

Desert Sage

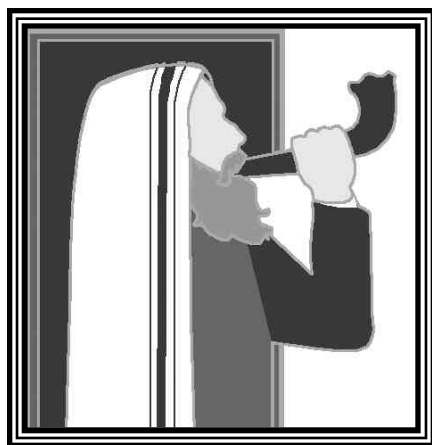
HIGH HOLIDAYS 5766

The High Holidays are upon us once again. This year, services are being led by Rabbi Gershon Winkler. Rabbi Winkler's sermon themes for the New Jewish Year will be, "It's 5766, Do You Know Where You Are?" Following you will find information about services and other events. L'shanah tovah!

During the High Holy Day services, Rabbi Winkler will intersperse the prayers with ancient and early-medieval Jewish teachings that will deepen our understanding about the mystery we so glibly call God and the miracle we so condescendingly call existence.

Armed with a wonderful sense of humor, deep mystical teachings, and spirited chants, Gershon will illuminate us, challenge us and gift us with a perspective on life that will bring us joy, healing, wisdom and realization. As Gershon himself puts it, "We are all here for the purpose of not knowing why. The greatest ills, in fact, come from trying to figure (realization) out anyway!"

Gershon Winkler is co-founder of Walking Stick Foundation, a non-profit organization devoted to the recovery of aboriginal Jewish spirituality. For the past eight years he has served as visiting rabbi for Congregation Har Shalom in Missoula, Montana, and continues to serve as a regular teacher of Judaica for the Jewish communities of Durango, CO; Albuquerque, New York City, Berkeley, and other regions. Rabbi Winkler is also a renowned scholar, having published widely and worked with many educational institutions. See our summer 2005 issue for more biographical information.



NAHALAT SHALOM 5766 HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Monday, 10/3

Creation Pageant, 5:30-7 pm. Heder Kids and Rabbi Gershon Winkler tell the creation story in the Nahalat Shalom Courtyard. All welcome!

Erev Rosh Hashanah Services, 7:30 pm.

Led by Rabbi Gershon Winkler. Children are welcome at this service. Please RSVP by September 23rd for reserved seats.

Tuesday, 10/4

Rosh Hashanah Services, 10 am. Led by Rabbi Gershon Winkler. Bring food to share for after-service oneg. Babysitting available during service. Please RSVP by September 23rd for reserved seats.

Afternoon Rosh Hashanah Ceremony, 1:30 pm (approximate time). Healing Circle with Rabbi Winkler and others.

Tashlich Ceremony, 3:30 pm. Meeting at the Rio Grande River inside the Bosque at the end of Candelaria.

Wednesday, 12/5

Jemez Hike and Mikvah
(see description to right)

Wednesday, 10/12

Erev Yom Kippur, 7:30 pm. Kol Nidre Services. Children welcome. Please RSVP by September 23rd for reserved seats.

Thursday, 10/13

Yom Kippur Services and Ceremonies, 10 am through early evening. There will be a break at approximately 2 pm.

Yizkor Remembrance Service, 5:30 pm
(approximate time).

Ne'ilah and Closing Ceremony, 6:30 pm
(approximate time).

Break Fast will begin at approximately 7:30 pm.

Times are subject to change. Confirm schedule and get more information by calling 343-8227, ext. 1. All services held at Nahalat Shalom, 3606 Rio Grande Blvd., NW, Albuquerque, NM, 87107 (take I-25 to I-40, west to Rio Grande Blvd. exit, go north. Nahalat Shalom is between Candelaria and Griegos at NE corner of Luke Circle and Rio Grande Blvd.).

JEMEZ HIKE & MIKVAH

Wednesday, October 5

Join us on the second day of Rosh Hashanah for a hike in the Jemez Mountains and a mikvah and a soak in a beautiful natural warm springs. We hike two miles uphill, ritually immerse ourselves in the waters, soak, shmooze, lunch and hike back two miles to the cars. Bring hiking shoes, water, lunch and a bathing suit.

Meet at 8:30 AM at Nahalat Shalom parking lot if you wish to car pool. Or meet at 10:15 AM at Battleship Rock Picnic Area in the lower parking lot. This is north of Jemez Springs on Highway 4.

For more info and directions, call Joan at 341-2306.

Inside: We say goodbye to our dear friend Bob Levin, page 4

ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

Different Strokes for Different Folks

by Guida Leicester

Bob Levin was *Shalom* to me. Wholeness, completeness and peace—that was Bob through and through, mentor, teacher, and friend—a key person who welcomed me to the Nahalat Shalom community. I remember the first time calling Bob on the phone to ask him for information on events in his home. “Mr. Levin?” I addressed him formally, which I quickly learned was not necessary! He probably laughed heartily inside but never let on, being the gracious gentleman he was.

After having spent a year and a half living in hospitals, rehab and a nursing home, I felt I had at last come home the first time I attended Torah Study at his house. A far cry from the cool, detached doctors, nurses and CNA's I had encountered during my stroke recovery, he greeted me (always!) with warmth, compassion, and

love—just what the doctor ordered. I'll never forget celebrating my birthday at Bob's house last January. What a wonderful community of friends with Bob at the helm! As I left, I asked Bob, “Can we do this here again next year?” His usual open self, he kindly agreed. I'll miss Bob, but knowing him, in spirit he's still with us. I sense he wants us to carry on his legacy—he gave so much of himself to our community. May his memory be a blessing!

