

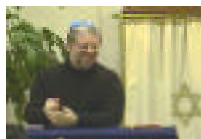


Kol Echad

The Voice of Congregation Shir Chadash

From Our Rebbe

Chazzak, Chazzak, V'nitchazek



These words, which we together recited at the completion of the book of *D'vareim*, seem to best describe Shir Chadash. With growing pains behind us, we are witnessing a rebirth of joy, of camaraderie, of learning and of sharing. Our High Holy Days services were

wonderful, with a house so full that ten additional people would have had to stand. We were blessed with a joyous service, enhanced by our *Baal T'filah*, Allan Dolovich. His voice wonderful, his *nusach* perfect, his spirit soaring. Coupled with this were the untiring efforts of our "Gabbai of Gabbais," Linda Epstein. She combined the skills of an air traffic controller with a political diplomat, and the services were as smooth as a frozen Saskatoon pond. When you add the warmth of the Congregation to this scene, we are truly one very special Shul.

We moved from one strength to another during Sukkot and through Simchat Torah Holidays, where the joy and the warmth were ever present. Throughout the entire time, congregants pitched in to make every endeavor a great success.

As we begin the Book of *B'Reishit*, beginning the cycle of Torah readings without pause from the completion of the prior book, we continue to go from strength to strength. We continue to always have more than a minyan, continue to share *simchas* and be there for each other in times of sorrow, continue to welcome new members into Judaism and into our membership, and continue to build on our already solid foundation. May G-d bless us with continued strength.

Rabbi Steven Kaplan

President's Message

Judging Halakhic Law

The art of riding, said the white knight, is to keep one's balance.

Lewis Carroll

Alice, Through the Looking Glass



How often do we hear Halakhic Law being described as archaic by those who would seek reason (or excuse) not to be bound by its precepts; that *kashrut*, for example, was intended for the Children of Israel in a hot desert climate and serves no useful purpose under modern air conditioning and refrigeration.

Halaka, that is, Jewish Law, does have set standards and measures that are clearly and unequivocally set forth.

As Maimonides points out in his *Guide for the Perplexed*, Part III, Chapter 34, "Whatever the Torah commands, whether it be of intellectual, moral, or practical nature, is directed to common and not exceptional circumstances." Inevitably, laws of general application may cause injustice in an individual or exceptional case. But "if the precepts of the Torah varied with each individual they would be imperfect in their totality, each precept being uncertain."

The existence of set standards and measure in Jewish Law does not prevent the law from requiring judges to search for a just and suitable solution in a particular case. Jewish law stipulates that a judge is required to give "a judgment that is completely and truly correct—a true judgment that is truly correct" (T.B. Shabbat 10a; Sanhedrin 7a).

What is meant by "a true judgment to its very truth" is that one should judge in accordance with the particular place and time, so that the judgment is in full conformity with the truth, rather than always inflexibly apply the law precisely as it is set forth in the Torah. For sometimes a judge's decision must go beyond the letter of the law (*lifnim mi-shurat ha-din*) and reflect what is called for by the particular time and circumstances. When the judge does not do this, then even if his

judgment is correct, it is not "a true judgment to its very truth." This is the meaning of the statement of the Sages: "Jerusalem was destroyed because they based their judgments on the law of the Torah and did not go beyond the letter of the law" (T.B. Bava Metz'a, 30b).

To this Elijah, the Gaon of Vilna would add:

Judges must also be experts in worldly matters so that they do not rule erroneously; for if they are not experts in such matters, then even if they are expert in Torah Law, the result will not be a complete and truly correct judgment; i.e., even if the judge renders a true judgment, it will not be so in the fullest sense of truth....Therefore the judge must be an expert in both fields...namely, wise in the matters of Torah and...astute with regard to worldly affairs. (Commentary of Elijah to Proverbs 6:4)

Properly interpreted and judged to "its very truth," Jewish Law does make sense and has application for all times. As an example, let us consider the oft cited general commandment "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Leviticus 18:19). It may be argued that such a commandment is naïve, impractical, and non-realistic. One's natural self-interest prevents one from loving a neighbour as (much as) oneself. Taking into consideration "worldly affairs," that is, commonsense, Hillel, stating the commandment in negative terms, "What is hateful unto you, do not do to your neighbour," rendered it realistic and applicable to all situations.

