



Kiryaton – September 2007

Shalom Shalom and Chag Sama'ach to all,

Once again the Yamim Hanoraim are upon us. We wish to set ourselves new aims in the coming year. These aims can be directed to many fields, be it home, kehila or society.



"mishkan" is all important. It must include reverence, honor, modesty and awe, but most of all it must convey peacefulness and warmth and love of Torah. Within its walls lies the future of Judaism and its traditions and values. The Kehila Masortit Hakrayot at the moment still has this dream. However it is a dream which is in the early stages of becoming a reality. Our prayer is that it will slowly but surely turn into our "HOME" which will serve to enrich and improve our world of love and tradition.

We can see that even in the bible stories the word "home" is important. Avraham sat at the opening of his tent from where he saw and knew what was happening in and around his "home". Jacob and his sons also gave on the brachah to his "eldest" in a home and while wandering in the desert G-d promised "coverage" and "protection" from the sun by sending us the "cloud" by day – a roof over our heads.

I wish each and everyone dreams come true and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

הילרי לוי

Ms. Hilary Levy
Chairperson



In modern society we may feel sorry for the "homeless" and throw them a few coins, but do we really appreciate the meaning of "home?"

"Home" in my opinion, is not to be taken lightly. "Home" is more than bricks and mortar. Home is security, comfort and of course love. To achieve these values, one has to invest in hard work. The atmosphere which is created in a "house" depends very much on the emotions and values of the people who inhabit it. If those emotions and values are positive and strong, the house is turned into a "home" – a place of happiness, sharing and learning.



"How Goodly Are Thy Tents, Jacob, Thy Dwellings, O Israel" (Numbers 24:5)

At the onset of the New Year, our congregation finds itself in the process of realizing a

This is true also in a kehila. The central feature is the education and devotion given to each member of the kehila, so that by working together we can improve and enrich the society in which we live. A dream of a "home," – a "mishkan" in which the love is felt, both love for others and love of the Torah is in every heart of a congregation. A mishkan symbolizes the values of the Jewish People. It holds within the security of our future and enables people to know where they belong and where they can find peace and tranquility. So much has to be included and transmitted in its establishment. The feeling one gets as one enters the

thirty-year-old dream, that of having our own Home. However, building the house itself is not sufficient; we must consistently provide meaningful substance to the "home". Each time I arrive at that passage in the Book of Numbers which discusses Bilam who came to curse and found himself blessing, there is the use of two terms: "Ohel" (tent) and "Mishkan" (dwelling, abode) – and I suggest that in reference to our building we use the term "Mishkan" - dwelling. Why Mishkan? "Mishkan is a place in which to reside, an abode, a permanent or provisional home. It is also a name for the Tent of Meeting – the sanctuary – that the children of Israel erected in the desert when leaving Egypt". ∞ Finally, the Hebrew word Mishkan also means a



building for a special purpose; meaning that the Mishkan is a place with many uses, and it is up to us to determine which they are. I like the idea that embedded in the root of the word "Mishkan" there appear two main objectives of our congregation:

1 – "Shakhen" - Neighbor: "A person living in close proximity, in the same building or in one close by." ∞ In other words, our counterpart, our fellow-man. Undoubtedly, a mishkan with people who ignore their neighbor-counterpart is far from being worthy of the life of a synagogue congregation.

2 – The second term stemming from the word Mishkan is "Shekhina" – Divine Presence: "Holy Spirit, Honor of G-d". ∞

The word points us to the bond between humans and G-d. We can expound Shekhina as a Divine Presence only in a place where we look after our fellow-man and take care of the Torah and its commandments. Only then will the Holy Spirit reside there. As it is written in Exodus 25:8: "And they shall make me a sanctuary and I will dwell in their midst".

The Divine Presence will be present in each and every one of the members of our congregation who will give meaning to both terms: Shakhen – neighbor, and Shekhina – Divine Presence.

This year's challenge for us is to arrive at a condition whereby anyone looking at us will feel as Bilam felt: "How goodly are thy tents..."

