THE SHOFAR

FALL MEETING

October General Conference is here! Again and as always we have a get-together planed. 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 of 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 an 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 Auronic 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 descend, 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 barrenness 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
ever 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
different 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—
-Not let 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—” Yes, 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
forthcoming 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 &
  Stephenesti, 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.

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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.

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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

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B’NAI SHALOM OFFICERS

Al Ostraff, President ... 756-7953
Jerome Horowitz, 1st Coun ....
............................. 298-8720
Elissa Molling, 2nd Coun ....
............................. 224-5355
Gwen Bardsley, Sec/Treas. ....
............................. 374-2371
Christina Heath, Music . 224-6188
Barbara Sorn Shpack, Genealogy .
............................. 533-2745
Charles Smith,
Newsletter/Genealogy
............................. 224-1917
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
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)