JEREMIAH REDUX

by Frances Gozland

Stacy Hall. That is the name of my oldest friend om I met upon entering the Los Angeles public school system. I credit Stacy with unintentionally inspiring me to embrace my Jewish heritage at the age of 20.

Stacy came from what I considered to be the perfect American family. They said grace at every meal, went to church every Sunday, observed family night every Monday, neither smoked nor drank alcohol, and remained loyal to their solid convictions as members of the Mormon Church.

Stacy and I would walk home from elementary school and junior high school with virtually one topic on our tongues: religion. She would present seemingly cogent arguments as to why the Book of Mormon and Joseph Smith's prophecies were true. I attended the baptisms of both of her younger

sisters and once went to her Sunday church service to explore what it was that drew the Hall family so close to their religious beliefs. I envied the Halls' conviction and wished I too had felt the spiritually gratifying periences they had described. cacy's mother even gave me the Book of Mormon and tried gently to lure me into the Church. I, with Conservative Jewish upbringing and limited knowledge of Judaism, would search for defenses as to why I believed Judaism rightfully rejected Mormon claims.

I was intrigued, but resistant because what both pained and perplexed me most was Stacy's family background. Mormons take their genealogy quite seriously, and Stacy was proud of her maternal family's Eastern European roots in the Jewish shtetl like those depicted in Fiddler on the Roof. Her mother's maiden name was Miller, and having grown up Jewish, she had converted to the Mormon Church over 40 years ago as an undergraduate at UCLA.

Prior to her conversion, Stacy's mother, like many young collegiates, had gone on a spiritual quest, one which she tried to satisfy by attending various synagogues. She first went to a Reform synagogue, but did not find it inspiring. She then

ed an Orthodox shul, but she could neither understand nor relate to the prayer service. She was eventually approached by Mormon missionaries, converted to the Church, and married a religious Mormon Church, I hear an echo of G-d's words to Jeremiah. G-d tells Jeremiah to remind the Jewish people of their initial marriage-like devotion to Him and how they have gone astray. G-d juxtaposes this estrangement of the Jewish people to the

Mormon gentleman by the name of Winston Hall.

Reflecting upon Mrs. Hall's allegiance to the

commitment of the other nations to their false gods: "For pass over the isles of Kitiyyim, and see;... if there has been such a thing. Has a nation changed their gods, even though they are not gods? But my people have changed its glory for that which does not profit. (Jer. 2:10 - 13)."

Although I was awed by Stacy's family's religious conviction, I had a feeling that Judaism had a spiritual truth to offer which Stacy's mother never had the opportunity to experience. I was challenged

throughout my adolescent and teenage years to find this truth and to match Stacy's Mormon conviction with a Jewish one. During my junior year abroad in Jerusalem, I finally had the opportunity to encounter the spiritual intensity which I had been seeking, after witnessing Stacy's for so long. I made a commitment to Torah, realizing that what I had envied about Mormon religious practice were really visages of Judaism. I pray that my husband Gaby and I will convey an adherence to Torah and mitzvot which will be an



I HAVE A JEWISH MORMAN TO THANK FOR LEADING MB TO YIDDISHKEIT

inspiration to our daughter and son.

Today Mrs. Hall has four beautiful, very committed Mormon children with children of their own. Two of them have gone on missions to Chile and England to spread the "Word" of the Mormon Church. Three of them are graduates of Brigham Young University in Utah. As Shavuot approaches, perhaps we can learn from the words of Jeremiah about the power and importance of our own religious commitment as Jews.

Had the National Jewish Outreach Program and Beginners Services existed 40 years ago, I am convinced that Susan Miller Hall would have understood the davening, she would have learned about her rich and beautiful Jewish heritage, and she would have Jewish grandchildren today.

Frances Gozland is a Resource Development Officer at the Joint Distribution Committee.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Nancy Pillet and Naphtali Lichtenstein Judy Comet and Aaron Warum Mazal Tov to parents Michelle and Dr. Joel Comet

<u>MARRIAGES</u>

Vivian Faistman and Joshua Corey Robin Reif and Dr. Stephen Rudin



Raina and Neil Baim, on the birth of a boy, Ari Maurice Zacharia

Yehudis and Aryeh (Larry) Brauner, on the birth of a boy, Aron Moshe

Marna and Dr. Fred Carroll, on the birth of a boy, Menachem Dov Ber

Vicki and Sam Katz, on the birth of a boy, Jordan Daniel

Barbara and Daniel Leeman, on the birth of a boy, Samuel Aaron (12/22/95)

Anat and Dr. Gabriel Levi, on the birth of a boy Dovid Eliezer

Sema and Rabbi Mordechai Reich, on the birth of a girl, Tamara Miriam Elisa and Joel Rosen, on the birth of a girl,

Miriam Raquel

Carolyn and Marc Rowan, on the birth of a boy, Zachary Robert

Beth and Joshua Schwartz, on the birth of a boy, Ze'ev Yitzchak

Sharona and Steven Spivak, on the birth of a boy, Gavriel Eliyahu Pesach

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Sam Sokol, son of Rose and Phil Sokol

CONGRATULATIONS

Phyllis (Perel) Blackman upon receiving the 'Community Service Award" at the Jewish Renaissance Center annual dinner. Margot Zitter upon celebrating her 90th birthday

