

the Shofar

march 1997

Congregation Shaar Hashalom

16020 El Camino Real Houston, TX 77062

(281) 488-5861


From the Rabbi . . .

At the publication of this March Shofar, we will have recently elected and re-elected a new Board of Directors for Shaar Hashalom. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who have served and will be serving our congregation! The synagogue life is kept by volunteers. Without the effort of a lot of people who are willing to come forward and work for the good of the Jewish community, nothing would ever get done, and to them we all owe a debt of gratitude.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the spouses of those who volunteer on behalf of the congregation! When one member of a family volunteers, it is the whole family that is actually volunteering their time and their energies into the congregation. Often, one of the many people who come forward for YOUR benefit will have to take time away from their families, and take their limited energies and spend them on the membership of Shaar Hashalom.

Thank you to both those who volunteer, and their spouses who also volunteer either by themselves actively being involved in the synagogue, or by giving up time with their volunteering spouses. On behalf of those who receive from the efforts you all put in, we appreciate it and are grateful for it.

Rabbi Stuart Federow
federow@blkbox.com



PURIM SERVICE
Saturday Evening
March 22, 1997
7:00 P.M.

Rabbi Federow will give his
creative reading of the Megillah

Oneg following services

Ritual Report

It is a pleasure to report that service attendance has really increased at Shaar Hashalom this year. On Friday nights we have recently had as many as 75 people, while on Saturday mornings we almost always have a minyan, and usually a lot more than that.

However, the diverse nature of our service attendees, and the space crunch at our synagogue, once again calls on us to raise the spirit of compromise and accommodation that has always helped us. A number of people have expressed their concern about disturbances during services, and about food mishandled and wasted in the Social Hall, before and during the Oneg. Others have commented that they did not feel welcome at services, because of the noise and activity their children may generate. Since children are **very** welcome at Shaar Hashalom, and since we have to address the needs of others as well, some basic guidelines need to be laid down, as they have a number of times in our past. Please have a little more patience with the normal fidgeting, bathroom trips, and soft-voiced questions children ask in the course of a service.

This being said, both the parents of young children and the Ritual Committee can do some things to make services more pleasant for everyone. First, some basic rules need to be stated - **and taken seriously.**

- Children need to be supervised **at all times** in the synagogue buildings, on the playground, and outdoors in surrounding areas. Please keep your children with you at services.
- If your child becomes restless and noisy during services, remove your child for a while and stay with your child until you feel your child is ready to return to the Sanctuary.
- Bring some quiet toys and books for your child to help extend your child's "staying power" during services (but please, nothing violent, like guns, soldiers or other war toys).
- Taking seats on the aisle near the rear Sanctuary door might make your coming and going easier and less distracting.
- The Social Hall and kitchen are off-limits to children before and during services. The Sanctuary is closed and off-limits after services.
- During the Oneg, please stay with and help your child select items your child really wants and in amounts your child can really eat. Please help prevent or clean up spills immediately.

The Ritual Committee is working to make Shabbat services more pleasant for everyone. To this end, some of the

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Ritual

following are already partly or completely in place:

- S.O.S. family and child-oriented services. These services are now held the first Friday night of the month, followed by a regular Erev Shabbat service at 8:15 p.m.
- A Teen Lounge. A classroom is available for older children (pre-teens and young teens) who want to have their Oneg together and socialize. Parents are needed to look in on them occasionally and to check on clean-up when they're done.
- Ushers. Congregants who serve as ushers need to be aware of newcomers and to make them feel welcome. Latecomers should be helped to a Siddur opened to the right page in the service.
- Babysitting. During Friday night services, babysitting needs to be offered again. Parents can form a co-op and take turns, or a sitter can be hired for a nominal fee, such as Sisterhood has organized in the past. A classroom has been utilized for this purpose.
- Junior Congregation. A special service is held one Saturday morning a month in the Social Hall. Leader Patti Nesrsta creates an abbreviated service, with an atmosphere that encourages our 3rd through 7th graders to take ownership of their Shabbat worship and practice leadership skills.
- Lay Leadership. Congregants can be actual participants in service leadership in a number of ways.