I wish all members of our community that this year we will get to feel the Shekhina in our midst, and that we shall succeed in taking better care of our neighbors.

My wishes to the People of Israel are that we shall have a year of Peace, and my wishes to the entire world are that we shall get to move forward in Tikun Olam – Repairing the World – in a fashion that will make us proud to be worthy partners in the continuing building of the world.

With wishes for a Happy and Sweet New Year,

Rabbi Mauricio Balter

∞ - Translated from the Even-Shushan Hebrew dictionary.

SO WHAT'S GOING ON AT OUR CONGREGATION ?

Synagogue Life



Holocaust Memorial Day: the Story of Dr. Evelyn Hammerschlag

Dr. Evelyn Hammerschlag was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1937.

In 1940 her grandmother managed to escape with her to Argentina, where she lived until her Aliya to Israel in 1972. Evelyn, a veterinarian specializing in giving therapy treatment to children and the elderly using animals, told us her unique story on evening of the Holocaust Memorial Day. On the next day, Monday April 16th, Kehila members went together as a group to the main memorial ceremony at Kibbutz Lohamey-Hageta'ot.

Shabbat Mitgaysim (Induction Shabbat)

I had the great privilege to visit Hakrayot Masorti Congregation, when I took office as the new MarCom and public relations coordinator of the Masorti Movement in Israel.

Since I was born in the Krayot, I was very excited to participate in the special ceremony of Kabbalat-Shabbat on the occasion of the new army recruits and the serving soldiers, and





to experience a poetic prayer, psalms, a fine ceremony, and Kiddush together with Rabbi Balter and all the congregants.

The kindness and warmth with which the congregants endowed me, filled me with happiness and positive energies which accompanied me throughout the Shabbat and the week afterwards. I am certain that the new recruits get the same treatment constantly...

I wish them luck and fulfillment during their military service – may they return back home safe and sound.

And to Hakrayot Masorti Congregation – bravo to your great deeds within and outside of your congregation, Yishar-Koach!

Gretty Schweitzer

MarCom & PR Coordinator, The Masorti Movement, Jerusalem

"Renewal of the Love-Commitment" an Evening of Tu-Be'av



10 couples who have been married for over 25 years, have renewed their mutual wedding vows.

In an exciting and romantic ceremony in the synagogue, Rabbi Balter said: "To me, the blessing 'Sameach Te'Samach Re'im Ahuvim' (Let the loving couple be very happy) is the essence of partnership that should always include an element of friendship and companionship, as well as passion and love".



TIKUN OLAM (Social Justice Projects)

"Giving with AHAVA (Love)"

Adoption of AHAVA Children and Youth village

Following an open evening we held at "Ahava" village, where we received in-depth overview of daily life, and learnt about the possibilities of different voluntary activities, our congregants applied for voluntary individual positions, and will start their volunteering activities at the beginning of the coming year, starting in September.

The "Ahava" graduates, who are preparing for their induction into the IDF, were invited to our "Shabbat Mitgaysim" and were presented with a special certificate, a Siddur, and a gift from the Kehila.

An Alternative Dialogue-Christians, Muslims and Jewish women encounter

A non conventional women gathering

Over the last few years, a special relationship



has been created between Rabbi Balter and the director of an Arab kindergarten in Acre, run

by the Acre Women Association. Following this personal relationship, Rabbi Balter initiated the establishment of a congregant-women's group that holds meetings of the kindergarten staff & Kehila members. Since the beginning of January, we had ten meetings, all guided by facilitators from the "Ma'arag" association. The participants were 12 Arab women and 9 Jewish

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DREAMING ABOUT "HOME" – MEMBERS OF OUR BUILDING COMMITTEE SHARE THEIR VISION:

What place will the future "home" take in our kehila life?

Following the building of a "home", how will it change our kehila life?



"The future home will be a central place, not just physically, but also spiritually – a central place in the kehila life; a place to meet where each one of us will find his specific need. It will be a place supplying all required responses for Jewish spiritual – communal life".

