



Shirat HaYam – Carmel Congregation Newsletter

October 2010 | Heshvan 5771

התנועה
ליהדות
מתקדמת



Dear members, friends and supporters,

The past month of October was filled with activity, from closing the High Holidays and ending with an excursion to Ramat HaNadiv.



Sukkot

We closed the month of September at Rabbi Ilana Baird's sukkah, where she hosted members of the congregation. On the first night of Sukkot, we welcomed the holiday by fulfilling the commandment of sitting in the sukkah and saying the blessings.

On a later night, congregants brought something good to eat for a pot luck dinner. Ilana prepared a lesson on Sukkot, starting with everyone telling a story about the origin of their own name. Then, we read from Ecclesiastes and talked about its meaning.

Simhat Torah at Or Hadash

The month of October began with our celebrating a new cycle of reading the Torah. We joined Congregation Or Hadash for Simhat Torah, and danced with our own congregation's Torah scroll along with the many others that fill Or Hadash's ark. Everyone had a chance to hold and dance with a Torah, even the children danced with smaller Torah scrolls that belong to Or Hadash. Or Hadash is holding our Torah scroll in the ark of their secondary sanctuary until we find our own permanent home. We are very grateful to Or Hadash and Rabbi Dr. Edgar Nof for inviting us to share in their celebrations, and felt pride being able to contribute.



Shabbat Bereishit

The following Shabbat morning, Rabbi Ilana Baird led us in services at Congregation Or Hadash. Our own Natasha Kaplan joined Ilana on the *bima* with members Or Hadash in prayers and the Torah reading of *Bereishit*, the first portion of the Torah. We read from our congregation's Torah, and

Ilana invited all members of both congregations to bless it. We celebrated Sasha Prevezentzev's mother, Ludmila's first *aliyah* to bless the Torah and sang *siman tov* for her after the second blessing. It was a very joyful and spiritual experience, with a lot of music and song.

Rosh Hodesh

We gathered with the Keshet Project to learn in our special woman study group for Rosh Hodesh Heshvan. Liora Rabin spoke about the month of Heshvan, and its different meanings in Judaism. Then we focused on the topic of *tzdakah* and studied in depth the various ways of giving in Judaism.

Beit Midrash

This past month, we studied our beit midrash in coordination with Oranim College's Shdemot Center. Shdemot invited a special guest, Maya Aksakalov from the Jewish Agency's Education Department. She led an insightful and interesting discussion on Israel and the Diaspora and their relationships. We all were enriched with a lot to think about.

Ramat HaNadiv Educational Trip



We closed the month with a trip to the beautiful formal gardens of Ramat HaNadiv, where the crypt of the Baron de Rothschild is found. The crypt itself was closed for renovations. The day began with a drizzle of rain, but turned out sunny and not very hot, not very cold. We wandered around the

gardens as Rabbi Ilana Baird taught us the First Aliyah to Palestine, and about The Great Benefactor, the Baron. HaNadiv is Hebrew for Great Benefactor. The Rothschild family still owns the gardens and the many acres of nature preserve around it, and keep it open to the public free of charge. We ended the excursion with a movie about the Baron and what he built in Palestine.



Thank You

We would like to thank our board who has contributed their hard work, time, energy, and late nights to complete our yearly budget and work plan for the coming year: Kira Hayat, Boris Tarnopolsky, Felix Kolmakov. We'd also like to thank Kosta Hayat, Natasha Tarnopolsky and Natasha Kaplan for their extraordinary advice and contribution.

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their dues and to those that will in the coming month.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Angela Segal for her generous donation to the congregation.

With blessings and wishes for a joyful month of Kislev, filled with lights and hope,

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