

Issue 2 May–July 2000



Kol Ehad



The Voice of Congregation Shir Chadash

From Our Rebbe

Looking Back to the Future

Our first service was held on March 3rd of this year. Within the first month of our congregation's existence, we became a full-service synagogue, with a place to gather, Torahs, a cemetery, a Hebrew School, and a Hebrew Literacy Program. We have the most wonderful sense of spirituality and joy during our services. Coupled with this,



we had a community Seder that saw nearly 100 people in attendance sharing an incomparable experience. Our Holocaust Memorial Service, Purim Service, and Yom Ha-Atzmaut Service and gala were well attended and meaningful to all. Last, but certainly not least, we have our weekly and holiday services, all well

attended with enthusiastic participation.

After only two months of existence, is it time to look back and reflect? Yes, not in a pensive way by any means, but rather, to view the unbelievable accomplishments as a springboard for even greater future achievements. The bottom line is that we have a real shul. The dedicated membership is not "playing shul," but living their Judaism on a daily basis. For the first time since my arrival in Saskatoon, members talk to me about kashering their homes, approach me with Torah questions, and express renewed spirituality. Few things can be more gratifying to a rabbi.

Do we need to look in our rear-view mirrors? Absolutely. How else can we best navigate the road ahead?!

Rabbi Steven J. Kaplan.

Presidents' Message

Well-known anthropologist Margaret Mead once said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world...indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

In less than three short months, the members and friends of Shir Chadash have changed our world. We are a joyous, spiritually rich congregation who celebrate life, G-d, and one another. Our congregation's Pesach Seder, Yom Haoshoah, and Yom Ha-Atzmaut gatherings are proof of that. Our services are imbued with love of Judaism and Torah. All are included.

In return, everyone has pitched in to make our congregation as vibrant and solid as it is. Thanks to each one of you, we have received donations, decorated our synagogue, held Hebrew school and other events, and had absolutely wonderful Onegs and Kiddush lunches—all kosher, of course.

I would be remiss if I did not single out Morris and Louise Altman, and Peter and Joan Holdstock for special mention. Their dedication has been and is beyond the call of duty. We wish them all the best as they go on their journeys over the next few months. We will miss them. Hurry back!

Yes, we have accomplished so much. But, starting a new congregation is expensive... and to continue to remain strong and to grow, we need your financial help. Join us as members. Donate when you can. We thank you for your ongoing support.

Linda Epstein, Co-President



Events

Pesach Seder: Wow! Shir Chadash has done it again! Our completely Kosher Passover Seder was nothing short of amazing. There was such a feeling of camaraderie and friendship—like one huge happy family, one in which we all like one another!



Everyone, 96 people including many out of town guests, took part in the Passover readings and songs led by our Rabbi as we shared the ancient story. We then ate a delicious meal of gefilte fish, 5 lbs of chopped liver, 25



chickens, 10 potato kugels, salads, tsimmes, and fruit compote. Forty-seven bottles of wine were donated, but only 30 consumed. The food and decorations were wonderful and lovingly prepared by many members of our community. These people did an incredible job and we thank them, but everyone pitched in whether it was in planning,

cooking, decorating, serving, bringing the wine and matzah, helping clean up, or sharing their good humour. It was all appreciated.

When one of the organizers was approached with the comment, “I hear that you’re having company for supper tonight,” her reply was, “No, just family.” And so it was.



Yom Ha-Atzmaut: Over 50 Shir Chadash members and supporters celebrated Yom Ha-Atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, on the evening of May 10. The Rabbi conducted a brief service, which included a



moment of silence for those who have given their lives defending the State of Israel, established 52 years ago. We sang and danced and danced and sang joyfully to the music of our own klezmer band with Rabbi Kaplan at the drums and in good voice, Jack Shiffman vocals and on trumpet, Larry

Wine on keyboard, Peter Holdstock on mandolin, Del Olson on banjo, and Bob MacAuslan on sax.

Thank you so much for your lively entertainment. We'll look forward to your first CD! A *geshmackte*, kosher meal of chicken, salads, kugel, and more was topped off by apple pie à la Rachel and non-dairy "ice cream." à la Suzanne. Thank-you so much to those who arranged the yummy refreshments.



Yom Ha-Shoah: Shir Chadash held a simple, dignified Yom Ha-Shoah service on Tuesday, May 2. Along with prayers and songs, there was a moving candle-lighting ceremony. Shir Chadash members lit candles in memory of the survivors and in memory of those who served during the war: Herman Neumann, Yakov Prives, Sarah Furman, Sam Gross, Alf Baron and our Rabbi in memory of the Jewish women and men in the military services. David Guttman lit a candle for the descendents of the Holocaust. We called on our own as speakers. Morris Altman, who is the son of a survivor and who has become

successful in life and raised a family, in spite of painful memories, spoke movingly about his father. Geoff Guttman spoke of the personal loss of not having a family history to learn and grow from. Both speakers left us with much to think about. *Todah rabah* for sharing your very private feelings.

