

the Shofar

august 1996

A publication of Congregation Shaar Hashalom

16020 El Camino Real

Houston, TX 77062

(713) 488-5861

From the Rabbi . . .

The following is a moving story told to me by **Mary Ann Austin**, and I want to share it with all of you:

On my way to a movie this weekend, I killed a bird with my car . . . It came out of nowhere, hurled itself at my front bumper. I felt the impact and looked in my rearview mirror. The bird was laying on the side of the road, but still in the left lane where it could get hit again by other cars.

I didn't want to leave its body laying there. It deserved better than the grimaces it would get after being squashed twenty times . . . So I returned to pick up the body (hoping beyond hope it was only stunned), fetched it from the street, and held it in my hand.

It was just a little baby; could have been on its first solo flight. It was so tiny it fit well within my cupped left hand. With my right hand I covered it and said a small prayer - "Praised is the Great Lord, our G-d, Master of the Universe, Who is the final Judge." My daughter and I spoke briefly about how wonderful a gift life is - how blessed this little bird was to have lived. How wonderful G-d is - Who gives life. Then I wished I could undo what I had done, if only "innocently."

Then I felt what it was like to be helpless; that G-d is the giver of life, that all the things we humans create are lifeless, no matter how intricate or lifelike they seem - all except our children.

Working in the space program, it's easy to "get into the design process," to get wrapped up with the inanimate life of the program, to see the "goal," to assign meaning to the tasks at hand, to watch a shuttle launch and see the orbiter with its wings fly into space, carrying its human and experiment cargo.

But that little bird I was holding in my hands flew itself, something I can only imagine. That little bird sang a sweet song and played in G-d's bright sky.

It's so easy to see a shuttle as an animate creature. It's so easy to see each other and our children as things. It's so easy to

lose ourselves to our own creations, imaginings, our goals, our fears. So easy to forget that we can't breathe life into a lifeless, little, limp bird.

Something changed in me. I imagined G-d throwing that bird at me in a way I couldn't avoid. I concede that was just my way of saying it wasn't really "my fault". But then, I listened to hear what He might whisper if I'd only listen - now that He had my attention.

I can't really say what I heard . . . Nobody can . . . But in part - in human terms - it's a different world. Human and animal - and even plant - life is so precious. We can't ever forget our children, and all the other children of the world - little children, and big grown-up children over 21 . . . We are not combatants, we are not experiments in an animated shuttle, we are not merely the sum of our hopes and fears, goals, aspirations, associations, ideals, dreams, education, philosophy, choices, actions. We are the temples of the precious gift of life G-d has given us.

We do too many useless things. So much talk, so much useless activity, has cheapened life. The objects we animate populate our lives as though they are living. Perhaps this is why there is a commandment not to fashion statues after living objects. That little bird had within it more life than all the statues will ever have within them - no matter how many mechanisms we place within them to make them move, talk, have goals, aspirations, actions . . .

Someone said last week that she was attracted to Judaism because we turn death into a celebration of life - a celebration that G-d gives life. Indeed that is what I will celebrate when I remember that small, beautiful bird. There are so many small, beautiful birds still out there to remind me, Thank G-d!

To which I can only add that, moved by Mary Ann's story, I too will think of the preciousness of our Gd-given Life whenever I see a small bird! Thanks, Mary Ann!

Rabbi Stuart Federow

IN HONOR OF RABBI FEDEROW . . . SAVE THIS DATE !!!

On Saturday, August 24th, the Congregation will host a dinner honoring **Rabbi Stuart Federow**. The evening is being coordinated by **Claire Berman**, with assistance from Leslie Schwanke and Reina Sher-Kraft. If you are available to help make this fundraising event successful, please contact Claire at 480-3081 or Leslie at 286-6712.

As part of this event, we would like to honor the Rabbi

with a book of special messages. To include your personal message, please contact Reina at 334-1004 or Leslie. A full page is \$50, a half page is \$35, and a quarter page is \$18. Please help make this an enjoyable and memorable evening for Rabbi and Mrs. Federow.

Watch the mail for your invitation!

