



מִצְוַת תְּרַחֵם - מִצְוַת תְּרַחֵם
TEMPLE BETH HILLEL
 תּוֹרָה • לִיב • קוּמֻנִיטָה

The Shofar



TEMPLE BETH HILLEL, RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA
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by

*Temple Beth Hillel
 P.O.Box 20919, El Sobrante,
 California 94820*

A Message from Rabbi Dean



Recommitment

"Prayer without intention (*kavanah*) is like a body without a soul" Bahya Ibn Pakuda – 11th century

I was talking to a congregant last week. Over a cup of coffee she told me about her struggles with prayer. Although she attends services regularly, she doesn't get the spiritual experience she craves. Believe it or not, I welcomed the question. I wish more people would make the time to sit down with me to talk about their spiritual lives and their experience in synagogue, their dissatisfaction and their trouble.

Prayer is a natural human action. Or I should say that *spontaneous* prayer is. If you don't believe me, just remember the last time you were running late for an appointment and prayed that the light would stay yellow just long enough for you to get through the intersection. And immediately after you ran the red light you prayed that there was no police car nearby. The old joke is that as long as there are exams there will be prayer in schools. On the more positive side, many of us utter a spontaneous prayer of gratitude when we see an awe inspiring view or give thanks when a loved one survives a life-threatening situation.

Our rabbis were suspicious of spontaneous prayer because they considered it to be self-serving and ego-centered (although the word 'ego' hadn't been invented then). They designed Jewish prayer around a set group

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Rabbi: continued from page 1

of prayers (*matbeah* in Hebrew) that are to be recited three times a day. In other words, Jewish prayer is a fixed practice; in Hebrew, *keva*. Thus we recite the same prayers every day with some variations for Shabbat and Holy Days. The goal is to turn our hearts and souls outward toward God. However, our sages also understood that this fixed practice would dull the spirit and the mind if it were not combined with the worshiper's spontaneity or intention, in Hebrew called *kavanah*.

But there are problems. People just coming to Jewish prayer struggle to master the Hebrew language and ancient prayers written in a style that appears not to connect with our world or sensibility. Worshipers who know the service well can fall into a rut where the prayers are recited by rote without any feeling or emotion. This is not a new problem; our sages in the Mishna, 200 CE, wrote about this challenge, as did Bahya Ibn Pakuda in the 11th century.

We experienced this ideal combination of *keva* (the fixed service) with *kavanah* (the intentions we bring to our prayer) recently at the Shabbat service honoring Evelyn Hooker for her dedicated service to our congregation. The structure of the service with its familiar prayers, the *keva*, gave us a vessel which we could fill with our love for Evelyn, our *kavanah*.

It struck me as the congregant and I talked, that this was the right topic for this time of year. We are approaching the Days of Awe: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the days in-between. This is the time when many of us reconnect with Judaism, reconnect with the synagogue and re-evaluate our own lives. Our lives too, are a mixture of *keva*, habits and daily routines, and *kavanah*, the wishes, goals and desires we bring to our life. Without the set routines of work and responsibility, our lives would be chaotic. But without intentions we sleepwalk through life. The High Holy Days are an invitation to set aside our routines for a few days, to stop and look closely at our intentions and to ask ourselves, are we being true to our highest goals and aspirations? It is a chance to bring body and soul together. I am convinced that if we take this opportunity, all of us can find genuine spiritual enrichment and growth. I look forward to seeing you on *Erev Rosh Hashanah*.

Emergency Food Drive Continues — Please remember the hungry — now more than ever

Breakfast cereal and peanut butter remain the foods in highest demand. Let us all continue to make sure that no one in our community goes hungry because they cannot afford to feed themselves and their families.

The Food Pantry also needs money to buy meat and poultry, which we cannot donate because of health laws. If you would like to make a donation please leave it with Arlene in the Temple office. Make your checks payable to the Richmond Emergency Food Pantry.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT BY LAURA TAUB

The time is upon us when we begin the year again. Many people end their vacations. Students return to school. And the High Holy Days provide us with an opportunity for reflection, consideration, and decisions as to how we can change and improve ourselves.

The Board, staff and membership of the Temple have been involved in this process as well. We have been making plans for the coming year, and the Board has spent its Retreat reflecting, considering the feedback we have received from members, and deciding what our priorities for the coming year will be.

