



The Voice

Founded 1906

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

December 2009

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

Kislev-Tevet 5770

Message from the Rabbi



Two Chanukahs?

December brings us to Chanukah time. This holiday is a crucial one to the rhythm of the year. We have had a full two months since the last major holiday. The message this holiday makes sets the tone for the rest of year. In fact it is this long break that I believe makes Chanukah particularly joyous. But what are the subtle messages that underlie the story of chanukah? The truth is, there are in fact two chanukahs. One Chanukah tells a story of a small army being victorious over a much larger one. That small army was fighting for the right to be who they were against the tyranny of an oppressive militaristic master.

Continued on page 6

Message from the President

Dear Ahavath Israel:

Writing you for the first time as president, I realize that there are probably more than a few of you that I haven't met. Allow me to tell you a little bit about myself. I live with my husband Tim, and our two children, Adrienne, 8 and Ben, 3, in the town of Olive, just a couple of miles from the Ashokan Reservoir. For those of you who have never visited the reservoir, it is a beautiful spot to walk, bike, or enjoy whatever your favorite form of exercise is. Perhaps some of you will join me on



some sort of excursion in the warmer weather. Ben enjoys the bike rides, because he gets to ride in his bike trailer while I do all the work.

Continued on page 6

Congregation Ahavath Israel

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

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Sisterhood Pres. Candace Belles

The Voice

Editor: Susan Rafkind
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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 sfrakf@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



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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Attention Congregants!! Discount Cards on the Way

Ahavath Israel will be selling Discount Cards good for many, many local establishments. A flyer with all the details will be forthcoming. 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 as many times as you wish. We are hoping this will be a major fundraiser for our synagogue. Please ask your friends to purchase from you as well.

Once you receive a flyer, you may send a check made out to Congregation Ahavath Israel (tax deductible, of course!) 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. We will provide a form for you to indicate your preference.

We hope you will all participate in this inexpensive fund raising opportunity. Thank you!

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

Hanukkah Traditions and Blessings

The story of Hanukkah is contained in the Book of Maccabees, which was written more than two thousand years ago. This book was originally written in Hebrew but it was lost. Fortunately, it was preserved in a Greek translation and

retranslated into Hebrew. The First Book of Maccabees belongs to a group of books called the Apocrypha. Apocrypha is a Greek name given to ancient books which are not included in the twenty-four books of the Bible. After Judah the Maccabee led his soldiers in triumph and reclaimed the ancient Temple, the High Priest relit the Menorah and the Temple was once again returned to the Jews. With great effort to clean, clear and fix the interior, the Temple was rededicated.

Hanukkah, which means, 'rededication', is celebrated today to recall this holiday of miracles. Hanukkah comes on the twenty-fifth of the month of Kislev. This year, the first candle, plus shamash, is lit on Friday evening, December 11, before Shabbat begins. The second candle is lit on Saturday evening after Shabbat has ended. Candles should last at least ½ hour.

The first two blessings are said with the Shamash already lit, but immediately prior to lighting the Hanukkah candles.

Blessing #1

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Baruch ata Ado-noi Elo-heinu melech ha-olam,
Asher kid-shanu bi-mitzvo-sav, Vi-tzee-vanu li-
had-leek ner shel Chanukah.

Blessed are You, the Lord our God, King of the universe, Who sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light.

when possible and you might be a big winner!

Our Rosh Chodesh group was re-activated this fall and has created lots of buzz. For each Jewish month, a new leader is picked. Marion Goldhammer led our first meeting in October (Cheshvan). She introduced us to the historic significance, celebratory traditions, candle lighting & blessings of the new moon which is observed monthly by women; and then discussed the famous German woman rabbi who practiced during the pre-war & Holocaust years.

November (Kislev) evening was our second meeting led by Lisa King-Smith. Our special candles were lit, and we listened to a Chanukkah meditation. We read Rashi and Tosafot's (French medieval commentators) explanations of the Jewish women's involvement with Chanukkah's oil miracle and about the famous women of Kislev (Hannah and Judith); and then discussed spiritual/physical resistances such as Judith's gutsy actions against an enemy general that saved her town from destruction (scenario is seen again with Esther during Purim).