"Life will go through a fundamental change: we aim at creating a place which will invite people to arrive; a place close to our heart calling us to come".

Monica Nucher, Architect

"The building of a home for our kehila will significantly strengthen the spiritual experience of Tikun Olam and will focus the widespread activity of the kehila to the benefit of the public in the whole area".

"There's no doubt that such a big and magnificent kehila, is in need of a proper permanent residence. I have no doubt that such a residence will attract new members, who will be exposed in an appropriate manner to the purposes and the achievements of the kehila".

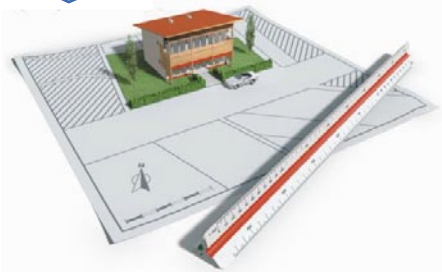
Simon Grimberg, Engineer

"I think that each kehila member will have the feeling of being at home, of holding a tree with strong roots planted deep in the ground. As you enter, a feeling of splendor will envelop you and will create much interest and curiosity. The members will also experience a better feeling during services and activities".



"It will be a genuine central place where all the kehila activities will be held; a meeting place; a place for study & prayer. A building with all these characteristics will make its urban impression on our town and will invite people to enter, to show interest and to take part in the activities".

Jimmy Brawerman, Architect





"I think that the new house will play a significant role in the Kehila life. As 60 years ago the State of Israel became a home for the Jewish community which was until then homeless, in this manner the new house

will serve as a home at the heart of the kehila life and will enable its further development". "This is a dream coming true – building a new permanent home, like every family deserves...It will be a huge change for our kehila life, and without a doubt the most important event since the establishment of the kehila".

Oscar Burdman, CPA (Argentina)



"May the gate to this synagogue be broad enough to absorb all those hungry for love, all those living in loneliness. May the gate of this synagogue be narrow to prevent miserliness, jealousy and hatred from entering. May this synagogue serve, for all those entering, a gate to a more meaningful and rich life".

(From Bar/Bat Mitzvah Booklet, "Emanu-El", Buenos Aires, Argentina)

Eva Cohen, Building Practical-Engineer



Ricardo Elias, International Architect, Guadalajara, Mexico



"For me it will be, first and foremost, a home for prayer". "The major change will be in having more people, as the building will be more attractive for new members".

Maurice Levy, Pensioner of "Zim"



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women; On the Jewish side there are 6 women who have made Aliya from South America in the past few years.

During these meetings we had the opportunity to meet and get to know each other, to listen to personal family stories, as well as to the national narrative that accompanies each side of the group. The encounters with the different stories, the confrontation with the problems, and the thoughts and feelings which arise in the partnership between the women - all contribute to our common quest for peaceful living and a common caring for growth, progress and happiness to all of us as individuals, as women and mothers, and for the entire society.

A unique feeling of an internal solidarity was created thanks to two outdoor-meetings – a picnic and a day-trip that we set up together. We are about to enter the second stage of the program, where we'll choose together either a project or an activity that we intend to accomplish as a group.

Miki Avigur, volunteering coordinator of the group
Hakrayot Masorti Congregation

"Circles"- Women's Leadership Group

A new women's group of leading women in the congregation started to meet every month. These unique meetings include elements of prayer, creative writing, and active learning through a personal and feminine dimension, with emphasis on the development of leadership, and on spiritual growth. The participants work on contents attributed to the Jewish calendar, and the female life-cycles. In addition, they gain leadership skills to help them lead and design educational community programs. The meetings are guided by Dalia Tibon Lagziel, a Rabbinette

student at the Movement for Progressive Judaism.