Register now for the September Jewish Humor series, happening the first three Wednesdays in September from 7-9 pm. A great line-up of speakers: Eddie Tafoya (who teaches comedy classes at Laff's Comedy Club), Dr. Sam Roll, and Rabbi Gershon Winkler will cover the spectrum of Jewish humor, its history, and Jewish comedians from an intellectual, therapeutic, and spiritual point of view. I hope this series can become a tradition at the Shul in Fall AND Spring! Check the schedule posted elsewhere in this newsletter for schedule information. Call 343-8227, ext 1, for further details.

Thanks to the Membership and Rabbi Search Committees for their very hard work this summer. I'm impressed with how well everything's coming together as Nahalat Shalom embarks on a new path. Special thanks to Membership members Michael Angerman, Varda Brahms, Loey Cohen-Kirk, Stephanie Cohen, Marg Elliston, Michael Godey, Matthew Hess, Jan Loeb, and Penelope Mainz. Nicole Deutsch has done a phenomenal job pulling the loose ends together in getting membership pledge letters out! Todah Rabah!!

High Holidays are just around the corner, so RSVP NOW, since we expect a big turnout this year (read more about this in the Letter from the Va'ad, below)! Volunteers are needed to help make all go smoothly. There will be a Jemez hike this year—read about it on page 1. Come to our rummage sale and Art Show opening in September! Much is happening at Nahalat Shalom this fall, so read this issue carefully. Happy 5766 to all!!

Dear Members and Friends of Nahalat Shalom-

Because of our very popular guest rabbi, Gershon Winkler, Congregation Nahalat Shalom is requiring that every community member who wishes to attend High Holiday services this year RSVP to Guida via e-mail (chandlermuf@yahoo.com) or phone (343-8227, ext. 1). This will give us an accurate count of how many people are planning to attend. We need this information so we can plan accordingly, given our space limitations. With Gershon leading services this year we are anticipating large crowds for Erev Rosh Hashanah and Kol Nidre and want to be sure that we can accommodate all who wish to attend. By taking reservations we can guarantee space for our members and other guests who are on the RSVP list, as open seating will be minimal and available only on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you are a Nahalat Shalom member, pledge forms, along with your first quarter dues for the up coming year, must be returned by Friday, Sept. 23rd, for your phoned-in or e-mailed reservation to be confirmed. If you

are not a member, then we are asking for a donation of \$100 for individuals and \$200 for families of two or more, which also must be received no later than Sept. 23rd to confirm your reservation. Please note that no one will be turned away for services, provided you RSVP. Anyone whose financial situation prevents them from meeting the minimum requested donation is certainly welcome at High Holidays services, provided they RSVP to Guida in advance that they would like to attend. Please direct any questions regarding this policy to 343-8227. Thank you for helping to ensure that our High Holidays services go smoothly. We look forward to seeing you in October!

Respectfully,
The Va'ad of Nahalat Shalom

Michael Angerman
Linda Brody
Loey Cohen-Kirk
Nicole Deutsch
Guida Leicester
Deborah Tyroler
Jacob Zengerle

Desert Sage

Published bimonthly by:
Congregation Nahalat Shalom
3606 Rio Grande NW
Albuquerque, NM 87196-0723
(505) 343-8227

Send submissions, comments and letters to the editor to

Desert Sage,

3606 Rio Grande Blvd. NW,
Albuquerque, NM 87196-0723.
nahalatshalom@earthlink.net

Next deadline is

Monday, October 10, 2005 at 5 pm

Interim editor: Karen Mazur
mazur@swcp.com

*There is currently
no permanent editor
for Desert Sage.*

*To volunteer, contact Loey
at LOEYLCK@yahoo.com*

Visit us on the World Wide Web at:
www.nahalatshalom.org

HOLY DAY CUSTOMS:

Our community chooses to wear white during Rosh HaShannah and Yom Kippur. This is an ancient Jewish custom to honor the day with special clothes. Instead of focusing on the newest styles, however, the whiteness of the garment symbolizes loving union/marriage and death, holy day celebration and mourning. During these great days of discernment and joy, we wear white to honor the task of purifying our spirits to free them for the wholeness of love and death.

Greeting each other as honored guests. Holy day time brings a lot of us together. Please reach out to those you know and those you don't know so everyone feels at home.

Bring food to share for the onegs (festive eating). We don't have a formal brotherhood or sisterhood, so we all contribute to the festivities. On Rosh HaShannah we bring round raisin challah, local honey, grape juice, honey cake, tzimmes, kugel, organic apples from our trees or grapes from the vine, organic fruits from our gardens or local farmers (eco-kashrut) and other traditional vegetarian, dairy, fish delicacies to celebrate a sweet New Year.

PARKING:

On the High Holidays, our large numbers can overwhelm our quiet neighborhood. In an effort to be sensitive to our neighbors, we are asking congregants to refrain from parking on Luke Circle. Parking options:

- * Ride your bike.
- * Carpool with friends.
- * Come early and get one of the limited spaces in the Nahalat Shalom parking lot.
- * Park two blocks north at the CSI Aviation lot-after 5 p.m. only.
- * Park two blocks south on Headingly Road.

For those in need, especially those with disabilities, our seniors and families with young children, parking has been saved right near the doors of the synagogue. If you are able to walk two blocks, please park in the small business complex at 3700 Rio Grande Blvd., on the corner of San Lorenzo and Rio Grand Blvd. The sign says, "CSI Aviation." Park there ONLY after 5 p.m. weekdays and all day weekends.

WANTED: Member or friend of Nahalat Shalom to video Kol Nidre services for simultaneous showing for the overflow at services October 12. If you have knowledge, equipment and/or abilities to perform these services for free or as cheaply as possible, contact Guida at 343-8227 x1 or Joan at 341-2306. We are exploring all options for seating everyone who comes to services that night. If you have other ideas, feel free to share them.



