



The Shofar

Rabbi's Message

Why do we take an All-Or-Nothing approach to Judaism, when we do not take such an approach with anything else? For example, when we are out driving, we don't say that since we are going 60 in a 55 mile-an-hour speed zone, and therefore we are breaking the law, that we may as well go 90. We don't say that since we have broken the law by going 60 in a 55 mile-an-hour speed zone, we should pull the car over and never drive again. We do not maintain the attitude that it is all or nothing with so many things in our lives, why do we do that with Judaism?

Lets take Shabbat observance for example. Some might say that since we cannot keep shabbat completely, we may as well not keep any aspect of shabbat at all. So what if one does not keep all of Shabbat 100%? Judaism teaches us that

each mitzvah has its own merit, its own reward, and its own effect on the person who keeps that mitzvah. It does not matter that we are not completely observant of Shabbat, if we were to just add one mitzvah to what we do each week, for Shabbat, it would make a huge difference in our lives. Lets pretend that the family is about to go out for dinner on Friday night. The family can still recite the Kiddush over the wine or grape juice together, before going out. Would Judaism say that it is better to eat at home as a family? Yes, of course, but that does not deny the positive effect it would have on the family if they did only the Kiddush together before leaving! Add to that the Hamotzee, and now the family has done two mitzvot together where before they had perhaps done nothing.

Whatever you do, now, in observance of Shabbat, perhaps you can do more? Even one mitzvah more. You dont have to start doing a million more mitzvot, so start out just doing one more mitzvah together as a family. Light the Shabbat Candles together, making sure to put them in a safe place so that they won't burn down the house. Recite the Kiddush together. Recite the Hamotzee together. Remember, you can add one or two or three of these to your weekly practice, and it does not matter which one. It does not matter that you are doing everything, only that you are adding to what you are already doing!

Shabbat Shalom!

Rabbi Stuart Federow
stuartfederow@hotmail.com
rabbi@shaarhashalom.org



Rabbi Stuart Federow

President's Message

As President, I want to thank each of the congregants, that worked to make this Congregational Seder a success. We are very fortunate to have these people within our congregation. They all worked hard, cooked well and enjoyed themselves. It was a great evening.

So, to all who worked and contributed to a great Seder, let me say on behalf of the congrega-

tion, Thank You from all of us go to the following people.

Alicia Leamy, Amira Hemme, Amy Zaguli, Andrea Levine, Avril Suckow, Carl Schwanke, David Hirsch, David Sokolow, Debbie Anderson, Felicia Bank, Harold Castillo, Ida Diamond, Jan Coppersmith, Janet Stanger, Jeff Lipscheuetz, Jera Walden, Judy Lehman, Laura Castillo, Leonard Levine, Marc

Penansky, Marilyn Hopman, Nancy Dickinson, Phyllis Greenspan, Pia Greenberg, Quentelle Barton, Rex Hemme, Sam Platt, Sarah Sokolow, Sonya Elliot, and Zach Gultz.

A special thanks to Men's Club, Sisterhood, CLUSY and to Leonard Levine.

Shalom,
Marty Gordon

Upcoming Events

- **May 2** Men's Club vs. CLUSY Softball
- **May 2, 9, 16** Religious School
- **May 5,12** Hebrew School
- **May 16** Last day of school
- **May 16** Congregation Picnic 12 noon to 4pm at Frankie Carter Randolph Park
- **May 21** Sundaes on Shabbat 6:30-8:00pm
- **June 20** celebrate Father's Day this year by taking your loved ones to an Astros baseball game Call 281-488 0268 or e-mail Helenejoe@aol.com to reserve your seat(s).

Strategic Planning

In February of this year, a Strategic Planning Committee was formed at the request of Marty Gordon, President. The goal of the committee is to develop a long-range plan (5-10 yr) to guide our growth and development as a congregation. The committee started work on March 7, 2004.