The Status of Woman in the Society, Community and Family

A special Tribute Evening in honor of Prof. Alice Shalvi



This evening was held with the collaboration of the women's council of Kiryat-Bialik, and attracted dozens of people both from the congregation and from the Krayot district. Professor Shalvi, winner of the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement and Special Contribution to Society and the State of Israel – year 5767 - 2007, gave the keynote lecture titled "Women and their Judaism – a Glance at the Present". Prof. Shalvi also received the "Yakirat Ha'Kehila" award of Hakrayot Masorti Congregation, and an honorary award from the municipality of Kiryat Bialik. Speakers of the evening were Ms. Hilary Levy, chairperson of Hakrayot Masorti Congregation, Rabbi Mauricio Balter, Rabbi of the Congregation, Ms. Anat Ziv, member of the Municipal Council and Chair of the Women's Council, and Mr. Eli Ducorski, Deputy Mayor of Kiryat Bialik.





EDUCATION

Shabbaton (Sabbatical weekend)

for the "TALI-NEURIM" school staff.

Courses:

-Final exhibitions of the children's Arts and Crafts course "Tradition with Fun" (Keif Shel Masoret); and "Recycling Life" – psycho therapy adults art course

-More congregants are now conversant in "Ta'amei Haftara" after successfully completing a 6 session course, guided by Cantor Shai Schwartz.



Visits of Delegations:

- 1/5 Overseas Committee, South Palm Beach Federation
- 14/6 Bnai Torah Congregation, Boca Raton, Florida – Rabbi David Steinhart
- 26/6 Rodef Sholom Temple, Hampton, Virginia - Rabbi Gilah Dror
- 3/7 Beth Shalom Congregation, Columbia, Maryland – Rabbi Susan Grossman

**THIS IS THE TIME TO THANK OUR DONORS
FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE
TO DEVELOP AND PROMOTE
ALL THE PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY OUR
CONGREGATION**

The Masorti Movement in Israel
Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel - New York
American Jewish Committee
Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County
UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey
The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston



SISTER CONGREGATIONS

- Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am – Toronto – Canada
- Beith David – Miami – Florida- USA
- Congregation Beth Yeshurun – Houston – Texas– USA
- Bnai Torah Congregation – Boca Raton- Florida- USA
- Comunidad Bet El – Mexico City - Mexico
- Beth El Synagogue -Esast Windsor- New Jersey- USA
- Beth Tora Aduth Yeshurun Congregation – Miami- Florida- USA
- Temple Bet Sholom – Las Vegas - Nevada-USA
- Congregation Agudath Israel – Caldwell - New Jersey- USA
- Guadalajara Hebrew Congregation – Guadalajara- Mexico
- Midbar Kodesh Temple - Las Vegas - USA
- Congregation Ohev Shalom – Orlando – Florida - USA
- Temple Aliyah – Needham – Massachusetts – USA

CONGREGATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Anonymous
- Kehilat Tzedek - Israel
- Women's League for Conservative Judaism
- Rodef Sholom Temple

COMMUNITY'S FRIENDS

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rabbi Alan Silberstein | Rabbi Philip and Lori Scheim | Wolfman Michele |
| Rabbi David Steinhardt | Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg | Leonard and Dr. Rochel David |
| Rabbi Edwin and Laurie Farber | Gary Charlestein | Myers Judith |
| Rabbi Felipe Goodman | Laila Levitas | Litrownik Naomi |
| Rabbi Hector Epelbaum | Mitchel and Rose Blank | Jacobs and Iris Dan |
| Rabbi Jay Korngold | Shereen Berlin | Damron Leah Bill |
| Rabbi Marcelo Rittner | Salom Berlin | Brent Rene and David |
| Rabbi Mario Rojzman | The Lissy Family | Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Saul |

General Information

Office Address: 41 Weizmann st. Kiryat Bialik
 Telephone: +972-4-8722921 Fax: +972-4-8492754

P.O.B. 5808 - Kiriat Bialik 27157

E-mail: kehila5@bezeqint.net

Web-site: www.masorti-hakrayot.org/

Rabbi Mauricio Balter

E-mail: rabbibalter@gmail.com

