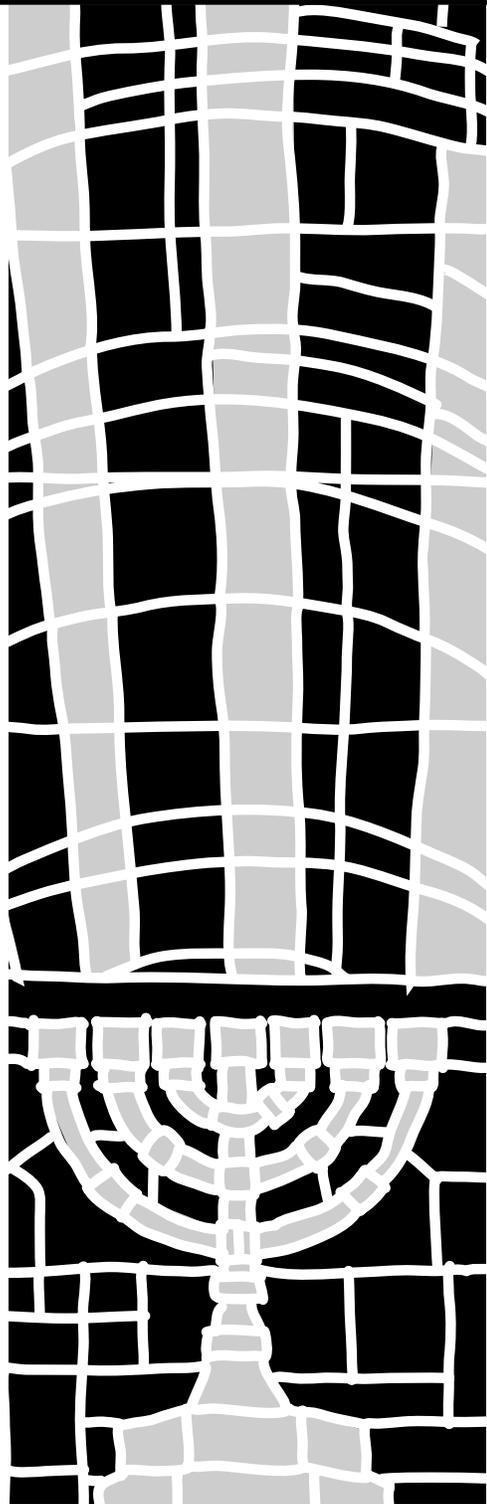


Kol Kneseth Israel

"The Voice of Kneseth Israel"



ALAN M. SMOLEN, *Hazzan*
ckielgin@wideopenwest.com

MARLA TOPP, *Director of Education*
mdtcki@wideopenwest.com

330 Division St.
Elgin, IL 60120
Phone 847.741.5656
Fax 847.741.5679
www.uscj.org/midwest/elgin

The Halls Are Alive with the Sound of Music

It's November, the High Holidays are over, and fall is in the air, so it's time for the 2nd annual series of Friday Night Alive services to begin. If you've not been among the approximately 150 attendees at each one of last years FNA *Shabbat* Service, here's your chance to get involved.

Friday Night Alive is not a concert, but an interactive Shabbat service where you can sing, dance and clap your hands to the sounds of our own "Rhythm 'n' Jews". Under the leadership and lead vocals of *Hazzan* Alan Smolen the group includes Sherry Richards on piano, Emily Shankman providing vocal and violin accompaniment, Chuck Gauthier on guitar and Arthur Shankman on percussion. "Rhythm 'n' Jews" keeps the melodies fresh and lively and cover for many of us whose voices would be doing better elsewhere.

In the introductory year of Friday Night Alive, we were visited by a number of church groups in the Elgin area to get a sense of what all the excitement is about at CKI.

So be part of a special event. Presented 4 times in 5764 there are plenty of dates and room for all. Join Friday Night Alive on November 14th, January 30th, February 27th and April 2nd. Check your calendar for specific starting times. FNA...See you there.



“Pauses Between the Notes”

As of this writing, we’ve just observed *Yom Kippur* and are on the brink of celebrating *Sukkot*, the week-long Jewish Thanksgiving festival. It seems from all fronts that our year is off to a wonderful start, the High Holy Days having been rather meaningful and successful on a variety of levels. I’d have to say that this year’s messages from presidents and yours truly were

just some of the highlights of the holidays. At one time or another, both lay and professional leadership are “accused” of trying to get people to come to the synagogue or participate in synagogue-sponsored programs in one way or another. Well, if there’s accountability to be accepted, I’ll certainly take my share of it on that one. Other than perhaps a solitaire festival, I’d like to know what sort of programs or activities are

successful when less people attend or participate. Sure, we’re going to do whatever we can to convince our members to take advantage of various offerings here and throughout the larger Jewish world. That’s part of our responsibility to you and we wouldn’t be your trusted servants if we didn’t do that, now would we? Getting Jews to appreciate and benefit from legitimate avenues in Jewish life is the name of the game.

As a *hazzan*, music continues to be a major force to accomplish that and other goals. The Ritual Committee continues to meet and discuss ways to possibly build on the successful momentum of “Friday Night Alive!”

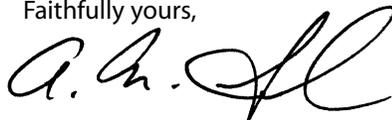
by ongoing discussion concerning other service-related, liturgical venues for instrumental music. Let us know your thoughts on the matter and contact Ron Sigal, Ritual Chairman or me. “Friday Night Alive!” continues and will take place for the first time this year on **Friday, November 14 at 7:30 PM**. We’re all better acquainted with the format and content of “FNAI!” at this

point, so we look forward to this year’s round of “FNAI!” services with even greater excitement. Bring your relatives and friends to what has already proven to be a wonderful way to share *Shabbat* with your *KNESETH ISRAEL* Family!

