

the Shofar

april 1997

issue 1

the monthly newsletter of Congregation Shaar Hashalom

Clear Lake, Texas

From the Rabbi . . .

There is a rather famous, often-quoted story - maybe you have heard me tell it - about two men named Abe and Joe who come to services together faithfully every week. But when they come to services, Joe recites every word of the prayer book, while Abe sits and listens and just waits for Joe's company on the return trip to their respective homes.

The other members of the synagogue notice this, week in, and week out. Finally, one of the other members of the synagogue pulls Abe aside and asks him, "Abe, why do you come to services? You don't pray, you barely listen to the service, you come and you go, but the service means little to you. So why do you come?"

And to this Abe replies, "Look, let me tell you something. I come here with my friend Joe. He comes here to talk to Gd, and I come here to talk to Joe."

Indeed, there are supposed to be two facets to prayer. In Judaism, we call this place of worship both a Bait T'feelah, which means a house of prayer, as well as a Bait K'neset, meeting.

Achad Ha-Am, the famous Hebrew poet and novelist, was the first to recognize the need for both Jewish elements in a setting. I say this, because it was he who invented the idea for what we take for granted, and some of us take it for granted too much so. You see, it was Achad Ha-Am who invented the Oneg Shabbat.

Traditionally, for Friday nights, one came to services just for a very short while, just for the short kabbalat shabbat services, then went home, finished dinner, and stayed the evening with the family. But as we Westernized our Jewish services, instead we came to services after our evening meal, at the fashionable hour of 8:15 when most other forms of evening entertainment took place - the theatre, the opera, the symphony. But people came to services, then stayed around to talk a very short while, then went home. Achad Ha-Am created the idea of the Oneg Shabbat as a very important piece of the Friday night ritual. This enables the members of the congregation to socialize with one another, get to know each other, and to do it all in the context of the religious service of the kiddush and hamotzee and to be able to socialize over the sweets, "for a sweet shabbat." The Oneg Shabbat thereby helps create a congregation, not just a collection of people coming together to pray and to leave, but coming together and becoming a part of each other's lives.

The reason I am writing this is because I am told that many of the members of our congregation have not taken part in the

mitzvah of providing the foods for the Oneg Shabbat on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. This is a very important part of the religious life of our congregation. It brings us together, to be able to talk to each other after we have talked to Gd, and enables us to re-acquaint ourselves with each other, to catch up on each other's lives, after joining with each other in our common faith.

Please, when you are asked, and even before you are asked, sign up to host and hostess an Oneg Shabbat. It really does help to bring Shabbat Shalom!

Rabbi Stuart Federow
federow@blkbox.com

President's Message . . .

Once again I thank you all for according me the honor of electing me president one more time. As I said at the Congregational Meeting, the past two years have been very rewarding for me personally as I have had the privilege of working with so many others to work toward the mutual goal of strengthening Congregation Shaar Hashalom and positioning us for many more years of success. In particular I want to thank the people who have served with me on the Board during the past two years. We couldn't have achieved what we did without your help. Even more, I thank those hold-overs from the past Board who have signed on for another year of work for our common good. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

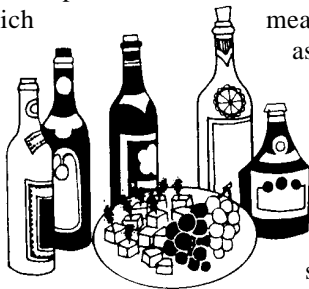
Each year I like to start with a major objective for the year. While there are many things each of us could point toward which would make our association more pleasing, I think it is important to declare a communal objective, hopefully one which will find general agreement.

In my first year the obvious objective was to hire a rabbi, and we accomplished this feat with the efforts of so many congregants who contributed in many diverse ways. I think we almost universally agree that Rabbi Federow has proven to be a true asset to our community.

In my second year the Board, in response to input from many of you, undertook a restoration and beautification of the sanctuary. We also replaced the roof on the education building and hope to generate the funds to do the same on the main building. As I mentioned at the Congregational Meeting, we are still short funds for this project and would welcome your donations to this worthy cause, particularly since a significant leak has appeared over the main hallway.

