

“LET ME IN ON IT TOO”

**A JEWISH
SINGING, SIGNING AND SENSITIVITY
WORKSHOP**

presented by

NAOMI MILLER



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Naomi Miller and her husband Harvey have two sons, Philip and Joshua. Philip, the eldest, is deaf. During Philip's early years, Naomi and Harvey became co-founders of Parents for Deaf Awareness, Inc. (PDA), a New Jersey state-wide non-profit support, educational and advocacy group. PDA soon grew to include not only parents, but also deaf adults, adult children and siblings of the Deaf, teachers of the Deaf, audiologists, physicians, and many others concerned about Deaf rights.

Realizing the lack of accessibility for the Deaf within the Jewish community, Naomi also founded the Jewish Deaf and Hearing Impaired Council, Inc. (JDHIC), a non-profit New Jersey organization whose goals include raising Deaf awareness within the Jewish community and raising monies to fund Sign Language interpreters, real time captioning, and accessibility devices. Grants are awarded to Jewish institutions to serve their Jewish constituents and to Jewish deaf individuals so that they can enjoy and be included in community programs and family weddings, B'nai Mitzvot and other special Jewish occasions.

As a professional singer, Naomi has woven songs in "Sign" into her performances and all of her shows can be simultaneously interpreted into Sign Language for members of the audience who might be deaf. Naomi's cabaret shows in New York are almost always interpreted. Naomi has also had the privilege of performing for the National Congress of Jewish Deaf and other Deaf organizations.

As a teacher and lecturer, Naomi has spread Deaf awareness to students, adults, congregations, and civic groups through power point presentations, song, and interactive activities.

Naomi Miller was invited to be the "Religious School Scholar in Residence at Beth Tikvah synagogue in Wayne, NJ and Solomon Schechter Day school in Jerico , NY. She conducted an interactive program with students of all ages. They will learn sign language, sang Hebrew songs in sign and watched a PowerPoint presentation on deaf awareness.

JEWISH DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED COUNCIL, INC.

In cooperation with and sponsorship by the Passaic-Clifton YM-YWHA

199 Scoles Avenue

Clifton, New Jersey 07012



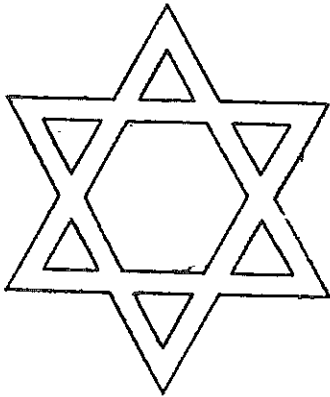
JDHIC: WHO ARE WE? WHAT DO WE DO?

The Jewish Deaf and Hearing Impaired Council, Inc. was founded in 1984 to enable deaf and hearing impaired Jews in New Jersey to participate in Jewish life. We work to promote an awareness of the needs of this segment of our community which, perhaps unintentionally, has been effectively excluded. At the same time, we encourage deaf and hearing impaired Jews to return to the community from which they may have felt detached.

Council members include deaf and hard of hearing adults, parents of hearing impaired children, and professionals working with the deaf - all of whom are volunteers. JDHIC is the only New Jersey statewide organization looking after the needs of hearing impaired Jews - whether they be Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist or independent.

Here are some of the ways JDHIC has helped:

- * We've organized workshops and provided speakers at various Y's and synagogues to help the Jewish community understand the special needs of its hearing impaired members.
- * We organize letter writing campaigns to remind Jewish institutions of the existence of the hearing impaired.
- * We pay for part of the cost of hiring sign language interpreters for deaf Jewish children attending religious schools and youth groups.
- * We provide interpreted High Holiday services.
- * We pay for sign language interpreters when deaf people attend Jewish events in New Jersey, such as weddings, funerals, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, lectures, etc.
- * We provide financial assistance to a Jewish deaf adult torah study group.
- * We provided a tutor to deaf Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union to teach them English and American Sign Language.
- * We subsidized the cost of an interpreter at conversion classes for a deaf woman.