Sunday, December 21st at 2:30 PM at Glenbrook North High School (Northbrook, IL), the Midwest Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs presents its second “Choral *Hanukkah* Family Celebration.” Among those performing are the

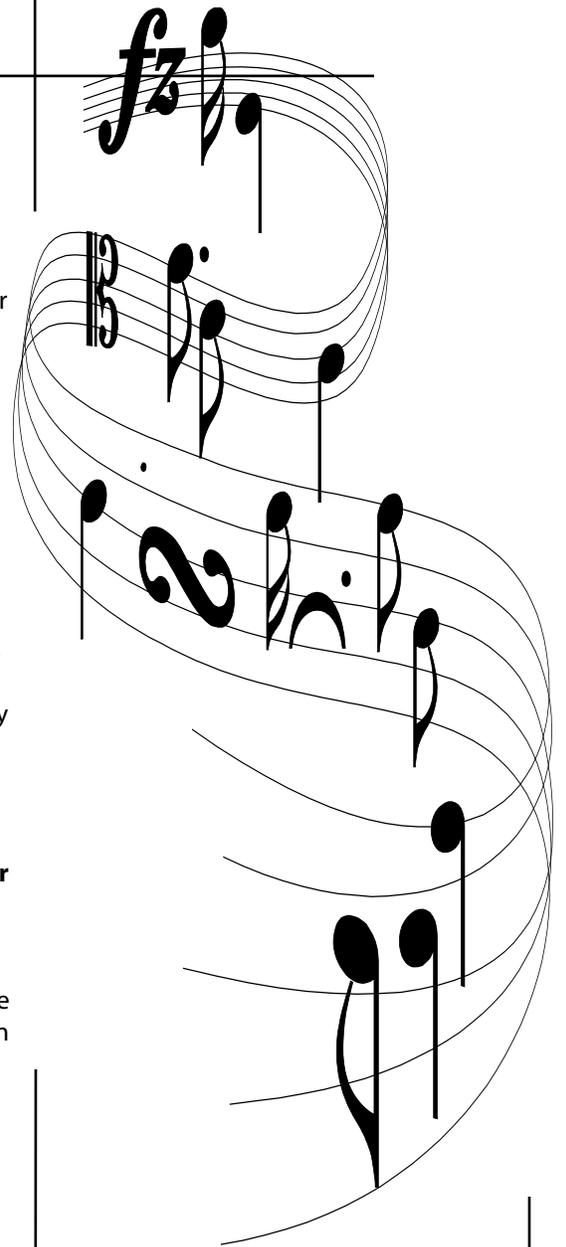
Chicago Jewish *a cappella* group “Listen Up,” local *hazzanim* led by *Beth Shalom*’s own *Hazzan* Steven Stoehr, the Solomon Schechter day School Choir and...the Fox Valley’s own **Rhythm ‘n’ Jews!!!** You’ll find additional information to purchase tickets in this and the December edition of *HaKol*. Let’s bring a lot of our people and show North Shore Jews that the Heart of Fox Valley Judaism’s still beatin’...for OVER a century!

Faithfully yours,



Hazzan Alan Smolen

“Getting Jews to appreciate and benefit from legitimate avenues in Jewish life is the name of the game.”



Hazzan Smolen is always available should a need arise. But, he cannot know if something has occurred in your life which would be helped by his visit if you don’t call him. Hospitals are very protective of patient lists due to “right of privacy” rules and it is difficult for *Hazzan* Smolen to find out if congregants have been admitted. Please state your religious and congregation affiliation if admitted to a hospital. This information is to serve pastoral needs of patients, not to persecute them. If a family member or friend is in the hospital or ill, please call *Hazzan* Smolen so he may tend to their spiritual needs.

Message from the President

You: *We haven't talked in awhile. So nu, what's new?*

Me: **New year, new suit, new...**

You: *Not this again. SO NU, WHAT'S NEW?*

Me: Sorry. First, the name of the bulletin.

You: *I like it.*

Me: Thanks to our beloved Sarah Frisch for submitting it.

You: *And new tables in the social hall?*

Me: Yep. We bought them from Holy Trinity Church. They're nice – stable, clean. Eventually, they'll sell more. I've already reserved them.

You: *The best thing is when I sit down, I don't get a leg.*

Me: Good. Gary's our new custodian. He's the one who revived the floors, carpet and furniture. Place looks and feels good.

You: *Anyone else?*

Me: Sure. Diane Linne is our liaison to the Jewish Theological Seminary. And Janet Ellingson has agreed to chair the membership committee.

You: *I saw the New Year greeting card. That's a nice piece of work.*

Me: All the credit for that goes to Linda Blatchford, Shirley Simon, and Liza Bachrach. Hey, "move over Hallmark!"

You: *I missed the special Shabbat for the Lessers. How was it?*

Me: Wonderful! Talk about a family feeling.

You: *Going to do more Shabbats like that?*

Me: Yep. They're in the works as we speak.

You: *I see more people coming to help.*

Me: I really need to tell you who they are. I thank them so much and am so grateful for their efforts and dedication. They truly keep us going. So, here's the "Honor Roll of Names" and what they did: *Hazzan Smolen* and *Marla Topp* for organizing and conducting the *G'nizah* activity along with *Ed Schillmoeller*, *Sandi Phelan*, *Kara Gauthier*, *Tina Wolf*, *Leslie Koloms*, *Chuck Miller*, *Marjie Piraino*, *Ron Sigal*, *Aaron Wolfensohn*, *Marc Zemel*, *Wanda Pitzele*, *Marty Wolfensohn*, *Charlie Gruner*, and the 4th-7th grade students.

You: *What a group! I was there. It was a once-in-seven-years experience.*

Me: And while I'm on names, a special thanks to *Ed Stein* for repairing the sliding screen door in the kitchen. That door has been nonfunctional for a long time.

You: *Anyone else on this Honor Roll list?*

Me: Absolutely! The High Holidays would NOT have gone as smoothly without the dedication and work of *Steven Troy*, *Paul Glaser* and *Joe Rosenfeld* who organized all the honors for the five different services. And *kipot* off to *Perry Pitzele*, who put together the ushers for the holidays. For *Rosh Hashanah* – *Valerie Brown*, *Richard Brown*, *Manuel Martin*, *Ron Razowsky*, *Arthur Shankman*, *Mark Rosenbaum*, *Marc Zemel*, *Dan Zemel*, *Jerry Goozh*, *David Goldberg*, *Malcolm Morris*. And for *Yom Kippur* – *Ken Jacoby*, *Cory Jacoby*, *Dick Johnson*, *Chuck Gauthier*, *Mark Myrent*, *Noah Myrent*, *Howard Rubin*, *Cheri Rubin*, *Aaron Wolfensohn*, *Marty Wolfensohn*, and *Paul Glaser*.

You: *Some family combos here?*

Me: Clever, huh? For the first time, we had fathers and sons, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives.

You: *Is that it?*

Me: Nope. Thanks to *Karen Sigal* and *Sisterhood* for arranging *Break-the-Fast* and to *Tina Wolf* for organizing the babysitting.

You: *So things don't just happen, do they?*

Me: It all takes time and effort. A big *todah rabbah* to everyone who brought food on *Kol Nidre* for the food pantry. And thanks to our social action committee – *Tina Wolf*, *Sherry Wiesman*, and *Fern Raben* – for facilitating that.