A Blurb about Bulbs

Sisterhood's Flower Bulb fundraiser is in full bloom. We hope to get the entire congregation involved in this exciting event. You will be receiving details in a separate mailing as well as a full-color pamphlet complete with order form. Children in Sunday School also will receive the pamphlet.

There will be prizes awarded to individuals who sell the most bulbs. Some of the very generous merchants who have donated items so far are: **Blockbuster Music, Blockbuster Video, Discovery Zone, Dollar Cinema, Marble Slab Creamery** (Bay Area Blvd.) and **Putt Putt Golf & Games**.

What is really exciting about this fundraiser is that for every 1,200 bags of bulbs we sell, the bulb importer will give us 250 tulip bulbs to beautify the synagogue.

We are hoping that even if you don't "do gardening" that you will consider buying four or five bags of bulbs and donating them (tax deductible) to Shaar Hashalom for this "beautification project." So not only can we raise much needed funds for our synagogue, but we can beautify it as well.

Watch for our table at High Holiday seat sign up and next to the bagel table at Sunday School! See you in August!


**Sue Keitelman, Chair
Ida Berezin, Nancy Cohen,
and Diane Kufert**

Our Congregation Grows

The Congregation extends a warm welcome to

Miriam and Bill Devin. The Devins, former CSH members, moved back to Clear Lake after a four-year absence from the area.

Sydell and Leonard Covan. Syd and Len recently moved to Pearland from Houston. They are the parents of **Hedy** and **Jeff Wolpa** and grandparents of **David** and **Scott**.

	Aug. 2	7:55
	Aug. 9	7:49
	Aug. 16	7:43
	Aug. 23	7:35
	Aug. 30	7:28

Attention Seniors!

A senior social group is forming in the Clear Lake area. We plan to meet once or twice a month. If you are interested in joining, hosting a get-together, and meeting other seniors for fun, games and activities, please contact Florence Cohen at 488-0000. Details will be worked out by the seniors who are interested in this group.

Todah Rabah

Thank you to the following congregants for leading services in July while Rabbi Federow and his family were on vacation: **Leonard Levine, Sally Harrison, Pia Greenberg, Aurit Lazerus, Diane Rosenfeld, Rex Hemme,** and the **Men's Club**.

Thank you to **Rachel Rosen** and her friend **Cheryl de Asis** for their help in folding, stapling, labeling, and sorting the last several issues of the *Shofar*.

Mazel tov

Diane and David Rosenfeld are pleased to announce the arrival of their first grandchild, Zachary Austin Rosenfeld, on June 18, 1996. Zachary's parents are Eric and Laurel Rosenfeld of Phoenix, Arizona.

Scott Wolpa earned placement into League City Intermediate School's Symphonic Band.

Sally Harrison, Nurit Mittlefehldt, and Diane Rosenfeld became members of Kolot Bik'dushah, a select group of women who possess the skills to read Torah and lead services as "shlihot tzibblus."

Found

One soccer ball at the Congregational Picnic.
Describe it and it's yours.
Contact Carl Schwanke at 286-6712.

CSH TO ACTIVATE SECURITY ALARM

Key Holders Must Contact Facilities Trustee

Effective August 1st, anyone who unlocks a door to enter Shaar Hashalom will be required to deactivate the alarm system. All congregants who have a key to the building must have a PIN (Personal Identification Number) to deactivate the alarm. Please contact me at 286-3848 to advise me that you have keys to the building and to give me the number you wish to use as your PIN so that it can be programmed into the system.

The last person to leave the building must activate the alarm system. If the alarm is not activated by 10:30 P.M., the company will call the synagogue to verify who is in the building. If proper verification cannot be made, the police will be dispatched. If the alarm is not activated and the alarm company cannot reach anyone at the synagogue by phone, one of the three emergency contacts will be called to come to the synagogue and activate the alarm.

We are asking for everyone's cooperation regarding this matter.

Stuart Bank, Facilities

Torah Study

An open Community Torah Study Group, led by Rabbi Marinofsky from Chabad Lubovitch, meets in the Clear Lake area every two weeks on a Wednesday evening. This group is free and open to all Jews at all levels of study. There is some reading of text usually followed by Rabbinic explanation and an open forum for questions and answers. Currently the group is studying Rambam's Mishneh Torah.