Jewish Law, properly interpreted and "judged to its very truth is indeed and will be an *Eitz Chaim*, a "tree of life" to them that grasp it.

Benjamin Goldstein

Zahava Hadassah-WIZO Is Golden

Our new Hadassah-WIZO chapter is now a reality! We have met twice, and in that time have come up with a name, have raised a small amount for local expenses, and have charted a goal for the next year at least.

Following much discussion, we decided to call our chapter *Zahava* because the cause—and our members—are truly golden (the translation of *zahav*). Because we are building a new congregation, we intend to focus on renewing our knowledge about Canadian Hadassah-WIZO and on keeping informed on what is happening with Jews in Israel and around the world.

Many of our congregants are Life Members and Life Associates. We hope to encourage them to remain involved. Those who are not in those categories, we hope you will join us as this new year gets underway.

Together we can make it happen...

Some News from Canadian Hadassah-WIZO

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO is celebrating its 85th anniversary. Its members have been lending a helping hand since 1917, and we can take pride that we are part of its many accomplishments in supporting education, medicine, social and humanitarian programs for youth, women and seniors in both Israel, and the enhancement of Jewish life in Canada. The following are suggested ways for us to recommit to the mission of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, and to celebrate this important milestone:

As a special promotion, our organization is offering a Life Membership for \$85 to young girls from birth to 21 years. But hurry—this offer runs out on December 31, 2002.

Or perhaps you might wish to give yourself, a relative, or friend the gift of Life Membership at \$200, or \$100 for Male Life Associate. What a deal!

And you can purchase the jewelled Life Membership pin with zirconias for only \$20. This beautiful pin is available to all Life Members.

Please note that the 37th National Convention of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO will take place November 16-19, 2002 at the Marriott Chateau Champlain Hotel in Montreal. There is also a Solidarity Mission planned to Israel following Convention, November 19-28. For information, contact Linda Epstein at 652-5345.

For Hadassah-WIZO cards contact Anna Gersher at 955-1028. (Be patient, the National Office is just sending them out and she should have them very soon.)

We join with Jews around the world in our hope for peace.

Chanukah Celebrations

Celebrate Chanukah with us on December 1 at 7:30 p.m. We will begin with a short, joyous service, followed by latkes, music from *Heise Latkes*, and a sharing experience. Where will this all take place? At our Shul, of course.

Fourth Year Celebration

November 1, 2002, marked the fourth year that Rabbi Kaplan has been in Saskatoon. A special Oneg was held in his honour. Rabbi Kaplan has brought the love of Judaism, the joy of community, and a sense of humour to our congregation. These, indeed, are the central purposes of Congregation Shir Chadash. We thank him and wish him many more years with Shir Chadash.

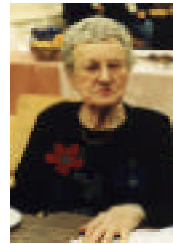
Religious School and Adult Hebrew Literacy

Shalom Aleichem. The last year has seen tremendous activity in our Religious School and Adult Hebrew Literacy program. Children's classes last year were a great success and we tripled our numbers. There was lots of fun and activity and we often found our Shul decorated with crafts for Chanukah, Purim, Pesach, and other events. Classes have begun and the children are busy preparing for Chanukah.

The adult group ended in June and has been again meeting regularly. The adults continue to develop their reading and conversational skills. Ruth Epstein, who teaches the group, is taking a thematic approach this year. Each week or two the group will focus on a different topic such as food (of course), family, travel in Israel, jobs and work, small talk, and so on. They are also learning some songs and dances, but they say they are not yet ready for performance! Everyone is welcome to join us Wednesday evenings at 7:30. The tea is always hot, the company is great, and we're all enjoying the learning that takes place! Don't worry about your knowledge in Hebrew—we welcome all levels and you'll be up-to-speed before you know it.