Nevertheless, even though the roof is not yet complete, after receiving input from several of you, it is my fervent desire to make this year's project to make significant strides toward the

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1) President

sanctuary so many of us have dreamed of for so long. Of course, this will take money in significant amounts; so, if you know of potential sources or would like to help in solicitation of funding, please give me a call. On the theory that there is no time like the present I hope to begin organizing in April. This project is not an impossibility; it can be achieved. But it will require the dedicated effort of many of us. The only question is how badly **WE** want to achieve the goal. We have accomplished so much together. The Board needs **YOUR** help if we are to succeed in meeting this challenge. Please give me

Todah Rabah

Thank you to the following families for painting the Synagogue bathrooms and hallway doors during Spring Break: **the Goldbergs, the Rosens, the Schwankes, and the Wolpas.**

Thank you to **the Rosen family** and to **the Goldberg family** for their donation of a credenza for the Synagogue entryway in honor of the B'nai Mitzvot of their daughters, **Sharon and Emily.**

Adult Education

The Chevra Kadisha of Houston will be presenting a program at Shaar Hashalom on April 12. The topic is "The Jewish Way of Dealing with Death and Mourning." It will begin at 7:30 p.m. The program is open to all congregants, non-congregants, as well as the general public. For more information, call the Synagogue office, 281-488-5861.

Before you put up that flyer . . .

Flyers and notices about Synagogue and community events should be given to Nancy Dickinson, Synagogue secretary. **DO NOT TAPE ANY FLYER, ANNOUNCEMENT, OR NOTICE TO ANY WALL OR DOOR!** Nancy will ensure that your information will be displayed in the best possible location for all to see and read. This will help to avoid the taping and nailing of flyers to the walls and doors where paint and wood finishes might be damaged. Thanks to all for your cooperation!



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. **The deadline is the 10th of the month.** 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

Coming in April

Shabbat Services every Friday 8:15 pm & Saturday 9:30 am unless otherwise noted

- 01 No Brown Bag Lunch with the Rabbi
- 02 Wednesday School 5 - 8 p.m
Adult Education 8 - 9 p.m
- 03 Ritual meeting 7:30 pm
- 04 No Family SOS Service
- 04/05 Bar Mitzvah of Jonathan Hamilton
- 06 Sunday School 9 am - 12:30 pm
Blood Drive
Sisterhood Southwest Branch Conference
- 08 Brown Bag Lunch with the Rabbi 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
- 09 Wednesday School 5 - 8 pm
Adult Education 8 - 9 pm
- 10 SHOFAR DEADLINE
Sisterhood meeting - Taste of Passover - 7:30 pm
- 11 SOS Family Service 6:30 pm
Regular Service 8:15 pm
- 12 Chevra Kadisha program 7:30 pm
- 13 Sunday School 9 am - 12:30 pm
Model Seder 11:30 am
Men's Club meeting 9:30 am @ Mark Sokolow's
Kitchen kashered for Passover & sealed until 4/29
- 15 Brown Bag Lunch with the Rabbi 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
- 16 Wednesday School 5 - 8 pm
Adult Education 8 - 9 pm
- 17 Board meeting 7:30 pm
- 20 Sunday School 9 am - 12:30 pm
- 21 Passover - first seder
- 22 No Brown Bag lunch with the Rabbi
Congregation seder 6:00 pm
Synagogue office closed
- 23 No Wednesday school
No Adult Education
Synagogue office closed
- 24 Education meeting 7:30 pm
- 27 Sunday School 9am - 12:30 pm
- 28 Synagogue office closed
- 29 Yizkor abbreviated service - 8 am
full service - 9 am
- 30 Wednesday School 5 - 8 pm
Kitchen reopens



Passover Seder

Using Gift Certificates is an easy way of raising funds for the Synagogue!

Education Report . . .

