

Chadeish Yameinu News



Vol. 2 No.1

Renew Our Days

Winter 2003-2004

Rebbe's Corner

Many have asked about the meaning of the name of our community, "Chadeish Yameinu." The words mean "Renew our Days" and come from a verse in Eichah (the Book of Lamentations) sung at the close of the Torah service. Renewal means that we are always re-exploring, always attempting to keep fresh our approach to and our interest in Judaism and matters of the spirit.

Our tradition builds renewal into its foundations. From our High Holidays in the autumn and their emphasis on a fresh start, to Passover in the spring and its symbol of new grain, we find that Judaism is ever-alive, ever-ancient and ever-new.

One of our most beloved holidays of renewal is the upcoming festival of Chanukah. Chanukah's origin is one of Jewish resistance in ancient times to the oppression and overwhelming influence of the dominant culture of the day. Its history is one of renewing our commitment to our faith and practice, even in the darkest times. The name "Chanukah" itself means "rededication."

Often we speak of Jewish holidays as coming "early" or "late." Of course, in the Jewish calendar, they always come right on time. (Remember to mark your calendars for the afternoon of Shabbat, February 21, when Jeanne will host a special birthday celebration and a teaching by local scholar, our own Ron Feldman, about the calendar).

When I was younger and in school, I was always somewhat relieved when Chanukah came closer to Christmas. Later, I came to prefer the festival coming earlier in the season, so that it could be celebrated on its own terms. My perspective today is that part of the power of our calendar is its "tension" between the lunar and the solar. By enjoying Chanukah, always at the 25th of Kislev, in its seasonal dance between moon and

sun, we fortify our faith at a time of year which is often challenging to Jews. And so Chanukah, once again, even in its evolution in modern-day America, becomes a beacon of renewal for every Jew, and even for our non-Jewish friends as well.

This year, each of us should take on, in our own way, the mitzvah of the holiday. We should kindle the spark in ourselves, and in those around us as well. This may mean making a Chanukah party for your circle of friends, or attending one of the many celebrations with Chadeish Yameinu or in the general Jewish community. But I cannot emphasize enough the deep practice of truly noticing, even meditating on the increasing light. To stop, whether for a moment or an evening, and take in the awesome power of the light as it increases each night brings an awareness that cannot easily be expressed in words. Just as the figure "8" itself symbolizes infinity, the eight nights of Chanukah can help us individually and communally renew our connection with the ever-present light that shines from eternity, that beckons us to our future.

Reb Eli

Ruach HaChanukah

A spiritually-inspired ceremony for adults to share the deeper meanings of Chanukah.

Monday, December 22, 2003 8pm

Led by Michelle Hodah Newman

Hebrew class will end early on 12/22 for the Chanukah ceremony, which will be an hour long. Please bring your menorah and candles and a dessert or drink to share. The ceremony will take place at the home of Lynn LeRose and Ed Garner, Aptos. (For directions to Ed and Lynn's home, see the Shabbat & Event Schedule on page 6.)

Chadeish Yameinu Adult Education Offerings:

*Wednesday Night Classes and Hebrew Through Song and Prayer...
Plus the Possibility of Trope, Modern Hebrew and Basic Judaism*

Adult Education Study meets with Reb Eli every Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. We are currently studying the weekly Torah portion and will continue to do so through December 17 (except for Thanksgiving week). Note that these study sessions are free, drop in, and open to all. (Bring your chumash/Bible along if you have one!) Weekly study will resume after the winter break on January 14, 2004.

The study group meets at the Aptos Firehouse at 6934 Soquel Dr., on the south (ocean) side of the street midway between the Park Ave. and State Park Dr. exits in Aptos. The firehouse is almost across from the light at Vienna Dr.

Following a well-attended gathering to discuss people's interest in learning -- and teaching -- Hebrew on various levels, the CY Adult Education Committee launched a new class, "Hebrew Through Song and Prayer." The six classes, taught by Reb Eli from 7:00 to 8:30 PM for six consecutive Mondays (Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22), approaches Hebrew in a way that allows people to participate on any level (from beginning readers through intermediate). In order to give people who consider themselves beginning Hebrew readers more time for practice, those interested are invited to come at 5:45 for an hour of reading practice. (Please bring your own "bag dinner" if you plan to come early.)