Thanks to all of you who responded to our questions. We appreciate the thought that many of you put into telling us what is important to you about the Temple. If you have not yet responded, we are always happy to hear from you. Contact me or any Board member to let us know what you think.

The overwhelming majority of us value the Temple community and its people. Its size; sense of community; warm, friendly, genuine, sincere, caring, and supportive people are all important to us. Members also appreciate our openness to diversity; sense of welcome; child-friendliness; and lack of pretentiousness or pressure.. They saw it as a “home away from home”, a down-to-earth *hamish* place, a community of shared interests. For some, it is important as a Jewish space; a part of their Jewish identity; and a way of marking Jewish time.

It is not easy to create and maintain such a welcoming and supportive community, and all of us can feel pleased and proud that we have been able to accomplish this.

Many also value our clergy and our services. The rituals and their familiarity; the music; the spiritual dimensions; the warmth and sincerity; the joy of worship; the involvement of the congregation; the transmission of Jewish wisdom; and the feelings of being uplifted and at peace were all important. Also mentioned were the the programs for adults and children; the good works we do; and the convenience. But we also have areas of concern. Many cited the need to attract more members and the importance of community outreach. “How to let the world know about this amazing, rewarding institution hidden away in Richmond?” Some were particularly concerned about growing the Religious School. There were many requests for more adult education programs and more social activities. Some were concerned

about finances. There was a desire to have members more involved, both as volunteers and participants.

The Board outlined five general goals for the coming year:

- Increased membership
- More programs (social events and adult education)
- Facility improvements
- Member involvement
- Religious School improvements

We realize many of these goals are inter-related. Increasing membership will help us improve the Religious School, and vice-verse. Increased programming will be more attractive to both new and current members. And more membership involvement will help us do all to these.

We already working in some of these areas. We have hired Howard Cohen as Religious School Administrator and Malka Helfman to teach the oldest students. We will begin a class for children ages 2½ to 4. Howard is working on improving the program in a variety of ways, including involving parents.

We are also increasing our outreach efforts. We have a new Marketing Committee which will co-ordinate publicity for all our programs. Contact them at marketing@tbhrichmond.org three months before your event to get the publicity started. We will again have a booth at the Solano Stroll. We are doing considerable publicity for both the High Holiday services and the Religious School and preschool programs. (Tell everyone you know about them.) And we are actively working on better signage for the building.

So the Board determined that our top two priorities for the coming year will be increasing programming and involving members. While we will continue to work on the other goals, the Board will actively focus on these. To begin with, Doug Freifeld and Jane Durango will be organizing at least three bagel brunches. Dana Meyer and Josh Genser will plan another concert in addition to the Stephen Sondheim program. Jane Durango will arrange an excursion. We will schedule at least three evening events: Marilyn Hertzberg is looking into another movie night; Louise Snitz will plan a food event; and I will arrange another game night for all of you who were on vacation and missed the fun we had in August.

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President: continued from page 3

And as you have heard before, we need you. We hope we are planning programs that will spark your interest. If not, let us know what you would like. Come to our spiritual, educational and social events. Support our members in happy times (Emma Van Hoy's bat mitzvah is October 9.), and in difficult times. (Sign the new supercards in the lobby). Participate in the Special Membership Meeting to discuss the bylaws on October 24.

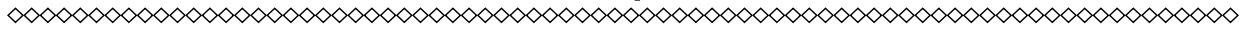
We will be asking you to help. We can't do all this with just a few people. Don't wait for us to call you, call us and let us know what your interests are. Right now you can contact the following to:

- Participate in High Holy Day services – Jane Durango
- Let everyone know about us at the Solano Stroll – Larry Fox
- Help with the Dinner Dance – Dana Meyer
- Sponsor an oneg to celebrate Shabbat – Sheri Tattenham

- Help feed the hungry at the Souper Center – Jane Kaasa
- Help organize our educational and social programs – See above
- Help our members: the Caring Community needs cooks and drivers – Marilyn Hertzberg
- Help enrich our high school students' education by serving on the Midrasha Board – Laura Taub
- Connect us to the larger Jewish community by serving on the Jewish Community Relations Council – Alan Marks

We really appreciate all those who volunteer, and we are looking into additional ways to show our appreciation. Thanks to everyone who gave (and will give) us feedback and to everyone who becomes more involved. It strengthens our community, and it is a way for you to enrich yourself in the coming year.