OUR WAY

An Open Invitation

by Judy Citer
Regional Representative
New Jersey Our Way, NCSY

Our Way, a division of the National Conference of Synagogue Youth of the Orthodox Union, is a national program for the Jewish deaf. I have been the Regional Representative of the New Jersey Region for about two years, and I'd like to share with you what our program has offered to date and invite you to participate in the future.

Each month, a group of hearing impaired adults with a wide range of backgrounds in Judaism join together for an informal interpreted lecture on a variety of topics. At every meeting, a different rabbi from New Jersey discusses another aspect of Jewish living. The many holidays, the importance of learning what is kosher, and guarding one's speech are among the many interesting discussions thus far. We have had as many as sixteen participants come together to meet new and old friends, nosh a little, and learn about their Jewish heritage. The setting is informal and questions are encouraged. The speakers have been very knowledgeable and have also gained quite a bit of deaf awareness through the Our Way program.

We have met once at Risa Sochor's home, but most often at the homes of Joel and Sally Cohen and Samuel and Rachel Landau. These locations have best suited the majority of participants, who live in the area of West Orange and Elizabeth. However, we have regular attenders who join us from as far north as Englewood and as far south as Piscataway. As the saying goes, "it's worth the trip." In fact, without the generous hospitality of our members, I'm sure the program would not be such a great success.

I'd like to acknowledge the generous funds from JDHIC, which go toward publicity, organizing, and interpreting these events. In addition, the monies assist Our Way national publications to reach many hearing impaired Jews in New Jersey and help New Jersey participants to go to national Our Way activities.

I'd also like to thank the many people who occasionally or regularly attend the Our Way Come and Learn Program. They have certainly made my job rewarding because of their commitment to Jewish learning and their interest in the program.

If you've never heard of us before and are wondering if this program is for you, come and see for yourself! For more information, call me at 201-473-7277 V/TTY or drop me a line at 411 Passaic Avenue, Passaic, N.J. 07055. I'd love to hear from you!

ONE-TO-ONE

To communicate with a deaf person in a one-to-one situation:

Get the deaf person's attention before speaking. Call out the person's name; if that is not successful, a tap on the shoulder, a wave, or another visual signal usually does the trick.

Key the deaf person in to the topic of discussion. Deaf people need to know what subject matter is to be discussed in order to pick up words that help them follow the conversation. This is especially important for deaf people who depend on speechreading.

Speak slowly and clearly, but do not yell, exaggerate, or overpronounce. Exaggeration and overemphasis of words distort lip movements, making speechreading more difficult. Try to enunciate each word without force or tension. Short sentences are easier to understand than long ones.

Look directly at the deaf person when speaking. Avoid turning away to write on the board or pull something from a file.

Do not place anything in your mouth when speaking. Mustaches that obscure the lips, smoking, pencil chewing, and putting your hands in front of your face all make it difficult for deaf people to follow what is being said.

Maintain eye contact with the deaf person. Eye contact conveys the feeling of direct communication. Even if an interpreter is present, continue to speak directly to the deaf person. He/she will turn to the interpreter as needed.

Use the words "I" and "you" when communicating through an interpreter, not "Tell him..." or "Does she understand?"

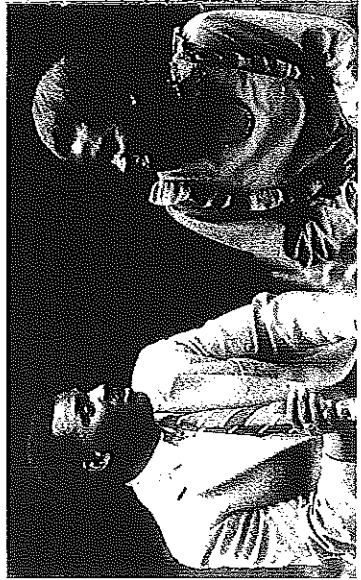
Avoid standing in front of a light source, such as a window or bright light. The glare and shadows created on the face make it almost impossible for the deaf person to speechread.

First repeat, then try to rephrase a thought if you have problems being understood, rather than repeating the same words again. If the person only missed one or two words the first time, one repetition usually helps. Don't hesitate to communicate by pencil and paper if necessary, as particular combinations of lip movements sometimes are difficult to speechread. Getting the message across is more important than the medium used.

