



The Voice

Founded 1906

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

February 2010

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

Tevet-Cheshvan 5770

Message from the Rabbi



Purim is on the way or perhaps is already here depending on when you read this. I wanted to take a moment and focus on one of the shorter and less quoted vignettes in *megilat* Esther. In the second chapter Mordechai rats out two of the Kings guards. They were planning to kill the King. Mordechai overhears the plot and brings it to the attention of the King. The offenders (Bigthan and Teresh) are hanged outside the palace. In fact, this story becomes the foundation for Esther's dramatic saving of the entire Jewish people later on.

Continued on page 4

Vice President's Corner

By Rhona Schiffres

OK, the word is out: Rebecca really does have a sidekick. But her name is not Barney (see previous issue of Voice).

Most members will either know me from my Ahavath Israel activity with my family for the past 22 years, or maybe from my more formative years 1971-81, when I was here with my parents and brother.

I grew up at Ahavath Israel (maiden name Rhona Sultar). I was in a Hebrew school class of three girls and five boys. I, of course, was one of the "guys." I was here when our Talmud Torah was very large and sometimes it was standing room only on the high holidays. My first exposure to a real rabbi was Rabbi Schectman, and his wife taught my aleph class. I used to get yelled at by the caretakers, Jim and Judy Wedlock, for sliding down the banister of the stairs going from the upstairs to Talmud Torah rooms. But even precocious girls grow up. I had my Bat Mitzvah in 1977 under the eye of Rabbi Weintraub. I stayed active in USY, and met some of my best friends (even married one of them). But then, life took a turn and the family split and Ahavath Israel became a far-away memory.

Continued on page 5

Congregation Ahavath Israel

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

100 Lucas Avenue
P.O. Box 3063
Kingston, NY 12402-3063
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Email: Ahavath israel secl@juno.com

Congregation Officers and Staff

President. Rebecca Balzac
Email: president@aikny.org
1st V.P.. Rhona Schiffres
Treasurer. Susan Hirsch
Recording Sec'y Daniel Rafkind
Office Sec'y Mary Lessner
Sisterhood Pres. Candace Belles

The Voice

Editor: Susan Rafkind
Email: sfrfk@gmail.com

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 sfrfk@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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Chaifestival Weekend is Approaching
by Susan Rafkind,
Fund Raising Chair

We are excited to announce our upcoming Chaifest Concert scheduled for Sunday, March 14 at 3 pm. This event promises to be even bigger than the last. Tickets in advance may be reserved by Tuesday, March 9 at \$18.00 for adults 13 and over, and \$12.00 for children 12 and under, with a maximum family price of \$54.00. At the door, tickets for adults will be \$20.00, children will be \$15.00 and the family price will be \$72.00. During the Chaifest weekend we will be expanding our program to include a special presentation, called 'Breakfast and Baton' to be held after the minyon on Sunday morning, March 14. An enhanced breakfast will be served followed by a pre-concert talk by our orchestra conductor, Noah Weber. Noah will discuss the composers and pieces to be performed on the afternoon concert. For this wonderful event, reservations are highly recommended, with a suggested donation of \$10.00 in advance. At the door, the suggested donation will be \$12.00. Please place your reservations by calling the synagogue office by Tuesday, March 9.

In addition, there will be a silent Podium Auction in which the audience will be invited to bid for the opportunity to conduct our orchestra. The winning bidder will practice with the musicians during the dress rehearsal at 1 pm on Sunday, March 14 and will lead our string orchestra in a rousing version of Offenbach's 'Can Can'. Just practice conducting 'bounce, catch, bounce catch! The orchestra will follow you. Minimum bids of \$200.00 must be called in to the office by Tuesday, March 9.

During intermission at the Chaifest Concert, there will be lots of tasty treats at our Bake Sale with a wonderful array of baked goods, drinks and donated snacks available for purchase.

Please support our USYers who will be checking coats at the concert. They will cheerfully take your coats and will hold them securely in our coat room.

