



The Voice

Founded 1906

Congregation Ahavath Israel
A Liberal Conservative Synagogue
Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

January 2010

On the web at <http://ahavathisraelkingston.org>

Tevet-Cheshvan 5770

Message from the Rabbi



Dear Kehilat Ahavath Israel,

Tu B'shevat is just around the corner. The age of trees was a crucial religious fact in the times of the temple. Certain fruits were not allowed to be eaten and still others had to be eaten in sight of the Temple. However, if you have an orchard it is very difficult to keep track of when every single tree was planted and how old it is. (Additionally, it would simply be inefficient to have to cut the tree down to count rings.) The rabbis instituted Tu b'shevat (which literally means the 15th of the month of shevat). This holiday would be the annual birthday of the trees in order to deal with these complex temple rituals.

However, Jews have never been willing to sit idly by and allow a perfectly good ritual to be

meaningless. Over the years this holiday has been the Jewish nature holiday. It has become a time to reflect on our relationship with the natural world around us and think on what ways we have to support that world. An entire Tu B'shevat seder has been developed around the holiday which mimics the Passover seder in style while celebrating a different theme. Particularly possible is our very own Jewish Rip Van Winkle.

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Message from the President

Was Fred Flintstone Jewish?

There are days when running a small shul makes me feel like Fred Flintstone going to work - the car doesn't go without the people inside to make it go. Fortunately, I've got Barney (sorry Rhona) to help get us where we want to be, but it can sometimes feel more like driving a Hummer than Fred's little four-seater. In addition to a great vice-president, I am lucky to have a wonderfully dedicated group of people who have committed their time to keep the wheels turning. This time commitment is considerable, and our hope is that we will not only keep our shul running, but see it grow, not just in size, but in vitality. And like pushing a car, it is a job that only gets easier the more people involved.

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Congregation Ahavath Israel

On the web at
<http://ahavathisraelkingston.org>

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Office Sec'y Mary Lessner
Sisterhood Pres. Candace Belles

The Voice

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Sponsor a Shabbat Luncheon

Have a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion? Why not sponsor a Shabbat luncheon? We hope to have a monthly Shabbat luncheon. If you have a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion, please consider becoming a sponsor. Call the office at 845-338-4490 or Arlene Cohen at 845-339-8413 or 845-389-2342 (cell) or gcohen@hvc.rr.com for information.

Sign up for Goodsearch. Go to:
<http://www.goodsearch.com> ; Sign up for the charity Congregation Ahavath Israel and every time you use Goodsearch as your search engine you help make money for the synagogue.

The Voice is currently accepting advertisements. Please contact Susan Rafkind at sfracf@gmail.com for rates and details.

Schedule of Weekly Services

Shabbat Services



Friday 7:30 pm
Saturday 9:30 am
Sunday Minyan 9:00 am

Rabbi Fruithandler
January 8-10
January 22-24

Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
10:00-3:00

Cell Phones and Services

When attending synagogue on Shabbat or festivals, please remember we are Shomer Shabbat and therefore the use of cell phones is prohibited. Please make sure they are turned off or on silent during services. Also be aware that calls should not be made to the Synagogue from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday night on Shabbat and including sundown to sundown on certain festivals. Check the calendar in each issue of The Voice and on our website for candle-lighting and end times.

Even though your own observance may not be the same as the synagogue, please make sure that no synagogue business is conducted on Shabbat (ie: shopping for synagogue functions, phone calls or emails to synagogue members regarding synagogue business, etc.).

If you have specific questions please, please see any Ritual Committee Member.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



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This issue of the Voice is sponsored by

Mary V. Lessner

in memory of my beloved Dad

Frank J. Reill

January 19, 1926

January 16, 2009

“Memories of you are always with me”

Attention Congregants!! Discount Cards Now Available

You may still order Discount Cards, good for many, many local establishments. A flyer with all the details is attached. The price of the card is \$10.00 and is good throughout the entire year from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. The discounts can be used repeatedly at each store. We are hoping this will be a major fund-raiser for our synagogue. Please ask your friends to purchase from you as well.

A limited supply of Discount Cards is on hand for immediate purchase by calling Susan Rafkind at 336 – 8013. The forms for ordering cards are attached. You may send a check made out to Congregation Ahavath Israel (tax deductible!) for the cost of \$10.00 per card. Please indicate how many cards you will be purchasing. Once the cards are delivered, we can either mail them to you or you may pick them up at the synagogue.