L'shanah tovah,
Laura Taub



36th Annual



A GLOBAL A-FAIRE

Solano Stroll

SUNDAY, SEPT. 12, 2010 10-6PM
SOUTH ALBANY/BERRIDGE FESTIVAL



Please stop by our booth near the Miyuki Restaurant between Tulare and Ventura Avenues on the north side of Solano Avenue this year. If you would like to volunteer to help staff our booth and have a great time talking about Temple Beth Hillel and/or handing out balloons please contact Larry at larrydafox@hotmail.com or (510) 965-9351. Let's be a part of "A Global A-Faire" to get the word out about how wonderful our TBH community is. See you at the Stroll!



Anniversaries:

Hallie Friedman & Kim Mack	9/1
Geri Stern & Alan Blavins	9/1
Dana Meyer & June Kamerling	9/9
Joel Rosenbaum & Wendy Roth	9/9
Ken & Evelyn Hooker	9/16
Penelope A & Kevin Norman	9/18
Renee Powell & Sam Chen	9/19
Steve & Ellen Seskin	9/21

Mazel Tov

Congratulations to David Katzenellenbogen, grandfather, and Benjamin and Lauren Katzenellenbogen, parents, of the birth of Annabelle Eve Katzenellenbogen, born June 26, 2010.

Welcome New Members

Morris and Beatrice (Bea) Benezra (Returning)

Birthdays

Daniel Goldwyn	9/2	16th birthday
Mary Cohen	9/3	
Marcia Delgadillo	9/3	
Madeleine Breyer-Lipson	9/7	15th birthday
Evelyn Hooker	9/10	
Stefan Feurst	9/12	18th birthday
Isaac Ozer-Bearson	9/13	14th birthday
Bobbi Nadler	9/14	
Beatrice Benezra	9/15	
Sam Chen	9/15	
Tarah Chen	9/16	19th birthday
Douglas Freifeld	9/16	
Jane Durango	9/17	
David Katzenellenbogen	9/17	
Amy Scheinbaum	9/17	
Joseph Chanowitz	9/20	17th birthday
Soluna Razi Delgadillo	9/20	12th birthday
Sid Levy	9/21	
Frank Snitz	9/21	
John Maberry	9/22	
Iliyan Furman-Hudson	9/23	16th birthday
Geri Stern	9/24	
Roberta Mandel	9/29	
Devin Van Hoy	9/30	17th birthday



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

August 11, 2010

Welcome new members:

- Morris and Beatrice (Bea) Benezra, former members, are welcomed back.

Upcoming Events

- We will have a booth at the Solano Stroll, September 12. Contact Larry Fox to volunteer to staff the booth.
- The Sukkot service on September 24 will be an alumni service.
- Dinner Dance, October 2.
- Special Membership Meeting, October 24 to consider bylaw changes.
- Global Day of Jewish Learning, Nov. 7. We will be cosponsoring the program at the East Bay JCC, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Religious School

- Malka Helfman has been hired to teach the oldest Sunday school class and the midweek Hebrew school class.
- Howard Cohen has been hired as Religious School Administrator.
- Parents are encouraged to volunteer to keep the school running smoothly.
- Tell your friends and colleagues about the Religious School.
- Normally there is a parent volunteer clean-up day, but scheduling will be a problem this year, so we will hire someone to clean the Religious School.

Operations

- A questionnaire is being sent to the membership to solicit their feedback. The board encourages everyone to respond.
- Congregants without e-mail sometimes don't hear about last-minute events. In the future, Arlene will mail them congregational notices.

Marketing

- The Marketing Committee is available to help publicize events. They are requesting that anyone organizing an event contact them three months in advance at marketing@tbhrichmond.org.
- We will again be mailing and distributing cards with information about the High Holy Day services. We hope to send them to people who have moved into the area recently.

Programs

- The rabbi is interested in leading a congregational tour of Israel. He will look into costs.