We reviewed the strategic planning processes used at a synagogue and at a temple in Texas and built on that experience in developing our own strategic planning process. We are now beginning data collection activities that will include (not necessarily in this order):

- a survey of other congregations of similar size
- demographics and growth projections for Clear Lake and environs
- a confidential survey of our membership
- interviews of selected members
- focus groups of members
- a review of our synagogue programs and practices
- an analysis of our facilities

Every aspect of our congregation will be considered.

We expect the strategic planning process to take 12-18 months. At the end of the process, we will provide a written report to the congregation containing

- all the data gathered (excluding confidential information)
- an analysis of our strengths and weakness
- an analysis of our opportunities and the threats to our success
- a vision for the future and recommendations for attaining it
- recommendations for implementation

During the process we will be making periodic reports to the Board and to the membership to keep everyone informed of our progress.

We want and welcome your input and participation in our survey, interviews, and focus groups. In the near future you will be receiving the confidential survey. Please take the time to respond. I and the other committee members want to hear from you. This is our congregation and input from everyone is vital in creating a future that reflects the dreams and aspirations of all of us.

In the near future you will be receiving a confidential survey. This is your first opportunity to provide input into the future of Congregation Shaar Hashalom. Please take the time to share your thoughts with us.

Isaac Rosen, Chair
281.474.3764
irosentx@houston.rr.com

Felicia Bank
Joy Blair
Don Brand
Rex Hemme
David Hirsch
Jerry Mendelson
Anita Osman
Rabbi Stuart Federow

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 or at one of the many local branches.

This information is provided by the Social Action Committee

The Bagel Corner

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

May 2, May 16

School News

Well, the final days of the school year are quickly approaching. We have enjoyed a fabulous year due to our incredibly dedicated teaching staff, T.A.'s, substitutes, supportive parents and other congregants, Rabbi Federow, and, of course, the inimitable Katy Izygon! On behalf of the parents & children, we thank each and every person who helped in big and small ways to keep our school running smoothly and assisted our children on their journeys to become *menschen*. Please join me in thanking the staff by showing your appreciation whether by writing a note, making a donation or giving a gift. They certainly deserve it!

The official last day of school at Shaar Hashalom is Sunday May 16th. There will be class as usual. However, following school will be the annual synagogue picnic sponsored by the Men's Club. Remember there will be plenty of activities for kids of all ages, so don't miss out on the fun. What a great way to celebrate your child's accomplishments this year!

Everyone is also invited to the Shavuot service Tuesday May 25 in the early evening. We will be celebrating the Confirmation of our 10th grade class. These special dedicated young adults will be "graduating" from the school during the beautiful service. It means so much to have the greater synagogue community sharing in their simcha.

Would you enjoy spending more time with our kids? Do you have a special knack for communicating with them? We may be able to use your talents. **Some teaching positions will be open for next year.** Please contact Katy Izygon for more information.

Mazel Tov to Dakota Elliott for getting first place "blue ribbon" for her science fair project!! Good luck with your further competitions! Remember to email me with any news about your child that you would like to share (kvel!) with the rest of the congregation, neaw@mindspring.com.

On a final note, the Education Committee would appreciate your comments or ideas regarding ways to improve our program. Did you especially enjoy something and want to see it continued? Did you see a problem with the way something was handled or taught? Please let Katy Izygon or Mark Elliot know either by writing or speaking with them. This is very important, so please give it some thought.

B'Shalom,
Nancy Weiss

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!



