

Kol Ma'arav Voice of the West קול מערב

*The Newsletter of Congregation Sof Ma'arav,
the Westernmost Member of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism*

September - October 2004

In Memoriam, Rabbi Morris Goldfarb, Beloved Teacher and Friend, 1914-2004

"All my bones shall say, Lord who is like thee...?" Rabbi Goldfarb loved this passage and quoted it whenever he wanted to encourage active worship. His mission was to nurture the engaged body and mind at all times, but especially in worship services. These words about bones occur in a prayer in the morning service on the page following Nishmat and Ilu Finu, page 104. Sometimes we say the prayer, more often we leave it out. The words are a direct quote from Psalm 35.

Despite his wistful dream, Rabbi did not worship in a Hasidic, or gospel setting. He was a Conservative member of a Conservative shul. He was panted to his chair as are all the rest of us Sofers.

But we have our music at Sof, and Rabbi moved his bones as much as he could, tilting his head or, famously, responding to a song by opening and waving and spreading wide both his hands in a "there!-isn't-this-wonderful?" gesture. The memory of that gesture tugs at my heart. How can we live up to that strand of his legacy, the desire for infectious musical participation? I remember he loved it when we introduced a new song with a strong beat (Kol Han'shama) or when we used his old familiar Eil Adon melody. He tried introducing nigunim, those wordless, meditative melodies, but they didn't take hold at Sof, partly because of our time constraints.

Rabbi tried to move his bones as much as he could. We grew accustomed to his way of jumping to his feet at any part of the service to offer a bit of background or an extra meaning. Mental engagement and good discussion made his spirits soar as much as did singing. In planning sessions he tried unsuccessfully to get us to leave out some of our Saturday routine in favor of deeper exploration of one part – any part – of the service.

Scholar and teacher to the core, Rabbi Goldfarb found in Torah talk AND in Jewish folk and liturgical music his own response to the psalmist's exclamation, "All my bones shall say, Lord who is like you?! "Kol atzmotai tomama..."

by Fran Margulies

Sof Ma'arav High Holiday Schedule

Rosh Hashanah:

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2004	8:00 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah evening service begins (candle lighting 6:14 p.m.), followed by desert pot luck
Thursday, Sept. 16, 2004	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Morning service. (Afternoon Tashlich, check with Temple Emanuel for time and location)
Friday, Sept. 17, 2004	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Morning service.
Saturday, Sept. 18, 2004	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	Shabbat Shuvah followed by Oneg (check with Gin Sgan)

Yom Kippur:

Friday, Sept. 24, 2004	6:15 pm precisely	Kol Nidre evening service begins (candle lighting 6:06 p.m.)
Saturday, Sept. 25, 2004	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Morning service.
	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Afternoon service. (Fast ends at 6:57 p.m.) followed by Havdalah and Pot Luck Break-the-Fast.

Babysitting available.

YIZKOR MEMORIAL LIST

During the Yizkor memorial service on Yom Kippur, a list of those to be remembered is read aloud. The Yizkor List includes the names in the Book of Memory (see below) plus names added by members and others who attend High Holy Day services.

If the name you wish to recall was included last year, you don't have to submit it again.

TO ADD A NAME TO THE YIZKOR LIST,
please submit

by Monday, September 20, 2004:

1. THE NAME TO BE INCLUDED
2. YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER

BOOK OF MEMORY

The Congregation Sof Ma'arav Book of Memory is a permanent record for congregation members of an immediate family member (parent, sibling, child, spouse) who has died. The names are read at services on the Shabbat preceding the yahrzeit and during the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur.

TO ADD A NAME TO THE BOOK OF MEMORY
before the High Holy Days, please submit
by Wednesday, September 8.