Congregation Ahavath Israel extends condolences to the Millens family on the passing of Marvin Millens. May his memory be for a blessing.

Congregation Ahavath Israel mourns the passing of our member Evelyn Brener. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Brener family at this time. May her memory be for a blessing.

Save the Date for Chaifest 2010 !

Save the date of March 14th and put Chaifest 2010 on your calendars. Noah Weber, Bard College 2010 MFA Candidate in Conducting, will lead a professional string orchestra in a wonderful musical program including the well-known and exciting Tchaikowsky "Serenade". Once again we will auction off the opportunity for a member of the audience to try their hand at conducting.

More details to follow. We hope you can join us!

Learn Torah/Haftorah

The Ritual committee is looking for a few good people who want to learn Torah and/or Haftorah trope. We will be forming a class with Rabbi Jason. Please contact Jerry Weiss, jweiss536@gmail.com or Jeremy Schiffres, jeremyinny@aol.com for more information.

Congregation Ahavath Israel extends condolences to the Denkensohn family on the passing of Esther Denkensohn. May her memory be for a blessing.

Mens Club News

Please join us at the first meeting of the newly constituted Mens Club on Sunday morning, January 10, following minyan. Breakfast will be served. We have a full slate of activities planned,

starting with a poker night on Sunday, Jan.17. Come and find out what we're all about. For further information, call Jerry Weiss at 853-5876.

The Ahavath Israel Board would like to invite anyone with the skills to participate in services by leading, reading Torah, Haftorah or presenting a D'Var to contact the Synagogue office.

Soup and Bread Dinner

We hope you and your families can join us for our Soup and Bread Dinner on Friday evening, January 22. Come celebrate Shabbat with Rabbi Jason Fruithandler who will be with us for the weekend. See attached flyer for information.

Torah Throw Price Reduced

Torah Throws are still available and the price for each throw is now reduced to \$50.00. The Torah Throws make great Chanukkah, wedding, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or graduation gifts. We have a limited supply so please call the office soon at 338-4409 to reserve your Torah Throw and to participate in this unique fundraiser.

Rabbi's message continued from page 1

The story goes that a young man is walking down the streets when he sees an elderly gentleman planting a carob tree. The young man (we'll call him Yonkele) laughs and calls out, "old man you'll never see any fruit from that carob tree. They take 70 years before they bloom and produce edible fruit." The old man grins wisely at Yonkele's ignorance and replies, "It's true I never will see its fruit, but hopefully my grandchildren will one day and hopefully they will plant a new tree for their grandchildren." Yonkele left, smirking to himself at the old man's foolishness. Why bother? He

thought to himself. A little way down the road Yonkele noticed it was getting late and he was not going to make it to the next town to find a place to sleep. It was the summer and quite nice out so he found a nice spot along the side of the road and curled up to sleep through the night. The next morning when he awoke everything was different. The road he was walking down was no longer a dirt path but a paved street. There were horses pulling carts back and forth, people carrying burdens, the street was packed! Yonkele was stupefied! He went back to find the old man to ask what had happened. When he made it back to the same spot where he saw the old man, he found an entire grove of carob trees and two small children laughing and playing. When Yonkele asked them where the old man was who lived there, the children pointed to the house. When Yonkele got to the house, indeed, the old man was there, or so he thought. In fact it was that old man's son already grown old with grandchildren of his own. This old man told Yonkele that he remembered that visit 70 years ago. He said that his father came home after that day full of hope and laughing with mirth at the foolishness of the youth who had passed by. The old man said, "My family owes all our wealth and well being to my father and his foresight as he planted that carob tree."

The story reminds us that by focusing on nature and the earth, we must focus not on ourselves or even on the present but on the future and future generations which is a responsibility we all must share.

Kol Tuv,
Tu B'shevat Sameach,
Student Rabbi Jason Fruithandler

President's message continued from page 1

Our services are running, because of the people who make sure that all Torah readings, Haftorah,

D'var and all parts of the service are covered when our Rabbi is not here. The building is being kept up, because a few people are spending a lot of their time calling and meeting with contractors on the various issues that keep cropping up and taking care of all of the small things that a building requires.