SAVE THE DATE

Friday Evening Beginners Services May 17, June 21

Friday Evening Beginners Dinner May 17, June 21, cost \$15

Beginners Shabbat Luncheon June 1, cost \$15

All Night Shavout Learn-in Thursday, May 23 11:30 PM- 6:45 AM

Rosh Hashana Services Fri-Sun, Sept. 13 - 15

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Shabbat Morning, June 8th (B'haalotecha) Shabbat Morning Services 8:45 A.M. Daf Yomi 6:35 P.M. Chumash Class 7:05 P.M. Talmud Class 7:20 P.M. Mincha and Kabbalat Yom Tov 8:05 P.M. Daily Mincha and Maariv 8:15 P.M. Friday, June 14th	Shabbat, July 6th (Pinchas) 8:45 A.M. Shabbat Morning Services 7:10 P.M. Daf Yomi and Chumash Classes 7:10 P.M. Mincha 8:10 P.M. Daily Mincha and Maariv 8:20 P.M. Friday, July 12th Kindle Shabbat Candles 8:10 P.M. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 6:45 and 8:15 P.M.	Friday, August 9th Kindle Shabbat Candles
Kindle Shabbat Candles 8:10 P.M. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 6:45 & 8:15 P.M. Shabbat, June 15th (Shelach) Shabbat Mevorchim Shabbat Morning Services 8:45 A.M. Daf Yomi 6:40 P.M. Chumash Class 7:10 P.M. Talmud Class 7:25 P.M. Mincha 8:10 P.M. Daily Mincha and Maariv 8:15 P.M.	Shabbat July 13th (Mattot-Masey) Shabbat Morning Services 8:45 A.M. Daf Yomi and Chumash Classes 7:10 P.M. Mincha 8:10 P.M. Daily Mincha and Maariv 8:15 P.M. Wednesday, July 17th Rosh Chodesh Av Morning Services 7:00 and 7:40 A.M.	Thursday, August 15th Rosh Chodesh Elul Morning Services 7:00 and 7:40 Friday, August 16th Rosh Chodesh Elul Morning Services 7:00 and 7:40 A.M. Kindle Shabbat Candles 7:35 P.M. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 6:45 and 7:40 P.M. LAST WEEK OF EARLY MINCHA AND KABBALAT SHABBAT
Monday-Tuesday, June 17th-18th Rosh Chodesh Tammuz Morning Services . 7 & 7:40 A.M. Friday, June 21st Kindle Shabbat Candles . 8:13 P.M. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat . 6:45 & 8:15 P.M.	Friday, July 19th Kindle Shabbat Candles 8:05 P.M. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 6:45 and 8:10 P.M. Shabbat, July 20th (D'varim) Shabbat Chazon Shabbat Morning Services 8:45 A.M. Daf Yomi and Chumash Classes 7:00 P.M. Mincha 8:00 P.M. Daily Mincha and Maariv 8:10 P.M.	Shabbat, August 17th (Shoftim) 8:45 A.M. Shabbat Morning Services 8:45 A.M. Daf Yomi and Chumash Classes 6:30 P.M. Mincha 7:30 P.M. Daily Mincha and Maariv 7:35 P.M. Friday, August 23rd Xindle Shabbat Candles 7:25 P.M. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 P.M.
Shabbat, June 22nd (Korach) 8:45 A.M. Shabbat Morning Services 8:45 A.M. Daf Yomi 6:40 P.M. Chumash Class 7:10 P.M. Talmud Class 7:25 P.M. Mincha 8:10 P.M. Daily Mincha and Maariv 8:20 P.M.	Fast Begins 8:19 P.M. Mincha 8:10 P.M. followed by Maariv, Eicha and Kinot Thursday, July 25th Morning Services 7:00 and 8:30 A.M. Mincha 7:50 P.M.	Shabbat, August 24th (Ki Tetzey) 8:45 A.M. Shabbat Morning Services 8:45 A.M. Daf Yomi and Chumash Classes 6:20 P.M. Mincha 7:20 P.M. Daily Mincha and Maariv 7:25 P.M. Friday, August 30th Kindle Shabbat Candles 7:14 P.M.
Friday, June 28th 8:13 P.M. Kindle Shabbat Candles 8:13 P.M. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 6:45 and 8:15 P.M. Shabbat, June 29th (Chukat-Balak) 8:45 A.M. Shabbat Morning Services 8:45 A.M. Daf Yomi 6:40 P.M. Chumash Class 7:10 P.M. Talmud Class 7:25 P.M. Mincha 8:10 P.M. Daily Mincha and Maariv 8:20 P.M.	Fast Concludes 8:50 P.M. Friday, July 26th Kindle Shabbat Candles 8:00 P.M. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 6:45 and 8:05 P. M. Shabbat, July 27th (Va'etchanan) Shabbat Nachamu Shabbat Morning Services 8:45 A.M. Daf Yomi and Chumash Classes 6:55 P.M. Mincha 7:55 P.M. Daily Mincha and Maariv 8:05 P.M.	Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 7:20 P.M. Shabbat, August 31st (Ki Tavo) Shabbat Morning Services 8:45 A.M. Daf Yomi and Chumash Classes 6:10 P.M. Mincha 7:10 P.M. Daily Mincha and Maariv 7:15 P.M. Monday, September 2nd Labor Day Morning Services 7:05 and 8:30 A.M. Friday, September 6th
Thursday, July 4th Fast of 17th Day of Tammuz Fast Begins	Daf Yomi and Chumash Classes 6:50 P.M.	Kindle Shabbat Candles 7:03 P.M. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 7:05 P.M. Shabbat, September 7th (Nitzavim/Vayelech) Shabbat Morning Services 8:45 A.M. Daf Yomi and Chumash Classes 6:00/ Mincha 7:00 Daily Mincha and Maariv 7:10 1 SATURDAY NIGHT SELICHOT SERVICES