THE SULHA/FORGIVENESS PROJECT: AN AFTERNOON OF VISION, CEREMONY AND PRAYER FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Sunday, Sept. 4
 Congregation Nahalat Shalom
 3606 Rio Grande Blvd.
 12:45-3PM

Pot luck sharing is encouraged
 Bring a poem, story, picture or prayer for peace

The Sulha Project was initiated by Muslims, Christians and Jews living in Israel who desire peace based on a spiritual foundation of compassion and justice, reconciliation and respect. This effort is based on a traditional Palestinian forgiveness ceremony that seeks to reconcile aggrieved parties in the community through a process of listening. The effort to bring different faith communities together continues in New Mexico.

On Sunday September 4th at 12:45 PM in the afternoon, people of faith and compassion are invited to gather at Congregation Nahalat Shalom to share their vision of peacemaking and

reconciliation with members of other faith communities, including Muslims, Christians, Jews, Native Americans and Buddhists and those who simply desire peace from their hearts.

We will offer prayers, share our vision of peace for these times, share the concerns of our hearts.

We also invite you to come with youthful members of your community and family so we can begin a process of bringing young people together in an interfaith setting that promotes dignity and understanding.

This event is sponsored by Yacoub Hussein and Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, two individuals who passionately believe that the road to peace must be continually walked up with the hope that our great dream of peace will become manifest in our time.



Beloved Nahalat Shalom and New Mexico Jewish community member and civic leader Bob Levin left us this summer. Clearly, our lives are better having known him.

ROBERT A. LEVIN

July 24, 1919 – July 19, 2005

Robert A. Levin, whose Hebrew name was Reuben Avrum, a life-long worker for peace and justice, passed away peacefully in his sleep on July 19, 2005, just five days before his 86th birthday.

Bob moved to Albuquerque in October, 1991, from his home on a farm in Cleveland, Wisconsin, after his wife's death and had been active in New Mexico civic life, both secular and Jewish, since then. He received the Jewish Federation's first Michael Brussel Community Social Service Award in 2003.

Bob Levin joined the board of the Explora Science Center and in 1996 chaired the New Vision board, the board that successfully merged the Albuquerque Children's Museum and Explora.

He was Founding Chairman of the Walking Stick Foundation, a joint Native American/Jewish spiritual retreat center in the wilderness eight miles from Cuba, NM. He was on the boards of Jewish Family Services, Hillel at the University of New Mexico, and the Advisory Board of Seed University. He was a founding member of the Arab-Jewish Peace Alliance of New Mexico.

He was a member of Congregation Nahalat Shalom where he served on the board for one term and was a key member of the committee that raised the money to buy a building for the congregation.

He helped many other organizations without officially serving on their boards, such as the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico, and generously shared his professional expertise in organizational management and fund raising for non-profit organizations.

Most important, Bob continued throughout his life to grow spiritually as well as intellectually and emotionally, and actively deepened his Torah study and prayer life, and in so doing inspired many others around him to do the same. He had many, many friends of all ages, races, religions, and ethnicities, because he himself knew how to be a friend.



Before moving to New Mexico, he had been program planning director of the National CIO Community Services Committee, education director of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; president of Community Programs Inc., a consulting firm for not-for-profit institutions and community organizations; and Associate Executive Director of the Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago.

In 1950 he was appointed by the United States State Department to an international committee to advise UNESCO in the designing of a program to reestablish democratic adult education in Germany and Austria. He also received a Senior Fulbright Fellowship at Oxford University to study adult education in England.

In the 1960's and 1970's he was chairman of the board of three foundations: The Akbar Fund of New York, which made grants only to Native American controlled projects; the Esopus Foundation, a family foundation; and the Inner City Fund of Chicago.

A 1942 graduate of Antioch College, he later served on its board for 21 years and was Trustee Emeritus at the time of death. He, with his wife Kay, served as Acting President in 1975 during an administrative and financial crisis. In 1979 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws.

Bob was a conscientious objector during World War II who performed alternative service, and worked for peace, racial justice, labor rights, and civil rights until his death. He built community wherever he went in life, and at the end of his life was hosting several Jewish and community groups which met in his home.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Kay, and daughter, Betsy. He is survived by his son, David Levin and David's wife, Sandy Murdock, of Albuquerque, and his daughter, Rachel Levin of California. He has many loving grandchildren: Shane Thompson and his wife Jennifer, Anna, Nick, Peter, and Abby Levin, and two great grandchildren, Hunter and Dakota Thompson.

Bob benefitted greatly from his experience as a hospice patient and was ready for his death and believed that his soul is indestructible and will remain part of the Universal.

The family suggests individual contributions of any kind to progressive issues and causes in the furtherance of the peace for which he prayed and worked.



Ode to Bob Levin

Come listen my friends in this modern agora
To my tale of Bob, my friend in Torah.

The past seven years we studied the Book
Digging truth and wisdom from cranny and nook.

We'd study in the shul, in a car or under a tree
That ancient magic began to set us free.

Bit by bit making us into believers
Like the learned words of Reb Akiva:

Remember that when life puts you to the test
"Whatever the Holy One does is for the best"

But what now is floating through my head
Is something Reb Tarfon once said:

"The Great Work is not yours to complete
Yet from it you must not desist nor retreat"

We are all bricklayers laying down the rock
Building the messianic era block by block.

And so this was truly his life's vector
As a WWII conscientious objector.

To the labor movement he lent his hand
Heart and mind to make justice stand

His gates were open like Abraham's tent
Many a holy Shabbas therein we spent

Reflecting on the meaning of the Holy Tree
In the Garden of Eden where now planted is he

Goodbye my dear Bob, at least for now
In the end we'll meet again, somewhere, somehow!