For your information, the official policy to date has been to welcome all to our classes. The teachers, who bring their multifaceted skills into play to enrich their students' learning experiences, are all volunteers who offer their services for free. Therefore, we do not charge members for our classes but have requested a donation from non-members to cover materials costs.

We're Proud of You... Tillie Taylor



She enters our shul with a spring in her step and a smile that lights up the room. It is impossible not to smile back. Tillie Taylor exemplifies the joy that is Shir Chadash.

When Tillie began attending services regularly, shortly after Rabbi Kaplan arrived in Saskatoon, she was recovering from a stroke and walked with a cane. Today, the cane is gone and she is much improved...and learning to use the Internet! In 1999, while on her way to Yom Kippur Services, the car in which Tillie was riding collided with a van and flipped over. Miraculously, Tillie not only survived, but by the next day when the Rabbi went to visit, she was answering her own door and serving tea. A feisty lady!

Born Tillie Goldenberg, eldest of four children of J.M. and Sarah Goldenberg on November 11, 1922, Tillie learned her parents' lessons of service to community well. She has long been a role model for women in Saskatchewan.

As a young woman, she was active in the Youth Congress Movement, an organization dedicated to finding solutions to poverty and the threat of war.

In 1941, she graduated from College of Arts and Science at the University of Saskatchewan. That same year, at age 18, she married George Taylor, who became a prominent labour lawyer. In 1957, she graduated from law school.

Tillie served as deputy registrar in the Saskatoon Land Titles Office until 1960, when she was appointed as a provincial magistrate (now provincial court judge)—the first woman to hold such a post. She was known for her commonsense and sensitive approach to legal issues. During that time, she was a member of the first board of directors of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women and a board member of and worked with the Canadian Council of Social

Development. She also worked with the John Howard Society on behalf of women prisoners.

In 1972, Tillie pioneered the protection of minority and individual rights when she established and became the first chairperson of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission. While still sitting as a judge, she built the commission, established its legal mandate, and helped mould the social conscience of Saskatchewan citizens. She also served as president of the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies.

In 1996, Tillie received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. The following year, her contribution was recognized at the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission. This year, the Elizabeth Fry Society acknowledged her work in transporting children to visit their mothers in Pine Grove.

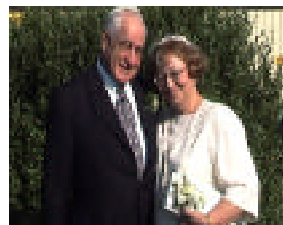
Tillie Taylor celebrated her 80th birthday in November at a party attended by dignitaries, family, friends and, of course, fellow members of Shir Chadash (en force). A special kiddush lunch was held for her at our congregation November 9.

Happy Birthday, Tillie. We wish you good health and joy for many years to come.



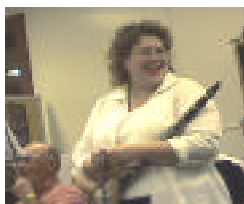
ק'ק' שיר חדש

Mazal Tov Burna Purkin and Manny Sonnenschein



Colette's Farewell

Members of Shir Chadash gathered to say farewell to Colette Simonot who has gone to Quebec to complete a PhD in music. The *Heise Latkes* and the congregation thank her and all will miss the brilliance of her clarinet playing.



Simchas, Thank Yous, & Announcements

Mazal tov to:

Manny Sonnenschein and Burna Purkin on their marriage.

Tillie Taylor on the marriage of her grandson.

Ben and Myra Goldstein on the *Bat Mitzvah* of their granddaughter.

Katherine Rafoss and Hanna Jodrey on becoming our newest members.

Rabbi Kaplan, upon his son's being appointed a Graduate Teaching Assistant. Jeffrey is the only person in the Masters degree program to have been given this honor, usually given to Doctoral students.

Happy anniversary to:

Harold and Bette-Ellen Gonick.

Happy birthday to:

Linda Epstein, Suzanne Basker, Lindsay Green, Harley Donen, Anna and Malvina Gersher, Sylvia Reznick, Bette-Ellen Gonick, Paula Isaakov, Joan Holdstock, Kjell Madsen, and Amanda Madsen.