The class meets at the home of Lynn Le Rose and Ed Garner. This is a free, drop-in class open to everyone in CY. To get the most out of this wonderful opportunity, regular attendance is encouraged. However, even if you have missed the first sessions, please feel welcome to come. You may call or email Eli (427-3939; rebeli@surfbest.net) for more information and directions.

Interest was expressed in having a class to learn trope (chanting from Torah). This class would be for people who read Hebrew comfortably; no knowledge of Hebrew grammar is required. We might offer this class in the winter/spring if there is enough demand. Are you interested?

Plus, interest was expressed by several people in spoken modern Hebrew. One possibility is to arrange an ULPAN, i.e. intensive Hebrew conversation group, with a skilled facilitator. Interested?

We also are considering a class in basic Judaism, to be offered 4-6 weeks, once a week, beginning in January, probably on Thursday evening. Interested?

Please, email or call Reb Eli (427-3939; rebeli@surfbest.net) if you have questions about the Hebrew through Song and Prayer class or are interested in a possible Trope class (Torah chanting), Hebrew conversation group, or Basic Judaism class.

Celebrating Chanukah in a Christian World

By Nina Amir

December can be a tough month for a Jew living in a predominantly Christian society. As a child, I remember seeing the Christmas decorations and feeling as if I was missing something quite wonderful. Now, my two young children complain of similar feelings. Just the other day they commented that their house is the only one on the block, maybe even in the neighborhood, with no outside lights shining in the dark, no Christmas tree sparkling in a window. "It's not fair," my daughter said.

To say we do not have Christmas lights or a tree simply because we are Jewish, not Christian, provides too little to appease my children's feelings of deprivation. Instead, I focus their attention on the

lights burning in our Chanukah menorahs. I remind them of the great miracle that happened at the rededication of the temple -- when the little jug of oil burned for not one day but eight, which is why we celebrate by lighting candles for eight nights. More importantly, I explain that to me the lights of our menorahs represent the struggle to live a Jewish life in a world dominated by other faiths and to remember those who fought for our right to do so.

The holiday of Chanukah arose from King Antiochus' attempt to force, on pain of death, not only the Jews but all people of different nationalities and religious backgrounds living in his kingdom to
(Continued on page 6)

Attend this Class to Find Out Why Heschel was Wrong about Shabbat

On February 21, 2004, in the afternoon, Ron Feldman will give a teaching at the home of Jeanne Rosen, titled "Why Heschel was Wrong about Shabbat: Wild and Tame Time in Jewish Thought."

Here is Ron's description of this teaching: I look forward to sharing some of the ideas about Jewish time that I have developed while writing my dissertation on the cycles of the moon and sabbath in ancient Jewish calendars. I will talk about how they represent two kinds of time, natural (wild) and cultural (tame). In fact, the Jewish calendar coordinates both kinds of time, the sabbath and the lunar month. I will talk about how this relates to one of AJ Heschel's best and most famous books, "The Sabbath", and suggest that we need to balance the emphasis on sabbath with an emphasis on the lunar cycle as a way of connecting ourselves more closely to the natural world.

(For directions to Jeanne's home, call 685-8350 or E-mail JeanneRosen18@cs.com.)

Deadline for CY News

To submit articles for the next issue of CY News, E-mail all copy to Nina Amir Lacey at CPYWRTCOM@aol.com no later than March 1. All articles must be in Times New Roman 12 pt. with paragraph indents and no spacing between paragraphs. Please attach the article and paste it into the E-mail. For information on classified ads and professional listings, E-mail Nina.

Classified Ads

Book "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 & B&N. <http://home.earthlink.net/~holyblue>.

Newsletter: Free subscription to Jewishly oriented spiritual newsletter. E-mail your subscription request to Namir@purespiritcreations.com or visit the newsletter link at www.purespiritcreations.com.

Toda Raba for Donations

The following donations were made to Chadeish Yameinu since publication of the last newsletter:

Linda & Zalmo Bloombecker in honor of Leah Kushner's Bat Mitzvah.

Marc Mangel in honor of Jeanne Rosen.

Jeanne Rosen in honor of Shira & Jonathan's new home; in memory of the fathers of Nick Littlestone, Etiel Herring and Stan Einhorn.

Lynn LeRose & Ed Garner in honor of "the sweeties" -- Reb Eli, Reb Curly, Jeanne, Dick & Diane, Shira, Michelle, Zalmo, Shalom & Michaela, and Jo & HollyBlue.

