



The Voice

Founded 1906

Congregation Ahavath Israel A Liberal Conservative Synagogue

Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

November 2008

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

Cheshvan-Kislev 5768

Message from the President

President's Yom Kippur Address

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One night the President of a synagogue was working late trying to figure out all the money problems. While he was in the office, a Genie appeared and said, "Mister President, as a reward for being elected president, I will grant you one wish. It can be anything." Well, the President thought for a moment and took out a map of the Middle East and pointed to a spot. He said, "Genie do you see this land of Israel? My wish would be that Israel would have lasting peace. No more war, no more terrorist attacks and no more conflicts between Israel and the rest of the world."

The Genie took a step back and said, "I don't know. The Middle East has been at war for 100's and 100's of years. Many great Genies before me have tried to grant peace in the Middle East and could not. To be honest, I am not that great of a Genie. You will need to think of something else."

Well the President thought for a moment and looked down at all the files he was working on. Membership dues were not paid up, tuition and Kol Nidre pledges were not paid up and the money going out far exceeded the money coming in. The President said, "Genie, my wish then is to have all of the receivables paid up and that the shul can have a balanced budget." The genie looked down at all the files, saw all the problems and pondered for a moment and then said, "On second thought let me see that Middle East Map again."

Today, I want to talk about synagogue and what it means to us.

Imagine for a moment our Kingston Jewish community with no synagogue at all. Think about it.

Without a synagogue, where would we hold our life cycle events? Where would we hold Shabbat services? Where would we keep our Torahs and Memorial Boards? Who would sing our prayers to the Almighty and teach our children Bar and Bas Mitzvah? Where would you celebrate simchas with family and friends? Where would we seek consolation

at a time of death and mourning? We need to say Kaddish – at shul. Yes, alternatives immediately come to our mind. But somehow, the synagogue seems to be the center of our Jewish life.

And yet, for many of us, it seems that the synagogue is not even on our radar screen – unless it is Rosh Hashonah or Yom Kippur or a life cycle event. But, on those occasions, we want the synagogue to be here, we need the synagogue to be there.

One thing I notice is that we are an incredibly diverse group of individuals. We are in every possible age bracket. We are in every possible family situation. We come from various walks of life.. Some of us are knowledgeable Jews who envelope our entire existence in living as a Jew. Many of us may find ourselves on the opposite extreme. To some of us, everything we do here seems foreign to us. Many of us don't speak or understand the Hebrew. Some of us struggle to read it. Maybe we don't see how what we do here is relevant to us or to our lives. In fact, right now, some of us might be wondering to ourselves, why are we even here? Some are here at Ahavath Israel every Shabbos, others, three times a year. That pretty much sums it up.

The studies tell us that all of you **insist** on being Jewish and relating to your Judaism, in your own personal and unique way.

As synagogue leaders, we want to have a big enough tent for everyone. That's our goal. That's what we're trying to accomplish. We want all of you to feel and be comfortable here at Ahavath Israel. We want all of you to know that you're important and that you're a welcome and valuable member of our Ahavath Israel community. The trick is, how do we accomplish this? How do we develop programs that appeal to such a broad range of people and experiences, given how very different all of us are. I hope that some of you can appreciate what a difficult challenge this is.

Continued on page 3

Congregation Ahavath Israel

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

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Sponsor a Shabbat Luncheon

Have a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion? Why not sponsor a Shabbat luncheon? Starting in October, we hope to have a monthly Shabbat luncheon. Please consider sponsoring one. Call the office or Candy Belles 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 alzac@hvc.rr.com or at 657-6682 for rates and details.

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Schedule of Weekly Services

Shabbat Services

Friday 7:30 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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If you believe in such things, the demographic reports tell us a message of gloom and doom. At one time, the Conservative movement could boast the largest number of affiliated Jews. The most recent surveys tell us that the Reform movement has taken over that top position, moving the Conservative movement to second place. Most disturbing of all, is the ever increasing percentage of people who identify themselves as Jews, but don't affiliate with or join any synagogue at all. The population trends are quite ominous. I, for one, don't think it's helpful to dwell on these negative projections. Instead, I remain optimistic about the Jewish people and the future of the Jewish people. Why? As I've said before, if I were a marketer, I'd tell you about this great product we have to offer. It can't be beat.

