The United Congregation of Israelites
SYNAGOGUE “SHAARE SHALOM”
AMALGAMATED 5681 - 1921

Community Newsletter
September 2003        Elul 5763 - Tishri 5764

Services:

High Holy Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>(Hebrew)</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosh Hashanah</td>
<td>Eve</td>
<td>Friday, September 26</td>
<td>(29 Elul)</td>
<td>5.30 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Saturday, September 27</td>
<td>(1 Tishri)</td>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kol Nidre</td>
<td>Eve</td>
<td>Sunday, October 5</td>
<td>(9 Tishri)</td>
<td>6.00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yom Kippur</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Monday, October 6</td>
<td>(10 Tishri)</td>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Succoth (Tabernacles)</td>
<td>Eve</td>
<td>Friday, October 10</td>
<td>(14 Tishri)</td>
<td>5.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Saturday, October 11</td>
<td>(15 Tishri)</td>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simhath Torah</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>(23 Tishri)</td>
<td>5.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shabbat Bereshith</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Saturday, October 25</td>
<td>(29 Tishri)</td>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
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President’s comments:

The vexed question of outstanding dues has been raised again and again. We have had to take the decision that persons who are three years or more overdue as at the 1st of October each year will be removed from our membership and accordingly will no longer be able to access the privileges that membership offers. This would be a regrettable step. There is time to correct it now.

The Annual General meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 24th at 4.00 p.m. in the Hall at the Synagogue. It is my hope that everyone will be able to attend,

The search for the Rabbi continues and hopefully we will have some answers by the High Holy days. In the meantime shortly we will be announcing a program of Adult discussion groups. Please support these. Long Life.

Community Notes:

Once again we were privileged to have received a visit from two young Rabbis of the Lubavich movement. They met in Montego Bay for a day with Geoffrey de Sola Pinto and family. In Kingston we housed them at our Jewish home on Wellington Drive. They visited with several members of the community including Stephen Henriques and Ainsley Henriques. During their stay they attended our synagogue Shaare Shalom, walking the three plus miles both on Friday evening after service and Shabbat morning. They were an inspiration to those who met them. Thank you Yaakov and Shimon for your visit.

Hillel Academy:
Over the past year Hillel Academy’s results were outstanding. Students of the Hillel Prep obtained three Government of Jamaica scholarships. Students also did well overall in the GSat and CXC, O level examinations. Congratulations to these students, their parents and teachers.

Hillel reports the resignation of the former director due to family reasons. The Academy welcomed Mrs. Sheila Purdom as the incoming Director and expresses hope for her every success in continuing the very high standards of this important educational facility.

In the coming year the Hillel Academy will be celebrating its 35th anniversary. Special functions are being planned.

**Star Club:**

The Star Club will be continuing its meetings. Margaret Adam will be contacting parents with further details. The club is also reminding parents and children that they will be assisting with the Children’s Service on Yom Kippur. This service will commence at 4.00 p.m. and lasts until 5.00 p.m. before we commence the Negilah Service.

**350 Celebration:**

Planning for this event and our Museum development have been on hold for the summer. It is expected that these committees will be re-activated shortly. These celebrations are scheduled to be held in 2005.

**Jamaica Jewish Genealogical Society (JJGS):**

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies annual conference was held in Washington in June. There was a significant increase in the contribution to Sephardic genealogy over previous years led in the part by the work of Dr. Jeff Malka. The conference next year will be held in Jerusalem. The JJGS is a member of the IAJGS and so our members are entitled to register to attend. Anyone so interested may advise the JJGS.

**Jewish Home:**

Repairs are expected to commence any time now on these facilities. The decision has been taken that the vacant accommodations will be rented to suitable applicants from the public domain. If members of our congregation know interested parties please have them apply soonest.

**Consulate of Israel Report:**

Ambassador Eli Lopez and his wife Nurith paid their farewell visit to Jamaica in June. Ambassador Lopez met with a number of Government Ministers and the President of the Port Authority Hon. Anthony Hylton. The Israeli shopping line Zim is a major user of the transhipment facilities at Port Bustamante. Ambassador Lopez also met with executives of Ashtram. He was accompanied on these visits by the Hon. Consul of Israel in Jamaica. He met with the Wardens and Directors of the congregation and members of the Diplomatic Corps at a reception hosted by Hon. Consul Ainsley Henriques and his wife Marjorie at their home in Kingston. Ambassador Lopez has returned to Israel and has been replaced. The new Ambassador is expected to visit Jamaica at a date to be determined.

**Family News:**
Congratulations to Bar Mitzvah Benjamin Hodara on Saturday, August 23. His performance demonstrated his hard work and to his credit he acquitted himself well and did his family proud.

Congratulations to Ian and Alison Davidson on the birth of a daughter, to Brian and Christina Davidson on the birth of a daughter, sister for Jamie, and to Jeremy and Suzanne Alberga and the birth of a son Miles.

Congratulations to Richard and Sarah Mitchell on the blessing of their daughter Eliana Chai.

Congratulations to Jessica Henriques on her success at the CXC examinations and graduating from high school.

Congratulations to Daniel Estick and Tiffany Reid in their success in the GSAT examinations. Daniel will be going to St. George’s College and Tiffany to Hillel High School.

Congratulations to Michele Phillipps on her engagement to Ryan Lee.

Congratulations to Dorothea Whitehorne on the award of the Prime Minister’s medal of appreciation in the field of community service.

Welcome home to our Director Ursula Ashenheim from her medical procedures abroad and we wish her a speedy recovery and good health.

Best wishes to the Crichton family on their recovery from a motor car accident.

Condolences to the family of Ruth Green who passed earlier in the year. Ruth was the widow of Gabriel Green.

Thank you to Michael Bernstein and Josef Baruk on their donation of books to the library.

**Lay Readers Corner:**

Our lay readers are asking that we improve on our synagogue attendance habits. We are being asked to try to stay in our seats, not to talk during the services and respond in the appropriate way. These all contribute to the better concentration of those who take the trouble and make the effort to lead us in prayer. This is not to say that we are all bad but to ask us to be a little more conscious of ourselves. Tanakhs (Jewish Bibles) are available, courtesy of Tony McFarlane, as well as Mezuzahs and Taliths. Contact Stephen Henriques.

**Sekel:**

The world continues in turmoil. Terror, now punctuated by bombing, is a widespread phenomena. But life must continue. The question for many societies or if you prefer, communities, is how to treat with these daily threats. One way is to walk in faith, with faith. Many are turning away from other pursuits to the reality that when it comes to terror “any number can play” and so the only way is to believe. Do we know terror? In a sense yes! When we read the headlines of our dailies and watch the evening TV news. Has it yet affected us as it has so many others and the answer is not really. But never forget “soon come” is a possibility. So how can we prepare and maybe one of the answers is to be more proactive. The person that we reach out to and help to change their direction along life’s road may have become the one to cause our problem. We can always say it wasn’t me but what difference did we make or make the effort to make? Toby Weisel of Efrat asks “what should good people do when something bad happens to them?” and he answers “become even better people” Shalom and Long Life!