You: *Are you finished?*

Me: Not quite. I'm grateful to *Phyllis Lesser* for the work she did gathering and assembling the names for the *Memorial Book*. And, finally, thanks to *Paul Glaser* for leading "Team Chagall" who helped paint the outside window frames: *Al Bender*, *Perry Pitzele*,

Ron Sigal, *Jason Sigal*, *Joe Rosenfeld*, *Ed Wolf*, *Ron Raben*. And for organizing the *Sukkah Builders of Chelm*: *Joe Rosenfeld*, *Barry Weisberg*, *Nancy Maraat*, *Perry Pitzele*, *Melissa*, *Lisa*, and *Sarah Gerlach*.

You: *Well, I'm...*

Me: Oops, more. Thanks to *Mary Lou Conley* who always quietly volunteers to help with office tasks whenever she's needed, and to our secretary, *Zahava*, for all the work she did with holiday mailings and tickets.

You: *...impressed!*

Me: I've run out of space. Look for more names in this bulletin. So who says *Kneseth Israel* is not *mishpocha*? That's what I like – helping and taking pride in our home! What an amazing congregation! BLESS THIS HOUSE!

L'chaim



Ron Raben

CKI BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT, Ron Raben

EXECUTIVE VP, Ron Sigal

VP Sisterhood, Karen Myrent

VP/Education, Barb Razowsky

RECORDING SECRETARY, Liza Bachrach

TREASURER, Marsha Schwartz

FINANCIAL SECRETARY, Dick Johnson

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, Lois Troy

Torah Fund

Torah Fund is a division of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Participation gives each woman the opportunity to be involved in the sacred work of preserving Judaism and enhancing Jewish life in the community and in the home by supporting the Jewish Theological Seminary, the fountainhead of the Conservative Movement. Torah Fund is supported by more than 18,000 women and raises over 2.4 million dollars each year.

Every year Women's League Torah Fund campaign presents a specially designed pin in appreciation and recognition to those who become a benefactor and make an annual contribution of \$180.00. The pins are available now and donation is collected in mid-May. By contributing less than \$7.00/week (\$6.92) from November through mid-May, you will have saved \$180.00. This year's two-tone pin depicts the pages of the Bible, a *Yad* and the word *Limud* (study). The yad guides us as we read the words of the *Torah*, but it is through the gift of understanding that our learning brings us closer to God.

Please feel free to contact Marla Topp, CKI Sisterhood Torah Fund Chair at mdtcki@wideopenwest.com or 847.741.5656 for further Torah Fund information or to receive a pin. Donations throughout the year in any amount are accepted and appreciated.

New Member Shabbat Dinner

The CKI Sisterhood annual New Member *Shabbat* Dinner is scheduled for **Friday, November 21st** at 6:15 PM at the synagogue. Cost is \$15.00 for adults, \$7.50 for children 10 and under, children 4 and under are free. New members will be guests of the Sisterhood.

Reservations with a check payable to CKI Sisterhood should be sent to:
Et Schillmoeller
2016 Kittridge Dr,
West Dundee, IL 60118.

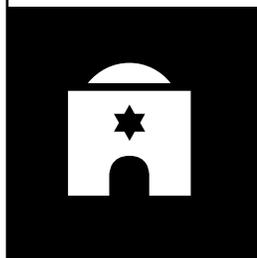
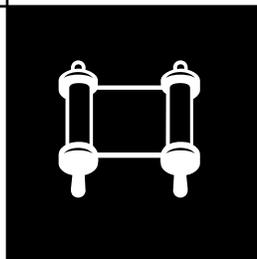
Questions can be phoned to 847-426-0311. A registration form is attached to *HaKol*.

L'Dor V'Dor

Sisterhood frolicked on September 24th, at the opening program. We had mushroom barley soup, finger sandwiches, Mah Jong tile cookies and chocolate desserts that kept us going for 3 hours.

We got acquainted with other members and learned to play Mah Jong, Kaluki, Scattergories and Rummy King. Everyone went home a winner with Mah Jong tile scented soaps.

Don't be surprised if you see a group playing Mah Jong when you visit CKI. If you missed this event, there'll be more in the *L'Dor V'Dor* series. Keep your eyes open!



Corned Beef Time Is Here!!

Brownie bakers still wanted! Believe it or not, the Corned Beef lunch is this month. We need brownie bakers for Sunday, November 2, and November 9.

Sign up sheets are posted on the doors. Chairperson is Krista Ravenscraft.

Congregation Meeting

We will have a congregation meeting on **December 2nd** to vote on beginning contract negotiations with *Hazzan* Smolen. At that meeting, members will be given the chance to offer feedback about the *Hazzan* and his work with the congregation. However, in order to prevent a lengthy and repetitive meeting, please call or e-mail me if you have any concerns that we might be able to answer/discuss before the congregation meeting.

Ron Raben
630-837-6562
r.raben@worldnet.att.net

CKI Blood Drive, Sunday, November 9

HE WHO SAVES ONE LIFE SAVES THE WORLD.



Although many of us may believe we will never have a chance to actually save another's life, in truth we can.

Donating blood takes only minutes but can save a person's life. Whether you've never donated before, or you're a regular donor, why not set aside a little time on Sunday morning, November 9, when CKI hosts its first-ever blood drive, in cooperation with Heartland Blood Centers, the number-one supplier of blood and blood products to area hospitals like both Elgin hospitals and Delnor in Geneva.

The Heartland employees will be set up to service donors between 8:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., in our social hall. Walk-ups will of course be welcome, but you can reserve a time as well. If you're dropping off your child for school that morning, why not share the gift of life?

If you're 16 (with parent permission) or older, and in good health, chances are you qualify.

To reserve a time, e-mail Paul Glaser at www.pinchasyakov@lightfirst.com, or call the CKI office (847-741-5656).

Ha Kol Information

Kol Kneseth Israel is published monthly by Congregation Kneseth Israel of Elgin, Illinois. It is mailed to CKI members via first class postage. Non-members who would like to receive a copy may do so by forwarding a yearly donation of \$18 (*Chai*) to cover cost of production and mailing. Make checks payable to CKI.

Hadassah Hosts Magen David Adom Director

On Monday evening, **December 1st** at *Kneseth Israel*, our *Hadassah* chapter will host **Gary Kenzer, Executive Director of Magen David Adom U.S.A.**, Israel's emergency medical health, blood and disaster services. He will speak to the community on issues relevant to the conflicts in the Middle East and the pressing needs of MDA. All are invited to attend this special presentation.

Prior to his arrival at MDA, Gary Kenzer was a consultant for many non-profit organizations including a founding member and director of the KIDS Help Foundation, a children's rights national organization founded by Kim and Jay Warburton (baby Richard's parents). Prior to consulting, he was the Executive Director of Mothers Against Drunk Driving in Illinois for 5 years.

In 1989-1992, Gary was the youngest president of his professional association, the National Association of

Social Workers (NASW). Other volunteer areas include a member of the National Board of the National Association of Social Workers, the Metropolitan Association of Volunteer Administrators and the Association Forum of Chicagoland. He has also spoken at a number of international, national and regional conferences throughout the United States. He and his wife are also founders of a new Conservative Egalitarian congregation in Skokie, *Kehillat Shalom*.

