



# The Voice

Founded 1906

*Congregation Ahavath Israel*  
*A Liberal Conservative Synagogue*

*Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism*

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May 2009

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

Iyar-Sivan 5769

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## Message from the President

Tuesday evening I attended a very moving Yom HaShoah ceremony at the Woodstock Jewish Congregation. To hear first-hand accounts from Holocaust survivors makes our petty squabbles and jealousies seem insignificant. We are so busy worrying about what everybody else is doing, we forget what is really important. Sitting in front of our computers, watching our HD televisions, it is hard to imagine that less than 70 years ago, six million of our fellow Jews were slaughtered at the hands of a madman. There isn't a person among us who hasn't lost a relative somewhere down the line.

Those of you who think it can't happen again need only pick up the newspaper. Just a few days ago, at the UN conference on racism, Iranian President Ahmadinejad unleashed a vicious tirade against Israel and the Jews, accusing the west of using the Holocaust as a "pretext" for aggression against the Palestinians. In the past, he has publicly called for the destruction of the State of Israel. Thankfully, every member of the European Union, which was not already boycotting the conference, got up and walked out. That he was allowed to spew his hate in such a forum speaks volumes about the United Nations and those members who chose to stay and cheer him on.

*Continued on page 5*

## Search Committee Update

I am very pleased to tell you that the board has approved the contract of Jason Fruithandler as our student rabbi. Jason is currently in Israel with his wife, Jessie, where he is completing his third year as a Jewish Theological Seminary student. Jason will be starting at the end of August and will be coming up approximately twice a month. He is a fellow at Synagogues: Transformation and Renewal (STAR), a program designed specifically to provide future Rabbis with the tools to assist synagogues dealing with modern issues.

During his interview, Jason impressed the entire search committee with his intelligence, maturity, enthusiasm and commitment to Conservative Judaism. Jason struck us as someone who is more than able to provide the type of spiritual leadership that a synagogue of our size and varied backgrounds needs.

Thank you very much to the search committee members: Susan Rafkind, Rhona Schiffres, Leon Steiner and Evelyn Brener, and to Cecile Kutnitz.. Thank you also to Bernie King-Smith for assisting with the interviews, and Jerry Weiss for providing us with a location for all the long-distance phone interviews.

Rebecca Balzac

# Congregation Ahavath Israel

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

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## Congregation Officers and Staff

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2<sup>nd</sup> VP. . . . . Marsha Weiss  
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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](mailto: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](mailto: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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Sisterhood is looking for someone who loves to shop and has some free time to revitalize the Gift Shop. Call Chris Kowalenko at 338-8612.

*This issue of the Voice sponsored by*

Dr. Cy Gruberg

In memory of my beloved sister

Freida Weinstein  
 May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1922

“There is not a day that you are not thought of and missed.”

Love, Cy

***Rabbi Kolko’s Visits***

Rabbi Kolko will be visiting us again to officiate at the following B’Nai Mitzvot:

**May 22-23** for the Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Goldowitz

**May 29-30** for the Bar Mitzvah of Alec Cohen

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

***Collecting Bottles for a Cause***

Hi, my name is Alec Cohen and I’m a seventh grader in Bailey Middle School. I will be having my Bar Mitzvah on May 30<sup>th</sup>. I decided to do a Bar Mitzvah project that will benefit my brother and others with the disease FSH Muscular Dystrophy. For my project I have been collecting recyclables with deposits of 5 cents when returned to supermarkets. The money that I have

collected will be donated to FSH Muscular Dystrophy. This disease affects the muscles by making them weaker and weaker until it is very hard to move. Sadly, my brother has this disease. I have a bin stationed in the synagogue and would really appreciate if anyone donates any of their cans or bottles.

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***Harv Hilowitz Named NYS Coordinator***

Dear Ahavath Israel Congregation,

I wanted to share my dream with you... Harv Hilowitz of Stone Ridge NY, and member of Ahavath Israel, has been named the New York State Coordinator for the recently proposed United States Public Service Academy. The Academy is the brainchild of the non-profit organization of the same name, dedicated to the creation and development of a National University for public service and humanitarian studies and practices. The new Academy will be based on the lines of the existing five U.S. Military Academies, like those at West Point and Annapolis, requiring an Act of Congress to commence. Last session, in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Bills were sponsored by 24 Senators (S.960) and 123 Representatives (HR.1671), encouraging a renewed effort this session to have a new Bill sponsored, passed and signed by the President. At this time, no site has been selected for the proposed United States Public Service Academy, and the public’s input and assistance is needed to fulfill the entire effort. Anyone interested can contact Harv Hilowitz at [harvhil@earthlink.net](mailto:harvhil@earthlink.net) or go directly to [www.uspublicserviceacademy.org](http://www.uspublicserviceacademy.org). Mr. Hilowitz will continue at his current position in Business Development at the civil engineering firm of Maser Consulting.