1. NAME OF PERSON TO BE RECALLED
2. THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO YOU
3. THE DATE OF DEATH
4. YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER

Send information (NOT CHECKS) by mail, fax, or e-mail to:

Judy Goldman, P. O. Box 10755, Honolulu, HI 96816 Tel./FAX: 735-5877 E-mail: jgoldman@hawaii.rr.com

According to tradition, it is appropriate to give tzedakah in memory of a loved one. A contribution to Congregation Sof

Ma'arav is appreciated. Checks should be made out and mailed to :

Congregation Sof Ma'arav, P.O. Box 10850, Honolulu, HI 96816, with the notation that it is given for the Yizkor list.

High Holyday song and response workshop. Let's practice the High Holiday melodies!

Let's not be caught unrehearsed! Let's sing out like Sof Ma'arav!

Sunday Sept. 12, 4:30 to 7:00 PM. Home of Fran Margulies: 118 Hawaii Loa St. Call 373-2561 if you can come.

Informal practice cassette tapes available in advance on Shabbat.

DROSH HASHANAH!

God is one, The Book stays the same, but EVERYTHING else is relative. Your take on the text relates to you, to your stance on life, to what you've seen, where you've been. It's very different from mine: thirty or more potential droshers of a Shabbat morning at Sof!! So much untapped treasure!! Let us hear your thoughts.

We had an excellent active summer, and not a portion went undroshed. Thank you, thank you to all those who spoke. Genesis begins Oct. 9. This year we are chanting the first third of every Sedra, so some lucky drosher gets to discuss that seminal word...BERESHIT. As of this writing, all the foundation stories in Genesis are open.

Call or e-mail Fran: 373-2561, fayge@hawaii.rr.com

If a Sof member is thinking of visiting Auckland, Bangkok, or Mumbai and needs Shabbat addresses, Ken Pollock will be glad to share his 2003-04 discoveries. Contact Ken at mishnah@perform.cotse.net.

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Published by and for the membership of Congregation Sof Ma'arav
the Westernmost Congregation affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

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Mailing Address: Congregation Sof Ma'arav, P.O. Box 10850, Honolulu, HI 96816

Please visit our website at www.uscj.org/pacsw/honolulu.

Submissions and suggestions may be e-mailed to mrabinko@yahoo.com

Regular Shabbat Services are held Saturdays at 10 a.m. Babysitting is available.

Board of Directors

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Editor's Note: We commemorate in this issue the life of Rabbi Morris Goldfarb, beloved member of Sof and of the entire Jewish community of Hawaii, who passed away on June 9th, only weeks after the communal celebration of his 90th birthday. Fran Margulies shares her musings on Rabbi Goldfarb on page one, and below we reproduce Avi Soifer's address at Rabbi Goldfarb's 90th birthday celebration held on May 1 at Temple Emanu-el. May Rabbi Goldfarb continue to be a source of blessing, joy and light to our community.

Rabbi Goldfarb 90th Birthday Celebration By Avi Soifer

May 1, 2004

Part of the Morning Prayer said by Jews every day (though those of us who are frequent late-comers to Sof Ma'arav—despite Rabbi Goldfarb's gentle prodding—regularly miss its public pronouncement) declares:

Ma Tovuh, ohaleyachah Ya'acov, mishkenotechah Yisrael.

The stately, lovely old translation is: "How seemly are your tents, Oh Jacob, Your dwelling places of Israel."

And how seemly it is indeed today to invoke this passage in reference to the seamless life of Rabbi Morris Goldfarb, who did us all a massive favor through his brave act of moving his tent to Hawai'i after he retired as the revered Hillel Director at Cornell. We all know that he may once have been a little shy, but he is hardly retiring. His energy and engagement are simply amazing!

The community has been enriched, and in fact truly ennobled by his presence here. He is the anchor who makes Jewish life so vibrant for so many in Hawai'i. It also is entirely fitting that we remember in honoring him—as he recently reminded us—that "We love with a love with which we are loved," as Yehudah Ha'Levi put it.