—by Andrew Stone, July 19, 2005
upon hearing of his throwing off of this mortal coil

FAREWELL TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A. LEVIN

By Rabbi Gershon Winkler

The world will now be better off than ever,
as will the rest of the cosmos. Because Bob
Levin, who spearheaded and nurtured
numerous institutional boards, is now a
member of the Great Board in the Sky.
Dearly cherished by so many around the
globe, Bob left us in the early morning of

Tuesday, July 19th. He was a true elder for
all of us, exemplifying both integrity and
commitment. His long-ailing heart
notwithstanding, Bob gave us all that he had
to give, of himself personally, his wise
counsel, his limited resources, and most of
all, his grandfatherly warmth. Bob not only
opened his heart to all, but also his home,
creating out of it a central meeting site for
numerous events, some cultural, some
spiritual, and some that brought opposing
forces together in the only venue that felt

safe to do so. He was a peace-maker, a
trouble-shooter, a catalyst, a wizard of sorts
who never declined an opportunity to help
an individual, an organization, a
community, or an entire governmental body!
We will miss him deeply. His
accomplishments are too many to record,
and doing so would infuriate him as well
since he was an exceptionally humble human
being who declined all attempts to publicly
honor him. We wish him a smooth and
blissful transition into the Great Beyond.

Mah Nish Mah

Condolences to David and Rachel Levin
and their families on the passing of their
beloved father and grandfather, Bob Levin.
Bob will be greatly missed by the Nahalat
Shalom community. May his memory be a
blessing--it is and will be!

Refuach Shlema to Hannah Ziegellaub.

Refuach Shlema to Mel Robins,
Joan Robins' father.

Refuach Shlema to Daniel Díaz-Huerta

Refuach Shlema to Rabbi Min Kantrowitz,
who is ailing with a fractured foot.

Thanks to Joan Robins for her contribution
to the Shul in memory of her mother,
Sue Robins.

Congratulations to the Les Field/Gia
Scarpetta family on Simon's Bar Mitzvah,
September 3rd, 2005!

Condolences to Robert Bienstock for the
passing of his father .

We thank the following people for their
recent generous donations to Nahalat
Shalom: Barbara Freidman, John Friedman,

Jennie Friedman Foundation,
Anne Morrison and all the others who
make donations to keep the Shul going.

The Nahalat Shalom board extends a very
special thank you to NS member Stephanie
Shefia Cohen for the work she has done to
help move our community forward.
Stephanie, a certified Holographic
Repatterning facilitator, volunteered her
services, facilitating at two group-healing
sessions held at the shul over the summer.
Stephanie, we sincerely appreciate your
efforts in helping to create positive
movement within our community.
Thank you again!

calendar

2005/5765-5766 SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER NAHALAT SHALOM CALENDAR SEPTEMBER

Friday, 9/2

Freyliche Shabbes, 6:30 pm. Led by Cantor Beth. Kabbalat Shabbat followed by a veggie potluck and an open Klezmer jam/dancing.

Saturday, 9/3

Simon Scarpetti Bar Mitzvah, 10 am. Come celebrate Simon's Bar Mitzvah with the Field/Scarpetti family.

Wednesday, 9/7

Jewish Humor Lecture Series. History of Jewish Humor/Humor in Jewish Tradition/Culture. Eddie Tafoya, Associate Professor of American Literature & Creative Writing, New Mexico Highlands University.

Saturday, 9/10

Sephardic Shabbat Service, 11am. Led by Daniel Diaz-Huerta. Bring snacks for oneg that follows service.

Wednesday, 9/14

Jewish Humor Lecture Series. Therapeutic Power of Humor. Dr. Samuel Roll, Professor Emeritus of Psychology & Psychiatry, UNM.

Wednesday, 9/21

Jewish Humor Lecture Series. Humor and Jewish Spirituality. Rabbi Gershon Winkler, Walking Stick Foundation.

Saturday, 9/24

Sephardic Shabbat Service, 11 am. Led by Daniel Diaz-Huerta. Bring snacks for oneg that follows service.

Evening, Selichot Service.

Call 343-8227 for time and details.

Saturday, 10/1

Monthly Mystical Shabbat Service, 11 am. Led by Robin Berman. Bring attention to kavanah (intention). Sing, breathe, deepen in

prayer, and movement meditation. Please bring vegetarian potluck for oneg that follows services. All welcome!

Monday, 10/3

Creation Pageant, 5:30-7 pm. Heder Kids and Rabbi Gershon Winkler tell the creation story in the Nahalat Shalom Courtyard. All welcome!

Erev Rosh Hashanah Services, 7:30 pm. Led by Rabbi Gershon Winkler. Children are welcome at this service. Please RSVP by September 23rd for reserved seats.

Tuesday, 10/4

Rosh Hashanah Services, 10 am. Led by Rabbi Gershon Winkler. Bring food to share for after-service oneg. Babysitting available during service. Please RSVP by September 23rd for reserved seats.

Afternoon Rosh Hashanah Ceremony, 1:30 pm (approximate). Healing Circle with Rabbi Winkler and others.

Tashlich Ceremony, 3:30 pm. Meeting at the Rio Grande River inside the Bosque at the end of Candelaria.

Friday, 10/7

Shabbat Shuva. The Shabbat of Return. Call 343-8227 for time and more details.

Wednesday, 10/12

Erev Yom Kippur, 7:30 pm. Kol Nidre Services. Children welcome. Please RSVP by September 23rd for reserved seats.

Thursday, 10/13

Yom Kippur Services and Ceremonies, 10 am through early evening. There will be a break at approximately 2 pm.

Yizkor Remembrance Service, 5:30 pm (approximate time).

Nei'lah and Closing Ceremony, 6:30 pm (approximate time). Break Fast will be at approximately 7:30 pm.

For details on Sukkot and Simchat Torah celebrations, please call 343-8227, ext. 1.

Saturday, 10/29

Sephardic Shabbat Service, 11 am. Led by Daniel Diaz-Huerta. Bring snacks for oneg that follows service.

Times are subject to change. Confirm schedule and get more information by calling 343-8227, ext. 1. All services held at Nahalat Shalom, 3606 Rio Grande Blvd., NW, Albuquerque, NM, 87107 (take I-25 to I-40, west to Rio Grande Blvd. exit, go north. Nahalat Shalom is between Candelaria and Griegos at NE corner of Luke Circle and Rio Grande Blvd.).