Sponsorships are available for those who would like to support our efforts to present all of these wonderful events during our Chaifestival. You may choose your sponsorship level of Silver at \$36, Gold at \$54.00, Platinum at \$72.00, Patron from \$1000 - \$4999, or Benefactor over \$5000.00. All other contributions will be greatly appreciated. To include your sponsorship in our printed program, please send in your donation by March 5, 2010. Checks should be made out to Congregation Ahavath Israel with memo "Chaifest 2010".

To volunteer as ushers, to sell items during our Bake Sale or to help with mailings, or for further information, please call the synagogue office at 338-4409 or Sue Rafkind at 845-532-6718 or email chaifest@ahavathisraelkingston.org.



Chaifest Conductor Noah Weber

Discount Cards Selling Fast!

There are only a few Discount Cards left. The forms for ordering and a flyer with all the details are attached. The price of each card is \$10.00 and is good throughout the entire year through December 31, 2010. The Discount Cards are good for many, local establishments. The cards can be used repeatedly at each store. Please ask your friends to purchase from you as well. You may send a check made out to Congregation Ahavath Israel (tax deductible!) and indicate how many cards you will be purchasing. We can either mail them to you or you may pick them up at the synagogue.

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 Bernie King-Smith at wombat2ny@gmail.com or Jeremy Schiffres, at jeremyinny@aol.com for more information.

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.

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 Chanukah, 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

I want to ask two questions. First, how do we feel about Mordechai's actions and second, why do we get the offender's names? It certainly does not feel very heroic to save the drunkard of a king. Certainly not by means of telling the authorities. We are used to our heroes taking action themselves. I think though that Mordechai's actions are a foreshadowing for the eventual saving of the Jewish people. Mordechai is showing that he trusts his government to deal with problems fairly. Mordechai is no one important, the authorities he brought his story to could simply have ignored him. However, even he, a commoner, gains a voice. Just as later the King listens to the voice of Esther and does what is right.

The second question has always bothered me and truthfully, I have no clear answer. The Bible rarely names characters and when it does it is almost always either a major character or the name means something important about who the character is. Yet here we have two names that have no apparent meaning and are two inconsequential characters. I will suggest some answers I have come up with but I would love to hear what you have to say. Perhaps they were given names to point out the importance of this small story. Perhaps it is merely a message that even though they are inconsequential characters we are sad they have died and want to continue their memories by continuing their names. I'm not sure. Please come tell me while I'm at *shul*. Either way I hope everyone has a great Purim and that we are able to learn the important lessons in *megilat* Esther.

Purim Sameach,
Student Rabbi Jason Fruithandler

Vice-President's message continued from page 1

Then the day came when my best friend, Jeremy, who I had married (and who can fly through the closing service on Yom Kippur so we all can break the fast), got a call that there was a job at the Daily Freeman in Kingston. I laughed. OK, I said, go for it. He got the job. But our intentions were that this was a short-term gig. We joined Ahavath Israel once again, became USY advisors, and then the jobs down here for both of us became more permanent, we bought a house and had our son, Marc, who's about to turn 16.

So here I am. But how did I get to be Rebecca's Tonto to her Lone Ranger? Because this shul means so much to me and now to my family, partly because of long-ago memories and partly because of the ones we have made in the past 22 years. I am here for the duration, to make sure Ahavath Israel endures, even if it means sleeping on an air mattress in the kitchen.

That is, as long as Candy and Joe feed me.

USCJ Transition Update

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism held its Biennial Convention in Cherry Hill, NJ, from December 6-10, 2009. New Bylaws for USCJ were adopted (http://uscj.org/images/bylaws_2009.pdf), approving the phased implementation of the reduction of our current 15 Regions into 6 Districts, in order to provide member congregations with better services by both professional staff and lay leaders.

