

September
1999

The Shofar

Elul 5759
Tishrei 5760

A Publication of Congregation Shaar Hashalom

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Columbine Contemplation

As we approach the High Holy Days, it is a time of introspection and contemplation. I was awed by the following, written by a student at Columbine High School, and I think it is very appropriate for these Days of Awe...

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers;

wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints;

we spend more, but have less;

we buy more, but enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time.

We have more academic degrees, but less sense;

more knowledge, but less judgment;

more experts, but more problems;

more medicine, but less wellness.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.

We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but we do not yet know how to make a life.

We've added years to our life, but we have not added life to our years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor.

We've conquered outer space, but not inner space;

we've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul;

we've split the atom, but as well as our societies.

We have higher incomes, but lower morals;

we've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

These are the times of tall men, and short character; steep profits, and shallow relationships.

These are the times of world peace, and road rage;

more leisure, but less fun;

more kinds of food, but less nutrition.

These are days of two incomes, but more divorce;

of fancier houses, but broken homes.

It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom;

a time when technology can bring this letter to you via e-mail, and a time when you can choose either to make a difference, or to just hit "delete!"

Wishing all of you a happy, a healthy, and a Jewish, New Year! *Rabbi Stuart Federow* (federow@bikbox.com)

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Community and Commitment

The High Holy Days are almost upon us with Sukkot to follow and the summer (even here in Houston) is coming to a close. Our religious school begins a new year and the activities at Shaar Hashalom are moving into high gear. Our auxiliary organizations such as Sisterhood, Men's Club, and our youth groups (USY, and Young Judaea) are all making program and activity plans for the year ahead.

With this month of Tishri bringing in the High Holidays of Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur, it brings to mind that each year at Yom Kippur services, we ask for forgiveness for our past transgressions. Each year we make commitments to ourselves and to G-D. Commitments can be spiritual, social and even financial. Each year on the evening of the beginning of Yom Kippur, we are asked to make a Kol Nidre pledge (a financial pledge) to our synagogue community. It is a very important part of our religious heritage as well

as our tradition here at Shaar Hashalom. On Kol Nidre, it is a tradition at most synagogues all around the globe.

Please take a little while out of your busy schedules at this time of year to stop and think about your Kol Nidre pledge in advance so that you will be prepared. Consider the needs of our synagogue, the needs of our community and the needs of others who are not as fortunate as you. Consider the blessings that you and your family members may already have such as good health, health of your children, Judaism in your life, friendships, love, happiness, education, work, success, a home, joy of life, financial comfort, and being a part of the Shaar Hashalom "family." Consider the special Kol Nidre appeal and please consider pledging a more generous donation this year than you have done in previous years. We must help make our Jewish community thrive for the generation that

we are now, and for the generations ahead!

As has been said for previous years, the High Holy Days are a time for prayer, forgiveness, tzedakah and study. It is a time for families and friends getting together and for festive holiday meals. It is a time for fasting and for introspection as well as a time for being with the rest of our "synagogue family" in services at Shaar Hashalom. It is a time to wish all of you and your families "L'Shanah Tovah Tika Tivu" from the Cohen and Osman families! *David Cohen and Anita Osman*

Joan Lapidus

wife of Al Lapidus

is fondly remembered

After a long illness, she was laid to rest

August 1999

Donations in her name
may be made to

MD Anderson Cancer Research Center.

HOLIDAY PLANNING

One-hour Sukkah

For the past five years, Sukkat Shalom has produced sukkah kits to encourage the fulfillment of the mitzvah "leshev basucchah" — to sit in the sukkah. These kits, designed and manufactured for easy assembly, promote family involvement and spiritual growth.

Kits come complete with frame, sides, and rubber mallet (only tool required for assembly)—all in one duffle bag.

Sizes and prices include an 8' x 12' (\$595), an 8' x 8' (\$395), and a child-sized 5'x5'x5' (\$275). Expansion kits are available to add 4' in length (\$250). Colors include blue, purple, green, and yellow. You may order a kit in one color, or mix

and match [child-size sukkah is available only as amulti-colored].

