



Kol Echad

The Voice of Congregation Shir Chadash

From Our Rebbe

A Lesson in Mussar



There is a story in the Talmud that tells of a group of people in a rowboat. At one point, one of the passengers began to bore a hole under his seat. As the astonished passengers watched, one went over to the person and asked why he was boring the hole. The person responded, "What harm is it doing? Besides,

it's under my seat!"

We find many instances in life of people acting this way. Under the guise "it's not hurting anyone else," or "I have the moral responsibility," things are done that are hurtful and harmful to others. Judaism's *Mussar* tradition, the ethical tradition, teaches just the opposite. Our guiding light is to be Hillel's revered statement: "What is harmful to you do not do to others." There is another story from the *Mussar* tradition that goes as follows:

While Rabbi Yisroel Meir was speaking to a well-known philanthropist, Rabbi Yisroel's son-in-law was composing an urgent telegram. Sensing that the talk might turn to *lashon hara*, Rabbi Yisroel observed, "See how careful people are with the wording of a telegram! They count every word. Why? Because they know that every word costs them money. How much more careful should we be of every word that might involve not a few pennies but serious consequences and that might cause loss of money or even life.

Stories such as these are plentiful. The lessons are the same. Personal agendas do not justify boring holes in the boat. When we

encounter those with drills, we need to respond accordingly and appropriately. Only then can we continue to serve as a beacon for others.

Rabbi Steven J. Kaplan

President's Message

Our Synagogue

And they shall build for me a Sanctuary that I may dwell in their midst. (Exodus 25:8)



A synagogue is any building or room set aside for prayer. That is its main purpose. Yet, in all of rabbinical literature only once (in Gitin 396) has it ever been referred to as a House of Prayer (*Beit Tefilah*). From its inception after the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE to this day, it has been referred to as a *Beit Knesset*, which means a House of Assembly or a House of Gathering. This emphasizes the fact that

the synagogue serves purposes beyond being only a centre for public worship. It is where we "gather" as Jews.

Its most notable additional role is as a centre for religious study. The study of Torah ranks as high as prayer itself. As has been said, "and the study of Torah is equivalent to all the commandments." The synagogue has become an integral part of the prayer service itself. The weekly reading of the Torah from the *bimah*, the sermon or lecture, a practice that goes back to early Talmudic times, are all part of the study program, which has become an integral part of the service. Quite often, as is the case with our synagogue, the synagogue also serves as a centre for formal education of our children and a centre of adult and Hebrew language education.

While the synagogue can and must be an instrument for the religious and spiritual education of its congregants, it is the responsibility of the synagogue to encourage the support of every endeavour and every project crucial to the survival of our faith and of our people. That is why our synagogue must encourage a Jewish home, *Kashrut*, Shabbat, and other practices in the home and performing the *mitzvot* of *chesed* and *tzedaka*. Our synagogue must recognize and affirm the role of *Eretz Yisrael* as an element of our faith, and the security of the embattled land must be supported in every way.

The role of the synagogue is especially vital for Jews living in the Diaspora. Actively participating in the roles of a synagogue is the means by which one can identify oneself as a Jew. In Israel where one's environment is Jewish, simply being part of that environment is sufficient to give one the feeling of being Jewish. Outside Israel, the synagogue performs that most vital function.

Ours is a relatively small synagogue. But it is an accomplished one. It is aptly described in the Canadian Jewish Congress listing as a joyous spiritually rich, full service congregation, which follows a traditional, egalitarian, kosher, Conservative format...and adheres to the principles and spirit of *klal Ysrael* [community].

We are a warm community as exemplified by the joy and camaraderie present in our Sabbath services. The strengths of our community lie in doing *chesed*, showing kindness one to the other, not only by deed but also by our words. The warmth and joy we experience in worship, the understanding and kindness we have for each other, and the fulfillment of the roles of our synagogue is the source of our strength. It is what will assure our continued success as a vibrant community.

