



The Voice

Founded 1906

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

June 2009

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

Sivan-Tammuz 5769

Message from the Rabbi

Dear Congregation Ahavath Israel,

I am Rabbi Jason Fruithandler and I am very excited to be working with you during the coming year. I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself and about my vision for our work together.

I grew up in Mount Kisco, NY where I fell in love with Judaism through my experiences with United Synagogue Youth. In fact, since those experience I have spent the last 10 years working in various capacities for both USY and Ramah camps. After high school, I spent a year in Israel and then went on to obtain a B.A. from Columbia University in Sociology and a B.A. in Talmud and Rabbinics from the Jewish Theological Seminary. I began rabbinical school at JTS shortly after marrying my wife Jessie in 2006 and I am currently completing my 3rd year of rabbinical school in Jerusalem at the Schechter institute.

As a rabbi, I have a vision that includes three major goals: meaning making, community building, and having fun. I wanted to share them with you in order to let you know a little about myself as a rabbi.

Meaning Making:

I believe that at the core of our astounding tradition

is an attempt to make meaning out of the world. Judaism gives us glasses to view the world, our place in it, and our purpose. It takes mundane acts like eating and going to sleep and makes them holy. It takes our already sacred moments, such as marriage and coming of age, and places them in an even more powerful history of sacred moments. As a rabbi, I hope to facilitate, encourage and participate in as many of these experiences as possible.

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President's message on page 3

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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Mildred Blas and family

wishing

Deran Seymour McCutcheon

Mazel Tov and Congratulations

on his

Bar Mitzvah

27th June, 2009

Rabbi's message continued

Community Building

Judaism is an outstanding framework for creating a supportive and vibrant community. In fact, in Israel, they don't even call Conservative synagogues, "synagogues" rather they call them "communities." I hope as a rabbi to be a part of building, strengthening, and supporting Jewish communities.

Fun

Lastly, I hope we will have fun together. Judaism is a religion that loves to celebrate. I hope to share in the joy, laughter and excitement that living a Jewish life can bring.

I am excited to learn about and grow with the community at AI. I want to work together to see how my own vision can fit with your vibrant community's long history.

I would love to hear from you with any ideas,

thoughts or responses. I can be reached at rabbi.ahavathisrael@gmail.com

I look forward to a great year together.

Kol Tuv,

Rabbi Jason Fruithandler

Message from the President

While the summer months are usually pretty quiet, this year promises to be an exception. There is a lot happening at Ahavath Israel this summer, and I hope all of you will be a part of it. I'm sure all of you are aware that we will be welcoming a new student Rabbi. Jason Fruithandler, a fourth year rabbinical student, will be joining our family at the end of August, and will be spending two weekends a month with us. With his enthusiasm and knowledge, Jason is certain to raise the energy level at the synagogue quite a few notches. For a preview of what is to come, I invite you to join us on Sunday, June 7, at 10 am for a special minyan and brunch. Jason will be coming up from NYC to spend the day with us, lead minyan and meet as many of you as possible. For reservations, call the synagogue office.

Also in June we will have our annual congregational meeting, at which time a new slate of officers will assume command. I will be staying on as president, but only for a short period, just long enough to give our new vice presidents an opportunity to "get their feet wet." If all goes as planned, I will be stepping down by the end of the year (which will no doubt please those of you who cringe at my alleged humor from the bimah), and hand the reigns over to Rebecca Balzac, our new 1st Vice President, and Rhona Schiffres, our 2nd Vice President. The balance of the slate is: Susan Hirsch, Treasurer, Howard Leifer, Financial Secretary, and Dan Rafkind, Recording Secretary.

I would like to thank all our outgoing officers for their service and devotion to the congregation. VP's Marsha Weiss and Dan Rafkind, neither of whom wanted the jobs, but stepped up and agreed to serve. Their advice and support were invaluable. I want to especially thank Gerrie Keyes, who is stepping down after many years as Recording Secretary. Her dedication and devotion to Ahavath Israel will not be forgotten. I would be remiss if I failed to mention Susan Hirsch and Howie Leifer, both of whom came on board under difficult circumstances, and did a tremendous job putting our books in order. For my entire term, Susan has been my most trusted advisor. I don't know what I would have done without her.