Purim is behind us and we would like to thank all the parents who helped make it successful - the dough makers, the baking helpers, and especially the daring fathers.

Passover model seder will take place on April 13th and we hope to see parents join their children at 11:30 a.m. for that event. We hope that the parents will make our model seder successful with their help. Every class will be assigned to bring necessary seder items. Please be co-operative when the room parent calls you for help. We appreciate all the help we can get.

On April 20th and 27th we will have school as usual; however we need parents to help with kosher-for-Passover snacks. If you can help please let Jennifer Briscoe know what you can contribute. Thank you!

We would like to thank two wonderful moms who helped put the Barton Chocolate orders together. **Jeri Walden** and **Katy Izygon** volunteered their time and patience to help Nitsana organize it all in the bags.

We will have Teachers Appreciation Shabbat on Friday, May 16th and we hope to see as many of you as possible at the service. Students who would like to write something positive (a poem, song, story, or satire, etc.) about their teachers are welcome to read it at the service.

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

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President	Rex Hemme	281-286-8806
VP - Ritual	Diane Rosenfeld	281-486-7152
VP - Education	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	Peggy Wolfe	281-488-6207
Corresponding Secretary	Elaine Ackel	281-480-0113
Membership	Nancy Cohen	281-291-9192
	Susan Robertson	281-286-0022
Facilities	Stuart Bank	281-286-3848
Publicity	Anita Osman	281-488-3356
Fundraising	Harriet Meyers	281-333-3350
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
Bagels	Don Brand	281-480-3449
Scrip/Grocery Certificates	Alan & Barbara Cain	281-488-7116
CLUSY	Amira Hemme	281-286-8806
	Kari Sokolow	281-286-9749
Young Judeaa	Ida Diamond	281-486-4004
	C.J. Brand	281-480-3449

(Continued from page 7) Ritual

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

(The above article was excerpted and reprinted from the March Ritual Report)

**Gift Certificates are easy to use
and easy to purchase.**

So Now You Know . . .

Many people have asked, "Why does the Haroset we eat at Passover taste sweet?" After all, it symbolizes the clay our forefathers used to make the bricks for Egyptian temples. It is the symbol of hard work, yet it is sweet. This is to teach us that work in Judaism is not considered an evil. It is only when we are slaves, when we are forced to work against our will, that work becomes evil. Therefore, slavery is bitter, but work is, and should be, sweet.



Mazel Tov

To **Sharon Goldberg** and her family on the occasion of Sharon's Bat Mitzvah.

To **Emily Rosen** and her family on the occasion of Emily's Bat Mitzvah.

To **Jason Gillman, Andy Gillman, Doc Niemczura, and Courtney Rosenthal**, for being winners in the CCISD District Science Fair. They now proceed to the Houston Engineering and Science Fair on April 4.

To **Doc Niemczura** for being inducted into the National Honor Society.

To **Aaron Robertson** for being awarded the Arrow of Light. This is the highest award given in Cub Scouts. He also earned all twenty pins as a webelos scout.

**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.

Ritual

Did you and your family attend last year's Congregation Seder on the second night of Passover? One hundred twenty-five people did and the feedback was great!

In order to reduce costs, and therefore reduce the price of attending, the seder was catered in-house with the help of many volunteers. We plan to do the same thing this year, providing the interest is as high as it was in 1996.

Don't miss the opportunity to make your reservations early, since we may have to limit the number of people we can serve. The Sanctuary was pretty crowded last year, and we probably cannot accommodate too many more than 125 people. When you receive your first letter of inquiry, please respond ASAP, so we know how to plan.

For those of you who weren't there last year, our Kosher for Passover menu included:

Seder Plate (egg, haroset, etc.)	Gefilte Fish with horseradish	Chicken Soup with Matzo Balls
Baked Potato	Bar-B-Que Chicken Margarine	Sweet Carrots
Wine	Assorted Desserts Coffee	Tea

We were able to charge only \$12.00 per adult and \$6.00 per child, ages 4-11 (Congregation Members) and \$18.00/\$9.00 for non-members. We are in the process of pricing food service help, etc. to see if we can keep the same costs and charges this year.

