

Supplying The World With Shofars

(Continued from page 30)

they are scraped, cleaned and treated with a softening solution so they can be molded. Once they are softened, the horns are hollowed out and sculpted. For Ashkenazi customers the curl in the horn is also straightened out. This custom grew from the need to have a shofar that could be readily concealed, explains Bar Sheshet. In the countries of Eastern Europe, where Jews lived in constant fear of their anti-Semitic neighbors, they needed to develop a shofar that could be slipped into a pocket after use. The Sephardim, who traditionally enjoyed better relations with their host countries, use a longer elaborately curled shofar, in the natural shape of a ram's horn.

But according to Bar Sheshet, the construction of the mouthpiece is the most difficult aspect of shofar-making. Because the shofar is a musical instrument, the mouthpiece must be designed to fit the user. This means taking into account the shape of the user's lips as well as the Jewish community to which he belongs. Here again, the differences between Ashkenazim and Sephardim are relevant. "The Ashkenazic shofar makes a wailing cry while the Sephardic one sounds a deep resonant pitch," explains Bar Sheshet. Thus the mouthpiece must be shaped accordingly. Moreover a crack in the mouthpiece is liable to make the entire shofar 'posul' or halachically unusable, so great care must be exercised in sculpting it out.

After the shofar is completed it is polished to a high gloss, and, on occasion, engraved with decorative designs. Bar Sheshet calculates that it can take up to three days for one shofar to be made from start to finish. A good shofar will last

for several hundred years.

A Meaningful Legacy

At prices ranging from \$30 to \$70, the financial remuneration tends to be small. Bar Sheshet supplements his income by operating a religious articles shop. A scarcity of softening material is expected to make the process more expensive and Bar Sheshet predicts a shortage of shofars in the coming year. Despite these difficulties he is not about to leave the business. If shofar making becomes unprofitable, he will do something else during the day and continue at night. "After fourteen generations, I don't want to be the one to stop," he shrugs. After all, he wants the business to be around so that his infant son can one day take over.

The Hyde Park Community Center at its new facility, 2831 Palomino Lane (Wasden School) room 3, is taking registration for their Flag Football League and Cheerleading program for the Western Division on Saturday, September 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Flag Football League is open to boys and girls in grades 4-5-6. Teams will be organized by Recreation Division staff. All games will be played on Saturday mornings.

The Cheerleading program is open to girls and boys in grades 3-4-5-6. The class meets on Saturday mornings beginning October 5. In addition to the class, students will act as cheerleaders for the Flag Football League.

For further information, call the center at 878-8663.

UNLV's James R. Dickinson Library will host a joint conference of the Mountain Plains Library Association and the Nevada Library Association Sept. 12-15 at the Riviera Hotel.

The conference theme, "Libraries and the Learning Society," will be reflected throughout the conference in a number of seminars, panel discussions, and guest presentations, including a speech by Congressman Harry Reid, D-Nev.

Non-members may attend the conference, but a registration fee is required.

For more information, call Deacon at 739-3286.

The Robison Community Center, 825 Marion Dr., is taking registration for its flag football league for boys and girls in grades 4, 5 and 6. League play is on Saturday mornings. Register on September 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. For more information call 459-0201.

Coed volleyball is being offered for teens and adults at all skill levels. Games are held Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at Dula Community Center, 430 E. Bonanza.

A free four-hour introductory class in aerobics will be offered beginning Monday, September 16, at 7 p.m. There will be limited enrollment, on a first come, first served basis.

The Las Vegas Chess Club sponsored by Dula Center will provide competition for all ages and skill levels. Games are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. Computerized boards are available.

For more information on any of these activities, call 386-6307.

Get involved with racquetball the end of this summer at the Stewart/Mojave Sports Center, 275 N. Mojave Rd. Racquetball courts are available from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Reservations may be obtained up to three days in advance by phone or in person. Racquetball leagues for novice and "C" divisions are ongoing. Remember to mark October 24-26 on your calendar for the semi-annual racquetball tournament. For more information call 386-6563.

Congregation Ner Tamid
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A Special Rosh Hashanah Children's Service

Will Be Held at 2 P.M. At Congregation Ner Tamid on Monday, September 16 For Children of All Ages.

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