Benjamin Goldstein



We're Proud of You... Herman Neumann



There's barely a wrinkle on his face. He is as dapper as ever. And he davens *Shachrit Amidah* practically every Shabbat. Yet he is going to be 95 at the end of June. And he has a story to tell...

Herman was born on June 29, 1907 in Kuenzelsau, Germany, just east of Stuttgart.

He was the youngest of three sons.

Upon completing public and high school, he joined a dry goods business as an apprentice. He worked there for three years while studying textiles at a merchant trade night school, hoping to open a business like his father.

But it was 1923. The German mark had collapsed. However, Herman's father had struggled through the tough years and managed to build his business once again, and Herman decided to join him.

"By 1930," Herman explains, "after the loss of World War I the resultant rising unemployment became more and more visible. At the same time, the Social Deutsche Arbeiter Party (NSDAP) grew quickly...[eventually] Hitler gained absolute power. On January 30, 1933, he was appointed Reichs-Chancellor."

For Jews, things began to change. "It was like living in an open prison. The slightest infraction...and a Jew would find himself in jail. I carried on with the business as much as I could."

In the meantime, Herman was planning to leave Germany at the first opportunity—not an easy task. The Germans placed obstacles every step of the way, and it was six difficult years before he could leave Germany.

During this time the troubles escalated. "What triggered

Kristallnacht—the night of brokenglass?" Herman asks, then answers his own question: "The assassination of a high German official by a young Polish Jew. That was only an excuse. The roundup would have happened anyway."

"November 10, 1938, all Jewish men were thrown into concentration camps. A friend of mine, one of my brothers, and I landed in Dachau. I will never forget....As soon as we got off the bus, the Nazis used their truncheon, and beat up those who could not run fast enough. For three days and nights, we stood without food in front of our hut....Like a miracle, I was released on January 5, 1939. Coming home, my inventory of goods had been auctioned off...car and licence confiscated. I was powerless."

Herman found out that England would take some refugees on a temporary basis if they paid 50 pounds and had a job. "Immediately, I put two ads in the London *Times*. I received only one reply from a family [called] Reynolds, who would take me as a gardener. On August 9, 1939—three weeks before the beginning of World War II—I arrived in England." (His passport was stamped "Friendly Enemy Alien.")

The struggle continued. Two months after he had arrived, the Reynolds said there would be no work in the winter. In desperation, he found a job in a butcher shop.

Meanwhile, the Germans had invaded Holland and Belgium. The impending danger prompted the British to send prisoners of war and refugees from Nazi oppression to the British colonies.

Herman arrived in Canada on the confiscated Polish ship *Sobieski*. On the same ship, travelling first class, were 300 German prisoners of war. "Before we were separated," Herman says, "the German prisoners of war sang the infamous hatred song 'When the Jewish blood jumps from the knives, everything goes twice as well.'—When I heard that song, I looked at the blue sky and said '*Shema Yisrael*...Do we [Jews] have any friends in this world?'"

In New Brunswick, they were placed in Camp Ripples where they

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Shir Chadash Sisterhood

Well, once again we had a successful meeting at the home of Sylvia Reznick.

Barbara Donen will be going to the Sisterhood convention. Remember all those jokes Barb! Be sure to have a good time and come back safely.

Our next meeting will be held at Bev Shiffman's home at Black Strap on June 9th. We plan to begin around 13:30 p.m.

I want to thank all of the ladies of Shir Chadash Sisterhood for making our meetings so enjoyable.

Bette-Ellen Gonick

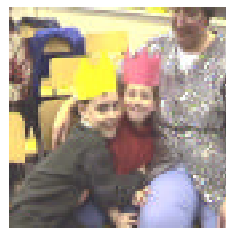
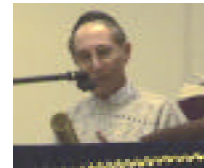
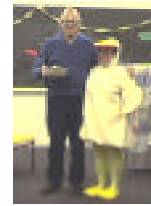
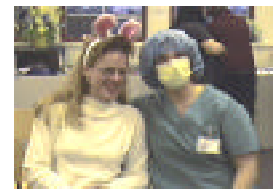
Yom Hashoah

