

Kol Kneseth Israel

"The Voice of Kneseth Israel"



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A November to Remember!!

What a Fundability month we had in November! I was very pleased to place two orders with Fundability last month totaling over \$5300.00, resulting in a profit of nearly \$400.00 for CKI. This was due in large part to the hard work of "**Fundability Fern" Raben**, who has been "selling" Fundability certificates at the synagogue. If you need something right away, please look for Fern as we have stocked up her supply of certificates so that she has many of our most popular certificates on hand. She also has a complete listing of what is available. If she does not have what you want in stock, she will be glad to order them for you.

Thanks, Fern, for all of your help!

For calendar year 2007 CKI sold a total of more than \$22,750 in Fundability certificates resulting in a donation to the synagogue of \$1,300.

Everyone, thank you for your continued support of Fundability!! Think about using certificates for food, gas and entertainment.

And now, Wal-Mart certificates are available for \$25.00!

- Dick Johnson



Photo by Herb Gross

"Fundability Fern", left, hawks her wares at the Chanukah Bazaar last month.



From the Rabbi's Study...

Israel Q & A

Dear Rabbi Kohn

I'm a seminary student, and for an Ethics class we are having a round table discussion on the Israeli/Palestinian conflagration. I am to take the point of view of a Reform or Conservative Rabbi, emphasizing the pure practice of Jewish religion as they see it. Two of the sources I'm supposed to use are 'conquest theology' and eschatological interests. [Eschatology deals with the end of time. —JK]

If there's any chance you might know some online resources I could find that might help, or if you'd care to share your own perspective, I would welcome any suggestions or advice you might have.

Thank you so much for your time.

Excerpts from Rabbi Kohn's answer:

Although I have much to say about the topic of your class's discussion, I'm not sure how much help I can be within the parameters set for you.

I've never before heard the term "conquest theology." I assume that it refers to the ethics of conquest according to the laws and perspective of a particular religion. Let me work within that assumption.

There are three categories of war within Jewish law. The first refers to the conquest of the Land of Israel under Joshua. That incident is unique, and it sets a military precedent no more than the parting of the Red Sea sets a natural one...

A second category covers wars of defense...

There is a third category of wars that

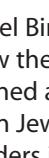
are neither forbidden nor obligatory, and the conquests of King David can be seen to fall into this category. You will not find many Jewish authorities who would apply this category to any Jewish action since the time of the ancient monarchy ...

With the recent exceptions of Egypt and Jordan, Israel's Arab neighbors have been in a continual state of declared war with Israel since the state's founding, and with the Jewish inhabitants of the land for many decades prior (and arguably since the Moslem conquests). Following Israel's survival of its existential threat in 1967, its offer to discuss the return of captured territory (e.g., Sinai) and disputed territory (e.g., Judea and Samaria) was met with the Arab League's three "no's" of Khartoum: no negotiations, no recognition, and no

(continued on p. 8)



A Message from Our President



I recently read an article in *Hadassah Magazine* concerning alumni of the Israel Birthright Program. It described how these young adults not only gained a greater appreciation of their own Jewish identity but became leaders in the program and, in some cases, actually made *aliyah*. If you're not familiar with the Birthright program, this is a free 10-day Israel experience program that is targeted for college age kids and young professionals who have not previously participated in an educational Israel program.

Reading about the effect of Birthright on these young adults, the ties they've formed with their fellow participants, how it's strengthened their love for Israel and at the same time energized their interest in Judaism, made me realize how invaluable this program has been. But it occurred to me that there are many other people who have never been to Israel, including middle-aged adults, who would stand to benefit from

a similar program. If you've read Ken and Gale Jacoby's article in last month's *HaKol* about their own Israel trip, you gain an appreciation about how profound an effect such a visit can have.

Now, while there are no free programs (at least none that I'm aware of) for middle-agers comparable to Birthright, there are a large number of group trips available through a variety of Jewish organizations. One in particular I can recommend, as it's one my family and I participated in four years ago, is a Mission trip through UJC (United Jewish Communities). This coming March, for example, there is "The National First Timers Mission to Israel" which is a great introduction to Israel for anyone who hasn't been there already. One advantage to going on a UJC Mission is that at least part of the trip is tax deductible, although I would say that's not the primary reason. These trips include visits to such sites as Masada, Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and the Dead Sea (for a fuller description of this trip check out the website at <http://www.ujc.org/page.html?ArticleID=147988>). By no

means is this the only option for travel to Israel as you can find other examples including those advertised in CJ magazine, the main publication for the Conservative movement.

