

# the Shofar

september 1996

A publication of Congregation Shaar Hashalom

16020 El Camino Real

Houston, TX 77062

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## From the Rabbi . . .

### THE SEARCH FOR GD AT HILLEL

A few years ago, during midterms, a student came into the Hillel offices. She looked familiar, and also a little upset, not unusual for the midterm season. She asked to speak to me privately, so we went into my office, and we sat down.

She only said one thing, she told me that she wanted to find Gd.

I was not necessarily in as serious a mood as I should have been. At any rate, without thinking I told her, "Well, you've come to the right place, Gd is definitely here, but you are going to have to wait around for a while before you get a chance to be formally introduced. And while you are waiting there is work to be done. So let's get started."

Immediately her expression changed to a smile, and she said, "Good. What can I do? I do want to find Gd. I've asked other ministers in this religion center, but I have not been able to find Gd."

I asked her what the others had answered her when she asked them about finding Gd. She proceeded to tell me.

The first person she asked told her that she could find Gd through prayer. So she prayed and prayed, but it did not help. I told her, "Of course that won't help. That's like sitting down with a total stranger, and trying to get to know the stranger by totally monopolizing the conversation. When you want to get to know people you have to engage in true dialogue; you have to listen to them as much as they listen to you. This is just as true in getting to know Gd as it is true for getting to know another of Gd's creatures."

She said she had been told by another minister that she would get to know Gd through studying the bible. But that too had failed her. Again I told her that I was not surprised. Reading about something is not the same thing as personal knowledge of it. I can read all about Franklin Delano Roosevelt, but *knowing about* F.D.R. is not the same thing as *knowing* F.D.R. Prayer and study are important in getting to know Gd, but each alone will not, cannot really introduce you to

each other.

She then told me that another minister had said that she could find Gd if she looked inside herself, that Gd was within. I told her that this was true, but how can she find Gd within herself if she could not recognize Gd outside of herself?

So, she asked me how to go about finding Gd at Hillel. I repeated that she would just have to stick around and wait until she could be introduced.

She started coming regularly, and she started to get to know the other students, and they began to get to know her. She would come into the office and she would help. She helped us with our social action projects. She started coming to our services, and sometimes she

would know why she was praying and sometimes she did not, and sometimes she would mouth empty words and sometimes she would actually pray. She started coming to classes, and to lectures on Jewish topics, and then she started going to classes regularly at local congregations and at the JCC.

She started not just to learn about Judaism, but she started to let Judaism inform and affect her life. She started, little by little, to keep kosher. Then she started to do more and more, and less and less on Shabbat.

Every so often, I would ask her if she had been introduced to Gd yet? And sometimes she would answer with a smile and an understanding yes, and sometimes she would look very puzzled, like she did that first day. She became more and more

a part of our little Hillel community. She began to help others through our social action activities. She came to Shabbat services more often. She began to sit down with Introduction to Judaism books. The more Judaism she did in her daily life, the more often her answer would be that understanding smile and a knowing yes, when I asked her if she had yet found Gd.

One day, just before school ended that semester, she came back into my office. I asked her if she had ever really found Gd. She said she felt as though she had, even if she wasn't sure when, or where, or how. I asked her when she felt the presence of Gd. And she responded that she felt Gd all of the time.

(Continued on page 4)



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## President's Message . . .

One of the pleasures of this job is being more aware of all of the volunteer labor which is devoted to keeping the synagogue functioning. Before I start, let me say that there are so many people who contribute in so many different ways that I am sure I will overlook some of you. This in no way is intended to slight anyone but rather to recognize by example all who serve us so well and to encourage those who have not yet become involved to find a niche in the volunteerism which supports the synagogue.

Of course, first I want to recognize the Board, without whom the business of Congregation Shaar Hashalom could not be run. One often does not think of a congregation as a business, but indeed it is -- and one run by volunteers at that.

While the teachers and **Nitsana Lazerus**, our Education Coordinator, are paid nominally, the amount of work expended relative to their meager remuneration qualifies them all as sainted volunteers in my mind. With their leadership, we have a Jewish educational system second to none.

