

Tefilagram

September 2001

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

Elul 5761

High Holiday Services Again At Talmud Torah

The old auditorium of the Vancouver Talmud Torah at 998 West 26th and Oak Street will again be the venue for Shaarey Tefilah's Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services this year.

It is spacious and will accommodate the three kinds of seating as last year. Most importantly, there will be room as well for our children within the same facility, See the High Holiday schedule below for the children's services.

The auditorium will be carpeted and the plant Mechitzahs and

flowers will provide us with a warm and comfortable place to daven. Rabbi Singer and Cantor Eskin will lead our services and once again help us achieve our spiritual goals in a Shaarey Tefilah manner. Please remember that the services to be held at the Talmud Torah are Erev Rosh Hashana, first day of Rosh Hashana, second day of Rosh Hashana, Kol Nidre night and Yom Kippur day. All other services will be at our synagogue.

Please note that parking is not available at Talmud Torah nor permitted at the Beth Israel lot.

Schedule of Services for High Holy Days and Chaggim 2001-5762

Selichot	Sat Sep 8	Reception & Service	11 pm	Yom Kippur	Thurs Sep 27	Shacharit	9 am
						Mincha	5 pm
						Havdalah	7:50 pm
						Congregational Break the Fast	
Erev Rosh Hashana	Mon Sep 17	Mincha	6 pm	Build Succah Party	Sun Sep 30		10 am
Rosh Hashana Day 1	Tues Sep 18	Shacharit	8 am	Succot Day 1	Tues Oct 2	Shacharit	9 am
		Learner's Srvc	4 pm	Succot Day 2	Wed Oct 3	Shacharit	9 am
		Tashlich QE Park	4:30 pm				
		Mincha	7 pm	Kids Succah Sleepover	Sat Oct 6		8 pm
Rosh Hashana Day 2	Wed Sep 19	Shacharit	8 am	Hashana Rabba	Mon Oct 8	Shacharit	7 am
		Mincha	7 pm			Mincha	6 pm
Fast of Gedalia	Thurs Sep 20			Shemini Atzeret	Tues Oct 9	Shacharit	9 am
Shabbat Shuva	Fri Sep 21	Mincha	6 pm	Erev Simchat Torah	Tues Oct 9	Mincha	6 pm
	Sat Sep 22	Shacharit	9 am	Simchat Torah	Wed Oct 10	Shacharit	9 am
Erev Yom Kippur	Wed Sep 26	Kol Nidre	6:30 pm				

Children's Programme for both days of Rosh Hashana and for Yom Kippur

Child Minding for all ages	10:00 am to 12:15 pm
Preschool programme	10:30 am to 11:00 am
Grades 4 to 6	10:30 am to 11:15 am
Grades 1 to 3	11:30 am to 12:15 pm



FLASH!!! Newest Singer a Boy!

Ross and Emily Singer are the proud parents of ABAYE TZVI SINGER, born August 24 at 6 lbs 5 oz. Big sister Revital, big brother Shay and mom and dad are all thrilled with the new arrival.

Racist language can be found in our community too

By Rabbi Ross Singer

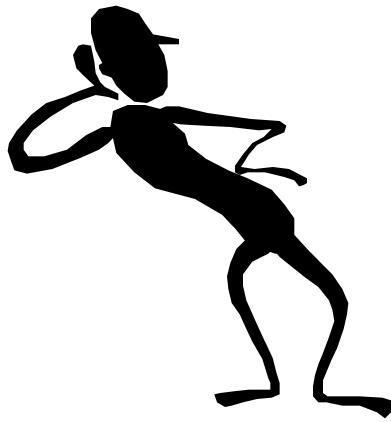
About eight years ago, a friend and I went to protest a known anti-Semitic lecturer. He was a leader in Farrakahn's Nation of Islam and was speaking at an East Coast university. My friend and I parked ourselves outside the lecture hall to voice our protest. We were accosted by many African-American youths. We got into a heated, yet respectful, discussion on anti-Semitism and racism in general. I voiced my opinion that the racism of the speaker was the enemy, not the Jewish community. One of the young men challenged me to clean up the racism in my own community before criticizing others. I felt his comment was out of place, for he seemed unconcerned with taking care of racism in his own community. Yet his challenge has stayed with me. I often think back on our conversation when I hear racist remarks in the Jewish community. Recently I have revisited this young man's challenge.

A number of times over the past year, I have heard members of our community use the word 'shiksah.' What does 'shiksah' mean? Many, I believe, would answer that it simply means a non-Jewish woman. Yet this is not the full story. 'Shiksah' is based on the root "Shin Koof Tzadi," which connotes something abom-

inable or detestful. A 'shiksah' is a gross little creature, like a snake or a reptile. To call someone a 'shiksah' is akin to calling her a creep or a snake or even a cockroach.

