

Issue 3

September-October 2000



Kol Ehad



The Voice of Congregation Shir Chadash

From Our Rebbe

Our First High Holy Days Together

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are right around the corner. This will be our first High Holy Days together as a new congregation, a bright shining star in Saskatoon's Jewish history. What does this experience really mean?

It means that all the joy, spirituality, sharing, and friendship that we experience every time we're together will be highlighted at this time of year. It reflects the optimism and excitement that we have each time a new member joins us, or prayerbooks and Torahs are donated to us. It implies that anyone wishing to experience an authentic form of prayer experience in a synagogue offering to members a Hebrew School, Adult Education program, cemetery, all Shabbat and holiday services, and the first and only strictly kosher community Pesach seder, can find it at Shir Chadash. Truly, we all have a lot to be thankful for.

We need remember that while we delight in looking at our accomplishments at this time of year, we owe thanks to G-d. Despite annoyances that may come our way, we have our health, our faculties, and each other. At Rosh Hashanah, we acknowledge G-d's kingship over humankind. This year, as we chant the prayers of the machzor, take the time to offer a personal "thank you." However you wish to define G-d, a personal "thanks" helps make a connection between you and the Infinite, reigniting the Divine Sparks within us and seeing it reflect in all areas of our lives.

From my family to yours, a joyous, prosperous, and healthy New Year.

Rabbi Steven J. Kaplan.

Presidents' Message

As I write this message, two things occur to me. The first is that we are approaching our sixth month as an official Jewish congregation. That's right...September 9, marks six months since a group of committed Jews in Saskatoon decided to create a new congregation! And what a congregation it is—continuing to grow in joy and spirituality...and continuing to grow in membership as well (our members span ages 5 months to over 100 years old and are from all walks of life). I welcome each and every one of you on behalf of the Presidents and the Board of Directors of Shir Chadash.

During this time, we have also had many firsts—the first wedding (Aviva (Kohen) and Alon Zack) and the first Bat Mitzvah (Sarina Gersher) as well as “first” celebrations of life cycle and Jewish calendar events.

The second thing that occurred to me was how like a family we have become—sharing joys and sorrows, celebrating one another's accomplishments, and enjoying one another's company. Our attendance at services remained strong even throughout the summer! And through it all, we support one another and help one another out physically, morally, and financially. We are generous and giving of our time and money because we care.

During this week (which happens to be the week of the Ex), I also thought about the roller coaster ride that we have had and will continue to have for awhile. I have no doubt that we will survive this ride and be the better for it because I believe that Hashem is at the helm, that our congregation was meant to be, and that G-d is watching over us. All we need to do is to continue to stick together.

I welcome Ben Goldstein as Shir Chadash Co-President while Morris Altman is away. Ben has been a constant support and advisor, and I am proud to work with him.

With the High Holy Days around the corner, I wish each and every one of you a *Shana Tova*, an easy Fast and may we go together from strength to strength.

Linda Epstein, Co-President

High Holy Day Services

High Holy Day services will be held at the Albert Community Centre, 610 Clarence Avenue S. We hope to see you all there. Let us know if there are others who would be interested in joining us. Attendance is free for members. For non-members, the fee is \$200 per family unit. This includes parents and immediate dependent children. For single non-members, the charge will be \$125. Students are free. For further information, phone the synagogue at 242-3756 and leave a message.

Erev Rosh Hashanah Friday, September 29–7:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah, First Day Saturday, September 30–9:00 a.m.; evening at 7:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah, Second Day Sunday, October 1–9:00 a.m.

Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre Sunday, October 8–6:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur Morning Monday, October 9–9:00 a.m.

Yom Kippur Evening Monday, October 9–6:00 p.m.

Sukkot and Simchat Torah Service times to be announced.

Condolences

Our deepest condolences to Tina and Morley, and Mary and Alex Lehrer, and to Sarina (Lehrer) and her husband Yossi David. Tina and Morley's son Anthony died tragically in a highway accident on August 17. Your Shir Chadash family is thinking of you at this difficult time and offer our sincere care and support to you and your entire family.

Condolences to Lisa Shiffman and family on the passing of Lisa's uncle, John Luciak.

Condolences to Boris Isaakov on the passing of his nephew.

News

New Books: We have received 150 Mahzorim (High Holy Day prayer books) from Indiana. These are being donated by Irving Goldenberg of Vancouver, B.C. (son to J.M. and Sarah Goldenberg, brother to Tillie Taylor, and cousin to our Irving). We thank him for his generosity.