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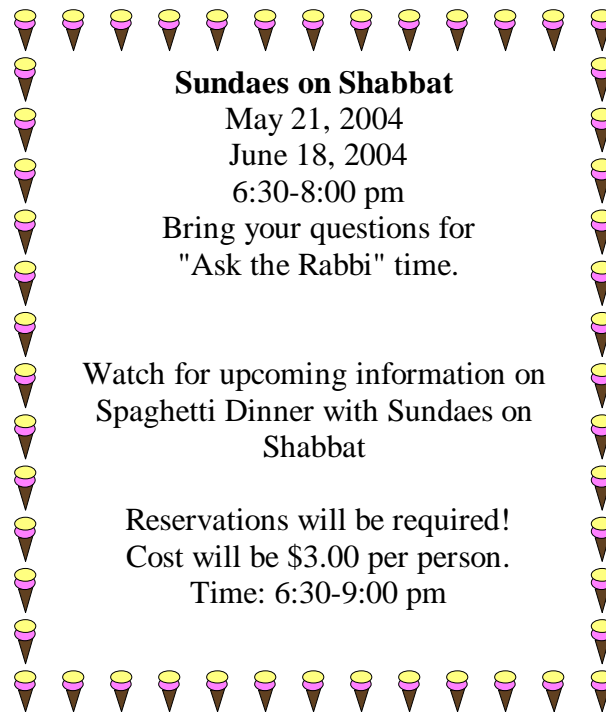
To submit electronic copy, email Michele Kocen at mkocen@aol.com. Typed or neatly written copy may also be left in the Shofar mailbox at the synagogue during office hours (Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Ritual Information

Believe it or not summer is almost here. School is winding down, the thermometer is winding up and before you know it, Rosh Hashanah (with our new prayer books) will soon be here. The High Holy Days will be somewhat early this year. Erev Rosh Hashanah will be September 15. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. March brought us Purim, April brought us Passover and this month (May) brings us Shavout, the celebration of receiving the Ten Commandments at Sinai. Confirmation will be held on Erev Shavout (May 25), and of course we will have a Yizkor Service on the second day of Shavout (May 27).

We sure do have a lot of holidays! However there is an important one that we have a general tendency to ignore, and coincidentally it is the only one mentioned in the Ten Commandments. You're correct it's Shabbat! What did you do to observe Shabbat last week? Go to services? Take a nap? Spend special time with your family? Keep kosher? Or just go a whole day without thinking about work? What ever it was I am sure it was your way of remembering the Sabbath and keeping it holy, and in our busy lives, some things are well worth remembering.

Leonard Levine
VP Ritual



Sundaes on Shabbat
May 21, 2004
June 18, 2004
6:30-8:00 pm
Bring your questions for
"Ask the Rabbi" time.

Watch for upcoming information on
Spaghetti Dinner with Sundaes on
Shabbat

Reservations will be required!
Cost will be \$3.00 per person.
Time: 6:30-9:00 pm

Membership Update

We are very happy to welcome a new member to our congregation family....welcome Cathy Leonard.

The membership committee is in the process of completing the listing of families interested in forming a havurah group. At this time we are targeting our family members who are in their late twenties to thirties. Leadership sessions will be scheduled to help these members chose the direction of their group.

Please remember: sponsor an oneg with a friend, for a special occasion or in honor of someone. Call the synagogue office for more information. 281-488-5861.

BIRTHDAYS



YAHREZEITS



Russell Gibbs, Sr. Father of Russell Gibbs	Louis Daniels Father of Stewart Daniels
Ira Peterman Father of Robin Haseltine	Arthur Liebling Father of Norman Liebling
Samual Feldman Grandfather of Kenneth Unger	Karl Bloomgarden Grandfather of Lou Diamond
Haynie, Leanora Ballard Mother of Laura Castillo	William Oliverio Grandfather of Hope Wilson
Ella Ross Simms Wife of Bertram Simms	Robert Friedler Father of Edith Liebenthal
Scott M.Leiber Brother of Dale Simon	Bernard Schulman Father of Harvey Schulman
Hildred Ruth Marrus Grandmother of Richard Lehman	Ralph Eichen Brother of Harriette Meyers
Julie Beth Harkins Sister of Janet Stanger	Wallace Unell Brother of Ellen Rosen

ANNIVERSARIES



Nancy and Samuel Platt	5/ 7
Michele and Jon Kocen	5/12
Donald Sargent and Reva Fox	5/13
Susan and Bill Robertson	5/18
Alfred and Arlene Kutowy	5/19
David and Holli Hirsch	5/19
Judy and Richard Lehman	5/29

