

# THE SHOFAR

## FALL MEETING

October General Conference is here! Again and as always we have a get-together planned. We'll be meeting in Lehi in the Chapel located at 200 North Center Street.

Take off ramp 282, which is Main Street and go west to Center Street. Turn north and go two blocks to the Stake Center.

The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. .

We have an inspirational program planned and look forward to seeing all of you there!

Afterwards there will be the usual potluck treats and socializing. Please bring something that is a family favorite.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

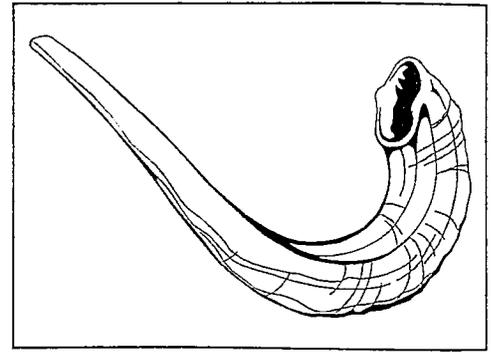
Though our numbers may be few, there are, however, more members of the Church of Jewish descent today than when I joined the Church. Let us be witnesses to our Brothers and Sisters. "In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established," (2 Cor. 13:1).

Let me suggest to you that the Jewish people are one of the great witnesses that Jesus lived! Through hundreds of years from Father to Son, the Jewish people have been prevented from contemplating the great question: Is Jesus the Messiah? The persecution in the name of Jesus is the very reason. It would appear you would be a traitor to your ancestors as well as to your family if you accepted Jesus as the Messiah.

The millions of Jews killed through the ages by so called 'Christians' have precluded the question. This persecution in the very name of Jesus has kept the Jewish people distinct. We are a living witness to ourselves and to the world that the man Jesus did live!

Then the question remains to all: Is Jesus the Messiah, Savior, Redeemer, the Christ? I witness even as you do, that Jesus is the Messiah. Thus may we follow the counsel of his servants, the living prophets of his Church.

Let us spiritually sing and lift one



another in the love of Christ. Invite your Jewish friends to join in fellowship with us.

Albert Ostraff  
President of B'Nai Shalom

## B'NAI SHALOM MISSION STATEMENT

Not long ago, a mission statement for B'Nai Shalom was drafted. Some of you, however, may not have read it.

### MISSION STATEMENT

"Membership in B'Nai Shalom is open to all members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints interested in promoting the objectives of the Organization, whether or not such persons are of Jewish ancestry.

"Objectives of this organization shall be carried on within the framework of existing LDS programs and are as follows:

- To promote the faith and activity of Jewish members in the Church.
- To encourage, assist and promote Jewish Genealogical research and Temple work among the House of Israel.
- To promote greater understanding of Jewish Culture, language, traditions and attitudes through an organized educational program.

- To offer assistance in all authorized LDS Church programs oriented toward Jewish peoples.
- To engage in other activities deemed appropriate in carrying out the objectives of the organization."

## MUSIC AND THANKFULNESS

Throughout the history of the Children of Israel, songs and hymns were preformed in ceremonies, for thanksgiving, to give praise, to express joy, and in prayer.

To continue this in the last dispensation, the Lord through Brigham Young said to the Saints before the westward journey: "If thou art merry, praise the Lord with singing, with music, with dancing, and with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving." (D&C 136:28).

Always, in our dealings with our Heavenly Father, we have been told to use music, singing, musical instruments, etc., to express our thanks and praise and joy to the Lord.

Of all the people in the world today, Latter-Day Saints have more to be thankful for than anybody else. We know why we are here, where we are going, and that we will go there with our families. We know that the Almighty is really our Father, and that the Savior, Jesus Christ, is really our older Brother.

Let us keep in mind how blessed we are with our Jewish Heritage and the knowledge of the True Gospel. Let us express our thanks to the Lord through the ancient tradition of Music.

Christina G. Heath  
Music Chairman

## JOSEPH AND JUDAH

On April 3, 1836, as the Jewish people around the world were celebrating the Passover Seder and preparing a place for Elijah at their

tables, unknown to them, Elijah was making his long awaited appearance to the Prophet Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in the Temple at Kirkland, Ohio.