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*Mazel Tov to
Gloria Plasker on receiving
the Mid- Hudson Region
League of Women's Voter's
Life-Time Achievement Award*

Studies Completed, But Not Done

Congratulations to all of our Talmud Torah Students for finishing a busy and intense year of Hebrew School studies. Students in the Hey Class were expert multi-taskers - learning prayers from the Friday night and Shabbat morning service. Those preparing for their B'nei Mitzvot also tackled the various tropes for Torah and Haftarah portions. In preparation for their Big Day, they attended services where they were encouraged to participate and became comfortable with the idea of leadership. Fellow students observed while others courageously took their place on the bimah. Many thanks to Jeremy Schiffres for donating his time to gather and guide our Tikkun Torah class through

meaningful discussions and idea exchanges. Many of these students also attended services on Sunday mornings, ensuring a minyan.

Much credit is due to all the teachers who patiently prepared the B'nei Mitzvah students. Our thanks go to Danielle Orville, Sari Rosen, Ellen Triebwasser, our Trop Teacher, and special coaches - Bernie King-Smith, Ellen Leifer, Jeremy Schiffres, Marsha Weiss and, of course, Rabbi Kolko.

We hope that all of our students continue in their studies. Learning is never ending. Never done. Who could pass up the chance for a new "aha moment"? Furthermore, we need you, our young leaders, to be ready to step in and step up to do what is now easy for you - leading services, reading Torah and Haftarah, giving a d'var. Perhaps you will also be available to coach our younger students in the future.

We look forward to welcoming you and your families to our Completion Ceremony on Friday June 5th.

Wishing you all the best for a wonderful summer and we hope to see you all next year.

With warm regards, Susan Rafkind
Co-Chair, Education Committee

Rabbi Kolko's Visits

Rabbi Kolko will be visiting us again to officiate at the following Bar Mitzvah and services:

July 10-11 for the Bar Mitzvah of David Fasano

July 30-August 1 - Shabbat services and Lunch and Learn

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.

For Conservative Shuls, A Moment Of Challenge

by Ray Goldstein

Special To The Jewish Week

Recently the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism has been criticized harshly, both from outside the Conservative movement and, more troublingly, from within it as well (“New Rump Group Levels Fresh Attacks On USCJ,” May 15). The critiques are not wholly without merit. This is, undeniably, a moment of challenge and change for the United Synagogue, which represents Conservative synagogues in North America.

The demographics we face are challenging. Today there are fewer people who identify themselves as Conservative Jews than there used to be. An increasing number view themselves as post-denominational, choosing independent minyanim over our synagogues. Others jump from shul to shul, or from movement to movement. Some delay going anywhere altogether until they marry and start families - a cycle that is being postponed later in life than ever. And some simply do not affiliate with synagogues.

Some Conservative synagogues are merging. Some, sadly, simply are closing. And a few are leaving United Synagogue altogether - although an equal number are joining.

Our communities are changing. They are reshaping themselves, discarding some of the mid-20th century forms they have inherited, sometimes discarding the labels that identify them as Conservative, but clearly still part of us.

But we know as well that the movement, with its insistence on the discipline of halachic living and at the same time on balancing that discipline with the evolving truths of a changing world, continues to offer an approach to Jewish life that resonates with vast numbers of Jews.

We stand at the crossroads with eyes wide open, recognizing both the significant challenges we face and the need for meaningful change these challenges demand, as well as the opportunities they present. Soon we will install a new executive vice president and a new lay president. We recently launched a process to fully reassess our mission and long-term strategic plan – a process that we undertake in concert with some of our harshest critics. In the meantime, we continue to take the concerns of our constituents with the utmost seriousness and are actively making changes to best meet their needs.