Our next meeting will be on Sunday morning, December 20th - come for minyan, breakfast and stay for our second Rosh Chodesh gathering.

We are always looking for new projects or ideas -- so if you have one, come and present your special project to us!

Candace Belles
Sisterhood President

Pre-Election Dinner
Please Give Us Your Thoughts

We recently had a lively Pre-Election Brisket Dinner. The food was prepared by Sisterhood and the attendance of candidates was arranged by the Fund Raising Committee. Please let us know how

you learned about the event and what you thought of the evening.

- 1) How did you learn of the event:
 - a) Local Briefs in the Daily Freeman
 - b) Flyer
 - c) Bimah announcement
 - d) Almanac calendar listing
 - e) Word of mouth
 - f) Other _____
- 2) If you attended the service, did you find the start time convenient?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 3) Did you like the format of the service?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 4) Did you enjoy meeting the candidates?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 5) Would you like the seating to be
 - a) More formal, more seat assignments
 - b) Informal, no seat assignments
- 6) Did the speakers
 - a) speak too long
 - b) not long enough
- 7) Were there too many speakers?
 - a) Yes
 - b) Wanted more
- 8) If this event were to be repeated, would you like the format to be
 - a) the same
 - b) have candidates speak
 - c) have a debate
 - d) have a candidates forum with questions from the audience
- 9) Was the food plentiful?

- a) Yes
- b) No

10) Was the food tasty?

- a) Yes
- b) No

11) Was the idea of a Pre-Election Dinner combined with the annual Sisterhood Brisket Dinner a good idea?

- a) Yes
- b) No

12) Additional comments may be sent to Susan Rafkind, Fund Raising Chair, sfracf@gmail.com

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 other story came after the victory. A candle lasted for eight days but it only had enough oil for one. In this story the victory is not the work of human beings but a miracle from God. Which of these two stories is correct? Which of these two stories is the one that should dominate our thoughts during this time. The military story plays an important role in the ethos of Israeli military might, while the miracle of the light is clear to us every night as we light our chanukiyot. I believe the answer, as with most great questions, is both. Chanukah, as our first major holiday, is a reminder to jump into the essential questions of life. In Pirkei Avot, Rabbi Tarfon tells us we are not obligated to finish the task nor are we free from attempting to. It is this tension and question to

which Chanukah is redirecting our thoughts . We cannot rely on miracles from God. We must take up the causes of this world and fight tyranny and oppression where we can. However, we also must look out for and revel in the times in which we can see God's hand in the world helping us to reach the finish line. The rule of the Maccabees after their victory was imperfect and short lived. This fact is the final reminder than even our victories are only one step in the long process of trying to better the world.

Kol Tuv,
Student Rabbi Jason Fruithandler

President's message continued from page 1

Before we moved to Catskill area in 2003, I was a staff attorney with Connecticut Legal Services. I'm now home full-time, except when I'm at Ahavath Israel board meetings. Some of you may know me from services, some of you may know me from editing the Voice, some of you may know me from sending out e-mails while I chaired our Rabbi search committee earlier this year.

I hope that over the next two years I live up to the confidence that has been put in me as President of your synagogue. More than that, I hope to be a part of Ahavath Israel's new growth. But I would only be a part of our growth. Whatever your talents are, I'm sure that we can use them.

I wish all of you a Happy Chanukah and a Happy New Year.

Rebecca Balzac, President

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.