*NEED A GIFT FOR A
B'NAI MITZVAH OR
WOULD LIKE YOUR OWN
TALLIS FOR THE HIGH
HOLIDAYS?*

Shalom Ho Zhó
Beautiful original
Native American-
designed Tallit, kippot
(Kosher from Israel),
tefillin and tallit bags
available for purchase.

**Diné/Navajo
Designs. 100%
COTTON.**

**SHAWN PRICE,
P.O. BOX 27026,
ALBUQUERQUE, NM,
87125
842-0141**

A FIRST REPORT ON OUR TRIP TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE

by Mark Rudd

Marla and I just returned from eight days in Israel and Palestine. This is a quick description of our trip for family and friends. Oy vey iss mir!!!

The original purpose of the visit, was to attend the Macabiah Games (Jewish Olympics) in which my nephews were playing on the U.S. masters' (over 35) soccer team. Also, I felt I should actually see Israel for the first time, so I'd know a little bit more about what I've been shooting my mouth off already for decades. Marla went as my minder to keep me from getting in trouble.

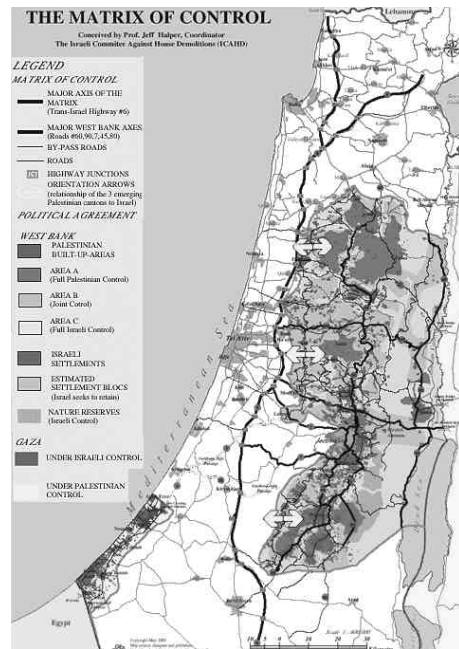
My brother and sister-in-law, David and Sue, had planned a tight eight days of touring, soccer, and family visits, the first three days based in Jerusalem, the fourth a transition day to Haifa via Tel Aviv, and the remainder based in the gorgeous port city of Haifa where the soccer games were held. With the family we toured the Old City in Jerusalem, including the Western Wall, archeological sites in Jerusalem (the Temple Mount), Caesaria (Roman), and Acre (Crusader), the Dead Sea, the Galilee and the Jordan River, and the modern cities of Tel Aviv and Haifa. We attended the opening of the Macabiah Games in a suburb of Tel Aviv, and two of five of our nephews' games. We also hung out with Israeli relatives near Tel Aviv and in Haifa.

Through Jewish peace activists in Albuquerque we had contacted Israeli peace activists who graciously offered to take us on tours of the West Bank and East Jerusalem (the occupied Palestinian territories). We spent two days in the occupied territories and were able to see the "closure" which the Palestinians live under, including road blockades and checkpoints, the separation wall and fence, demolished houses and uprooted olive trees. We visited Palestinian villages several Israeli settlements. We talked at length with Palestinian and Israeli Jewish non-violent activists and learned their

various perspectives on their work, including their long-term strategies.

The visit was short and I probably made some erroneous conclusions, but these impressions are quite vivid. Here are a few highlights and observations from our trip:

Israel is a first-world country, with all the infrastructure and consumer goods which



the U.S. enjoys. It is highly urbanized, with malls, superhighways, high-rises, subdivisions that make much of the landscape indistinguishable from Southern California. Marla pointed out that a lot of the flora is in fact the same—eucalyptus trees, bougainvillas, oleanders, ice plants. The last night, driving to the airport through the outskirts of Tel Aviv on an eight-lane highway, I hallucinated for a second that we were on I-5 in north San Diego County. By contrast, Arab neighborhoods and villages in Israel are poor. Driving to the Sea of Galilee, we passed through a checkerboard of heavily developed lush fields of corn and mangoes and wheat, all Israeli, alternating with rock-strewn dry pastures and scraggly olive trees of Arab villages (never ever referred to by the Israelis as "Palestinian"). Palestinian neighborhoods and villages of East Jerusalem and the West Bank are much poorer than those in Israel, especially since the "closure."

Except for the peace activists, most Israelis we talked with felt that Israel is under attack and that the closure and the separation wall are necessary for security. Our two guides claimed to have been "of the left," but both support Sharon in his repression of the Palestinians. There does not seem to be any political opposition: a television news anchor referred to the Labour party as "the lapdog of Likud." I was surprised how few Israelis wanted to talk politics or about the occupation. I had mistakenly thought that politics was a national sport but one of our guides told us that Israelis are tired of politics since nothing has worked. They're certainly tired of the war. The only debate among Israelis while we were there involved the opposition by the far right of the settlers and the religious parties to Sharon's disengagement in Gaza and the north of the occupied territories. Many intersections had young people putting orange ribbons, the symbol of opposition to disengagement, on car antennas. Only a tiny fraction of cars had blue and white ribbons to show support for disengagement.

Social segregation seems almost total, even in Haifa, which is supposed to be an island of coexistence in Israel. None of the Israelis we talked with, outside of the peace activists, claimed any Palestinians as friends; no one we talked with ever expressed any sympathy toward the plight of any Palestinians. Ashkenazi relatives of ours in Haifa talked openly about "good Arabs and bad Arabs;" We met no Israelis who felt it necessary to hide their feelings of superiority and loathing toward Arabs. It made us long for the polite racism of home. Sephardic relatives of ours by marriage expressed horror that we were going into the West Bank.