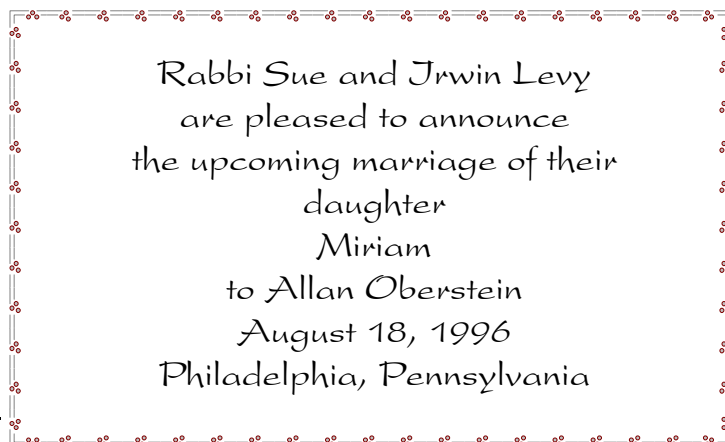
The group meets at the home of Joseph Balakirsky at 16307 Cavendish in the Middlebrook subdivision of the Clear Lake area. Please call Joseph at 480-1670 for directions and to confirm the exact date of the meeting.

Anita Osman

CSH College Students

Do you have a student away at college this year? Help your student stay in touch with our Synagogue family. Leave your student's name and school address in the *Shofar* mailbox and we will be happy to add your student to the *Shofar* mailing list. Each month your student will receive the *Shofar* and be able to read all about the goings-on at CSH.

And to our new college freshmen and to our returning college students - we wish you lots of mazel at school academically and socially. Whether you will be near or far, keep in touch with us!



OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President	Rex Hemme	286-8806
VP - Finance	Isaac Rosen	474-3764
VP - Ritual	Diane Rosenfeld	486-7152
VP - Education	Mike Goldberg	280-0666
	Felicia Bank	286-3848
Recording Secretary	Alan & Barbara Cain	488-7116
Corresponding Secretary	Elaine Ackel	480-0113
Financial Secretary	Neil Ostrosky	486-5239
Treasurer	Martin Coppersmith	480-0759
Past President	Leonard Levine	486-9549
Membership	Rosalind Lively-Berger	480-8410
	Nancy Cohen	291-9192
Facilities	Stuart Bank	286-3848
Publicity	Anita Osman	488-3356
Fundraising	Don Brand (bagels)	480-3449
	Allen Kufert (grocery certif.)	480-4281
Shofar	Hedy Wolpa	334-3740
	Ellen Rosen	474-3764
Bingo	Maurice Najer	471-4582
	Susan Kitmacher	480-9716
Social Action	Steve Friedman	436-1492
Sisterhood President	Pia Greenberg	482-5497
Men's Club	Carl Schwanke	286-6712
Rabbi	Stuart Federow	499-8080
Secretary	Barbara Holder	488-5861
School Principal	Nitsana Lazerus	480-1032
Gift Shop	Sheilla Goldberg	280-0666
Kitchen	Jennifer Briscoe	334-5539



Planting Bulbs a la Pia!

You don't need to be a Miracle Grow Maven to plant the flower bulbs you are buying from the Sisterhood Flower Bulb fundraiser! Anyone - even Green Thumbs - can do it the "**Pia Greenberg way**." Simply throw your bulbs on the ground (preferably in a garden), toss a handful of dirt over them, and wait 'til spring. Pia swears by this method!



We welcome articles and information for the *Shofar*. Although we prefer articles and information on PC disk (Word, WordPerfect, Write, ASCII or text file) or by e-mail (rosen@radph6.mda.uth.tmc.edu), we will accept hard copy or neatly handwritten copy in the *Shofar* mailbox at the synagogue, or call Ellen (474-3764) or Hedy (334-3740).

Ritual Report . . .