Our thank you's to Patti Nesrsta for leading the SOS Family Service, Sally Harrison for leading the Friday evening service and Rex Hemme for helping me lead the Saturday morning service the weekend Rabbi Federow was ill. Thanks also to Rex Hemme for chanting the Torah portion, to Israel Paz for chanting the Haftarah, and to David Rosenfeld and Leonard Levine for serving as gabbais that same Saturday.

If you would like to help out with any project discussed above, or if you have other ideas about ways to make our services run smoothly and be appealing to congregants, please call me at 281-486-7152.

Diane Rosenfeld
Ritual Vice-President

Coming in March

Shabbat	Services every Friday 8:15 pm and Saturday 9:30 am
2nd	Sunday School 9 am-12:30 pm Adult Education Hebrew 1:30 pm Mission Control 2:30 pm
4th	Brown Bag lunch with the Rabbi 11:30 am-1:30 pm
5th	Wednesday School 5-8 pm Adult Ed Siddur Class 8-9 pm
6th	Ritual Committee meeting 7:30 pm
7th	SOS Family Service 6:30 pm
9th	No Sunday School Adult Education Hebrew 1:30 pm Mission Control 2:30 pm
11th	Brown Bag lunch with the Rabbi 11:30-1:30 pm Goldberg Bat Mitzvah rehearsal
12th	No Wednesday School Adult Ed Siddur Class 8-9 pm
13th	Sisterhood Meeting & Speaker 7:30 p.m.
14th	Sharon Goldberg Bat Mitzvah Service 8:15 pm
15th	Sharon Goldberg Bat Mitzvah Service 9:30 am
16th	No Sunday School Adult Education Hebrew 1:30 pm Mission Control 2:30 pm
18th	Brown Bag lunch with the Rabbi 11:30 am-1:30 pm Men's Club Meeting at CSH 7:30 pm
19th	Wednesday School 5-8 pm Adult Ed Siddur Class 8-9 pm
20th	Board Meeting 7:30 pm
22nd	Purim Service/Megillah Reading 7:00 pm
23rd	PURIM Sunday School 9-11:30 am Purim Party 11:30am-12:30 pm Food Drive (also 24th) Adult Education Hebrew 1:30 pm Mission Control 2:30 pm
25th	Brown Bag lunch with the Rabbi 11:30 am-1:30 pm Rosen Bat Mitzvah rehearsal
26th	Wednesday School 5-8 pm Adult Ed Siddur class 8-9 pm
27th	Education Committee meeting 7:30 pm Jewish Music By and For Women at JCC 7:30 pm
28th	Emily Rosen Bat Mitzvah Service 8:15 pm
29th	Emily Rosen Bat Mitzvah Service 9:30 am
30th	No Sunday School Men's Club trip to Holocaust Museum 2 pm Adult Education Hebrew 1:30 pm Mission Control 2:30 pm

March Onegs

March 07	Judith Jackson
March 14	The Goldberg Family in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter and sister, Sharon
March 21	OPEN
March 28	The Rosen Family in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter and sister, Emily

Sisterhood coordinates the Oneg Shabbats, but everyone - not just Sisterhood members - is invited to host an Oneg. You may host an Oneg to celebrate a special family event, or to celebrate Shabbat. Please call **Jennifer Briscoe** (281-334-5539), Sisterhood Kitchen V.P., with the date you would like to host an Oneg.

Education

Yom Limmud was a great day for most of the people who took advantage of the opportunity to gain new knowledge in various Jewish subject. If you did not participate this year, I recommend that you think about it next year because you have a lot to gain.

Purim is our next big holiday and we hope to see parents and children in costumes on Sunday, March 23. The Purim Party is scheduled for 11:30 on that day, but school will take place at the regular time before the party.

Parents, please cooperate when you receive a phone call from your child's room parent.

The Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) is offering scholarships for students who are planning to attend overnight Jewish camp this summer. If you are interested, please ask Nitsana Lazerus for the application form.

Highly recommended is the "Triple Play Plus Hebrew" CD-Rom. It is available for a free 30-day trial period. For more details, contact Nitsana. An added bonus is that the company will donate \$10 to the synagogue for every CD-Rom purchased by a synagogue member.