Elijah's mission as stated by Joseph Smith in D&C 110:15 was "To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, lest the whole earth be smitten with a curse--".

This was the start of the great drive to seal the families of the earth together for the eternities.

However "turning our hearts" means a great deal more than just Temple work. It means making a effort to get to know our "fathers and mothers". Just what kind of people were they? Did they have experiences like ours? Did we have experiences like them?

Consider the following similarity that exists between us and our Jewish ancestors:

- Both migrated to find justice and a homeland for their religious beliefs.
- Both caused the hostile and barren desert to bloom like a rose, bringing prosperity to a poor people.
- Both suffered great trials and tribulations.
- Both are a covenant and a Temple building people.
- Both are strongly family oriented.
- Both remember their pioneers with pride and gratitude.
- Both place education high on their priority list.
- Both have dietary laws.
- Both honor their ancestors and hold them in high esteem.
- Both believe in the fasting principle.
- Jewish boys have their Barmitzvahs about the same time as the Mormon boys receive the Aaronic Priesthood.
- Both the Jewish people and the Latter-Day Saints have a strong

sense of identity as a people chosen for a special purpose or role to be fulfilled on this earth.

- Both feel they are preparing for the coming of the Messiah.

I know that Jesus is the Messiah that the Jews are still waiting for. I am thrilled that the Lord has seen fit for me to gain this knowledge and for my family to also gain their own individual testimonies.

Elissa Molling  
Past President

## DEDICATION OF PALESTINE

On the early morning of October 24, 1841, Orson Hyde, an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, stood upon the Mount of Olives and dedicated the land of Palestine for the return of the Jews. All that was prophesied at the time concerning the Jews has come to pass.

On the site stands the beautiful Orson Hyde Memorial Garden which the Prophet Spencer W. Kimball dedicated in 1979.

This is Orson Hyde's record of the scene, which went completely unnoticed by the world, but not by the Spirits that watched and prayed with him from the other side of the Vail.

"Jerusalem, October 24, 1841

"On Sunday morning, October 24, a good while before day, I arose from sleep, and went out of the city as soon as the gates were opened, crossed the brook Kedron, and went upon the Mount of Olives, and there, in solemn silence, with pen, ink, and paper, just as I saw in the vision, offered up the following prayer to Him who lives forever and ever:

"O thou! who art from everlasting to everlasting, eternally and unchangeably the same, even the God who rules in the heavens above, and controls the

destinies of men on the earth, wilt Thou not condescend, through thine infinite goodness and royal favor, to listen to the prayer of Thy servant which he this day offers up unto thee in the name of Thy holy child Jesus, upon this land, where the Son of Righteousness set in blood, and thine Anointed One expired....

"Now O Lord! Thy servant has been obedient to the heavenly vision which Thou gavest him in his native land; and under the shadow of Thine outstretched arm, he has safely arrived in this place to dedicate and consecrate this land unto Thee, for the gathering together of Judah's scattered remnants, according to the predictions of the holy Prophets--for the building up of Jerusalem again after it has been trodden down by the Gentiles so long, and for rearing a Temple in honor of Thy name...

"O Thou, Who didst covenant with Abraham, Thy friend and Who didst renew that covenant with Isaac, and confirm the same with Jacob with an oath. that Thou wouldst not only give them this land for an everlasting inheritance, but the Thou wouldst also remember their seed forever--Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob have long since closed their eyes in death, and made the grave their mansion--Their children are scattered and dispersed abroad among the nations of the Gentiles like sheep that have no shepherd, and are still looking forward for the fulfillment of those promises which Thou didst make concerning them; and even this land, which once poured forth nature's richest bounty, and flowed, as it were, with milk and honey, has, to a certain extent, been smitten with bareness and sterility since it drank from murderous hands the blood of Him who never sinned--

