have a writer buried inside you, The Writers Journey will give you three hours a week to write, share your work, and experience the support of other writers. Classes at the Garden in Santa Cruz and in Felton. For info or a current schedule, visit [www.LauraDavis.net](http://www.LauraDavis.net), (831) 464-9517 or email: [lauradavis@lauradavis.net](mailto:lauradavis@lauradavis.net).

## Books

**The Heart of the Circle: A Guide to Drumming**, by **Holly Blue Hawkins** (ISBN 1-58091-0025-4), available from your local bookseller or online from Amazon and B&N. <http://home.earthlink.net/~holyblue>.

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Hot Off the Press! Pre-order your autographed copy of **Celebrity Nosh!** 90 Jewish Celeb's Share the Dish on Their Favorite Recipes. \$25 (plus \$5 s+h). Contact **Nina** at 408-353-1943  
[NAmir@purespiritcreations.co](mailto:NAmir@purespiritcreations.co)

## 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](mailto: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 <http://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. Great gifts just in time for Chanukah! Go to <http://store.cysantacruz.org/supportocy.htm> 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 479-9278
- **Julie Lorraine**, Event planning and invitations 688-0888
- **Marigold Fine**, Full Circle Video Productions 459-8300
- **Michael Yosef** Robinson, Jewish art [www.yosefdreams.com](http://www.yosefdreams.com)

# 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:

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\_\_\_\_\_

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**

# Chadeish Yameinu

**Renew Our Days**  
**An ALEPH-affiliated Jewish renewal community of Santa Cruz**

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## **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 list complimentary until the High Holidays. (Any 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, stevec36@sbcglobal.net

**Please complete & return this form to:**  
**Chadeish Yameinu**  
**P0 Box 3578**  
**Santa Cruz, CA 95063-3578**

## **CY Shabbat Schedule for December 2006 - February 2007**

We invite you to join the CY community in celebrating Shabbat together.

Friday Kabbalat (Welcoming) Shabbat services led by Reb Eli will be held at The Garden (except as noted below) twice a month, the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. These are joyful services with lots of singing. Children are welcome to participate. Kabbalat Shabbat services begin at 7pm, followed by a potluck snacks and desserts oneg.

Saturday Shacharit (dawn/morning) services led by Reb Eli will also be held at The Garden (except January 13, as noted below) on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Shabbat morning services begin at 10am, followed by vegetarian potluck lunch (vegan dishes also appreciated) at around 1pm.

In addition, we schedule other Shabbat gatherings from time to time, including community member-led services, havdalah, 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 Philippa Gamse at 465-0317 or gamse@CyberSpeaker.com.

### ***We look forward to celebrating Shabbat with you.***

**Friday, December 15** - In addition to Erev Shabbat services, there will be a gala celebration of the first night of Chanukah. Candle lighting and services at 7 pm, with celebration to follow. Location: Quaker Meetinghouse

**Friday, January 5** - Reb Eli may be away at a rabbinical conference. If so we will be ably led in a regular joyous Kabbalat Shabbat service by lay leaders.

**Saturday, January 13** - Shacharit Service and Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Schwartz, son of David Schwartz and Vera Brown, led by Reb Eli. Services begin at 10:15 a.m. Location: The Center for Conscious Living

**Friday/Saturday, February 2/3** - Tu Bishvat Shabbaton, including regular Erev Shabbat and Saturday morning Shacharit Services and potlucks celebrated

in ecological honor of our trees and ourselves. We will also celebrate the Bar mitzvah of Eliyahu (Mark-Paul) Goodman at the Shacharit service. In the afternoon, we will have a Scholar-in-Residence program and Tu Bishvat Seder, with Rabbi Shalom Bochner, beginning with a short mincha service at 3:30, the talk and seder at 4:15, ending with Havdalah at 6:30 pm. Location: The Garden.

To RSVP for this program and seder, call Reb Eli at 831-429-6936.

**Directions to The Garden, 3070 Prather Lane, Soquel:**

Going North on Hwy 1: Take Soquel Ave. exit. Go right at light on Soquel. Go through three lights. The very next left after Thurber is Prather. It looks like a driveway and is directly across from Sutter Surgical Center parking lot. If you pass the Skyview Theater (or flea market), you've gone a few yards too far. The last house on the right before the park is 3070.

Going South on Hwy 1: Take Soquel Ave exit. Go right all the way over the freeway and pass through four lights. Follow same as above.

**Directions to The Center for Conscious Living, 1818 Felt Street, near 17th Ave, Live Oak:**

Going North on Hwy 1: Take Soquel Ave. exit. Make a slight left onto Commercial Ave., then a quick left onto Soquel Drive, then a left onto Soquel Avenue and then a right onto 17th Avenue. Continue on 17th Avenue for 1.2 miles to a left onto Felt St. Going South on Hwy 1: Take Soquel Ave exit. Follow same as above.

**Directions to Quaker Meetinghouse, 225 Rooney Street, Santa Cruz:**

Morrissey exit off Highway 1. Rooney Street runs parallel and adjacent to Highway 1 on the mountain side (north).

The Quaker meetinghouse is just past the north end of Morrissey.