Sukkat Shalom is family-owned and incorporates tzedakah in every aspect of their business by offering a 5% donation to your school/synagogue for every kit sold.

To order call 1-800-succat-shalom (800-782-2287). They're on the web at www.succasonline.com; e-mail: succat@erols.com

Mastercard and Visa are accepted.

Order Etrog and Lulov

Just in time for Sukkot, esrog and lulav sets may be purchased through the Miriam Esrog Center (800-221-9424). Sets range in price from \$26.00 to \$60.00 plus shipping and handling.

Home-use USCJ Prayerbook Available

Among the many services available to our congregants through our schul's membership in the United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism is the USCJ Book Service. The service is now offering the

updated prayerbook, *Luah 5760* (prayers, blessings and torah readings for synagogue and home table).

Luah 5760 includes many unique features and has been overwhelmingly acclaimed by rabbis, cantors, educators and laypeople. To order contact the USCJ Book Service at 800-594-5617.

HADASSAH NEWS

New Member Tea

The Kinneret Hadassah Chapter of Clear Lake will sponsor a New Members Tea at Miriam Devin's home at 15915 Spring Forest Dr., Houston at 3:00 pm on Sunday, August 29, 1999. Dr. Patti Savrick, a prominent Pediatrician, will be the featured guest speaker. For information, call Debby Angel at (281) 996-5971.

Yarmulkes for Russian Jews

The following words of appreciation were sent to our member, Barbara Platt from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.: "On behalf of the (JDC), I would like to thank you for the donation of yarmulkes collected from members of the Kinneret Hadassah Chapter of Clear Lake City. These yarmulkes, and the hundred of others collected, have been and will be hand-carried to the former Soviet Union for distribution to Jews throughout the region in 'kits' for the Passover holiday." Good work, Barbara!

Youth Group Begins Season of Activities

Hadassah's Jewish youth group, Young Judea, is planning a fun-filled 1999-2000 social season. Young Judea is open to kids in grades 5 through 7. More information about dues and activities will be distributed in CSH Religious School.

This year's adult sponsors will be Sally Harrison (281-326-1608), Judy Lehman (281-538-1854), and Tracey Manusov (281-992-8604).

On September 1, 1999
please visit

<http://www.quixtar.com>

Enter IBO#2032148

Pia Greenberg

prgibo2032148@netscape.net

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Separation of Church and State

In the July 1999 issue of the Shofar, the outgoing editor stated his concerns and reaction towards placing the Ten Commandments in schools. I take strong exception to that attitude, because:

- the Founding Fathers intended this to be a nation under G-d;
- this country is in a state of moral decline and needs G-d very much; with the Ten Commandments at its core, religion should be taught diligently to our children.
- studying Torah and history clearly shows that the mission of Jews is the proliferation of Torah among mankind.
- the Ten Commandments is common to Jews, Christians, and Moslems. Bhuddism is very liberal and accepts recognition of good facets of any religion.

Calvin M. Wolff

Ed: *The words "separation of church and state" do not appear in the Constitution. As Dennis Prager says in his newsletter Ultimate Issues, the Constitution forbids the establishment of a state religion, not indifference to religion.*

Sisterhood Gift Shop Book Sale

Entire stock of books

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for more info (281) 291-9192

The Shofar is published monthly by Congregation Shaar Hashalom, 16020 El Camino Real, Houston, Texas 77062-4414, (281-488-5861).

CSH is a conservative synagogue affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

Submissions: Neatly, hand-written or typed copy is acceptable; electronic or diskette is preferred. Place disks or copy in the Shofar mailbox at the synagogue (Monday - Friday, 10 - 2pm)

Submission deadline: 10th of month preceding the publication date.

Sally Harrison, (281-326-1608)
sally-h@swbell.net

Boris Berezin (281-335-5414)

RITUAL

Lay Leaders Make the Difference

Thanks to the efforts of several dedicated lay leaders, Shabbat services were held throughout the month of July while Rabbi Federow was on vacation. Our gratitude goes to Rex and Amira Hemme, Men's Club, C.L.U.S.Y., Israel Paz, Leonard Levine, Carl Schwanke, and David Rosenfeld, who served as service leaders and/or *gabbais* in July. Our thanks, also, to Administrative Assistant Nancy Dickinson, who volunteered to help facilitate Onegs, and to Nitsana Lazerus, who delivered Randall's baked goods. It was my pleasure to lead services Friday evening and Saturday during the last weekend of the month, when Nitsana read from the Torah and chanted the Haftarah using Sephardic melodies.