From what we saw and were told by peace activists, both Israeli and Palestinian, the occupation appears to have two related purposes, neither of which involves Israel's security. First is the grabbing of land for Israel, the establishment of what the Israel government calls "facts on the ground." Just east of Jerusalem we visited an enormous settlement, actually a town of 20,000 people, called *Ma'ale Adumim*. Not a hilltop outpost with trailers, this place has apartment houses, malls, townhouses, parks,

A RESOLUTION FOR 5766

by Nicole Deutsch

The High Holidays are almost upon us. With the traditional Gregorian New Year, it is customary for people to make resolutions – goals set for themselves on Jan. 1 that they wish to fulfill throughout the coming year. For 5766, I'd like to ask you to consider a Rosh Hashana Resolution that would help your Nahalat Shalom community.

Currently, we have many needs. The va'ad, membership and other committees' plates are overflowing with tasks designed to move our community forward. The need for volunteers is crucial, as the current cadre of helpers are maxed out and feeling weary.

When membership renewal packets were sent out recently, included on the pledge form was a list of areas in which folks could volunteer their time to help out. It is easy to skip over this part of the page, thinking, "Well, I'm so busy right now I can't really see myself contributing any time to the shul; I'm sure someone will pitch in to help." Imagine if everyone felt that way. How would we ever accomplish anything? Luckily, there are people in the community who dedicate much time and energy to making Nahalat Shalom a wonderful place, but their resources are not endless. The simple truth is that WE NEED YOU! We are a community, and each of us plays an integral part.

Below are areas in which we need help. Like the gentleman on television I saw recently who implored viewers to "not switch the channel, not leave the room" while he told the stories of third-world children who need our sponsorship to lift them out of poverty and disease, I am asking each of you reading this not to "tune out" and leave this important work we have to do to "someone else."

The High Holidays organizing committee: So much is involved in putting together any event, but the High Holidays require a tremendous amount of manpower, coordination and creative thought to come together in a meaningful way. Guida and Cantor Beth do much of this work, but they cannot single-handedly plan and organize all the various events that make this time of year so memorable. To lend a hand, call

Guida, 343-8227, ext. 1, or e-mail nahalatshalom@earthlink.net

Community Rummage Sale: This event, to be held Sept. 16 and 18, will benefit both Nahalat Shalom and Hannah Ziegerlieb, who is awaiting an opening at a New York nursing home. Help is needed sorting and pricing items, as well as working the days of the sale. To help, contact Varda at vardab@cybermesa.com or Sybil at iwildo@cybermesa.com.

Upcoming Community Celebration: Past, Present and Future: This committee will focus on planning our Spring community party, which will serve to honor Rabbi Lynn's many years of dedicated service as well as celebrate our new beginnings, including, hopefully, a new spiritual leader for our community. Contact Beth at 243-6276 or Hershel at 246-8910 to help.

Membership Committee: Presently we are working on updating the membership pledge database and creating a membership directory. Future goals include creating a New Member packet; updating our Nahalat Shalom brochure, organizing a "meet and greet" group; and developing ways to recruit members from Albuquerque's Jewish community. To help, contact Loey at 344-5894 or Nicole at 242-5492.

Public Relations/Event Promotion: We are looking for someone who is media savvy to help promote Nahalat Shalom and our many diverse events to the community. If you're creative and outgoing, we need you in this volunteer position! Some of your tasks would include publicizing upcoming events by creating flyers, press releases and public service announcements. Over time, you would be creating relationships with local media such as the Journal and the Link to promote placement of stories that highlight the many wonderful aspects of our diverse community. To help, contact Nicole at 242-5492.

Programming Committee: This group, informally led by our office administrator Guida, is charged with creating ideas for spiritual, educational or just plain fun adult programs here at the shul. To help, contact Guida at 343-8227, ext. 1.

Heder Committee: This group will look at the current structure of our youth education program, with an eye toward restructuring

the organizational model, updating the curriculum and creating flow between the existing pre-K and older Heder programs. Ideally, (eventually) this committee would consist of our new rabbi, a yet-to-be-hired Heder Director, and representatives from among the Heder teachers and parents and other interested members of the community. To help, contact Nicole at 242-5492.

Desert Sage and the Web Site: URGENT! Our two main vehicles of info distribution are at risk for falling silent, as we are about to lose both our DS editor and our web mistress. We need a few individuals who have the necessary computer skills to maintain the web site or create a bi-monthly newsletter. Currently, Desert Sage is formatted using Quark software, but any type of publishing program could be used. If you are creative and capable in the computer department, we need you! Contact Guida at 343-8227, ext. 1, to help.

Grounds upkeep and beautification: Spend a sunny Sunday at Nahalat Shalom weeding, planting and brainstorming on ways to help our property evolve into a garden oasis. To help, contact Jake or Hershel at 343-8227, ext. 2

The Va'ad: Last but not least, our governing body is in need of reinforcements. At this time we have seven members, two of which are NS employee liaisons. As you can see, there is much work to be done and currently too few bodies to carry out the many tasks. The board meets monthly, or as needed, and is charged with overseeing the operation of the synagogue: from programming, to hiring, to the budget, and everything in between. We are a cohesive, thoughtful and fun group who are looking for people with fresh ideas and new energy to help keep our momentum going. The best part is that no experience is necessary and Loey is known for bringing chocolates to the Monday evening meetings! If interested, contact any board member (see list on P. ?) or pop into the next meeting (date TBA).

We are also in need of a new laptop computer for the office administrator. Our old relic has officially died and as much of Guida's work Guida is done from home, it is imperative that she has the proper tools. If you have a used laptop to donate, or if you can purchase a new laptop for the shul, it would be a huge help. And remember,

donations are tax deductible! Contact Guida at 343-8227 if you can help.