One of his first assignments as the Executive Director in the USA was to learn about *Magen David Adom* from the inside. To realize this, he has traveled to Israel at least three times a year and has worked in several first aid stations. In December 1999, Gary was invited by the MDA Director General to participate in a mock crash life saving simulation at Ben Gurion Airport. Each time he travels to Israel, he actively volunteers.

Gary is married to Cynthia and has one daughter, Sarah, who attends the Solomon Schechter Day School in Northbrook. The family has lived in Skokie since 1982.



Torah School News

Thank you to all who have contributed to **Mitzvah Moments** in September & October. The Project Isaiah Food Drive was a huge success. Those who contributed participated in the *mitzvah of ma'akhil r'evim*: feeding the hungry. Many boxes of food were donated to a local pantry – special thanks to Tina Wolf, Denise Rosenbaum & Sandi Phelan for delivering all that food! Also, thanks to everyone for donating their used cell phones to Eco Phones who will ensure they are disposed of properly in order to protect our environment, the *mitzvah of bal tash'hit*: preserving the earth.

Wondering what's next...Sunday, November 9 CKI will be hosting our first Blood Drive from 8:30am to 12:30pm in cooperation with Heartland Blood Centers. See Blood Drive article in this edition of HaKol for further information or contact Paul Glaser at 630.513.8268 or pinchasyakov@lightfirst.com.

Also in November, we are starting our annual JCB *Hanukkah* Gift Drive. This year, in addition to helping less fortunate families, you can also help our synagogue. Jewish Children's Bureau (JCB) is asking for donations of gift certificates rather than toys and books. These will be delivered to needy parents so that they can have the dignity of shopping for their own children's gifts. In many cases, these caring parents have never had the opportunity to personally select something they know their child would love. A gift certificate is really an opportunity to give joy to both parent and child. And, by purchasing your gift certificate from Fundability, CKI will also benefit. It's a double *mitzvah*! All

certificates must be delivered to JCB by December 4. In order to receive your certificates in time, please order from CKI by November 10. They will be available to you by November 17 – December will be too late to purchase through Fundability. A donation box will be in the social hall in a few weeks. See Fundability form in this edition of HaKol. Orders can be dropped off or mailed to the CKI office.

It has been a difficult year for many people - more parents are out of work, cuts in government programs & increased uncertainty about financial futures. If you are in need of the services of JCB, please contact them directly at 847.392.8970 in Buffalo Grove or 630.705.9639 in Lombard. To contact the food pantry in Elgin, please call 847.697.2380. For additional assistance of any kind, *Hazzan* Smolen & I are always available. All contacts are strictly confidential.

The ancient sage Rabbi Tarfon taught that none of us is responsible for making the world perfect, but ALL of us are responsible for doing our part to improve the world.

B'Shalom,



Marla Topp
Director of Education

CKI School Fundraiser

Back by popular demand – **Cookie Dough Sale!**

All students will be selling tubs of cookie dough October 26–November 16.

Tubs are approximately 3 lbs. of ready-made cookie dough in a wide variety of flavors for \$10.00 & \$12.00. Each tub makes 88 to 96 cookies and can be refrigerated for 2 months and frozen for 6 months. All flavors are kosher & dairy.

Tubs will be available before *Hanukkah*.

Please help support this fundraising effort. Order forms are available in the CKI office. Everyone will receive 1 free tub of chocolate chip dough for every 12 tubs bought or sold. Money is due when you pick up dough – not at the time orders are placed. Checks should be payable to CKI.

Thank you for your support!!!

PARKING NOTICE

When coming to the synagogue to pickup your children after school, please **DO NOT** park in no parking areas of the lot and then leave your car unattended. That makes it more difficult for other cars to maneuver in our restricted space, and it can cause an accident.

Thank you. We appreciate your cooperation. Safety is of the utmost importance.

Chicagoland Jewish High School Fall Open House

Chicagoland Jewish High School (CJHS), the community's conservative Jewish high school, opens its doors to interested students and their families on **Sunday, November 16** from 10 AM until 12 PM. The school is located at 7800 W. Lyons in Morton Grove. A tour, meetings with staff and faculty and an explanation of CJHS dual curriculum program is included. To RSVP or for more information call 847-470-6700.

Kneseth Israel Welcomes Its New Members

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to these new members of our family:

NANCY MARAAT and DAVID KOWALSKI

TERRY MELINGER and daughter AMANDA

NEIL and KAREN PARKER and daughters SHANNON, SAMANTHA, and ABIGAIL

DR. JOSEPH and LOIS SHARTIAG

JERRY and ARLENE WEISBERG

Come join us, meet these folks and be part of the welcoming committee on **Friday evening, November 21st** when we will have our annual New Member Shabbat Dinner and Service. That's your chance to meet our new members up close and personal.

CKI Kadima/USY

If you are in 6th through 8th grade, you should be receiving Kadima mailings. If you want to get onto the Kadima mailing list, or have any questions, contact Maureen or Joe Rosenfeld at 847-888-1950.

If you are in high school, you should be receiving USY mailings. If you want to get onto the USY mailing list, or have any questions, contact Gale Jacoby at 630-513-0383.

On 11/16/03, Kadima and USY will join together for an afternoon of Laser Tag. Watch your mail for details and join in the fun!



Members of the CKI 4th, 5th and 6th grade Torah classes help perform the G'nizah burial at Bluff City Cemetery. G'nizah is for the outdated traditional ritual materials and items containing the name of God. Burial is scheduled every 7 years. Some of those helping this year were: Jessica Shankman, Ethan Finn, Brittany Zeoli, Garrett Mertinger and Heather Rosenbaum.

HaKol Deadline

All material for the December issue is due no later than November 10. All items should be emailed to ronrazowsky@lightfirst.com. Thanks!

True Family “Events” Take Place During the High Holidays

The High Holidays take a great deal of preparation and effort, and we must say thank you to a special group of members who made this year’s turnover of the sanctuary an easy and fast job. We changed the prayer books and the table and *Torah* coverings, polished the silver, and placed the *Mazon* envelopes and United Synagogue brochures.

Thanks to Ron Sigal for organizing this “event” and to all our members who came to help:

Stephanie Berg, Linda Blatchford, Erik Ellingson, Dana Ellingson, Pat Finn, Nina Finn, Michael Goldberg, Danny Ilani, Ken Jacoby, Gale Jacoby, Sue Johnson, Rachel Koloms, David Kowalski, Don Lesser, Michelle Licht, Marla Licht, Nancy Maraas, Jake Marshall, Sydney Fay Merdinger, Rachel Pitzele, Wanda Pitzele, Fern Raben, Ron Raben, Maureen Rosenfeld, Molly Rosenfeld, Ben Schillmoeller, Hank Schillmoeller, Joel Seigle, David Seigle, Jason Sigal, Ron Sigal, Hazzan Smolen, Shayna Stein, Ed Stein, Marla Topp, Laura Wolf, Tina Wolf, Jeremy Zeoli, March Zeoli, Nikki Zeoli, Evan Zivin.