The High Holy Days begin with a program and service on *Selichot*, Saturday evening, September 4.

Organizing the High Holy Day services is very involved. Many of these tasks are being facilitated by David Rosenfeld and a dedicated corps of volunteers, who, for the past several years, have amazingly squeezed 350 chairs into our sanctuary. Because these sanctuary seats must remain in place until Yom Kippur is over, we will not be able to have the special Oneg planned for Erev Rosh Hashanah in the sanctuary. (Our Social Hall cannot accommodate over three hundred people!) Instead, we will say Kiddush in the sanctuary at the close of Friday evening services.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy New Year. *Diane Rosenfeld, Ritual V.P.*

SCHUL LIBRARY NEWS

Spring Reading Program a Success

Thank you to the Gould family for their recent donation of children's books to our library.

This past spring, many families participated in *Sefer Safari*, the reading program sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education. Congratulations to the children who successfully completed the program. We are missing over 45 chil-

dren's books from our shelves in the synagogue library! While we're delighted that the program inspired so many children to check out books from the library, we would like to urge you to check your children's bookshelves, closets and backpacks for books that need to be returned to the synagogue. The new school year will begin soon and these books will be needed by both teachers and children. Thank you for your help in locating these missing books.

TIKKUN OLAM

After-school Technology Lab Needs Mentors

Interfaith Caring Ministries in partnership with the City of Webster, Technology for All, GTE and Webster Presbyterian Church will offer an after-school technology lab for families in the low-income housing area surrounding the two focus schools, Webster Intermediate and McWhirter Elementary. The children

living in this area will be able to walk to a safe-place and receive free academic tutoring and positive adult role model mentoring.

ICM is recruiting volunteers to be tutors, mentors, and computer trainers. To make a difference in a child's life, contact Martha Marshall, Director of Volunteers at 281-332-3881.

Additional programs for other members of the community are being planned.

ADULT EDUCATION

Jewish Masters Program Offered

The Bureau of Jewish Education and the Cleveland College of Jewish Studies is offering a 4-year, Master's degree program in Jewish studies and Jewish education for interested lay leaders, Jewish educators and Jewish professionals. These distance-learning classes beginning Sept. 14, 1999 are video-conferencing classes conducted at the Hillel Building, 1700 Bissonet, near Rice University. Classes include Jewish history, philosophy, Mishna Torah and Talmud. A bachelor's de-

gree in any course of study is required. Scholarships are available for Jewish professionals. Contact Jodi Buck at 713-729-7000 (ext 122) for information.

Scholar-in-Residence to Speak at Shaar Hashalom

Mr. Shalom Paul will be speaking at CSH on Tuesday, Sept 14 at 7:30 pm. Mr. Paul was the scholar-in-residence for the JCC. For details call Beth Rosenwasser at 713-729-3200.

Also scheduled for Nov. 2, 7:30 pm will be the author of "Anusim, those who are forced," a book on the history of the Marranos and their return to Judaism.

*Welcome
and warmest wishes to
our newest members*

Harold and Joyce Bender

Kira Bacall

Ivy Belles and daughter Laura,

Alan and Bertha Woinsky and
daughter Jacqueline and
son Michael

CSH Member Makes Aliyah

Mazel Tov to former Shaar Hashalom student and teacher, Deena Grinbaum, on completing a successful first year as an Olah Hadasha in Israel.

Deena, daughter of Susan and Izhak Grinbaum, graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 1995 with degrees in Environmental Studies and Biology. After graduating, Deena worked in Washington, D.C. for two years—first as a research biologist for

the U.S. Geological Survey, and then for the E.P.A. with Eastern Research, an environmental consulting firm.