Our congregation is blessed to have a very involved and active core group of members who fully understand what I'm talking about. This group of people has, over the years, led this institution to the heights it has achieved in our Jewish community and in the Jewish world at large. But, for those of you who feel yourselves to be on the outside looking in, we need to find more and better ways to inspire you to resume your Jewish Journey. As I have continued my personal Jewish journey, my knowledge and level of observance has increased. For me it has been a blessing. It has never felt like a burden.

During this holiday season, we gather together as a community – in our community home – here in the synagogue. For many of us, this place represents tradition, family, prayer, learning, and friendship. Our job is to make the living Torah, alive for each one of you. It's also our job is to make the wonderful community we have here at Ahavath Israel, your community, one where you feel comfortable and welcome and important. As you can imagine, this is a daunting, but worthy challenge. Fortunately, it is not my task alone, and not for my time alone.

Now as many of you know, our congregation is at a crossroads. Our Jewish community is at a crossroads. Enrollment in synagogue is down, not just at Ahavath Israel, but throughout the country. As a result, income is down. While income is down, our expenses aren't. In fact, they continue to grow. Last year our utility bills (oil and electric) alone were more than \$25,000. I shudder to think what they will be this winter.

We are once again between Rabbis. This puts a tremendous burden on our resources. While we are blessed to have a number of congregants who can lead services and read Torah and Haftarah, it takes a lot out of us. We are forced to direct much of our time and energy just to keep services going. This takes away from everything else that goes into running a synagogue, and, believe me, there's a lot more to running a synagogue than just holding services.

Now, one might think that by operating for 6 months or a year without a Rabbi would enable us to save a lot of money. Unfortunately, that is not the case. We still have to have a Rabbi for the Holidays and for life cycle events. In addition, we are looking to have a Rabbi spend one or two Sabbaths

a month with us throughout the year, to not only lead services, but to teach our Talmud Torah students, and to hold adult ed. Classes. This holiday season we have been extremely fortunate to have Rabbi Kolko with us. He has been both inspirational and enlightening.

To those of you who have supported us in the past with your membership, pledges, and donations – thank you. You have helped bring us to this stage in our synagogue's life. We look forward to your continued support. In order for us to carry on, to continue to provide a Jewish presence in Kingston, we need your help - the cheque-book kind of help. This synagogue is a vital part of the Kingston Jewish Community. It is the glue that sticks us together. We need you to help us keep the traditions of the Jewish Community alive.

I know that some of you are, for the first time, looking for a way to make a contribution, a financial contribution. Now is the time. Any amount is a good place to start. Just dip your toes in the water. You'll see. It is satisfying to play an active role in this synagogue's survival. It is not just the responsibility of the other guy. Our future depends on your support, too.

I'd like to close by telling you about a story on the Associated Press website. It's a story about how at this time of year, the Jerusalem post office is flooded with letters to "G-d" with an address of "Jerusalem, Israel." An old man from a village somewhere in Israel wrote to "G-d" in Jerusalem, telling G-d how poor he was, and begged G-d for 5,000 shekels so that he could make ends meet. The letter must have been particularly well written, because the postal workers themselves got together and raised 4,300 shekels, which they sent to the old man. Sure enough, the old man wrote back to G-d several weeks later, thanking Him for answering his prayers. This second letter included an interesting post-script. The old man advised G-d that the next time He was going to send him money, He shouldn't use the post office, because he only received 4,300 shekels. Some crook at the PO stole the other 700 shekels. While it's the end of the story that makes us chuckle, the meaningful part of this story for me is the fact that these postal workers raised a significant sum for a man that they didn't even know. If they could raise that kind of money for a complete stranger, I'd like to think that we will be able to do even better for the shul that we know so well.

On behalf of all of us, your officers, board of directors, and my family, I wish you all a year filled with good blessings and good health.

USY Has a Great Start!

USY has been off to a great start this year with the Tack brothers as our new leaders. We started off with a kickoff brainstorming BBQ in September at the Schiffres' residence. Then as we headed into the High Holidays we went apple picking at The Apple Bin and donated apples to the Shul.

Continuing in the High Holiday spirit, our group lead a creative youth service in our library. Included was some prayer and much discussion of the meaning of the holidays, what the past year meant to those attending, what they would have changed and what they will try to change going forward. On Yom Kippur we continued discussing what they felt they should not have done to someone or something, and how to ask for forgiveness from the person they hurt and from G-d

No sooner was Yom Kippur over but some of our USYers came out to help build the Sukkah. Many thanks go out to Noah Goldowitz, Ben Tack, Marc Schiffres, and a special thanks to Sydney Tack, a non-Usyer who came on a non Hebrew School Day to lend a hand.

