

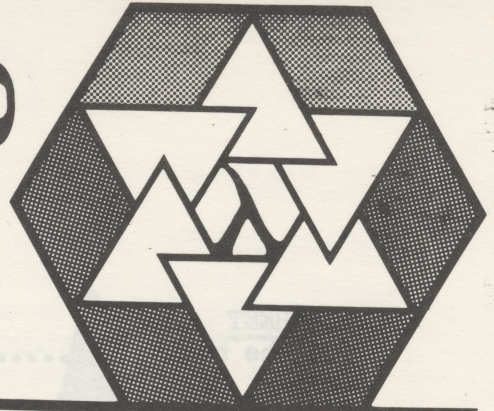
THE JEWISH DAILY

FORWARD

NEWS MAGAZINE OF

SHA'AR ZAHAV

THE CONGREGATION OF
THE GOLDEN GATE



VOL. 1
BOOK 1

Box 2107 San Francisco, Ca. 94126

SEPTEMBER 1977
ELUL 5737



Shalom

MAY YOU HAVE A GOOD AND SWEET YEAR! "5738"

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO CELEBRATING OUR FIRST HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

PLEASE JOIN US. Kol Nidre to be performed by Daniel Reiter of the
"Oakland Symphony"

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services

Location: Glide Memorial Church, Ellis and Taylor

Days and Time: Sept. 12th, Monday evening, 7:30 P.M.
Sept. 13th, Tuesday morning, 10:30 A.M.
Sept. 21st, Wednesday evening, 7:00 P.M. for KOL NIDRE
Sept. 22nd, Thursday morning, 10:30 A.M.
Sept. 22nd, Thursday evening, 5:30 P.M. for CONCLUDING
SERVICES

1.k

בראשית

B·RAY·SHEET

in the beginning.....

Rosh Hashanah celebrates creation; a woman, a man, a world. The earth continues on its journey around the sun; the endless cycle. A year passes and is then reborn. In 5737 we were alone, separated and under attack. The new year, 5738 finds us in the midst of creation; a family, a community, a Synagogue.

In the past, our feelings and need for each other lay dormant. The events of the past year have made us aware that we must sleep no more. Our consciousness has been awakened. We are aware of the necessity to bind ourselves, one with the other. To stand, to grow, to fight. As Gay Jews, we are uniquely sensitive to the need for Human Rights, and at this Rosh Hashanah, we renew our dedication to the long and difficult struggle ahead; as we demand JUSTICE.

Most of us have been cut off from our families and our people because of our gayness. Sha'ar Zahav is a Golden Gate thru which we pass and reclaim ourselves, our family and our Jewishness.

The ten day period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is one of introspection. We have all strayed from the right path. We seek forgiveness and guidance. On Yom Kippur, we come closer to God than at any other time of the year; so we who are all created in the image of God must also come closer together.

As sisters and brothers we must treat each other with kindness and respect. We must set aside our differences, recognizing that they do exist, knowing that we will learn from each other, grow with each other, and become stronger.

Rabbi Elazar bar Abina said in Rabbi Aha's name: For 26 generations the Alef complained before G-d: I am the first of the letters yet You didn't create Your world with me! Don't worry, said G-d, the word and all its fullness were created for the Torah alone. Tomorrow when I come to give My Torah at Sinai the first word I say will begin with you.

Alef א is the first letter. It has no sound. Only the sound you make when you begin to make every sound. Open your mouth and begin to make a sound. STOP! That is Alef.

It is the letter beginning the first of God's mysterious 70 names: אֱלֹהִים ELOHIM. G-d. It also begins the most



'HOT FLASHES'

★ TORONTO PRAYS

HaMishpacha, the gay Jewish Group of Toronto, has begun Sabbath services twice monthly. The mailing address is Box 609, 135 Isabella St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

★ ISRAEL NEWSLETTER

Our fraternal group in Israel, the Society for the Protection of Personal Rights, has issued a new English language newsletter. The issue gives details of SPPR activities, as well as feature items. Subscriptions are being sold. For information, write to the group, c/o Israel Hospitality, POB 16151, Tel Aviv, Israel. Gays visiting Israel can telephone 'Israel Hospitality' 246-031 in Tel Aviv for guidance.

★ SAN FRANCISCO CONVENTION

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations will be holding its convention in San Francisco during October. We are in the process of coordinating plans with the Los Angeles Gay Synagogue, Beth Chayim Chadashim, on what our presence should be at this convention. Further information will follow...

★ INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF GAY JEWS

Congregation Beth Chayim Chadashim of Los Angeles has begun to make plans for next year's International Conference of Gay Jews. At three organizational meetings, they have decided to rent a camp outside L.A. for an extended weekend. They hope to keep the registration cost to a minimum so that no-one will be excluded from participation. They will soon be sending out flyers, which will be distributed in one of our coming mailings.

IN THE NEWS*****

FRENCH GAY JEWS ORGANIZE

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav received a letter from Beit Haverim, a newly formed French Jewish gay group. In their report, they identify themselves as:

- 1) Non-religious and non-sectarian. However they limit membership, for the present, to gay Jews and their lovers.
- 2) Consisting of about 30 men and one woman.
- 3) Followers of the political orientation of the daily newspaper "Liberation," which they describe as 'revolutionist.'

They would like to correspond with other gay Jews throughout the world. Persons wishing to write them can do so in English or in French. Their mailing address is: Beit Haverim, c/o Theatre Douce, 42 rue Fontaine, 75009 Paris, France.

A.C.L.U. HONORS WILLIE BROWN

The Gay Rights chapter of A.C.L.U. sponsored a testimonial dinner for California Assemblyman Willie Brown who put his career on the line and waged a six year battle to get the Consenting Adults Bill passed into law. The dinner was held at the L.A. Hilton on May 7th.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS PASSED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF GAY JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS held in New York City, April 22-24, 1977

WHEREAS, the International Conference of Gay Jewish Organizations affirms the complete devotion of gay Jewish men and women throughout the world to their Jewish heritage, and their full participation in the unfolding history of the Jewish people; and

WHEREAS, any attempt to degrade the worth of an individual because of his or her views or orientation strikes at the heart of human dignity and violates the fundamental tenets of Judaism; and

WHEREAS, any attempt to isolate, alienate or deny the rights of any minority is contrary to the teachings of the Judaic experience;

BE IT RESOLVED that gay men and women throughout the world pray that those in error will see their way to overcome bigotry and prejudice in whatever form it manifests itself; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that gay men and women throughout the world especially identify with their brothers and sisters in Eretz Israel in their continued struggle for a viable peace, and with the Jews of the Soviet Union in their demand for full religious freedom and full freedom of emigration.

JEWIS ON GAYS

★ Within the last few months, public statements on homosexuality and Judaism have issued forth from widely different segments of the Jewish community. None of these reported here can be considered entirely positive, but three of the four represent an apparent advance, at least compared with the total silence and implicit condemnation that was the rule in the past.

To start with the worst, a group of rabbis associated with the United Orthodox Services, an ultra-Orthodox group, and including Rabbi Moishe Feinstein, the leading Talmudic scholar of this generation, sent an open letter to ten Jewish congresspersons, attacking them for sponsoring the gay rights bill.

Deploring the fact that nearly 40% of the Jews in the House were sponsors of the bill (compared with 7% of gentile House members), these rabbis said that they were "really angered" at the congresspersons, "who coddle every criminal and protect every pervert," and called upon the Jewish community to "call them to account."

Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, a more mainstream Orthodox leader and recently named president of Israel's religious Bar Ilan University, said in a column in a recent issue of the New York Jewish Week that Jews must support the civil rights of homosexuals. However, he said, he still would refuse to perform a marriage between two persons of the same sex, which would not be fully in keeping with the traditional meaning of the institution.

Rabbi Barry Dov Schwartz wrote in the latest issue of United Synagogue Review that homosexuals must be accepted by the Jewish community "as human beings without their homosexuality being sanctioned or condemned."

Schwartz recognizes that the gay synagogues "perform a vital religious function," but he seems to believe that they would become "unnecessary" if Conservative Jews welcomed gays, whom he considers to be among "the lonely and isolated of our people," people who "need support because of the indignities and injustices" they suffer. He advocated that gays receive "understanding, sympathy, rabbinic guidance, and spiritual and emotional support from the congregation of Israel." Hey, we're not that pathetic, are we? To be fair, certain gay activists and writers have probably conveyed such a message of pathos to sympathetic straights.

With all this, Schwartz still feels that homosexuality is the antithesis of Jewish values of procreation and family life, and that compassion should be shown for the sinner, not for the sin.

Finally, the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform) approved two pro-gay resolutions at their recent convention. One opposes discrimination against homosexuals in society, the other welcomes the participation of homosexuals in all aspects of Reform Jewish life. However, several rabbis explained before the vote that their approval does not mean that they favor ordination of gay rabbis.