Jeanne Rosen in honor of Reb Eli.

Maia & Jason Zohara in honor of Lori and Laura Binah for co-creating the naming ceremony for Oshri Kahlil, Reb Eli for his voice and inspiration, and the CY community for their loving support.

In addition, **Herbert and Lilian Safrans**, Eli's Aunt and Uncle, made a generous contribution to defray the expense of producing the newsletter.

Join This Weekly Meditation Group

This ongoing meditation group is open to anyone and is led by a Chadeish Yameinu member, Etiel Herring. It meets every Tuesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary at Temple Beth-El.

Drop in any time to participate. The session begins with nine minutes of walking meditation, nine minutes of chanting and 36 minutes of silence.

Learn to Lead Shabbat Services

Interested in leading a Shabbat service, part of a service, a prayer? Want to learn how to give a d'var (word of) Torah? Reb Eli is available to mentor you. Take that next step! Call Reb Eli at 427-3939.

Check out CY's Website

Chadeish Yameinu has a new, gorgeous, easy-to-use website, designed and maintained by our own Michael Yosef-- www.chadeishyameinu.org.

Tribute Gift

To honor special people and occasions

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AMOUNT OF DONATION (SUGGESTED MINIMUM \$18)

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Chadeish Yameinu

—Renew Our Days—

PO Box 3578

Santa Cruz, CA 95063-3578

Community School Off and Running

The Chadeish Yameinu Community School has met four times and is happily educating a class of eight bat and bar mitzvah students. We meet at the Orchard School, a large and lovely bucolic setting, and enjoy the teaching efforts of Reb Eli, Michelle Hodah, Batyah Kagan and Leah Kushner.

Our goal is to prepare these children for bar and bat mitzvah the way we would like to have been prepared. This means, in addition to study out of a modern text, we are using games, otiot (making Hebrew letter shapes with our bodies), song, conversational Hebrew practice, and whatever other

creative thoughts our teachers come up with. We are also working on developing greater sense of what it means to be Jewish, through "moments in history," Bible play, text study, discussions about ethics and attempts to articulate what Jewish Renewal is about.

We coordinate Community School sessions with Family Learn sessions which occur once a month. The School meets roughly three times per month. We're always happy to have people drop in to see what we're up to or to help. Please contact Zalmo at 475 4457 if you're interested.

CY Shabbat & Event Schedule

December 2003-March 2004

We have Shabbat services on selected Friday nights and Saturday mornings. Friday night services at the Garden are especially family friendly, so bring your children! They are welcome to stay throughout the service, and we also have separate children's programming available at those services

Friday, December 19 - Chanukah & Kabbalat Shabbat (please note the different location)

Led by Reb Eli Cohen

Time: 7 pm, followed by a potluck oneg (snacks and desserts)

Place: Subud house (see directions below)

Friday, January 9 - Kabbalat Shabbat (the Friday evening service)

Led by Reb Eli Cohen

Time: 7pm, followed by a potluck oneg (snacks and desserts)

Place: The Garden, 3070 Prather Lane (see directions below)

Saturday, January 17, - Shacharit service

Led by Reb Eli Cohen

Time: 10am, followed by vegetarian potluck lunch (vegan dishes also appreciated) at around 1pm.

Place: Santa Cruz Hillel, 222 Cardiff Place (off of High Street between Seven Eleven and Slug Books, below the UCSC campus)

Saturday, February 7 - Tu B'shvat shabbaton

Shacharit service led by Eli Cohen

Tu B'shvat seder led by Lori Klein and Michelle Hodah Newman

This shabbaton consists of a service in the morning and a Tu B'shvat seder and ALEPH fundraiser in the afternoon. In the middle, you can visit the beach in Pacific Grove or stay at Shalom & Michaela's house.

Time: Shacharit service begins at 10am, followed by vegetarian potluck lunch (vegan dishes also appreciated) at around 1pm.

Place: Home of Shalom & Michaela Braveman (see directions below)

See article in this newsletter for info about the Tu B'shvat seder and ALEPH fundraiser.

Saturday, February 21 – Afternoon teaching, Havdalah, and Post-Shabbat Party

Led by Ron Feldman

Ron Feldman will give a teaching entitled, "Why

Heschel Was Wrong About Shabbat: Wild and Tame Time in Jewish Thought"

Time: TBA

Place: Home of Jeanne Rosen. Please call 831-685-8350 for directions.