And then there was the reverse changeover after Break-the-Fast. So a special *todah rabbah* to these folks who hung around to help us: Jake Marshall, Molly Rosenfeld, Ethan Finn, Joel Seigle, Mark Seigle, Liza Bachrach, Marla Topp, Kathy Lange, Fern Raben, and *Hazzan* Smolen.

And then there was the set up for Break-the-Fast. All of these people lent a hand – or two – so that we were finished in record time: Paul Glaser, Jonathan Glaser, Marty Wolfensohn, Merle Wolfensohn, Ron Sigal, Karen Sigal, Jason Sigal, Laura Sigal, Ernie Smolen, Doris Smolen, Marla Topp, Barry Cohn, Marc Zemel, Dan Zemel, Dan Modes, Tina Wolf, Nina Finn, Pat Finn, Ethan Finn, Ron Raben, and Michael Croll.

Todah rabbah to everyone. You made these tasks easy and pleasurable.



“We Salute Our Elders” Shabbat

Perhaps you see these folks around the synagogue, but you don’t really know who they are. You know they’ve been at *Kneseth Israel* for awhile because of their age. These members have given so much to our community over the years, and they have done so in quiet and deeply committed ways.

Join us for another very special *Shabbat* service on Saturday morning, **November 1st**. We will honor and recognize these members as “WE SALUTE OUR ELDERS” who have given so much of their time and support and dedication.

All who attend are invited to the *kiddush* and light luncheon after the service. Please let Zahava know if you will be attending just so we have some idea of how many people will be there to eat and celebrate with us.

F.N.A!

The dates for
"Friday Night Alive!" are:

Nov. 14, 2003

Jan. 30, 2004

Feb. 27, 2004

Apr. 2, 2004

Keep Your Mind on the MINYAN!

The minyan needs you!

You need the minyan!

*What a beautiful way to
start a Sunday!*

*Join us one Sunday morning
each month for a minyan!*

We begin at 9:30 a.m.

We're done by 10:00.

*Then we gather for eating
and kibbitzing.*

*Mark your calendar for the
following minyan dates:*

October 26, November 9,

December 7, January 11,

February 8, March 14, May 9.

BE A MINYANAIRE!!!!

CKI COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ADULT EDUCATION - Barbara Sharf

BY LAWS - Malcom Morris

CEMETERY - Ben Rifken

HA KOL EDITOR - Ron Razowsky

ENDOWMENT - Charles Zimmerman

FUND RAISING -

HOUSE - Marc Zemel and Ed Stein

MEMBERSHIP - Kara Gauthier, Janet Ellingson and Jack Fishman

PUBLICITY - Aviva Beal

RITUAL - Ron Sigal

SOCIAL ACTION - Sherry Wiesman and Fern Raben, Co-Chairs

YOUTH ACTIVITIES - Ken & Gale Jacoby

To contact a Committee Chairperson, call CKI at 847.741.5656

Social Action Committee

During the season of Thanksgiving, there is no better way of showing your appreciation for your blessings than through acts of *tzedakah* (righteous philanthropy) and *hesed* (kindness). It is the Social Action Committee's objective to provide you with numerous, satisfying opportunities to help those around you that are in need. Please take a moment to express your gratefulness by participating in any or all of the upcoming events.

November 9th – Plan on participating in the first-ever CKI **Blood Drive**. It will take donors 17 and older (16 with parental consent) approximately 15 minutes to provide much needed, life-sustaining blood.

December – Holiday Gift Drive. The Jewish Children's Bureau is putting a different slant on their gift drive this year. Instead of purchasing a toy for a child, they are asking us to purchase gift certificates in order to enable needy parents the dignity of shopping for their own children's gifts. In many cases, these caring parents have never had the opportunity to personally select something that they know their child would love. A gift certificate is really an opportunity to give joy to both parent and child – and - if purchased through FUNDABILITY, is a great way to support the synagogue as well!! All certificates can be placed in a box near the gift shop before December 4th. Please order Fundability gift certificates for the children at JCB from retailers who provide clothing, toys, CD's, books, sporting goods, and other appropriate items for children.

January – School Supply Drive. We will be holding a mid year drive to help children in need replenish their school supplies. These supplies will be donated to the Crisis Center and distributed on an as needed basis. Simply drop off any new school items into the appropriate bin in the social hall.

In addition, if you care to solicit supplies from any of the neighboring retailers, a prewritten letter of request and intent is available by contacting Tina.

Can Opener Drive. Back by popular demand, this drive will supply the food pantry with much needed can openers to be distributed. Please drop off new openers in the social hall throughout the month.

As always, if you have any questions or ideas, feel free to contact any of us.

Fern Raben
Sherry Wiesman
Tina Wolf

Bibliobits by Linda Blatchford

Reminder: Library hours are Monday through Friday from 10:30 AM until 2:00 PM, unless there's a religious holiday and the office is closed. Whenever you're at CKI, check out the books that we have.

HELP! Your Librarian is overwhelmed. Last *Mitzvah Day*, we had several terrific volunteers who helped to create a beginning inventory of the books in the library, which is incomplete. More books have come in and I haven't had a chance to get them labeled and ready to be taken out. Call me or send me an email if you love books or can help with this task.

New titles wanted! We're fortunate to have CKI's treasures of the past with book donations by several well-read families. Now it's time to add new books. If you've purchased any (fiction or non-fiction) new Jewish books, please let me know. I'm looking for ideas and donations of new books.

Please do NOT drop off any books at CKI without talking to me first because of space limitations.

Please contact me by email at l_blatchford@yahoo.com or give me a call.

Keep reading!



A Special New Endowment Fund

Because of the overwhelming generosity of **Sarah Frisch**, a member of our synagogue family, and her great love of music, we are able to establish a new fund for our future. In accordance with Sarah's wishes, this fund is being created in order to help us bring in artists and cultural events that will enrich our community in areas related to music. The fund will be **THE ABRAHAM M. AND ANNA ROSE SELTZER MUSIC ENDOWMENT FUND.**

"I am making this donation in memory of my parents who encouraged their children to enrich their lives with music in addition to their professional careers.

"My mother played violin and piano and sang to us in *mamaloschen* (mother tongue).

"My father had a picture framing art studio before they moved from Canton, Ohio where they had met, married, and had the first two of their five daughters. I was the fifth. A son arrived later.