Use pantomime, body language, and facial expression to help supplement your communication. A lively speaker always is more interesting to watch.

Be courteous to the deaf person during conversation. If the telephone rings or someone knocks at the door, excuse yourself and tell the deaf person that you are answering the phone or responding to the knock. Do not ignore the deaf person and carry on a conversation with someone else while the deaf person waits.

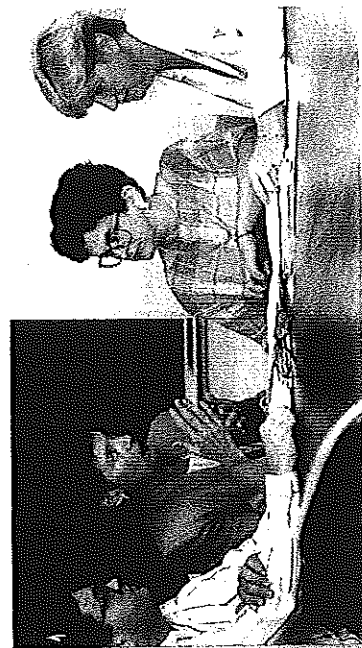
Use open-ended questions that must be answered by more than "yes" or "no." Do not assume that deaf people have understood your message if they nod their heads in acknowledgment. A response to an open-ended question ensures that your information has been communicated.



I N A GROUP

if you participate in group situations with deaf people (meetings, classes, etc.), these tips will make communication easier.

Seat the deaf person to his/her best advantage. This usually means a seat near the speaker so that the deaf person can see the speaker's lips. If possible, use a round table or semicircular seating so that he/she can see everyone's face. Usually, the deaf person will know best where to sit. Also take into consideration the area's lighting so that the speaker is illuminated clearly.



Provide new vocabulary in advance. It is difficult, if not impossible, to speech-read and read the fingerspelling of unfamiliar vocabulary. If new vocabulary cannot be presented in advance, write the terms on paper, a chalkboard, or an overhead projector, if possible. If a lecture is to be given or a film shown, a brief outline or script given to the deaf person in advance helps that person follow the presentation.

Avoid unnecessary pacing and speaking when writing on a chalkboard. It is difficult to speechread a person in motion and impossible to speechread one whose back is turned. Write or draw on the board, then face the group and explain the work. If you use an overhead projector, do not look down at it while speaking.

Use visual aids, if possible. Vision is a deaf person's primary channel for receiving information. Make full use of available aids, including films, overhead projectors, diagrams, and chalkboards. Give the participants time to read before speaking.

Make sure the deaf person doesn't miss vital information. Write out any changes in meeting times, special assignments, additional instructions, etc. Allow extra time when referring to manuals or texts since deaf people must look at what has been written and then return their attention to the speaker.

Slow down the pace of communication slightly to facilitate understanding. Many speakers talk too fast. Allow extra time for the deaf person to ask or answer questions.

Repeat questions or statements made from the back of the room and point to the person speaking. Remember that deaf people are cut off from whatever happens outside their visual area.

Allow full participation by the deaf person in the discussion. It is difficult for deaf people to participate in group discussions because they are not sure when speakers have finished. The group leader or teacher should recognize the deaf person from time to time to allow full participation by that person. Be aware of turn-taking and try to give the deaf person a chance to look at the various participants before each speaks.

Use hands-on experience whenever possible in training situations. Like other people, deaf people learn quickly by "doing." What may be difficult to communicate verbally may be explained easily by a hands-on demonstration.

Use an interpreter in a large group setting. In such a situation, an interpreter makes communication much easier for a deaf person. The interpreter will be a few words behind the speaker in transferring the information. Therefore, allow time for the deaf person to obtain all the information and ask questions.

Use a notetaker when possible to record information. It is difficult for many deaf people to pay attention to a speaker and take notes simultaneously.