There will be no Sunday School March 9, 16, or 30.

Felicia Bank, Education Vice-President
Nitsana Lazerus, School Principal

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President	Rex Hemme	281-286-8806
VP - Ritual	Diane Rosenfeld	281-486-7152
VP - Education	Mike Goldberg	281-280-0666
	Felicia Bank	281-286-3848
VP - Financial	Isaac Rosen	281-474-3764
Financial Secretary	Neil Ostrosky	281-486-5239
Treasurer	Martin Coppersmith	281-480-0759
Recording Secretary	Barbara & Alan Cain	281-488-7116
Corresponding Secretary	Elaine Ackel	281-480-0113
Past President	Leonard Levine	281-486-9549
Membership	Rosalind Perez	281-480-8410
	Nancy Cohen	281-291-9192
Facilities	Stuart Bank	281-286-3848
Publicity	Anita Osman	281-488-3356
Fundraising	Don Brand (bagels)	281-480-3449
	Alan & Barbara Cain	281-488-7116
	(scrip & grocery certificates)	
Shofar	Hedy Wolpa	281-334-3740
	Ellen Rosen	281-474-3764
Bingo	Maurice Najer	281-471-4582
	Susan Kitmacher	281-480-9716
Social Action	Steve Friedman	713-436-1492
Sisterhood President	Jennifer Briscoe	281-334-5539
	Sharon Valentine	281-480-6713
Men's Club	Carl Schwanke	281-286-6712
Rabbi	Stuart Federow	281-499-8080
Secretary	Nancy Dickinson	281-488-5861
School Principal	Nitsana Lazerus	281-480-1032
Gift Shop	Sheilla Goldberg	281-281-0666
	Susan Robertson	281-286-0022
Kitchen	Jennifer Briscoe	281-334-5539
CLUSY	Amira Hemme	281-286-8806
	Kari Sokolow	281-286-9749
Young Judaea	Ida Diamond	281-486-4004
	C.J. Brand	281-480-3449

Until further notice, Nancy Dickinson, congregation secretary, will be in the office the following hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday

12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Meaning of Purim (A Message for Our Time)

As you all know, Purim is a very serious Jewish holiday. Since I, the Ritual Vice-President, was asked to write an informative article about this holiday, once again I breezed through the Megilla (in Hebrew, of course), looking for a message that would capture the essence of the holiday.

Rejecting the much-used theme of a Woman of Valor (Esther) saving the Jewish people from destruction; or of the politically astute mentor (Mordecai) guiding, Pygmalion-like, his naive protege to success; or of the destruction of Evil, personified by Haman (boo, hiss, stomp, stomp), I believe I hit upon the most important part of the whole tale:

Did you know that it took **an entire year** for Esther and the other Queen-wannabees to beautify themselves with their cosmetics, perfumes, and oil of myrrh before they were ready to be presented to King Ahasuerus? Impatient husbands and fathers of today, waiting for your wives or teen-aged children to complete their lengthy grooming routines and get out of the bathroom, take note: ***It could be worse!*** (David, are you paying attention?)

Diane Rosenfeld
Ritual Vice-President

Simcha Shopping

Do you have a simcha coming up? Does your child have his or her eye on something special in the Gift Shop? Has your future son-in-law or daughter-in-law commented on something particular he or she saw on display?

Let the Gift Shop committee know what that something special is, and we will be better able to assist our customers in choosing just the right gift. Stop by Gift Shop Sunday mornings during religious school, or call Susan Robertson (281-286-0022) or C.J. Brand (281-480-3449).



We welcome articles and information for the *Shofar*. We prefer articles and information on PC disk (Word, WordPerfect, Write, ASCII or text file) or by e-mail, but we will accept hard copy or neatly handwritten copy. Place disks or copy in the *Shofar* mailbox at the synagogue, call **Hedy** (281-334-3740) or **Ellen** (281-474-3764), or e-mail us at

rosen @radph6.mdacc.tmc.edu

MEN'S CLUB

Bob Osman hosted our February Breakfast. Special thanks to Bob and Anita for sharing their home with us and for laying out a great breakfast.

