



The Voice

Founded 1906

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

February 2009

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

Shevat - Adar 5769

Message from the President

“Our Mission is to strengthen the existence of a thriving Jewish Communal Experience, both spiritually & financially, through which our Judaism is cherished and celebrated with egalitarian observance of ritual & culture, dynamic education for our young people and our adult community, with an emphasis on Social Action & Social Justice as an expression of our progressive community. We are committed to the importance of our Jewish Legacy with a priority placed on a warm welcoming inclusive community that at its core accepts and celebrates diverse approaches to affirming Judaism and its traditions, maximizing involvement, cultivating commitment and strengthening *Am Yisrael*.”

As you are all aware, we are currently engaged in a dialogue with our friends at Temple Emanuel concerning the future of our congregations. At one of our early meetings, we formulated the above “mission statement” to guide our talks. The purpose of our venture is to ensure that there is a strong, vibrant Jewish community in Ulster County. What form this takes is unclear, and will probably not be clear for many months. Various sub-committees have been meeting to explore our similarities and differences, and to determine whether we can co-exist under one roof. While many of you have heard that we are “merging” with Temple Emanuel, let me be perfectly clear. That has not been decided. While that is one of the possibilities, it is not the only alternative. It is also possible that we could end up as two separate entities sharing one facility. There is the further possibility that we could decide (as could Temple) that we are better off going our separate ways. As talks progress, we will keep the congregation fully informed and hold periodic congregational informational meetings to answer all your questions.

For now, I will give you a brief summary of where we are in our discussions. After a number of joint meetings with Temple, we formed four joint sub-committees: Facilities, Education, Finance and Ritual. Following is a recap of what each committee has been doing:

Facilities: The facilities sub-committees (ours is chaired by Steve Hirsch) did a walk-through of each building to assess the pluses and minuses of each. Our sanctuary and social hall are slightly larger than theirs. Our kitchen is much larger. We have far more parking spaces in our lot. We have more wall space. Temple Emanuel has more classroom space. The Temple has just undergone a \$2,000,000 renovation and upgrade, and it’s electrical, heating and plumbing systems are in far greater shape than ours (which is in severe need of upgrade). They have a new chapel which seats 60 -70 and which would come in handy if we had separate congregations under one roof and conducted separate services. The next order of business is for each congregation’s sub-committee to come up with a list of what would be essential to take along should it be decided to use the “other” building.

Education: The education sub-committees (ours is chaired by Pat Sokolski) met with the goal of determining if and how we can combine the two Hebrew Schools. So far, the discussion has only dealt with the pre-b’nai mitzvah students. Currently, we have seven pre-b’nai mitzvah students (five of whom will graduate this spring). Temple has approx. 120 students. Over the next few weeks, our committee members will visit Temple’s Sunday School and observe classes. The sub-committee will examine both curricula and explore how to incorporate Conservative teaching where it differs from Reformed. The students will be taught both points of view.

Continued on page 3

Rabbi Search Committee Update

In the past few months, our search has progressed. The Search Committee has decided to proceed with a search for a student rabbi only, and not pursue the search for an ordained Rabbi. We hope to have a student rabbi starting in the summer or fall of this year. Our job description has been sent out and we have started receiving resumes. We will shortly begin the process of going through the resumes and make selections for interviews.

Congregation Ahavath Israel

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

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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 Rebecca Balzac at rbalzac@hvc.rr.com or at 657-6682 for rates and details.

Schedule of Weekly Services

Shabbat Services

Friday 6:30 pm
Saturday 9:30 am
Sunday Minyan 9:00 am



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 sponsored by
Mary V. Lessner
In memory of my beloved husband*

Albert Lessner

*November 19, 1930 -
February 28, 2004*

*"Memories of you bring
a smile to my face"*

*The congregation extends its
condolences to Mary Lessner on the
death of her father.*

May his memory be for a blessing

*The congregation extends its
condolences to Cecile Kuznitz on the
death of her father, Isidore Kuznitz.*

May his memory be for a blessing

Purim is coming! Purim is coming!