Improved services to congregations will include the use of modern communications technologies such as webinars, electronic/web-based delivery of meaningful resources, and the delivery of live in-person seminars and workshops to multiple

congregations (clusters) at the same time that are within a reasonable driving distance from each other. The quality of these seminars and workshops (both live and electronic) will often be enhanced by use of knowledgeable staff with specific areas of expertise who are based outside a particular District.

In our area the Canadian, Connecticut Valley, Empire, and New England Regions will be combined into the Northeast District. The president, president-elect, and one additional board member from each of these four Regions have formed a transformation steering committee to implement the transition to the Northeast District, to be completed by December 2010.

The following are milestones in the transformation process important to all synagogues in the new District. In January the transformation steering committee will present a transformation plan to the current boards of the four Regions. Copies of this plan will be made available to member synagogues after any final comments are addressed, probably by the beginning of February. A transition board for the new District will be in place by April 2010.

We hope that as many synagogues as possible can send representatives to a Quad-Regional/District Shabbaton to be held in Saratoga Springs, NY May 14-16, 2010 (<http://tinyurl.com/facebook-uscjnedistrictshabbat>). In addition to study and workshops, we will update the congregations within the four Regions on the progress of the transformation. Over the summer we will finalize draft Bylaws for the District to be approved along with our first slate of officers. The new Bylaws and officers will be voted on at a District convention to be scheduled in November 2010.

Questions regarding the transformation can be addressed to Bernie King-Smith, the steering committee chairperson via e-mail at wombat2ny@gmail.com or phone (845) 336-6373 (cell 845-399-1101).



*SHARPEN UP YOUR CONDUCTING SKILLS
YOU COULD BE ON THE PODIUM!*

Have you always dreamed of conducting a professional orchestra? Does the idea of leading a group of fine musicians 'sing' to you? Now is your opportunity to make this happen. Call the synagogue at 845 - 338 - 4409 before March 5, and participate in our silent Podium Auction with a minimum bid of \$200. The winning bidder will be chosen to conduct the ever popular 'Can Can' by Offenbach on our Chaifest 2010 program, Sunday, March 14 at 3 pm.

You will have the chance of a lifetime!



February Donations

Ahavath Israel General Fund

In memory of: Evelyn Brener

From: Margo & Joe Colen
John & Valerie Sheeley
Linda Shapiro
Mr. Brett Fleigler
Mr. Andrew Paul
Susan & Steve Hirsch
Mark & Ellen Luksberg
Richard Eden
Stacey Merkin
Bunny & Jack Marin
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Eden
Phyllis Gottdiener
Steve Souk
Conrad & Ruth Heisman

In memory of: Karel Cohen

From: Margo & Joe Colen

In memory of: Esther Denkensohn

From: Margo & Joe Colen

In memory of: Marvin Millens

From: Margo & Joe Colen
Florence & William Agins
John & Estelle Gonsalves

In memory of: Sherry Bialer (sister-in-law of Howard Smith)

From: Rita & Howard Smith

Hy Cutler Torah Fund

From: Bernie & Lisa King-Smith

In memory of: Evelyn Brener

The Miriam G. Freed Arts & Entertainment Fund

In memory of: Evelyn Brener _____

From: Gloria Sender

Helen Millens Fund In memory of: Marvin

Millens

From: Ann & Joe Horowitz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of: Joseph Kross

From: Paul Kross

Donations from Cy Gruberg, PhD.

