

Yes, You Heard It Through



THE GRAPEVINE

A Publication of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah

June 2010

Sivan/Tammuz 5770



Beit Sefer teens visit a Rabbit Sanctuary!

Photo credit: Mark Schneyer

Musical Shabbaton June 25-26th

Aura Ahuvia

We hope you're in town on June 25 – 26, when our Havurah welcomes the music/storytelling duo David Lefkovich and Debbie Gilbert. David and Debbie hail from Darchei Noam

Reconstructionist Congregation in Toronto, where they have been active in the educational and cultural life of the Reconstructionist community. David is an accomplished guitarist, songwriter, and singer, and has served as a shaliach tzibbur (lay leader) for nearly 20 years. Debbie is also an accomplished story teller and educator of many years.

Several special services and events are planned for the Shabbaton. On Friday, June 25, the Havurah will hold an extra musical Kabbalat Shabbat service starting as usual at 6:15 pm, followed by a dairy/vegetarian potluck at approximately 7:30 pm. For those who wish, you may opt to pre-pay for dinner, at the rate of \$10/adult, \$4/age 12 & under, as an alternative to bringing food to the potluck.

On Saturday, June 26, services will begin with almost non-stop music at 10:00 am, with a lengthy discussion of the parsha plus a story during the Torah service. There will be a vegetarian/dairy luncheon at approximately 12:30 pm., followed at about 1:15 pm. with a special learning session, entitled "Songs of the Siddur," during which alternative or newer melodies to common prayers will be taught. As with the night before, you may choose to either bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch, or pre-pay the same amount, \$10/adult, \$4/age 12 & under, to help pay for your contribution to the meal.

The evening program opens at 8:00 pm with a story by Debbie Gilbert and mini-concert by David Lefkovich, followed by Havdallah and a kumsitz, or community sing-along. Lyrics will be projected on the wall, and attendees will be able to call out the names of the songs they would like to sing. This event is free. Feel free to bring a dessert or fruit to share, if you wish. RSVPs for any of the weekend's events would be appreciated, so that the correct quantity of chairs and food can be arranged. All programming is scheduled to take place at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. You can download the RSVP form from our website, www.aarecon.org, or simply contact Jennifer Cohen, 975-6527 or mamacohen@comcast.net, or Aura Ahuvia, 975-9045 or Aura613@gmail.com.



Enrollment Open for September

If you know anyone who might be interested, tell them that enrollment for the Reconstructionist Sunday School Beit Sefer will be open all summer. School begins mid-September. In addition, two special events in August will provide prospective families an opportunity to informally check out the Reconstructionist Havurah, and find out whether or not the school might be a good fit for them.

The first event is a potluck picnic and bonfire in August, most likely at Bandemeer Park, on the north side of the city. (It is the only park in Ann Arbor that allows bonfires.) The Beit Sefer director and teachers are expected to be on hand to greet families, and answer questions about the school. Details about this event will be posted to the Havurah's website later this summer.

The second event is the "Bring-A-Friend" Kabbalat Shabbat Service on Friday, August 27. On that evening, newcomers and prospective Havurah members are invited to attend services and a dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner afterwards, hosted by current Havurah members. Many Beit Sefer families will be in attendance. These services are musical in nature, and include the playing of instruments. Services begin at 6:15 pm, and the potluck begins at approximately 7:30 pm. No RSVP is necessary. To learn more about either event contact Aura Ahuvia, student rabbi and Beit Sefer director, at 975-9045 or Aura613@gmail.com, or check the Havurah's website at www.aarecon.org.



Several Beit Sefer families got together to make Hamantaschen last February

Photo credit: Carol Lessure

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Mark Schneyer, Board Secretary

On May 5th The Board met with Aura and Jen to discuss progress on our 2010 goals and ideas for the upcoming months.