Oy! nk

★ OUR FIRST BATTLE WON!!!!

Our initial efforts to place an ad in the San Francisco Jewish Bulletin met with this reply from Mr. Geoffrey Fisher of the Bulletin.

"The enclosed check (for the ad) is being returned because the ad that you submitted is of a controversial and discriminatory nature and the matter of whether or not it can be published will be determined in the near future by the board of directors of this publication. We will inform you of that decision."

Pressure was applied, in addition to another letter that was sent to the Bulletin. Part of that letter read "we feel that you should not only place our ad, but that we deserve and expect an announcement in your Synagogue column and some press information."

RESULT: Our ad appears weekly in the San Francisco Jewish Bulletin.

KOL HA KAVOD!!!

NUTRITION AND RECIPE

by *Ida*

The highlight of any Jewish Holiday is serving traditional foods as was prepared by our parents or grandparents or favorite Aunt Sadie. If you are away from family during the holiday time, I would recommend serving one of the holiday specialties to help bring back the feeling of home contact and psychic nurturance. Since I am also nutritionally oriented, I have blaphemously taken some liberties with the traditional recipes so that it will provide some physical nurturance:

HONEY CAKE

- 2/3 cup of honey
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup oil
- 1/4 cup water (coffee or wine)

- *2 cups rye flour
- 1/2 tspm salt
- 2 tspms baking soda
- grated peel of 1 lemon
- and one orange
- cinnamon, allspice, ginger
- 1/2 cup trail mix
- dried fruit and nuts
- pre-heat oven 275

Combine all ingredients and beat with electric mixer until smooth
Pour into lined pan 9X5X3.

Bake 1 1/2 hours.

*flour may be 1/4 soy flour and 3/4 whole wheat.



LITERATI

A special greeting goes out
to our friends and members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

A HAPPY ROSH HASHANAH

May we remember that last year was good,
May next year however, be better.
May every wish be fulfilled
May every silent prayer be heard.

That peace will come to the land
of our fathers and mothers.

That freedom will become a reality
throughout our nation,
throughout the world.

That nation will live together
without fighting each other.

That equality among people will become
the slogan of reality.

Let us stand up and be proud
Let us be proud to be a Jew
Let us refrain from being prejudiced
Let us love each other and be proud.

Decisions should be made and executed
Decisions to strive further ahead
Decisions to improve our lives
Decisions to pursue our goals.

A year of fulfillment should be 5738
A year when we really find ourselves
A year of understanding, a year of mutual trust
A year when God will bless us all.

לשנה טובה
תכתבו

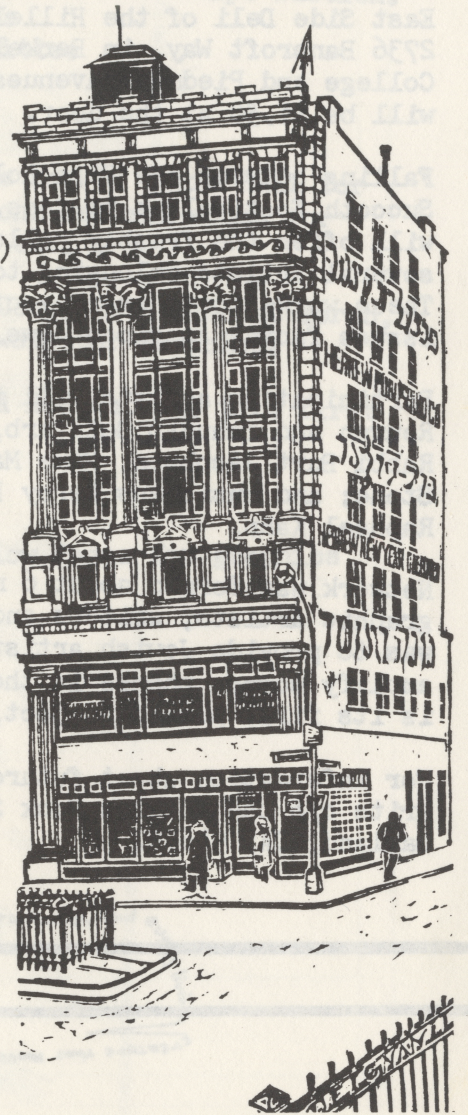


by Ralph Scharlach

2nd Avenue/2 A.M.

