

Yes, You Heard It Through



THE GRAPEVINE

A Publication of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah

May 2008

Nissan/Iyar 5768



Harry Fried with guitar at last month's JRF Midwest Shabbaton. Photo credit: Benjy Ben Baruch

UPCOMING EVENTS

Second Friday Services May 9

This month the second Friday services will be in honor of Jonathan Saltzman on Friday, May 9. We will be watching a film which is a Romeo and Juliet story set in the Middle East. A discussion led by Aaron Ahuvia and a Middle Eastern dinner will follow. The Newell Saltzman family is supplying dinner so please RSVP Audrey so she can judge how much food to bring. Email her at newell@med.umich.edu.

Bar Mitzvah of Jonathan Saltzman May 10

Please join us for services Saturday, May 10 for Jonathan Saltzman's bar mitzvah. Services will begin at 10 am at the JCC.

From Here to Sinai: a Shavuot Expedition

Marcy Epstein is planning an "incredibly enjoyable and strangely inexpensive" Shavuot celebration for singles and families. She plans an overnight expedition that combines the commemoration of our famed journey to Sinai to receive the Torah with the physical/spiritual experiences that come with late spring in Michigan. So mark your calendars! What is in the works would begin Saturday, June 7, with services at the JCC. We hope to form a "wandering caravan" of folks and gear to an unknown (safe and pretty) location. The day would include hikes, games, and discussion of the Ten Commandments, Cohanim, and 613 mitzvot. We're keeping this simple: no one will be asked to cough up earrings and watches for the golden calf. We'll arrange dinner and then enjoy an evening of singing by the fire. In the morning, we'll try for outdoor yoga, followed by delicious homemade blintzes. Imagine the envy of our forebears-- they never had Jen Cohen to call! Call Marcy with ideas and help, 665- 5540.





Lia on her deck. Photo credit: Steve Merritt

A Fond Farewell from Lia Wiss

Dear Chevre,

I want to thank the many people who have offered their time, energy and love to make the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah the vital, supportive community it has become over the years. As one of the original Board members for this group, I have watched the Havurah grow from a fledgling group of committed individuals to a dedicated community working to instill authentic Jewish values and opportunities for expanding their own spirituality. I am so grateful for the support I have received from this group, as well as the many wonderful friendships I have made along the way. As I make my way to my new home in Las Cruces, New Mexico in May I want to wish you all the best of luck for the continued growth of this wonderful community. May your mitzvahs continue to bless those you serve for years to come.

Fondly,
Lia

Hav Bulletin Board

Crib Needs a Home

Stefanie Siegmund has a high quality baby crib that needs a home. Please contact Stefanie at siegmund@umich.edu if you are interested in it or know someone who is.

Donated Goods Needed

Cleaning out your cupboards and closets? Please consider donating nonperishable food items to Jewish Family Services, to restock our own food pantry. We also are in need of beds, other furniture and household items, gas and phone cards, etc. Contact Jewish Family Services at 769-0209 for drop off information.

Wanted: Your Participation on www.aarecon.org

The Havurah has a beautiful new web site and now we need you to register on it. To do this is easy!

Click **Register on the Site** under **Get Involved** in the left column, and follow the online instructions. You don't need to be a Havurah member to register and participate. Then you'll receive a confirmation email. Click on the "Activation Link" in it and if you're a Havurah member, the Webmaven will authorize access to the Member areas of the web site. If you want to become a Havurah member you can download a membership form from the site too!



Who is this? This is Beth, a Reconstructionist from Cleveland who some of us met at the Midwest JRF Shabbaton last month. Photo credit: Benjy Ben Baruch

Beginner's Mind at the Midwest Regional Shabbaton

Allison Kelaher Young

Having not been born Jewish and being a relative newcomer to the traditions and practices of Judaism, particularly those of Reconstructionist Judaism, I have the distinction of having what we refer to in the martial arts as “beginner’s mind.” Saotome sensei (1993, 134) writes “A mind that is filled with opinion and prejudice has no room for the truths of the universe...If your ears are always filled with the sound of your own voice, you cannot hear the rich harmonies of God.” It is with this perspective that I attended the JRF Midwest Retreat the weekend of April 11-13. For me, there was a lot to learn.

After a lovely Saturday morning service led by Rabbi Steve, I had an opportunity to participate in a Jewish Nature walk with Rabbi Renée. It was cold and a little rainy, but a hearty passel of folks walked around the Butzel Center. Rabbi Renée encouraged us to see the beginnings of new growth and to attend to different aspects of nature by saying special blessings, such as “Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha’olam, oseh ma’asei v’reishit.” I learned that when we bring out attention to something, we also bring intention. By taking the time to notice and bless the beauty of nature, we can see our lives as part of a bigger whole. We can become part of the universe around us.