5/ 1	Bill Robertson
5/ 2	Nancy Platt
5/ 2	Jenna Rosenthal
5/ 2	Solomon Berezin
5/ 3	Jeff Lipschuetz
5/ 4	Scott Manusov
5/ 6	David Cohen
5/ 7	David Rosenfeld
5/ 8	Jack Isaacson
5/ 9	Sandra L. Lovos
5/10	Melissa Stokes
5/10	Alan Simon
5/11	Allison Ruth Lehman
5/12	Beth Gordon
5/13	Harvey Schulman
5/14	Rachel Pinto
5/15	Alec Korogodsky
5/17	Jay Greene
5/17	Vaughn Simon
5/19	Howard Crupain
5/19	Cheryl D'Orazio
5/20	Lauren Polt
5/20	Marilyn Hopman
5/21	Jonathan Izygon
5/22	Judy Lehman
5/22	Benjamin Diamond
5/22	Froim Pinelis
5/23	Aaron Greene
5/23	Joshua Schulte
5/23	Laura Nicole Platt
5/23	Gavrielle Simon
5/23	Holli Hirsch
5/25	Sandy Ostrosky
5/25	Melinda Brand
5/25	Joel Farber
5/25	Arlene Kutowy
5/26	Michael Woinsky
5/27	Noa Ramon
5/30	Danielle Sokolow
5/30	Victoria Gellman
5/31	Dale Simon

Donations

Prayer Book Fund:

Mike and Judy Hirsch

In Honor of Marty Gordon, David and Diane Rosenfeld of their years of service and love to Congregation Shaar Hashalom

Phyllis Greenspan

In Memory of Ruth Simonson, mother of Carlos Orellana Ivy Belles

In Memory of her father, Bernard Ash

Donald Brand

In Memory of Jerome Brand Ida Diamond

In Honor of her children, Jennifer, Benjamin, and Hayley Diamond

Ida Diamond

In Memory of her mother, Charlotte Fichtenholz

Ida Diamond

In memory of her father, Benzion Fichtenholz

Samuel and Nancy Platt

In memory of Israel Platt

Stephen and Sheila Falk

Loren and Arnis Paeglis and Family

In Honor of Shaar Hashalom, who welcomed us with open arms

Samuel and Nancy Platt

Martin and Lenore Gordon

Michele Kocen

Wendy S. Kane

In Memory of Sylvia K. Schwartz, wife of Jerome and mother of Wendy Kane and Kerrie Schwartz

Isaac and Ellen Rosen

Sharon and Jerry Mendelson and Family

In Memory of Helen and Irving Goldman

Sharon and Jerry Mendelson and Family

In Memory of Beatrice and Jack Mendelson

Sharon and Jerry Mendelson

In Honor of their children and grandchildren: Brian, Robin, Jake and Hannah Mendelson; Neil, Stacy, Jordan and Zach Mendelson

Building Fund

Allen and Diane Kufert

In Memory of Lee Patterson, father of Julie Robinson

Allen and Diane Kufert

In Memory of Steven Turnaver, nephew of Shirley Brandt

Russell and Judy Gibbs

In Memory of Forrest Truman

In Memory of Don Balke

In Honor of Judy and Mike Wolfe on the occasion of their wedding

Nurit and David Mittlefehldt

In Honor of Mike and Judy Wolfe's wedding

Religious School Fund

Sharon Mendelson

In Memory of her mother, Helen Goldman

Torah Restoration Fund

Library Fund

Cantor Fund

Youth Group Fund

Mark Manusov

In Memory of Gloria Manusov

General Fund

Leonard and Susan Kammerman

In Honor of the marriage of Dr. Michael and Judy Wolfe

Rex and Amira Hemme

for wine used for Congregational Seder

Stain Glass Window Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Wendy Kane