It's hard to write a love poem/sometimes in the middle of
night, you'll hear a whistle out the window
and a familiar shuffle down the pavement/
it will be New York again, that time,
in the spring, when you couldn't talk
to each other/Godbye is the simplest
way out/But then the seasons change
and its again winter in the empty streets
at 2 in the morning/and instead of walking
quietly in the cathedral arch of snow
(the first time you've heard the City quiet)
you'll laugh and throw each other
in the snow/together the city becomes
so much smaller, encloses just that space
you share

Richard Christenson
8/20/77



10.1

11.1c

EVENING OF POETRY AND MUSIC

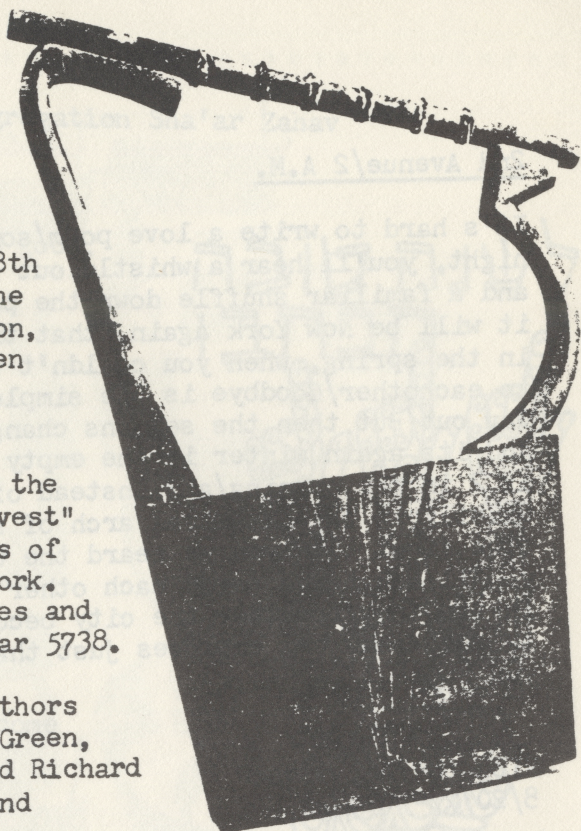
The Jewish Publications Network is presenting "A Harvest of Jewish Arts, 5738--an evening of poetry, music and meisehs." The presentation is scheduled for Sunday evening, Sept. 18th at 8:00 p.m. It will take place at the East Side Deli of the Hillel Foundation, 2736 Bancroft Way, in Berkeley, between College and Piedmont Avenues. Tickets will be \$1.50 at the door.

Falling between the High Holidays and the Succoth festival as it does, the "Harvest" will offer the freshly collected works of several artists belonging to the Network. These works touch on many of the themes and issues facing American Jews in the year 5738.

Participating artists will include authors Reuven and Yehudit Goldfarb, Sheldon Green, Rabbi Burt Jacobson, Mike Makowsky and Richard Stone; and musicians Leroy Breslow and Raphael Kahn.

Network was formed about 6 months ago by Jewish graphic artists, writers and musicians. Its purpose was to provide Jewish artists a forum to explore and amplify common themes in their work. The "Harvest" is its first public project, with others expected to follow.

For information about future meeting of the Network, write c/o the Judaica Book Service, 3726 Virden Ave., Oakland, CA. 94619.



12.2'

HELP!!!

HELP WANTED

Graphic artists, writers, reviewers, reporters, and columnists for our NewsMagazine.

We need people to help develop our literary section, Jewish section, Gay section, political section, current events section and recipe section. Volunteers are needed to sponsor Oneg Shabbats. Volunteers are needed to join the Ritual Committee

THANK YOU

Glide and Rev. Cecil Williams for the generous use of their Hall for our services. When many Jewish organizations refused space for our Shabbat services, Rev. Williams helped us out.

Cong. Beth Chayim Chadashim, Los Angeles and Cong. Beth Simchat Torah, New York City for the use of some of their newsletter articles.

The NewsMagazine Committee, Shamir, Allen, and Rob who put this first issue together.

MIKE and SCOTT of Terrific Graphics

The Jewish catalog and the Jewish Yellow Pages for graphics

Lawrence Kushner for graphics

Joe Bacon of Project Jonah
Rusty Smith of Whitman-Radcliffe
David Goodstein of The Advocate
Harvey Milk and Rick Stokes

Creator that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, to every living creature that moveth, and G-d created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, to every living creature that moveth.

13.2'

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14.7'

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

cordially invites you to attend a

Chinese Banquet

Saturday evening, Sept. 24, 1977
8 P.M.