Then, of course, there are the sisterhood and Men's Club and their presidents, **Pia Greenberg** (just leaving office) and **Carl Schwanke**. Congregation Shaar Hashalom would sorely miss the many social events and picnics they coordinate. And what would we be without the Onegs and Break Fasts coordinated by the Sisterhood, and the projects undertaken by the Men's Club, such as adding playground equipment and doing much of the interior work in renovating the synagogue.

There are a few unsung stars of Shaar Hashalom volunteerism who I particularly want to recognize. One in particular is **Jennifer Briscoe**. She continues to be a stalwart in organizing the Onegs. Seldom a Shabbat goes by without her having arranged an Oneg. *I will take this opportunity to give a plug for more volunteers to furnish the refreshments. Jennifer really needs your assistance. She cannot and should not be responsible for financially underwriting these functions.* Jennifer has also recently been involved in helping us through a secretarial crisis when Barbara became very ill.

Two others who are more visible are **Don Brand** and **Allen Kufert**. We know them as the bagel and coupon men. These two men have double-handedly revived these fund-raising programs to exceed any expectations. They invest a tremendous amount of work in these activities; and while they are often assisted by **Diane Kufert** and **Leslie Schwanke**, they might welcome assistance if you are interested. I have helped on occasion, and it is really not a very onerous task.

The third non-Board member who has recently become very active is **Reina Sher-Kraft**. Her activity has been only recent because she and her mother, **Shirley Sher**, are relatively new members. But already Reina has become a fixture in many activities. She did much of the leg work and organization of the Passover seder, including making the matzah ball soup, and she was a very active member of the committee which organized the welcome dinner for Rabbi Federow. Reina and Shirley have also helped in many other ways.

So what about you? Is the vitality of Congregation Shaar Hashalom as important to you as it is to all of the volunteers who I identified and those who I overlooked? We have jobs available, large and small. Would you volunteer to

- coordinate the fund-raising of the congregation other than the bagel and coupon drives? We need a fund-raising chairman to serve on the Board.
- chair a fund-raising art auction which I have already committed to on October 26?
- serve on a committee with me to solicit funds from the greater Jewish community? I plan to organize such a committee after the High Holidays and make it a project to obtain such "outside" donations in the hope of expanding upon the renovation project we have just begun.
- serve as coordinator of adult programming? In my opinion we Jews think of Judaism as something we do for our kids. Doesn't it have something to offer adults? I dream of a broad adult program that includes social and educational functions. Won't you step forward to lead in this area?
- serve on the Ritual Committee or Education Committee?
- host an Oneg?
- volunteer to do some limited tasks related to fund-raising?
- help in other ways? What can/will you do?

It's a cliché, but volunteerism is the lifeblood of a congregation. We are truly blessed to have as much as we do, and I am thankful to all who have gotten involved. I look forward to working with many more of you in the future.

**Rex Hemme, President**


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## Todah Rabah

to **Miriam Devin**, **Jennifer Briscoe**, and **Felicia Bank** for helping in our Synagogue office during July and August.

to **Jerry Mendelson** for donating the new doors to the sanctuary.

to **Stuart Bank**, **Carl Schwanke**, and the many Men's Club members who helped paint the ceiling grids, replace the ceiling tiles, and install new light baffles in the Sanctuary.

	<i>Candle Lighting Time</i>	Sept. 06	7:19 P.M.
		Sept. 13	7:11 P.M.
		Sept. 20	7:02 P.M.
		Sept. 27	6:53 P.M.

## Education Report . . .

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new year of Religious and Hebrew school. We hope that the school will continue to grow and improve during the year. We have plans to make it a great and joyful year. We ask for your cooperation while the school building is being repaired. We have many new students who have joined us this year; please make them feel comfortable.

The Education Committee along with the Jewish Family Service will present a session on Family Life Education on September 10, 1996 at 7:00 P.M. at the Synagogue. The guest speaker is Sharon Gerber and her topic is "May Your Child Grow Up To Be A Mensch." We hope to see everyone there!

Looking forward to working with you.

**Nitsana Lazerus, Principal  
Mike Goldberg and Felicia Bank  
Education Vice Presidents**

### 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

## E-Mail Addresses Wanted . . .

If you have an e-mail address, Rabbi Federow would like to know! Leave your address - and your name - in his mailbox at the synagogue. If your college student has an e-mail address, leave that too.