Tillie Taylor on her 80th birthday.

Thank you to:

Gwendolyn Adrian for the eternal light.

The Baskers for the donation of a *Sim Shalom Siddur* in honour of Sam and Gertie Gross.

Katherine Rafoss for her donations in appreciation of Rabbi Kaplan, Gwendolyn Adrian, Sam Gross, and Allan Dolovich.

Linda Epstein for her generous donations in honour of Kjell Madsen, designer and builder of Shir Chadash's reading table and in honour of her granddaughter Samara.

Shir Chadash members for their good wishes on the occasion of our anniversary, from Harold and Bette-Ellen Gonick.

Chan Katzman for laying a wreath for Shir Chadash at the Remembrance Day service,

R. Saidman for her donation.

Joan Holdstock for the crockpot.

Speedy recovery to:

Lisa Shiffman who is recovering from foot surgery.

Ben Goldstein who is out of the ospital and again with us at services.

Condolences to:

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

Rabbi Kaplan on the loss of his uncle, Irving Levinson.

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.

Thank You

Thanks to Rabbi Steven Kaplan for his seemingly endless store of wisdom and patience during the past months of study and thanks to Gwendolyn Adrian, Allan Dolovich, and Sam Gross for lending warmth and wisdom to their official duties in welcoming me to the people Israel.

Katherine Rafoss

Yahrzeits

Kislev 2-Adar 28-I, 5763
November 1, 2002-March 1, 2003

Civil Date	Name	Observed on
November 1 & 2	Moishe Gross	2 Kislev
	Adolf Lehrer	
	Julie Sarblut	
November 8 & 9	Anette Sternberg	3 Kislev
	Sarah Sharzer	5 Kislev
	Joseph Segal	9 Kislev
	Annie Shiffman	10 Kislev
November 15 & 16	Isaac Goldenberg	11 Kislev
	Jacob Neumann	17 Kislev
November 22 & 23	Arnold Goldstein	23 Kislev
	Haim Kolominsky	24 Kislev
November 29 & 30	Beatrice Chapman	1 Tevet
	Margaret Cohen	
December 6 & 7	Chaje Goldenberg	2 Tevet
	Berta Golod	5 Tevet
	Joseph Donen	7 Tevet
	Sarah Basker	8 Tevet
December 13 & 14	Leon Dragushan	15 Tevet
December 20 & 21	Minnie Cramer	18 Tevet
	Sheina Zeldin	20 Tevet
	Sarah Epstein	
	Sarah Goldenberg	22 Tevet
	Peter Holdstock	
December 27 & 28	Charlotte Fine	28 Tevet
January 3 & 4	Chaim Reznick	3 Shevet
	Mizal Isaakov	4 Shevet
January 10 & 11	Celia Reznick	10 Shevet
	Hymie Orolowitz	11 Shevet
	Rose Gonick	12 Shevet
	Louis Spector	13 Shevet
January 17 & 18	Lida Isaakov	18 Shevet
January 24 & 25	Joseph Gonick	23 Shevet
	Freda Katz	25 Shevet
January 31 & February 1	Millie Diamond	3 Adar-I
	Arthur Brown	5 Adar-I
February 14 & 15	Irene Abramson	14 Adar-I
	Jacob Columbia	15 Adar-I
February 21 & 22	Itta Golumbia	20 Adar-I
	Jacob Rabkin	21 Adar-I
	Rebecca Segal	24 Adar-I
Feb. 28 & March 1	Sam Sternberg	28 Adar-I



Der Yiddish Vinkel

Anonymous

Yiddish was the secret code, therefore I don't *farshtey*,
A *bisseleh* maybe here and there, the rest has gone to waste.

Sadly when I hear it now, I only get the gist,
My *Bubbeh* spoke it beautifully; but me I am *tsemisht*.

So *oich un vei* as I should say, or even *oy vei-iz mir*,
Though my *pisk* is lacking Yiddish, it's familiar to my ear.

Es iz a shandeh far di kinder that I don't know it better
(Though it's really *nishtgeferlich* when one needs to write a letter).