We are happy to announce that **Dr. Ken Wetcher** and **Dr. Hal Rosenthal** will once again serve as lay cantors during the High Holy Days. **Cantor Deric Rosenblatt** will chant Kol Nidre, and will also assist **Rabbi Federow** on Erev Rosh Hashanah. Deric will lead Minchah and N'illah services on Yom Kippur as well. **Denise Jucker** will be our cantor during Musaf services on the first and second days of Rosh Hashanah. **Dr. David Cohen** will chant the Torah readings on Yom Kippur.

Selichot services, ushering in the High Holy Days season, will be held on **Saturday evening, September 7, 1996**. Refreshments, sponsored by Sisterhood, and an educational program will precede the 11:00 P.M. service. Exact time and topic for the evening will be announced.

An SOS (**Sundaes on Shabbat**) service was well attended on Friday evening, June 7. These family events will take place on the first Friday evening of each month, at 6:30 P.M., beginning August 2, 1996. A second service

will be offered at 8:15 P.M. after each SOS, and Rabbi Federow will be happy to see congregants who prefer to come at that time.

Jr. Congregation will be held on **Saturday, August 17, 1996 at 9:30 AM**. Please have your children come and begin to "take ownership" of their Shabbat worship. This activity is planned as a learning lab for third to seventh graders, who will eventually lead services for the congregation, family, and friends on the occasion of their Bat and Bar Mitzvahs. The targeted age group is very flexible, and older young people would be very welcome, possibly to assist the leader. Well-motivated younger children might also want to attend.

The following congregants led Erev Shabbat and Shabbat services during Rabbi Federow's vacation in the month of July: **Leonard Levine, Men's Club, Sally Harrison, Pia Greenberg, Aurit Lazerus, Diane Rosenfeld, and Rex Hemme**. Our thanks to all who helped in this special way.

Thanks also go to **Amira Hemme**, who will put

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SUPER SLAW WITH NUTS

This recipe comes from new member Sydell Covan - it's always a hit!!

1 large package cole slaw with carrots
3 oz. package of chicken flavor* ramen noodles -
crushed with spice packet
4 green onions, chopped
1/2 cup sunflower kernels
1/2 cup sliced almonds

1/2 cup vegetable oil
3 tablespoons vinegar
1 tablespoon sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper

Mix altogether and chill for several hours.

*To eliminate animal products, substitute Top Ramen Oriental Flavor noodles.

MEN'S CLUB

Our August Men's Club Breakfast will be hosted at Shaar Hashalom by **Jeff Wolpa** and **Ed Keitelman**. Great job guys and thanks a lot!

If it's summer, it must be time to get in a couple of family outings to local sports events. This summer **Stan Walden** is coordinating a trip to see the Astros on July 27, Saturday night, "Exxon Bat Night" (mini bats to the first 15,000 kids); call him if you are interested. I am coordinating a trip to see the Hotshots (indoor soccer) on August 11; contact me for details. Because we are attending as a group, each person will receive a Hotshots Cap. Both of these events are meant to be family activities for Men's Club members as well as for Congregation members. In fact, you needn't be a Men's Club member at all to participate. We are just trying to facilitate some interaction (dare I say "bonding"?) among congregants outside the Sanctuary. In other words, COME ONE, COME ALL and have a good time!

In support of the Board's commitment to renovate the

Sanctuary, Men's Club authorized a donation to be spent on two items: installation of a new double door entry to the Sanctuary, and an emergency lighting system. The new entry-way was identified by the Building Renovation Committee to eliminate congestion and to improve Sanctuary esthetics. The emergency lighting system is a recommended safety enhancement to provide temporary lighting during power outages.