In addition, Morris Altman has done it again! He has managed to purchase Sim Shalom siddurim for Shabbat services from Florida at an extremely low price. While they last, the donation bookplates to sponsor these prayer books for congregation Shir Chadash will cost \$18 ("chai").

Fundraising: Froehlich 2000 (a multi-ethnic celebration under one roof) is in the works and will happen in January 2001. Malvina Gersher is chairing this event, with Rachel Donen and Lisa Shiffman assisting. We have a list of people who are willing to help. If you are already on that list, you will be contacted soon. If you haven't signed up, please contact Malvina to say you are interested.

Barb Donen is making beautiful blue velvet cushions to use on the chairs at Shir Chadash. You can keep your tushy comfortable for only \$15. Proceeds to Shir Chadash. Contact Barb at 244-3879 to purchase yours.

We hope to hold other fund-raisers throughout the year and are looking into several possibilities. If you have any ideas or would like to help out on the fundraising committee, please contact Linda Epstein at 652-5345.

Garage Sale: This summer, Shir Chadash held its first garage sale at the home of Sam and Gertie Gross. Our congregants were most generous with donations of household items, books, and other reusable items. Despite having to close for Shabbat, we made an excellent profit. We extend a big thank you to those who put in so much time and effort, though it looked like everyone was having a bit too much fun! A special thanks to Sam and Gertie and to all those who pitched in to help.

We will be having another garage sale to sell remaining items, plus newly donated items on Sunday, August 27 at the home of Allan and Kayla Dolovich. Please take your items (no clothing please) to 1506 McKercher Drive. Please be as generous as you can and please volunteer to help out. Call Kayla directly at 955-2801 for information.

Education: Our Hebrew School students received their certificates at Friday night services on June 30th. Congratulations kids!! The Adult Education Hebrew class (and a couple of extras) celebrated its final class at Café Casa on Broadway Avenue on June 19. All but two of the class were able to attend. Everyone in the group ordered their meals in Hebrew! The group promised Morah Ruth that they will study their *alef beth* hard all summer and are anxious to start up again in the Fall.



Adult Education Hebrew classes will commence again on Thursday, September 7, 7:30 p.m. at Shir Chadash. Pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah classes will start on Sunday, September 10 at 10:00 a.m. Children's classes will start September 7 at 4:00 p.m. For more information contact Anna Gersher at 955-1028. Other classes will be announced. Costs for non-members to be announced.

Our Daveners: Rabbi Kaplan continues to teach a group of those wishing to daven at our Shabbat services. To date, in addition to Herman Neumann, our regular, new daveners include Wendy Green, Morris Gurstein, Rebecca Clein, and Ben Goldstein (who fills in when our Rabbi is away). Let's not forget our mini-choir, comprised of Penny Clein, Louise Altman, Wendy Green, and Rebecca Clein. *Yasher Koach*

to them all, and to Rabbi Kaplan, who continually shows the depths of his knowledge as he teaches us.

This is what this congregation is all about. Sharing the joy of praying, the joy of Judaism with each other.

Events

Shir Chadash's First Wedding

On Saturday, May 27 at sundown, following a cocktail party on the Terrace at the Delta Bessborough Hotel, Aviva Kohen (daughter of Linda Epstein and Yossi Kohen) and Alon Zack were married in a beautiful and meaningful outdoor ceremony conducted by our Rabbi Kaplan. Despite warnings all week that there was a 70% chance of rain, May 27 was a clear day and evening. The chupah for the wedding was topped with Aviva's grandfather's (Ken Epstein's) tallit. The glass used at the end of the ceremony had belonged to her grandmother Rita. Both items brought Aviva's maternal grandparents into the wedding circle. Following the wedding, the celebration continued with joyous dancing to the music of Juke Joint Jump, a Saskatoon jazz band.

This wedding was an international event, with guests from Israel, France, the United States, and from across western Canada. Linda Epstein is pleased to welcome this international family as her *machatuniste* and is overjoyed to have such a wonderful son-in-law.



Because space was limited at the Bessborough, Linda hosted a Sunday brunch for Saskatoon friends, family, and out-of-towners. The brunch was held at the Faculty Club, a beautiful setting for the end of a memorable weekend.

The couple reside in Edmonton. Aviva is Communications and Events Manager for a company organizing trade shows. Alon is Commercial Accounts Manager at a bank.