## . . . And College Addresses Too

If you have a student at college, please leave your student's name and school address in the Shofar mailbox at synagogue. We would like your student to be on the Shofar mailing list so that each month he or she can read all about what's happening here at home.

## SHAAR HASHALOM GOES ON-LINE

Congregation Shaar Hashalom has entered the electronic age - we have our own Website! Our address is:

[HTTP://USCJ.ORG/SOWEST/HOUSTOSH/](http://USCJ.ORG/SOWEST/HOUSTOSH/)

Our home page is titled "Shaar Hashalom: Frontier Judaism at its Best."

Thanks to **Sally Harrison** for putting it all together for us!

## Lettuce Entertain You . . .

Sisterhood is once again selling Entertainment Books for \$25.00. The Entertainment Book saves you up to 50% on just about everything - dining, travel, shopping, movies, sports and more!! Start saving today by calling **Sandy Ostrosky** at 486-5239 or **Miriam Devin** at 486-8534 to get your book.

## You are invited . . .

Kinneret group of Hadassah invites you to the home of **Sharon Polt** for an evening of "FUN AND SURPRISE," Sunday, September 29, at 7:00 P.M. For more information, please call 486-0958.



We welcome articles and information for the Shofar. We prefer articles and information either on PC disk (Word, WordPerfect, Write, ASCII or text file) or by e-mail (rosen@radph6.mdacc.tmc.edu), but 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 . . .

### L'Shanah Tovah!

Selichot services have been planned for September 7, 1996 at 11:00 P.M. They will be preceded by an Ice Cream Social (thanks to Sisterhood), and a program presented by **Rabbi Federow**. By the time you read the Shofar article, we hope everyone will have found out what the Rabbi's "mystery topic" was.

Thanks again to Sisterhood for sponsoring a special Oneg on Erev Rosh Hashanah, Friday evening, September 13. They are also organizing the Break Fast on Yom Kippur, Monday evening, September 23.

The rest of the holiday schedule is as follows:

<b>Sukkot Pot Luck Dinner</b>	<b>Friday, September 27</b>	<b>6:30 P.M.</b>
<b>Family Service</b>	<b>Friday, September 27</b>	<b>7:30 P.M.</b>
<b>Sukkot Shabbat Service</b>	<b>Saturday, September 28</b>	<b>9:30 A.M.</b>
<b>Erev Shemini Atzeret</b>	<b>Friday, October 4</b>	<b>8:15 P.M.</b>
<b>Shemini Atzeret</b>	<b>Saturday, October 5</b>	<b>9:30 A.M.</b>
<b>Erev Simchat Torah and Kindergarten Consecration</b>	<b>Saturday, October 5</b>	<b>7:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Simchat Torah</b>	<b>Sunday, October 6</b>	<b>9:30 A.M.</b>

Simchat Torah marks the final reading in the (Book of Deuteronomy) Torah; the scroll is then rerolled to the beginning (Book of Genesis), and a portion is read. It's an exciting service, with music and dancing with the Torahs. Refreshments will be provided by the kindergarten class.

A Sukkah Walk is in the process of being organized. Call **Rex Hemme** at 286-8806 for information. Information about Children's Services, Babysitting, Tashlich, etc., will be sent to congregants in a mailing.

David and I wish everyone a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year.

**Diane Rosenfeld, Ritual Vice-President**

A *tzimmes* means a fuss or excitement, but making a *tzimmes* doesn't mean a lot of work; most *tzimmes* dishes are easily prepared. A *tzimmes* is almost any combination of meat or vegetables or fruits, limited only by the imagination of the cook. This *tzimmes* recipe is traditionally served at Rosh Hashanah.

#### **Yam and Carrot Tzimmes**

1 c. (approximately) grated sweet potato or yam  
2 carrots, grated  
1 apple, grated  
½ c. raisins  
½ c. sugar

1 c matza meal or dry bread crumbs  
3 T. lemon juice  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1 c. melted shortening or oil

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease an 8-inch square pan. Mix the grated sweet potato or yam, carrots, and apple in a bowl. Mix in the raisins, sugar, and matza meal or bread crumbs. Add the lemon juice, salt, cinnamon, and shortening or oil. Mix until everything is well blended. Spoon into the greased pan and bake for 40 minutes.