Calendar of Upcoming Men's Club activities:

July 27	Men's Club family outing to a Houston Astros game
August 4	Men's Club breakfast, Social Hall, Jeff Wolpa & Ed Keitelman hosting
August 11	Men's Club book sale
August 11	Men's club family outing to a Houston Hotshots game
September 8	Men's Club breakfast, home of Russ & Judy Gibbs

Carl Schwanke, Men's Club President

Happy Birthday to	8/16	Joshua Weiss
	8/17	Gary Moore
8/01		Judy Haveson
8/02	8/18	Claire Berman
		Amy Kitmacher
8/03	8/19	Jennifer Briscoe
8/04	8/20	Sheryl Kapsack
	8/21	Flip Osman
	8/26	Helene Wollner
		Russell Gibbs
		Sydney Orenstein
	8/27	Alex Brand
8/05	8/29	Deborah Unger
8/06	8/30	Hayley Diamond
8/08	8/31	Brian Mendelson
8/10		
8/11		
8/12		
8/13		



Happy Anniversary to

8/04	Sheila and Steve Falk
8/14	Susan and Gary Kitmacher
8/20	Ellen and Isaac Rosen
8/20	Hedy and Jeff Wolpa
8/20	Anita and Bob Osman
8/22	Debbie and Robert Angel
	Jan and Martin Coppersmith
8/30	Denice Snow and Marc Newman
8/31	Sue and Ed Keitelman



Yahrzeits

8/02	Sherry Moss	mother of Jamie Moss
8/08	Dorotte Unger	mother of Ken Unger
	Milton Caplan	father of Shelley Kahle
8/09	David Crupain	father of Howard Crupain
	Kallman Rosen	father of Blanche Abramovitz
8/10	George Breido	grandfather of Reina Sher-Kraft
8/11	Frank Casey	relative of Amy Casey
8/15	George Sherry	grandfather of Jamie Moss
8/17	Aron Najer	father of Maurice Najer
8/22	Sadie Yanoff	mother of Molly Rovick
	Daniel Mandell	father of Art Mandell
8/28	Jack Lichter	wife of Elaine Ackel and and father of Matthew Lichter
8/29	Haya Finchelstain	mother of Israel Paz
8/30	Rose Lapidus	mother of Al Lapidus
	Julius Ross	father-in-law of Bert Simms
8/31	William Klein	father of Sylvia Schwartz

In keeping with tradition, yahrzeits are announced at the Shabbat services immediately *preceeding* the date of the yahrzeit.

For additions or corrections to the birthday, anniversary, or yahrzeit lists, please call Barbara at the synagogue office (488-5861).

TULIP TRIVIA

1. **How old is the tulip bulb?**
a) 10 years b) 1,100 years c) 402 years old
2. **Which country grows the largest supply of tulips?**
a) Turkey b) Holland c) The United States
3. **How many bulbs are exported annually from the country that answers question 2?**
a) 198,000 b) 12 million c) 6.5 billion
4. **Where did the tulip originate?**
a) Holland b) Armenia, Persia & the Caucasus
c) Germany
5. **How many bulbs will bloom in the U.S. this spring?**
a) 120 million b) 987,000 c) 1.6 billion
6. **When a bulbs is said to be good for “naturalizing,” this means it**
a) likes health food
b) will adapt easily after making aliyah
c) will multiply naturally in your garden over time
7. **What country buys the most bulbs from Holland?**
a) The United States b) Germany c) Italy d) Japan

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Until further notice, Barbara Holder, congregation secretary, will be in the office the following hours:

**Monday through Friday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

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together the **Yizkor Booklet**, and to **David Rosenfeld, Ritual . . .**
who will organize High Holy Days seating and ushers. Three dates have been planned for **seat selection:**

- **Wednesday evening, August 7, 7:30-9:00 P.M.** (special early seat sign up)
- **Sunday morning, August 11, 10:00-11:30 A.M.** (first regular seat sign up)
- **Wednesday evening, August 14, 7:30-9:00 P.M.** (second regular seat sign up)

Information concerning signups, guest seating, tickets and other pertinent High Holy Day information will be sent to congregants in a series of mailings. Call David Rosenfeld at 486-7152 after 5:30 P.M. for information.

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood is preparing a special *High Holiday mailout* that is due out by August. This mailout is packed with information for the entire congregation, so please be sure to look everything over. Just remember for information about the Ice Cream Social, contact **Kari Sokolow** (286-9749). For information about High Holiday Babysitting (& Sisterhood Membership) contact **Tracey Manusov** (992-8604). To help with Break Fast, call **Blanche Abramovitz** (333-4493).