As our incoming leadership team prepares to take charge - and as we current leaders get ready to step back - we all pledge ourselves to move toward change and transparency. Our budget process must be more open. Therefore, I have instructed our finance department to put the budget in more understandable form and to post it on the web as soon as possible. We also are in the process of re-evaluating each of our programs. Those that prove ineffective or inefficient may be eliminated. We already have had to take the painful step of eliminating some staff positions.

Over the course of this year, our executive vice president, Rabbi Jerome Epstein, and I, along with other lay and professional leaders, visited all of our regions’ conventions to hear first-hand about local concerns and issues. We have begun to implement organizational changes that will enable us to come to members’ aid more quickly. We now quickly put together conference calls on topical issues and offer webinars that help congregational leaders deal with pressing problems.

Our critics say that we have been too slow to implement change. Simultaneously, though, they demand that the United Synagogue act more democratically. Their argument is paradoxical:

We are a large movement, representing many hundreds of congregations. Swift, large-scale changes imposed from our headquarters in New York would violate the very spirit of greater transparency under which we are committed to operating. We need time to build consensus among our international membership.

Despite the clear challenges, there is much evidence that the Conservative movement is vital. Our Hekhsher Tzedek project, which is focused on creating an ethical certification process for kosher foods, has captured the attention of the Jewish community, including the Orthodox. Our seminaries are continuing to produce new rabbis, cantors, and Jewish educators. Conservative congregations are sprouting in Israel and Europe. Our Ramah camps are vibrant, successful, and in demand, and our Schechter schools graduate well-educated, well-rounded, committed young Conservative Jews. Yeshiva University's Chancellor Rabbi Norman Lamm, is dead wrong - as well as offensive - when he says it's time to recite Kaddish for our movement.

Part of the problem we face is related to the economy. Our job has always been challenging, but the economic downturn has made things much tougher. We are well aware, however, that some of the United Synagogue's difficulties are of our own making. Much of what the United Synagogue does is not readily apparent to our members. Our synagogues do not all know enough about what our mandate is and what we do on a day-to-day basis. We have not been as effective as we could have been in making sure they know about the training we offer to synagogue leaders, the support we provide synagogue professionals, the instruction in synagogue skills we offer to congregations without rabbis, and the successful work we do each day on college campuses. We have not made our members fully aware of the assistance

we provide on adult education, committee structuring, synagogue libraries, personnel, Kadimah and USY youth groups. We must do better.

There are those among our critics who want to effect change from within. To them we say, bruchim ha'ba'im, welcome. Let's continue to work together. There are others, however, who wish only to tear down. To them we say: this is not the way forward. The Conservative movement, which since its inception has balanced tradition and change, will continue to change as we face this new economy with new leadership. We are confident that we will not only endure but grow and flourish.

Raymond B. Goldstein is international president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

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

The Proposed United States Public Service Academy

In 2006, educators Chris Myers Asch and Shawn Raymond put their dreams and energy together and created the non-profit United States Public Service Academy organization, in order to create a national college for public service, national leadership and humanitarian response to crises. Like our Military Academies, such an institution

can only be created by a formal Act of Congress, signed by the President. In the previous 2007-2008 111th Congressional Session, a Bill for creating the Academy was before Congress attaining the co-sponsorship of 123 Representatives and 24 Senators.

Students in the Academy would attain a four-year undergraduate degree and then serve five years of mandatory public service, at home or abroad, for local, state or Federal agencies or departments. Approximately 5000 full-scholarship students would attend the Academy, whose site will be determined by Congressional Commission, as noted in the current Bill.

Now Harv Hilowitz has joined the team, as NY State Coordinator for the Academy. The organization currently has four primary goals:

1. to widely spread the word to the general public about the effort to create the new national Academy;
2. to attract formal endorsements and statements of support for the Academy from educational and political leaders, civic leaders, those in the arts, former military personnel, non-profits, service and humanitarian organizations, etc.
3. to attract funding for the organization's general operations, special events and lobbying efforts;
4. to enter a Bill into Congress this Session, which will pass both Houses and be signed by the President, creating the United States Public Service Academy.