Following breakfast and our business meeting, David Mittlefehldt gave us technical background about the Martian Meteorite. This work has been much talked about in the news media lately. Dave did an excellent job in making a technically complex subject understandable for people not skilled in the field. I think we all better understand how the meteorite was discovered and what evidence it contains that suggests there was once life on Mars. We will all anxiously wait to hear if more evidence will be forthcoming with further research. David, thank you very much for a great talk.

Getting Spring fever yet? By the time you read this, Spring will definitely have sprung in Houston and it's time to start thinking about the Congregational Picnic. The emphasis is on "**Congregational**"! The picnic is scheduled for the last day of Sunday School, and we hope to see all of the Sunday School kids and their parents at the picnic. In addition, we'd like to see

just as many congregants without school-age kids come join us as well. There'll be fun for all.

The picnic will again be held at Frankie Carter Randolph Park on Clear Lake City Blvd., no more than 5 miles from the Synagogue. We have reserved a covered pavilion and the park has a nature walk, an herb garden, and plenty of playground equipment. As in the past we'll be serving our famous Kosher Hot Dogs and we'll organize volleyball, softball, and bingo. If you have other ideas that you'd like to try at the picnic, grab me after services and let me know. Or, give me a call anytime (281-286-6712).

Upcoming Men's Club activities:

- March 18 Men's Club "Dessert" at Shaar Hashalom - with a special presentation by Al Lapidus
- March 30 Men's Club trip to the Holocaust Museum
- April 20 Men's Club Breakfast at Mark Sokolow's Home
- May 18 Congregation Picnic
- June Men's Club Dinner

Carl Schwanke, Men's Club President

On the Net

Knesset On-Line

The Knesset, the democratic Parliament of the State of Israel, has established a World Wide Web site on the Internet. Web visitors will be able to sight-see the Knesset building, get current updates of the agenda, correspond electronically with Knesset members and access information that forms the basis for decision making. Israelis and world-wide visitors are invited to focus their Web Browsers on

<<http://www.knesset.gov.il>>

If you would like direct contact with the Government of Israel, you can email Benjamin Netanyahu at

<primeminister@likud.org.il> or

Ambassador to the U.S. Eliahu Ben Elissar at

<dcisrael@ix.netcom.com>.

Internet Chicken

Empire Kosher Poultry, Inc. has a cyber space presence inviting kosher consumers to interact with the company and ask questions about their products, their kashrut, and their availability. You can email Empire at

<empire@acsworld.net>

and visit their page on the World Wide Web at

<http://www.empirekosher.com>

Our thanks to Congregation Beth Am in Houston for pecking out this fowl information!

The above information is reprinted from *Southwest Hadashot*, a publication of the Southwest Region of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.



Oh-oh, George, the Synagogue is having another Fund Raiser !

What is SCRIP? Hmmmmm . . . the word has appeared a few times in the *Shofar*, but what is it? The dictionary says that SCRIP is "a certificate showing its holder is entitled to something." Ohhhhh, gift certificates! Why didn't you say so? So okay, now that that is out of the way . . . Have you heard? Poor overworked Don Brand and Alan Kufert are no longer responsible for selling the gift certificates (SCRIP). And just when you had their phone numbers memorized, too!

And what's the big deal about gift certificates (SCRIP)? It is an ongoing fund raiser for the synagogue, where we purchase certificates at a discounted rate (big deal, 2% - 6% average) and sell them at face value. In fact, the synagogue has been selling Kroger and Randall's gift certificates (SCRIP) since around 1993. WalMart and Sam's Club gift certificates (SCRIP) were added in 1995, and due to a source discovered in 1996, a whole variety of gift certificates (SCRIP) are available from shoe stores, restaurants, book stores, department stores, fast food places, clothing stores, and (oh boy, oh boy) toy stores. Those little 6% discounts add up after all!

We have a lot of gift certificates (SCRIP) on hand, but we can't possibly keep an inventory of gift certificates (SCRIP) for every store on the list. With an advance order from you, however, we can include it with our next purchase.

Who is selling the gift certificates (SCRIP) now? You can either see Alan and Barbara Cain during Religious School hours on Sundays, or you can call them at (281) 488-7116. Orders of \$250 or more will be cheerfully delivered to your home.