Deena made Aliyah a little more than one year ago. She is currently living in Tel Aviv, and attending Tel Aviv University as a graduate student where she is working toward a degree in Informational Systems. Deena is so satisfied and happy with her decision to make Aliyah, that she wishes she had done it years ago.

Wedding Anniversaries

Diane and David Rosenfeld
Susan and Aaron Levine
Andrew Gould and
Judith Jackson
Patricia and Irwin Block
Irina and Vladimir Belov

Onegs for September

- 3& 4 Alex Brand Bar Mitzvah
4 Sisterhood Ice Cream Social
for Selichot
10 Sisterhood and Men's Club
17 The Stein Family
20 Sisterhood Yom Kippur Brack Fast
24 Men's Club - Sukkot Pot Luck Supper
and Oneg

September Birthdays

- 2 Johnathan Niemczura
Jasmine Walden
3 Martin Coppersmith
5 Teddy Zwang
7 Anita Osman
8 Neil Levin
Kyle Calcote
Taylor Madison Taub
Sandy Stokes
9 Becky Zaguli
10 CJ Brand
11 Benjamin Stokes
12 Hal Rosenthal
Rodrigo Daniel Sussman
Shelby Lipschuetz
13 Paul Helfgott
15 Earl Rubenstein
Jeffrey Wolpa
16 Amy-Lee Goodman
19 Ellen Rosen
20 Devora Paz
21 Irina Belov
Ivy Belles
22 Brandie Brooks
23 David Mittlefehldt
25 Hedy Wolpa
Jeri Walden
Jason Kane
26 Amy Wald
Dylan Wright
27 Eleanor Gould
30 Jon Kocen
Ruth Shapiro

Sisterhood Paid Member Dinner

7pm, Thursday Sept. 23
Silent auction to follow

For dues call: Peggy Wolfe, 281-488-6207

Contributors

Library Fund

Ellen and Isaac Rosen in memory of Sam and Sally Rosen

General Fund

Steve & Sheila Falk for the good health of Judy Cohen, Judy Gibbs,
David Sapire
in memory of Joan Lapidus

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Nancy Dickinson in honor of David and Diane Rosenfeld's anniversary
Garland and Leah Wiener in memory of Henry Wiener
Bertram E. Simms in memory of my father, Emanuel Sirkovitz, and
In memory of my father-in-law, Julius Ross

Religious School Fund

Peggy Wolfe in memory of Grace Eichler

Building Fund

Carl and Leslie Schwanke and Family in honor of Matthew Wolfe's graduation
from high school

Garland and Leah Wiener in memory of Henry Wiener
Judith and Russell Gibbs in honor of Anita Osman, Mike Goldberg, Diane
Rosenfeld, and in appreciation of their friendship
In memory of Samuel Rosenbaum
Hedy and Jeff Wolpa in honor of Alex Moore's induction to the J.C.C.
Sports Hall of Fame
In honor of Abner Morris's 85th birthday

David Abner

Youth Group Fund

Mark Sokolow in memory of Jerry Sokolow

Contributions are gratefully accepted for a wide variety of funds. Please call
the synagogue office at 488-5861 for more details on how to remember those
close to your heart.