Yahrzeit List
December
2009/ Kislev &
Tevet 5770

KISLEV

14 th (1 Dec)	Anna Rainbeau Anna Ritter	27 th (14 Dec)	Florence Margolis Sidney Raymond
15 th (2 Dec)	Rachel Klein Mary Shuster Kushner	28 th (15 Dec)	Louis Feldman Jean Friedman Harold Seidel
16 th (3 Dec)	Harry Greenspan Eli H. Kraman	29 th (16 Dec)	Karel Cohen Bertha Lehner Dr. Samuel Edelstein Jacob Heller Emil Klein
17 th (4 Dec)	Claire Lubart Mollie Black		
18th (5 Dec)	Samuel D. Greenspan Flora Anne Myerson Anna Friedman		
		<u>TEVET</u>	
20 th (7 Dec)	Margaret Lovy	1 st (18 Dec)	Sadie Fiedler Arnold Klein Leon Millrod Eva Shaffer Joseph Rabinowitz
21st (8 Dec)	Nathan Badian Joe Wasselauf	2 nd (19 Dec)	Shirley Zwickel Payne Brossman Rose Kirschner Moishe Itelson
22 Kislev (9 Dec)	Bella Jacobs Harry Spiegel Hindla Luksberg		
23rd (10 Dec)	David Netburn	3 rd (20 Dec)	Bessie Millens Jacques Schwalbe
24th (11 Dec)	Deborah Helmrich Mrs. Jacob Laber	4 th (21 Dec)	Carrie Sobel William Field William Weiss Lillian Alpert
25th (12 Dec)	Frieda Pekarowitz Falek Schildhorn George Schwartz	5 th (22 Dec)	Nathan Finkelstein
26th (13Dec)	Ben Schecter Vitta Solomon Hohnston Richard Adin Kate Wendrow	6 th (23 Dec)	Louis Kalina Sarah Plasker

TEVET CONT.

7th
(24 Dec)

Sydney Lebow
Edna L. Kessler
Joseph Schweitzman
Sharon Adin
Newton Teitel

9th
(26 Dec)

Philip Roth
David Berg

10th
(27 Dec)

Philip Glickman

Marilyn
Werbalowsky Ronder

11th
(28 Dec)

Fayne Grossman
Julia Werner
Joseph Jacobson

12th
(29 Dec)

George Kramer

13th
(30 Dec)

Morris Davidowitz
Max Plasker
Rebecca "Betty" Sultar

14th
(31 Dec)

Yussie Greenstein
Regina Berger
Sadie Levine
Max Lewis

Recent Donations

Mitzvah Fund

Nina & Meyer Lieberman

Jody Soltonoff & Peter Schwalbe

Rosalie Toback

Suzanne & Jacob Neusner

Rita and Howard Smith

Dr. Cy Gruberg, PhD

Kol Nidre

Jeffrey Greene

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Kutikoff

Paul Green

Sally & Allan Cohen

Cynthia Kudren

Lisa & Eric Brown

Lori Werner

Jonathan Burstein

Nicholas and Elizabeth Altman

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Melamed

Talmud Torah Education Fund

In memory of:

Dr. Norman Burg

From: Anne & Joe Horowitz

In memory of:

Edith Lessick

From: Alvin & Eleanor Werbalowsky

In memory of:

Martin Gally

Ruth & Sam Barnowitz

Sarah Kahn

From: Madeline & Harris Gally

Donation:

From: Dr. Cy Gruberg, PhD

Beautification Fund

In memory of:

Eva Glasner

From: Shirley Adin

Ahavath Israel General Fund

In Memory of:

Dr. Norman Burg

From: Ruth & Joel Mandelbaum

Judy & Howard Leibowitz

Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Hermele, MD

In memory of:

Joe Len

From: Max Len

In memory of:

Solomon Rosenthal

From: The Rosenthal Family

Donation:

From: Daniel Rafkind

Dr. Cy Gruberg, PhD

Hy Cutler Torah Fund

In memory of:

Joel Steigman

From: Bill & Edna Helmrich

In memory of:

Gary Aaronson, Norm's Brother

From: Norm and Carol Aaronson

Sylvia Starkman Fund

In memory of:

Dr. Harry P. Sussin

From: Marshall & Louise Sussin

Sisterhood

In memory of:

Arthur Leichter

From: Rosette Teitel

Donation:

