

# MINYAN MONTHLY

Volume 7, No. 8

February, 1994

Shevat-Adar 5754

## Editor's Column

### AFTER THE QUAKE

--by Sharon Williams

Being shaken out of my bed at 4:30 in the morning is hardly the bonding experience I'd have expected as an L.A. resident. Once I realized this wasn't going to be another quick jolt, then back to sleep with a sigh of relief, that's when the real terror set in. Now that the worst is over, I discover the quake has become just that, a leveling influence that's turned us all, rich and poor, renters and homeowners, immigrants and natives both inward and outward in our search for resources to cope in times of stress. Having moved to my new house little more than a year ago, I had yet to meet most of my neighbors. The earthquake took care of that--a belated but welcome silver lining.

Much more than my house and furniture has been shaken, and more than my mirrors, glass dishes and chimney are cracked and shattered.

A profound process of reevaluation began with that rude awakening. The constant aftershocks serve to continue the process, lest I become complacent again.

We all know, somewhere in the back of our minds, that earthquakes are a part of life in L.A. But having lived through many large and small temblors during my thirty-odd years living here, I have to admit to being a bit jaded and overconfident. Though I own a well-stocked earthquake kit, unlike some of my neighbors and friends, I found myself questioning whether it would have been enough, if this had been the "Big One". And for the first time in my life, I wondered if I wanted to stick around and find out.

I was somehow immensely comforted by the recent decision to upgrade this quake's intensity, from 6.6 to 6.8, according to the earthquake center in Colorado. All I could think when I heard the original assessment was, "If that's a 6.6, I don't want to be around for an 8.0." Perhaps, like the temblors we had a few weeks before this quake, we will use the experience to prepare in earnest for the "Big One", which will

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## New Steering Committee Chair Announced

--by Norm Green

Ruth Askren has been elected to chair the Library Minyan Steering Committee. Her term of office will begin on Rosh Chodesh Nisan, falling this year on March 13, the day after Shabbat HaChodesh.

During her term, in addition to the ordinary issues that arise in the Minyan, we will be moving from our long-time home in the existing chapel to one or more temporary locations (probably first the Mirror Room and then another site) and finally to a new permanent location.

Ruth brings many talents and abilities to this position, as well as years of experience and commitment. I am confident she will do well.

I have enjoyed my tenure in this position and hope my contributions have been to the net benefit of the community. The chair actually plays a small part in the running of the Minyan; leadership in the Minyan is a rather amorphous concept. I want to thank all the people who have coordinated ongoing programs and special projects, the people who have volunteered in so many ways to assist the Minyan; and even those who have helped to keep us on our toes with an occasional kvetch.

Let me specifically thank a few people by name: Brad Grob, for representing the Minyan on the Executive Committee of the Congregation; Synagogue President Larry Schwimmer, who has always sought to be helpful (although his Yom Kippur fund-raising speeches may leave something to be desired); Sharon Williams, for re-vitalizing the Minyan Monthly; Abby Harris, for re-establishing the hospitality committee; and my wise and tolerant wife, Rachel.

I wonder if I can still get an Aliyah on Yom Kippur?

## \$Treasurer's Column\$

--by Dale Bodenstein

Thank you to Mitch Miller and Baruch Cohan Link for their contributions to the Library Minyan, and fulfilling their Simchat Torah pledges.

The Library Minyan offers sincere condolences to the Stern family in memory of their son, Jacob. We acknowledge tzedakah to the Minyan collected at the Stern family home during shiva for Jacob.

A chumash was donated in memory of Jacob Hillel Stern by Dr. David and Frances Kurin.

Thank you to Jeff and Cathy Marder for their contribution to the Minyan in honor of the Alexander Family.



## THE KOTEL

Submitted by Paul Nisenbaum's  
Aunt Ida Grove

Did you ever wonder what happens to all the notes deposited in the crevices of the Western Wall?

More than two million people a year go to the Wall, to look, to pray, to be inspired. And because the Wall is such a holy place, most of the people tuck a little note, usually with a special request of G-d, into one of the Wall's crevices. The notes ask for all kinds of things, for children, for peace, for a good grade, for the winning lottery number, on and on.

Every day more and more of them are put in, in all different languages, and yet, there is always room for more. How is that? Where do all the notes go? An Israeli journalist decided to find out.

There were all kinds of guesses about the fate of all those notes. One woman said they all go up to heaven where the angels sort them out. One man said he assumed they were disintegrated into pulp. Yet another said he thought the sanitation department removes them and takes them to the city dump.

Well, this is what really happens. Rabbi Meir Yehuda Herz, religious caretaker of the Wall, removes them twice a year. The Wall is carefully cleaned out of all scraps that have accumulated just before Pesach and Rosh HaShanah. All the notes are carefully placed in large bags, receiving the same treatment as damaged Torah

scrolls, and during the night twice a year they are carried off to a special cave in the cemetery on the "Mount of Olives" and buried in a dignified ceremony. There they stay, a permanent record reflecting the hopes, fears, dreams, spiritual and day-to-day concerns of this generation of Jews.

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

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315 S. BEVERLY DRIVE  
SUITE 501  
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212

FAX NO. (310) 551-1929

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## Purim Hootenanny Folk Song Night



When: Shushan Purim  
Saturday Night  
February 26, 1994  
8:30 p.m.

Where: Cafe Schmooze  
7466 Beverly Blvd.  
Los Angeles  
(East of Fairfax, south side)

Who: Everyone's Invited!

