

MINYAN MONTHLY



Vol. 4, No. 5

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Wedding makes New York Times

Tanya and Tolya Kodner, Soviet refugees forced to divorce before leaving the Soviet Union, celebrated their remarriage last May at Temple Beth Am. An article about the wedding published in the Los Angeles Journal was reprinted in the New York Times. (For the full text of the article, see p. 5.) Mazel tov from all of us to the Kodners!

Imahot Update

The Imahot Committee expects to meet shortly to discuss the issue of whether the Minyan is ready to vote or whether more study is still needed. All interested parties are requested to contact Janet Halbert (474-3936) to participate in (and possibly chair) future meetings.

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP IN THE TEMPLE BETH AM LIBRARY MINYAN AND HIGH HOLIDAY TICKETS DISTRIBUTION

This year, the first day of Rosh Hashanah will be September 12, 1988.

The synagogue office will soon mail to all members, including members of the Library Minyan, a form asking if they want to renew their membership, and how many high holiday tickets will be required for family members. These tickets will be issued by the synagogue, which will mail them out only to members whose prior-year balances have been paid in full. Therefore, be sure to pay your balance, if any, as soon as possible.

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High Holiday Tickets and Membership (continued from page 1)

Our dues for this year will be the same as last year. Amounts are as follows:

1. A family membership is \$550.00. A family membership entitles a member to seats for the member, his/her spouse, all children through grade twelve, and all children who are full time students at the undergraduate level.
2. A single membership (one for an unmarried individual) is \$275.00. Like a family membership, a single membership will entitle a member to seats for the member, all children through grade twelve, and all of the member's children who are full time students at the undergraduate level.
3. All children of paid members who are full time students at the graduate level will be entitled to seats at the rate of \$75.00 per seat. These must be ordered through the Library Minyan, rather than through the synagogue office.
4. A student membership (one for a full time student whose parents are not paid members) is \$75.00. This entitles the member to a seat. These seats must be ordered through the Library Minyan, rather than through the synagogue office.
5. It is our view that membership and participation in a synagogue are important responsibilities of all Jews. However, out-of-town guests are unable to utilize the benefits of the synagogue throughout the year. Therefore, a member may purchase seats for out-of-town guests at the

rate of \$75.00 per seat. These must be ordered through the Library Minyan, rather than through the synagogue office. (Members may not purchase tickets for Los Angeles area residents at this rate. Local residents must purchase regular memberships.)

6. Allowances will continue to be made for individuals or families to whom these dues rates are a financial hardship. Such individuals or families must contact the membership committee prior to the High Holidays to make appropriate arrangements.
7. Only paying members will be included on the "Minyan List" and be entitled to receive the Minyan Monthly.

Eddie Rabin, the Library Minyan's treasurer, reports that the Library Minyan's bank account is quickly becoming exhausted. We cannot currently cover the cost of a year's printing and postage for the Minyan Monthly, about \$10.00 per address. Consequently, this letter includes a request for a donation.

Please fill in the form on page 9 and return it to me. This will serve several purposes: (i) It will constitute your formal application for additional seats for the High Holidays; (ii) It will confirm your name and address for the Fall update of the Minyan List; (iii) It will give you an opportunity to make a contribution to the Library Minyan; (iv) It will ensure your receiving notice of meetings of the Minyan committees that interest you; and (v) It will inform the appropriate coordinators of your willingness to daven, read torah, etc.

- Jeffrey Rabin,
Chairman,
Membership Committee

A Word of Thanks

As I turn over the Childcare Committee to its new leadership, I would like to express my thanks to all the people who helped me during my tenure. Thanks to all the people who helped out, volunteered to sit, or donated toys and books to child care. A special thank you to Bill Strick, of Beth Am, for donating \$50 of Beth Am funds to our toy fund, and to Eddie Rabin for matching it with \$50 from Minyan funds. I appreciated having this opportunity to serve, and I wish the best of luck to Fran Grossman, Ruth Askren and Rachel Green, the new Childcare Committee.

- Irit Sorokin

Thanks for supporting us!

The Minyan would like to thank the following people for their generous contributions:

The Zerner Foundation
David & Lillian Zerner
Saul Andron & Susan Tober
Larry & Dinah Raful
Jeanette Moss
Robin Moss
Fay Wouk

Women's Shabbaton Proposal

There is a plan to hold a Women's Shabbaton with some Jewish women's educators as speakers. Is there sufficient interest to get this off the ground? If you would be interested in a.) attending or b.) helping to organize such a Shabbaton, or if you know of a place where it could be held, please contact Irit Sorokin (938-1437).

From the Editor

As many of you have probably noticed, the *Minyan Monthly* has not succeeded in being truly monthly. This can change, but only with your cooperation. Remember, an editor can only edit if he or she has something to edit. So send in your contributions. Anything received by the 15th of a given month will appear in the issue that comes out (hopefully) on the 1st of the following month. If you don't submit anything, there will be no *Minyan Monthly*. Please, contribute!