We will be having a megilla reading and Purim Shpiel on Monday March 9th at 7:00 PM at the synagogue. Come one come all in costume or not. For the evening we will be reading parts of the Megilla as well as having a Purim Shpiel called "Stars of David Wars". Several members of our congregation will be putting on this skit under the direction of congregant Andrea Winston. Please join us for a wonderful evening to celebrate Purim. If you are interested in helping with the Shpiel or reading from the megilla, please contact Bernie King-Smith.

Welcome to new members

Ivana Sarah Blanco Gross & Mitchell Spinac
Matthew & Ariana Gross

Rabbi Kolko's Visits

Rabbi Kolko will be visiting us again in February and March to spend a weekend together with us leading services, doing Adult education and meeting with our Talmud Torah and B'nai Mitzvah children. The dates he will be here are:

February 20-22

March 27 - 29

Should you have any questions for Rabbi Kolko, he is available via e-mail and phone. His e-mail is skolko@msn.com or phone 585-730-7097.

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Ritual: The ritual subcommittees (ours is chaired by Ellen Leifer) met a number of times and reported the following (Keep in mind that the areas of agreement are applicable only if there is a merger. If we are separate congregations under one roof, then each congregation will maintain its own standards):

Areas of agreement:

1. We define a Jew as anyone who has been born to a Jewish parent, identifies as a Jew and affirms his/her Judaism through celebration, ritual, and life cycle events or an individual who has "chosen Judaism" through conversion by a Rabbi of our people Israel.
2. Women and Men are afforded equal status, with all of the same privileges and all of the same responsibilities without distinction as to their gender.
3. We recognize and welcome all adult family members of our congregations, both Jewish and non-Jewish family members.
4. The cemetery will be kept in two separate sections, with no area set aside for suicide victims. In the Temple section a non-Jewish spouse may be buried with no other religious symbols on his/her gravestone. A non-Jewish religious leader will not be allowed to co-officiate at a funeral but is permitted to recite a blessing.

5. The wearing of a tallit is encouraged but not mandatory.

Still to be discussed:

1. services on Shabbat evening and morning
2. the use of instrumental music during services
3. holding services on one or two days of the appropriate holidays, as well as holding services for a specific holiday on different day
4. kashruth
5. prayer books and chumashim

Finance: The finance subcommittees (ours is chaired by Susan Hirsch) have yet to meet. The feeling was that since financial discussions would involve disclosure of confidential information, the committees should not meet unless the other sub-committees reported progress, which they have. By the time the Voice goes to press, there is a good chance the Finance sub-committee will be up and running.

I have tried to give you all an overview of what is happening. It is still very early in the process. No final recommendations have been made, and it is likely that none will be for many months. When the committee makes its final recommendations it will be up to all of us as a congregation to consider and make a final determination. It is essential that all of us keep an open mind, as we on the committee have tried to do.

I have tried to bring as many members as possible into the process. I would like all of you to be involved. Over the past few months, I have spoken to many of you. I would like to speak to all of you if possible. As we proceed, I will try to contact as many of you as possible. In the meantime, if you have any questions, or would like to talk about the situation, please feel free to call me at 845-853-5876.

In closing, I would just like to assure all of you that every person on the committee is acting with the best interests of Ahavath Israel and the Jewish community at heart. The members of the joint committees have spent many hours volunteering their time, in numerous capacities, to the betterment of the shul and want what is best for all. We do not view our responsibility lightly. For all of us, this is a very difficult process. Change is difficult, and very often painful. However, it is inevitable. Unless we change with the times, we face the very real possibility of eventual extinction. As Red Skelton used to say, "Good night, and may G-d bless."

Combined services with Temple Emanuel

Ahavath Israel and Temple Emanuel will be having joint services on February 6th at Temple Emanuel, dinner at 5:30 pm followed by services. On February 13th, services will be at Ahavath Israel, services 6:15 pm followed by soup and bread dinner.