We came back to join in a discussion of “eco-kashrut” led by Beth from Cleveland. This discussion helped me to think about both my own food practices as well as the more traditional ideas of kashrut. It was really helpful to compare notes with others on their own “kashrut” and to think that we could develop our own mindfulness practices around food. Again, the idea that Judaism can help us think about and perhaps behave in ways that put us in balance with the world around us was a key theme for me.

Saturday evening, we all reconvened for some spectacular entertainment (go klezmer!) and havdalah. For me, though, the highlight of the weekend was to begin at ten o’clock, when I sang with Aura, Leora, Beth, Barb, Nancy and several other folks who joined us over the time we sang. I’ve always loved singing, but there is something about singing in harmony that helps me to feel more interdependent with the world around me. There is nothing more fulfilling to me than co-creating a vibration that needs all the voices to exist.

I am grateful for the opportunity to attend this delightful weekend, to spend time with such a welcoming community. It was nice to spend time among families and new friends, and most especially, to be considered with Marcy as a family. This was the biggest blessing of all. I appreciate the warmth and interest of all the folks at the Shabbaton. Many thanks for a wonderful weekend.

Saotome, M. 1993. Aikido and the harmony of nature. Boston: Shambhala Press



Enjoying Services at the Shabbaton. Photo credit: Benjy Ben Baruch

FROM THE JRF

Tikkun JRF Teen-Parent Week of Service

Rabbi Shawn Zevit, JRF

The JRF Departments of Tikkun Olam and Camp JRF, offer a unique service learning opportunity available for the second year in a row for families of JRF communities.

When: August 10-15

Where: Camp JRF in South Sterling, PA.

Post-B'nai Mitzvah teens and their parents are invited to share a week working together to make a difference. Space is limited! Enrollment is currently open for 20-30 adult and teen pairs, post-B'nai Mitzvah ages 13+ (teams may include one or two parents).

The registration form and more information can be downloaded from: <http://www.jrf.org/tikkun-JRF>

<http://jrf.org/files/TikkunOlamcommunityworkweekflyer.pdf>

You will live for a week in active, participatory community, connecting to local communities and providing much needed support and building work. We welcome your diverse skills and talents, including: carpentry, painting, meal planning, photography, team playing. Worker bees, educators, musicians and all others are welcome!

To learn more, contact Eve Maslin at (215) 885-5601 or e-mail emaslin@jrf.org. For project information, contact Clifford Goldsmith at (617) 965-7323 or e-mail clifgold@hotmail.com

In addition JRF is also having a Tikkun Olam call, where you can find out more about projects like this. Cliff Goldsmith will be one of the presenters:

Living our Values of Tikkun Olam Inside and Outside: Processes and Programs in our Congregations; Taking Action in the Larger World

May 14, 12:00 - 1:30 pm EDT, click on <http://www.jrf.org/PEARL> to register.

This call will explore best practices for creating committees and buy-in for effective social justice work in our congregations, including integrated youth and adult education and Tikkun programming, as well as service-learning, decision-making and advocacy outside our communities.



What are the Institutions of the Reconstructionist Movement?

By the JRF

The Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) Founded in 1955, the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation is the rapidly growing synagogue arm of the Reconstructionist movement, serving more than 100 congregations and havurot spread across North America. A voice of Reconstructionist Judaism in the greater Jewish world, JRF provides a wide array of services to its affiliates. National and regional offices offer consultation on all key areas of congregational life, including youth and adult education, leadership development, outreach and community-building initiatives, fundraising, and budgeting as well as musical, liturgical and other resources. A broad selection of books of contemporary Jewish interest are published by the Reconstructionist Press, including the lively periodical *Reconstructionism Today*, the six-volume prayerbook series *Kol Haneshamah*, a Passover Haggadah and CD, educational materials, musical recordings keyed to the liturgy, and related materials.

The number of affiliated congregations and havurot of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation is increasing at a pace that makes it the fastest growing liberal Jewish movement in North America. People experience Reconstructionist congregations as open, inclusive, and egalitarian, both in principle and in practice. JRF-affiliated communities are autonomous, progressive and democratic.

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) Founded in 1968 to serve the Jewish people, The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College is dedicated to studying and teaching Judaism as an evolving religious civilization, and to advancing the universal freedom, justice and peace that are Judaism's core values. Its mission is to train rabbis, cantors and other Jewish leaders to teach Torah in its broadest terms and strengthen leadership in congregations and other settings throughout the Jewish community in North America.

For more than thirty years, the College has provided scholarship and training to strengthen that community, advance the growth of the Reconstructionist movement, and spread its ideas and ideals throughout the Jewish world.

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA) Founded in 1974, The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association is the professional association of Reconstructionist rabbis. Comprising more than 200 members, the RRA has three primary missions. First, the RRA serves as a collegial community, in which professional and personal support and resources are provided to rabbis. Second, the RRA represents the rabbinic voice within the Reconstructionist movement, bringing the teachings, stories, and traditions of Judaism to bear on contemporary issues and challenges, and helping to define Reconstructionist positions on Jewish issues for our time. Third, the RRA represents Reconstructionist rabbis in the larger Jewish and general communities, through participation in programs, commissions, and other activities. The RRA publishes The Reconstructionist, a journal of contemporary Jewish thought and practice.



COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Celebrate Israel Day

On Sunday, May 4, the fourth annual Celebrate Israel Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day) festival will be held at the Jewish Community Center. Unless otherwise indicated, (see the web site for information about ticketed events,) there is no charge for the events.

Save time at the festival and PRE-REGISTER at www.jewishannarbor.org/celebrateisrael.

Many fun activities are planned for people of all ages.

To look at the schedule please visit:

<http://www.jewishannarbor.org/page.html?ArticleID=168438>

Jewish Film Festival at the Michigan Theater

The Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival will run in Ann Arbor May 11-15. To see the schedule please visit: www.jccannarbor.org.

Residential Options for Your Aging Parents

Thursday, May 22nd, 6:30 – 8:00 pm - JCC

When is the right time to consider alternative housing arrangements for aging loved ones who live independently? How do you broach that subject, and what are the options? Guest speaker Justine Bykowski, Housing Counseling Coordinator at the Housing Bureau for Seniors, will discuss choices for residential care ranging from continuing care retirement communities, independent living facilities, assisted living, nursing homes, small group homes, and more, after which we will share in open discussion.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson at abbie@jfsannarbor.org or (734) 769-0209.



SIMCHAS AND SORROWS

Refuah Shlema to Grace Fredkin who is recovering from a medical procedure.

Congratulations to Emily Eisbruch on her new job as a Technology Transfer Analyst for Internet2.

From Stefanie Siegmund:

“After 10 years of commuting between Ann Arbor and New York, I am moving back to New York, where I will become the Women's League Professor of Jewish, Gender and Women's Studies and Associate Professor of Jewish History. Karen, Daniel, Eli and I hope to stay in touch, maybe by continuing to participate in the Sukkot Retreat. We can be reached in New York at 710 West End Avenue, #2A, 10025 for the foreseeable future. We'll miss the Havurah. Good Luck!”

Refuah Shlema to Alfred Lessure, Carol Lessure's father.

Congratulations to Jennie Jester who ran her first marathon – the Glass City Marathon in Toledo, Ohio.

Congratulations to Allison Stupka who completed the Boston Marathon on April 21st.

Mazel Tov to Michelle Segar and Jeff Horowitz as they are home with their new baby son, Eli.



SEEDLINGS AND THANKS

Thanks to **Lia Wiss** who gave 36 books and 4 tapes for the Hav library.

Thanks to **Martha Kransdorf** for her donation to the Progressive Jewish Giving Fund in honor of Jonathan Saltzman's bar mitzvah.

Thanks to **Shelly Weber** for her donation to the Progressive Jewish Giving Fund.

Thanks to **Emily Eisbruch** for serving on the Grapevine Editorial Board.



The Grapevine is published 11 times per year. For submission please email articles to: alstupka@gmail.com The deadline for June is May 14th. The deadline for the July/August issue is June 18th.

Grapevine Editor: Allison Stupka

Grapevine Editorial Board: Sally Goldberg, Rebecca Kanner, Steve Merritt

May 2008*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 RSVP for dinner for May 9 th Audrey Newell newell@med.u mich.edu or 971-7596	3
4 Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am Celebrate Israel Day 10am-5 pm	5	6 Board Meeting 7-9 pm	7 No Beit Sefer for Bev's class	8	9 Second Friday service Singing, kiddush, Movie and a discussion led by Aaron Ahuvia, Services Dinner 6:15-9:30 pm	10 Bar Mitzvah of Jonathan Saltzman 10 am
11 Last Day of Beit Sefer 9:30-11:30 am Bev's class meets.	12	13	14	15	16	17 Jubu meditation 2-4 pm Home of Evelyn Neuhaus Topic: Mussar discussion with a focus on the trait of compassion.
18	19	20	21	22 Caregiver Conversations 6:30-8:00 pm	23 Lag B'Omer	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Shabbat Services and Veggie Potluck 6:15 pm	31

June 2008*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Board Meeting 7-9 pm	4	5	6	7 Shabbat Teaching Service 10:00 am – noon Shavuot Shabbaton Details TBA
8 Shavuot Shabbaton Details TBA	9 Shavuot begins at sundown	10 Shavuot	11	12	13 Second Friday service 6:30-7:30 pm Topic: TBA	14 Jubu meditation 2-4 pm Topic: Torah Yoga led by Allison Stupka Location TBA
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Shabbat Services and Veggie Potluck 6:15 pm	28
29	30					

*ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE JCC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



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Progressive Jewish Giving Fund Donation Form

Here is my donation of \$ _____ to the
Progressive Jewish Giving Fund of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah.

Name: _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Please:

- 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!

Vist us on the Web! www.aarecon.org