The Sisterhood Summer Social is Saturday, August 10. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at **Sheilla & Mike Goldberg's** home. We'll then head over to the Comedy Showcase for an evening of laughs! The cost is \$25 per couple (\$12.50 per person). The two drink minimum is extra. Please contact **Sheilla Goldberg, Susan Robertson** or **Judy Gibbs** for more information.

The ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS are back! This year it's bigger and \$5 less. The Clear Lake book contains Downtown, Southeast & Southwest Houston. These books are great! I know I easily saved over \$300 with a Houston book and a Clear Lake book. (My friend let her niece use hers in planning her wedding and honeymoon.) It not only contains restaurants, but it has savings on airlines, car rentals, hotels, tuxedos, limos, record stores, entertainment places for kids and adults, movies, clothing, etc. For more information contact **Sandy Ostrosky** at 486-5239.

On Sunday, August 25, at 1:30 p.m., Sisterhood will host a special Women's League Training Seminar conducted by our National Consultant from New York. The focus of the training will be on self-development. Please R.S.V.P. to **Pia Greenberg**. The trainer will be conducting seminars for Sisterhoods at each Conservative synagogue in Houston, San Antonio and Corpus Christi that whole week. We will be her first stop! Please remember to bring a dessert, fruit or veggie dish!

The JJC Jewish Bookfair is November 3 - 17. Be sure to mark this on your calendar. Sisterhood should be able to announce soon which author we will be sponsoring.

Sue Keitelman has been distributing the order forms for the *Flower Bulb Fundraiser*. Included is a letter explaining how the program works. Sue has done an incredible job in

developing this unique fundraiser. *She even has prizes for both the top-selling adults and top-selling children!* (She has really collected some great prizes!) All of the plants are imported from Holland. They are beautiful (and very affordable)! For more information, please contact Sue at 474-5045. Don't forget, if you do not wish to buy bulbs for your own yard, you can donate bulbs to the synagogue and we will plant them here for you! *The last date to turn in your order forms and money is September 1!*

The Garage Sale was a very big success! Thank you to everyone who donated items for the sale, to those who helped with this entire project, and to everyone who came and shopped. A special thank you goes to **Jeri Walden** and **Denice Snow** for ALL your help and brilliant ideas! Thank you **Ken** and **Goldie Wetcher** and the Wetcher Clinic and United Methodist Church for your most generous donations. Finally, thank you **Stan Walden, Jeff McDonald, and Tom & Doc Niemczura** for the use of your vehicles and muscles in picking up donations for the sale. Remember, a portion of the sales goes toward Torah Fund. Last year our efforts earned us special recognition from Torah Fund and Women's League! Thank you again for your support!

The Installation of New Officers was July 11. Thank you to the old Board for all the work you did for Sisterhood! Congratulations to the new Board! We look forward to your ideas and leadership! Those of you who would like to become more involved in Sisterhood, we do have a few positions open for the Sisterhood Board. Contact me as soon as possible for more information (482-5497, evenings). Thank you to everyone who prepared desserts for the evening!

Every year Sisterhood generally presents the Synagogue with a special gift. This year our members voted to give \$3,000 for the replacement of the roof on the classroom building. This should cover the back building so that your financial support will now go toward replacing the roof over the main building.

Last chance to get your Torah Fund Benefactor Pins before Selichot! If you wish to become a Benefactor please contact **Pia Greenberg** at 482-5497. The pin for 5757 is called *Derekh Emunah* -- I have chosen the way of faithfulness, Psalm 119:30.

Pia Greenberg, Sisterhood President

Kolot Bik'Dushah

At its biennial National Convention in November, 1992, Women's League officially announced the establishment of a select group of women who possess the requisite synagogue skills to read Torah and lead services as "shlihot tzibblus." Approximately 200 women from across the U.S. and Canada have been invited to be part of the national corps, who through their skill have distinguished themselves as Torah readers and shlihot zibbur.

They represent not only themselves and their own accomplishments, but are role models for many other

women who continue to study and acquire synagogue skills. We recognize and take pride in their achievements and commitment and look forward to others joining in the future by virtue of their reaching this level of excellence.