MI SHABERACH LIST

We are updating our Mi Shaberach List. Names will remain on the Mi Shaberach list for one month unless the office has been notified to keep the person's name on longer. You must call the office (338-4409) each month that you want the person left on the list. We would like their Hebrew name and their English name along with the name of the person submitting this information. Thank you for your co-operation.

Chris Kowalenko

Congregation Ahavath Israel Burial Benefits

Are you aware that synagogue membership allows you to purchase burial rights in Congregation Ahavath Israel's section of Montrepose Cemetery in Kingston? The burial benefit plan includes the cemetery plot plus payment toward some of the internment costs. Plan fee is based on age at the time of enrollment. If you would like more detailed information on the burial benefit, call the synagogue office for a Plan description.

Good and Welfare

We wish a speedy recovery to:

Arlene Kronick
Anne Reuben
Gloria Sender
Molly Rafalowsky.

If you have other names to add, please send them to the Voice editors.

February Donations

Ahavath Israel General Fund

In memory of:

Sandy Weiss

From: Margo & Joe Colen
Susan & Steve Hirsch
Jacqueline Solomon
Edna & Bill Helmrich
Mary V. Lessner

Shelly Levy

From John & Marjorie Regan

Jack Sender

From: Margo & Joe Colen
Susan & Steve Hirsch

Gerald Steinhart

From Ellen Steinhart

Dr. Harry Steigman & Mrs. Celia Steigman

From: Mary V. Lessner

Donation from:

Odile Deleon

Kol Nidre Appeal

Donations from:

Martin Melamed

Beautification Fund

In memory of:

Edith Lessick & Francis Rose

From Eleanor & Alvin Werbalowsky

Mitzvah Fund

Donation from:

Dr. Cy Gruberg

FEBRUARY YAHRZEITS

“The Lord will guard your going out
and your coming home, now and forever”

יהוה ישמר צאחך

ובואך מעתה ועד עולם - Psalm 121

7 Shevat February 1	Robert L. Jacobson Celia Kronick	20 Shevat February 14	Hyman Haberman Shirley Schwartz
8 Shevat February 2	Julius Nadel Albert Epstein David Woolf Schmuel Ben Shlmo Briner Minnie Rice Mitchell Winston	21 Shevat February 15	Isidore Gold Albert Gerofsky
9 Shevat February 3	Adele Bregman Saul Friedman Rose Goldstein	22 Shevat February 16	Eva Gossett Herschel Davis
10 Shevat February 4	Joseph Brener Fred Field Harry Leifer	23 Shevat February 17	Bessie Epstein Nathan Smoller
11 Shevat February 5	Mathew Solkow Dora Dubin Leventhal	24 Shevat February 18	Irma Ruth Rosenthal
12 Shevat February 6	Jacob Kinberg Anne G. Schwartz	26 Shevat February 20	Margaret Gruberg Sallie Block Millmae Dr. Abraham Adner
13 Shevat February 7	Grisha Goroshowsky	27 Shevat February 21	Esther Gottlieb Bernard Halperin
14 Shevat February 8	Harry Brown Elaine Barbara Karasik Philip Shom Lilian Lehr Isaac Appleblatt	28 Shevat February 22	William Goldstein Abraham Jacobs Raisel Bas Schmuel Brines Rose Weiss Harry Rose
15 Shevat February 9	Sarah Rasel Pauker	29 Shevat February 23	Sandra Kreines Louis Goldstein Irving Jacobson
16 Shevat February 10	Abram Alcon Yetta Werner	30 Shevat February 24	Samuel Glasner William Tevlowitz Leah M. Riss
17 Shevat February 11	Ephraim Propp Helen Goldsmith Sadie Len Lena Jacobson Paulina Brener	1 Adar February 25	Ruchel Schames Samuel Schecter Harry Gordon
18 Shevat February 12	Leon Leopold Lowenstein Gertrude Nadel Eva Serrin David Wissok Izzy Goldman	2 Adar February 26	Jacob Cohen
19 Shevat February 13	Anna Siegel Lillian Feldman Joseph Bernard Kross	3 Adar February 27	Sarah Levy Dora Evans Samuel Gottlieb Miriam Popper
		4 Adar February 28	Rachel Solomon Minnie Marcus