## ***Model Seder – Real Food***

On Sunday, March 29, we anticipated the holiday of Pesach with a delightful Model Seder for the students of our Religious School. As it turns out, there are several ‘New Years’ on the Hebrew calendar: Tu B’Shvat is known as the New Year for the Trees; Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, occurs in the sixth Jewish month, Elul, while the first month of the Hebrew year, Nisan, is counted from Pesach. Rosh Hashanah, celebrated in the fall, commemorates creation whereas Pesach, which occurs in the Spring, is a commemoration of national liberation or freedom from slavery in Egypt.

As Pesach approaches, a thorough Spring cleaning takes place beginning several weeks in advance of the holiday. Since we are not allowed to eat or possess any *chametz* (food containing a leavening agent), it is traditional to search the house in a thorough clean-up. We call this search *bedikat chametz*. Everyone should be included in this search, including children. The search may turn up food which could be donated to organizations that give food to needy non-Jews. It is also customary to make a donation to a *Ma’ot Hittim* fund, a fund which provides Passover food to poor Jewish families.

During our seder, the children reviewed the particular items needed for the holiday table and experienced the ceremony of the meal with its special order, reading the text and asking questions along the way. They also heard stories, sang songs and ate tasty foods. Everyone was well behaved and seemed to enjoy participating. Many thanks go to the teachers, Sari Rosen and Danielle Orville for preparing our students for this event. And thanks also to Candy and Joe Belles and Lisa King-Smith for setting a beautiful table and making delicious food for our seder.

## ***New Conservative Judaism web site***

There is a new Conservative Judaism website that is a terrific source on everything in the Conservative Jewish world. This is a project of the Leadership Council of Conservative Judaism. There are 24 different organizations that make up the world of Conservative Judaism, one of which is United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism ( USCJ ) which is the congregational arm. Other organizations include the Rabbinical Assembly, which our Rabbi's belong to, Cantorial Assembly for Cantors, JTS the New York Seminary, Women’s League, Mens Club and many more. All 24 arms of the movement came together and formed the council. If you go to the link you can get to all 124 arms of the movement as well as other sources of Conservative Jewish information.

Take a look at this link and start exploring.

<http://www.conservativejudaism.org/>

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## ***Birchat Ha-Hammah Celebration***

We want to thank Ellen Leifer very much for putting together a terrific Birchat Ha-Hammah program for our Fast of the Firstborn Minyon. Ellen took on the task of putting together a study session for the minyon highlighting the once in every 28 years occurrence of Birchat Ha-Hammah. A good sized group of us got up early the morning before th first Seder and greeted the sun on this special day. The next time we get to celebrate Birchat Ha-Hammah will be in the year 5797 on the Jewish calendar

We also want to thank Candy and Joe for putting together the breakfast afterwards.

The Ritual Committee

## *Sisterhood Events*

**Rummage Sale - May 3**

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### *Jewish Senior Group*

Young at Heart Jewish Kingston Senior group will begin with a lunch and fitness program presentation on June 18, a Thursday, at noon. Meetings will be held at Temple Emanuel, the third Thursday of each month. This is a free event but RSVP is necessary by June 15 to Eileen at 339-3845 or Marsha at 658- 3756. This is a new social group for our community.

Eileen Lubart

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### *President's message continued from page 1*

I could rail on and on about the situation, but I would just like to leave you with the words of my daughter Melissa, who is currently teaching English in Korea. The following is an excerpt from her Blog, which really says it all:

April 21, 2009 — Melissa

Good morning, America. If you come across this today, Tuesday, it is also Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. While the day passes by like any other to most people, it is a time of great reflection for some. For all that has been done for human rights in the 60+ years since the Holocaust, we still have so much work left to do. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's [speech](#), given earlier this week in Geneva, demonstrates that perfectly. Representatives from more than 30 countries walked out, but even more stayed and applauded the Iranian president.