"Our home was filled with music, and I like to think of my second home, the synagogue, also being filled with music."

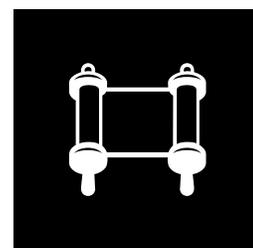
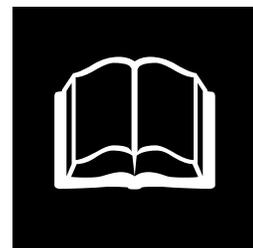
You may certainly donate to this fund at any time, the same as you do to any of our other funds. Therefore, if you wish to recognize a *simcha*, a memorial, or another event or individual, just earmark your donation for *The Abraham M. and Anna Rose Seltzer Music Endowment Fund*. We will send an acknowledgement card which will say that you made a contribution to this particular fund.

We are incredibly grateful to Sarah for this amazing contribution and for her desire to have us continue music enrichment through concerts and other events at *Kneseth Israel*.

Weekly Parsha

Parashat HaShavu'a – Weekly Torah Portions

November 1 6 Heshvan	<i>Noah</i> – Genesis 11:1-32 <i>Haftarah:</i> Isaiah 54:1-55:5	page 58 page 65
November 8 13 Heshvan	<i>Lekh L'kha</i> – Genesis 16:1-17:27 <i>Haftarah:</i> Isaiah 40:27-41:16	page 86 page 94
November 15 20 Heshvan	<i>Va'yei'ra</i> – Genesis 21:1 – 22:24 <i>Haftarah:</i> II Kings 4:1-37	page 112 page 123
November 22 27 Heshvan	<i>Hayei-Sarah</i> – Genesis 24:53 – 25:18 <i>Haftarah:</i> I Kings 1:1-31	page 137 page 142
<i>M'var'khim Ha'Hodesh</i> - Kislev begins Tuesday and Wednesday		
November 29 4 Kislev	<i>Tol'dot</i> – Genesis 27:28-28:9 <i>Haftarah:</i> Malachi 1:1-2:7	page 157 page 162



Ask the Ritual Committee

THE M'ZUZAH – Part II

Laws concerning M'zuzah:

A *m'zuzah* is affixed to every door in the house. A room used for personal purposes such as a bathroom needs no *m'zuzah* on the door (at the very least, the entry doors into the house and all bedrooms should have *m'zuzot*).

The *m'zuzah* is affixed on the right-hand side as one enters the room.

The *m'zuzah* is affixed within the upper one third of the doorpost but must be no less than one handbreadth distant from the top. Some now attach it lower in order to enable those with disabilities to access it, too.

The *m'zuzah* is affixed in the following manner:

a. (see comments about parchment at the end) Roll the parchment from the end of the sentence to the beginning, that is, from the last word – *Ehad* – toward the first word - *Sh'ma* - so that the word *Sh'ma* is on top.

b. Put it in the case

c. Fasten it with nails to the doorpost diagonally, having the top line containing the word *Sh'ma* toward the house and the last word toward the outside. If the doorpost is not wide enough, the *m'zuzah* may be fastened to it vertically. The *m'zuzah* is not considered valid if it is suspended. It must be fastened with nails at top and bottom.

d. Before affixing the *m'zuzah* say the blessing below. If several *m'zuzot* are to be affixed at one time, the saying of one blessing before affixing the first *m'zuzah* will suffice for all. If a *m'zuzah* happens to fall by itself from the doorpost, the blessing must be repeated when it is affixed again.

e. A building not used for a permanent residence needs no *m'zuzah*. Therefore a *sukkah* made for the holiday of *Sukkot* requires no *m'zuzah*. It has become the custom today, however to affix *m'zuzot* to the entrance of public buildings, i.e. community centers and synagogues.

f. Every *m'zuzah* must be inspected twice every seven years to be sure the writing is legible. You must, therefore make provision for opening the *m'zuzah* to inspect the parchment.

g. In the Diaspora, a *m'zuzah* must be put up within thirty days of moving into a house.

h. In Israel a *m'zuzah* must be put up immediately on moving into a house.

i. If a house is sold or rented to a Jew, the *m'zuzah* must be left on the doorpost. If the house is sold or rented to a gentile, it should be removed. Others are of the opinion regardless of the new tenant, *m'zuzot* should be taken down. In the case of Jewish tenants moving in, this provides them the opportunity to perform the *mitzvah* for themselves.

j. The blessings said for affixing the *m'zuzah* are:

1) *Barukh Atah, ADONAI, Eloheinu, Melekh HaOlam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu lik'bo'a m'zuzah.*

"Praised are You, *ADONAI*, our God, Who rules the Universe, who has sanctified us with commandments, commanding us to affix the *m'zuzah*."

2) *Barukh Atah, ADONAI, Eloheinu, Melekh HaOlam, sheheheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.*

"Praised are You, *ADONAI*, our God, Who rules the Universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us and permitted us to reach this moment."

k. Some people have the custom of touching the *m'zuzah* with their fingers and then bringing their fingers to their lips as they pass a *m'zuzah* in entering or leaving. This reminds them of God's omnipresence.

You can purchase a kosher scroll for your *m'zuzah* from the CKI gift shop. However to really be proper, the scroll should be written on parchment by a scribe (called a *sofer*). Contact *Hazzan Smolen* for more information on scribes.

Have a question for the ritual committee – please send it to ronsigal@aol.com.



Donation Information

I/We would like to make a donation to the following CKI fund:

Fund: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please indicate In Honor of
 In Memory of

Make your check payable to
Congregation Kneseth Israel
330 Division Street, Elgin IL 60120

Consider a gift to the Congregation Kneseth Israel Endowment Fund through one of our income for life plans.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS in which you transfer funds into a trust or mutual fund which pays you income.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES in which you purchase an annuity and receive income.

All have significant tax advantages.

For further information, please call or write:

Charles Zimmerman, *Chairman*
Congregation Kneseth Israel Endowment Fund
330 Division Street,
Elgin, IL 60120
847-741-5656

"That's Entertainment"

How about discounts at restaurants and hotels?

How about 2 for the price of 1?

How about some fun?

Reserve your new **ENTERTAINMENT BOOK** now!

Seeing that our Hadassah chapter will not be selling the book this year, we at Kneseth Israel will be picking it up. Buy one from us, and both you and the synagogue will reap the benefits!

There is a North/Northwest suburban book and a Western suburban book. Also, you can order an out-of-town book.

Each Entertainment Book is \$20.00. It actually pays for itself after the first couple of uses.

Contact Lois Troy (847-741-3548) to reserve your book – or books! It's a great gift!

MESHUGASS

Yeshiva University decided to field a rowing team. Unfortunately, they lost race after race.