These are lofty goals, but we feel the time is now, and this concept is right for our times. This is a patriotic effort to inspire our young people to serve, raising the prestige of national and humanitarian service. You can assist us today by

forwarding this note, by informing your friends, family and colleagues and by getting involved! This will be our nation's newest Academy, our Academy, and you can be part of the effort to birth it. For details, lists of Bill co-sponsors, endorsers, student support groups, etc., please go to our website at www.uspublicservice.org or contact us or D.C. office at 202-712-9121 or e-mail me at harvhil@earthlink.net.

Thank you for your support,

-Harv

President's Message continued

Now for the answer to the question most of you are probably asking: What's going on with the talks with Temple Emanuel? After a thorough review of the financial records of both congregations, we have determined that it would not be in our financial interest to enter into a joint venture with Temple. While there are many valid reasons to join forces, the overriding consideration is whether a combined entity would be financially viable. Although I cannot divulge details of confidential financial information, rest assured it was fully discussed by the Board. We did not come to this conclusion lightly, as a lot of time and effort was put into the discussions with Temple. We will, however, continue to talk with our friends at Temple Emanuel and explore areas where we can cooperate and which can be of mutual benefit to both congregations.

Getting back to the summer, we are planning some fun events for the coming months. On Sunday, August 2nd, we are having a community yard sale and barbecue. This is a perfect opportunity for you to clean out your garages and basements, and make a few dollars for yourselves and the synagogue. We will be hosting a Wine Tasting fundraiser in early

September, featuring some really nice Kosher wines. It's a perfect opportunity to stock up for the High Holidays.

I look forward to working with the new Board and with the congregation for the balance of the year. Have a great summer!

Jerry Weiss
President

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 Donations

Ahavath Israel Fund

In memory of:

Betty & Morris Siegal, parents

From: Fran Passik

In honor of:

My Aliyah on my 88th Birthday

From: J. Nina Lieberman

Ellen Liefer and her kind efforts for our family

From: Melissa & Bobby Weiss

Thank-you To Congregation Ahavath Israel

For making the special day for Jake Weiss (our Son)

From: Melissa & Bobby Weiss

Beautification Fund

In memory of:

Manning Cohen

From: Leone Straus

Gilbert Adin

From: Elyse Adin Galik

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of:

Gary Melamed, brother

From: Nancy Brown

Building Fund

In memory of:

Hendrika Colen

From: Joe Colen

Yetta Lifshin

Meyer Lifshin

From: Jack Lifshin

Talmud Torah Education Fund

In memory of:

Gary Melamed

From: Trudi Melamed-Turck

Irv Reuben Memorial Window Fund

In memory of:

Tillie Reuben (birthday, April 23rd)

From: Sheila & James Craven

JUNE YAHRZEITS

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

יהוה ישמר צאחך
ובואך מעתה ועד-עולם - Psalm 121

9 Sivan June 1	Betty Leichter Esther Shereshevsky Adolph Hartman Isidore Greenfield Anna Levy Furst Edith Millens Miller Fannie Shorr	19 Sivan June 11	Sidney Scheefer Scott Murray Vigdon Alice Melamed Esther Levanthal Samuel Goldberg
10 Sivan June 2	Abraham Nowick Herman Kreppel Hyman Pekarowitz	20 Sivan June 12	Solomon Dubin Ruth Isaacson Bernard Weinstein
11 Sivan June 3	Kate Weiss David Gruberg William Gruberg Isaac Farber Samuel Parnett	21 Sivan June 13	Lena Trabilcy Celia Weiss
12 Sivan June 4	Hyman Glowitz	22 Sivan June 14	Rose Gerstanzang Helen Levine Millens
14 Sivan June 6	Joseph E. Honig Archer S. Kronick	23 Sivan June 15	Jacob Lewis Mollie Rothenberg David Rubenstein Rivka Shulman
15 Sivan June 7	Harry Riss Sarah Feinberg	24 Sivan June 16	David Samuels
16 Sivan June 8	Sadie J. Gruberg William Phillip Lehr	25 Sivan June 17	Herbert Lubowitt
17 Sivan June 9	Morris Siegal Carl Spiegel Joel Stanger	26 Sivan June 18	Sam Barnovitz Shirley Budesa Minnie Lurie Isaacson
18 Sivan June 10	Meyer Gasool Bernard Pauker Samuel Starkman	27 Sivan June 19	Rebecca Alpert Samuel Wilpan Max Burg Herman Meyer Kleinfeld Rosalina Levine