Gersher Bat Mitzvah

As the Rabbi said to Sarina: She could not be the first born or the first Bat Mitzvah in her family, and it is unlikely that she'll be the first wedding, but Sarina Gersher's name will go down in history as the first Bat Mitzvah in the Shir Chadash family, and we are all very proud to rejoice with her and with her family!

Sarina did a beautiful job on her Maftir and Haftora, chanting her portion clearly and confidently in front of a capacity crowd, (standing room only for late-comers) in the auditorium at the Albert Community Centre.



Afterwards we all enjoyed a beautiful Kiddush luncheon hosted by her grandfather and Shir Chadash member, Yakov Kolominsky. The very special day continued with a dance and late meal in the evening. Everyone had a wonderful time. A thank you to the family for being wonderful hosts and hostesses and congratulations to Sarina for a job well done.

The Gersher family extends a big thank you to Shir Chadash members for their help and support during Sarina's Bat Mitzvah.

Slide Show

Herschel Schosteck assisted by his sister, Sara Williams, presented a very interesting slide presentation about his recent trip to Israel. He highlighted his camel trip across the Negev...and the way in which where he went and what he saw related to portions of the Torah. Those who attended gained new insights into what the Israel experience can bring. A huge thank you to Herschel for sharing his trip and its meaning with us. As we go to press, we have learned that Herschel has concluded a second camel trip across the Negev!

Farewell to the Altmans

A farewell and appreciation dinner for Louise, Morris, and Hannah Altman was held on Saturday, August 12 at Riverside Golf and Country Club. During and after a delicious meal, Shir Chadash members and friends enjoyed the usual fellowship we share whenever we get together. Zara Gurstein, who planned the event, gave a speech praising Rabbi Kaplan, each Shir Chadash member present, and especially Louise and Morris for their dedication to our new Shul. She presented the honourees with a plaque recognizing them as amongst the founding members. The evening ended with much song, warm conversation, and good cheer!

Simchas, Thank You & Announcements

Thanks to Geoff Guttman for getting our website up and running! It's <www.shirchadash.com>

Thank you to Judge Ben Goldstein who has agreed to be Co-President of Shir Chadash while Morris Altman is away.

Shir Chadash has now received 150 Mahzorim donated by Irving Goldenberg of British Columbia (son of J.M. and Sarah Goldenberg, sister to Tillie Taylor, and cousin to our Irving).



All the best to Gertie and Sam Gross on their purchase of a condo! No more lawns to cut! Also, congratulations to Sam and Gertie and grandson Moishe Gross who had his Bar Mitzvah in Israel on April 5. Moishe is the son of proud parents Jeffrey and Helen.

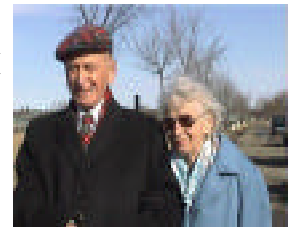
Thank you to Zara and Morris Gurstein for their donation of a freezer in honour of the daughter Miriam's wedding to Dr. Danny Bercovich of Montreal. And congratulations to the happy couple!

Best wishes to Alex Lehrer who celebrated his 87th birthday in June, and to Alex and Mary who celebrated their 63rd anniversary on Alex's birthday.

All the best to Tina Lehrer, Wendy Green, and Penny Clein, all of whom recently celebrated their 50th birthdays.

Congratulations also to Rebecca Clein who now has a place of her own!

Warm wishes to Herman Neumann who celebrated his 93rd!!! birthday in June and still looks and acts young. Rachel and Herman Neumann recently also celebrated their 45th anniversary.



Thank you to Linda Epstein, Ruth Epstein, and the Madsen family for donating a Shofar in honour of the memory of their parents, Rita and Ken Epstein. Appreciation is extended to Pat and Leon Basker in Israel for selecting it and to Bette Ellen Gonick for bringing it home to our Shul.

Thank you to Bette Ellen and Harold Gonick who also brought home a Yad for Shir Chadash while on a recent trip to Israel.

Warm regards to Sarah Furman who celebrated her 75th birthday and to Semyon Furman who celebrated his 76th birthday also in July. Sarah is seen here with Linda Epstein.



Warm thanks to Randee Kaplan, who led services with her father, Rabbi Kaplan when she was visiting.

Mazal tov to Randee Kaplan (the Rabbi's baby!!), who was awarded nearly \$20,000 in academic scholarships.

Thank you to Sylvia Reznick for her generous donation on behalf of her grandson Dean Donnelly, his wife Marlene, and their new son Ethan (a great-grandson for Sylvia)!