From: Cr. Cy Gruberg, PhD

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

Congregation Ahavath Israel

December 2009

14th Cheshvan-13th Kislev

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12/11 - 12/13 Services with Rabbi Fruithandler	12/18 - 12/20 Services w/ Rabbi Fruithandler	1 14 Kislev	2 15 Kislev	3 16 Kislev	4 4:07 candles 17 Kislev	5 5:10 Havdalah 18 Kislev
6 19 Kislev	7 20 Kislev	8 21 Kislev	9 22 Kislev	10 23 Kislev	11 4:07 candles Chanukah 1 candle Latke Dinner 24 Kislev	12 5:10 Havdalah Chanukah 2 candles 25 Kislev
13 Chanukah 3 candles 26 Kislev	14 Chanukah 4 candles 27 Kislev	15 Chanukah 5 candles 28 Kislev	16 Chanukah 6 candles 29 Kislev	17 Chanukah 7 candles Board meeting 7:30 30 Kislev	18 4:08 candles Chanukah 8 candles Rosh Chodesh Tevet 1 Tevet	19 5:12 Havdalah 2 Tevet
20 3 Tevet	21 4 Tevet	22 5 Tevet	23 6 Tevet	24 Chinese Food & Movies 7 Tevet	25 4:12 candles 8 Tevet	26 5:15 Havdalah 9 Tevet
27 10 Tevet	28 11 Tevet	29 12 Tevet	30 13 Tevet	31 14 Tevet		



Shabbat Services & Latkes Dinner

**Join us for our next Shabbat Services on Friday,
December 11, 2009 at 6:15 PM.**

**A Dairy Chanukkah Dinner will be served
following services.**

Adult dinner \$10.00, Children (age 6-12) \$5.00.

**Phone reservations accepted at 338-4409
(synagogue office) until Weds. 12/2/09. ALL
Dinners Must be Pre-Paid; Check payable to
CONGREGATION AHAVATH ISRAEL.**

Mail this form with payment to:

ATTN: Candy Belles

c/o Chanukkah Dinner

CONGREGATION AHAVATH ISRAEL

100 Lucas Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401

Print Name _____

Adult \$10 _____ Children \$5.00 _____

Total Amount submitted _____

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 <p>20% OFF (Excl. sale items & services) Kingston & Woodstock</p>	 <p>10% OFF Entire Check (Excl. alcohol & catering) Kingston</p>	 <p>10% OFF Bakery Products (Excl. wedding cakes) N. Front St. & Broadway</p>	
 <p>10% OFF Entire Check (Excl. catering) Rondout Landing, Kingston</p>	 <p>HOMEMADE ICE CREAM Buy one medium cone, Get one FREE! (Soft Serve Only, Up to 2 disc./visit) Morton Blvd.</p>	 <p>\$6 OFF Lube, MUFFLER/BRAKE Oil, Filter FREE Tire Rotation with Oil Change 10% Off Any Service (Excl. tires & batteries) Ulster Ave., Kingston</p>	
<p>The Merchant Wines & Spirits 15% OFF any one bottle of wine (Excludes sale items) Ulster Ave., Kingston</p>	 <p>10% OFF Broadway, Kingston</p>	 <p>10% OFF (Excl. oil & engines) All Kingston Locations</p>	 <p>10% OFF Any Order Over \$10 (CASH Only) 1071 Ulster Ave.</p>

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Fundraising Info: 845-255-4001, www.UltimateFundraisingInc.com