- Fay Wouk

Enriching Summer Childcare

The Childcare Committee needs more adult volunteers to assist the paid babysitters every Shabbat. Therefore, we are asking single adults with no kids, and individuals with kids too old for childcare, to spend some time with either the toddlers or the older kids. You can read stories, play on the floor, or come in with some newfangled Shabbasdik activity you dreamed up on your own. (You can also just sit and watch.)

In addition, it has become clear that our Minyan now has more kids than can play unsupervised in the "Kiddush Room" (Cafe Keshet.) They can get disturbingly noisy in there, and may play unsafely and injure themselves or each other. If you think your kids are possible offenders, please instruct them to stay where the babysitters are unless they are going to the chapel, to the bathroom, or to get a drink. We don't want any accidents!



To Volunteer

Contact the following people to help:

To daven:

Norm Green	938-8110
David Rubin	937-5164
Donna Silver	382-2407
Elliot Sturman	461-2455

To read Torah or Haftorah:

Seth Rosen	216-1594
Sharon Kushner	659-1926

To give a drasha:

Jeff Rabin	553-0904
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To get help preparing a drasha:

Levi Shnairson	653-9439
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To learn to daven or read Torah or Haftorah:

David Rubin	937-1437
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To help with child care:

Ruth Askren	274-3211
Fran Grossman	933-5040
Rachel Green	938-8110

To sponsor a kiddush:

Sereta Stevens	275-0931
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To host a Shabbat lunch for Hachnasat Orchim:

Robin Moss	652-2261
Georgia Beller	854-0275
Sharon Kushner	659-1926
Judy Massarano	652-9652

To contribute to the *Minyan Monthly*:

Fay Wouk	397-4567
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Volunteers Needed

To leyen: Volunteers are currently still needed for reading Torah and Haftorah for the months of July and August. (To read in July contact Seth Rosen. To read in August contact Sharon Kushner.)

To help with kiddush: More volunteers are needed for set up/clean up for upcoming scheduled kiddushes. (Call Sereta to volunteer.) Also, if you wish to sponsor a kiddush, be advised that you should book well in advance, as the schedule is filling up.

To give drashot: We have a desperate need for volunteers to give drashot during the summer. (Call Jeff Rabin to volunteer)

Library Minyan List

Please make the following corrections to your Minyan list:

Milt & Irit Sorokin:

1286 S. Ridgeley Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90019

Fay Wouk:

4107 Inglewood Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90066
213-397-4567



The New York Times

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1988

Los Angeles Journal

United in New Country, United Again in Marriage

By RICHARD BERNSTEIN
Special to The New York Times



LOS ANGELES, May 31 — Seventeen years ago, the first time Tanya and Tolya Kodner

got married, it was a simple event: "student-like," Tanya recalled. There was a quick civil ceremony in Leningrad, a small reception for family and friends, a brief honeymoon.

The divorce was simple also. Tolya merely went to court, signed a piece of paper saying that Tanya was "no longer my wife," and their marriage was officially over.

A bit later, Tanya and the former couple's 9-year-old daughter, Maryana, left for the United States. Tolya saw them off at the airport, went to his empty home in Leningrad and, trying not to feel too bereft, drank a few too many glasses of vodka.

Tanya and Tolya got married again in Los Angeles today, even as Ronald Reagan and Mikhail S. Gorbachev were meeting in Moscow.

This time, nothing was missing.

The ceremony at the Beth Am Synagogue was conducted by two rabbis. The couple stood under the traditional canopy. Tolya broke a glass under his foot, commemorating the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. When it was over, and Mr. and Mrs. Kodner were newly remarried, there was a general sense that good had been done.

"There's no happiness without a Jewish wedding," said a beaming Janet R. Halbert, one of a number of the members of the Beth Am Synagogue who have embraced the Kodners.

Mr. and Mrs. Kodner (their real first names are Anatoly and Tatyana, although they go by Tolya and Tanya) are among the thousands of Soviet Jews once denied permission to leave their country who are benefiting from the loosening of restrictions on emigration. While their story is a familiar one in this sense, it is unusual in one important respect.

For several years the Soviet au-

Divorce was simple but far from easy.

thorities had made it clear that while Mrs. Kodner and her daughter could leave, Mr. Kodner, a physician who had once served as an officer in the Soviet Army, could not.

So, taking the risk that they would never see each other again, they decided to go through the formalities of a divorce. That done, Mrs. Kodner, her daughter, and her mother, Raya Rubin, left the Soviet Union last May, eventually arriving in Los Angeles, where some relatives were already living.

"We just decided that if there is a chance to leave the Soviet prison, we had to do it for the sake of our child," Mrs. Kodner said before the wedding.