There are many reasons that Rabbi Goldfarb is so deeply loved by so many of us. First, perhaps, because he absolutely loves life. He remains an optimist though he knows the facts. And he constantly reinforces a wonderful concept he grasped long ago and holds to tenaciously. "The root of sin" lies in "indifference to the sublime wonder of living." Rabbi Goldfarb conveys this crucial insight in his teaching and conversation—and even more through his deeds, his sweet singing, and his remarkable tolerance for all, the tuneless and even the clueless among us.

In the Jewish tradition, we are each and all instructed to choose a Rabbi for ourselves.

Those such as Marlene and I – and so many others – who have joyously chosen Rabbi Goldfarb as our rabbi find ourselves constantly blessed with loving challenges and a phenomenal store of knowledge. We also constantly encounter the very rare ability of a truly inspired teacher to impart some of what he knows quietly and very effectively. This teacher has a remarkably supple mind and somehow finds a way to help each and every student to make key discoveries, no matter what his or her level of knowledge or understanding beforehand.

Despite keen awareness of our very troubled world, Rabbi Goldfarb remains remarkably open to and hopeful for the future.

Invoking his own teacher, the famous Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan, Rabbi Goldfarb instructs but also embodies the idea that "the past may have a vote, but it does not have a veto." But Morris Goldfarb also exemplifies the wisdom of another of his great teachers, the civil rights activist Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, who taught that: "Right living is like a work of art, the product of a vision and of wrestling with concrete situations."

Rabbi Goldfarb himself has taught thousands of people incomparably important lessons. Actually he is always teaching through what he says, what he does, and through the music of his life.

Though no one can chant Hallel, with its beautiful praises for life and the Lord, like Morris Goldfarb, Rabbi Goldfarb also has a keen sense for "the silent sigh."

Amidst his joyful verve for living, Rabbi Goldfarb comprehends and conveys that, in our own world, "The demand is not only to respect justice in the sense of abstaining from doing injustice, but also to strive for it, to pursue it."

Like Moshe Rabaynuh—the biblical Moses of the Ten Commandments—Moshe Goldfarb hears and teaches with his heart.

There is an old saying: "Me'Moshe ad Moshe ayn k'Moshe." The play on words originally signified that from the ancient time of Moshe Rabaynuh until Moses Maimonides thousands of years later, there was none like Moses. We can add with great joy and pride: "M' Moshe ad Moshe ayn k'Moshe Goldfarb".

There has been and there is none like Moshe Goldfarb!

Havdalah Program of June 26, 2004: Jews and Ethnic Cleansing

We thank Jordan Popper for leading a lovely Havdalah service at Joe and Sally Morgan's home. Participants grappled with sections of the Torah directing how our ancestors were to deal with the Canaanites when they entered the Promised Land.

The discussion led by Joe Morgan ranged from context (consider the times), to condemnation (it should not have happened that way), to credit (most peoples would have rewritten their history). Joe used biblical references, historical moments, and current events to suggest that this matter is an ongoing phenomenon rather than a byproduct of a particular period in human development. Indeed, it may represent the darkest aspect of the human condition.

Conclusions were hard to come by, but still this session expanded the dimension of the question, provided additional perspective on the matter, and illustrated our Jewish openness to examining even the most vexing issues of our religion and history.

Our appreciation to Joe and Sally for hosting, leading the discussion, and serving such great refreshments.

- Mat Sgan

Letter from Robert Neuman & Mathew R. Sgan Co-Chairs, 56th Festival Hawaii

Re: Donations to Israeli Charities on behalf of the Hawaii Jewish Community

At its final meeting, the Steering Committee of the 56th Israel Independence Day Festival Hawaii decided on contributions to various Israeli charities on behalf of the Hawaii Jewish Community.