The *Yom Hashoah* service was a quiet, solemn event. We lit candles as we remembered the six million people who were lost, along with their promise of future generations, during a very dark period in the world's history.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut

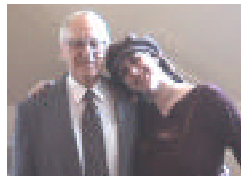
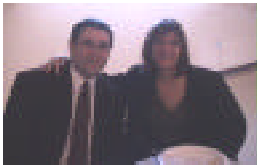
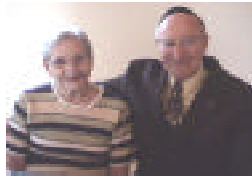
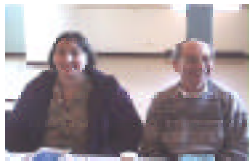
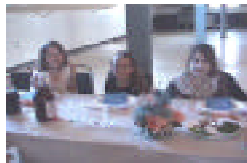
Getting warmed up on a cool evening took some time, but after a short service commemorating Israel Independence Day, our *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* service took off with singing, dancing, and fine Israeli music. Everyone enjoyed the good music, delicious refreshments, and fine company.

Purim



Pesach

Family and friends gathered together to share another wonderful Shir Chadash Passover seder. *Todah rabah* to everyone who gave of their talents, time, and company.

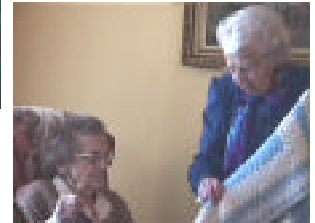


Quilts

In keeping with the concept of *Tikkun Olam*, Shir Chadash Sisterhood members have participated with Blankets for Canada, an organization that donates blankets to those in need. At our last Sisterhood meeting, we presented the squares to a representative of Blankets for Canada. We later met at the home of Barbara Donen to assemble the blankets. All the participants had fun and came away with a great sense of satisfaction for a job well done.

Our project was submitted to Women's League for Conservative Judaism as part of their International Year of the Volunteer project. We received a recognition certificate that we proudly display in the synagogue.

Barbara Donen



Simchas, Thank Yous, & Announcements

Mazel tov to:

Sam and Gertie Gross on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson in Israel.

Barbara Donen on her appointment to the executive board of the midwest branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

Jared Madsen on his graduation from the Cad Cam program.

Amanda Madsen on her graduation from Grade 12.

Manny Sonnenshein on the marriage of his daughter Olive to Benjamin Tatham.

Zara and Morris Gurstein on the marriage of their granddaughter.

Tillie Taylor on the honour bestowed upon her by the Elizabeth Fry Society.

Anna Gersher on her graduation from the library technician course.

Nadine and Jay Avivi on the engagement of their son Steven.

Happy birthday to:

Herman Neumann who will be celebrating his 95th.

Sam Gross who will be celebrating his 80th.

Hannah and Louise Altman, Ivor Basker, John Guttman, Sam Gross, Jeff and Harold Gonick, Alex Lehrer, Sara and Semyon Furman, Harley Donen, Wendy Green, Harold Shiffman, and Lisa Shiffman.

Bon voyage to:

Mary and Geoff Guttman who with their children are leaving for England.

Thank you to:

Zara Gurstein for the special events calendar.

Happy anniversary to:

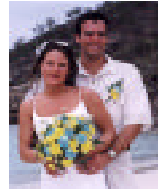
Mary and Adam Melnychuk on their 35th anniversary.

Alex and Mary Lehrer on their anniversary.

Barb and Harley Donen on their anniversary.

Bev and Jack Shiffman on the 50th anniversary.

Myra and Ben Goldstein on their anniversary.



Zac and Darcie Sparks on their first anniversary.

Speedy recovery to:

Sara Furman.

Condolences to:

Mary and Adam Melnychuk and family on the passing of Mary's mother.

Sara Furman and family on the passing of Sara's sister.

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 or Kayla Dolovich know when you have something to share.