"Grant, therefore, O Lord, in the name of Thy well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to remove the barrenness and sterility of this land, and let springs of living water break forth to water its thirsty soil--Let the vine and olive produce in their strength, and the fig-tree bloom and flourish--Let the land become abundantly fruitful when possessed by its rightful heirs; let it again flow with plenty to feed the returning prodigals who come home

with a spirit of grace and supplication; upon it let the clouds distill virtue and richness, and let the fields smile with plenty--Let the flocks and the herds greatly increase and multiply upon the mountains and the hills; and let Thy great kindness conquer and subdue the unbelief of Thy people--Do Thou take from them their stony heart, and give them a heart of flesh; and may the Sun of Thy favor dispel the cold mists of darkness which have beclouded their atmosphere--Incline them to gather in upon this land according to Thy word--Let them come like clouds and like doves to their windows--Let the large ships of the nations bring them from the distant isles; and let kings become their nursing fathers, and queens with motherly fondness wipe the tear of sorrow from their eye--

"Thou, O Lord, did once move upon the heart of Cyrus to show favor unto Jerusalem and her children--Do Thou now also be pleased to inspire the hearts of kings and the powers of the earth to look with a friendly eye towards this place, and with a desire to see Thy righteous purposes executed in relation thereto--Let them know that it is Thy good pleasure to restore the kingdom unto Israel--raise up Jerusalem as its capital, and constitute her people a distinct nation and government, with David Thy servant, even a descendant from the loins of ancient David, to be their king--

"Let that nation or that people who shall take an active part in behalf of Abraham's children, and in the raising up of Jerusalem, find favor in Thy sight--Let not their enemies prevail against them, neither let pestilence or famine overcome them, but let the glory of Israel overshadow them, and the power of the Highest protect them; while that nation or kingdom that will not serve Thee in this glorious work must perish, according to Thy word--" Yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted."

## BOOK OF MORMON AND JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Many of the Jewish holidays are in the Book of Mormon. In Alma chapters 36 - 42, the traditional

Israelite observance of the Passover can be discerned. In addition, many of the other Jewish holidays (Alma 30:2) are hinted at such as Rosh Hashana, and Yom Kippur. While no festivals are mentioned explicitly, many unmistakable clues of specific festivals are found.

The Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies (FARMS) has written an article on the Sons of the Passover showing the Jewish holidays in the Book of Mormon.

## WAS COLUMBUS JEWISH?

Hugh Nibley, in his Book of Mormon honors class, has pointed out that there is evidence to support the idea that Columbus may have been a Jew. In 1 Nephi 13:12 Columbus is referred to as "... a man among the Gentiles," an indication to him that Columbus was *not* a Gentile.

While in New York once, he spoke with the Spanish historian, DeCastro, who said that there was no doubt from Columbus' journals that he was a Jew because of the language he used. For example, Columbus referred to the Temple as "the Second House".

The reason, DeCastro said, that Columbus wanted to sail to the Indies was to find gold in order to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem.

It is ironic twist that in the very same year that Columbus set sail in his three small ships to find the Indies, that his royal sponsors, the King and Queen of Spain, issued an order for the expulsion of all Jews from Spain!

## JEWISH BLOOD IN THE ROYAL HOUSES OF EUROPE

In addition, relating to the Jews, Hugh Nibley points out in this Honor's Book of Mormon class that

if one researches the noble families of Europe, "you will find a common rule is to marry Jewish women. Because Jewish women were so talent, so gifted, so charming, there was just something about them." (Something that no one has to tell us brethren!) As a result, Jewish blood can be found in the royal families of Europe.

A fulfillment of Isaiah 49:22  
"This saith the Lord God, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and *thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.*"

## THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

The Center for Jewish Studies at Utah Valley State College in Orem, announces their 1995/1996 schedule of classes. By the time you receive the SHOFAR, four classes of the first series will have already been held, but there are six classes left in the series which you may be able too attended if you can get in.

The first series consist of 10 lectures revolving around the topic "Jews and Mormons: A Common Heritage".

The second series begins on Jan 11 and is an Interfaith Dialogue Forum.

Series III deals with "Israeli Culture and the Hebrew Language" and starts on Feb. 29th.

The fourth series is entitled "Jerusalem: Ancient and Modern" and starts April 11th.

All classes are on Thursday evenings and go from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m..

If you would like a complete schedule and registration information, call 222-UVSC.

## GENEALOGICAL HELP

Barbara Shpack, our own B'Nai Shalom's Genealogist wants to help you with your genealogy. She is going to be at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City on the International Floor (B1) on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m.. If you don't know her, ask the staff on the floor to point her out. They all know her.