My peers are among the last generation to hear first-hand accounts of Holocaust survivors, to

meet them, talk with them, and to see the scars—physical and emotional—that they still bear. My children will never have that. Much as America's early wars and events have been relegated to textbook pages and preserved battlegrounds and artifacts, so too will the Holocaust. It is our job to make sure that the deaths of 12 million people, half of them Jews, were not in vain.

With all the chaos that exists in the world today, most notably in the Sudan and Sri Lanka, what are you doing to help? What are any of us doing? What am I doing? "Never Forget" is in your face everywhere you look, but it's not about us forgetting anymore. Now it's what happens next. If we can take the lessons learned in Auschwitz, Buchenwald and Treblinka and better the world, then we are not forgetting. But we have eons to go before we're there.

*"I should like someone to remember that there once lived a person named David Berger."*  
-David Berger in his last letter, Vilna 1941.

### **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 interment 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.

MAY YAHRZEITS

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

יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ - Psalm 121

7 Iyar May 1	Leon Sandrow David Weinstein Hyman Weiner Morris Isaacson	17 Iyar May 11	Celia Kirschner Morris Gossett
9 Iyar May 3	Harry Pollack Irving Lehner Charles Schlossberg	18 Iyar May 12	Gary Melamed Edward Solomon Meyer Lifshin Samuel David Harris Rose Buchbinder Anna Cohen
10 Iyar May 4	Annie Goldberg Fanny Head	19 Iyar May 13	Julia Harris
11 Iyar May 5	Arthur Schiff Isadore Pekarsky Jacob Lederman	20 Iyar May 14	Hyman Kalina Robert E. Dubois
12 Iyar May 6	Morris Dubin Martin Gally Benjamin Adelstein Rose Tompkin Jennie Gollup Samuel Schiff	22 Iyar May 16	Paul Wendrow Alexander Schleuderer Morris Adin Henry Davis Hyman Leventhal Albert Bernard Krakower
13 Iyar May 7	Lillian Sherman Clara Lipton	23 Iyar May 17	Mildred Heisman
14 Iyar May 8	Rose Kalina Dr. William Siegel Bessie Gordon Abraham Gordon Rubin Yablon Florence Saunders Jacob Avis	24 Iyar May 18	Anna Levine Victor Alcon Roslyn Nowick Morris F. Gruberg Louis Bregman
15 Iyar May 9	Helen R. Schiff	25 Iyar May 19	Helen Schweitzman Pearl Brett Harold Halperin
16 Iyar May 10	Yetta Lifshin		

26 Iyar May 20	Gussie Goldfarb Leon Kaye Isadore Schames Jennie Singer Hendrika Colen	2 Sivan May 25	Anna Abramson Julius Lipton Cecelia Woolfson Rose Siegler Linda Pearson
27 Iyar May 21	Irwin Steinhart Rose Yaes	3 Sivan May 26	Helen Davidowitz Wilfred Lowenstein Sidney Spiegel Mary S. Dubin
28 Iyar May 22	Rivka Buchbinder Ernest Aaron Melamed Samuel Pauker Celia Schwartz	4 Sivan May 27	Evelyn Fertel Raye Katz Esther Markovitz
29 Iyar May 23	William Nitzky Robert Greenwald Sadie Haberman Libby Schwartz	5 Sivan May 28	Florence Gossett Freda Lifshin Ben Sherman David Fuchs David Wasserlauf
1 Sivan May 24	Michael Ann Davis Stern Max Weinstein Moe Schwartz	6 Sivan May 29	Charles H. Kronick
		8 Sivan May 31	Sabina Eckdish Frances Vigden Solomon David Eckdish

### *April Donations*

#### **Ahavath Israel General Fund**

##### **In memory of:**

**Moe Aronson**

**Esther Leifer**

From Howard & Ellen Leifer

**Ruth Zwilling**

From Irving Zwilling

#### **Memorial Plaque**

##### **In Memory of:**

**Percival Goldman**

**Mildred Goldman**

From Harold Goldman

#### **Beautification Fund**

##### **In memory of:**

**Gilbert Adin**

From Shirley Adin

**Joseph & Mary Cohen**

From Hugh Struass

**Two Poems by Marian Goldhammer**  
**“Yad Va Shem”**

It is very quiet at Yad Va Shem...