Many of us may not realize that this is what we are doing and have no intention of being so insulting. Be that as it may, I always feel very uncomfortable when I hear the term 'shiksah.' I often hear it used to disparage a Gentile woman involved with a Jewish man. Why should a non-Jewish woman who has become attracted to a Jewish man have this vile term applied to her? While distress over interdating and intermarriage is understandable, speaking so ill of another human being is inappropriate.

Addressing this issue is quite timely with the High Holydays around the corner. The Book of Jonah is read on Yom Kippur. Jonah's prophecy is directed to Nineveh, a non-Jewish city. Our Sages wondered why a book that is directed to non-Jews should be included in our Bible. One answer is to remind us of G-d's love and care for all humanity. Let us keep in mind the dignity of every human being and do our best to expunge the phrase, "He's dating a shiksah" from daily use.



Welcome, Daniel and Michelle Dodek

Shaarey Tefilah Synagogue welcomes new members Dr. Daniel and Michelle Dodek. The Dodeks have recently moved back to Vancouver from Calgary. Daniel, the son of members Dr. Arthur and Judy Dodek, is a newly-practicing general practitioner. In his spare time, he likes to cook, garden and play tennis. Michelle, a teacher, hails from Saskatoon but moved to Vancouver in 1994. She likes to cook and garden and enjoys creative pursuits such as sewing. Michelle and Daniel enjoy many sports, particularly cycling. We welcome them to the Shaarey Tefilah family and are glad they made us their spiritual home.

New Board for 2002-2003 elected at the AGM

The Annual General Meeting held June 24 unanimously elected its 10th Board of Directors to continue the work of its predecessors in the upbuilding of Shaarey Tefilah. Jeff Klein our distinguished President will continue to lead an outstanding Board as the Congregation completes the first decade of its existence. He will be ably assisted by a team of accomplished and dedicated line officers and directors.

<i>Officers</i>		<i>Committee</i>
President	- Jeff Klein	
Ist Vice President	- Randy Milner	Ritual
2nd Vice President	- Nicola Fried	Youth
Past President	- Marie Doduck	
Treasurer	- Dennis Frankenburg	Finance
Secretary	- Cliff Ungar	Ritual and Property Search
Directors:	Arthur Dodek	Property Search
	Bev Friedlander	House
	Susan Hector	Fundraising
	Brent James	Property Search
	Jodi Lassner	Chessed
	Ivor Levin	Membership

The Congregation takes great pride in this stellar Board of Directors all of whom have volunteered to give freely of their time and ability in the operation of our synagogue.

HIGH HOLIDAY TICKETS !!!!

High Holy Day Tickets are being mailed to all members in good standing. Other members can pick up their tickets at the synagogue office when paying their dues. Please note that the membership committee will be present at the synagogue for ticket sales on Sundays, September 9 and 16 from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon.

Should you wish additional tickets for parents and or other visiting adult family or friends, please call the office.

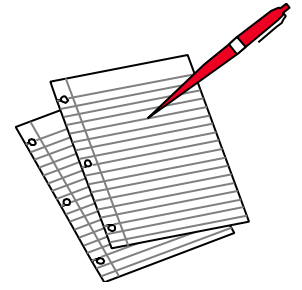
The Tefilagram is the newsletter of Congregation Shaarey Tefilah. All newsworthy information concerning the membership and articles of interest to the Congregation are welcome and appreciated. Deadline for articles is the second week of the current month. Kindly forward submissions by e-mail to tefilagram@shaareytefilah.com or fax 604-877-2224.

Editor
Production & Layout
Contributors:

Art Hayes
Carla Shore and Ethan McNamara
Rabbi Ross Singer, Art Hayes Lynda Rosenberg, Jeff Klein

From the President's Pen.....

Another year has past and Rosh Hashana is with us again. This time of introspection, of clarifying our life goals and of coming closer to God is central to our Jewish life. It is a time when we step back, reflect on the past year and look at ourselves critically and honestly.



As we go through this process, I'd like to reflect again on the role so many play in Shaarey Tefilah. Our Rabbi and spiritual leader, Rabbi Singer, Rabbi Birnbaum, our Torah Reader and Lynda Rosenberg our office administrator all make a significant contribution to our shul and I thank them for their efforts. However their efforts would not have the impact they do without the participation of our community. Member participation in our services, our programs and our special events is what makes Shaarey Tefilah so special.

