

Ezring

(Continued from page 14)

lives. It is their attempt to strengthen our resolve and ensure the future of this great nation.

The shrill, clarion call of the Shofar, as it is sounded on Rosh Hashanah and at the end of Yom Kippur, draws the Jewish soul back to our community and tradition in much the same way that the tour of the Declaration of Independence is meant to draw Americans back to the principles upon which this great nation is founded. Torah and mitzvot are meant to form a community which is based on a system of morality and ethics. Unfortunately, there are many, if not a majority, within the Jewish community who have forgotten the values upon which Jewish life is founded. There is a command, *Al Tifros Min Hatzibor*, do not separate yourself from the community. Yet many of us do.

In Doug Cotler's new CD, *Funny Jewish Songs*, he emphasizes the problem that confronts us within the United States. He wrote "Back In The Temple Again" with his brother Steve. "I'm back in the Temple again/Shofar blows/The year is at an end/When Rosh Hashanah's

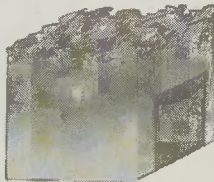
here/I know my course is clear/I'm back in the Temple again ... I fast till Yom Kippur is done/I only do this once/Thank God, it'll be 11 months/Till I'm back in the Temple again." This song, which is meant to make us laugh, highlights the vast problem that Jewish communities across this nation face. Too many people separate from our community, not just from Rosh Hashanah to Rosh Hashanah, but often forever.

The High Holiday period is a time for us to perform repentance. In Hebrew the word for repentance is *Teshuvah*. *Teshuvah* does not really mean repentance, rather it means return. The sound of the Shofar is meant to awaken within us to be part of a Jewish community from which our Jewish souls can find strength, support, and comfort as Jewish souls.

Tekiah! Shevarim! Teru'ah! Tekiah! As the Shofarot are sounded throughout America this year, may all of our people feel the draw to return to the Jewish community. May all Jews within Charlotte-Mecklenburg hear the call to be part of our community. *L'Shanah Tovah Tiketavu*. May you all be inscribed for a good year; a year of sweetness; a year of joy; a year of renewed commitment to Jewish life. ☆

Community Invited to CTC Sukkah Building Party

What better way to commemorate September 11th than with a day of building? Come join the Charlotte Torah Center, on September 11, at 5:30 PM, to share in the building of a community Sukkah. The Sukkah will be built on the grounds of the Charlotte Torah Center at 5900 Providence Road. Children are especially encouraged to attend to participate in arts and crafts and other fun activities to make Sukkah decorations. Hot dogs, snacks and drinks will be served. ☆



May the sound of the shofar herald a year filled with health, happiness, and peace.

L'Shanah Tovah

Nettie N. Smith



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We wish you and your family a happy new year!



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