#### *(Continued from page 1)* **Gd at Hillel**

And now I smiled. I told her, "Gd is like a true friend, because Gd is the true friend. And just like a true friend whose influence you feel in your life regardless of what you are doing, you slowly became acquainted with Gd while you did all this other stuff. Plenty of people do all of these things you did in your becoming acquainted with Gd, but here is a little secret. They never got to know or meet Gd, because they never found Gd. And they never found Gd because their hearts were never really looking for or were open to Gd.

"Just doing them doesn't mean you'll find Gd. You also have to have a heart open to Gd and to Gd's influence on you. When someone comes into your life, you have to be open to

friendship before that person can become a friend. When

someone comes into your life as a potential spouse or significant other, you have to be open to love and to companionship before that person can become your spouse or significant other.

"When you first started coming into this religion center, you wanted to find Gd like a person finds a rare coin or a rare flower, just out there waiting to be plucked or pocketed. Gd is not a person or flower or coin to be plucked or pocketed. You see, the word Gd is a strange noun. It is like the word husband, or wife, friend, or even significant other. It is a word that implies a relationship. You cannot be a wife until you have a husband, you cannot be a mother until you have a child. A

*(Continued on page 5)*

## ROOF FUND UPDATE

We have passed the 50% mark! Thanks to the generosity and support of our donors we now have less than half-way to go to a new roof! WE CAN DO IT!!! And we are doing it! As of August 20 we have heard from 36 Shaar Hashalom families, one Synagogue organization, and one Havarah, generating a total of \$10,065 for a new roof!!!

*We hope we can count on your support!!*

Boris and Ida Berezin  
Lisa Callner and Ron Schulte  
Nancy and David Cohen  
Steve and Sheila Falk  
Russell and Judy Gibbs  
Andrew Gould and Judith Jackson  
Pia Greenberg and Tom Niemczura  
Izhak and Susan Grinbaum  
Diane and Allen Kufert  
Andrea and Gary Moore  
Helene and Joseph Ringer  
Hal and Barbara Rosenthal  
Jan and Martin Coppersmith

Andrew and Michael Wollner  
Debbie and Robert Angel  
Reina Sher-Kraft and Steve Kraft  
Sharon and Mitchell Polt  
Mark and Tracey Masnusov  
Mike and Candace Gillman  
Hedy and Jeff Wolpa  
Nurit and David Mittlefehldt  
Steve and Abby Kornblau  
Neil and Sandy Ostrosky  
Garland and Leah Wiener  
Ken and Goldie Wetcher  
Cindy and Michael Shulman

Stan and Jeri Walden  
Al and Joan Lapidus  
Havarah Rishonah  
Ellen and Isaac Rosen  
Sally Harrison  
Maryann Austin  
Rex and Amira Hemme  
Sisterhood  
Linda Truman  
Mel and Shirley Safer  
Steve Friedman  
Jamie and Lizette Moss

*(Continued from page 4)* **Gd at Hillel**

flower is a flower and a coin is a coin and they do not need anything else to be a coin or a flower. But Gd needs us, so that Gd can be Gd. Gd is a word like those words. It implies a relationship, and in order to find Gd, you have to enter into a relationship with Gd, and that means having a heart that is open to Gd and Gd's influence in you life.

Gd, to be real, has to be somebody's Gd. To be in this world Gd has to be affirmed and revered and loved. The way in which we Jews bring Gd into this world is by not just being Jewish in this world but by practicing Judaism in this world, *because of* Gd.

Not just being Jewish, but doing Jewish, and not just doing Jewish, but doing Jewish *because of, as a result of, our feelings, our love for Gd.*"

When that young woman came back into my office a few months ago, I asked her why she had not become acquainted with Gd outside of the religion center. Gd fills the universe, after all.

Her response was that too many walls had been put up between her and Gd, that things that had happened in her childhood were definitely against Gd and Gd's laws, and that she had been doing a lot in her life that she knew Gd would not like. She thought that Gd must have walked away from her.

I told her, "You know, Gd does not budge. If you walk away from this room, you have moved, not the room. And Gd will not move even one inch away. The things we do that seem take Gd away from us, merely take us away from Gd. Gd continues to love us, even if Gd hates the things we do, because Gd wants so much more for our lives than we ourselves tend to permit ourselves to have. Gd is like the true parent, the good parent, not like the parent we did have, but the parent we all should have had. The perfect parent that we all wish we could be but none of us can be. And Gd may disapprove of our actions, and maybe even disapprove of us if our actions are overwhelmingly

evil. But there is forgiveness and there is repentance and we can return to Gd."