Yahrzeits

Sivan 27, 5762–Teshrei 20, 5763
June 7–September 25, 2002

Observed on	Name
May 31 and June 1; Sivan 27	Joseph Altman
June 7 and 8; Sivan 30	Sarah Charach
June 7 and 8; Tammuz 1	Max Gropper
	Ben Shiffman
June 14 and 15; Tammuz 5	Samuel Forgan
	Zakhar Isaakov
June 14 and 15; Tammuz 9	John Adelman
June 21 and 22; Tammuz 17	Maria Kolominsky
June 28 and 29; Tammuz 19	Edward Baron
June 28 and 29; Tammuz 21	Etta Gross
June 28 and 29; Tammuz 25	Boris Zeldin
July 5 and 6; Tammuz 28	Klara Epstein
July 5 and 6; Tammuz 29	Frances Dashefsky
	Klara Furman
July 5 and 6; Av 2	Bathsheba Baron
July 12 and 13; Av 6	Etta Sonnenschein
July 12 and 13; Av 7	Vera Helfgott
July 12 and 13; Av 8	Hy Buller
July 12 and 13; Av 9	Naum Furman
	Sura Kolominsky
July 19 and 20; Av 11	Jacob Charach
July 19 and 20; Av 16	Anthony Lehrer
	David Sonnenschein
July 19 and 20; Av 17	Harry Baron
July 26 and 27; Av 23	Gershon Epstein
August 2 and 3; Av 25	Anna Rabkin
August 2 and 3; Av 30	Fannie Gropper
August 2 and 3; Elul 1	Abram Katz
August 9 and 10; Elul 4	Harry Chapman
August 16 and 17; Elul 9	Rabbi Joseph Goldstein
August 16 and 17; Elul 11	Herschel Diamond
August 30 and 31; Elul 23	Ken Epstein
September 3; Elul 26	Rachel Klein
September 6 and 7; Tishrei 3	Malchem Neumann
September 6 and 7; Tishrei 5	Morris Kaplan
September 6 and 7; Tishrei 6	Maurice Medline
September 13 and 14; Tishrei 10	John Holdstock
September 13 and 14; Teshrei 13	Abraham Jacob Basker
	Rebecca Caplan
September 13 and 14; Teshrei 14	Roger Eckenroth
	Henry Lehrer
September 20 and 21; Teshrei 20	Dora Goldstein



Der Yiddish Vinkel

Zara Gurstein

Let us all enjoy good health and pray to Gd for an answer to Israel. *Zol mir alle zein gezunt un baten Gd far ein enfer far Eretz Ysrael.*

The Peter Holdstock Heritage Room Dedication

On May 17th, the Peter Holdstock Heritage Room was dedicated in the Albert Community Centre. Presenting the dedication was Kate Waygood, member of Saskatoon City Council.

This was a wonderful gesture and meaningful dedication for a myriad of reasons. Peter loved the old building, and it was Peter, who almost single-handedly, did what was administratively and architecturally necessary not only to prevent the structure from being torn down but to remodel it into the thriving facility it has become. It was also in this room that Congregation Shir Chadash held its first service. Those who were in attendance that night may recall the joy and intensity of emotion that was present in that room.

The Peter Holdstock Heritage Room is truly an appropriate dedication, honoring his memory and his accomplishments. To put it in the words of the Building Manager Rod Davey, "...when I'm in the building, I never feel I'm alone."

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.

- Get well wishes to Bev Shiffman from Myra and Ben Goldstein.
- Get well wishes to Alf Baron from Bette-Ellen and Harold Gonick, Mary and Adam Melynychuk and Linda Epstein.
- Get well wishes to Adam Melynychuk from Myra and Ben Goldstein, and Jack and Bev Shiffman.
- *Mazel tov* to Linda Epstein from the Gersher family.
- Condolences to Joan Holdstock and family from the Gersher family and Yaakov Kolominsky.
- Condolences to Rabbi Kaplan from the Gersher family.
- Condolences to the Dowling family from Linda Epstein.
- Condolences to Mary and Adam Melynychuk and family on the death of Mary's mother from the Gersher family, Yaakov Kolominsky, Bev and Jack Shiffman, Bette-Ellen and Harold Gonick, Sam and Gertie Gross, Myra and Ben Goldstein, Nadine and Jay Avivi, Harley and Barbara Donen and Herman and Rachel Neumann.
- Condolences to Erica and Aubrey Levine, and Mrs. Furman from Myra and Ben Goldstein.

