

MINYAN MONTHLY

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Elul 5754

Koran Update

--by David Schulman

The day after the massacre at the cave of Machpelah, it was proposed that money be collected to purchase korans for a local mosque as an expression of sorrow and outreach. A total of \$413.00 was collected from 18 donors to purchase six Korans and two reference books for the Islamic Center of California.

The Korans (which are annotated, like a Hertz Chumash) will be used by individual worshippers and the reference books will be in the Center's library. The mix of Korans and reference books was suggested by Dr. Maher Hathout, our contact at the Islamic Center.

Each book has a dedication page, printed on light green paper (green and white is for Islamic culture much like blue and white is for us), which states

"Given by the following members of the Library Minyan at Temple Beth Am of Los Angeles and their families in response to the terrible act at the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron on February 25, 1994." followed by the names of the donors.

The dedication page concluded with.

"May we see the day when the cave becomes a symbol of redemption, of two peoples, praying side by side, each from its own book, together living in peace."

followed by the Islamic, Jewish and secular dates.

The books were presented Sunday morning, April 24. Maeera Shreiber, Rachel Adler and I arrived at the Center at 9:30 a.m. Dr. Hathout was delayed, so we had time to browse in the Center's bookstore and take in a sense of the Center.

For all three of us, there was a familiar feeling about the entire institution. Kids ran around between classes at the religious school, notices of tours to the Middle-East were posted on the bulletin board. It was like visiting cousins we'd never met before.

Upon Dr. Hathout's arrival, we were taken in to present the books to the Center's board of directors, which was holding its regular meeting.

Following introductions and words of welcome, I briefly described the events that had led to our coming. The letter concluded:

"Your community and ours are neighbors in this city, far from the scene of murder and bereavement, yet we cannot but share its

horror and grief. The sacred place where it occurred belongs to us as well, and we are linked with those who were involved. We offer you these books as a small gesture toward healing, as an affirmation that some of your cousins understand their holiness and have for you the same hope we have for ourselves: to pray and study in peace, to enter the holy places with a trusting and tranquil heart directed wholly toward God without fear or distraction."

I was too focused on my presentation to pay attention, but Maera and Rachel both reported how deeply touched the members of the board were, especially by the reference to our identification as worshippers to those who were killed while worshipping. I then made a formal presentation of the books to the board, and read the dedication, which I said we hoped would always remind the books' users of our efforts to reach out to each other.

The words of acceptance by the president of the board again made clear the depth of feeling of those present. He said the Center has already begun the process of reaching out, in turn, and referred to a press release issued by the Center condemning the subsequent massacre of Jews at Afula.

During the tour of the Center which followed, Dr. Hathout gave us several issues of The Minaret, a bi-monthly magazine published by the

Center. They are being sent on to Rabbi Rembaum with a request that they be made part of the temple's library, along with an explanation as to how the temple acquired them.

An article on page 12 of the May/June 1993 edition is worth noting. It's entitled, "The Jews of Sarajevo."

"A small Jewish community is braving Serbian shells to repay a 50-year-old debt to Muslims who saved Jews from the Holocaust. Ivica Ceresnjes, president of the Jewish Community of Sarajevo, together with...1,000 Jews have remained... rather than leave for Israel..."

The Jews of Sarajevo say there's a long tradition of cooperation, inter-marriage and tolerance between the two communities in Sarajevo that goes back to centuries of Turkish rule. Sarajevo's Jews trace their ancestry back to their expulsion from Roman Catholic Spain in 1492. The community number more than 14,000 before World War II, but only 10% survived the Holocaust. Many of the survivors were hidden by Muslim families in Mostar."

Please MAIL or FAX all changes and updates to the Minyan List to:

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**UPDATE: TEMPLE BETH AM
SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY
CHILDCARE GROWING**

--by Michelle Krotinger Wolf

Plans are underway to expand and strengthen our childcare programs on Shabbat and holidays for all families with children at Temple Beth Am. Teri Cohan Link, Fran Grossman and myself are working with members of the "Big Shul" and the professional TBA staff to develop a year-round program that will keep our little ones safe, happy and spiritually enriched while we are davening.