So don't worry, George. This is one fund-raiser that you can easily afford!

Todah Rabah

Thank you to **Lareen Hawks** for her help categorizing and shelving books in our Synagogue Library.

 **Yahrzeits**

3/02	Rose Ross	Aunt of Diane Kufert
3/04	Eliezer Horowitz	Father of Devora Paz
3/05	Joseph Blum	Father-in-Law of Earl Rubenstein
3/06	Bernice Gibbs	Mother of Russell Gibbs
3/08	Abraham Leboe	Father of Harvey Leboe
3/08	George Corbin	Uncle of Susan Grinbaum
3/11	Robert Franklin	Father of Diane Kufert
3/18	Samuel Falk	Father of Benjamin Falk
3/21	Anne Price Gray	Mother of Amy Casey
3/28	Elka Frielich	Mother of Miriam Farber
3/30	David Lewis	Father of Sally Harrison

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

Happy Birthday to		3/21 Philip Levine
3/01	Sara Ostrosky	3/21 Joe Ringer
3/03	Gabriel Najer	3/22 David Levine
3/05	Sheila Falk	3/22 Sharon Goldberg
3/05	Bertram Simms	3/22 Tamar Hemme
3/06	Joel Berman	3/24 Tyler Shulman
3/06	Mark Abramovitz	3/25 Glen Orenstein
3/06	Robert Abramovitz	3/25 Melissa Polt
3/08	David Falk	3/25 Natali Ben-Ezra
3/09	Solomon Peretz	3/25 Simon McDonald
3/11	Emily Rosen	3/26 Patti Nesrsta
3/12	Donna Orenstein	3/27 Judy Gibbs
3/13	Lizette Moss	3/30 Deborah Platt
3/14	David Angel	3/30 Jonathan Hamilton
3/16	Stuart Gibbs	3/31 Susan Grinbaum
3/16	Diane Rosenfeld	3/31 Lara Austin
3/17	Michael Wollner	3/31 Danielle Levine
3/18	Aaron Robertson	
3/19	Kim Lehman	
3/20	Lisa Federow	
3/20	Jodi Berman	
3/20	Leonard Levine	



Happy Anniversary to	
3/02	Henry and Sandy Noey
3/09	Don and C.J. Brand
3/20	Maurice and Jessie Najer
3/22	Harry and Nitsana Lazerus
3/23	Neil and Sandy Ostrosky
3/24	Joel and Claire Berman
3/25	Louis and Ida Diamond



Birthday, anniversary, and yahrzeit information come from the synagogue data base. To make additions or corrections to the birthday, anniversary, or yahrzeit list, please call the synagogue office (281-488-5861).

Beyond the Aleph Bet

A catalog of adult Jewish educational and cultural programs is now available through the Bureau of Jewish Education at the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston. The catalog contains learning opportunities at varying levels of instruction in topics such as Art, Jewish Living, History, Prayer and Spirituality, Rabbinic Texts, Hebrew, Yiddish. Family instructional programs are also available. For more information, or to obtain a catalog, contact the Bureau of Jewish Education at (713) 729-7000 ext. 134, or at this web site: <http://houstonjewish.org>.



TEDDY BEAR DRIVE

The B'nai B'rith Houston Area Council has announced a Teddy Bear Drive in which new teddy bears will be collected in the months of January, February, and March to be given to young patients at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Houston has been chosen as one of only four cities in the United States to be part of this year's nationwide Teddy Bear Drive. The proposed date of distribution at M.D. Anderson is March 25. New Teddy Bears may be delivered to the following locations:

Congregation Shaar Hashalom	16020 El Camino Real
Jewish Community Center	5601 S. Braeswood
United Orthodox Synagogue	9001 Greewillow
Party Shop	80 Braeswood Square
Anti-Defamation League	4635 S.W. Freeway
Congregation Emanu El	1500 Sunset Blvd.

The teddy bears will go into the arms of children in the hospital to comfort and cuddle as they face difficult health problems. Contact Deeanne Rosenberg at 713-463-7389 for more information and additional drop-off locations for this worthwhile project.