Bring your problems and she will use her vast experience and knowledge to help you find what you are looking for.

Take advantage of her offer. She charges others for her time!

## JERUSALEM 3000th YEAR ANNIVERSARY

1996 marks the 3000th anniversary of the establishment of the City of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by King David. The year long celebration will highlight the aspects of its long history along with its founder.

Throughout 1996, the city will be visited by hundreds of thousands from all over the world. They will see the splendor of both past and present of this thriving capital from the only ancient people that re-established itself 2000 years after its destruction.

Elissa Molling is planning to go next year to see the celebration. If you would like to go with her, give her a call at 224-5355.

## MEMBERSHIP

We know that there are many more LDS members of Jewish descent that we don't know about and we would like them to know about B'Nai Shalom.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, please give us their

name and address and we will put them on our mailing list for the next issue of The SHOFAR.

Please also invited them to our forth coming meeting in Lehi.

## LETTER OF INQUIRY

Last March Given Bardsley received the following letter:

"After reading "THE SHOFAR", I felt heartened that my Jewish Genealogy might not have to remain dormant due to a scarcity of records!

Howard Weismann lent me his copy. He was acquainted with Gloria Shpack while living out west. Being a very inspired man, he has motivated me to re-open formerly "on ice" family records. Please accept my \$2.00 for future copies of "THE SHOFAR".

Lines I'm searching:

- Bercovitz - Dorohoi, Rumania
- Craft/Kraft - Dorohoi & Savenni, Rumania.
- Schwartz - Botosani & Stephonest, Rumania

Howard Weisman and I share a Schwartz line, almost! Same time frame in close proximity.

I obviously would be interested in help to start a data base. All my records can be sent on a GENCOM file using the LDS PAF program.

What about available records out of Rumanian, Botosani district?

Enclosed is a SASE and my check. Please pass some of my questions on to Mrs. Shpack per Howard Weisman's request.

Thank you in advance for your time and help.

Sincerely

Marian Rea

1131 Ashwood

Lewisville, Texas 75067"

With this Genealogical Inquiry, THE SHOFAR is starting a new column. We would like to have you members and readers to tells us

what sort of information you are seeking. If you have a name you seeking information on or a place you want to know about, put in an enquiry and see if anyone else knows anything or can help you to look for information.

If you know of anyone who can help or might know of someone who can help, please contact the inquirer such as Marian Rea in this letter.

In fact it would be nice to know what language skills we have in B'Nai Shalom. Let us know what languages you able to read or speak or both.

Maybe we can, working together, help others who lack the language skills which keeps them from doing research. Let THE SHOFAR know and we will list it.

You may be able to help others who at this point feel like putting their own research "on ice."

If you can help Marian Rea, please drop her a line and see if you can work together. I'm sure there are some spirits on the other side who are pushing her.

Contact B'Nai Shalom's two resident Genealogists for any other needs you may have.

## PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGICAL HELP IS AVAILABLE

If any of you would like the services of a professional Jewish Genealogist to help you, Barbara Shpack wants you to know that she has hung out her shingle and is available to help you in your research. Call her at 533-2745.

## DONATIONS

B'Nai Shalom is asking for a donation of either \$2.00 per person or \$5.00 per family to help off set

the cost of refreshments, printing and mailing of The SHOFAR.

You can either pay at our meeting or send it to:

Gwen Bardsley  
490 South 600 West  
Provo, Utah 84601

## B'NAI SHALOM OFFICERS

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. . . . . 533-2745  
Charles Smith,  
Newsletter/Genealogy  
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Irving Cohen, Heritage/Holidays . . .  
. . . . . 489-6822

# B'Nai Shalom

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1995

Surprise Guest Speakers

Meeting held at:           **Provo South Chapel**           **7:30 PM**  
  610 West 300 South  
  Provo, Utah

Directions:                    I-15 to East Bound Center Street exit at Provo.  
  East on Center Street to 600 West.  
  Turn right and go to 300 South.  
  Turn right again to Chapel.

**POT LUCK REFRESHMENTS**  
(bring you favorite treat)