SIGN LANGUAGE ALPHABET



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J



K



L



M



N



O



P



Q



R



S



T



U



V



W



X



Y

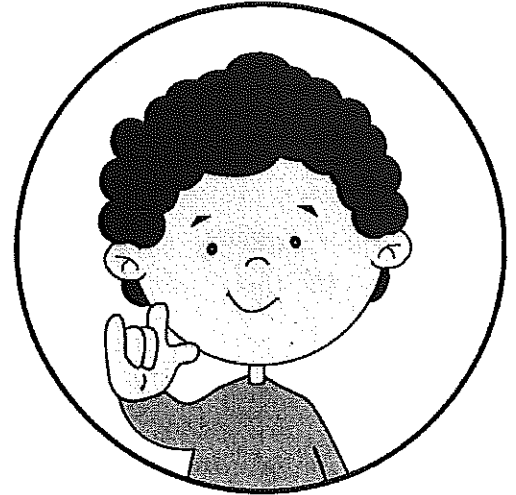


Z

LET ME IN ON IT TOO!

CONVERSATION IS FRUSTRATION
WHEN YOU CAN'T GET INFORMATION
PLEASE GIVE ME A CLUE
LET ME IN ON IT TOO.

MIME IT, WRITE IT,
SIGN IT, SPELL IT,
SIT IN A CIRCLE
WHEN YOU TELL IT
PLEASE GIVE ME A CLUE
LET ME IN ON IT TOO.



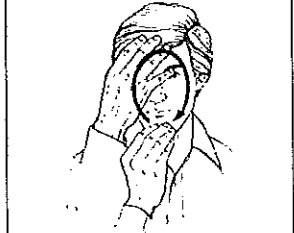
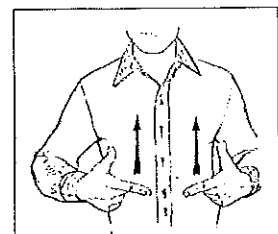
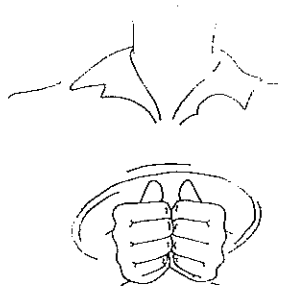


I love you

GET MY ATTENTION.
REPHRASE THE WORDS
FOR THAT'S HOW COMPREHENSION OCCURS.
TELL ME WHAT THE SUBJECT'S ABOUT
SO I CAN JOIN IN - YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOUT!
PLEASE GIVE ME A CLUE
LET ME IN ON IT TOO
LET ME IN ON IT TOO!

Words and Music by Naomi Miller

HEENAY MA TO V

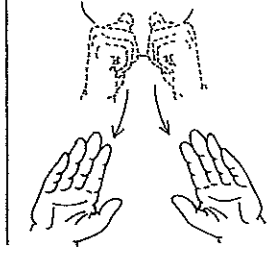

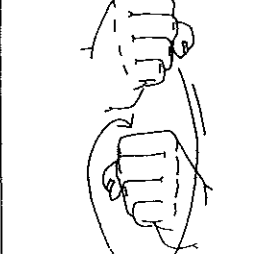
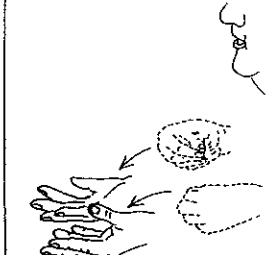
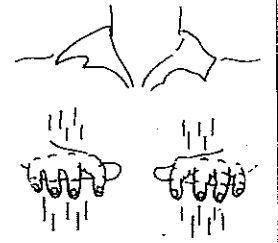
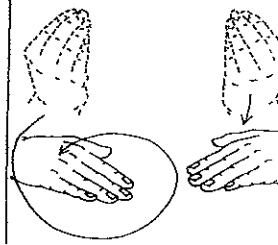
	<p>HERE: HOLD BOTH FLAT HANDS TO THE FRONT WITH PALMS FACING UP. THE OPEN HANDS MOVE BACK IN FORTH IN FRONT OF THE BODY. RIGHT TO RIGHT, AND LEFT TO THE LEFT.</p>	<p>HEENAY</p>
	<p>GOOD: PLACE THE FINGERS OF THE RIGHT FLAT HAND AT THE LIPS; THEN MOVE THE HAND DOWN INTO THE PALM OF THE LEFT HAND WITH BOTH PALMS FACING UP</p>	<p>MA TO V</p>
	<p>BEAUTIFUL: PLACE THE FINGERTIPS OF THE RIGHT 'AND' HAND AT THE CHIN AND OPEN THE HAND AS IT DESCRIBES A COUNTER-CLOCKWISE CIRCLE AROUND THE FACE</p>	<p>OOMA-NA-YEEM</p>
	<p>LIVE: MOVE THE PALM SIDES OF BOTH L (OR A) HANDS UP FROM THE ABDOMEN TO THE CHEST</p>	<p>SHEVET ACHEEM</p>
	<p>TOGETHER: PLACE "A" HANDS TOGETHER, PALM TO PALM; MOVE THEM RIGHT-FORWARD-LEFT IN SEMI-CIRCLE</p>	<p>GAM YACHAD</p>