You see, that is what these High Holy days are for, every year. To remind us of the highest, of Gd and of Gd's will for our lives. What Gd wants is a moral, ethical world, where we treat each other right, where people, like my student, try to find Gd, and through their search, find each other, and find themselves - because we are open, our hearts are open, to each other and to Gd.

These High Holy days remind us that if we have been doing things that we feel might be keeping Gd away, Gd has not moved, we have moved. Gd forgives. And we can return. That is why repentance in Hebrew is *T'Shuvah*, which comes from the word meaning *to return*. We return to Gd, Gd has not moved, not even an inch from where we last left Gd.

If, at this High Holy day season, you are looking for Gd, "Well, you've come to the right place, Gd is definitely here, but you are going to have to wait around for a while before you get a chance to be formally introduced. And while you are here, there is work to be done."

So let's get started, and thank you, Gd, for not moving an inch from where I last left you.

**Rabbi Stuart Federow**



### YOM KIPPUR FOOD DRIVE

The congregation will again conduct a food drive prior to Yom Kippur services. Please bag any donations you have and drop them into the carts outside the temple prior to Kol Nidre services. Although any donation is appreciated, consider donating an amount equal to the meals you fast through.



Welcome

### Our Newest Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following families who have recently joined Shaar Hashalom:

**Ron and Amy Zaguli.** Ron is a former member of Shaar Hashalom and maintained membership in Men's Club. He and Amy have a 2-year-old daughter, **Becky**. Amy works for Exxon and Ron works at NASA. They live in Brookwood.

**Deborah Austin.** Deborah (formerly Mary Ann) recently completed her conversion to Judaism, studying under Rabbi Federow. She has lived in the area for 20 years and has a 17-year-old daughter, **Lara**. She is employed by United Space Alliance, a NASA subcontractor.

**Beth Liebling and John Osha.** Beth and John have been back in the area for the past four years. In fact, Beth grew up at Shaar Hashalom, becoming a Bat Mitzvah here as well as being confirmed here. They have almost five children: **Kit**, 9 years; **Kelsey**, 6-1/2; **Quinn**, 4-1/2; **Kaliela**, 2; and one due any day now. Beth is an attorney in solo private practice, and John is a patent/trademark attorney. They live in Kirby Woods.

**Ken and Sheri Corning.** The Cornings have lived in the area for 14 years. They have two children, **Brooke**, 9 years, and **Evan**, 7-1/2 years. Sheri is a clinical psychologist in private practice, and Ken is a software engineer with Unisys. They live in El Lago.

**Irwin and Patricia Block.** The Blocks moved to this area two months ago from Cleveland, Ohio. They have two sons, **Joseph**, 9 years, and **Joshua**, 6 years. Irwin works for Oxy Chemical in Deer Park. They live in Bay Oaks.

**Donald and Ilene Weintraub.** The Weingartens moved here from New Jersey two months ago to be with their daughter, son-in-law, and grandkids, **Cindy** and **Mike Shulman** and their children, also CSH congregants. Donald and Ilene are both retired. Their home is in Northfork.

**Lynda Hamilton.** Lynda has lived in the area for about two months; she moved here from Jerico, New York. She has two sons, **Jonathan**, 12 years, and **Scott**, 8-1/2. The family lives in Brookwood.

### SHOFAR HAS NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

If you wish to submit articles to the Shofar by e-mail, please use this NEW address beginning September 1, 1996:

rosen@radph6.mdacc.tmc.edu

Articles and information for the Shofar can also be submitted on PC disk. Deadline is the 10th of the month; articles submitted aafter that date will be considered for the following month's issue. Please see page 3 for further information.