See article in this newsletter for info about Ron's teaching.

Friday, February 27 - Kabbalat shabbat

Led by Reb Eli Cohen

Time: 7pm, followed by a potluck oneg (snacks and desserts)

Place: The Garden, 3070 Prather Lane (see directions below)

Saturday, March 13 - Shabbaton beginning with shacharit service

Led by Reb Eli Cohen

Time: Begins with Shacharit service at 10am, followed by vegetarian potluck lunch (vegan dishes also appreciated) at around 1pm.

In the afternoon, we will have special exercises, activities, and teachings led by Lynn LeRose, Reb Eli Cohen and Lori Klein on compassionate communication and speech within sacred community. Details will be announced soon.

Place: TBA

Friday, March 19 – Poetry and Creative Prose Shabbat & Lecha Dodi Fest

Led by Lori Klein and Holly Blue Hawkins

Bring poetry and/or creative prose that you have written or has inspired you, as well as any melodies you know for singing Lecha Dodi!

Time: 7pm, followed by a potluck oneg (snacks and desserts)

Place: Home of Lori and Irene (see directions below)

Friday, March 26 - Kabbalat Shabbat (the Friday evening service)

Led by Reb Eli Cohen

Time: 7pm, followed by a potluck oneg (snacks and desserts)

Place: The Garden, 3070 Prather Lane (see directions below)

(Directions for all events and services can be found on the following page.)

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Celebrating Chanukah in a Christian World

(Continued from page 2)

worship only Greek gods and to assimilate into the Hellenistic culture. When a small group of Jews, called the Maccabees, rebelled by waging war against King Antiochus' large army, they won what might have been the first battle for religious freedom.

Today, American Jews enjoy the freedom to worship as they please. However, just as many ancient Jews felt it easier to assimilate themselves into Hellenistic ways, many Jews today find it easier to submerge themselves in more Christian-based ways of life and to stop practicing Judaism. While we have no need to take up arms to ensure that we can maintain our Jewish lives and religious practices, as the beneficiaries of the Maccabees' struggle I feel we have a responsibility to maintain our religious traditions in a time and place when it would be much

easier to be like everyone else.

As I watch my children light the candles on our menorahs, I remind them that by lighting them -- rather than putting up a Christmas tree and lights -- we rededicate ourselves to our religious beliefs and traditions and offer a testimonial to the religious rights for which our ancestors fought. Then, we place menorahs in our windows to shine their light on the darkened world outside. I point out to my children that this eight-night practice actually is quite similar to that of those around us who are celebrating Christmas. As seen from the outside of our home, our Chanukah menorahs become just as much an expression of hope and joy and love as the Christmas lights glowing on our neighbors' houses or the trees shining in their windows.

Shabbat Schedule and Directions

(Continued from page 5)

Directions to The Garden, 3070 Prather Lane:

Going North on Hwy 1: Take Soquel Ave. Exit. Go right at light on Soquel. Go through 3 lights. The very next left after Thurber is Prather. It looks like a driveway. It 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 4 lights. Follow same as above.

Directions to Subud House

From Santa Cruz, take Hwy 1 south to Bay Ave-Porter St. exit. Turn left. Porter St. becomes Old San Jose Rd. at the Soquel Village intersection signal. Go straight for 3.4 miles, pass Casalegno's general store on the left, continue .3 miles, slowly at left-hand curve just past orchard. Turn left into blind driveway.

Directions to Shalom and Michaela Braveman's, 649-1972

From Santa Cruz, take Hwy 1 South to Monterey/Pacific Grove. Exit at the Pacific Grove/Pebble Beach/Hwy 68 West exit. Go right onto Hwy 68 West/Holman Hwy. Take this as it winds thru the forest. The Hwy will straighten out in about 2 miles and will become Forest Ave./Hwy 68 South

when you see stores on both sides of the street. Stay in the left lane. A quarter block past David Ave. make a left onto Sunset Ave./Hwy 68 West toward Asilomar. Go two stop signs down the hill and make a right onto 17 Mile Drive. Go .6 of a mile and make a right onto Short Street (note: the sign is a bit hard to see and says Pico Street if you go left - if you get to the Lighthouse Ave, stop sign you went 1 block too far). On Short Street go one short block and make a left onto Walcott Way. The house is on the corner, on your right, at 239 Walcott. There is a Sanskrit OM sign above the porch.