Besides the obvious spiritual, educational and historical aspects of Israel, there are some other really great reasons for going there, like the fact that it is one of the finest vacation spots in the entire world. There is snorkeling

(continued on p. 6)

Hq 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.

A horizontal line consisting of 20 solid black circular dots, evenly spaced from left to right.

**All material for the February
NO LATER than January 10, 1**

Ha Kol Editor: Ron Razowsky **Design/Production:** Jana McFarlane



Torah School News

Those who know me, know I don't talk much about what I've done or do. I don't toot my horn or turn the spotlight so it's on me. That's because I learned long ago that teaching is definitely NOT an ego-trip. There's neither room nor time in education to be arrogant, full of oneself, or a braggart. You're just too busy trying to teach creatively, effectively and memorably. You're trying to communicate and motivate and make it happen for the students. You just can't be all that other puffy stuff. But if you don't mind, I want to step out of type for a moment and share part of a letter I received from a former student, Chris (with whom I've since reunited after almost 20 years – he was a member of the Class of 1988).

Chris writes: "...I took your A.P. English class. While many of my fellow seniors were ditching school, I was gaining insight into other cultures and honing my writing skills. I remember loving your class. You were definitely my favorite teacher in high school. I can only guess that you had my personality pegged from the first day. I remember gentle but consistent prodding, then lots of rewards. Mostly, I looked forward to getting your insight into the texts. Your interpretations, suggestions, and explanations opened a channel in my brain that hadn't seen the light of day yet..."

Chris goes on to write about what he's been doing with his life, his education, his marriage, his jobs, and his writing. And now, as soon as his wife finishes nursing school, he wants to reconsider his options. "Perhaps," Chris says, "that will finally be the opportune time for me to become a teacher."

"...If you don't remember me – no worries. I realize that you must have had thousands of students over the years."

Interestingly enough, I do remember Chris for the incredible progress he made in that high-power, high-level class and because of the personal

journaling he did and allowed me to read. He let me enter his life, and we shared weekly private conversations as I responded to his comments, issues, problems, and insights in that journal.

We teach kids for so many different reasons, and one of them is NOT to take an ego-trip! When I started teaching, I wore only the "teacher hat." But as the years rolled along and I gained confidence, expertise, and wisdom, I, like all other teachers, donned other hats – father, counselor, advice-giver (when asked for it), disciplinarian, confidant, listener, liaison, supporter, cheerleader, speaker of truth (not what you want to hear but what you need to hear), tutor, and in the end, if it was meant to be, friend. I would always tell kids, "I'm not your friend. I'm your teacher. What you have to do is learn from me and do your job as a student. But if, in the end, we do become friends, that's an added perk." Chris is one of my added perks.

So it is in Torah School. Just look at our amazing staff. Small we are in number but huge we are in passion, energy, and commitment to teaching kids! Anytime you wish, just poke your head into the classrooms and see what's going on. You'll hear stories being told, songs being sung, Hebrew being read, holidays, *halacha*, traditions, and rituals being explained. You'll see art projects being made, videos being shown and discussions taking place. No time here for ego trips. It's too busy!

Some might say that we are on our ego trips when we have a staff meeting and share ideas, thoughts, problems, issues, and new approaches. After all, we do talk about what we have been doing in the classroom and what has worked and not worked. But that's just what teachers do. It's an amazing community that's into helping kids and one another. We are a supportive community. We understand the dynamics of the classroom. We try to touch the life of each child. We try to examine all the aspects of our subject matter. We try to understand the personalities, learning types, learning abilities, and temperaments of all our

students. We spend our time creating lessons and strategies that we hope will bring us greater success in the classroom. No time here for ego trips.