Food Drive

Congregation Shaar Hashalom along with other Houston-area synagogues, Jewish Community Centers, and Randall's food markets are hosting a food drive March 23 & 24. Bags for donations are available at the synagogue. Please bring filled bags to the receptacle at the synagogue. All donations will be presented to the Houston Food Bank for distribution. Thanks for your contribution.

Randall's Remarkable Card

Randall's donates a percentage of your grocery bill to the charity of your choice. For Shaar Hashalom to benefit, you must give the cashier the synagogue number when you first want to establish the link.

2359



Sisterhood

ATTENTION ALL SOUTHWEST BRANCH SISTERHOOD MEMBERS

“And the World is entrusted to us...”, our logo for the 1997 Sisterhood Branch Conference in Houston, Texas, says it all. Mark your calendars for **April 6, 7, and 8th, 1997.**

Women from all over our Southwest Branch will attend. They include women from Mexico City, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma. This is your opportunity to have an enriching Jewish experience with “sisters” from across the southwest. Plan to attend, to learn, to grow Jewishly, to have fun, to make new friends and to renew past friendships!!! This is YOUR branch conference; come and participate!!!

The exciting location is in the Clear Lake area of Houston at the Nassau Bay Hilton. The hotel is directly on the lake with wonderful waterfront views from every angle, and is just across the street from Space Center Houston and even “Mission Control.”

A short trip is planned for a special guided tour of the Holocaust Museum of Houston. Many exciting events are planned, including an astronaut as a featured speaker at one of the sessions of the conference. There will be time available for attendees to visit Space Center Houston at a discounted rate.

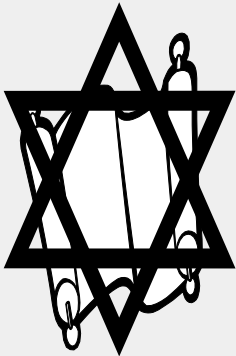
Plan on attending . . . watch for more information . . . ask your Sisterhood President for more details . . . or call me: **Anita Osman**, 281-488-3356 / E-mail: anitaos@aol.com

Please share in our happiness
at the Bat Mitzvah
of our daughter and sister

Sharon

friday, the fourteenth of March
nineteen hundred and ninety-seven
at eight-fifteen in the evening and
saturday, the fifteenth of March
at nine-thirty in the morning
Congregation Shaar Hashalom
16020 El Camino Real
Houston, Texas
Oneg Shabbat friday evening
Kiddush luncheon Saturday morning

Sheilla, Mike, Valerie
and Michael Goldberg



Jewish Children with Special Needs

Cathy Binstock, a member the Houston Jewish community, is considering starting a program for Jewish families with children with special needs. This is her letter:

I am the mother of three children. Two of my children have disabilities. I am the author of *After Your Child's Diagnosis - A Practical Guide for Families Raising Children With Disabilities*, which is to be released this spring by EM Press. Most recently, I have started a creative movement class for children ages three to ten who have an interest in dance and have a disability.

I am very interested in beginning a project for Jewish families who have children and young adults with disabilities. I have been looking at three model programs which are located in Phoenix, Los Angeles, and Northbrook. These programs help ensure that Jewish families with special needs have the opportunity to fully participate in religious, cultural, educational and social life. By incorporating our existing programs and assessing community needs, this project can enhance services for Jewish families.

I would like to enlist the help of other Jewish parents, extended family members and professionals who have an interest in this project. Any suggestions will be very welcome. Please contact Cathy Binstock at 713-723-5813.

Sincerely,
Cathy Binstock

From the Editors: Our Apologies

Over the last 10 months, the U.S. Postal System has implemented new requirements for bulk mailing. We have spent an enormous amount of time and energy to comply with these regulations, resulting in a reduced *Shofar* mailing rate and, therefore, savings to the Synagogue. The Post Office assures us that timely delivery of bulk mail is not supposed to be compromised; however, most of us received the February *Shofar* near the middle end of the month.

We are working with the Post Office to insure timely delivery. We've done our part. Now the Post Office needs to do its part.