By the time you receive this report the Purim Service and Megillah reading will have been enjoyed by all, thanks to Rabbi Federow's leadership.

Also, thanks to the Rabbi's initiative, we have received some funds from the Federation as part of their "Reclaiming Shabbat" program. This will pay for a special treat at the next SOS Family Service, which will be held **Friday evening April 11 at 6:30**. Professional singer-dancer-musician **Loretta Levy** will assist our rabbi in leading the Children's Service at that time. We also plan to hire a professional cantor for the regular 8:15 Erev Shabbat service in the fall, with the rest of the grant.

Ritual Committee thanks:

Service Lay Cantors

Sally Harrison
Rex Hemme
Diane Rosenfeld

Gabbais

David Rosenfeld
Leonard Levine
Rex Hemme
Scott Wolpa

Ushers Organizer

Debbie Angel

Ushers

Mike Goldberg
Carl Schwanke
Ronald Weiss
Maurice Najer
Hedy Wolpa
Jeff Wolpa
Michael Gillman

Special thanks to Sisterhood for providing the hamen-tashen for the Purim Service Oneg.

Diane Rosenfeld, Ritual Vice-President

Don't Pass over Passover!

Passover is one of the most special of all the Jewish holidays - a time for getting together with family and friends, both to prepare the meal and then to join together in the Seder service and dinner. Of all of the holiday meals, it is probably the most complicated to shop for and certainly the most extravagant to prepare. One thing is certain - you must be organized!

Here are a few things to remember when doing your shopping:

- Wine - each person will drink 4-5 cups.
- Matzo - buy enough for Seder as well as the rest of the week.
- Matzo Meal - you will need a lot since it is used in the preparation of most Passover recipes
- Eggs - hard boil them for Seder and have plenty on hand for the rest of the week since eggs are used in quantity.

You might want to consider buying a case of eggs.

Do your shopping at least 4 days in advance of the Seder. If you are hosting the Seder, ask your friends and relatives for help with cooking. This is also the time to clean your house of all chometz (see separate *Shofar* article for information about selling your chometz). Three days before the Seder, make sure you have enough Haggadot for your guests and give a copy to your Seder leader to review beforehand. One day before, set the table. The day of the Seder, prepare the Seder plate and finish the cooking. Remember to light Yom Tov candles at sundown.

On the day after the Seder, consider staying in bed - you deserve it! Let your family eat leftovers, and plan to attend Shaar Hashalom's Seder (hopefully you made your reservations ahead of time!)

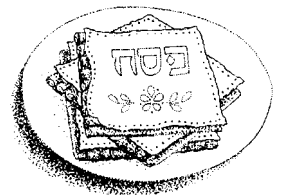
Before you put all of your Pesach supplies and recipes away, make some notes on what was successful, what you needed more of, or bought too much of - this will be helpful next year!

Hag Sameah!

Time To Get Rid of Chometz . . .

During Pesach, Jews avoid eating chometz - foods made from wheat, rye, barley, oats, and spelt or their derivatives of any kind. Traditionally, Jews clean their homes thoroughly before Pesach to ensure all chometz is removed. Getting rid of chometz is symbolic of cutting ourselves off from our old existence as slaves and living completely as free men.

Anyone interested in selling their chometz should call the Synagogue office and a time will be arranged for you to meet with Rabbi Federow.



April Sisterhood Meeting

Taste of Passover

April 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Bring your favorite Passover recipes and a sample.

Collect new recipes this year.

Need a gift for the hard-to-buy-for? Give them a Gift Certificate and let them decide.