A big focus for us this year will be better structuring opportunities for members to volunteer and participate in strengthening our community. As part of that we will be sending members a list of specific volunteer roles helping with events and services, participating in aid to our own members as part of the mitzvah corps and building the larger community as part of our Tikkun Olam activities. This list will be sent out as part of the Membership/High Holidays packet in July.

The Board believes there have been many positive impacts to Jen and Aura's new roles this past year and that we're in a good place to build on that this next year.

Attendance at Recon Salon (2nd Saturday evening topical discussions) has been sparse and the last couple planned occurrences have been canceled. We are discussing other ideas for adult conversation/education to try this year. A potential time/place for this is Sunday morning during Beit Sefer; more to come on this.

We have made progress this year identifying potential new members who attend Havurah

events, following up with them and more formally and publicly welcoming new members. We plan to continue and strengthen these as a successful way of building membership.

Kudos to:

- Debbie Zivan for helping facilitate Shavuot so well, plus to Nathan, Elliot Ginsburg, Danny, Marcy, and Aura for teaching on Shavuot,
- Nathan for helping to lead the Second night seder,
- Joel for organizing a wine tasting activity at the seder
- Joel for setting up a way for people interested in contacting the Havurah to leave voicemails that get forwarded for followup
- Marcy for creating and printing new Havurah stationery.

Save the Date! Isaac Shore's Bar Mitzvah is August 21st!



*A bunny at the Rabbit Sanctuary
Photo credit: Mark Schneyer*



*Another creature at the Rabbit Sanctuary
Photo credit: Mark Schneyer*

Beit Sefer Students Visit a Rabbit Sanctuary

On Sunday, May 2, both the Teen Group and Brian's Gedolim class went on a field trip to the Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary. Here is a description of what they did below, as told by their teacher Brian Duchemin, who works there.

“Today the G'dolim class took a field trip to the Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary in Willis, MI. Students received a tour and explanation of what the organization does and got to meet some of the animal residents. We then spent some time helping out around the sanctuary. Some students cleaned up after the rabbits, others cleaned up after the pigs, and one group helped clear out an empty yard where a group of rabbits used to live. Students worked very diligently and we were able to get a lot done in a short amount of time. We ended our trip by spending some time feeding and interacting with the potbellied pigs. Everyone had a great time and observed one way of putting the Mitzvah (commandment) that we studied last week, showing compassion towards animals, into practice. Thank you to the parents that were able to join us, provide transportation, and chaperone the trip.”

Error in Last Grapevine

The Grapevine erroneously printed a thank you to Sally Fink and Steve Josephson for their donation in memory of Susan Lehotsky (their cousin.) Susan Lehotsky is Keith Kurz's cousin. Apologies to Sally, Steve and Keith and condolences to the Kurz family.



Letter from Beverly Warshai

The intent of this letter is to share some info about the Torah reading table and the table covering that has been used by th hav for torah service. Let me start with some background. When we started attending the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah we were similar to several other families in that we held dual membership in another congregation at the same time. In our case we belonged to T'chiya the Reconstructionist congregation in Detroit. There were other families that held dual memberships with TBE and Beth Israel. All of these other congregations, including T'chiya, had structures in place for B'nai Mitzvah. A year before Gal's Bat Mitzvah our family made the decision to follow T'chiya's format but to have the service jointly between the two congregations, and to do it out here in the Ann Arbor with the Havurah where we were members. That meant a tremendous amount of work especially since the Havurah had never even held a Shabbat morning service, let alone a Bat Mitzvah.

Amongst the first things needed were items to facilitate the structure for a Torah service. Alan Haber was consigned by the Havurah to build an Ark. A Torah scroll was loaned to us from a Reconstructionist congregation in Chicago that had merged with another and therefore had an inordinate number of scrolls. Yuval Warshai and Harry Fried went there to receive it and bring it back to Ann Arbor. For a reading table we brought my father's drafting table out to Ann

Arbor. As for a cloth covering over it, we used a large piece of woolen fabric that my mother still had which had been from her grandfather, who was an immigrant tailor from Europe. My mother carefully and lovingly sewed golden trim along the edges to help make it look the part. These items, needless to say, added a very special meaning to Gal's bat mitzvah, having things from her grandparents and great great grandparents as part of the supports for her to read Torah.