Hedy Wolpa and Ellen Rosen
Shofar Co-Editors



March 7	6:05 PM
March 14	6:10 PM
March 21	6:14 PM
March 28	6:18 PM

Contributions

Building Fund

From Martha, Bob, Jake and Matt Nemer
 In honor of Isaac Rosen on the occasion of his 50th birthday
 From Pia Greenberg and Tom Niemczura
 In honor of Blanche and Isaak Abramovitz on their 50th wedding anniversary
 In honor of Sheilla and Mike Goldberg's special birthdays
 For the complete and speedy recovery of Lisa Federow
 In honor of Rabbi Stuart Federow's birthday
 For the complete and speedy recovery of Jake Mendelson
 For the complete and speedy recovery of Mel Safer
 From Sandy and Neil Ostrosky
 In honor of Isaac Rosen on his 50th birthday
 In memory of Jacob Grinbaum, father of Izhak Grinbaum
 From Blanche and Isaak Abramovitz
 In honor of their 50th wedding anniversary

General Fund

From Gail, Don, Stephanie and Lisa Roache
 In loving memory of Paula Schulman
 From Cathy and Peter Taub
 In honor of Anita Osman and all platelet donors

Religious School Fund

From Simone Clapp
 In memory of Simone's father
 For the good health of Simone's niece

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

From Lila and George Rosen
 In honor of Anita Osman for her work with the platelet donor network
 In memory of Alex Tondow, father of Lila Rosen
 From Leah and Garland Wiener
 From Diane and David Rosenfeld
 In honor of Anita Osman for her work with the platelet network
 For the complete and speedy recovery of Mel Safer
 In honor of Rabbi Stuart Federow's birthday
 In honor of Blanche and Isaak Abramovitz on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary
 In memory of Paula Schulman
 In memory of Frances Kerman, mother of Diane
 From Sheila and Steve Falk
 In memory of Leon Aron, father of Sheila Falk
 From Sheilla and Mike Goldberg and Valerie Goldberg
 In memory of Paula Schulman

Rabbi's Salary Fund

From Shirley and Mel Safer
 In memory of Minnette Safer
 In memory of Abe Safer
 In memory of Anna Levine
 From Nancy and David Cohen and family
 In memory of Bernard Cohen, father of David

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 _____

___ In Honor of _____

___ On the Occasion of _____

___ On the Occasion of _____

___ In Memory of _____

___ In Memory of _____

Send notification to _____

Send notification to _____

Address _____

Address _____

___ Religious School Fund ___ Prayer Book Fund
 ___ Torah Restoration Fund ___ Youth Group Fund
 ___ Library Fund ___ Playground Fund
 ___ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund ___ Building Fund
 ___ Rabbi's Salary Fund ___ Cantor Fund

___ Religious School Fund ___ Prayer Book Fund
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 ___ Library Fund ___ Playground Fund
 ___ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund ___ Building Fund
 ___ Rabbi's Salary 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.

Gift of Israel Program

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston is offering a generous monetary gift to Houston residents who enroll their children in the Bureau of Jewish Education's (BJE) "Gift of Israel" Program. The program is an incentive savings plan to motivate families of young children and teenagers to set aside funds toward a future Teen Israel experience. Formal research and personal testimony demonstrate convincingly that a visit to Israel during the teen age years as part of a complete Jewish education profoundly influences how young people relate to Israel and to their Jewishness. In recognition of the positive impact the Israel experience has, the Houston community is working to increase dramatically the number of young people who visit Israel by making it more affordable.

"The Gift of Israel" program is a partnership among the family, the Federation, and the participating synagogues. The Federation will contribute a maximum of \$1,000 over the course of the child's active participation, when the child enrolls in the Israel Savings Option beginning in the 3rd grade. Families must agree to an annual designated amount per child which will be placed the child's personal savings account at Bank Leumi. Families are also required to pay an initial registration fee of \$18 per child.

The BJE's "Gift of Israel" program is funded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and is a project of the Commission on Jewish Continuity. For more information about this program, speak to Rabbi Federow or to Laura C. Huvard at the BJE (713-729-7000).



SOS SUNDAY ONEQ SHABBAT Family Service

Always the
first Friday
of the month
6:30 p.m.



Bring your
favorite
ice cream
topping

It's a Double-Header
Shabbat Service
Another Shabbat Service
follows at 8:15 p.m.