- Joseph, Sadie J. Gerald Gruberg & Freida Weinstein Talmud Torah Education Fund

- Hyman & Eva Nearon Library Fund
Prayer Books "dedication bookplate"

- Building Fund & Beautification Fund

- Sponsor four (4) kiddushes

In memory of my father, Joseph, "Who was a regular at all services and enjoyed the breakfasts with his friends"

- **For Sisterhood Kitchen Fund**

"In memory of: my cousin, Bob Gruberg, who I miss terribly and considered a brother"

- **Tree of Life - Gold Leaf**

"In honor of my beautiful niece, Barbara, Vaughn on her 60th birthday" Uncle Cy

- **Sisterhood**

To honor the wonderful, dedicated, women

Donation to Sisterhood Fund

In memory of: Evelyn Brener

From: Lally & Michael Steckman

February Yahrzeits

17 Shevat (1Feb)	Ephraim Propp Helen Goldsmith Sadie Len Lena Jacobson Paulina Brener	29 Shevat (13 Feb)	Sandra Kreines Louis Goldstein Irving Jacobson
18 Shevat (2 Feb)	Leon Leopold Lowenstein Gertrude Nadel Eva Serrin David Wissok Izzy Goldman	30 Shevat (14 Feb)	Samuel Glasner William Tevlowitz Leah M. Riss
19 Shevat (3 Feb)	Anna Siegel Lillian Feldman Joseph Bernard Kross	1 Adar (15 Feb)	Ruchel Schames Samuel Schecter Harry Gordon Regina Friedman
20 Shevat (4 Feb)	Hyman Haberman Shirley Schwartz	2 Adar (16 Feb)	Jacob Cohen
21 Shevat (5 Feb)	Isidore Gold Albert Gerofsky	3 Adar (17 Feb)	Sarah Levy Dora Evans Samuel Gottlieb Miriam Popper Samuel Replansky
22 Shevat (6 Feb)	Eva Gossett Herschel Davis	4 Adar (18 Feb)	Rachel Solomon Minnie Marcus Pauline Fischer
23 Shevat (7 Feb)	Bessie Epstein Nathan Smoller	5 Adar (19 Feb)	Louis Halperin Dr. Marczel Haas Rose Nadan Albert H. Woolfson
24 Shevat (8 Feb)	Irma Ruth Rosenthal	6 Adar (20 Feb)	Albert Lessner Emil Lipton Joseph Lurie Beatrice Gerstenzang
26 Shevat (10 Feb)	Margaret Gruberg Sallie Block Millmae Dr. Abraham Adner	7 Adar (21 Feb)	Solomon Rafalowsky William Simon Ida Rabinowitz
27 Shevat (11 Feb)	Esther Gottlieb Bernard Halperin		
28 Shevat (12 Feb)	William Goldstein Abraham Jacobs Rose Weiss Harry Rose		

8 Adar
(22 Feb)

Benjamin Tannin
Mollie Gold
Samuel Gruberg
Sheila Stark

11 Adar
(25 Feb)

Ida Chugerman
Abraham Siegel
Aaron Cohen
Dora Cohen

9 Adar
(23 Feb)

Samuel Schwartz
Mildred Goldman
Bess Snyder
Minna Steckman
Joseph Kirschner
Rose Blas

12 Adar
(26 Feb)

David Lehner
Max Abrams

13 Adar
(27 Feb)

Wellvet Brossman
Benjamin Fertel
Dr. A. Greenstein

10 Adar
(24 Feb)

Lena Len
Hyman Nearon
Louis Holen
Charles Gazen
Rebecca Feldman
Lena Toffel
Louis Vogel

14 Adar
(28 Feb)

Esther Wechsler Friedman

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

Congregation Ahavath Israel

February 2010

17th Shevat - 14th Adar 5770

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 17 Sh'vat	2 18 Sh'vat	3 19 Sh'vat	4 20 Sh'vat	5 4:58 candles Services w/ Rabbi Fruithandler 21 Sh'vat	6 6:02 Havdalah Services w/ Rabbi Fruithandler 22 Sh'vat
7 Kitchen Class 10:00 - 12:00 23 Sh'vat	8 24 Sh'vat	9 25 Sh'vat	10 26 Sh'vat	11 27 Sh'vat	12 5:07 candles 28 Sh'vat	13 6:11 Havdalah 29 Sh'vat
14 Rosh Chodesh Adar 30 Sh'vat	15 Rosh Chodesh Adar 1 Adar	16 2 Adar	17 3 Adar	18 Board meeting 7:30 4 Adar	19 5:15 candles 5 Adar	20 6:20 Havdalah 6 Adar
21 7 Adar	22 8 Adar	23 9 Adar	24 10 Adar	25 11 Adar	26 5:24 candles Services w/ Rabbi Fruithandler 12 Adar	27 6:28 Havdalah Megillah Reading 7:00 13 Adar
28 Purim Wine Tasting 12-2 14 Adar	2/6 Parashat Yitro	2/13 Parashat Mishpatim	2/20 Parashat Terumah	2/27 Parashat Tetzaveh		