### Yahrzeits

9/01	Alfred Liebenthal	father of Kurt Liebenthal
9/03	Frida Horowitz	mother of Devora Paz
9/04	Eleanor Brandt	mother of Shirley Brandt
9/06	Myron Rubel	father of Sheilla Goldberg
9/11	Beatrice Mendelson	mother of Jerry Mendelson
9/12	Barouh Camhi	father of Miriam Devin
9/17	Harvey Simms	son of Bertram Simms
9/19	Louis Goldberg	father of Michael Goldberg
9/21	Anne Ruth Prouser	mother of Susan Kitmacher
9/22	Freida Abramovitz	sister in law of Isaak Abramovitz
9/22	Harry Abramovitz	brother of Isaak Abramovitz
9/23	Harry Litman	father of Marsha Waxman
9/26	Alfred Cohen	husband of Florence Cohen
9/27	Curtis Walden	father of Stan Walden
9/27	Irvin Schweig	father of Jan Coppersmith
9/29	Louelle Price	sister in law of Jo Price
10/03	Irving Greene	father of Jay Greene

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

### Happy Birthday to

- 9/03 Martin Coppersmith
- 9/07 Anita Osman
- 9/10 C.J. Brand
- 9/10 Peter Silton
- 9/12 Hal Rosenthal
- 9/14 Madison Simons
- 9/15 Jeff Wolpa
- 9/15 Earl Rubenstein
- 9/16 Henry Noey
- 9/19 Ellen Rosen
- 9/20 Devora Paz
- 9/20 Elaine Ackel

- 9/23 David Mittlefehldt
- 9/25 Serena Wetcher
- 9/25 Hedy Wolpa
- 9/25 Jeri Walden
- 9/30 Jon Kocen
- 9/30 Rebecca Keitelman



### Happy Anniversary to

- 9/02 Diane and David Rosenfeld
- 9/06 Judith Jackson & Andrew Gould
- 9/30 Denice Snow & Marc Newman



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

## SISTERHOOD

L'Shanah Tovah! By now you should have received the special *High Holiday Mailout* Sisterhood sent you in August. This mailout is packed with information. If you need information on upcoming events please contact the following chairs:

- *Ice Cream Social & Flowers for the Bima* - contact **Kari Sokolow** (286-9749)
- *High Holiday Babysitting & Sisterhood Membership* - contact **Tracey Manusov** (992-8604)
- *Break Fast* - call **Blanche Abramovitz** (333-4493)

Note: If you have any old toys you do not want, we sure could use them for the children in babysitting. Just let Tracey know!

*The Sisterhood Summer Social was August 10.* The evening began with dinner at **Sheilla & Mike Goldberg's** home. Then the crowd headed over to the Comedy Showcase for an evening of laughs! Special thanks to **Sheilla Goldberg, Susan Robertson** and **Judy Gibbs** for all their hard work and effort in coordinating this fun annual event!

*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 easily saved over \$300 with a Houston book and a Clear Lake book. The book is good for some of the best restaurants in Clear Lake and Houston. They also have savings on airlines, car rentals, hotels, tuxedos, limos, clothing stores, record stores, entertainment places for kids and adults, movies, live theatre performances, ice skating, fitness centers, museums, dry cleaning, car washes, video rentals, etc. For more information contact **Sandy Ostrosky** at 486-5239 or myself at 482-5497.

The deadline for the *Flower Bulb Sale* is September 1. **Sue Keitelman** and her team (**Diane Kufert, Nancy Cohen, Susan Robertson** & many more) have been distributing the order forms for the Flower Bulb Fundraiser. *They even have prizes for both the top selling adult and children!* 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 for you! If you are not sure how to plant the bulbs, try my *quick & dirty method for planting bulbs*: 1) Wait until a cold front is coming. 2) When they say take in your pets and plants that is your cue to throw your bulbs down on the ground. 3) Dump potting soil on top of them. 3) Water them, if you can. 4) Then sit back and watch them grow. This method has never failed me. (And, I don't ever dig them up. I am surprised every year with what pops back up!)

*Thank you to everyone who supported the Garage Sale!* There were many who spent hours in the classroom pricing and sorting the items, then returned to help set up the night before the sale. We had a great sales staff that Sunday! Thanks to everyone who helped up packed up the leftovers. The following people deserve special recognition for all their hard work -- **Denice Snow; Jeri, Stan & Jasmine Walden; Susan Robertson; Sheilla, Mike, Sharon & Michael Goldberg; Sharon, Mitchell, Lauren & Melissa Polt; Anita Osman; Judy & Russell Gibbs; Jennifer Briscoe & Jeff McDonald; Melissa Cain; Felicia Bank; Paula Bhimani; Beverly Kesten;**

**Kari Sokolow; Tom & Doc Niemczura; Miriam Devin; C.J. Brand; Ellen & Rachel Rosen; Debbie & Katie Angel; Hedy & Scott Wolpa; and Syd & Len Covan.** (If I left anyone out, I apologize!)