Directions to Lori & Irene's, 1911 B Courtyard Drive, 479-7629

Take 41st Ave toward beach. Turn left on Capitola Rd. Turn left on 44th. Go about 2 blocks to Grace St., turn left. Courtyard Dr is immediately on the right. Look for parking on Grace. 1911B is on the left, in the second group of townhouses.

Directions to Ed & Lynn's, 432 Townsend Dr., Aptos, (831) 688-0393:

Take the Rio Del Mar exit off of Highway 1. Go West toward beach/ocean on Rio Del Mar Blvd. After second stop sign, cross over RR trestle bridge, and make first left onto Townsend Dr. Go about ½ mile; our house is on the right, at the corner of Kenneth.

Chadeish Yameinu

Renew Our Days

Post Office Box 3578

Santa Cruz, CA

95063-3578

Chadeish Yameinu is an egalitarian Jewish Renewal havurah. Our Shabbat and Holiday services are led by our part-time student rabbi, Eli Cohen, and our lay leaders. We enjoy participatory davennen, Torah study, chanting, singing, dancing, and bibliodrama. Wednesday night is Adult Education night, with exciting classes taught by Reb Eli and occasional guest teachers.

We invite you to support Chadeish Yameinu. It is only with the energy and resources of many passionate people that our dreams can come true! Any questions? Call Etiel at (831) 426-9432, etiel@aol.com.

To join an action group or get more info:

- ◆ Shabbat: Shalom Braveman, (831) 375-7553; stephen@bravemantherapy.com
- ◆ Adult Education: Jeanne Rosen (831) 685-8350; JeanneRosen18@cs.com
- ◆ Children's Programming: Maia Zohara (831) 475-6242; zoharita@aol.com
- ◆ Social Action: Shlomo Cooperstein: (831) 655-8670; sc@js4life.com

Please check one below:

___ Enclosed is my yearly donation for \$ _____ (\$300 - \$1000) to be a Chadeish Yameinu supporter.

___ I will pledge _____ per month (minimum \$18). Enclosed is my first payment. Please contact me about arranging a direct deposit for my monthly contribution.

___ Enclosed is a contribution of \$72 to keep me on the **mailing list** so that I may get notices about events and information inviting my participation.

**Please make your check to "Chadeish Yameinu."
Send to P.O. Box 3578, Santa Cruz, CA 95063-3578**

Name _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Email address _____

Second Annual Aleph Fundraiser and Tu B'Shevat Seder

Last year, more than forty of us celebrated Shabbat and Tu B'Shevat in the redwoods and raised hundreds of dollars for ALEPH, Alliance for Jewish Renewal. We had such a great time, we want to do it again, in another beautiful setting.

On February 7, Chadeish Yameinu will gather in Pacific Grove to celebrate Shabbat with services led by Reb Eli Cohen. Shabbat services, as always, are free. That afternoon, after lunch and a walk through the woods, resting and meditating, we will have a Tu B'Shevat seder that features songs and teaching from

the Jewish Renewal movement, led by Lori Klein and Michelle Hodah Newman, as well as other special guests.

We are asking people who wish to attend the Tu B'Shevat seder to contribute \$25.00 (more if you can; less if you really can't) to help support ALEPH. The day will end with a Havdalah service. All of these activities will take place at the home of Shalom and Michaela Braveman, 239 Walcott Way, Pacific Grove. For more information or to make reservations, please call 831-479-7629. (Directions on p. 4.)

Chadeish Yameinu's Man at Aleph

Chadeish Yameinu will now have a member, Zalmo Bloombecker, serving on the Aleph Board of Directors. Aleph is the central organization promoting Jewish renewal through a number of projects, including support for communities like Chadeish Yameinu. It also has a rabbinical and cantorial program and a program for elders.

After meeting some of the executives of Aleph at

the last Kallah, Zalmo was asked to join the Board. He speculates that his appointment may have been due to the fact that Chadeish Yameinu has more rabbinical and cantorial students per capita involved with Aleph than any other Jewish renewal community.

Zalmo is proud to bring the spirit of Chadeish Yameinu to Aleph and invites anyone with interest in or suggestions for Aleph to call him at 475 4457.