Shir Chadash Donations

The following generous donations are gratefully acknowledged:

- Happy 95th birthday to Herman Neumann from Harold and Bette-

Ellen Gonick, Alex and Mary Lehrer, Aleyna Gonick, Alf and Bessie Baron, Ivor and Suzanne Basker, Allan and Kayla Dolovich, Sam and Gertie Gross, the Gersher family and Yaakov Kolominsky, Myra and Ben Goldstein.

- Happy 90th birthday to Mrs. Jean Robinson from L.C. Lavitt.
- Happy 50th wedding anniversary to Bev and Jack Shiffman from Rachel and Herman Neumann, Sam and Gertie Gross, Alex and Mary Lehrer, Suzanne and Ivor Basker.
- In honour of granddaughter Samara Zak from Linda Epstein.
- Condolences to the Arscott family from Linda and Ruth Epstein, and Sheryl and Kjell Madsen.
- Condolences to Erica and Aubrey Levine and Mrs. Furman from Ivor and Suzanne Basker.

The Peter Holdstock Memorial Fund

- Condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Baker and family from L.C. Lavitt.
- To Joan Holdstock from the Gersher family and Yaakov Kolominsky.

The Jennie Altman Torah Fund

- Mazel tov to Morris Altman from Ben and Myra Goldstein.
- Mazel tov to Bev and Jack Shiffman on their 50th wedding anniversary from Ben and Myra Goldstein.

NOTE: For more information about the above funds, contact Joan Holdstock at 653-2162 or Kayla Dolovich at 955-2801.

Kol Echad is the newsletter of Congregation Shir Chadash, Saskatoon. Send news to Sheryl Madsen, 652-9015, <sheryl819@hotmail.com>, Kayla Dolovich at 955-2801, or Perry Millar (layout) <perry.millar@usask.ca> Check out the Website: <www.shirchadash.com>

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spent two and one-half years behind barbed wire. "We were European refugees who had fled from Nazi oppression, only to be arrested in England, shipped across the ocean, and imprisoned in the wilderness of a New Brunswick forest. We had to work clearing forests, chopping trees for 20 cents a day."

"We had a fine group of university students [at the Camp]," Herman remarks, "doctors, lawyers, professional musicians....I became friends with chemists Dr. Fritz Bender and Franz Spanier. The latter was a relative of Mrs. Fred Mendel. They suggested I apply for a job at Intercontinental Packers Ltd., which I did."

Not only did Mr. Mendel hire him, but after three months he paid the \$88 that Herman had borrowed from the Canadian Jewish Congress to make the cross-country trek. He stayed with the company for over 31 years, working his way up the ladder to become purchasing agent.

Sadly, Herman discovered after the war that his parents and two brothers had perished in the Holocaust. "When I went to Stuttgart to say good-bye to my oldest brother and my parents on August 8, 1939, I had no idea I would never see them again."

Herman first met Rachel, who would become the love of his life, when he was visiting her aunt. They didn't see one another again for a year. Eventually, though, they were married. "I took out the odd Jewish girl until I found the right one," he smiles, adding, "which is of course my wife, Rachel." They have two sons, Jack and Seymour.

Despite a life more difficult than most, Herman's faith has remained steadfast. He still davens daily.

Herman has given much to the Saskatoon Jewish community and, more specifically, to Congregation Shir Chadash. In December 2000 he was honoured with a plaque from Shir Chadash.

Herman: We thank you. We are proud of you. And we wish you and Rachel many more years of health, happiness and worship with our Shir Chadash family.