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 <p>10% OFF Entire Check 743 Rt. 28</p>	 <p>BUY A FOOTLONG GET A 6" FREE! (1 offer/visit) Valid at King. Plaza & Inside Walmart</p>	 <p>10% OFF Freihofer's, Arnold's, Entemann's & Thomas Ulster Ave., Kingston</p>	<p>C & C UNISEX HAIR DESIGN \$1 OFF Any Hair Cut 30% OFF All Retail Products (Excl. special offers) Hudson Valley Mall</p>
 <p>\$5 OFF Any Oil Change 5% OFF Any Service (Not to be combined with other promotions) (Excl. tires) Ulster Ave., Kingston</p>	 <p>10% OFF BAKERY AND CAFE. Boiceville, Woodstock, Rhinebeck</p>	 <p>GRASS FED & ORGANIC MEATS \$1 OFF EACH LB. OF ANY GROUND MEAT 307 Wall St., Kingston</p>	<p>Mid Hudson Buffet \$2 OFF 2 Adults or more Lunch or Dinner (Dine in Only) In front of Home Depot, Kingston</p>
<p>SAMI'S PIZZA 50c OFF Any 2 Slices \$2 OFF Any Specialty Pie (One offer per visit) Broadway, Kingston 331-6060</p>	 <p>10% OFF Monster Brand Accessories Hudson Valley Mall, Kingston</p>	<p>Ben Franklin Crafts 15% OFF (Excl. sale items) Kingston Plaza & Saugerities</p>	<p>Nature's Pavilion NATURAL FOOD MARKET \$2.99 Special 1/2 gal. Organic Milk 50% Off reg price VitaTherapy vitamins & supplements One FREE lb of organic bananas with minimum \$10 purchase (1 offer/day) 618 Ulster Ave., Kingston</p>

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Order a card for friends and each member of the family!

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Great NEW Offers!

Dear Members,

November 25, 2009

We are excited to introduce The Ultimate Discount Card to our congregation. The card has become the Hudson Valley’s hottest selling fundraising item! Many people have been asking when the cards will be available. Some comments we’ve received about last year’s card: “The card paid for itself in just one use!” “I saved over \$200 this year with the card.”

Kingston’s Ultimate Discount Card is good for one full year beginning January 1 for continuous discounts at your favorite area stores. Great NEW OFFERS!

- *Unlimited use and savings – discounts are good every day for one year
- *Card fits in your wallet – no coupons or booklets to clip or forget!
- *The ULTIMATE value – the price of the card can be recouped on the first day!
- *Easy to sell – everybody likes to save money.

BONUS: FREE CARD WITH EACH 10 CARDS SOLD!!

.Cards cost \$10.00 each. Payment is due on Friday, **December 11**. By this date, return: FULL PAYMENT - CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO Congregation Ahavath Israel, with memo - Discount Cards. On the form below, list all the cards sold and money totals. Please send form and payments to Congregation Ahavath Israel, att. Sue Hirsch, P.O.Box 3063, Kingston, NY 12402-3063. Please call Susan Raffkind with questions at 845 – 336 – 8013 or email sfrafk@gmail.com.

We will call or email you when the cards are delivered.

Your help in raising money to benefit our congregation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Trudi Melamed-Turck

.....

YOUR NAME _____
HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

LIST ALL NAMES FOR SALE OF THE ULTIMATE Discount Cards *7/4*

Name/Address	Telephone	Email	Quantity	Amt. Pd.
1. _____				
2. _____				
3. _____				
4. _____				
5. _____				
6. _____				
7. _____				
8. _____				
9. _____				
10. _____				
11. _____				
12. _____				
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!		TOTALS		

Date: 12/24/09

Time: BEGINS at 6 PM

CHINESE FOOD AND MOVIES

Order deadline is December 20

Please indicate your food preferences:

- a) Beef**
- b) Chicken**
- c) Vegetarian**
- d) Rice**
- e) Mixed vegetables**
- f) Chinese noodles**

Make checks payable to:
Congregation Ahavath Israel
P.O. Box 3063
Kingston, NY 12402—3063

**CALL THE SYNAGOGUE
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at 845 - 338 - 4409 or
Jerry Weiss at 845 -853 - 5876
RESPOND BY DECEMBER 20

*Food supplied by Chopstix, a
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*Starting a new tradition at Congregation Ahavath Israel—Chinese Food and Movie Night. Come enjoy a wonderful evening of friendship and fun! We will be showing “The Producers”, rated PG-13, and “Cars” rated G. Family friendly prices: Adults—15 and over—\$21.00
Children—14 and under—\$12.00
Family price capped at —\$60.00*

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CALL BY DECEMBER 20
SNOW DATE—SATURDAY DECEMBER 26 6 PM**