They practiced and practiced for hours every day but never managed to come in better than dead last.

Finally, Rosh Yeshiva decided to send Yankel to spy on the championship Harvard team.

So Yankel schlepped to Cambridge, hid in the bushes by the Charles River and watched the Harvard team as they practiced.

After two weeks Yankel returned to Yeshiva.

"I have figured out their secret," he announced.

"What? Tell us what," they all wanted to know.

"We should have only one guy shouting and eight guys rowing."

Acknowledgements

Generous Donations

GENERAL FUND

Donation

Beverly Wolke

In honor of and in appreciation of Don & Phyllis Lesser

Sue & Marc Zemel

In memory of Alvin Burstein

Gert Burstein

In memory of Miriam Harris

Gert Burstein

To Jason Sigal, prayers & wishes for good health

Fern & Ron Raben

To Linda Blatchford, in memory of your dear aunt

Fern & Ron Raben

To Shirley Simon, for a complete and successful recovery

Fern & Ron Raben

To Florence Paul in memory of your brother, "Ike" Berman

Fern & Ron Raben

Congratulations – to Dr. Milton Robin. Your family & friends have been the beneficiary of your kindness & devotion

Irving Durchslag

HAZZAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Hazzan Smolen & Marla Topp for a successful, healthy and happy New Year!

Beverly & Phillip Topp

In memory of Ida Gross

Barbara & Paul Maring

In memory of Miriam Harris

Betty Prichason

PRAYERBOOK FUND

In honor of and in appreciation of Phyllis & Don Lesser

Sue & Marc Zemel

PRAYERBOOK FUND (Humashim)

In memory of our son Howard Rifken

Lou & Merrian Rifken

CLARA WECHTER EDUCATION FUND

To wish Saul Mariasis a speedy recovery

Dr. Manuel & Ann Martin

In memory of my dear cousin, Miriam Harris

Stuart Hymen

In memory of Ida Gross

Barbara & Paul Maring

Sue & Dick Johnson

Barbara Sharf

In appreciation of Don & Phyllis Lesser

Ruth Brown

Get Well to Saul Mariasis

Dr. & Mrs. Manuel Martin

Mazal Tov on becoming grandparents to Sue & Dick Johnson

Dorothy & Milt Perlman

Mazal Tov on becoming a great-grandmother to Barbara Sharf

Dorothy & Milt Perlman

In memory of Marjorie Elbrandt

Sue & Dick Johnson

The Wolf Family

Birthday wishes to Mark Rosenbaum

The Wolf Family

Birthday wishes to Brad Burker

The Wolf Family

Donation

Evan Henschel & Rachel Burstein

EDUCATION FUND

SIMON C. & RUTH L. KAPLAN TORAH PERPETUATION FUND

In memory of Ida Gross

Phyllis & Don Lesser

In memory of Marjorie Elbrandt

Phyllis & Don Lesser

LILLIAN ROTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

FLOWER FUND

TREE OF LIFE

YOUTH GROUP (USY/KADIMA)

SHALOM ACADEMY

In memory of Ida Gross

Dan Marshall & Liza Bachrach

In honor of Hazzan Smolen & Marla Topp; For a successful, healthy and happy New Year!

Beverly & Phillip Topp

Mazal Tov to Leslie Cook on the birth of your grandson, Zachary

Fern & Ron Raben

To Fern & Ron Raben in honor of all their dedication and kind words

Dan Marshall & Liza Bachrach
Jake, Lucy & Isaac

CANTORIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Special Funds

The following funds are available for your generous donations:

Abraham M. and Anna Rose Seltzer Music Endowment Fund – Jewish cultural enrichment programs

Cantorial Scholarship Fund – Assistance to students in need at *H. L. Miller Cantorial School of JTSA*. Preference for Illinois students.

Clara Wechter Education Fund – Support *Torah School Endowment Fund* – See the President

General Fund – for multi-purpose use

Hazzan's Discretionary Fund – Needs decided by *Hazzan*

Lee Miller Book Fund – New books for Library

Lillian Roth Scholarship Fund – See the President

Major Gifts – \$5,000 and up. See the President

Memorial Plaques – \$300.00

Prayer Book Fund – *Siddur* is \$25; *Chumash* is \$60

Shalom Academy – Pre-school Jewish Education

Simon C. & Ruth L. Kaplan Torah Fund – Repair of *Sefrei Torah*

Sisterhood Flower Fund – Pulpit flowers

Sisterhood Vision Fund – Large type *siddur* \$50

Tree of Life – Leaf is \$100; Rock is \$1,000

Acknowledgements (*continued*)

November Birthdays

In Our Family

HAMAKOM YENAHEIM ETKHEM – CONDOLENCES

The congregation expresses condolences to the family of **Ervin “Ike” Berman**, brother of **Florence Paul**

Dorothy Helen Perlman, sister of **Milton Perlman** and former CKI member

Sylvia Zatz, mother of **Henry Zatz**

May God comfort you and may their memory be a blessing.

R’FUAH SH’LEIMAH – GET WELL

Inas Lawrence
Robert Le Roy
Anne Mell
Ben Rifken
Freida Simon
Cheryl Stanczak
Sherry Wiesman

May God have mercy upon you and others who are ill among the people of Israel.

MAZAL TOV

...to **Leslie Cook** on becoming a grandparent. Grandson Zachary Taylor Simon was born on Sept. 17, 2003

TODAH RABBAH – THANK YOU

...to all who made donations to Project Isaiah Yom Kippur food drive. Special thanks to:

Tina Wolf
Denise Rosenbaum
Sandi Phelan

For delivering all the food to a local pantry.

....to those volunteers who built the *Sukkah*:

Paul Glaser
Joe Rosenfeld
Perry Pitzele
Nancy Maraas
Melissa Gerlach
Sara Gerlach
Lisa Gerlach
Hank Schillmoeller
Barry Weisberg

Last month our Confirmation class made beautiful ceramic *zedakah* boxes.

This project was made possible by the **Clara Wechter Education Fund**.

Thank you for all the generous donations. Our students will collect *zedakah* each week on their own and bring donations to class at the end of the year which will be donated to a charity of their choice.