Todah Rabah to the many contributors to our synagogue life.

Each of our events and functions has involved many different volunteers, contributors and participants without any one of whom the spirit of our community would be greatly diminished. As we contemplate our lives at the end of one year and the beginning of another, I would ask that we all consider the roles we can each play in Shaarey Tefilah's future.

These roles may be as simple as introducing yourself to an unfamiliar face in shul or be as involved as organizing a fundraising event. All these roles are important – the unfamiliar face may become a new member and the fundraiser might fund a new program – but what will be most rewarding will be that we each contribute to another person calling Shaarey Tefilah home.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, may I ask that our entire community be inscribed in the Book of Life for a healthy and happy year.

L'Shana Tova Techatevu.

-- Jeff Klein

Editorial

Although Shabbat services continue to be well attended at Shaarey Tefilah, there has been a noticeable decline in other synagogue activities during the last few months. This comes as no surprise since it is summer vacation – a respite when families set aside many responsibilities in favour of spending quality time together. It is unquestionably the proper thing to do. This period of rest and recuperation is essential to strengthening families as well as restoring the vigour and stamina for the tasks that lie ahead.

A rested and refreshed congregation should be well poised to resume the building of our community with zest and energy when the High Holydays conclude. The Board is aware of the pressing need to plan for our future and develop a formula to cope with our natural growth. This process must be given priority and a good place to begin would be at a Board retreat. The support of the membership is vital to any proposed plan of action arising from these deliberations and every effort will be made to keep the Congregation informed.

Although the responsibility for conducting the affairs of the Congregation rests with the Board, the success of the synagogue lies in the hands of its members. Just as our families require nurturing so does the synagogue family. The participation of the membership in the programmes, events and classes as well as services is a vote of confidence and has a positive affect on the Board's actions. There is much to be done by a small group of people and our synagogue would benefit from more participation by the membership. Rest assured that volunteers would be welcomed with open arms.

We are now in the month of Elul and the shofar is sounded each week day morning awakening us to the approaching Yamim Noraim. During the days of introspection that follow there is an opportunity to also consider what Shaarey Tefilah means to each of us, to the future of our children and to Jewish life in our community. Hopefully it will lead us all to devote an even greater effort to ensure its future.

--Art Hayes

Some important Halakhot (Jewish laws and practices) for the High Holidays

At midnight the Saturday night that precedes Rosh Hashanah by at least four days we recite special penitential prayers called slichot (forgivenesses). These prayers are added every subsequent morning up until Yom Kippur.

Men and women are required to hear the shofar blasts on Rosh Hashanah. We blow 100 blasts in all and it is preferable to hear all 100.

The first day of Rosh Hashanah (unless it is on Shabbat) includes a trip to a body of water for Tashlich services. These prayers ask G-d to forgive our sins and consider them thrown to the bottom of the ocean.

There are special editions to the Amidah that are to be included during the ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. They are marked in the Artscroll siddur.

On Erev Yom Kippur it is a mitzvah to have a festive meal before the fast begins.

Minchah (the afternoon prayer service) should be davened (prayed) before this festive meal and one should include the vidui (confession) at the end of the Amidah. This format can be found in the Artscroll machzor for Yom Kippur.



The following are forbidden on Yom Kippur

1. eating or drinking
2. washing (unless one is soiled – netilat yadaim is permitted in the morning)
3. applying oils to the skin (i.e. lotions etc...)
4. wearing leather shoes
5. marital relations

Some have a custom not to wear jewelry on Yom Kippur.

Some have a custom to wear white on the High Holidays and some even wear a Kittel.

On the seven days of Succot men must and women are encouraged to eat meals and sleep in a succah. If it is raining one is exempt from the succah exempt for the first night when one should at least make kiddush and eat some Challah in the succah.

There is a mitzvah to wave the four species – palm (one branch), willow (two branches), myrtle (three branches), and the citron or etrog once a day for all seven days except Shabbat.

On the eighth day – shmini atzeret, one should eat in the succah but should not recite the blessing upon sitting in the succah. The four species are not waved on Shmini Atzeret.

On Simchat Torah you must dance!!!!

Shannah Tovah!