Yahrzeits

May Their Memories Be For A blessing

Anna Bartone	9/1
Louis Haberer, Grandfather of Linda Rose	9/2
Marcy A. Binder, Sister of Fran Welstand	9/4
Herschel Katzenellenbogen, Father of David Katzenellenbogen, Grandfather of Benjamin	9/6
Bessie Varvaro, Mother in Law of Janet Neiderbach	9/6
Freda Caplan, Mother of Judy Windrix	9/7
Stephen Zuckerman, Brother of Ellen Stephens	9/9
Ollie Lisby, Mother of Bob Lisby 9/12	
Robert Schneider, Husband of Priscilla Schneider	9/14
Ethel Schmuckler, Grandmother of Helene Class	9/15
David E. Cohn, beloved Grandfather of Louise Levenson-Snitz	9/16
Louis Zell, Father in Law of Beverly Zell	9/19
Adolph Alexander, Father of Roberta Alexander	9/21
Ida Rashal	9/21
Samuel Gross, Remembered by Irene Morgan	9/22
Estelle Chernoff, Mother of Joel Chernoff	9/23
Dora Fox, Grandmother of Larry Fox	9/23
Cy Levine, Father of Ben Levine 9/23	
Rosetta Schlackman, Mother of Judy Freeman	9/25
Della Menton, Remembered by Irene Morgan	9/26
Harvey Zigman, Cousin of Gordon Raskin	9/26

Tzedakah

*"If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
And if only for myself, what am I?
And if not now, when?"*

General Contributions:

Mary Frankel, in honor of Eva Genirberg's Birthday
Maggie Jacobs & Robert Woznicki,
Neil & Roxann Zarchin, in memory of Julius Zarchin

Dues Relief:

Josh & Elaina Genser,
Miriam Gerber, in memory of Jacob Sondheimer
Maggie Jacobs & Robert Woznicki,
William Weiss, in memory of Harry Gabin
Sanford & Helene Wichner, in memory of Gary Hale

Building Maintenance:

Clara-Rae Genser, in memory of Jack Goldberg

Tzedakah-Tikkun Olam;

Henry & Eva Linker, in memory of Ilsa Feiger

Kitchen Fund:

Lynda & Ben Cohen-Curtis, in memory of Tillie Cohen

Cantor's Discretionary Fund:

Rose Fox, in memory of Lily Magaril & Israel M.
Schneiweiss

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Eva Kertesz, in memory of Imre Kertesz
Henry & Eva Linker, in memory of Frederick Straus
Henry & Eva Linker, in memory of Louis Linker



*Celebrate with us
The joyous occasion of the
Bat Mitzvah of our daughter*

Emma Jo

*Saturday, the ninth of October
At ten o'clock in the morning
Two-Thousand and Ten
Temple Beth Hillel
801 Park Central, Richmond CA*

Dave and Renee Van Hoy

*Luncheon and party to follow
Please let us know if you will be able
to join us at the luncheon and party*

510-223-7499

rvanhoy@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Are you looking for services? Housing? Employment? Or do you have these available?

Do you have something to buy, sell, rent, exchange?

This is your space to contact members of our community. Please send your notices to Louise Levinson-Snitz

New home needed for 1999 HP Scanner 3200C. Connects via parallel port. Won't work with Windows 7 or Vista as HP has not provided drivers. I previously used it successfully with XP and Windows 2000. Free. If interested, send e-mail to: brweid@yahoo.com.



Start your child's Jewish
Education early
at
Temple Beth Hillel

Free Religious School Toddlers Class
2.5 – 4 years of age
begins
Sunday, September 26, 2010
10:00-11:00 a.m.

- *September 2010 – May 2011, a Free once a month Toddlers Class*
- *Introduction to Basic Jewish Concepts, Music, Holidays*
- *A Warm, Supportive Environment with Experienced Teachers*

Interested? Pre-register your *Toddler* Now!

Call Arlene Lisby, Temple Office Manager:

510-223-2560 or email tbh@aol.com

Looking for a Synagogue? Located in West Contra Costa, **Temple Beth Hillel** is a diverse, welcoming Reform Synagogue where the entire family can feel at home while learning about Judaism: Celebrate Shabbat and Holidays. Participate in Talmud Study, Adult Education and B'nai Mitzvah classes. Attend K-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Religious School.

**Become a Member! The Temple Beth Hillel
Community Welcomes You!**

TEMPLE BETH HILLEL

801 Park Central, Richmond, CA 94803
Hilltop Mall Exit off I 80
10 minutes north of Berkeley
510-223-2560
www.tbhrichmond.org



Shoah Memories (Part 2) by Sam Genirberg

I walked the whole day and half the night. I reached the village of Strakloff near the railroad station of Drubno on my way home from the woods. I was hungry and tired. I walked up to the yard of my colleague who lived in the village, with whom I had worked at the German Military Oil base for a year and a half. I stretched out on the ground beyond a well to sleep without being detected. Early the next morning my "friend" woke me up to tell me that if I didn't leave immediately he would call the police. The same man also owed me money for some items that he had bought from me.