CHAIFEST 2010

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010 | 3:00 P.M.

Congregation Ahavath Israel

100 Lucas Avenue | Kingston, NY 12401

OUR CONDUCTOR:
NOAH WEBER

BARD MFA CANDIDATE IN CONDUCTING 2010

Join Us For Our "Breakfast And Baton"

A Pre-Concert Talk With The Conductor, Sunday March 14, 9:00 A.M.
Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door

Our Chaifest Concert Program

David Diamond 'Rounds'
Albinoni 'Adagio In G Minor'

Intermission & Bake Sale

Tchaikowsky 'Serenade For Strings'
Podium Auction For Offenbach's 'Can Can'

Audience Members Are Invited To Play The 'Can Can' With Our Musicians



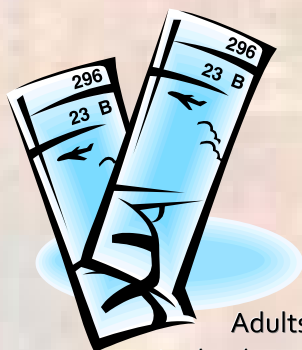
Please respond by Tuesday, March 9 to place your bid to conduct the orchestra

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Silver \$36.00 Gold \$54.00
Platinum \$72.00 Patron \$1000- \$4999.00
Benefactor \$5000.00 and above
Other contributions will be welcomed

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE

Reservations In Advance By Tuesday, March 9
Adults 13 and over \$18.00 | Children 12 and under \$12.00 | Family Price - Maximum of \$54
At the door, tickets will be \$20.00 for adults, \$15.00 for children, and a maximum family price of \$72.00.



For further information about CHAIFEST 2010 and to make reservations
please call the synagogue office at 845.338.4409 or
send an email to chaifest@ahavathisraelkington.org

Chaifest 2010 Sponsorships

Chaifest 2010, our upcoming concert and fund-raiser, will be occurring on Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 3 pm at Congregation Ahavath Israel, Kingston, NY. The program will include David Diamond's *Rounds*, Albinoni's *Adagio in G minor* and Tchaikowsky's *Serenade for Strings*. There will also be an opportunity for members of the audience to conduct and play with our professional musicians in Offenbach's *Can Can*.

Sponsorships are available to help defray our expenses. The different levels are listed below. After you select your sponsorship level, please be sure to clip and return the form to Chaifest 2010, Congregation Ahavath Israel, 100 Lucas Avenue, Kingston, NY 12402. Please make your check out to Congregation Ahavath Israel, memo: Chaifest 2010.

Sincerely,
Susan F. Rafkind
Music Coordinator for Chaifest 2010

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Chaifest 2010 Sponsorships

Below are the rates for sponsorships:

Silver - \$36.00

Gold - \$54.00

Platinum - \$72.00

Patron - \$1000.00 – \$4999.00

Benefactor - \$5000.00 and above

Other donation: _____

Please make your check out to **Congregation Ahavath Israel, att: Chaifest 2010**. You may print your name below as you wish it to appear in our program. To be included, please respond by March 5.

Name to appear in program: _____

Signed _____

Date _____

*Please clip and return the bottom portion.
Mail to: Chaifest 2010
Congregation Ahavath Israel, 100 Lucas Avenue,
P.O. Box 3063 Kingston, NY12402-3063*