There are, of course, other areas where help is needed, but those listed above comprise our most pressing. Volunteering is undoubtedly a commitment, but it is also rewarding and the work is truly appreciated. I cannot count the number of times I heard during our recent pledge drive, "Thank you for what you're doing," from the people I telephoned, and I knew they sincerely meant it. I hope that you have seen something from among this list of "want ads" that interests and motivates you to step up for your community. Remember, you are that "someone" we are looking for. Happy New Year and I look forward to hearing from you.

Shalom.

NICOLE DEUTSCH

WELCOME BACK! A Great Big *Todah Rabah* to all our returning members! Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts during our recent pledge drive, and especially for renewing your membership to Nahalat Shalom. We appreciate your continued commitment and look forward to serving you in 5766! – *The Va'ad*

The Va'ad would also like to thank the following people who serve on the membership committee and pitched in to make our summer pledge drive happen: Stephanie Cohen, Michael Godey, Matthew Hess, Jan Loeb, Penny Mainz, Loey Cohen-Kirk, Nicole Deutsch, and Guida Leicester.

Current Va'ad Members

Michael Angerman – 344-5920
(abqjb@yahoo.com)

Linda Brody – 281-4479
(lbrody@thuntek.net)

Loey Cohen-Kirk – 344-5894
(loeylck@yahoo.com)

Nicole Deutsch – 242-5492
(natana@swcp.com)

Guida Leicester – 343-8227, ext. 1
(chandlermuf@yahoo.com)
Nahalat Shalom administrator

Deborah Tyroler – 890-1500
(dtyroler@acclaro.com)

Jacob Zengerle – 343-8227, ext. 2

To All Heder Families,

I am writing to let you know that I will be returning to full time classroom teaching this year. I will be teaching at the Little Earth School in Santa Fe, where I taught several years ago when I first moved to New Mexico. Due to this job change, I will not be able to continue teaching in Heder. We are very fortunate to have Lakme Elijor join Chuck Buxbaum and Les Field as a Heder teacher for this coming school year. Lakme has already shown much commitment to Heder, and I am sure she will be a great asset to the program. I want to thank all of you for entrusting me with your childrens' Jewish education over the last few years. It has been a joy for me to work with each and every one of them! I wish all of you a great year in Heder, and I look forward to seeing you around at Nahalat Shalom throughout the coming year.

Warm regards,

LINDA BRODY

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY NOTES

TUNE INTO "Mi Sefared"--A new radio program on KUNM once a month celebrating Sephardic Jewish Heritage. Interviews, history, Ladino music and more, hosted by Nahalat Shalom member, Daniel Díaz-Huerta. This show carries on where Lorenzo Dominguez's show "Mi Sefarino" left off! Call KUNM for more information, dates and times.

The FIRST DAY of Heder will be Thursday September 1st at 4:30 pm. Open to 1-6 graders. Members and non-members can participate, but must pay yearly fee in advance. For more information, call 343-8227, ext 1. Nahalat Shalom



September Jewish Humor Lecture Series. September 7,14,and 21. Come learn the history of Jewish humor. A three-part series, Wednesday nights from 7-9 pm, are scheduled this fall in the Nahalat Shalom sanctuary. Topics include: *The History of Jewish Humor* and *Humor in Jewish Tradition/Culture* (Professor Eddie Tafoya, Highlands University); *The Therapeutic Power of Humor* (Samuel Roll, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, UNM); and *Humor and Jewish Spirituality* (Rabbi Gershon Winkler, Walking Stick Foundation). This is a fundraiser for the Shul. Suggested donation: \$40 for series; \$15 per 2-hour class.

Nahalat Shalom Webmaster and Desert Sage Newsletter Editor Volunteers Needed! Starting this fall, NS is recruiting for the above two positions. For details, please call 343-8227, ext. 1.

Monthly Mystical Shabbat Services first Saturday of each month and **Sephardic Shabbat Services** 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month--11 am in the Sanctuary. Call 343-8227 to confirm dates and times.

trip to Israel/Palestine, continued from page 7

swimming pools, schools, an industrial zone, all brand new and gleaming. The settlement has gobbled up 60 square kilometers of land, leaving the surrounding Palestinian villages with only 4.6 square kilometers, and displacing Bedouin shepherding families who had originally been relocated from the Negev Desert. It is linked to Jerusalem by a highway direct from the old city, through a tunnel cut into Mt. Scopus. Travel time is 10 minutes, if you're Jewish. Palestinians from the surrounding villages cannot use this road. There is a "national consensus" in Israel that Ma'ale Adumim is actually not a settlement, though it's built in the West Bank on former Palestinian land; it is a permanent Israeli town. There are blocs of similar towns surrounding Jerusalem built on occupied land.

We also rode about 30 minutes from a suburb of Tel Aviv on a super highway (for Jews only) to an even larger settlement called Ariel deep inside the West Bank. It is perched high on a hill dominating six small Palestinian villages below. Lush with lawns and vegetation, the valley below is brown. We watched bulldozers destroying old olive



© Gerald Brimacombe

trees in order to build the separation fence (not a wall there) and to continue the highway further east to other settlements. Russian immigrants can live in Ariel, with subsidized apartments, pools, community centers, and commute to their jobs in Tel Aviv.

From the Palestinian point of view (and maybe that of the Israeli government), these settlements not only take land away from a future Palestine but also—along with the settler roads, wall, fences, and checkpoints—divide up the land physically so that there is no contiguous, economically and socially viable country. Just look at a map and you can see the Ariel salient, as it is called, and a number of other "settlement blocs" are east-west divisions of the West Bank. This has

nothing to do with protecting Israel from terrorist attacks. Here's a website that has a map which will give you a visual sense of the division of the West Bank imposed by the settlements.:

<http://www.icahd.org/eng/articles.asp?menu=6&submenu=3&map=yes>

East Jerusalem is the geographical center of Palestine. At least 40% of the economy is located there. Most roads radiate out from there. But because of the separation wall and fence, settlements, and roadblocks, it is cut-off permanently from the rest of the country. We heard of a doctor from Jerusalem who works in a hospital in Bethlehem, about 15 minutes to the south, who has to make a two hour journey back and forth to work, enduring several road blocks.

