



ק'ק' שיר חדש

Kol Echad

The Voice of Congregation Shir Chadash

From Our Rebbe

The Power of a Smile



We're all aware that one's facial expressions reflect a state of mind. One who is angry or depressed will undoubtedly have these emotions observed by others, and others will react accordingly. Storms that may be raging within a person are rarely contained. The face all too often is the mirror of what the soul is experiencing. By the same token, the finer qualities of the soul may be inscribed on one's face. There are features which speak of inner goodness and kindness, lines which reflect love and inner tenderness, eyes which speak of inner contentment and harmony and peace. There are additionally expressions of great joy, happiness, and good will. Of all the possible expressions, the most significant is the smile.

Our smiles carry volumes of meaning. It is the language of joy, often speaking of inner satisfaction, contentment and peace, It is the language of commonality, of our experiencing harmony with those we share this world with; a vehicle by which feelings of fellowship are transmitted from soul to soul.

There are smiles of encouragement that make you feel efforts are truly worthwhile, that hardships can be overcome, and struggles will bring desired results. There are smiles which speak of love, of devotion, of unrestrained surrender to another's happiness.

From a Jewish perspective, we're taught that a smile is not a frivolous or arbitrary physiological expression, but the language of the finest and the deepest in people. G-d's universal language "imprinted"

upon us. When we say that a smile is the language of joy, we must remember that joy is a divine state. Our rabbis teach us that G-d created us to be joyous, to go through our days, our years, facing life's challenges with a joyous attitude.

Joy is the sustainer of health—our bodies are responsive to joy—we become vitalized and strengthened through joy. When animated with joy, the mind yields its deepest thoughts, the imagination presents its clearest visions, and we become energized, creative. We may therefore sense the full value of a joyous smile. In addition to all we've said above we see that a smile only presents but possesses great restorative powers. Whether we feel burdened by physical or emotional clouds, a smile is curative. When we are down, we need to train our lips to smile.

A smile is also a prayer. We pray to G-d not only with words, but by every means of natural communion. When we are feeling troubled and force ourselves to smile, we are attempting to connect with the Divine to grant us the inner strength and clarity of thought to see us through our dilemmas. By training ourselves to smile, particularly when faced with life's obstacles, we ultimately realize that the smile and all that accompanies it has become a natural process, an expression of the new joy within.

A smile emanating from the heart can create the finest unions between people, encouraging them with volumes of hope. The smiles of good will, of encouragement, allow us to rest assured we have performed a great mitzvah to others we walk this earth with. A face that smiles reflects divinity; it is a response to our prayer. A face that smiles becomes suffused with a spiritual beauty from within. Let us all strive to reflect this beauty.

Rabbi Steven J. Kaplan

Sisterhood

A Sisterhood meeting was held Sunday, February 23rd, 2003, at the home of Bette-Ellen Gonick. There were six members in attendance. We had a very informative meeting and discussed the holidays of Purim and Passover.

We will be the approaching those members of Sisterhood who are interested in filling the slate of officers for the new term in September.

Bette-Ellen Gonick, President

Community Seder

Shir Chadash will hold its annual community Pesach Seder on Thursday, April 17. For further information or to reserve a ticket (prices being set), call Sheryl (652-9015) or Katherine (242-6637). We hope to see you there.

Staying in Touch

We wish to improve our communication of upcoming events at Shir Chadash. If you are interested in being contacted by e-mail instead of through the phone tree, please send your contact information to <gwendolyn@sk.sympatico.ca>.

We also want to stay in touch with those who are some distance away. If you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail in PDF format, please send your contact information to <gwendolyn@sk.sympatico.ca>.

Chanukah

Chanukah, and what a celebration! Following a short service and a beautiful candle-lighting ceremony, we all enjoyed the music of our resurrected Klezmer band, the Heisse Latkes. After the loss of some valued members, it has taken awhile for the band to regroup. But, with the addition of the very talented Hanna, Michelle, and Kayla, the music flows once again. There was joyful music—everything from traditional klezmer to Jewish bluegrass and lots in between—with lots of singing, dancing, and clapping that showed the enjoyment we all felt. I'm sure founding member Peter Holdstock was listening and enjoying with us.

As is traditional, we feasted on latkes and shared the good company. Then we went back for more wonderful music. I think the Heisse Latkes should put out a CD soon.

One of the best parts of our congregation is how we come together to share the warmth and family atmosphere at our holiday celebrations. This was one of the best!

Sheryl Madsen





Purim

Wizards, queens, bunnies, and a number of other very strange characters descended on our shul to celebrate Purim. We read through the whole Megillah, being suitably noisy at all the correct places. We remembered to drink our wine or juice as part of the festivities and sang traditional Purim songs. Afterwards, there was cake and absolutely delicious hamantashen to share. Thank you to the ladies in the kitchen who treated us so well.