Mazel Tov to Southwest Branch Women's League for Conservative Judaism members who are part of Kolot Bik'dushah: **Sally Harrison**, Seabrook, TX; **Nurit Mittlefehldt**, Houston, TX; **Diane Rosenfeld**, Houston, TX; **Debbye Zanerhaft**, Tulsa, OK; **Maxine Pomerantz**, Dallas, TX; and **Babette M. Weiser**, Houston, TX.

Editors' note: Of the six women from Southwest Branch who are part of Kolot Bik'dushah, three are from Shaar Hashalom!

Mini-Yeshiva

by Richard A Lehman

Where can you go for two weeks that will last a lifetime?

Project Talmud, the summer Mini-Yeshiva Learning Experience, returned to Houston from June 24 through July 4, 1996, its sixth year. This environment was as a marvelous opportunity for any Jewish adult to learn at a beginner or advanced level about Jewishness through source texts and clear, concise instruction by Chabad-Lubavitch teachers. The program offered the absolute beginner, as well as the more learned, a challenging curriculum of Jewish studies. We students examined traditional sources from the original texts while learning techniques of analytical Torah study the way it is done in a full-time yeshiva.

Chabad-Lubavitch is an international movement with headquarters in New York and a facility here in Houston (10900 Fondren 777-2000). Its major thrusts focus on observing for one's self and transmitting to others the beauty, depth, awareness, and joy inherent in the Torah-true way of life. Chabad-Lubavitch is a Chassidic movement which revitalized Jewish life by intensifying the individual's relationship to G-d, as well as his deep sense of devotion and love towards one's fellow man.

Chabad-Lubavitch philosophy has developed an intellectual perspective which helps the individual live in full accordance with the Torah-true way of life. Each one of the instructors was very warm and always displayed a good sense of humor in teaching.

The evening sessions were divided into four 40 minute segments. One had to take a minimum of 2 courses per night to qualify for the Mini-Yeshiva Diploma.

A special Jewish Women's Day Symposium was held on Sunday, June 30, 1996, at the Marriott Medical Center Hotel. Guest Speaker Rebbetzin Rivkah Slonim of Binghamton, NY, nationally-noted educator, lecturer, author, and activist, addressed the intersection of traditional Jewish observance and contemporary life. Her topic was "Issues Concerning Women in Jewish Law and Tradition."

Rebbetzin Slonim was also the guest lecture at Project Talmud on Monday evening, July 1. Her topic was "Total Immersion: Jewish Perspectives on Intimacy with G-d." Reb. Slonim's discussion centered around laws and use of the Mikveh. She stated that the three most important laws that a woman can observe are Honoring the Sabbath, Keeping a Kosher Home, and monthly use of the Mikveh.

The courses that I took included

- Hebrew Reading Crash Course, by Mrs. Leah Marinovshy. This class was about learning to read Hebrew in an easy, hands-on course. This was a good refresher course as well.
- Great Jewish Leaders & Jewish Legal Codes, by Rabbi Betzalel Marinovsky. This course discussed the Sages that shaped our destiny. We studied selections from Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai (2nd cent.), R. Saadia Gaon (6th), Rambam (9th), Rashi (12th), R. Yosef Karo, Arizal (16th), The Baal Shem Tov (18th), Shulchan Aruch, Mishnah

Torah, & modern works on current issues.

- Tanya Book III, by Rabbi Moishe Traxler. Tanya: Igeres HaTeShuva is a classic of Chabad Chasidic philosophy. It is a mystical approach describing how anyone can return back to G-d, and describes the Jewish way of achieving forgiveness & repentance.
- Prayer Translations, by Rabbi Leib Lerner. This class was a word by word translation of Shema Yisroel & Shemona Esrei (Silent Prayer).

Other courses in History, Jewish Law & Observances, Jewish Mysticism & Philosophy, and Prayer included: Jewish Legal Code, Practical Observance, Kashrut Laws, Shabbos observances, Marital Relationships (Taharas Hamishpacha), Tefillin, Fast of 17th of Tammuz, and the 3 Weeks, Torah & Tanach the Written Law, Torah with Rashi, Torah with Commentaries, Kabbal, Synagogue Skills, Hebrew Grammar, Yiddish, Talmud: the Oral Law, Talmud: the Written Law.