No matter what your interests, no matter what your skills, I am sure that we can find you a seat in the car. Make it a short hop, hang in for a long ride, we'll be happy to have some company.

Rebecca Balzac, President

January Donations

Mitzvah Fund
Bill & Edna Helmrich
Marsha Weiss

Ahavath Israel General Fund
In memory of:
Gerald Steinhart
From: Ellen Steinhart

George Jacobson
From: Douglas & Linda Jacobson

Sadie Gruberg
From: Elaine Siller

Frances Rose
From: Eleanor Werbalowsky

In honor of:
Candy Belles
From: Rosette Teitel

Building Fund
In memory of:
Newton Teitel
From: Rosette Teitel

Beautification Fund
In memory of:
Jeanette Adin Fischweicher
From: Lawrence Adin

Hugh G. Straus, Jr.
From: Hugh Straus

Hy Cutler Torah Fund
In memory of:
Aaron Klein

From: Mary Jan & Lou Klein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
In memory of:
Nathan Parnett
From: Elynore Rubin

Lillian Fruithandler (grandmother of Rabbi Jason Fruithandler)
From: Bernie & Lisa King-Smith

Yahrzeit List
January 2010 – Tevet / Shevat 5770

15 Tevet (1 Jan)	Bessie Feinberg Dr. Irving Adner Oskar Salomon Israel Avis	4 Shevat (19 Jan)	Sylvia Spiegel Hannah Jacobowitz Dr. Alfred M. Berg Abraham Werner
16 Tevet (2 Jan)	Stuart Rosenthal Yekusiel Tompkins	5 Shevat (20 Jan)	David Krakower Michael Dean
17 Tevet (3 Jan)	Meyer Levy Herbert Raymond Singer Aaron Burman Isidore Kuznitz	6 Shevat (21 Jan)	Helma Gruberg Garson Grossman Barnett Epstein Esther Hartman Ben Marcus
18 Tevet (4 Jan)	Celia Steigman Beatrice Jacobson Louis Ross Eva Tannin Weber	7 Shevat (22 Jan)	Robert L. Jacobson Celia Kronick
19 Tevet (5 Jan)	William Spiegel Barney Millens	8 Shevat (23 Jan)	Julius Nadel Albert Epstein David Woolf Schmuel Ben Shimo Briner Minnie Rice Mitchell Winston
20 Tevet (6 Jan)	Jules Schwartz		
21 Tevet (7 Jan)	Ella Kobransky	9 Shevat (24 Jan)	Adele Bregman Saul Friedman Rose Goldstein
22 Tevet (8 Jan)	Gene Saks Jack Furman Michael Rand Karpin	10 Shevat (25 Jan)	Joseph Brener Fred Field Harry Leifer
23 Tevet (9 Jan)	Rose Kalina Blanche Lang Enzell	11 Shevat (26 Jan)	Matthew Solkow Dora Dubin Leventhal
24 Tevet (10 Jan)	Harriet Aszkenas Rev. Irving Jacobowitz	12 Shevat (27 Jan)	Jacob Kinberg Anne G. Schwartz
25 Tevet (11 Jan)	Dorothy Schecter Anna Danielak	13 Shevat (28 Jan)	Grisha Gorochofsky
26 Tevet (12 Jan)	Dr. Harry Steigman George Margolis	14 Shevat (29 Jan)	Harry Brown Elaine Barbara Karasik Phillip Shom Lillian Lehr Isaac Appleblatt
27 Tevet (13 Jan)	Bertha Orkoff Rose Simon Lillian Albert	15 Shevat (30 Jan)	Sarah Rasel Pauker
28 Tevet (14 Jan)	Veronika Lefkovits Sylvia Feinberg		
29 Tevet (15 Jan)	Max Millens Bella Weinstein Sally Avis	16 Shevat (31 Jan)	Abram Alcon Yetta Werner
1 Shevatt (16 Jan)	Lester Simons Rose L. Aronofsky		
2 Shevat (17 Jan)	Rabbi David Weis Rosa Wolf		
3 Shevat (18 Jan)	Leon Grossman Tibie Riserashe Greenspan Ann Krasner		

Chinese Food and Movie Night a Hit!