But when it comes to characters, there's really no contention,
No other linguist can compete with honourable *mentshen*:

They have *nebbishes* and *nebechels* and others without *mazel*,
Then too, *schmendriks* and *schlemiels*, and let's not forget *schlimazels*.

These words are so precise and descriptive to the listener,
So much better than "a pill" is to call someone "*farbissener*."

Or—that a brazen woman would be better called *chaleria*,
and you'll agree *farklemp* says more than does hysteria.

I'm not *haken dir a tshainik* and I hope I'm not a *kvetch*,
But isn't *mi-iskeit kinder*, than to call someone a wretch?

continued on page 16

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.

- Happy birthday to Herman Neumann from Sara and Semyon Furman.
- Happy anniversary to Bev and Jack Shiffman from Barb and Harley Donen, Allan and Kayla Dolovich, Morley and Tina Lehrer.
- Condolences to W. Arscott from Tina and Morley Lehrer.

Shir Chadash Donations

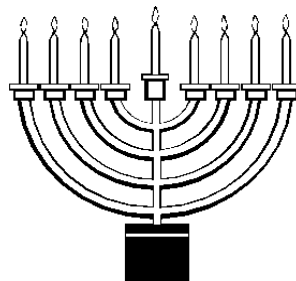
The following generous donations are gratefully acknowledged:

- Happy 95th birthday to Herman Neumann from Manny and Max Sonnenschein, Burna Purkin, Linda and Ruth Epstein, Kjell and Sheryl Madsen, Lawrence, Penny, and Rebecca Clein.
- *Mazea tov* to Burna Purkin and Manny Sonnenschein from Alf and Bessie Baron, Sam and Gertie Gross, Alex and Mary Lehrer, the Baskers, Ben and Myra Goldstein, Lee and Bernie Simpson, Noel and Tammy Purkin, Freda Purkin, Linda Epstein, Ruth Epstein, Perry Millar, Sheryl and Kjell Madsen, the Dolovichs, Joan Holdstock, Rachel and Herman Neumann, Adam and Mary Melynychuk.
- Happy birthday to Sam Gross from Rachel and Herman Neumann, Alex and Mary Lehrer, Linda Epstein, the Baskers, the Dolovichs.
- Condolences to Sara Furman from Myra and Ben Goldstein

The Peter Holdstock Memorial Fund

- Happy birthday to Herman Neumann from Joan Holdstock.

NOTE: For donation cards for Shir Chadash, the Peter Holdstock Memorial Fund, and the Jennie Altman Torah Fund, contact Joan Holdstock 653-2162 or Kayla Dolovich 955-2801



Note from the editors.

We know that the print quality in the last few issues has not been as high as we would like it to be. We're working on the problem and hope that you will see an improvement in the next issue.

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>

In mitten dirinnen, I hear *Bubbeh* say, "It's *nechtiker tog*, don't fear,
To me you're still a *maven*, *zol zein shah*, don't fill my ear.

A *leben ohf dein kepple*, I don't mean to interrupt,
But you are speaking *narishkeit*...and a *gezunt of dein kop!*

Glossary

Farshtey: (do you?) understand

Bisseleh: a little

Tsemisht: confused or mixed up

Oich un vei: woe is me

Oy veiz mir: woe is me

Pisk: mouth

Naches: joy, gratification

Shandeh far di kinder: a pity/shame for the children

Nishtgeferlich: not so terrible

Nebbishes: a simpleton, a wimp

Nebechels: a pitiful person or playing the role of being one

Schlemiels: clumsy bungler

Farbissener: bitter person

Chaleria: term of derision, literally a person who dispenses cholera

Farklempf: choked with emotion

Haken dir a tshainik: don't bother me

Mi-iskeit: homely person

In mitten dirinnen: all of a sudden, literally in the middle of everything

Nechtiker tog: forget it, literally yesterday's day

Zol zein shah: shh!, be quiet

Leben ohf dein kepple: like a blessing of a mother to a child; literally life of your little head

Narishkeit: silliness

Gezunt of dein kop: good health; also like a blessing, literally good health on your head