 **Yahrzeits**

4/12	Joseph Gould	Father of Andrew Gould
4/13	Freida Ross	Mother-in-law of Bertram Simms
4/16	Hannah Rosenfeld	Mother of David Rosenfeld
4/20	Philip Osman	Father of Robert Osman
4/29	Joseph Hoffman	Step-father of Robert Osman
4/30	Jason Lee Briscoe	Brother of Jennifer Briscoe
5/01	Jerome Brand	Father of Don Brand
5/02	Joel Rovick	Son of Molly Rovick and Brother of Elaine Ackel

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

Happy Birthday to

4/01	Kevin Moss	4/24	Iris Paz
4/04	Don Brand	4/24	David Robertson
4/04	Joseph Block	4/25	Peggy Wolfe
4/04	Ashleigh Calcote	4/25	David Wald
4/04	Jerry Mendelson	4/27	Eric Rosenfeld
4/08	Jerry Mendelson	4/27	Rachel Copper-smith
4/11	Jonathan Berezin		
4/11	Matthew Kapsack	4/27	Leon Blum
4/13	Yuval Paz	4/28	Robert Osman
4/13	Rachel Schwanke	4/28	Valerie Hamm
4/14	Leah Bhimani	4/29	Rachel Rosen
4/16	Ken Wetcher	4/29	Brooke Corning
4/16	Allyson Haseltine	4/30	Nitsana Lazerus
4/18	Talya Lazerus		
4/18	Alex Blake		
4/21	Peri Newman		
4/22	Jenny Diamond		
4/22	Arden Curtis		



Happy Anniversary to

4/02	Jennifer Briscoe and Jeff McDonald
4/03	Lisa and Stuart Federow
4/11	Goldie and Ken Wetcher
4/11	Robin and Robert Haseltine
4/16	Harriet and Jay Meyers
4/18	Lydia and Stephen Blake



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 (488-5861).

Sisterhood Gift Shop

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

Sheilla Goldberg 280-0666 Susan Robertson 286-0022
 C.J. Brand 480-3449 Nancy Cohen 291-9192



Jonathan Marc

With pride, with delight and mostly with love,
 I invite you to worship with us
 when my Son
 Jonathan Marc
 becomes a Bar Mitzvah
 on Saturday, April 5, 1997
 at nine-thirty in the morning
 Congregation Shaar Hashalom
 16020 El Camino Real
 Houston, Texas

Lynda Hamilton



April 04	6:23 PM
April 11	7:27 PM
April 18	7:31 PM
April 25	7:35 PM

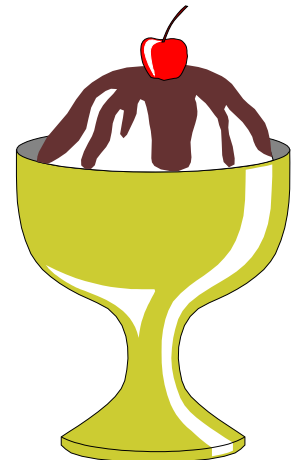
Need a wedding gift to send to another city?
 Macy's Gift Certificates use little postage!



**SOS
 SUNDAY ONEQ SHABBAT
 Family Service**

Always the
 1st Friday
 of the month
 6:30 p.m.

Bring your
 favorite
 topping



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



Ancient Past Meets Modern Technology

I know I have had discussions with some of you about the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). Our Sisterhood holds a fundraiser every year to raise money for Torah Fund. Torah Fund is our Women's League for Conservative Judaism fundraiser for JTS, a commitment our organization made a long time ago and stands strongly behind. Some of you feel that all of our own personal donations should go only to our synagogue and why give money to JTS, it is far away and they have never given us a Rabbi.

The Jewish Theological Seminary, connected with Barnard College, is a Conservative Judaism learning institution located in New York City. I have written before, in my old Sisterhood articles, about the wealth of information that is available to us just by asking. Well, I am thrilled to tell you that you can now save long distance phone charges and postage stamps. The Jewish Theological Seminary is online and so are a long host of services. It is all there for you -- for free! If you have internet access just go to their WEB site at <http://www.jtsa.edu/>.