Shabbat Services

Friday 6:30 pm

6:15 pm if dinner

Saturday 9:30 am

*Congregation Ahavath Israel**February 2009**7th Shevat- 4th Adar, 5769*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7 Shevat	2 8 Shevat	3 9 Shevat	4 Trop class 4-5 pm 10 Shevat	5 11 Shevat	6 4:59 candles 5:30 Dinner & Joint Services @ Temple Emanuel 12 Shevat	7 6:03 Havdalah 13 Shevat
8 14 Shevat	9 Tu B'Shevat 15 Shevat	10 16 Shevat	11 Trop class 4-5 pm 17 Shevat	12 18 Shevat	13 5:08 candles 6:15 Joint Services & Dinner @ Ahavath Israel 19 Shevat	14 6:12 Havdalah 20 Shevat
15 No Talmud Torah 21 Shevat	16 22 Shevat	17 23 Shevat	18 Trop class 4-5 pm 24 Shevat	19 25 Shevat	20 5:16 candles Services w/ Rabbi Kolko 26 Shevat	21 6:21 Havdalah Services w/ Rabbi Kolko 27 Shevat
22 No Talmud Torah 28 Shevat	23 29 Shevat	24 Rosh Chodesh Adar 30 Shevat	25 Rosh Chodesh Adar Trop class 4-5 pm 1 Adar	26 2 Adar	27 5:25 candles 3 Adar	28 6:29 Havdalah 4 Adar

Congregation Ahavath Israel Donation Form

Please print and use this form to make your donation. Make checks payable to
CONGREGATION AHAVATH ISRAEL. Use a separate form for each donation.

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KINGSTON, NY 12402

Attached is my check in the amount of \$ _____
I wish to donate to the following fund (Circle Fund Name below)

Ahavath Israel Fund	Hyman and Eva Nearon Library Fund
Beautification Fund	Hy Cutler Torah Fund
Building Fund	Irv Reuben Memorial Window Fund
Dr. Mitch Winston Fund	Jeannette and Irving Wilpan Prayer Book Fund
Helen Millens Fund	Joseph, Sadie J. and Gerald Gruberg Talmud Torah Education Fund
George and Sylvia Starkman Fund	The Miriam G. Freed Arts and Entertainment Fund

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Other _____

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Send Acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

For *Yizkor Memorial Plates* please call Matthew Goldowitz (845) 331-0321

Fund Descriptions:

Ahavath Israel Fund Helps offset the cost of operation of the synagogue programs

Building Fund Helps Defrays the cost of our building and for improving our synagogue.

Beautification Fund Provides money to improve the appearance of our house of worship

Dr. Mitch Winston Fund and Helen Millens Fund Provide scholarships to our Talmud Torah School.

Jeannette and Irving Wilpan Prayer Book Fund Purchases new prayer books for our sanctuary; books contain a dedication bookplate.

Hy Cutler Torah Fund Provides money for repairs and maintenance of our Torahs in the synagogue.

Hyman and Eva Nearon Library Fund Purchases books for the synagogue library.

George and Sylvia Starkman Youth Fund Helps defray the cost for our youth to attend USY programs.

Irv Reuben Memorial Window Fund Purchases a stained glass window in memory of Irv Reuben.

Joseph, Sadie J., and Gerald Gruberg Talmud Torah Education Fund Provides money which helps our synagogue school purchase new equipment and teaching resources.

The Miriam G. Freed Arts and Entertainment Fund Provides money for musical events, guest lectures and film screenings to enhance the culture and ruach for our synagogue and community at large.

Form revised January, 2008