Shir Chadash welcomes Sylvia Reznick of Saskatoon, and Marlene, Dean, and Ethan Donnelly of Vancouver to our Congregation. The new members were honoured at the August 18 oneg.

Welcome to new member, Murray Gross.

Congratulations to Joel Donen on receiving a Petro Canada Olympic Torch Scholarship to assist him pursue his level 4 coaching certification at the National Coaching Institute in Toronto. Joel is also pursuing an MEd at the University of Victoria.

Sincere appreciation to Rebecca, Penny, and Laurence Clein for putting together the brochures and the Shiva books.

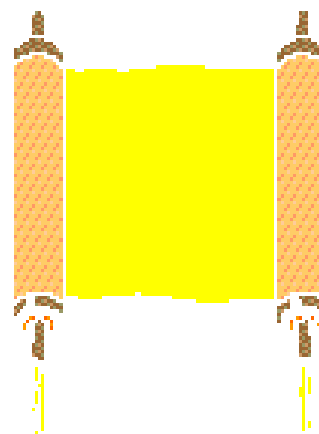
Appreciation to Len Pentol for his kind donation.

Herring: Zara will cream the herring if you bring it to her! Zara and Morris are also willing to purchase the herring at Costco for \$5.95 if anyone wishes them to do so. For more information call 242-7059.

Kol Echad is kool: Sincere appreciation to Penny and Lawrence Clein for donating the air conditioner!! Thanks also to the Gonicks for the donation of a fan.

Joan and Peter Holdstock write: We recently arrived home and found our *Kol Echad*. What a joy! We could not help noticing how good it felt to read our own newsletter and the family news it contains. The cheery yellow colour and the pictures are wonderful and make it all so relevant. Thanks a million for a terrific job.

[Editors' note]: Blush...your welcome!



Yahrzeits

Av 24, 5760 to Heshvan 5, 5761
Aug. 23 to Nov. 3, 2000

Observed on	Name
Aug. 24/Av 23	Gershon Epstein
Aug. 26/Av 25	Anna Rabkin
Aug. 31/Av 30	Fannie Gropper
Sept. 1/ Elul 1	Abram Katz
Sept. 6/Elul 6	Joseph Sandbrand
Sept. 9/Elul 9	Rabbi Josef Goldstein
Sept. 11/Elul 11	Herschel Diamond
Sept. 19/Elul 19	Katherine Cantin
Sept. 21/Elul 21	Harry Wine
Sept. 23/Elul 23	Ken Epstein
Sept. 26/Elul 26	Rachel Clein
Oct. 2/Tishri 3	Malchem Neumann
Oct. 4/Tishri 5	Morris Kaplan
Oct. 5/Tishri 6	Maurice Medline
Oct. 9/Tishri 10	John Holdstock
Oct 23/Tishri 13	Rebecca Caplan
Oct. 13/Tishri 14	Henry Lehrer
Oct. 19/Tishri 20	Dora Goldstein
Oct. 22/Tishri 23	Sylvia Caplan
Oct. 25/Tishri	Philip Baron
Nov. 3/Heshvan 5	Edward (Joe) Larter

Apologies for any errors or omissions. Please let us know Yahrzeit dates you observe by filling in forms provided at the Shul or by contacting Peter Holdstock at 653-2162.

Der Yiddish Vinkel

(The Yiddish Corner)

by Sam Gross

There is a resurgence of Yiddish taking place in North America as well as Israel. The stunning revival of Klezmer music is only one facet of this great resurgence. Yiddish is now being taught in many universities in the United States and Canada and Yiddish plays are being performed in all major cities where Jews reside. Let us never forget that Yiddish was the language spoken by most of those who perished in the Holocaust.

I would like to end this column with two common Yiddish phrases:

- *Der Pintele Yid*—the Jewish Point, that ultimate sense of identification that is said to glow, be it ever so faintly, within every Jew despite the distance he or she may have wandered from his or her roots.
- *Yidden, fun vanent kumpt ihr?*—the hail in Yiddish...Jews, where do you come from?

Donation Cards

Thank you for the generosity of the following for their donations. For more information, contact Barb Donen, 244-3879. Please let Barb know whether or not you want your name mentioned in the newsletter.

Thank you to those who donated...

...on the occasion of Stephen Avivi's Graduation, College of Commerce, donation from Kayla and Allan Dolovich.

...on the occasion of Aaron Avivi's Graduation from High School, donation from Kayla and Allan Dolovich.