Of course, then it was important for the group to enjoy the effects of all their hard effort. The following Sunday we enjoyed Pizza in the Hut. We made kosher pizza bagels with assorted toppings and sat outside (brrrr) for lunch.

Going forward, we are looking to have a Minyan Breakfast as a fundraiser and also a sleepover.

We are looking forward to a great year!!!
Rhona and Jeremy Schiffres
Advisors

Wanted

Someone who loves to be in the kitchen to learn kitchen rules and regulations of Kosher Conservative Kashrut. Please call Candy Belles at 331-8711. Helpers are always appreciated!

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

Synagogue Energy Conservation Measures

Due to the high cost of oil, electric and propane, the House Committee has instituted the following conservation measures to help keep our synagogue energy operating costs as low as possible. Thermostats in the sanctuary, social hall and classrooms will be set at 68-70 degrees and we will try to keep the heating system operating within this range. While this may seem cool to some members, we ask

for your understanding and that you plan to dress a little more warmly during colder weather.* In addition, outside lights which illuminate signs and the front of the building (not including security lights in the parking lot) will have their cycle times reduced. The downstairs library will be used for all meetings instead of the social hall; and we may attempt to hold some services there as well to avoid heating the sanctuary for small numbers of people.

During December, exposed windows in the offices and classrooms will be covered with plastic to retain heat. We will continue to look for ways to save on energy expense and encourage active cooperation and additional suggestions from the membership.

*For those who are also conserving energy at home by setting the thermostat lower, consider purchasing a Torah Throw to keep you snug. You'll be warmed twice: first through knowing you're helping the synagogue with this fund raiser and second, while you're wrapped in it. Contact Mary in the office for details on how to get your throw.

Steve Hirsch
House Committee Chair

Congregation Ahavath Israel can now accept credit cards in payment for dues and other fees from members. Currently we accept payments from Mastercard, Visa, and Diners Club. For dues payments, we can credit your account annually, quarterly, or monthly. If you wish to pay by credit card, we need to know your card number, the expiration date, the amount of the credit, and the expense which you are paying. Please make sure the numbers are legible. After completing each transaction, we will mail a record of the transaction to the member. Please mail the information to the synagogue c/o Financial Secretary.

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 or contact the Synagogue office.

RECENT DONATIONS

Ahavath Israel General Fund

In memory of:

Mark Brett

From Margo & Joe Colen

Martin (Bobby) Gruberg

From Michael & Jeanne Kelley
Susan & Steve Hirsch
Janice Samuels
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John K. Fanning

Celia & David Pasternack, Parents

From Bennett Pasternack

Calvin Lader, Husband

From Murial Lader

Donation From:

Margo & Joe Colen - Wishing Ruth Siegal a speedy recovery
Ellen Steinhart for Break-the-fast
Margo & Joe Colen for Break-the-fast

Building Fund

In memory of:

Dave Goldstein, Uncle

Irene Goldstein, Aunt

Morris Goldfarb, Father

Meyer Goldfarb, Brother

From Alex Goldfarb

Martin (Bobby) Gruberg

From Anna Reuben

Bill & Edna Helmrich

Elaine & Hy Greenspan

Joseph, Sadie J. & Gerald Gruberg Talmud Torah

Education Fund

In memory of:

Mollie S. Turner

From Mr. & Mrs. David Turner

Martin (Bobby) Gruberg

From Madeleine & Harris Gally

Beautification Fund

In memory of:

Martin (Bobby) Gruberg

From Harvey & Arlene Kronick

Fannie Parnett

From Elynore Rubin

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From Shirley Adin

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From Alvin & Eleanor Werbalowsky

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Donation from:

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Joel Goldman

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Fishman

Victor & Ann Klein

Sean Safron

Ann & Joe Horowitz

Barbara Zonin

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Martin (Bobby) Gruberg

From Lillian Aaron

“The L-d will guard your going out
and your coming home, now and forever”