Will Chinese Food and Movie become a new tradition at Congregation Ahavath Israel? All who came to our synagogue on the evening of December 24th, were in for a real treat. In addition to the congregants who attended, we were happy to welcome guests from synagogues in Kerhonkson and Ellenville. Many thanks go to Jerry Weiss, who traveled far and wide from Brooklyn to Teaneck, New Jersey to gather the selections for the table. We enjoyed a delicious buffet ranging from cashew chicken and beef broccoli to vegetable fried rice prepared with authentic flavor by Chopstix, a Glatt Kosher Chinese restaurant and caterer. Dessert included wonderful cakes and fresh fruit drizzled with hot chocolate. Additional thanks go to our student Rabbi, Jason Fruithandler, for contributing a welcoming video, to Sue and Steve Hirsch for providing 'The Producers', the rip-roaring movie for the evening, to Rebecca Balzac, Rhona Schiffres and Sue Rafkind for donating tasty fruit and snacks, to the Ulster County Jewish Federation for letting us borrow the DVD equipment, and to Dan Rafkind for his technical expertise in assembling all the electronics. To all others who provided cheerful assistance in the set-up, serving and cleanup after the event, we extend hearty appreciation. The whole evening was such a hit that we are already planning our next gathering with movie and food.

We hope to see you there!

Susan Rafkind

Fund Raising Chair

Sisterhood in the Nuz

Unfortunately due to weather and illness, the December Rosh Chodesh event was cancelled. Look to February 13th (Adar & Purim) for our next get-together.

As the latkes slide away, our thoughts turn to Purim frolic and Passover. We all love those Passover chocolates and candies. Don't fret about Pesach candies – our Sisterhood has joined with Aunt Sadie's Candies to sell Kosher for Passover candies as a fundraiser. The Sisterhood receives 40% of each item sold to fund all the wonderful work we do for the synagogue and the community. The candy is kosher and kosher for Passover, and simply delicious – white and dark chocolate truffles, nut and fruit clusters, chocolate Mogen David pops and chocolate covered orange peels. Aunt Sadie's candies are available in a scrumptious variety and several sizes to give as gifts. You can order yours from any of our super sellers (Lisa King-Smith, Gladys Spiegler or Candy Belles) or on-line at Aunt Sadie's website www.auntsadiescandies.com. When you order on-line, be sure to use our synagogue's ID (ahavathisraelkingstonny) so the Sisterhood will be credited for the sale and will receive its 40% rebate. Candy orders will be taken until February 5, 2010, and delivered before Passover. A candy samples tasting is being planned for mid January, so watch and listen for it in the weekly bema announcements.

Other programs scheduled in the future include a Divine Kosher cuisine cooking class, spring-fling bazaar, and a tea social. Don't forget to buy your tickets to our 50/50 raffle to increase your chances on being a winner.

Candace Belles

Sisterhood President

Shabbat Services
 Friday 7:30 pm
 6:15 pm if dinner
 Saturday 9:30 am

Congregation Ahavath Israel

January 2010

15th Tevet - 16th Cheshvan 5770

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Friday, Jan. 22 6:15 Services followed by Soup & Bread dinner at 7:15					1 4:17 candles 15 Tevet	2 5:21 Havdalah 16 Tevet
3 17 Tevet	4 18 Tevet	5 19 Tevet	6 20 Tevet	7 21 Tevet	8 4:24 candles Services w/ Rabbi Frithandler 22 Tevet	9 5:28 Havdalah Services w/ Rabbi Frithandler 23 Tevet
10 Talmud Torah Men's Club meeting 24 Tevet	11 25 Tevet	12 26 Tevet	13 27 Tevet	14 28 Tevet	15 4:31 candles 29 Tevet	16 5:36 Havdalah Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat 1 Sh'vat
17 2 Sh'vat	18 3 Sh'vat	19 4 Sh'vat	20 5 Sh'vat	21 Board meeting 7:30 6 Sh'vat	22 4:40 candles Services w/ Rabbi Frithandler 7 Sh'vat	23 5:44 Havdalah Services w/ Rabbi Frithandler 8 Sh'vat
24 Talmud Torah Tu B'Shevat Seder 9 Sh'vat	25 10 Sh'vat	26 11 Sh'vat	27 12 Sh'vat	28 13 Sh'vat	29 4:49 candles 14 Sh'vat	30 5:53 Havdalah Tu B'Shevat 15 Sh'vat
31 16 Sh'vat						