28 Sivan June 20	Martin Aaron Ray Spiegel	5 Tammuz June 27	Shlomo Pauker Samuel Millens Irving Levine
29 Sivan June 21	Reba Nitzky Rose Katz Frances Gossett Kate Schoenemann Solomon Stein Victor Greene		Moshe (Moe) Spiegel Goldie Werbalowsky Hinda Wieselthier Ann Karp
30 Sivan June 22	Madeline Wendrow Louis Lehner	6 Tammuz June 28	Lillian Baker Sophie Alcon Kaplan
2 Tammuz June 24	Dorothy Denzig Krakower William Greenwald	7 Tammuz June 29	Philip Lichenstein Nancy Spiegel
3 Tammuz June 25	Judith Abrahamson	8 Tammuz June 30	Herbert Siller Ruth Barnovitz Abraham Lurie Edward Chugerman Etta Zwick
4 Tammuz June 26	Isadore Aaronson Edward Gerstanzang Malvie Friedland		

Sisterhood Donations

Shirley Kalina Endowment Fund

In honor of:

Candy Belles, Sisterhood President

Gladys Spiegler, Sisterhood Treasurer

From: Rita Smith

Donation from Lisa King-Smith

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

Congregation Ahavath Israel

June 2009

9th Sivan - 8th Tammuz

Talmud Torah Dinner at
6:00

Completion Ceremony
and services to follow

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9 Sivan	2 10 Sivan	3 11 Sivan	4 12 Sivan	5 8:09 candles Talmud Torah Dinner 6:00 pm 13 Sivan	6 9:13 Havdalah 14 Sivan
7 10 am Minyan 11 am Brunch w/ Rabbi Fruithandler 15 Sivan	8 16 Sivan	9 17 Sivan	10 18 Sivan	11 19 Sivan	12 8:13 candles 20 Sivan	13 9:17 Havdalah 21 Sivan
14 22 Sivan	15 23 Sivan	16 24 Sivan	17 25 Sivan	18 Annual meeting 7:30 26 Sivan	19 8:16 candles 27 Sivan	20 9:19 Havdalah 28 Sivan
21 29 Sivan	22 Rosh Chodesh Tammuz 30 Sivan	23 Rosh Chodesh Tammuz 1 Tammuz	24 2 Tammuz	25 3 Tammuz	26 8:17 candles 4 Tammuz	27 9:20 Havdalah 5 Tammuz
28 6 Tammuz	29 7 Tammuz	30 8 Tammuz	June 7 at 10 am Minyan & Brunch with Rabbi Fruithandler			

Brunch and Minyan with the Rabbi

Join us on **JUNE 7, 2009 AT 10:00**
to meet Student Rabbi Jason Fruithandler.

Rabbi Fruithandler will lead minyan and meet the
congregation over brunch.

Brunch will be \$5/person, \$18/family. Please RSVP to the
Synagogue office by June 4th by calling 338-4409 or emailing
ahavath_israel_sec1@juno.com

****Please note that minyan will start at the special time of 10:00****

****Brunch will be served at 11:00****

Please come to welcome Rabbi Fruithandler to Ahavath Israel