I left immediately as told. I didn't want to be seen on the street during daylight so I sneaked into an old lime storage warehouse in the village to hide from the outside world. The stench of lime was overwhelming. I was tired, hungry and afraid. The questions, why am I hiding here? Why do they want to kill us? were going through my mind and gnawing on my soul.

I still keep asking the same questions without getting a satisfying response.

I remained in the shack until dusk. Before going to the railroad station I stopped at another of my contacts in the village. I was very hungry. The Ukrainian woman pulled me in to her house to get me off the street as soon as she saw me. She put her arms around me, crying, and wished me good luck. She also gave me half a loaf of bread and a chunk of salami. I was very grateful to her. I was hoping to meet her at the war's end. It didn't happen.

My next stop was the railroad station. I climbed up on a freight train heading east and hid in the conductor's booth. Before long, a Polish man at the station noticed me.

"You are a Jew and a Christ killer." he said to me in an angry tone and walked away. I changed my hiding place immediately, hoping for the train to move on. It did. I was on my way out of my home town where I grew up,

where my now departed parents raised me. I was on a trip to somewhere and to nowhere.

The first train stop was at a city called Berdichev. Berdichev had a dominant Jewish population before the war with Yiddish schools and a Yiddish speaking radio station etc. I took the liberty to walk through the town. All the former Jewish homes were empty. Doors and windows were demolished. I didn't find a single Jewish person alive. A five hundred year old Yiddish culture exterminated.

My next stop was Zhitomir. The same pattern was repeated. Zhitomir had at least 30,000 Jewish inhabitants before Germany invaded the USSR. While at the station in Zhitomir, I was solicited to join the Ukrainian Police Department. "A good future for a young upcoming young man like you, Andrey," the man said.

My next part of the journey was a train ride to Winnitza. On this trip, I was surprised by a police inspection of documents on the train, ostensibly looking for Jews. I didn't want those Ukrainian police hooligans to look over my forged documents so I kept moving from one group of passengers to another to avoid inspection. This is one of many incidents where I came close to being discovered.

After my arrival in Winnitza I began to look for housing and a job under my new name, Andrey Tag, born in 1926 of Kamienietz, Podolk, somewhere in Ukraine.

I found both. An elderly Ukrainian woman offered me a room in her house for a monthly fee, including help to provide her coal for the winter. I also found work at a leather shop.

To be continued

Temple Beth Hillel – 5771 - 2010

Dear Friends of Temple Beth Hillel,

Below is the synagogue's **High Holy Days 2010 Schedule and Reservation Form**. Please read it carefully, complete the form, and return it with payment to Temple Beth Hillel no later than September 1, 2010.

The Officers and Board of Directors of our Congregation invite you to join us for High Holy Days Services. Wishing you and your family *L'Shana Tova*. *Laura Taub*, Temple President

High Holy Days Schedule begins with SELICHOT - Service/Oneg - Saturday, September 04 - 10:00 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH

Evening Services	Wednesday	September 08	7:30 p.m.
Morning Services	Thursday	September 09	10:00 a.m.
Tashlich*	Thursday	September 09	2:00 p.m.
* Time is approximate (at Miller-Knox Park)			
Holiday Get-Together	Thursday	September 09	3:30 p.m.
at the home of Josh & Elaina Genser: 5222 Barrett Avenue, Richmond			

YOM KIPPUR

Kol Nidre	Friday	September 17	7:30 p.m.
Morning Service	Saturday	September 18	10:00 a.m.
Service for Families with Young Children with Cantor Howard Cohen			1:00 p.m.
Study Schmooze Snooze			2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Afternoon Service			4:30 p.m.
Yizkor Service			5:30 p.m.
Neilah Service			6:00 p.m.

TBH members will receive their reservation from in a separate mailing.

Name(s) _____

Young Adult/Student Rate (18 - 24 years)	\$18.00
First Time Visitor - Individual/Family	\$75.00
Non Member - Individual	\$270.00
Non Member - Family	\$475.00
Donation towards Bimah Flowers \$	
In Memory/Honor (circle one) of _____,	
• Other Donation-Please specify:	
•	
Total Amount Due	

***If you join TBH before December 31, 2010, the difference between Non-member & Member rates will be applied towards your dues. Childcare for young children will be provided (donations appreciate)

Temple Beth Hillel – 801 Park Central, Richmond, CA 94803 – (510) 223-2560



Book Lover

By Roberta Alexander

It turns out that book reviewing has been full of life lessons. Who knew?