We want to set up a five-tier program, with appropriate activities for each age grouping:

I) Infant to walking -- quiet, carpeted room with toys and places for moms to nurse

II) Walking to 3 years -- Toddler/Nursery program with songs, prayers games and separate time on the playground.

III) 3-5 years -- Tot Shabbat service, kiddush and time on the playground.

IV) 6-12 years -- Junior Congregation/kiddush/playground time (on roof)

V) Teen service

We hope to have this program under the coordination of a to-be-hired professional, who will supervise the baby-sitters/counselors, as well as develop Shabbat/Holiday program themes and activities. If you would like to be part of this exciting expansion of our current program, please contact Teri, Fran or myself.

Treasurer's Column

--by Dale Bodenstein

Thank you for the following donations to the Library Minyan:

David Brown, MD and
Sherri Brown, MD

Leon and Anne Kramer

Martin and Azlora Klianon

Lawrence and Abigail Harris

Steven Alan Bergstein and
Debra Sue Ross

Jerome and Nancy Glaser

Howard, Eva and Sheri
Hoffenberg in memory of
Nathan Hoffenberg.

Jeff Marder, Cathy Engel Marder
and Rachel Marder, who
say thanks to Norm and
Rachel Green for their
Pesach hospitality.

and to Fred and Diane
Landau for their
wonderful Shabbat
hospitality.

Congratulations to:

Luis Lainer for being honored
by New Israel Fund

Larry Schwimmer on a job well
done as TBA president.

MINYAN COMMITTEES/CONTACTS

- Chair, Steering Committee
Ruth Askren (213)935-1492
- Minyan Treasurer
Dale Bodenstein(213)937-7443
- Reading Torah or Haftorah
Lida Baker (213)934-3663
- Gabai'im-Shabbat/Holiday Services
Torah Honors
Alan Broidy (213)933-8894
Stan Goldstein (310)837-5503
Art Metz (310)276-6905
Itzhak Yaron (310)657-3760
- Drashot
Mark Rothman (310)659-0269
- Torah Gabai'im
Arnie Wuhrman (310)657-5533
Batya Cohen (310)657-4406
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Teri Cohan Link(213)272-7401
Fran Grossman (213)933-5040
Michelle Wolf (213)954-8681
- Child Care Volunteer Coordinator
(Vacant - at time of press)
- Hospitality
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- Kiddush
Judy Weinstock (213)933-1772
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- Minyan Guide
Carl Sunshine (213)934-7889
- Minyan Monthly
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- Ritual Committee
Ronnie Cohen (213)658-8057
- Scheduling Events-Master Calendar
Lida Baker (213)934-3663
- Shiva Minyans
Norm Saiger (310)837-5927
Rachel Green (213)938-8110

**CHILDREN'S FURNITURE
AVAILABLE:**

- Playtable and 2 chairs
- Changing table
- Crib and mattress
- Clamp-on child seat
- Wading pool
- Stepstool
- Rocking horse
- Baby Songs Videos

Call Carl and Tove Sunshine if interested, (213) 934-7889.

Editor's Column

--by Sharon L. Williams

I would love to publish at least one newsletter a month, but lately have had trouble finding enough news to print. Several people have called me, saying they were sending me something for the Minyan Monthly. I held onto this issue hoping to include as much news as possible, but never received the articles! Sorry for the delay and any miscommunication on my part that may have led to this situation. I am always eager and willing to print whatever members want to say, but would like to have a little more "newsworthy" stuff, rather than just announcements, which can always be made in shul. Please send articles by the 20th of each month, so I can put together an issue by the first of the next month.

Mail to: Sharon Williams
9114 Olin Street
Los Angeles, CA 90034
Or Call: (310) 838-1316 (H)

DON'T FORGET WE'RE STILL COLLECTING
CANNED AND PACKAGED FOODS FOR
SOVA