Gift Certificates

Shaar Hashalom sells the following gift certificates (SCRIP):

Grocery Stores

Albertson's
Food Lion
Kroger
Randall's
HEB Grocery
Schwan's Frozen Foods

Wearing Apparel

Foot Locker
The Gap
J.C. Penney
Kids 'R' Us
Macy's
Old Navy
Ross Dress for Less
Sears
T.J. Maxx

Restaurants

Baskin Robbins
Burger King
Chili's
KFC
Olive Garden
Pizza Hut
Red Lobster
TGI Fridays

Books

B. Dalton Books
Barnes & Noble

Drug Stores

Eckerd's

Building/Hardware

Builder's Square
Sears

Retail Stores

K-Mart
MacFrugal's
Sam Goody's
Pier 1 Imports
Radio Shack
Service Merchandise

Toys

Kaybee Toys
Toys "R" Us

Simcha Shopping

Do you have a simcha coming up? Does your child have his or her eye on something special in the Gift Shop? Has your future son-in-law or daughter-in-law commented on something particular he or she saw on display?

Let the Gift Shop committee know what that something special is, and we will be better able to assist our customers in choosing just the right gift. Stop by Gift Shop Sunday mornings during religious school, or call Susan Robertson (281-286-0022) or C.J. Brand (281-480-3449).

Good News !!!

Barnes and Noble gift certificates (SCRIP) are now accepted at Bookstop.

Blood Drive April 6th

Congregation Shaar Hashalom, along with JCCL and Faith Covenant, will host another blood drive on Sunday, April 6th. The St. Luke's Hospital blood-mobile will be in the parking lot from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Your donation helps someone in need as well as providing coverage for your family's blood needs.

Jewish Music By and For Women

The Jewish Community Center in cooperation with the Commission for Women's Equality of the American Jewish Congress will present a musical concert of **Jewish Music by and For Women** on Thursday, March 27, 7:30 p.m. at the JCC's Kaplan Theatre, 5601 South Braeswood. Proceeds from this premier event will benefit Shalom Bayit: Houston Jewish Network Against Domestic Abuse, a collective of Jewish organizations that works to educate the community about domestic abuse in the Jewish Community and to provide assistance to victims.

Participating in this concert are many of Houston's talented women vocalists including Cantor Elizabeth Berke, Anita Freundenreich-Bonnano, Galina Genin, Cantor Sharon Kohn, Marilyn Ladin, Adrienne Lavis, Janice Rubin, Marcia Sterling, and Annette Sondock. The program will consist of solos, duets, and ensemble pieces. Commenting on the upcoming concert, Cantor Berke stated, "It's very exciting to be living at a time when there are Jewish women composers and when we, as Jewish women singers, can give voice to their work."

Tickets are on sale at the JCC Information Desk and are \$7.00. For information or to purchase tickets by phone with a credit card, call 713-729-3200 ext. 3231.



Mazal Tov

Congratulations to **Sharon Valentine** and **Jennifer Briscoe** on their election to Sisterhood co-Presidents. Sisterhood will prosper under their leadership and vitality.

Jonathan Lazerus recently took 1st place in the Regional Latin Grammar competition. He now competes at the state level.



Please worship with us when our daughter **Emily Claire** links the traditions of the past with the promise of the future as she becomes a Bat Mitzvah Friday, the twenty-eighth of March Nineteen hundred and ninety-seven at eight-fifteen in the evening and Saturday, the twenty-ninth

Countdown to Pesach !!!

It is not too soon to begin thinking about preparing your home for Pesach. Right after Purim is a good time. Here are some suggestions to get you started:

Three to four weeks before —

- Invite guests if you are having a Seder in your home. Remember to include singles and college students.
- Check supply of haggadot and order more if necessary. Select additional readings or stories.
- Wash dishes and serving pieces.
- Clean and press table linens.
- Prepare menu and grocery lists.
- Buy gifts for children who will find the afikomen.
- Begin cleaning the house.
- Plan how you will use up your chametz.

Check your April *Shofar* for more planning ideas !

Sisterhood Gift Shop

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

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

Susan Robertson 286-0022
Nancy Cohen 291-9192