In Honor of the wedding of Judy Weeks and Mike Wolfe

Elaine Ackel

In Memory of Forrest Truman

Isaac and Ellen Rosen

In Memory of Don Balke, father of Bill and father-in-law of Valerie

Isaac and Ellen Rosen

In Memory of Forrest Truman, husband of Linda Truman

Bryan and Carolyn McKinley

In Memory of Abraham Halpin

Shirley Brandt

In Memory of Forrest Truman

Judy and Russell Gibbs

In Memory of Ruth Simonson, mother of Carlos Orellana

Lorraine and Jeffrey Wolfe

In Honor of Mike and Judy Wolfe's wedding

Molly Rovick

In Memory of her son, Joel Rovick

Jerome Schwartz

In Honor of Judith Weeks and Michael Wolfe, on the occasion of their wedding

In Memory of Forrest Truman, husband of Linda Truman

Sisterhood Update

Our congregation's year is coming to its end. By the time we receive this edition of the SHOFAR our yearly BITES OF THE BAY will be memories for us all. Special thanks to all the sisterhood members who helped set up for this great event, and to those of you who cooked and brought food. The mystery of who won the MEN'S CLUB/CLUSY baseball game THIS YEAR will have been solved, and the sisterhood nominating committee will have presented next year's officer's slate, ready for our upcoming election.

I want to personally thank the women of sisterhood who willingly and cheerfully put in so much of their time, energy and resources to make sure all our events would be possible and successful. All in all this has been a good and growing year for our whole congregation and sisterhood. We look forward to having an even better and more productive one as we go into next year.

Shalom
Avril Suckow—Sisterhood President

Men's Club News

In a break with tradition Men's Club decided not to hold its regular monthly meeting in April 2004 because April 2004 was full of activities:

On April 4, 2004 approx. 45 CSH congregants and their families took the Port Houston Boat Ride down the Houston ship channel. For most, it was the first time they had seen the Port of Houston and the many businesses which line both sides of the channel. Kids, of above all, had the best time!

Men's Club set up the tables and chairs for The Congregational Seder which was held on April 6, 2000. Sam Platt, Joe Ringer and Sonia Elliot (we intend to make Sonia an honorary Men's Club member!) were the volunteers.

On Erev Yom HaShoah, Sunday, April 18, 2004 approx. 50 people (including some young adults) from mainly CSH (a few from Beth Tikvah also attended) attended a memorial service to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust. Leonard Levine (Ritual VP-CSH) and Myrna Reingold (Beth Tikvah) conducted the service. Our guest speaker was Ms. Lili Gordon, one of the youngest child survivors of the Holocaust.. Her presentation was very moving and made us all feel thankful we live in a country such as the United States. Joe Ringer presented a check to Lili Gordon for \$500.00 payable to Houston Holocaust Museum representing donations received in

conjunction with last year's Yellow Candle Project. Roger Weiss, VP, coordinated the project for Men's Club and in his closing remarks thanked CLUSY for their support in distributing the Yellow Candles. (The entire Weiss family also helped to distribute the candles)

On Sunday, May 2, 2004 Men's Club will again play softball at 1 pm against CLUSY at Webster field. Team captain for Men's Club is Carlos Orellana. Men's Club will sell its famous Kosher Hot Dog lunches w/drinks at noon. This is a fundraising event for CLUSY who will be taking pledges on runs scored by Men's Club

On Sunday, May 16, 2004 Men's Club will sponsor the annual CSH Congregation Picnic at Frankie Carter Randolph Park. A short Men's Club meeting will precede the picnic.

All adult male members of CSH are encouraged to join Men's Club! See any of our officers if you wish to learn more about our Club.

Joe Ringer, President
Roger Weiss, Vice President
Arnis Paeglis, Secretary
Carl Schwanke, Treasurer

Increase your business with an ad in the Shofar!

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

Congregation Shaar Hashalom
Officers 2004

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Ritual Vice President	Leonard Levine
Education Vice President	Mark Elliott
Financial Vice President	Jan Coppersmith
Recording Secretary	Lauri Coppock
Corresponding Secretary	Janet Stanger
Financial Secretary	Don Brand
Treasurer	Sandy Ostrosky
Bulletin	Michele Kocen
Facilities	Stuart Bank
Fund Raising	Ron Zaguli
Membership Trustee	Risa Stein
Publicity Trustee	David Hirsch
Social Action Trustee	Ronnie Weiss

Editors Note:

Articles for the Shofar can be emailed to 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*