There you will find journals, newsbriefs, and educational materials including detailed curriculum for each religious school grade, all from a Masorti (Conservative Judaism) viewpoint. There is a weekly Torah commentary posted by Chancellor Schorsch. If you are interested in earlier Parashat HaShaviah containing all of Dr. Schorsch's commentaries, since September 1993, these can be accessed online, too. Better yet, you can receive each weekly commentary via e-Mail by signing up at <http://www.jtsa.edu/pubs/parashah/subparah.html>.

I joined Torah Study and Daily Mishnah Study discussions groups. This I have found extremely interesting... Especially, when everyone strays from the subject. (Right now there is a hot debate over the Women and Orthodoxy Conference held in February. There is a belief & concern that Orthodox feminists will leave the Orthodox community and join the Conservative movement so they can study Talmud and have their "Riteful" place on the bima. Here's your chance to express your opinion.) Some of the journals you can read online, include JTS Magazine (formerly Masoret), Between The Lines, and all JTS Press Releases.

JTS just started offering Talmud and Theology courses, online. They started in January. If they are successful, more will be added. See, now you can study in New York, without leaving home! Books you cannot find in our libraries here, you may find at JTS. Through their home page you can search the card catalog. The data base is 50% complete and includes

everything published since 1990. You will need a password to enter the database, but if you know the beginning letter of the Hebrew AlephBet you should do fine. If you find a book you want, you can see if it is already borrowed. If it isn't, you can order it through interlibrary loans and pick it up here.

The rest is commentary, now go and study...Online!

Pia Greenberg

**Call Alan and Barbara Cain today to purchase your Gift Certificates:
281- 488-7116.**

Sisterhood

In case you haven't heard by now, the Sisterhood elected Jennifer Briscoe and me, Sharon Valentine, as co-presidents for the remainder of the fiscal year through June 1997. Jennifer has been Kitchen VP for several years, and will be Board representative for Sisterhood. I was president a few years ago, before adopting my two daughters.

It seems the more things change, the more they stay the same. Fundraising, programming, and kitchen management continues to need help from both Sisterhood and the congregation at large. The Sisterhood is planning the annual Fashion Show, which is one of our big fundraisers. Another fundraiser is our garage sale, so start a corner in your garage for items you haven't used for a while during your Passover cleaning.

This month we'll be having a Taste of Passover at our monthly meeting. Dust off your Pesach cookbooks, and bring a sample of your favorite Passover dish to the Sisterhood meeting April 10. If your family is tired of the same old things during this spring holiday, this is a good time to collect some new recipes.

Sisterhood is in dire need of a Kitchen VP. Jennifer has been stocking and managing the kitchen for several years, and has done a magnificent job keeping things running smoothly. In case you're unaware, Jennifer has been setting up nearly every Friday night, cleaning the kitchen twice weekly, preparing the kitchen for simchas, purchasing and stocking supplies, and organizing the oneg list. All these tasks are done voluntarily and without pay. The oneg list has several gaps during the coming months. Jennifer and I would appreciate your volunteering to host an oneg, assisting to set up on Friday, or at the very least, cutting a check to help offset the cost of an oneg. Call Jennifer or me to let us know what you can do to help the congregation enjoy Oneg Shabbats.

Sharon Valentine, Sisterhood co-President

Why
is this
night
different

PASSOVER BROWNIES

1/4 cup cocoa
1/2 cup oil
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 eggs
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup cake meal
1/2 cup chopped nuts
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Beat the eggs and sugar well. Blend the cocoa, cake meal and salt and add this to sugar mixture. Add the oil, vanilla, and nuts. Bake in a well oiled 8" or 9" square pan at 325 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Toothpick will be almost dry when testing.



Children and Synagogue Etiquette

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. 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 various age groups. To this end, some of the 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.
- 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.

(Continued on page 3)

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

___ Religious School Fund

___ Prayer Book Fund

___ Torah Restoration Fund

___ Youth Group Fund

___ Torah Restoration Fund

___ Youth Group Fund

___ Library Fund

___ Playground Fund

___ Library Fund

___ Playground Fund

___ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

___ Building Fund

___ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

___ Building Fund

___ Rabbi's Salary Fund

___ Cantor Fund

___ Rabbi's Salary Fund

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