HEENAY MA TO V OOMA-NA-YEEM
 SHEVET ACHEEM GAM YACHAD
 HEENAY MA-A TOV -
 SHEVET ACHEEM GAM YACHAD

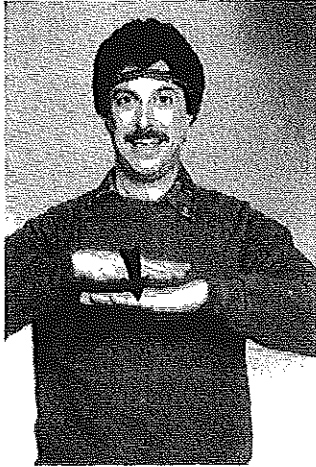
**BARCHAYNOO HASHEM – ELOKAYNOO
OO-VARECH, OOVARECH ET SHNATAYNOO**

TEN, TEN, TEN, TEN TAL OOMATAR

AL PENAY HA-ADAMAH

	<p>BLESS: "A" HANDS IN FRONT OF MOUTH, PALM TO PALM; BRING HANDS FORWARD SLIGHTLY, OPEN THEM AND BRING THEM DOWN</p>	<p align="center">BARCHAYNOO</p>
	<p>G-D: OPEN RIGHT PALM IN FRONT OF YOU, DRAW IT UP AND BACK AND DOWN,</p>	<p align="center">HASHEM - ELOKAYNOO</p>
<p align="center">(SEE ABOVE)</p>	<p align="center">AND BLESS</p>	<p align="center">OO-VARECH, OOVARECH</p>
	<p>YEAR: WITH PALMS FACING IN, THE RIGHT "S" HAND REVOLVES FORWARD AND AROUND THE LEFT "S" HAND COMING TO A HALT ONTO OF THE LEFT "S"</p>	<p align="center">ET SHNATAYNOO</p>
	<p>GIVE, PROVIDE: BOTH "AND" HANDS FACING DOWN ARE TURNED IN-UP-FORWARD, ENDING WITH PALMS FACING UP.</p>	<p align="center">TEN, TEN, TEN, TEN</p>
	<p>RAIN: BOTH CURVED HANDS, PALM DOWN, DROP DOWN SEVERAL TIMES IN SHORT MOTIONS</p>	<p align="center">TAL OOMATAR</p>
	<p>LAND, FIELD: RUB FINGERTIPS OF BOTH HANDS WITH THE THUMB AS IF FEELING THE SOIL AND THEN MAKE COUNTERCLOCKWISE CIRCLES WITH THE PALMS DOWN</p>	<p align="center">AL PENAY HA-ADAMAH</p>

SIGN LANGUAGE ILLUSTRATIONS FOR AL SHLOSHA D'VAREEM



AL

(on)

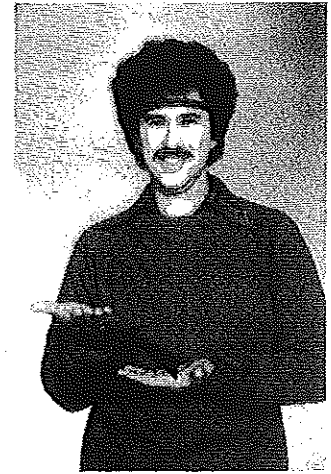
Put palm of one hand on back of other hand