The charities receiving donations of \$500 each are: Magen David Adom in Israel; Friends of the Israel Defense Forces; and the Chabad Terror Victims Project. The Terror Victims Project wrote that the money will be directly put into action to assist families whose lives have been torn asunder by a Palestinian bomb or bullet. They stated: "With the funds that you provide we are delivering to these families the message that someone cares, that there is a world wide community of neighbors and fellow citizens whose shoulder and outstretched hand has been offered in love, solidarity, and support." Friends of IDF wrote: "Your gift will support the well being of the young men and women serving on high alert 24 hours a day, seven days a week in Judea, Samaria, Gaza Strip, and other IDF capacities."

The Committee also voted to send the remaining Israel-Hawaii T shirts to the Boys and Girls Towns of Jerusalem. The Boys and Girls Towns each received three (3) dozen Festival T-shirts and additional donated T-shirts.

The Steering Committee expresses its appreciation to all members of the Hawaii Jewish community who enabled the Festival to succeed in its mission to celebrate publicly the State of Israel and to extend aloha and support to it.

JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Jewish Community Services is happy to announce its 2004 *Volunteer of the Year*, Leona Weightman, long time active participant in the Hawaii Jewish community. We are pleased to have Judge Evelyn Lance as our Guest Speaker at a dinner honoring Leona and open to the community. Here's an opportunity for the community to celebrate and socialize together on Monday, October 25, 6:00 p.m. at the Outrigger Canoe Club. Tickets are \$50; reservations are required. Details are included in the JCS Rosh Hashanah newsletter.

Jewish Community Services continues to be a major resource offering support, counseling and guidance to members of the Hawaii Jewish community. Its stated mission is to support and enhance the quality of life for those in need of help in the Hawaii Jewish community by providing appropriate social services. While there are other agencies that provide such help, JCS is able to provide immediate attention because it is dedicated to the Jewish community. In practice, this means JCS Program Director, Sue Alden-Rudin may help a family who has an elderly relative who needs assistance to either stay at home or make recommendations and provide support in moving to an appropriate care home. She is called on during stressful times - when someone is laid off from a job and in need of emergency help; when a family or individual is searching for options and solutions in a crisis. JCS also has financial resources to aid people whose needs qualify them for assistance.

JCS invites you to look at its newsletter when it comes in the mail or when you see it on the table at Sof Ma'arav and become familiar with the ways JCS supports our community. Our Sof Ma'arav representatives on the board are Samantha Garr and Judy Goldman. Keep JCS in mind for a time when you or someone you know may be in need.

With the annual fund-raising campaign in full swing, please consider supporting this vital service either with a direct donation, through AWW or, in the month of September, through Foodland's *Give Aloha* Program. The JCS organization code is 77215.

You can reach Sue Alden-Rudin at 258-7121. The address is 2550 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

**READY...SET...GO... SCHOOL OF JEWISH STUDIES & SJS FOR ADULTS!
GETTING TO THE HEART OF JUDAISM...That's our goal at SJS.**

The SJS Jewish education program for children ages 4-16 begins Sunday September 12, 2004 at 9:00 AM with a student/parent orientation and a popular Virtual Rosh HaShanah & Yom Kippur. The curriculum includes Torah, Avodah, Mitzvot, Shabbat & the cycle of Holidays, Life Events, Israel and much more! To receive a registration packet please leave your name and mailing address on the new Education Hotline (593-3SJS) or E-mail your information to Mraplus@hawaii.rr.com

The SJS for Adults Program begins in October with a number of stimulating classes :

"Tehillim" with Rabbi Avi Magid will meet on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 AM – Noon starting October 12, 2004

"Ivrit Akshav" with Shachar will meet on selected Sunday mornings from 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM beginning Oct. 3, 2004.

"Jews in America"

"Building a Jewish Home"

"Oy I Could Plotz"

"Judaism & "

These classes will meet from 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM. Teachers: Rabbi Avi Magid, Dan Bender, Gregg Kinkley, Helene Mann

There is no fee for our Adult classes. Call our Education Hotline (593-3SJS) for dates and times.

**Congregation Sof Ma'arav
2500 Pali Highway
Honolulu, HI 96817**

To: