



# The Shofar

## Rabbi's Message : TITHING IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTIANS

Over July, my month off, I heard something that just stunned me. I was with a group of people and heard one of them say that Tithing, the act of giving ten percent of one's income to charity, is a Christian thing, and not Jewish! I thought I would choke on my own words, I could not get them out fast enough.

Tithing is certainly Jewish! Where did he think they got the idea of tithing from? Sodom and Gommorah? Tithing is demanded of us, the Jews, in our Bible, by Gd. It is a tithe that is to be given to the Levite, the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the stranger. Why are these people specified? Because they were the groups who had no income, no visible means of support. The Levite owned no land. The others had no one to take care of them, and so one of the tithes (there were additional tithes!) went to members of these groups.

In the ancient world, one's possessions were largely due to farming, and the tithe was based on the full produce of the crop. In other words, one did not sell the crop, then subtract the cost of the seed and the fertilizer, deduct for the aging of the equipment, and then take 10 percent of what was left to give to the poor. For this reason, one is commanded to take from one's gross income to determine what the tithe will be, and not the net income.

Some cultures demand that "you should give until it hurts." Others say, "finders keepers, losers weepers." Our faith, on the other hand, states that all are commanded the same thing, whether rich or poor, to give 10 percent of what they have to help others. No more, but no less.

[stuartfederow@hotmail.com](mailto:stuartfederow@hotmail.com)



Rabbi Stuart Federow

### Upcoming Events

- **Sunday's 7-9pm** "Show of Faith" 950 KPRC radio featuring Rabbi Federow
- **August 8** Bagel Sale
- **August 8** Early Holiday Seat Sign-up
- **August 10** Directory Deadline
- **August 11, 15** Reagular Holiday Seat Sign-up
- **August 15** Men's Club Breakfast Meeting
- **August 25** Sisterhood Potluck Meeting
- **August 29** First Day Religious School
- **Sept. 15** Rosh Hashanah starts

## President's Message

Following is an article from the Southern Poverty Law Center:  
 SPLCenter.org :  
<http://www.splcenter.org/center/splcreport/article.jsp?aid=83>

SPLCenter.org is the website of the Southern Poverty Law Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to seeking justice monitoring hate, and promoting tolerance. To learn more about the Center, you can visit its website, <http://www.splcenter.org>

## White Supremacists Target Jews in New Alliance

NEW ORLEANS -- Over the Memorial Day weekend, leaders of major hate groups from three countries gathered here and established a dangerous new alliance. Overlooked by the mainstream media, they signed on to a historic plan to work in concert to more

effectively infect society with their neo-Nazi, white supremacist beliefs.

The agreement to band together in promoting their hate agenda was reached at an assembly of more than 300 white

supremacists. They came together on May 29 to celebrate the recent return of David Duke, one of the most notorious leaders of America's hate movement, who was released

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Synagogue Membership Directory 2004-2005

Sisterhood is currently updating the Membership Directory. Each congregant has been sent a letter requesting verification of the data we have on file. **This is the information that will appear in the directory UNLESS you notify us of changes or corrections.** If we do not hear from you by **August 10**, we will assume that the information we have is correct and it will be printed in the directory.

If you wish to make changes - additions, deletions, corrections, or anything else - you can notify us by email ([erosentx@houston.rr.com](mailto:erosentx@houston.rr.com)), by phone (281-474-3764), or by mail (Ellen Rosen, 1026 Villacourt Dr., Taylor Lake Village, TX 77586)

Ellen Rosen and Andrea Levine  
Directory Co-Chairs

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## JSC Credit Union

The JSC credit union now offers FREE accounts to any member of Congregation Shaar Hashalom. Now membership to our congregation gives you the flexibility to open accounts for you and any of your family members free. All JSC FCU checking accounts are service fee free and offer overdraft protection.

To open a Primary Savings account, a minimum deposit of \$5.00 is required. If you would also like to open a checking account, an additional deposit of \$25.00 will be required for this account.

JSC FCU offers loans for every need, including new and used cars, home mortgages, home equity and health care.

For the ease of shopping a credit card provides, JSC Federal Credit Union allows one-stop shopping source. Most banking requirements are performed on line at [www.jsfcu.org](http://www.jsfcu.org) or at one of the many local branches.

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## School News

August is here, and, if you have not already done so, please be sure to get your registration forms in to the office so that your children will be signed up for Hebrew and Religious school. Remember that only families in good financial standing will be able to enroll their kids. Please handle any financial issues with our Finance Committee.

### **First day of class will be Sunday, August 29.**

We are looking forward to a great year with your children. In order to help the school run efficiently and reflect the Jewish education we hope to give our children, we have an Education Committee. I am seeking participants to help me on this very worthwhile endeavor. I even will try to make it fun & enjoyable! We will be meeting approximately once per month at a time suitable to those interested. In the past, Sunday mornings seemed to work well, but I am willing to be flexible. Please email me at [neaw@mindspring.com](mailto:neaw@mindspring.com) or call me if interested.

B'Shalom,  
*Nancy Weiss, Education V.P.*

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## President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

from federal prison last month after serving time for fraud.

"The New Orleans Protocol," written by Duke, is a pledge by groups to work together to support the hate movement. It requires groups to aim their hate at their real targets, not at each other, and to advance in unity their vision: a nation for white people.

### **Volunteering is tactic**

Some of the tactics discussed during a strategy session at the gathering included volunteering as Little League coaches, providing access to impressionable young children, and joining the Red Cross to gain credibility for their ideas.

"The Protocol is nothing more than a smokescreen to legitimize their white supremacy. It's an attempt to unify and sanitize their efforts to infiltrate the fabric of our society," said Joe Roy, director of the Center's Intelligence Project, which monitored the gathering.

Among those signing the Protocol at the meeting were:

·Duke, former Klansman and now leader of European-American Unity

and Rights Organization (EURO);

·Don Black, a former Klan leader and the creator of Stormfront, the Internet's first and most influential hate website;

·Willis Carto, a primary architect of the Holocaust denial movement in this country;

·Kevin Strom and David Pringle of the neo-Nazi National Alliance, the organization whose founder inspired the Oklahoma City bombing;

·Paul Fromm, head of the Canadian Association of Free Expression, a vehemently anti-immigrant organization;

·Attorney Sam G. Dickson of the white supremacist Council of Conservative Citizens (CCC); and

·John Tyndall, founder of the racist British National Party.

During the meeting, Duke singled out Jews as the source of the world's problems. While there was also much hostility toward minorities, most of conference participants' ire was directed at what they consider to be a worldwide Jewish conspiracy to destroy the white race through immigration and miscegenation.

"Anything that strikes out and weakens that Jewish supremacist power is good for us," Duke said.

Duke's *Jewish Supremacism*, an excerpt of his autobiography *My Awakening*, reportedly has sold than more than 580,000 copies worldwide and is about to be translated into Arabic. It is also available on his website.

### **Duke has successful record**

Duke has a surprisingly successful track record, and his influence should not be underestimated. In 1989, he won a seat in the Louisiana legislature.

When he ran for the U.S. Senate, he won 607,391 votes, almost 60 percent of the white vote, but not enough to win a primary runoff. In the early 1990s, the annual Dukefests — offering free barbecue and music for Duke supporters — drew more than 10,000 people each year.

Throughout the weekend conference, various leaders of the hate movement railed against the Center and its work to expose their agenda and promote tolerance.

Shalom,  
Marty Gordon

The Shofar is published monthly by Congregation Shaar Hashalom.  
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16020 El Camino Real  
Houston, TX 77062-4414  
(281) 488-5861

To submit electronic copy, email Michele Kocen at [mkocen@aol.com](mailto:mkocen@aol.com). Typed or neatly written copy may also be left in the Shofar mailbox at the synagogue during office hours (Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)



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## Men's Club News

Men's Club under the leadership of Marc Penansky conducted services Friday, July 23 and Saturday morning, July 24, 2004 at CSH. We hold Men's Club Shabbat Services during July of each year to coincide with Rabbi Federow's annual vacation. Todah Rabah to Marc and all of the Men's Club members who participated.

On Sunday, August 1, 2004 the officers and interested club members of Men's Club will hold their annual planning meeting at Joe Ringer's house at 10am.. At this meeting we will plan the group's activities/events for year fiscal year 2004/2005.

On Sunday, August 15, 2004 from 9:30am to 11:30am Men's Club will hold its first Sunday breakfast meeting (**free**) to introduce Men's Club and its plans for the coming year to existing and prospective members alike. All

CSH adult male members are invited to attend.

Suggestions/comments from all attendees will be welcomed. Please RSVP to Joe Ringer at Helenejoe@aol.com or by phone 281-488-0268. One of the first activities for Men's Club will be to help Ritual Committee in setting up the seating for High Holy Days in September.

Men's Club welcomes new members. CSH adult male members are free to come to any of our monthly Sunday breakfast meetings held in general on the second Sunday of each month.

Joe Ringer, President 281-488-0268  
Arnis Paeglis, Vice President 281-993-2371  
Richard Lehman, Secretary 281-538-1854  
Carl Schwanke, Treasurer 281-286-6712

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## Sisterhood News

SISTERHOOD GREETINGS!

As the doldrums of summer are coming to a screeching halt, Shaar Hashalom's Sisterhood is facing a very busy month this August.

Here is a list of our upcoming Sisterhood events

Although originally scheduled for late July, early August, our annual Sisterhood Garage Sale is now scheduled for later in August allow more time for publicity.

Once again the Garage Sale is being chaired by Judy Lehman. This committee could really use your help! Please call Judy at 281-538-1854 to volunteer.

The event we have all been waiting for--Thursday, August 12, 6:30PM, The Sisterhood Meeting for the Election and Installation of Officers & Board. Also, on the agenda will be the approval of the budget for the year ahead. We have many holes in our slate—remember, you can nominate and be nominated from the floor! Refreshments will be a wine and cheese.

Wednesday, Aug. 25, 6:30PM, Sisterhood general potluck meeting. On the agenda for the evening is to have "grass roots" input and a discussion about the "direction" of Sisterhood for the year(s) ahead. All women of the congregation are invited & welcome to attend. **This is a very important meeting and we would like to hear from all the women from our congregation**, not just sisterhood members. We need to have a better sense of who we are and where we want to go as the women of this congregation.

At our last sisterhood board meeting we discussed purchasing a warming oven for the kitchen as well as the commercial freezer we have had on our "buy list" for quite some time.

May you and your family enjoy a wonderful and blessed end of summer.

Avril Suckow  
Sisterhood President

CALLING ALL CONGREGATION  
SHAAR HASHALOM  
WOMEN

# SISTERHOOD

**WHO ARE WE?**

**WHAT DO WE DO?**

**WHERE ARE WE GOING?**

PLEASE HELP THE WOMEN OF  
OUR CONGREGATION ADDRESS  
THESE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AND  
MORE

**YOUR INPUT IS  
NEEDED!**

PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR  
SHAAR HASHALOM  
PARVE/DAIRY POTLUCK

**6:30 PM WEDNESDAY  
AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup>**

## Ritual Information

August is upon us and High Holy Day preparations are in full force for the September 15 start of Rosh Hashanah. The new prayer books are here, Allen Juris is ready to come down here for cantorial duties and all the lay leaders are lined up. We still can use some help in ushering, etc. You should have received information about seat signups already. If you have not please contact the synagogue office. Seat signup dates are the mornings of August 8 and 15, with an evening session August 11.

Now that that is out of the way, let's talk about some important stuff. As everyone knows, July is the month our Rabbi is on vacation and services are led by our very capable lay leadership. This year we had five Shabbats to cover. That would be a daunting task for some congregations, but, with the enthusiastic membership of our Congregation, no problem. It was not without challenges, the biggest was an unusually high concentration of out of town simchas to attend, vacations to take and out of town business to attend to for our lay leadership. As they say, this was an opportunity. There were no less than five different Torah readers, and five different people doing

Haftorah. Men's Club and CLUSY each covered one Shabbat (Friday and Saturday), most of the rest were covered by individuals Marc Penansky, Laura Castillo, Rex Hemme, Diane Rosenfeld and Marty Gordon. There was one special service that was held the morning of July 3. Two of our recent Confirmands, Brian Anderson and Jonathon Berezin, approached us and asked if they could lead a service. We asked "do you mean as part of CLUSY?" No, they said, in addition to helping with the CLUSY service, they wanted to lead a service. And what a service they led. They got some friends together (Debbie Kitmacher, Allison & Sara Lehman, Jeff Nsestra, Mark Grijalva and Belinda Kocen) and organized the service. The next week, I was barraged with raves about how wonderful the service was, some of them coming from very unexpected sources. The following week was CLUSY Shabbat. With youth like ours, the future is looking pretty bright. See you next Shabbat.

Leonard Levine  
VP Ritual

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## Membership Update

I hope summer finds everyone enjoying family, friends, or traveling adventures. Continue the fun for now; August is approaching.

I would like for everyone to welcome our newest member, Ruth Rubin. She has come to us from Lubbock, Texas. Ruth will be teaching in the Pasadena Independent School District.

Please remember to sponsor an oneg; call Noelia at the synagogue office, 281-488-5861.

### The Bagel Corner

Order your fantastic New York Deli Bagels at  
<http://www.jamact.com/bagels/>  
or call 281-286-8806

Next Sale is August 8  
Check the website for summer dates

### Do you have a Randalls shopping card?

If so, did you know that by linking your card to organization 2359, Randalls will donate a percentage of your purchase to Shaar Hashalom? If you haven't done so, just tell the cashier to link your card to organization 2359 and Randalls will help us meet our budget!



# Donations

**Prayer Book Fund:**

Judith Gibbs

In Memory of her father, Samuel Rosenbaum

**Building Fund**

**Religious School Fund**

**Torah Restoration Fund**

**Library Fund**

**Education Fund**

Sandy and Neil Ostrosky and Family

In Memory of Jeffrey Adatto, brother of Nancy Weiss

**Cantor Fund**

**Youth Group Fund**

**General Fund**

**Stain Glass Window Fund**

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Reva Fox and Don Sargent

In Memory of Reva's mother, Jonah Pronin  
Sheila and Steve Falk

In Memory of Sheila's son, Matthew Aron Spiegelman

**President's Discretionary Fund**

Isaac and Ellen Rosen

In Memory of Isaac's mother, Sally Rosen



## ONEG SPONSORSHIP

Oneg Shabbat, Hebrew for "Joy of the Sabbath," is part of G-d's commandment to keep and enjoy the Sabbath. So relax, drink a little wine, share a knosh, and kibitz a little. You'll experience the joy of celebrating the Shabbat, meet new members, and renew your connection with your friends and neighbors. The Oneg is an integral part of celebrating the Shabbat. It provides the congregants an opportunity for conversation and helps build a sense of Jewish community.

If you didn't know, the synagogue relies on it's members to sponsor an Oneg. Sponsoring an Oneg is a Mitzvah that benefits you and the congregation. The next time you or your family celebrate a birthday, a graduation, an anniversary or even a job promotion, share your good fortune, share the " Joy of the Sabbath" by sponsoring an Oneg!

To sponsor an Oneg, call the synagogue office (281) 488-5861 and schedule a date. The sponsorship fee is only \$90. All funds are spent to pay for the cost of the food, servers and cleanup for the Friday evening and the Saturday morning Shabbat services. The synagogue makes no money from this fee.

Remember, if you are looking to personalize the Oneg or you want to share something special, you are always welcome to bake your favorite dessert.

## High Holy Days Seat Signup Information

### Members Seat Signup Information

- Members must be in good standing with dues paid through the first quarter (July-Sept. '04). To check you dues status contact Don Brand-Financial Secretary.
- A member may signup for one additional family provided that both families are in good standing.
- Members may get seats for out of town guests, and immediate family members (that are not members of CSH) provided fees listed below are paid.
- If you cannot get seats at any of the seat signups listed below, please contact Don Brand by August 18 to verify your dues status. Let him know the number of seats that you need and he will pass on the information to the seat signup committee. These seats will be assigned after the seat signup dates listed below.
- Please fill out the Registration Information Form included in this mailing and bring it with you to seat signup. Blank forms will be available at seat signup.

### Member Only Seat Signup Dates (at the Synagogue)

Early Seat Signup (\$10/seat fee)	Sun. Aug 8, 2004	9:00- 11:00 AM
First Regular Seat Signup	Wed. Aug. 11, 2004	7:30- 9:30 PM

### Member and Non-member Seat Signup Date (at the Synagogue)

Second Regular Seat Signup	Sun. Aug 15, 2004	9:00- 11:00 AM
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### Non-member Fees

CSH Member's adult immediate family members (Parents, siblings, grandparents and working adult children)	\$36/person
CSH Member's out of town guests	\$50/person
Non-members who have moved into area since May '04	No charge
Full time College Students	No charge
Members in good standing with other Congregations	No charge with letter
Out of town business visitors	\$100/person
Non-members not covered above	\$175/person \$450/family

### General Information

If you have any questions email [ritual@shaarhashalom.org](mailto:ritual@shaarhashalom.org), contact the synagogue office or Leonard Levine VP Ritual.

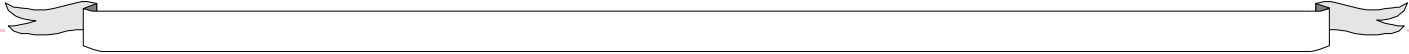
Rosh Hashanah will start the Wednesday evening Sept. 15.

Allen Juris (from Chicago) will provide cantorial support for our services.



**Increase your business with an ad in the Shofar!**

For rate information, contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861



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Congregation Shaar Hashalom  
**Officers 2004**

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<b>Social Action Trustee</b>	Ronnie Weiss

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Editors Note:

Articles for the Shofar can be emailed to [mkocen@aol.com](mailto:mkocen@aol.com) or left in the Shofar mail box outside the Rabbi's office by the 21st of each month. Thanks, Michele Kocen

*Visit the Congregation Shaar Hashalom  
Website at [www.shaarhashalom.org](http://www.shaarhashalom.org)*

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