News



Cemetery: Fees for the Shir Chadash Cemetery, located in a consecrated area at Saskatoon's Woodlawn Cemetery, have been set at \$5000 for members and \$6500 for non-members. For more information, contact Mary Melnychuk at 653-2453.

Finances: We welcome all to our services and events, but Shir Chadash also needs financial support to keep things going and to grow. Please make your generous memberships cheques as soon as possible to Shir Chadash. For further information, Contact Harold Gonick at 956-3380. Remember that donations can be made in installments using post-dated cheques.

Education Committee: *Todah rabah* —a big thank you to Hebrew School teachers: Suzanne Basker, Linda Epstein, and Ruth Epstein for volunteering their time and providing excellent Hebrew instruction. Hebrew school students will continue to attend and learn until June 18, when we will take a break until September.



Shabbat Lunches: We all enjoy the food and the camaraderie generated at our Shabbat lunches. However, it is always the same people who supply the pickled herring and tuna salad that are the mainstay of these get togethers. It would be much appreciated if those of you

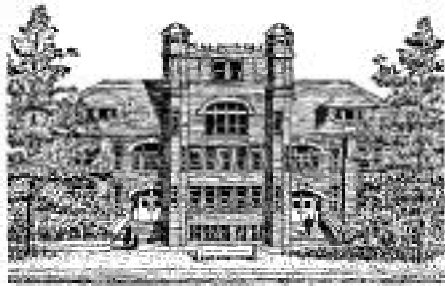
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who would like to continue this tradition would bring your choice of herring, canned tuna fish, or salmon to the Shul. Please remember that these products must bear a hechsher. Please contact Gertie or Sam Gross, Suzanne Basker, or Myra Goldstein. For more information.

Fund Raising: A number of fund-raising events are in the works. For details on any of these efforts, contact Barbara Donen at 244-3879.

- Under Barb's leadership, cushions are being made and will be sold. Pray softly!
- There will be a baking raffle four times per year. Help from bakers is welcomed! Save time and energy for the holidays by buying a ticket!
- There will be a community yard sale at Gertie and Sam Gross' in mid-June. Donate your items!

Cards Available



Peter Holdstock has designed some attractive cards with our building on the front. They're available for \$5.00. Contact Wendy Green at 241-1125.

Shir Chadash donation cards are available from Barbara Donen, 244-3879 or Nadene Avivi, 477-0691.

Hadassah-WIZO cards are available from Anna Gersher. Call 955-1028.

Simchas, Thank You's & Announcements

Thank-you to Chaim and Alisa Kornfeld for the generous donation of 10 tallitot and a cheque "ten times Chai" (in US funds)! Many of us have fond memories of Chaim and Alisa from their days in Saskatoon and are very grateful for this generosity and support.

Warm wishes to Aviva Kohen and Alon Zack who will be married by Rabbi Kaplan on May 27. The ceremony will be held in the Bessborough Gardens under Aviva's grandfather Ken Epstein's tallit as *chupah*. Congratulations and welcome to Aviva's and Al's relatives and guests who will be attending the big event.

Mazel Tov to Sylvia and all the Reznicks on the birth of a son to Marlene and Dean Donnelly of Vancouver.

Congratulations to Sarina Gersher, our first Bat Mitzvah at Shir Chadash on July 1. Welcome and congratulations to family members and friends who are celebrating this event with Sarina.

Congratulations to Geoffrey Guttman, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of Saskatchewan, for the American Association of Anatomists Young Faculty Participation Award.

Congratulations to Barbara Donen who was elected Board Member of the Midwest Branch of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, at their Spring Conference in Minneapolis as Shir Chadash representative.

Congratulations to Linda Epstein for winning an international award for creative excellence for her video *Agriculture with an Environmental Focus*. Her entry was one of 1600 entries from 30 countries.

Congratulations to Stephen Avivi who graduated with a degree in Commerce from the University of Saskatchewan. Stephen won the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Vera Pezer Award for Student Enhancement in Volunteerism. Stephen also recently attended the Birthright Trip to Israel. Rumour has it that he will be going to work at IBM in Calgary.

Congratulations on Dr. Lawrence Clein, Surgery, Royal University Hospital on his retirement from the University of Saskatchewan and his new appointment as Medical Director, Palliative Care Services, Regina.

Congratulations to Randee Kaplan, the Rabbi's daughter who graduated from Grade 12. Randee has been accepted into the University of Miami Conservatory.

Congratulations to Aaron Avivi who graduated from Grade 12 and was honoured at the Evan Hardy graduation with a services award for volunteerism. Aaron also just returned from the March of

the Living in Israel.

siddurim

Mazel Tov to Lisa and Harold Shiffman on the purchase of their new home.

Thank you to Morris and Zara Gurstein for the donation of a freezer in honour of the marriage of their daughter Miriam to Dr. Danny Bercovich. Both reside in Montreal.

Thanks to Irving Goldenberg, we now have copies of the Saturday morning service in Hebrew and Russian.

Congratulations to Alison Goldenberg, daughter of Alain and Irving, upon her successful completion of her MA in History from the University of Saskatchewan and her BEd (Master Teacher) from the University of Calgary.