September 1999 (5759-60) Yahrzeits

1	20 Av	Edward Wilsker	<i>father of</i>	Sheila Bass
1	20 Elul	Eleanor Brandt	<i>mother of</i>	Shirley Brandt
1	20 Elul	Sol Meyers	<i>father of</i>	Jay Meyers
3	22 Elul	Myron Rubel	<i>father of</i>	Sheilla Goldberg
5	24 Elul	Minerva Marvis	<i>grandmother of</i>	Gail Zwang
7	26 Elul	Harry J. Kuhn	<i>grandfather of</i>	Richard Lehman
8	27 Elul	Beatrice Mendelson	<i>mother of</i>	Jerry Mendelson
8	27 Elul	Edith Shapiro	<i>mother of</i>	Ruth Shapiro
9	28 Elul	Barouh Camhi	<i>father of</i>	Miriam Devin
9	28 Elul	Murray Zwang	<i>father of</i>	Jonathan Zwang
12	2 Tishri	Bernard Eichen	<i>brother of</i>	Harriette Meyers
14	4 Tishri	Harvey Simms	<i>son of</i>	Bertram Simms
16	6 Tishri	Louis Goldberg	<i>father of</i>	Michael Goldberg
18	8 Tishri	Anne R. Prouser	<i>mother of</i>	Susan Kitmacher
18	8 Tishri	Leo Schlesinger	<i>father of</i>	Merrily Hoffman
19	9 Tishri	Freida Abramovitz	<i>sister-in-law of</i>	Isaak Abramovitz
19	9 Tishri	Harry Abramovitz	<i>brother of</i>	Isaak Abramovitz
20	10 Tishri	Kurt Levin	<i>brother of</i>	Neil Levin
20	10 Tishri	George Brown	<i>brother of</i>	Isaak Abramovitz
21	11 Tishri	Mendall Abramovitz	<i>father of</i>	Isaak Abramovitz
23	13 Tishri	Alfred Cohen	<i>husband of</i>	Florence Cohen
23	13 Tishri	Travis Freeman	<i>son of</i>	Jeanne Kennedy
24	14 Tishri	Curtis Walden	<i>father of</i>	Stan Walden
24	14 Tishri	Irvin Schweig	<i>father of</i>	Jan Coppersmith
28	18 Tishri	Charlotte Ringer	<i>mother of</i>	Joe Ringer
30	20 Tishri	Irving Greene	<i>father of</i>	Jay Greene

Beth Liebling

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Dates to Remember September 1999

- | | | | |
|----|--------|---------|--|
| 2 | Thurs. | 7:30 pm | Ritual Committee Meeting |
| 3 | Fri. | 8:15 pm | Alex Brand Bar Mitzvah |
| 4 | Sat. | 9:30 am | A. Brand Bar Mitzvah (<i>Nitzavim-Vayeilech</i>) |
| | | 8:30 pm | Selichot |
| 5 | Sun. | | NO Religious School |
| 6 | Mon. | | Labor Day - Office CLOSED |
| 8 | Weds. | 5:00 pm | Hebrew School |
| 10 | Fri. | 8:00 pm | <i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i> |
| 11 | Sat. | 9:00 am | <i>1st day Rosh Hashanah services</i> |
| | | 9:30 am | Rosh Hashanah Children's service |
| | | 4:00 pm | Tashlich - Bay Area Park, Bay Area Blvd. |
| | | 8:00 pm | <i>Erev Rosh Hashanah (2nd day)</i> |
| 12 | Sun. | 9:00 am | <i>2nd day Rosh Hashanah services</i> |
| | | | NO Religious School |
| 15 | Weds. | | NO Hebrew School |
| 16 | Thurs. | 7:30 pm | Board Meeting |
| 17 | Fri. | 8:15 pm | <i>Shabbat Shuvah</i> |
| 18 | Sat. | 9:30 am | <i>Shabbat Shuvah (Haazinu)</i> |
| 19 | Sun. | | NO Religious School |
| 19 | Sun. | 6:30 pm | <i>Kol Nidre</i> |
| 20 | Mon. | 9:00 am | <i>Yom Kippur services</i> |
| | | 9:30 am | Yom Kippur Children's service |
| | | sundown | Break Fast |
| 21 | Tues. | 7:30 pm | Book Club meeting |
| 22 | Weds. | 5:00 pm | Hebrew School |
| 23 | Thurs. | 7:00 pm | Sisterhood Paid Members Dinner |
| 24 | Fri. | 6:30 pm | Sukkot Dairy Potluck Dinner |
| | | 7:30 pm | <i>Erev Sukkot Family service</i> |
| 25 | Sat. | 9:30 am | <i>Sukkot Shabbat service</i> |
| 26 | Sun. | 9:00 am | Religious School |
| | | | Sukkah Walk |
| 29 | Weds. | 5:00 pm | Hebrew School |
| | | 6:00 pm | Simchat Torah puppet workshop for grades 3, 4, and 5 |

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Todah rabbah,
many thanks to
Simone Clapp
office volunteer
of the month

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