These items have been enjoyed by others in the Havurah for many years since and we are proud to have helped initiate the Torah service. While I was teaching and helping to establish the Beit Sefer I enjoyed sharing these items with the families and students I taught, relaying the story behind them as a concrete way of connecting the kids with the generations that came before us. The last set of students I taught- Eli, Lilly, and Anna became b'nai mitzvot last summer. With the culmination of that I decided to bring the table and cloth back to our family's home. I am confident that the congregation will be able to obtain another table, one which will hopefully be much more portable and lightweight, as anyone who has helped shlep it over the years to various Havurah observances would probably agree is a good idea. Also, then someone can commission a suitable cloth covering for it too.

As our children have grown up and graduated college our family has moved in other directions. I have written this article being sure that the congregation will understand how these items are very precious to our family and why I would like to keep them close.

Editor's note: A very large thanks to the Warshai family for sharing these family treasures with us for many years.



COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Advocating for the Homeless

Thursday, May 13, 6:00 pm- Advocacy 101 Seminar for People of Faith, with State Rep. Rebekah Warren: Sponsored by the Social Justice Team of Northside Presbyterian Church, in partnership with SOS Community Services. This Seminar is meant to be a “kick start” for those of us who want to learn about how we might more effectively advocate for the homeless. Rep. Warren will discuss effective ways to network and contact government officials so they will listen. At the conclusion of the seminar it is hoped that attendees will consider supporting one of several possible advocacy efforts. Location: SOS Administration Office at 101 S. Huron in Ypsilanti. RSVP's requested by May 6 to: Chelsea Clark, SOS Community Relations Coordinator, at (734) 484-9900 or chelseac@soscs.org.

Unite with people of faith and conscience across the country at the US Social Forum

June 22-26th – U.S. Social Forum in Detroit – ICPJ wants to support you in getting to the U.S. Social Forum in Detroit! This is a once-in-a-lifetime, right-in-our-own-backyard kind of event. The USSF will convene social movements from across the United States and globally. Strengthen your ties with other faith communities and organizations doing similar work; learn about improving social conditions from our community to Detroit to New York to California; enhance your congregations work on current social issues. The USSF will take place at Cobo Hall and Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit. Read more about this very exciting effort at <http://www.ussf2010.org/>. Email gracek@icpj.net to get your congregations signed up to be a part of this exciting grassroots movement for peace and justice!

SEEDLINGS AND THANKS

Thanks to Jayne Harary for her donation to the Havurah in memory of Susan Lehotsky (Keith Kurz's cousin.)

Thanks to Aura and Aaron Ahuvia for their donation to the Havurah in memory of Edwin Feinberg.



Hamantaschen making! Photo credit: Carol Lessure



June 2010

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1	2	3	4	5 Learners Service 10 am-12 noon
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Dayenu Meditation Group 2 pm Location: TBA
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Shabbat Services 6 pm	26 Special Service with David Lefkovich 10 am-12:30 pm Morning services 1:15 pm Special Siddur song learning 8 pm evening program RSVP Jen or Aura
27	28	29	30			

July 2010

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Dayenu Meditation Group 2 pm Location: TBA
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Shabbat Services 6 pm	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE JCC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.



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Progressive Jewish Giving Fund Donation Form

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write your check out to the **Jewish Community Foundation**,
in the "memo" line, write: "**Progressive Jewish Giving Fund**"
include this coupon with your check

Send your check to the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, PO Box 7451, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.
We will log it in and send it on to the Jewish Community Foundation.

Your contribution is tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt from the Jewish Community Foundation.

Thank you very much for your contribution!