*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.

*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.

**Pia Greenberg**  
Sisterhood President

## NEVER BORED! A Pre-High Holy Day Reading

There is so much  
In our  
Heritage...  
That one lifetime  
Cannot  
Absorb it all!  
But we can  
Start!  
Right now!  
And we can  
Try!  
From this  
Moment.  
And therefore,  
A Jew  
Can never be  
Bored.

There is so much  
To read --  
To study --  
To learn --  
To discuss --  
To apply --  
To our living  
Every day  
As Jews,  
That even if  
we never  
Stopped  
In our learning,  
In our doing,  
There would still be  
An endless amount  
Yet to learn,  
Yet to absorb.

There is so much  
In the world  
That  
Needs us,  
Yearns for us,  
Cries out for us  
To help  
Make this a better world,  
A finer world,  
A safer world,  
A healthier world,  
And because we  
Can - as Jews,  
And we  
Care - as Jews,  
We can never be  
Bored.

There is so much  
That we can  
Do,  
as Jews.  
But how can we do,  
With understanding,  
If we do not  
Know?

There is so much...  
So let us  
Start!  
Now!

*This poem comes from Dvora Rosenberg  
National Adult Education Chairman  
Women's League for Conservative Judaism*

## Shaar Hashalom Fund Raising Scrip Program

A new program to raise funds for Shaar Hashalom is being started, and we need your help. The program is called Scrip and it will not cost you one penny more than you would ordinarily spend.

Scrip is a gift certificate program which was created as a way for non-profit organizations to raise money. Through this program, each time a member of Shaar Hashalom shops at a participating merchant, up to 20% of the purchase price goes to our synagogue. It works the same way as our current grocery coupon program, except it is expanded to include many more merchants.

How can you help? Just take a look at the list of merchants that participate. Do you regularly shop at any of them? If so, please try this program. It will not cost you a penny more than you are currently spending, yet it will help raise funds for our congregation.

In addition, up to 10 volunteers are needed to help take orders and distribute the certificates. Members volunteering to help will be rebated half of the discount provided to Shaar Hashalom on their first \$500 of coupons each year.

To order the coupons, please call **Allen Kufert** (480-4281) or **Don Brand** (480-3449).

Thanks for your support.

Store	%	\$ Amounts	Notes
Albertson's	4%	\$10, \$25	No change given at store.
B. Dalton Books	7%	\$10	
Baskin Robbins	9%	\$5	
Builders Square	3%	\$10, \$25	20% of face value as change.
Chi Chi's	20%	\$10	
Chili's	12%	\$10	
Eckerd's	2%	\$10, \$25	Up to \$5 in change.
Foley's	7%	\$10, \$25	May NOT be used on your charge card.
Footlocker	13%	\$50	
HEB	2%	\$10, \$25	No change given at store.
Jason's Deli			NOT PART OF THIS PROGRAM BUT WILL CARRY THEM IF WE HAVE SUFFICIENT PEOPLE INTERESTED.
JC Penny	5%	\$10, \$25, \$100	Accepts payment on charge cards
Kaybee Toys	9%	\$10	
KFC	8%	\$5	
Kinney Shoes	13%	\$50	
Kmart	3%	\$10, \$25	20% of face value as change.
Lord and Taylor	9%	\$10, \$25	May NOT be used on your charge card.
Macy's	8%	\$25, \$100	10% of face value as change. Accepts payment on charge card.
Musicland	15%	\$10	\$1 in change.
Office Max	3%	\$10, \$25	20% of face value as change.
Olive Garden	13%	\$10	
Pizza Hut	9%	\$5	
Radio Shack	4%	\$10	
Red Lobster	13%	\$10	
Ross Dress for Less	8%	\$10	
Sam Goody	15%	\$10	\$1 in change.
Schwan's Frozen Foods	8%	\$10	\$1 in change.
Sears	2%	\$10, \$25, \$100	Accepts payment on account, but minimum payment must be in cash. 15% of face value as change.
Sharper Image	15%	\$10, \$25, \$100	Okay to mail.
Sizzler	16%	\$5	
TJ Maxx	12%	\$10, \$25	
United Artist Theaters	8%	\$10	
Waldenbooks	3%	\$10, \$25	20% of face value as change.
Winn Dixie	5%	\$10, \$25, \$50	

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# Kids'

Do you know . . .