I've been reviewing books for more than 15 years. When I started, I had no idea I was doing anything other than equalizing the playing field a bit for female mystery writers. I had noticed that many of the authors whose works I enjoyed never got much publicity. Newspapers, including the one I worked at, routinely ran reviews provided by the wire services and the books were always by male authors. I was not interested in male bashing; I liked many of those male authors myself. But they weren't all that was out there and I wondered why the media coverage didn't reflect that. In addition, only hard-cover books were reviewed. Like many fans, I tended to buy paperbacks for myself because they were light and cheap.

So one day I said to the book editor, "How come we don't run reviews by female mystery writers?"

"I don't know," she said. "Why don't you do it?"

And there was my first lesson: You never know what can happen when you open your big mouth.

The column we created, "It's a Mystery," ran monthly and generally included five books. I announced it would focus on books by women, new authors and local authors. And I have mostly stuck to that, although as the space has shrunk, so has the number of books I can cover.

The other rule I came to early in the process was the decision not to write negative reviews. I agonized over this, since it meant passing up the pleasure of using wit and sarcasm to demolish some deserving tripe. But the space limitations were real, and have only become tighter. I decided it was better to use the space to alert readers to someone new or interesting or funny.

And somehow in the process I got the idea that the more I dwell on the negative, the less psychic space I have for the positive. It hasn't turned me into Little Mary Sunshine by any means, but these days I acknowledge that the glass might—possibly—be half full.

Meanwhile, I discovered what happens when you have too much of a good thing; books were everywhere. If I didn't prune regularly and ruthlessly, the books chuckled and overran the shelves. And there was another lesson; it is easier to stay on top of something than to clean up later. It is a lesson I still struggle with when it comes to housework. Sorting through the books also meant acknowledging my preferences, or perhaps you'd call them biases.

For example, I never review any book in which the animals talk. Yes, I know some of these series are wildly popular, but I don't care.

I broke my own rule once when confronted with a delightful story peopled, as it were, entirely by sheep. But the rule holds: if pets are talking, I'm outta there.

I don't much like medical thrillers, in which an evildoer wants to poison the population with some sort of chemical. And I don't read many stories set during World War II, probably because I grew up among elderly women who had numbers tattooed on their arms and have a kind of survivor's guilt that makes me unable to enjoy fiction set in this period.

Nor am I very fond of books in which real people are conscripted as detectives. Most of the ones I've read have been less than satisfying, perhaps because the author is restricted to known facts about the protagonist and the story must be bent to fit.

I'm not interested in grafting vampire or ghost stories onto a mystery, either. I know they're popular but I still don't like them.

What this all means leads me to another realization: you can't please everyone. This was not that hard for me to accept, as I have long had a contrarian spirit. And you can't be a critic without accepting that some people will disagree with you.

I discovered when I was a reporter that the most innocuous story sometimes excited reader passion. After being accused of favoring one side or another of an issue about which I had no opinion, I saw that no matter what I did, somebody might not like it.

But then, journalism isn't a good professional choice for someone who wants to be liked by all.

It's not a good profession either for somebody who wants job security and a good income, but that's another story.

The one area that I have been unable to reconcile is the need to give short shrift to books that represent a year or more of someone's life. It is not fair to the writer to reject a book after 15 seconds' perusal, and yet I don't know what else to do.

Book reviewing is a small part of my professional life and the worst compensated. I don't have two hours to go through a stack of books, reading a few chapters of each before deciding whether to review it.

One of the hardest lessons we learn as children is that life isn't fair. What's worse is acknowledging that now I am part of the problem.

Midrasha in Berkeley

Diane Bernbaum

I love this time of the year when I'm always filled with anticipation for the start of the school year. I know I've hired great staff. I know they're teaching creative and innovative classes. I know that we have eager, exuberant students enrolled. Now all that remains is to see the chemistry created between them all. Which students will get turned on by which classes? Which teachers will come into the office, stunned by the wisdom of their students in class that morning? It's all a story waiting to be written.