How did she and her husband feel last May, when the time came for them to separate?

"Better not to remember it," she said. Then she went on: "I never thought that he wouldn't be able to come. I thought that maybe with the rest of us here, we would be able to do the impossible."

At the end of last year, Mr. Kodner got word that the authorities were withdrawing objections to his departure. He arrived here in March, and the couple, who never felt that their divorce had been anything but a formality, decided to remarry in a Jewish ceremony.

A large number of new friends looked on today. Mr. Kodner, in a black suit, was first under the canopy. His daughter and Mrs. Rubin came next, along with many children of other members of the Jewish community. Finally, Mrs. Kodner, wearing a white dress and carrying a bouquet of red carnations, walked down the aisle as Mr. Kodner smiled broadly down at her.

The couple twice drank wine out of



The New York Times/Bart Bartholomew

Tolya and Tanya Kodner after their wedding in Los Angeles.

the same glass. They exchanged rings. They recited vows in Hebrew and English by which, among other things, Mrs. Kodner said: "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine." And everybody noted that the marriage ceremony, after 17 years of marriage and a brief divorce, was better the second time around.

"A Jewish ceremony was impossible for us when we got married as students in Leningrad," said Mrs. Kodner, who worked as a technical translator. "We would have been kicked out of school immediately if we had even approached the synagogues."

The couple first applied to emigrate eight years ago and encour-

tered the problems of many people asking to leave. Mr. Kodner lost his job as an assistant professor of physics at the university. Mrs. Kodner lost hers as a teacher of English. They lived a precarious existence inside the dissident community and agonized over their choice — to divorce and take their chances, or not.

"In the Soviet Union, you are always deprived of the right to be a Jew," Mrs. Kodner said. "Here, you don't have to be brave to be a Jew. You don't understand what it means to be afraid."

"We were lucky," Mr. Kodner said. "There are other people who have waited 15 years after divorcing and who are not reunited still."

Announcements

Kabbalat Shabbat - Many of us meet each Friday night for Kabbalat Shabbat services. All members of our community are invited to join us at the following places and times:

July 1	7:00	Max Stern	1449 S. Point View #9
July 8	7:00	Brad & Sharon Grob	1021 Stearns Drive
July 15	7:00	Jonathan & Janice Lightman	1420 S. Bedford St. #305
July 22	7:00	Glenn & Judy Massarano	1449 S. Canfield
July 29	7:00	Sharon Kushner	8545 Saturn #203
Aug 5	7:00	Fred & Diane Landau	905 S. Ledoux #3
Aug 12	7:00	Glenn & Judy Massarano	1449 S. Canfield
Aug 19	7:00	Georgia Beller	910 S. Holt #205
Aug 26	7:00	Alan Broidy	1043 S. Sterns Drive

If you have any questions, please call Brad Grob (276-2634) or Glenn Massarano (551-0161).

Housing needed - Family on Sabbatical from Hebrew University wishes to exchange homes or rent a 3-4 bedroom house for the period August 1988 - June 1989. Contact Benninga, P.O. Box 10360, 91102 Jerusalem, Israel or phone 011-972-2-718502.



Mommy and Me - A new class is forming for the fall. For more information call the Beth Am office.

Lamaze Classes by Linda Levenson, N.N.M.N. in Beverly Hills. Call her at 553-5346 or on minyan list.

The *Minyan Monthly* is published by Sharon Grob, illustrated by Ruth Askren, and edited by Fay Wouk. If you would like to publish a letter, announcement, or article in the next issue, please send it to Fay at 4107 Inglewood Blvd, LA 90066. (Phone: 213-397-4567.)

Submissions on 3 1/2" diskette may be made in any of the following formats: Macintosh Word, Macwrite or Fullwrite, AppleII Appleworks, or IBM Microsoft Word. Submissions of ASCII text via modem may be made using Kermit or Xmodem protocol (call first by voice phone to arrange for modem submission.)

Hachnasat Orchim Survey

The Hachnasat Orchim Committee wishes to thank all the people who sent in surveys volunteering to host a Shabbat lunch last month, as well as all the people who have hosted guests on Shabbat in the past. Your generosity has helped make our Minyan more welcoming to newcomers.

We would like to arrange hosts now for the next few months. Please take a few moments to volunteer by circling the dates you would be willing to host:

August 6	September 3	October 1
August 13	September 10	October 8
August 20	September 17	October 15
August 27	September 24	October 22
		October 29

Do you keep kosher? Y N

Are you within walking distance of the minyan? Y N

Please fold in half, staple or tape, and mail this form to Georgia Beller (address on back).

For further information, call:

Georgia Beller	854-0275
Robin Moss	652-2261
Judy Massarano	652-9652
Sharon Kushner	659-1926

Thank you!

Georgia Beller
Chair, Hachmassat Orchim Committee
910 S. Holt #205
Los Angeles, CA 90035