Donations, Donations, Donations

Sincere Condolences

To Helio Da Costa on loss of his father
From Rabbi Ross and Emily Singer
From the Board of Directors

To Harold and Sandra Stern on loss of their son Sheldon
From Rabbi Ross and Emily Singer

To Drew Staffenberg and Family on loss of wife Kriss
From Allan Posthuma

To Jonathan and Heather Berkowitz and Family on loss of
parents/parents-in-law
From Allan Posthuma

To Drew Staffenberg on loss of wife Kriss
From Allan Posthuma

To Marlene Reisler on loss of sister
From Irwin and Corrine Woodrow & Family



Mazel Tov

To Jacquie and Paul Watson on Special Occasion
From Jeff, Sonya, Jenna, Josh and Noah Hayes
From Maurice and Liza Kalfon
From Yosef and Simone Marciano & Family

To Jay Zipursky on his birthday
From Allan Posthuma
From Rabbi Ross and Emily Singer & Family

To Barrie Yackness on 60th birthday
From Sid and Marie Doduck

To Betty and Steve James on wedding
From Irwin and Corrine Woodrow & Family

To George and Muriel Turner on birth of grandson
From Art and Arlene Hayes

To George and Muriel Turner on marriage of granddaughter
From Art and Arlene Hayes

Upcoming Yarzheits

- 13 Elul (Sept. 1): Shirley Kaplan
17 Elul (Sept. 5): Norman Miller
18 Elul (Sept. 6): Ivor Levin
23 Elul (Sept. 11): Faye Fages
27 Elul (Sept. 15): Martin Hector
9 Tishrei (Sept. 26): Sheila Hector
23 Tishrei (Oct. 10): Charles Savedoff
27 Tishrei (Oct. 14): Morris J. Wosk
9 Heshvan (Oct. 26): Saul Green
14 Heshvan (Oct. 31): Saul Green
16 Heshvan (Nov. 2): Rubin Zilberman
17 Heshvan (Nov. 3): Gwen Epstein

Adele Slawsky

To Norman and Sandra Miller on engagement of son
From Art and Arlene Hayes

To Mr. and Mrs. Michael Goslin on recent marriage
From Irwin and Corrine Woodrow

To Dr. Arthur and Judy Dodek on birth of grandson
From Bryna Brail
From Bente Nathan Thomsen

Get Well

To Rose Folk
From Sid and Marie Doduck

In Appreciation

To Rabbi Ross Singer for his wonderful teaching
From Michael Rom

Pinchus Sez

Here's a double portion of frages (questions) to find out what you don't know and probably don't want to know. No prizes folks, but hopefully a smeichel (smile) or two. Please turn over - the page that is, for the improbable answers (see page 8).

Jewish Riddles

1. If a doctor carries a bag, what does a mohel carry?
2. What is the technical term for an uncircumcised Jew who is more than eight days old?
3. What do you call steaks ordered by ten Jews?



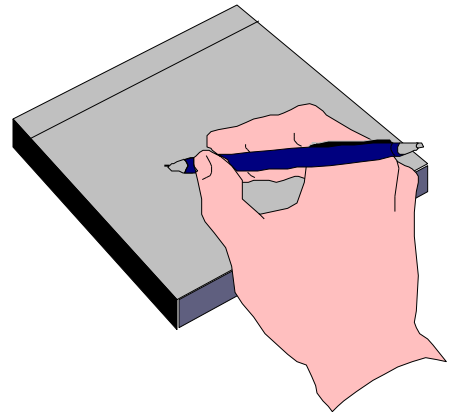
Bible Quiz

- A. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?
- B. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?
- C. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?
- D. Which biblical character had no parents?
- E. Who was the most famous baby sitter in the Bible?
- F. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

Writers Wanted

The Tefilagram wants to help bring our community closer together and desperately needs someone to gather social information about the members and write an article. We want to recognize achievements, anniversaries, births, birthdays, children who a graduating, won scholarships, excelled in music or dance etc., engagements and weddings. We also want to let our community know if G-d forbid someone is ill or has had a loss. No previous writing experience is required and every assistance will be provided when required.

Perhaps a team of writers might be willing to take this on. Should anyone be interested please call the editor at 604-228-0522.



DRAWING CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Ariel Frame

- AND -

Shoshanna Wasserman

FIRST PRIZE WINNERS

PICTURES WILL BE ON DISPLAY IN THE SYNAGOGUE

Thank you both for your participation. You will receive your prize by mail.



Answers to the Jewish riddles from Page 7

1. a Bris-kit.
2. A girl.
3. Filet minyan.

Irreverent answers to the irreverent Bible quiz

- A. Noah – he was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.
- B. Pharaoh's daughter – she went down to the Bank of the Nile and drew out a small prophet.
- C. Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a 'Fury' while David's 'Triumph' was heard throughout the land.
- D. Joshua, son of Nun.
- E. David – he rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.
- F. Samson – he brought the house down.

All right already – its enough ! See you in shul. Gmar Chatima Tova to everyone.

-- Pinchus