Why: It's Adar! Be happy!

Sponsored by David Schulman,  
Rachel Adler and Yitzhak Yaron.  
For more information call Yitzhak  
Yaron:  
(H) 310/657-3760. (W) 213/965-  
6420.



PLEASE SEND YOUR  
ARTICLES  
TO THE MINYAN  
MONTHLY



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

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**EMPIRE KOSHER TURKEY  
TZEDAKAH PROGRAM REPORT**

--by David Schulman

In November, Empire Kosher announced an attractive tzedakah program centered around Thanksgiving. For every pound of turkey purchased between November 15 and November 30, based on the weight labels sent in by consumers, Empire Kosher would donate a like amount to local food banks.

The program was announced in shul the two weeks prior, and the shabbat immediately following Thanksgiving. Minyan members were invited to send the labels to me, and I would forward them to Empire Kosher. Only one family responded.

I am perplexed by the lack of response, more so than if there had been no response at all. If no one had responded, I would have assumed that something about the project just didn't resonate with the Minyan's ethos. But in checking with the one family that did respond, I confirmed what I had suspected at the outset--that this had seemed an easy, lovely thing to

do. They also confirmed that the "buzz" in their vicinity after the announcement suggested many others felt similarly. They are as perplexed as I.

The only guide to the perplexed I've been able to come up with is that no one else had turkey for Thanksgiving. I'd appreciate hearing from anyone about why this tzedakah effort came up such a turkey.

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

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**QUAKE (continued from page 1)**

surely come, if not in our lifetime, then in our children's, should they choose to stay. After due deliberation, I find I can't seriously consider leaving, not with my wonderful friends, supportive community, and cozy home still standing, albeit somewhat battered.

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**NEW TORAH / HAFTORAH  
COORDINATOR WANTED !!**

Lida Baker would like someone to take over as coordinator of Torah and Haftorah reading. This job takes only about one hour a month. Please call Lida at (213) 934-3663 if you are interested.

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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

Child Care  
Teri Cohan Link  
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Michelle Wolf  
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Child Care Volunteer  
Coordinator  
(Vacant at time of  
press)

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Carl Sunshine  
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Ronnie Cohen  
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Scheduling Events-  
Master Calendar  
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(213)934-3663

Shiva Mingans  
Norm Salger  
(310)837-5927  
Rachel Green  
(213)938-8110



*Purim  
Festival*

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE I

LIBRARY MINYAN - GABBAI ROTATION - 5754

|     |    |                                |                |
|-----|----|--------------------------------|----------------|
| MAR | 5  | - Vayakhel, Shabbat Parah      | Art Metz       |
|     | 12 | - Pikudei, Shabbat Hachodesh * | Itzhak Yaron   |
|     | 19 | - Vayikra                      | Alan Broidy    |
|     | 26 | - Tzav, Shabbat Hagadol        | Stan Goldstein |
|     | 27 | - 1st day of Pesach            | Art Metz       |
|     | 28 | - 2nd day of Pesach            | Stan Goldstein |
| APR | 2  | - 7th day of Pesach            | Alan Broidy    |
|     | 3  | - 8th day of Pesach            | Itzhak Yaron   |
|     | 9  | - Shemini *                    | Art Metz       |
|     | 16 | - Tazria-Mezorah               | Stan Goldstein |
|     | 23 | - Achre Mot-Kedoshim           | Alan Broidy    |
|     | 30 | - Emor                         | Itzhak Yaron   |
| MAY | 7  | - Behar-Bechukotai *           | Art Metz       |
|     | 14 | - Bamidbar                     | Stan Goldstein |
|     | 16 | - 1st day Shavuot              | Art Metz       |
|     | 17 | - 2nd day Shavuot              | Stan Goldstein |
|     | 21 | - Naso                         | Alan Broidy    |
|     | 28 | - Behaalotecha                 | Itzhak Yaron   |
| JUN | 4  | - Shelach *                    | Art Metz       |
|     | 11 | - Korach                       | Stan Goldstein |
|     | 18 | - Chukat                       | Alan Broidy    |
|     | 25 | - Balak                        | Itzhak Yaron   |
| JUL | 2  | - Pinchas *                    | Art Metz       |
|     | 9  | - Matot-Masee, Rosh Chodesh Av | Stan Goldstein |
|     | 16 | - Devarim, Shabbat Chazon      | Alan Broidy    |
|     | 23 | - Vaetchanan                   | Itzhak Yaron   |
|     | 30 | - Ekev                         | Art Metz       |
| AUG | 6  | - Re'e *                       | Stan Goldstein |
|     | 13 | - Shoftim                      | Alan Broidy    |
|     | 20 | - Ki Teze                      | Itzhak Yaron   |
|     | 27 | - Ki Tavo                      | Art Metz       |
| SEP | 3  | - Nizavim                      | Stan Goldstein |
|     | 10 | - Vayelech, Shabbat Shuvah     | Alan Broidy    |
|     | 17 | - Haazinu                      | Itzhak Yaron   |

\* Birchat Hachodesh

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Several people have expressed opinions to me verbally about the issue of appropriate women's ceremonial garb, at the bimah and in shul. I would love to receive opinions, musings, historical and background information, etc. to print in the next issue of the Minyan Monthly. We're breaking new ground, so perhaps everyone else feels just as shy about speaking up on this topic as I do. But hey, if not now, when?