



My name is Miriam Schwartz and I am a member of Kol Ami. Unfortunately, due to illness I have not been able to attend services for some time.

Just before Rosh Hashanah, I received a phone call from a member named Stacy who said that at the suggestion of Ethel Marcus and Gerry Ganezer, she was calling to ask if I would like to have the children come to my apartment to hear the children blow the Shofar. I immediately said yes, and Stacy said she would be in touch to set the day.

I then began to think that because I live in a Senior Assisted Residence, the noise might be too overbearing an apartment and the residents, so I asked our Activity Director, Michelle, if I could use the larger Community Room and explained to her what it was all about. She thought it was a good idea and that all the residents should be invited. So she make all arrangements, posted notices everywhere in the building , arranged for cookies and punch for the children and was a help in many ways.

The date set with Stacy was for October 6th at 4 PM because the children had to be met at school and be driven from Cheshire to Southington. I was a little uneasy again, because in this facility there are only 4 Jewish people. All the rest are of various non-Jewish faiths, so I wondered how many residents would be interested in hearing a Shofar blown, or even knew what it was, but we went ahead with the plans.

On the 6th of October, about 3:45 PM, I went into the Community Room to see if all was arranged and if anyone would be there and..... SURPRISE.....about 25 residents had already assembled and were waiting. This was a good time, while waiting for the children to arrive, to explain about our New Year 5769 and what a shofar was. Shortly, the children began to arrive, and as soon as all had assembled, Stacy lined them up and took control. She led into the “Tkeya”(we had warned the audience that it would be loud). The children were great and when it came to the last one, everyone lasted very long, especially Joseph Unsworth, with his new long Shofar that he just received for his Bar Mitzvah. He wowed the audience.

The applause was loud and enthusiastic and all seemed to enjoy the program. The children had their cookies and punch (supplied by Michelle of the Orchards, which is the name of our facility) while people gathered to chat. Many came up to me to say they enjoyed it and learned a great deal.

I would like to give special thanks to Stacy Unsworth and the mothers who gave their time to transport the children, and to the children themselves. It was a pleasure to meet them and to hear them. The children were: Joseph and Samuel Unsworth, Tessa and Calem McConnell, Josh Goldstein, Michael Kosover, Jacob and Mollie Korman, Zachariah Wolansky and Jack Krieger.

My best wishes to everyone in the congregation for a happy and healthy NEW YEAR.

Miriam Schwartz