Thanks to the Lehrer family for the donation of *Sim Shalom* siddurim.

Thank you to Myra Goldstein's brothers and sisters for the donation of *Sim Shalom* siddurim.

Thanks to Rabbi David Feder and his community in Evansville, IL, New Mahzorim are being purchased at a reduced price. They're on the way!

Congratulations to Morris Altman, Head of Economics, University of Saskatchewan, on receiving an SSHRC Law Commission of Canada grant to study Canadian Labour Markets. Also, we wish all the best to Morris and Louise Altman who will be on sabbatical leave starting July 1 for one year. Morris, Louise, and Hanah will be travelling to Europe and the US giving presentations and doing research. Morris' area is Economics and Louise's area is Jewish Business History. Best wishes to both of you, but *HURRY BACK*.



B'nai Brith

Sid Katzman, President of the Saskatoon Chapter of B'nai Brith Lodge 739 brought greetings from the organization. At our May 12 Friday night service he also presented the Shir Chadash library with

Shattered: 50 years of Silence: History and Voices of the Tragedy in Romania and Transnistria, a book on the Holocaust. B'nai Brith provides funds for local organizations, local Jewish organizations, and national Jewish organizations. He encouraged all Shir Chadash members and supporters to join B'nai Brith in order to have a voice in the organization's decisions regarding local donations. The next meeting will be at Mandolins Restaurant, Senator Hotel, on Sunday, June 4.

Donation Cards

Thank you for the generosity of the following for their donations:

From	To	Occasion
Nadene Avivi Linda Epstein Anna Gersher Mary Melnychuk Barb Donen	Rachel Neumann	Happy Birthday
* Mary Melnychuk Herman & Rachel Neumann * Harley & Barb Donen *	* Irving Goldenberg	Get Well Wishes
Linda Epstein*	Aviva Kohen & Alon Zack	Wedding congratulations
Lawrence & Penny Clein Linda Epstein, Ruth Epstein, the Madsens	Ida & Art Epstein	60th anniversary
Linda Epstein Bettie Paley Nadene Avivi Anna Gersher Mary Melnychuk Kayla Dolovich Joan Holdstock Barb Brown	Barb Donen	Happy Birthday

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Lawrence & Ben Goldstein Happy Birthday
Penny Clein*
Anne Sheckman

Jack & Bev Shiffman Mrs. Yetta Daks family In Memory of Mr.
Mac Daks

*Denotes an individual donation

Yahrzeits

Iyar 15 to Av 3, 5760

May 20 to July 29, 2000

Observed on	Name
May 19-20	Sarah Adelman Minnie Schell Katz
May 26-27	Cherna Friedman Sam Hock Mildred Berlow Fred Mendel Fanny Rapaport Jack Litman
June 2-3	Rita Epstein Albert Epstein Frank Gertler Bernard Sharzer Bernard Lehrer William Kutz Jacob Mazer
June 9-10	Goldie Brounstein Libba Korbin Rose Litman
June 16-17	Bessie Columbia Nettie Steiger Samuel Schacter Amelia Sandbrand Sonia Churchill

Observed on	Name
June 23-24	Joseph Altman
	Anna Lehrer
	Wewel Flikshteyn
	Vera Barsky
June 30-July 1	Sarah Charach
	Max Gropper
	Ben Shiffman
	Bernie Reznick
	Max Hock
July 6-7	Nathan Richman
	Samuel Forgan
	Zakhar Isaakov
July 21-22	Edward Baron
	Etta Gross
	Boris Zeldin
July 28-29	Klara Epstein
	Frances Dashefsky
	Klara Furman
	Bathsheba Baron

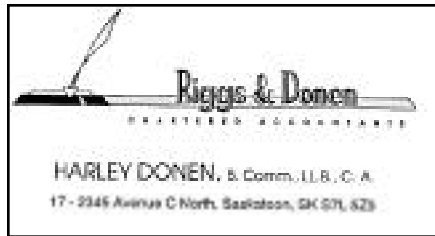
Please let us know Yahrzeit dates you observe by filling in forms provided at the Shul or by contacting Peter Holdstock. While Peter is away, you can contact Wendy Green at 241-1125.

Condolences

Condolences to Betty Ellen Gonick on the passing of her cousin Clara Golumbia.

Condolences to Steven Avivi on the passing of his father Jack Hoffman.

Condolences to Lisa Shiffman on the loss of her grandfather.



50% of all commissions will be donated to the congregation for May and June .

Does anyone need perennials? For the cost of a donation to Shir Chadash, Sheryl Madsen is willing to part with cranesbill, feverfew, tiger lilies, sedum, tomato plants (annuals!) and others. Call 652-9015.

Advertise

Use this space to place an ad in our newsletter. For just \$10 you can place a business card-sized ad. The ad will also go on the website until the next newsletter is published.

Kol Echad is the newsletter of Congregation Shir Chadash, Saskatoon. Send news to co-editors, Sheryl, 652-9015, sheryl819@hotmail.com or Ruth, 664-7124, ruthepstein@hotmail.co