SHLOSHA

(three)

thumb, index and middle fingers are held up, palm facing away from body



D'VAREEM

(things)

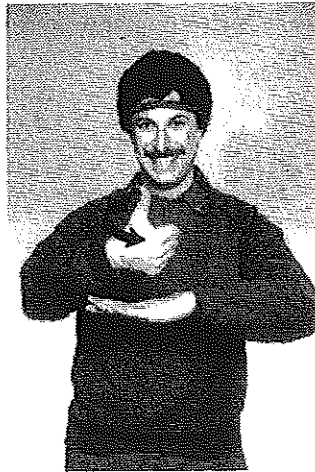
move one hand, palm up, to the side and then drop slightly.



HA-OLAM

(the world)

circle one hand in the shape of a "W" around the other



O-MED

(is based)

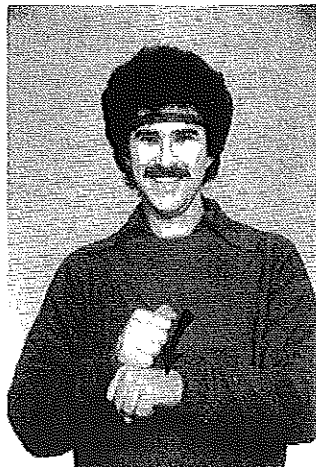
Put one fist with thumb extended (circling slightly) on back of other hand



AL HA-TORAH

(on the Torah)

Pretend your hands are the scrolls and unwind them.



V'AL HA-AVODAH

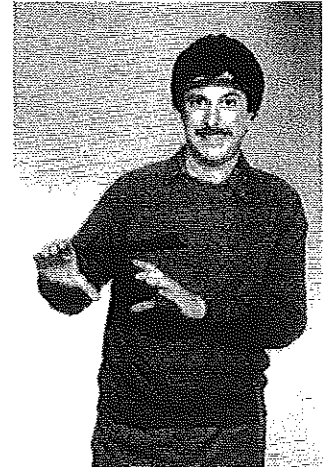
(and on work-service to G-d)
"hammer" one fist on back of other fist near wrist.



V'AL GEMEELOOT

(and on good)

Touch lips with fingers and then move hand forward placing it palm up in open palm of



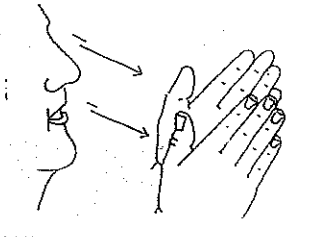
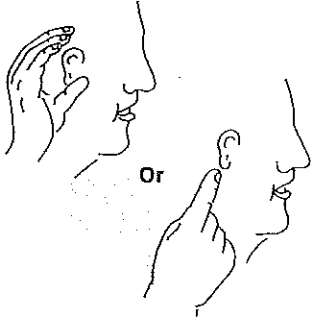
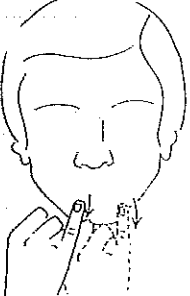
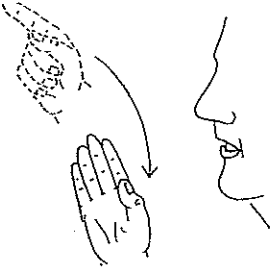

HASADEEM

(deeds)

cup both hands palm down and move them to and fro in front of body

שמע ישראל

SH'MAH YISROAYL
 ADOSHEM ELOKAYNOO
 ADOSHEM ECHAD

 <hr/> 	<p>ATTENTION: PLACE OPEN HANDS AT EITHER SIDE OF EYES; THEN MOVE BOTH HANDS FORWARD</p> <p>OR</p> <p>LISTEN: PLACE "C" HAND OR TIP OF INDEX FINDER AT THE EAR</p>	<p>SH'MA</p>
	<p>ISRAEL: DRAW THE TIP OF THE "I" DOWN ON SIDE OF THE CHIN AND THEN THE OTHER.</p>	<p>YISROAYL</p>
	<p>G-D: OPEN RIGHT PALM IN FRONT OF YOU, DRAW IT UP AND BACK AND DOWN</p>	<p>ADOSHEM ELOKAYNOO</p>
	<p>ONE: HOLD UP THE INDEX FINGER</p>	<p>ECHAD</p> <p>אחד</p>