Golden Pavilion

Sacramento and Grant

\$10.00 a person Bring a friend

Park at the Portsmouth Garage

Return this coupon to : Cong. Sha'ar Zahav Box 2107
San Francisco, CA. 94126

Thank you, I will attend ()

Sorry, I cannot attend ()

Name and Address:

15.16



16.56



— Until we are all of us free,
we are none of us free.

Emma Lazarus

... and if not now, when?

Hillel



— The Love of God is unreal unless
it is crowded with Love for ones
fellows.

Martin Buber



— The world is new to us each morning--
this is God's gift;
and everyone should believe s/he is
reborn each day.

Baal Shem Tov
(Polish 18th century)

17.51

- JOIN US -

Break-the-Fast following 5:30 PM
Service on Yom Kippur

COMING EVENTS

Sabbath dinner-Sept. 9th, 7:30 PM. Location: Glide
We will all sit down together for a pot-luck Sabbath meal to be followed
by a program of original poetry and music, presented by Richard Stone and
Bill Adams

A coordinator and volunteers are needed for this effort.

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES- Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services

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Sept. 13th, Tuesday morning, 10:30 A.M.

KOL NIDRE-Sept. 21st, Wed. evening, 7:00 P.M.

Sept. 22nd, Thursday morning, 10:30 A.M.

Sept, ~~and~~, Thursday evening, 5:30 P.M. Concluding Service

CHINESE BANQUET-September 24th, 8:00 P.M. Location: Golden Pavilion,
Sacramento & Grant
\$10.00 per person



"Shabbat"

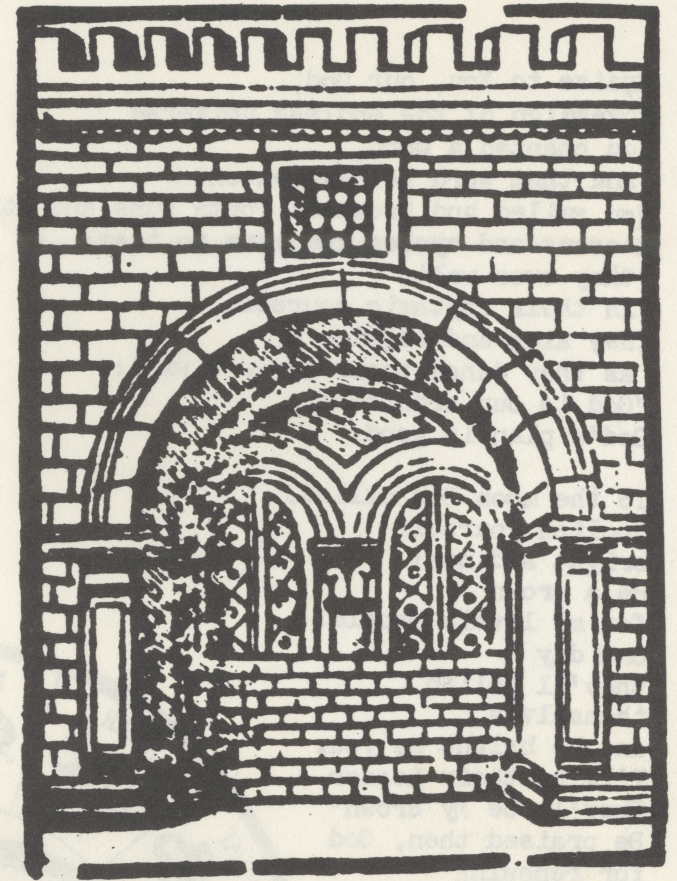
at

Glide Freedom Hall
ELLIS AND TAYLOR

7:30

Friday

18-n'



above: The Golden Gate
A 1647 Venetian woodcut

"THOU SHALT OPEN THY HAND
WIDE UNTO THY BROTHER & SISTER"

(DEUT. 15:11)

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

19-6'

Praise to You, our God,
 Sovereign of the endless universe
 You chanted a word,
 and that word became-heaven!
 You smiled and breathed forth suns and stars!
 Seasons and cycles You gave to them;
 they ever waltz
 in their rhythmic courses.
 They sing and rejoice
 as they dance their Lover's will:
 "God is our architect,
 God's plan is good!"

To the moon God called:
 "polish yourself
 bright and new!
 Be a crown
 for my lovely people!
 On a day
 they'll polish
 themselves
 and be bright as you.
 I'll be their Leader
 They'll be My crown"
 Be praised then, God
 for renewing
 the months of moons.

translated by
 Burt Jacobson