For the tuition and time spent, the two weeks was a wonderful experience and the diploma is beautiful. Not only did I get to take four very exciting courses taught by wonderful instructors, I got to meet several new people as well.

ADULT EDUCATION ONEG

On Friday, June 14th, the Adult Education class hosted the Oneg Shabbat in honor of Rabbi Stuart Federow. Many thanks to all who contributed to the Oneg and to the Rabbi's gift, which he proudly wears. Thanks to everyone who helped set up and provide the home baked goodies.

Many asked what the purpose of the Oneg was, so I would like to offer this explanation: For weeks and months the class met to discuss various topics related to Judaism. We talked about the Bible and its relevance to us today. We talked about life and death, about persecution and shame, and most importantly about standing tall and claiming our right to be Jewish. Of all the lessons learned from the class, the one that stands out the most is this - As members of a community and a congregation, we share a common value that is like a pillar, solid and strong. Our strength comes from togetherness. Many thanks go to the Rabbi for sharing, encouraging, involving and opening our eyes to these and many other topics.

Reina Sher-Kraft

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Tulip Trivia answers

1) c 2) b 3) c 4) b 5) c 6) c 7) the U.S., followed by Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Special thanks to Jan Zimmerman at M&G Hollandam, Inc., for this trivia.

Contributions

Building Fund

From Linda Truman

In honor of Doc Niemczura on the occasion of his Confirmation.

In honor of the Confirmation Class of 5756: Aviva Grinbaum, Amy Kitmacher, Anna Levine, Doc Niemczura, Laura Rosen, and Jenna Rosenthal.

From Sandy and Neil Ostrosky

In memory of Jerome Brand, father of Don Brand.

Prayerbook Fund

From Simone Clapp

In honor of Jenny Diamond, on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

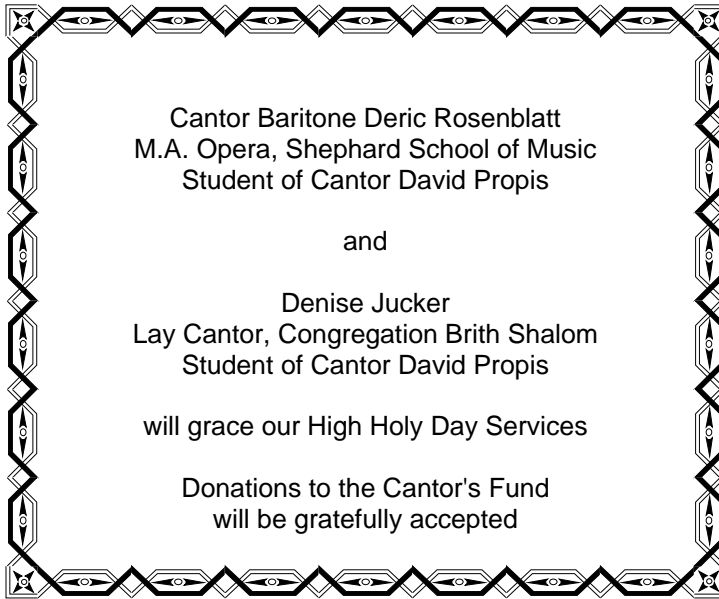
In honor of the birth of Solomon Ezra Berezin.

With wishes for good health to my sons Richard Clapp and Arthur Clapp.

Youth Group Fund

From Stuart Daniels

In memory of Claire and Louis Daniels.



Sisterhood's Flower Bulb Sale

Helping the

I/We are making a donation to Congregation Shaar Hashalom! Please place the donation in the fund indicated.

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___ Library Fund

___ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

___ Rabbi's Salary Fund

___ Prayer Book Fund

___ Youth Group Fund

___ Playground Fund

___ Building Fund

___ Cantor Fund

___ In Honor of _____

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For more donations, please reproduce this form or attach an additional sheet of paper listing the above information.