## CY Community School 2006-07

A Sweet Place for Study to Begin: Kitah Aleph Class (Jewish Studies for 9 & 10 year olds)

The CY school is pleased to announce the formation of the Kitah Aleph class, which has been meeting for two months now. It's a fun and nurturing place for 9 and 10 year olds to begin learning basic Hebrew and Judaica. We meet twice a month on Thursday evenings, from 7:00 - 8:30, and we are accepting registration for new kids to join us. This class is a wonderful way to gradually begin preparing your child for our more rigorous Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation program. Contact Laura Davis, 831-464-9417 or [lauradavis@lauradavis.net](mailto:lauradavis@lauradavis.net)

Now Forming: Youth Group (for 13+ year olds)

For Post B'nai Mitzvah students or other interested kids, this group will offer fun activities that build and support Jewish identity, group mitzvah projects, a fun and relaxed approach to Jewish studies, field trips, cooking projects, and joining with Temple Beth El youth group for some field trips and activities. The group will meet twice a month on Sunday afternoons, beginning in January 2007, at a Santa Cruz location TBA. Contact Debra Sloss, 831-426-4800 or [dsloss@pacbell.net](mailto:dsloss@pacbell.net)

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### Mazel Tov!

- David Ledwith and his parents Lisa Glick and John Ledwith, on his becoming Bar Mitzvah (Shabbat Sukkot, Oct 7).
- Rowan Sloss and his parents Debra and Tony, on his becoming Bar Mitzvah (Shabbat Breisheet, Oct 21).
- Noah Bistrin and his parents David and Anita, on his becoming Bar Mitzvah (Shabbat Noah, Oct 28).
- Jesse Honig, and his mother Emily, on his becoming Bar Mitzvah (Shabbat Vayera, Nov 11).
- Samson Perks, and his parents Bob Lautenslager and Micah Perks, on his becoming Bar Mitzvah (Shabbat Chayei Sarah, Nov 18).
- Hannah Malone, and her parents Mark and Stephanie Malone, on her becoming Bat Mitzvah (Shabbat Lech Lecha, Nov. 4)

## CY Adult Education

CY Adult Education classes this year include a series on "Jewish Roots in Poland and the Ukraine," drawn on Reb Eli's journey recent journey to the towns of his grandparents' youth, as well as on readings and teachings from some of the illustrious rabbis and writers who hailed from these places; a series based on Rabbi David Zaslow's work "Roots and Branches," looking into the Jewish roots of Christianity; classes about Judaism and environmental issues; an introduction to "Jewish literacy...beyond the Five Books of Moses;" sessions on two of the great Jewish philosophers, Maimonides and Spinoza; and an exploration of the Psalms. CY Adult Ed. meets every Wednesday, from 7:00 - 8:30 at the Aptos Fire Station, located at 6934 Soquel Drive, just south of The Farm Restaurant, between Park Ave. and State Park exits, with a break from Dec. 20 through Jan 10. Classes are free, drop-in, and open to everyone

Again, if you would like to help preserve Jewish life in an Eastern European community, please send me your donation c/o Chadeish Yameinu, PO Box 3578, Santa Cruz, CA 95063, and indicate that it is for our community donation to:

**Abram Kaplan and Mohilev-Podolski.**

It is a reminder of the power of each and every one of us to really make a difference! Toda raba, Reb Eli

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### SCHOLAR TALKS BRIGHTEN WINTER SHABBAT

Again this winter we are inviting several of our local scholar-rabbis to share their research into Jewish topics with us on a Shabbat afternoon. Please RSVP to Jeanne if you will be attending these sessions so we know how many people to plan for. Watch for emails or call Jeanne: 685-8350 or [jeannerosen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeannerosen@sbcglobal.net)

- January 13 at 4:00 PM, Paula Marcus will be speaking on The Moments of Shabbat: Our Sanctuary in Time and Song at the home of Jeanne Rosen.
- February 3 at 4:00 PM, Rabbi Shalom Bochner will reveal to us the wonders of the Holy Number Seven, in conjunction with a TuBiShvat Shabbaton at the Garden.
- April 7 at 4:00 PM, Reb Chaim (Howie) Schneider talk to us about Eco-Kashrut.

### Submissions for the Aleph Branch

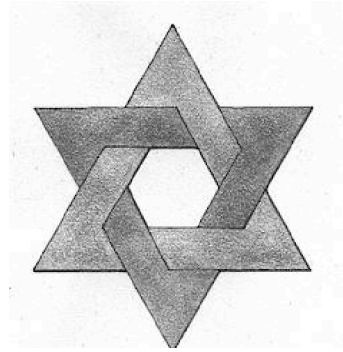
To submit articles for the next issue of the Aleph Branch, email all copy to Alisa Klaus at [alisaklaus@yahoo.com](mailto:alisaklaus@yahoo.com), no later than February 7th, 2006. All articles must be in Times New Roman 12 pt, no spacing between paragraphs, no special formatting, and no borders. The Aleph Branch welcomes submissions of poetry, essays, book reviews, and news. Contact Alisa Klaus at [alisaklaus@yahoo.com](mailto:alisaklaus@yahoo.com) or John Byrne at [troutandabout@comcast.net](mailto:troutandabout@comcast.net) 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 John Byrne [troutandabout@comcast.net](mailto:troutandabout@comcast.net) and mail your payments to Chadeish Yameinu, PO box 3578, Santa Cruz, CA 95063-3578. The Aleph Branch is published quarterly and the **deadline for our next issue: is February 7, 2007**

### OUR ALEPH ALLIANCE

Chadeish Yameinu, as a Jewish Renewal Community, chooses to affiliate with ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal. Dedicated and committed to us, ALEPH provides our teachers, Rabbis and Cantors, the Kallah, tele-conference classes and inspiration towards social action and the national infrastructure we need to grow as a movement.



Chadeish Yameinu  
Jewish Renewal Community  
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