There is so much to look forward to this year. We will be holding our retreats at Walker Creek Ranch, a site we have used in the past and one with ample space to accommodate our second big change – all grades will be on the retreats together and everyone will feel like a member of a large Midrasha community. We'll have the opportunity to group students in different ways, sometimes just with students from their own grade and sometimes with another grade or two and sometimes with the entire community. And since all students will be together on retreats and there will be no Midrasha classes those weekends, I get to go along on the retreats, something I haven't done for years.

Our faculty remains the heart of what makes Midrasha so great. This year we have three new teachers. Aaron Levi recently moved to the Bay Area. He's been director of a Habonim camp, a guide in Israel and a journalist. He'll be teaching classes in Israel and Advanced Hebrew. Both of our other new teachers are Midrasha grads. Josh Weisman, Midrasha Class of 1997, has worked as an organizer for nine years, training youth, parents, congregational leaders, rabbis and pastors to create social change. He'll be teaching classes in Jewish spirituality and thought and in ecology and the Bible. (How's this for a title: Singing Trees, Melting Mountains, Whirling Oaks) Beth Midanik-Blum, Midrasha Class of 2005, just graduated from the University of Washington. She will be teaching a class in Anita Diamont's The Red Tent and classes in relationships and sexuality and on being Jewish in a multicultural world. Of course,

most of our old faculty are returning, and they will be teaching classes with titles like "Hunting Eichmann," "Art meditation: Shiviti Mandalas," Experiment 2010: Live the Life You've Imagined," "Pop-Jewy: Music to the Jewish Ear," "Yoga: Shmirat Ha-Guf – Protecting the Body", and an art class called "Jewish Genes/ Jewish Jeans among others." And of course we have classes in Talmud, Hebrew and Tanach text study and Abraham's Vision, our inter-group Muslim and Jewish conflict transformation program will be continuing, now in its third year.

New students and parents come on Thursday, September 2 at 7:30 p.m.. Students will have a chance to meet each other, see old friends, and get a taste of what the year will be like. Parents will get to meet with me and get all their questions answered. Midrasha's Sunday classes begin on September 12 at 9:30 a.m. and our Monday afternoon Tanach Study Group with David Henkin, Midrasha's gem for students who love to delve into the Bible, will begin on Monday, September 13 at 4:15 p.m. at Beth Israel. Everything else will take place at Beth El.

I wish all of you a Shana Tova U'Metukah, a year that is sweet and good, filled with everything you wish for.

Temple Beth Hillel invites you to

Rock the House, a Dinner Dance
Saturday, October 2, 2010, 7:00 p.m.



Dance to the music of
Sandy and the Rockefeller's playing sounds
from the 70's and beyond

Enjoy a festive dinner with
wine and dessert

Celebrate the warmth of the evening with
good friends and new acquaintances.



Temple Beth Hillel
801 Park Central
Richmond, CA 94803
510-223-2560, www.tbhrichmond.org

Participate in Temple Beth Hillel's fundraiser.
Make your tax-deductible donation: \$40 in advance | \$45 at the door.



For *Rock the House* Reservations, please
Call (510) 223-2560
E-mail tbhrichmond@hotmail.com or
Mail your response to Temple Beth Hillel
P.O. Box 20910
El Sobrante, CA 94820

September 2010

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																										
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October 2010

Monthly Planner

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31 <u>Halloween</u> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> Religious School 9:30AM </div>																																																																																																								



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September 2010
Elul 5770-Tishrei 5771

L'SHANA TOVA

THE SHOFAR STAFF WISHES ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY AND A HEALTHY
 NEW YEAR

High Holy Day Schedule

SELICHOT

Service/Oneg	Saturday	September 04	10:00 PM
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ROSH HASHANAH

Evening services	Wednesday	September 08	7:30 PM
Morning Services	Thursday	September 09	10:00 AM
Tashlich*	Thursday	September 09	2:00 PM

* Time is approximate (at Miller-Knox Park)

Holiday Get-Together at Josh & Elaina Genser's Home	Thursday	September 09	3:30 PM
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YOM KIPPUR

Kol Nidre	Friday	September 17	7:30 PM
Morning Service	Saturday	September 18	10:00 AM
Young children Service will follow Morning service with Cantor Cohen approximately			1:00 PM
Study/ schm/snooze			2:30 – 3:30 PM
Afternoon Service			4:30 PM
Yizkor Service			5:30 PM
Break Fast Potluck Follows			