1 Linda Blatchford
1 Chuck Miller
1 Laura Cox
2 Margot Seigle
3 Scott Zonis
3 Stephanie Berg
5 Helen Neumark
6 Rachel Lucas
6 Michelle Melinger
7 Rose Goldstein
7 Benjamin Weisberg
9 Danielle Piraino
9 Danny Seigle
9 Marsha Schwartz
9 Jason Rosenbaum
13 Barry Weisberg
14 Shannon Parker
16 John Blatchford
18 Lizz Dewey
20 Al Zimblar
20 Shana Bender
20 Mary Conley
22 Miriam Evans
22 Rebecca Berg
22 Marci Zeoli
23 Ruth Zimblar
23 Karen Myrent
23 Risa Tubman
24 Edward Webster
24 Sue Kalfus
24 Arielle Oppenheimer
25 Alvin Zeman
25 Sandi Phelan
26 Robert Le Roy
26 Shelby Fosco
29 Denise Rosenbaum
30 Larry Berg

November Anniversaries

6 Pat & Nina Finn
9 Howard & Janice Greenberg
9 Ron & Karen Sigal
19 Don & Phyllis Lesser
22 Jerry & Sue Goozh
23 Marc & Sue Zemel

Yahrtzeiten

We recall with loving memory those whose yahrtzeiten will be commemorated during the coming weeks, and those whose names will be read in the synagogue at Friday evening and Saturday morning Shabbat services during the month of November. It is appropriate that members of their families are present when these names are read.

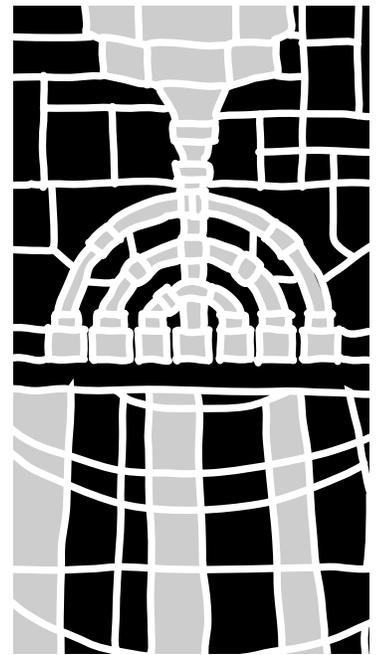
Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Ned R. Ginsburg*	Nov. 15	Nov. 20	Bessie Fischer*
Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Harry Rifken*	Nov. 15	Nov. 21	Gertrude Osmansky*
Nov. 1	Nov. 3	Nathan Ross	Nov. 15	Nov. 21	Pinchas Dermer*
Nov. 1	Nov. 3	Jeanette Scholnick*	Nov. 15	Nov. 21	Libby Kupper*
Nov. 1	Nov. 5	Samuel Strickman*	Nov. 22	Nov. 27	Dr. George Cutts*
Nov. 1	Nov. 6	Janet Ellyn Eisner*	Nov. 22	Nov. 22	Alvin Burstein*
Nov. 8	Nov. 8	Warren Rubnitz*	Nov. 22	Nov. 23	Adolph Bernstein*
Nov. 8	Nov. 9	Lillian Rosengarden*	Nov. 22	Nov. 24	Walter Hurlburt
Nov. 8	Nov. 9	Barbara Ann Burstein*	Nov. 22	Nov. 24	Arthur Sidney Mendel*
Nov. 8	Nov. 9	Abraham Miller*	Nov. 22	Nov. 24	Albert Brazner*
Nov. 8	Nov. 11	Joseph Fischer*	Nov. 22	Nov. 25	Sam Saxon
Nov. 8	Nov. 11	Walter Engel	Nov. 22	Nov. 26	Samuel Loss
Nov. 8	Nov. 11	Joseph Kreeger*	Nov. 22	Nov. 26	Ken Rose
Nov. 8	Nov. 13	Mary Gang	Nov. 22	Nov. 26	Jennie Kreeger*
Nov. 8	Nov. 14	Sara Loss	Nov. 22	Nov. 28	Hannah Goldstein*
Nov. 8	Nov. 14	Sarah Gordon*	Nov. 22	Nov. 28	Gloria Hayden*
Nov. 8	Nov. 14	Sylvia Fishman Wigodner*	Nov. 29	Nov. 29	Irving Siegal
Nov. 8	Nov. 14	Sidney Julius Raffelson*	Nov. 29	Nov. 29	Dorothy Rosenbaum
Nov. 15	Nov. 15	Joseph Fischer*	Nov. 29	Nov. 30	Gary John Seigle*
Nov. 15	Nov. 16	Harry Jacob Becker*	Nov. 29	Dec. 1	Melvin Rubin*
Nov. 15	Nov. 16	Julius Kornstein*	Nov. 29	Dec. 2	William Sharf*
Nov. 15	Nov. 17	Serena Kornstein*	Nov. 29	Dec. 2	Isaac Kreeger*
Nov. 15	Nov. 17	Anna N. Brenner*	Nov. 29	Dec. 2	Gertrude Mestetsky*
Nov. 15	Nov. 18	Henry Cohien*	Nov. 29	Dec. 3	Rebecca Weitzman
Nov. 15	Nov. 19	Edward William Goldstein*	Nov. 29	Dec. 3	Walter Kohlhagen*
Nov. 15	Nov. 19	Norma Siegel	Nov. 29	Dec. 4	Helen Skolnik
Nov. 15	Nov. 20	Harry Fischer*	Nov. 29	Dec. 4	Emma Vopner Salk*

There are two dates listed above on our yahrtzeit list. The first is the **day of the service at which the name will be read**. The second is the **actual date of the yahrtzeit and memorial candles should be lit on the preceding evening**. An asterisk after the name indicates a plaque is affixed to the Memorial Tablet.

KINDLE THE SHABBAT CANDLES

Nov. 74:21 PM
 Nov. 144:14 PM
 Nov. 214:08 PM
 Nov. 284:04 PM

NOTE: Shabbat ends one (1) hour after candlelighting time on Saturday night.



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November 2003

1	Elders' <i>Shabbat</i>	9:30 AM	12-13	Corned Beef Lunch <i>Pickup Nov. 12 between 6:00 and 7:00 PM</i> <i>Pickup Nov. 13 between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM</i>
2	<i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Parent meeting (6th & 7th grade parents)	10:15 AM	14	FRIDAY NIGHT ALIVE! 7:30 PM
	Confirmation class field trip	12:00-3:30 PM	17	<i>Hadassah</i> Board Meeting
4	CKI Board Meeting	7:30 PM	21	New Member <i>Shabbat</i> Dinner 6:15 PM Family <i>Shabbat</i> 7:30 PM Service: <i>Dalet</i> class <i>Oneg</i> : 7th grade parents
8	Junior Congregation	10:00 AM	26	No Hebrew School - No Shalom Academy
9	Blood Drive 8:30 AM-12:15 PM 6th grade field trip 9:00 AM-1:00 PM <i>Minyan</i> 9:30 AM Preschool 10:00 AM		27	Thanksgiving - Office closed
10	Confirmation Class 6:30 PM ORDER FUNDABILITY CERTIFICATES		30	No school
11	Sisterhood Meeting 7:00 PM Corned Beef Lunch preparation			

Shabbat Services: Friday evenings 7:30 PM
Saturday mornings 9:30 AM