We're Proud of You... Shir Chadash

Here we are, almost three years old! When Congregation Shir Chadash was conceived, everyone, each with different strengths, resources, and areas of expertise, enthusiastically did whatever they could to bring the birth of our new shul to completion.

Arrangements were made with the board of Albert Centre to rent a room, six months' rent was donated, the Rabbi's work visa and his status allowing him to conduct weddings were taken care of. The constitution was written and filed with the appropriate agencies. We had an unpaid accountant, and there were those who looked after the finances, depositing and recording donations and making sure bills were paid on time. A cemetery was obtained, and there was someone to take care of the details of the Chevra Kaddisha. There were those who covered all the administrative details in their capacities as presidents and co-presidents. An additional Torah and prayer books were obtained, including prayer books in Russian. Donations arrived; two yads and a shofar; an Ark in time for our first Simcha. A beautiful Parochet and a reading table cover were designed and made. We had a teacher for the children's Hebrew school classes and one for teaching adult Hebrew literacy. And we have had a photographer who was always there to snap those Kodak moments, which now make up our archives.

Everyone pitched in for fundraisers, like the huge ongoing garage sales we still have and Freilach. We created a Website. We had our first wonderfully joyous community Seder on very short notice, with everyone contributing in some way to the planning and coordinating, decorating, kashering, cooking, serving, and cleaning up afterward, and this tradition continues. Then there were the Chanukah parties with latkes, and on and on....We've had the sorrow of funerals for members and the joys of Simchas for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, two weddings, and the birth of grandchildren.

The point is, the baby has been born. The child is here now, one who still needs our continuous love and nurturing in order to thrive and grow. Now comes the ongoing task of nurturing this child with

positive reinforcement. Again, we are fortunate that there are those who attend to this, care for the child, and make sure that shul life continues each and every week.

How many shuls our size have a Rabbi? Our Rabbi conducts services with joy, teaches adult education and conversions, and in addition, trains Allan (who has a more than full-time job already), in nusach and cantorial music, further enhancing and beautifying our services. Each week Linda faithfully assists the Rabbi as Gabbi. Herman, at the age of ninety-five, still davens whenever he can; Sam shepherds the Ritual Committee and pitches in wherever he is needed. Ben, our President, wisely guides us through the year. Mary continues to look after the Chevra Kadisha and the cemetery. Manny interprets the constitution as needed and keeps it up to date. Harley continues as our unpaid accountant, and Alf meticulously looks after our finances and makes sure our bills are paid on time. Wendy has been a meticulous secretary and a willing helper whenever needed,

For two years Harold diligently took care of our shul as House Chair, but has turned the reins over to Kayla , who with other members, ensures everything is clean and set up for services. Lisa took over from Peter and faithfully compiles the Yahrzeit lists. Ruth continues to teach Adult Hebrew literacy every week, and Kayla and Linda teach the children's Hebrew school. Sheryl and Perry produce the newsletter. Bette Ellen and Kayla started the phone tree; Kayla, Barb, and Anna look after donation cards. Every Shabbat Shane and Gertie and Sam can be found setting and cleaning up after onegs, assisted by Jeff whenever possible. Yakov can be depended upon to move tables, chairs, and lift and carry the large Torah. Semyon, when he's able to attend, can also be depended up to carry a Torah.

In spite of moving to Regina, Lawrence and Penny remain members and supporters and thanks to them, we were the first air conditioned shul in Saskatoon! Rebecca has typed and printed brochures, Sara has lovingly cleaned and pressed the Tallitot. Kjell designed and built our beautiful reader's table and our portable Sukkah, and last year he

Simchas, Thank Yous, & Announcements

Mazal tov to:

Gwendolyn Adrian on her acceptance into Osgoode Hall Law School.

Tillie Taylor whose grandson, Lee Henderson, recently read from his newly published collection of short stories at J.S. Wood Library.

Elaine and Irving Goldenberg on the upcoming marriage of their daughter Alison.

Dean and Marlene Donnelly who have a new baby boy, Myer—a brother for Ethan.

Allan Dolovich for receiving a University of Saskatchewan Student Union Teacher of Distinction Award. What better judges than the students!

Happy birthday to:

Rabbi Kaplan; Ruth Epstein; Sheryl Madsen; Mary Melynychuk; Gwendolyn Adrian; Yaron, Yael, and Yonatan Basker; Barb Donen; Gertie and Murray Gross; Rachel Neumann; Burna Purkin; Katherine Rafoss, Alf Baron, and Hanna Jodrey.