## why Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are called the High Holy Days?

During this solemn time of year we are given the chance to reflect on our ways and our previous behavior to see if there are improvements that we can make in our lives. In these ten days at the beginning of the year, Gd gives us humans a tremendous opportunity. We are able to reflect on our sins and to clean our slates. When we take this process seriously and want to improve, Gd gives us total forgiveness. These ten days have come to be known as the High Holy Days because through these days of prayer and thoughtfulness we can reach very high and lofty spiritual levels and attain a closeness to Gd.

## why we eat apples and honey on Rosh Hashana?

There are many customs that Jews around the world practice on Rosh Hashana that involve symbolic foods. Eating these

sweet foods demonstrate our desire that Gd will bless us with a sweet year. Eating apples and honey is the most famous custom. Another custom is to eat pomegranates to symbolize that our lives should be full of *mitzvot* and other good things just as a pomegranate is so full of sweet seeds.

## what *Kol Nidre* is?

*Kol Nidre* is the prayer that begins the Yom Kippur service on the eve of Yom Kippur. It asks for forgiveness in case we have made any promises or vows during the past year that we haven't kept. We must think through our past actions to see if there was anyone with whom we weren't fair or honest, or if there was anyone we had argued with during the past year and, if so, we must make amends with this person. It can't be expected that God will be forgiving with us if we are not forgiving with each other.

-- from *What Does Being Jewish Mean?*  
by Rabbi E. B. Freedman et. al.

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## Yom Kippur Hidden Drawing

Shade in only the shapes that are labeled with one of the letters in YOM KIPPUR and a hidden drawing will appear.



—from *Jewish Holiday Fun* by David A. Adler

# Sisterhood Gift Shop

Sunday mornings during religious school  
 Wednesday evenings 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.  
 or call

Sheilla Goldberg 280-0666  
 C.J. Brand 480-3449

Susan Robertson 286- 0022  
 Nancy Cohen 291-9192

## Contributions

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

From Jamie and Lizette Moss  
 in memory of Silvia Sherry, grandmother  
 in memory of Maria Claudia Bernel, grandmother

From Steve and Sheila Falk

in memory of Matthew Aron Spiegelman

From Bertram Simms

in memory of Emanuel Simkovitz

### **Religious School Fund**

From Mike and Sheilla Goldberg

in honor of the birth of Solomon Ezra Berezin

in honor of the marriage of Helene Wollner and  
 Joseph Ringer

### **Library Fund**

From Goldie and Ken Wetcher

in memory of Arona Mc Hugh

### **Rabbi's Salary Fund**

From Helene Wollner Ringer

in honor of Joel and Miriam Farber's 25th  
 wedding anniversary

in honor of new grandparents David and Diane  
 Rosenfeld

in honor of new grandparents Ken and Goldie  
 Wetcher

good luck to Harvey and Risa Stein on their move to  
 Duseldorf, Germany

### **Building Fund**

From Simone Clapp

in memory of Roger Clapp, husband of Simone Clapp

From Barbara, Alan and Melissa Cain

in memory of Margaret Kick, Barbara's aunt

From Barry Marks

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

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Full address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ On the Occasion of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Send notification to \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ Religious School Fund
- \_\_\_ Torah Restoration Fund
- \_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ On the Occasion of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Send notification to \_\_\_\_\_

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- \_\_\_ Prayer Book Fund
- \_\_\_ Youth Group Fund
- \_\_\_ Playground Fund
- \_\_\_ Building Fund
- \_\_\_ Cantor Fund

*For more donations, please reproduce this form or attach an additional sheet of paper listing the above information.  
 Return your form and donation to Elaine Ackel, Corresponding Secretary, Cong. Shaar Hashalom, 16020 El Camino Real,  
 Houston, TX 77062. You may also bring it by the synagogue and leave it in the corresponding secretary's mailbox.*