...congratulating Joel Donen on receiving a Petro Canada Olympic Torch Scholarship to assist him pursue his level 4 coaching certification at the National Coaching Institute in Toronto. Joel is also pursuing an MEd at the University of Victoria.

...on the occasion Nadene Avivi's children's graduations, donation from Linda Epstein.

...happy birthday wishes to Susanne Basker, donation from Gertie and Sam Gross.

...happy 93rd birthday wishes to Herman Neumann's, donations from Penny and Lawrence Clein, Sarina Gersher, Wendy Green.

...happy birthday wishes to Judge Ben Goldstein, donations from Kayla and Allan Dolovich, Harley and Barbara Donen, Rachel and Herman Neumann, Ivor and Suzanne Basker, Jack and Bev Shiffman, Harold and Bette Ellen Gonick, Mary and Adam Melnychuk.

...happy birthday wishes to Tina Lehrer, donations from Mary and Adam Melnychuk, Harold and Bette Ellen Gonick,

...happy birthday wishes to Linda Epstein's, donation from Ruth Epstein.

...happy birthday wishes to Ivor Basker, donations from Gertie and Sam Gross, Louise and Morris Altman.

...happy 45th anniversary wishes to Rachel and Herman Neumann, donation from Linda Epstein.

...happy 33rd anniversary wishes to Mary and Adam Melnychuk, donations received from Harold and Bette Ellen Gonick.

...to Zara and Morris Gurstein simchas, donations from Harold and Bette Ellen Gonick.

...honouring Mitchell Shechtman on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah, donation from Zara and Morris Gurstein.

...mazel tov to Ann Shechtman on the Bar Mitzvah of grandson, Mitchell, donation from Kayla and Allan Dolovich.

...get well wishes to Mary and Alex Lehrer, donation from Rachel and Herman Neumann.

...get well wishes to Boris Isaakov, donations from Linda, Epstein, Bette Ellen and Harold Gonick.

...get well wishes to Lotte Stern, donation from Rachel and Herman Neumann.

...expressions of condolence to Mary and Alex and Tina and Morley Lehrer and family, donations from Bev and Jack Shiffman, Lisa and Harold Shiffman, Judy and Mitch Kassen, Bette Ellen and Harold Gonick, Joan and Peter Holdstock, Linda Epstein, Ruth Epstein, Barb and Harley Donen, Alan and Kayla Dolovich, Myra and Ben Goldstein.

...expressions of condolence to Mr. and Mrs. Archie Shapiro, donation from Nadene Avivi.

...expressions of condolence to Mrs. Ayala Manolson, donation from Nadene Avivi.

...expressions of condolence to Sheena Weiss, donations from Mary and Adam Melnychuk.

...expressions of condolence to Kayla Hoch, donation from Harold and Bette Ellen Gonick, Zara and Morris Gurstein, Myra and Ben Goldstein.

...expressions of condolence to Boris Isaakov, donation from Linda Epstein.

...expressions of condolence to Elaine Sharfe, donations from Harold and Bette Ellen Gonick, Myra and Ben Goldstein.

...expressions of condolence to Gladys Rose, donation from Myra and Ben Goldstein.

...expressions of condolence to Ida and Art Epstein, donation from Linda Epstein, Sheryl Madsen, Ruth Epstein.

...expressions of condolence to Skip Kutz, donation from Linda and Ruth Epstein.

...yahrzeit donations from Bev and Jack Shiffman.

Editors' Note

Kol Echad is a "news" letter and as such has a policy of publishing the following items related to our congregation: news, simchas, donations, thank yous, yahrzeits, and events. We also accept card-size advertisements for \$10 each to help cover the the cost of publication. We do not publish long articles or an individual viewpoints (unless, of course, they praise our newsletter!). We welcome your submissions in areas that we do cover. We also encourage you to pick up Rabbi Steven Kaplan's excellent brochures, housed at Shir Chadash, on various aspects on Judaism.

Advertisements

Karaoke Rentals

From Frank Sinatra
to the Beatles
to The Backstreet Boys!
Call Lisa @ 955 432

Light Repairs and Painting

Call Adam Melnychuk
653-2453

A & D Automotive

Used Car Sales & General Repairs
David Gersher and Peter Thelander
1625 Ontario Ave. 652-3656
Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 1S7
After Hours/Weekend
241-5900 and 241-6364

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, ruthenstein@hotmail.co Layout and design Perry Millar.