AS WE LISTEN WITH OUR EYES

By Carole Wechter

**THE ARK IS OPENING,
THE WORD IS PASSING THROUGH.
THE WORD OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PASSING DOWN TO YOU.
THIS IS YOUR HERITAGE, YOUR HISTORY.
WE OFFER YOU THE WORD
IN WORDS THAT YOU CAN SEE.**

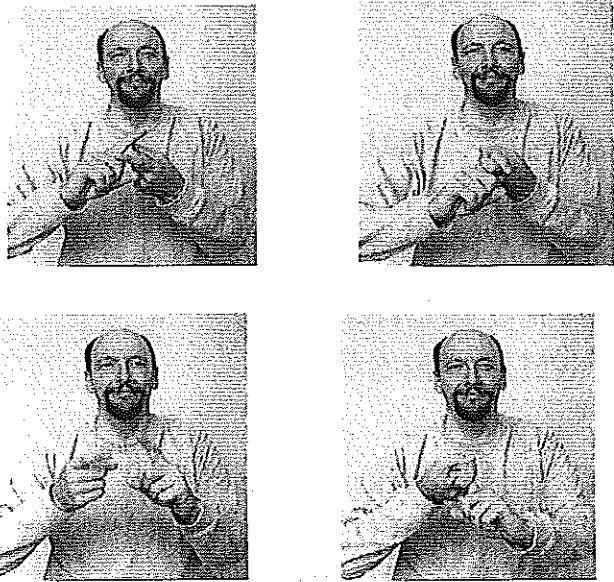

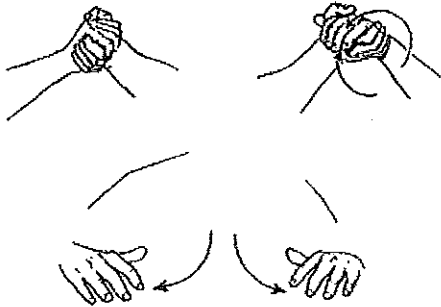
**CHORUS: WE CAN'T HEAR YOUR WORLD OF SILENCE,
STILL OUR VOICES HARMONIZE.
GRACEFUL FINGERS DANCE THE LOVE WE FEEL FOR YOU
AS WE LISTEN WITH OUR EYES.**

**THE STILLNESS OF YOUR WORLD
WAS MET BY ALL OUR FEARS.
THE STILLNESS OF YOU WORLD
BROUGHT ANGER FILLED WITH TEARS.
THEN WE FOUND POETRY WE NEVER KNEW,
A MOVING POETRY OF LIFE BECAUSE OF YOU.**

CHORUS

**THE ARK IS OPENING
THE WORD IS PASSING THROUGH.
THE BLESSINGS RINGING OUT SO OLD AND YET SO NEW.
YOUR BROTHER TURNS TO YOU
HE SIGNS *SHALOM*.
BLESSINGS ABOUND FOR US IN OUR SONS, OUR HOME.**

CHORUS

<p>WAVE</p>	<p>GOODBYE</p>	<p>SHALOM</p>
	<p>FRIENDS</p>	<p>CHAVAYREEM</p>
<p>WAVE</p>	<p>BYE BYE</p>	<p>SHALOM SHALOM</p>
	<p>SEE YOU AGAIN</p>	<p>L'HEET RA-OT L'HEET RA-OT</p>
	<p>BYE PEACE TO YOU</p> <p>Clasp hands together. Reverse with other hand on top; then open both hands and move downward spreading out the fingers</p>	<p>SHALOM</p>

**SHALOM CHAVAYREEM - SHALOM CHAVAYREEM
SHALOM SHALOM
L'HEET RA-OT L'HEET RA-OT
SHALOM SHALOM!**