Condolences to:

Alf Baron on the death of his beloved wife Bessie.

NOTE: Sharing our joys and sorrows is the most important part of this Newsletter, but it can only be as complete as you make it. Please let Sheryl Madsen (652-9015) know when you have something to share.

Shir Chadash Cards

Happy birthday to Tillie Taylor from Alex and Mary Lehrer, Sam and Gertie Gross, Rachel and Herman Neumann, Ben and Myra Goldstein, Linda Epstein, Ruth Epstein, Sheryl and Kjell Madsen.

Mazal tov to David Kaplan from Myra and Ben Goldstein.

Mazal tov to Mr. and Mrs. B. Kagin from L.C. Lavitt.

Get well to Ben Goldstein from Sam and Gertie Gross, Rachel and Herman Neumann, the Basker family, Alex and Mary Lehrer, Tina and Morley Lehrer, Linda Epstein, Ruth Epstein, Sheryl and Kjell Madsen.

Get well to Lisa Shiffman from Sam and Gertie Gross.

Condolences to Michael Worsoff from Myra and Ben Goldstein.

Condolences to Rabbi Kaplan from Linda Epstein.

NOTE: For donation cards for Shir Chadash, the Peter Holdstock Memorial Fund, and the Jennie Altman Torah Fund, contact Kayla Dolovich(955-2801).

Rabbi Trivia

Did you know that our Rabbi, after a twenty-five year absence, has returned to training as an instructor in the martial arts? He continues to study new systems and recently was honoured by a visit from the highest ranking active practitioner of a particular system. After a gruelling weekend our Rabbi was awarded yet another promotion, along with a myriad of aches and pains.

Shir Chadash Sisterhood Donation Cards

Thank you for the generosity of the following for their donations. For more information, contact Barbara Donen, 244-3879. Please indicate if you do not want your name mentioned in the newsletter.

Mazal tov to Herman Neumann from Mary and Adam Melnychuk on his 95th birthday.

Mazal tov to Jack and Bev Shiffman on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mazal tov to Manny and Burna Sonnenschein from on their wedding from Barb and Harley Donen.

Happy 80th birthday to Tillie Taylor from Allan and Kayla Dolovich, Harley and Barb Donen, Harold and Bette-Ellen Gonick, Shir Chadash Sisterhood, Sara and Semyon Furman, Mary and Adam Melnychuk.

Happy 80th birthday to Sam Laimon from Mary and Adam Melnychuk.

Happy 60th birthday to Burna Purkin from Sylvia Reznik, Herman and Rachel Neumann.

Happy 41st anniversary to Harold and Bette-Ellen Gonick from Mary and Adam Melnychuk, and Bev and Jack Shiffman.

Happy anniversary to Suzanne and Ivor Basker from Mary and Adam Melnychuk.

Thank you to Suzanne Basker, and Kayla and Allan Dolovich from Joan Holdstock.

Get well wishes to Ben Goldstein from Harold and Bette-Ellen Gonick, Shir Chadash Sisterhood, Bev, Jack, Lisa and Harold Shiffman, Mary and Adam Melnychuk, Harley and Barb Donen.

Condolences to Sid and Camie Katzman, Faye Katzman and family, and Chan Katzman and family on the death of Wilma Katzman from Morley and Tina Lehrer, Kayla and Allan Dolovich.

Condolences to Sara Furman on the death of her sister from Rachel and Herman Neumann.

Condolences to Alf Baron on the death of Bessie from Mary and Adam Melnychuk, Harley and Barb Donen.

NOTE: For donation cards for Shir Chadash, the Peter Holdstock Memorial Fund, and the Jennie Altman Torah Fund, contact Kayla Dolovich 955-2801.

Barb Donen to Conference

From April 26–28, Barb Donen will be in Colorado Springs for the spring conference of the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism–Midwest Branch. The conference is called “Changes, Challenges and Choices” and Barb will take part in a workshop entitled “I Hate Services. How Can We Make It Better?”.



Kol Echad is the Newsletter of Congregation Shir Chadash, Saskatoon. Send news to Sheryl Madsen, 652-9015 (sheryl819@hotmail.com) or Perry Millar (perry.millar@usask.ca). Check out the Website: www.shirchadash.com.

Yahrzeits

Adar 28-I-Tammuz 1, 5763

March 1-May 31, 2003

Civil Date	Name	Observed on
Feb. 28 and March 1	Sam Sternberg	28 Adar-I
	Eva Kolominsky	29 Adar-I
March 14 and 15	Jennie Brown	15 Adar-II
March 28 and 29	Rebecca Forgan	28 Adar-II
	Clara Lehrer	1 Nissan
April 4 and 5	J.M. Goldengerg	3 Nissan
	Kariton Kolominsky	4 Nissan
	Sam Caplan	6 Nissan
	Joe Goldenberg	
April 11 and 12	Max Goldberg	10 Nissan
	Max Reznick	13 Nissan
	Michael Larter	15 Nissan
	Leopold Neumann	
April 18 and 19	Solomon Neumann	
	Tamara Avivi	17 Nissan
	David Katz	19 Nissan
April 25 and 26	Goldie Filer	23 Nissan
	Maria Furman	24 Nissan
	Bertha Roe	28 Nissan
May 2 and 3	Morris Shechtman	29 Nissan
	Max Swartz	1 Iyar
	Simon Clein	6 Iyar
May 9 and 10	Lena Secter	7 Iyar
	Riva Friedman	8 Iyar
	Max Sharzer	10 Iyar
May 16 and 17	Sarah Adelman	16 Iyar
	Minnie Schell Katz	20 Iyar
May 23 and 24	Stella Kornblum	28 Iyar
May 30 and 31	Bernard Sharzer	1 Sivan
	Rita Epstein	3 Siva
	Albert Epstein	5 Sivan
	Bernard Lehrer	
	Goldie Brownstein	9 Sivan
June 6 and 7	Valera Evdaev	9 Sivan
	Bessie Golumbia	14 Sivan
June 13 and 14	Joseph Altman	27 Sivan
June 20 and 21	Sarah Charach	30 Sivan
June 27 and 28	Max Gropper	1 Tammuz
	Ben Shiffman	



Der Yiddish Vinkel

A nar vaist men nit kain halbeh arbet. Don't show a fool something half-finished.

Gelt gayt tzu gelt. Money goes to money.

Azei vert dox kichel tzebrochen. That's how the cookie crumbles.

Genosen oifen emes. One sneezes on the truth.

Me redt, me redt un me zogt gornisht. You can talk and talk and say nothing.

Yeder mensch hot zeiner aigeneh meshughas. Everyone has his own craziness.

Er krehet oyf di gleicheh vent. He's a nitpicker, a troublemaker.

Bilik vi borsht. Cheap as borsht.

Blaich vi di vant. Pale as a sheet.

Das gelt is tserunen gevoren. The money goes down the drain.

Mach zich nit visindik. Make believe you don't see it.

Reden tzu der vant. Talking in vain.

Es iz shver tzu machen a leven. It's hard to make a living.

Er draht zich vi a fortz in rossel. He's going in circles.

Com cas er laibt. He's got one foot in the grave.

Er frest vi a ferd. He eats like a horse.

Er macht a tel fun dem. He's runing it.

Er bolbet a narishteiten. He's talking nonsense.

Er kert iber di velt. He's turning the world upside down.

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rose early on a cold, wet day to ensure it was assembled—even though it was too wet to use. Gwendolyn has the all-important task of making the creamed herring and can be relied upon to help set up and clean up after the onegs. Myra and Shane coordinate and often provide the weekly onegs and food preparation, taking care of the little details such as obtaining kosher challah from Calgary or Winnipeg. Bette Ellen, as Sisterhood president, looks after all their needs and Rachel Neumann still bakes and serves delicious kosher goods for our Simchas.

Ivor, our community doctor, is always there to lend a hand in whatever capacity he is needed. Hanna, Allan, the Rabbi, and Kayla, together with Walter and Michelle make up our Heisse Latkes klezmer band. Katherine has taken over the Website and archives. Tillie, whose smile lights up the room when she enters, still reads her brachot in Hebrew. Burna, with her sparkle and sense of humour, assists Shane in keeping our Rabbi humble. Irving, Alex and Mary, Joan, and Murray are steadfast and enthusiastic in their attendance, support, and wise counsel. In addition to all those mentioned, we are also grateful to have so many Friends of Shir Chadash who continually contribute their time, energy, and financial support. We embody that old cliché: the family that prays together stays together.

It isn't enough to say "look what this one or that one did when we were forming our shul," we all—each and every one—contributed what we could to bring about the creation of the shul. But it's what we are doing now that matters. The membership of this shul quietly go about the mitzvah of nurturing and caring for their community without fanfare, without recognition, just doing what needs to be done. It is done for the love of doing it, a strong sense of Yiddishkeit, a sense of community, a deep feeling of responsibility for keeping this congregation alive and well. It is apparent from the contributions everyone makes and the continued sustaining of the shul that we all appreciate one another's efforts. With a community such as ours, our "child" will continue to grow from strength to strength. Shir Chadash—we're proud of you!