יהוה ישמר צאחך
ובואך מעתה ועד עולם - Psalm 121

3 Cheshvan 1 November	Zara Blechman Alan Grinnell Abram Schulman	17 Cheshvan November 15	Isadore Daniels Etta Singer
4 Cheshvan November 2	Chaim Alter Glasner Samuel Alcon Arthur Field Miriam Freed Mabel Lipton	18 Cheshvan November 16	Dora G. Kronick Gene Field Arthur Leichter
5 Cheshvan November 3	Norman Rice Morris Brossman Solomon Rosenthal Ada Esther Spiegel	20 Cheshvan November 18	Louis Levy Loretta Burkam Grace Black Kirschner
7 Cheshvan November 5	Isadore Litsky	21 Cheshvan November 19	Nathan Richman Louis Stanger Zelda Camhi
8 Cheshvan November 6	Lena Peck Joel Steigman Loius Suckman Moses Ross Anna Replansky Samuel Zwick	22 Cheshvan November 20	Yetta Kleinfeld Mary Fein
9 Cheshvan November 7	Albert W. Frank Rose Lichenstein	23 Cheshvan November 21	Ruth Kessman Louis Vigden Alex Kanter Joseph Adin Max & Fanny Levy Rose Lubowitt
10 Cheshvan November 8	Edith Lessik Rachel Marcus Ethel Kreppel	24 Cheshvan November 22	Tillie Reuben Lena Eisner Brett Sam Marcus Reuben Wissok
11 Cheshvan November 9	Herbert Nadan Rosa Salomon	25 Cheshvan November 23	Harry Evans Meyer Shereshevsky Dr. Abraham Benjamin Rafkind
12 Cheshvan November 10	Jacob Nelson	26 Cheshvan November 24	Harold Pinkus Morris Gordon Louis Gruberg Samuel Fein Benjamin Greenspan Sylvia Kroesen
13 Cheshvan November 11	Gary Aronson Dora Dolgins Joseph Avis	27 Cheshvan November 25	Rose W. Salzman
14 Cheshvan November 12	Evelyn Suckman Ida Povill	28 Cheshvan November 26	Grace Kirschner Sadie Gruberg Meyer Avis
15 Cheshvan November 13	Solomon Gold Louis Singer Spencer Joseph Schweitzman Bessie Wilpan Levine		
16 Cheshvan November 14	George Figler Jack Zweber		

29 Cheshvan
November 27

Sarah Finkelstein
Aaron Klein
Joseph Rosenthal
Esther Murkoff

2 Kislev
November 29

Bessie Oberman
Irwin Jacobs
Augusta Petchenick
Jacob Wieselthier

1 Kislev
November 28

Jeanette Adin Fischweicher
Samuel Schwartzberg
Cornelia Fodor
Robert Shapiro

3 Kislev
November 30

Ethel Levy
Nathan Parnett
Henry Gold
Sylvia Black
Gerald Steinhart

Voice Sponsorship in Memory of Bobby Gruberg

The Editors of *The Voice* will be sponsoring the upcoming January issue in memory of Bobby Gruberg. Bobby was a steadfast supporter of *The Voice* for many years. He regularly sponsored an issue in memory of his late wife. In recognition of his support and in thanks, we will be sponsoring the January issue. If anyone would like to contribute to the sponsorship, or add their own, please contact Rebecca Balzac or Susan Rafkind, or send a donation into the office, attention *The Voice*.

Please make a note that the donation is intended for the sponsorship.

Thank you,
The Voice Editors

Shabbat Services

Friday 6:30 pm

6:15 pm if dinner

Saturday 9:30 am

Congregation Ahavath Israel

November 2008

3rd Cheshvan- 3rd Kislev, 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:02 Havdalah 3 Cheshvan
2 4 Cheshvan	3 5 Cheshvan	4 Book club 10-12:00 6 Cheshvan	5 7 Cheshvan	6 8 Cheshvan	7 4:24 Candles Services 6:30 pm 9 Cheshvan	8 5:54 Havdalah 10 Cheshvan
9 11 Cheshvan	10 12 Cheshvan	11 13 Cheshvan	12 14 Cheshvan	13 15 Cheshvan	14 4:18 Candles Services 6:30 pm 16 Cheshvan	15 5:47 Havdalah 17 Cheshvan
16 Nursery class Rummage sale 10-4 18 Cheshvan	17 19 Cheshvan	18 20 Cheshvan	19 21 Cheshvan	20 Board meeting 7:30 pm 22 Cheshvan	21 4:12 Candles Services 6:30 pm 23 Cheshvan	22 5:42 Havdalah 24 Cheshvan
23 25 Cheshvan	24 26 Cheshvan	25 27 Cheshvan	26 No Talmud Torah 28 Cheshvan	27 29 Cheshvan	28 4:09 Candles Services 6:30 pm Rosh Chodesh Kislev 1 Kislev	29 5:38 Havdalah 2 Kislev
30 No Talmud Torah 3 Kislev						