Silence to hear the heart break.

There is a garden here, barren of flowers,

“In Memory of Children Who died in the Holocaust”

Strange playground this,

No sweet young laughter,

No brightly colored toys,

But dark cypresses and massive, somber stones as in a cemetery.

Each child a memory,

A candle lit in the dark cave down the path,

Which we enter, remembering how each trusting child

Took a step into the unknown in faith (and fear).

Each candle reflected in a thousand dark mirrors

Creating galaxies of stars

Into which we survivors step in faith (and in fear)

Not knowing whether the next step

Might plunge us into star-filled space.

Hold fast to the railing if you can find it!

This is your journey of faith (and fear)

And a child has led you here.

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**“Meditation on the Shema”**

Close your eyes and

Listen.

Listen to the silence.

Listen.

It is Yom Kippur.

You are wearing a white robe.

You are far away from here in time and space.

You are standing on Mt. Sinai with Moses.

In his arms are the two tablets of the Law.

You hear the blast of the Shofar.

Then silence.

Suddenly Moses' voice rings out over the mountain:

“Listen, Oh Israel: the Eternal, our G-d, The Eternal is One.”

The sound is heard throughout the desert. It is carried on the wind beyond the sands, beyond the mountains, beyond the waters, beyond the forests, to every land on earth. The whole world can hear Moses' voice from Mt. Sinai. It soars beyond earth, beyond sun, beyond moon, beyond stars, to the celestial heights above, where it blends with the voices of angels singing,

“Holy, holy, holy, Eternal our G-d, Heaven and Earth are full of thy glory.”

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

# *Congregation Ahavath Israel*

*May 2009*

*7<sup>th</sup> Iyar - 8<sup>th</sup> Sivan*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>7:36 candles</b> 22 day Omer  7 Iyar	2 <b>8:40 Havdalah</b> 21 day Omer  8 Iyar
3 24 day Omer  9 Iyar	4 25 day Omer  10 Iyar	5 26 day Omer  11 Iyar	6 27 day Omer  12 Iyar	7 28 day Omer  13 Iyar	8 <b>7:43 candles</b> 29 day Omer  14 Iyar	9 <b>8:48 Havdalah</b> 30 day Omer  15 Iyar
10 <b>No Talmud Torah</b> 31 day Omer  16 Iyar	11 32 day Omer  17 Iyar	12 <b>Lag B'Omer</b> 33 day Omer  18 Iyar	13 34 day Omer  19 Iyar	14 35 day Omer  20 Iyar	15 <b>7:51 candles</b> 36 day Omer  21 Iyar	16 <b>8:55 Havdalah</b> 37 day Omer  22 Iyar
17 38 day Omer  23 Iyar	18 39 day Omer  24 Iyar	19 40 day Omer  25 Iyar	20 41 day Omer  26 Iyar	21 42 day Omer Board meeting 7:30 pm  27 Iyar	22 28 Iyar <b>7:48 candles</b> <b>Yom</b> <b>Yerushalayim</b> 43 day Omer	23 29 Iyar <b>9:02 Havdalah</b> <b>Bar Mitzvah</b> <b>Isaac</b> <b>Goldowitz</b> 44 day Omer
24 1 Sivan <b>No Talmud Torah</b> <b>Rosh Chodesh</b> <b>Sivan</b> 45 day Omer	25 46 day Omer  2 Sivan	26 47 day Omer  3 Sivan	27 48 day Omer  4 Sivan	28 <b>8:03 candles</b> 49 day Omer <b>Erev Shavuot</b>  5 Sivan	29 <b>8:04 candles</b> <b>Shavuot</b>  6 Sivan	30 <b>9:08 Havdalah</b> <b>Bar Mitzvah</b> <b>Alec Cohen</b>  7 Sivan
31  Last day Talmud Torah  8 Sivan	<b>Bar Mitzvah</b> <b>of Isaac</b> <b>Goldowitz w/</b> <b>Rabbi Kolko</b> 5/22-5/23	<b>Bar Mitzvah</b> <b>of Alec Cohen</b> <b>with Rabbi</b> <b>Kolko</b> 5/29- 5/30			<b>June 5 Dinner</b> <b>Talmud Torah</b> <b>Completion</b> <b>Ceremony</b>	<b>June 18</b> <b>Annual</b> <b>Meeting</b>