That seems to be the second function of the closure: to make life so difficult for the Palestinians that they will leave, just go away. We heard innumerable stories of hardships.

For more of the story, please tune into the next issue of Desert Sage.

CONGREGATION NAHALAT SHALOM RUMMAGE SALE- ELUL ELIMINATION EXTRAVAGANZA!

**Clean up, inside and out, in preparation for Rosh HaShanah!
Get rid of unwanted Treasures!
Make room for New Amazing Treasures!
START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT!!!**

All Donations benefit Nahalat Shalom. Many available purchases come from the home of Hannah Ziegellaub and Michael Brussel, and will benefit both Nahal at Shalom and help to pay for the costs of Hannah's care. Items include art items, beautiful clothing, some furniture, linens and dishes. **DONATIONS DESIRED. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - Get first dibs! **Help needed: Sept. 4 & 11 from 1-4 PM for setup, organization, and receiving donations; to make some phone calls to solicit donations; to get ads listed in papers and on sale days, Sept. 16 & 18, for organization, selling and cleanup.** Please call Varda at 247-2245 to confirm volunteer availability...**DONATION DROPOFF:** Sundays, Sept. 4 & 11, 1-4 PM. If you would like your **Donations PICKED UP**, call Sybil Wertheim at 873-2632. Donations can be picked up or dropped off now, by arrangement. Bring items to last room at furthest southeast side of courtyard, past Heder. **Sale is FRIDAY, Sept. 16: 9-12 PM... & 12-3 PM if volunteers are available and SUNDAY, Sept. 18: 8 AM – 3 PM.** Any other questions, call Varda Brahms at 247-2245. Nahalat Shalom - 3606 Rio Grande, between Griegos and Candelaria.

NAHALAT SHALOM ART SHOW NEWS!

Our Group Art Show is coming up! The drop-off and hanging date is: Sunday, Sept. 18, between 2-4 pm. If you cannot drop off then, please make other arrangements with Michael. All subjects and types of art work are accepted. We're having a special emphasis on, "Experiences at or related to Nahalat Shalom". This can include art work about events, places, songs, dances, conversations, mystical experiences, activities, etc. You don't have to be an artist to do this one, just bring your hangable creation. Contact Michael at lifetree@lobo.net if interested in showing.



Congregation Nahalat Shalom
 3606 Rio Grande Blvd. NW Albuquerque, NM 87107 (505)343-8227
Our fiscal year runs from September 1 through August 31 of each year.

Outstanding Pledges/Membership Renewal/New Membership Pledges

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION:

Adult Name(s): _____ Address/City/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work/Cell: _____ Email: _____

2004-05 (5765) OUTSTANDING PLEDGE OWED:

_____ Yes, I believe I owe the following pledge from this past year: \$ _____

2005-06 (5766) RENEWAL PLEDGE Dues: 1% of gross income or a minimum of \$600 per Family or \$300 per Person (alternate payments must be approved by Membership Committee)

Yes, I want to support Nahalat Shalom's unique contributions to our community.

\$ _____ Here's my 2005 pledge

HEDER DUES (your membership must be paid in full or pledged up-to-date)

Pre-school/Kindergarten \$180	Bat/Bar Mitzvah Preparation	Bat/Bar Mitzvah Preparation
1st-6th grade \$260	Year of Ceremony _____	Members 3 or more years \$300
		Members less than 3 years \$550

Child Name & Birthdate: _____ Amount: _____

SPONSORSHIP PLEDGE - sustains special programming

___\$500 Shabbat Educator ___\$1000 Matching Grant for Office Equipment ___\$2000 Visiting Heder Educator

___\$6000 Cantor/Musical Programming Other \$ _____

TOTALS:

\$ _____ Current 2004-05 Pledge

\$ _____ 2005-06 Pledge

\$ _____ Heder Dues

\$ _____ TOTAL

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

One Single Payment \$ _____

Quarterly Payment of \$ _____

Semi-Annual Payments of \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED TODAY \$ _____



___ I only want a 1-year subscription to Desert Sage; \$25.00.

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP NAHALAT SHALOM WITH THE FOLLOWING (CIRCLE AREAS OF INTEREST):

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Building and Lands | Desert Sage | Sephardic Heritage | Programming |
| Office Assistant | Heder | Library | (Adult Ed) |
| Shabbat | Fundraising | Membership/Outreach | other (please list) |
| Holiday/Events | Finance | Web Site Upkeep | |

High Holidays 5766

NAHALAT SHALOM SERVICE SCHEDULE

Please see front page for complete schedule and descriptions.

Monday, 10/3

Creation Pageant, 5:30-7 pm.

Erev Rosh Hashanah Services, 7:30 pm.

Led by Rabbi Gershon Winkler. Please RSVP
by September 23rd for reserved seats.

Tuesday, 10/4

Rosh Hashanah Services, 10 am.

Led by Rabbi Gershon Winkler. Please RSVP
by September 23rd for reserved seats.

Afternoon Rosh Hashanah Ceremony, 1:30 pm

(approximate time). Healing Circle with
Rabbi Winkler and others.

Tashlich Ceremony, 3:30 pm. Meet at Rio Grande
River inside the Bosque at the end of Candelaria.

Wednesday, 10/5

Jemez Hike and Mikvah

Wednesday, 10/12

Erev Yom Kippur, 7:30 pm. Kol Nidre Services.
Please RSVP by September 23rd for reserved seats.

Thursday, 10/13

Yom Kippur Services and Ceremonies,
10 am through early evening.

There will be a break at approximately 2 pm.

Yizkor Remembrance Service, approx. 5:30 pm

Nei'lah and Closing Ceremony, approx. 6:30 pm

Break Fast will begin at approximately 7:30 pm.