Many years ago, Fern and her colleagues in District 54's nationally recognized Early Childhood Program wore sweatshirts that had a quote on it. And, years later, one of my student teacher s gave me a large framed poster that hangs on the wall behind my desk where I see it every day. It's titled, "Priorities." A small boy is looking out at the water with his hands stuffed into his back pockets. And the quote on the poster is the same as the one on Fern's sweatshirt: "A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove...But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

Chris and I have since met and talked. Thanks, Chris, for letting me know that I was important in your life. Thanks for your breathtaking letter. You are definitely one of my added perks. Our lives have touched, and we have helped each other become better people. No time here for ego trips.

L'chaim,

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, February 9 • 7:30 p.m.
At Elgin Community College

ESTA

Esta is an Israeli musical group created in Israel and nurtured in the musical halls of Manhattan, Esta brings a thrilling and pulsating musical experience that reflects the many ethnic flavors of Israel's vibrant society. The entire family will enjoy this one!

We will have a group ticket price
More information will be in January HaKol.

Sisterhood News

This being January of the year 2008, I would like to reflect on all the activities Sisterhood was involved in for 2007. Starting out was our tour of Ball Seed Company Gardens, the annual Break-the-Fast, Opening Luncheon with our own Risa Cohen as the speaker, our ice scrapers (still available if you haven't had time to purchase one for each car) and, of course, both our annual Corned Beef Lunch and *Chanukah* Bazaar. We have been very busy, and the New Year will be just as fantastic. Please see the sidebars that have our thank yous to all who have helped for both the Corned Beef Lunch and the *Chanukah* Bazaar.

I personally wish to thank my co-president, Wanda Pitzele, and all of my chairs for taking over and making this past season fantastic. They all took the reins while I spent my time in school and, finally, getting a job.

This month, **January**, we have our **Board Meeting on the 8th at 7:00 p.m.**, and our annual **Sisterhood**

Shabbat with dinner on the 18th. Please make your reservations as soon as possible so we know how many we will have for dinner. **January 27th starts our Tallit Project with a Lunch and Learn.** Wanda is still in need of women who can assist with the sewing to help those of us who do not sew very well, or at all.

In **February** we are having our **Soup Sale**. Look for the flyer in this issue of HaKol. Also, we **continue our Tallit Project on Sundays** after Sunday Torah School. We have an outing to the fabric store, along with lunch, for one of the Sundays. Please check your email and HaKol for further information.

Hope everyone had a safe holiday season, and may this year be bright!!!!

Rochelle Wanda

CORNED BEEF LUNCH A GASTRONOMICAL AND FINANCIAL SUCCESS!

The smell of garlic is barely gone and already we know that Sisterhood has produced another winner. The November CKI Sisterhood **Corned Beef Lunch** reports a profit of nearly \$3000! All proceeds will be used for Sisterhood projects throughout the synagogue. Congratulations to everyone who made this event possible...

- **Nina Finn**
 - **Tina Wolf**
 - **Anita Hornung**
 - **Wanda Pitzele**
 - **Rochelle Fosco**
 - **Nancy Zimmerman**
 - **Sheila & Jerry Miller**
 - **Chuck Miller**
 - **Clarissa Guralnick**
 - **Amy Fosco**
 - **Karen Radest**
 - **Mindy Bear**
 - **Jennifer Fogel**
 - **Sue and Marc Zemel**
 - **Sue Johnson**
 - **Medina Gross**
 - **Kara Gauthier**
 - **Wendy Barrash**
 - **Marci Zeoli**
- **Et Schillmoeller**
 - **Susan Robbins**
 - **Norm Agins**
 - **Maureen Rosenfeld**
 - **Cheryl Stanczak**
 - **Liza Bachrach**
 - **Sandra Nye**
 - **Sherry Wiesman**
 - **Sherry Heiss**
 - And all the **USY kids** who helped Monday night!

The Pickle-Packing Posse for the Corned Beef Lunch (left to right): Nina Finn, Et Schillmoeller, Clarissa Guralnick, Karen Radest, and Mindy Bear.

A Heartfelt Thank You!

Sisterhood would like to thank all those who helped with and shopped at the ***Chanukah* Bazaar**. The following is a list of all who generously donated their time with an apology if we accidentally left anyone out. With their help, we took in approximately \$7,000, half of which is profit.

Anita Hornung and Brad Burker
Wendy, Arthur, Jessica Shankman
Sandi, Robyn, Deanna Phelan
Sherry Wiesman
Shari Heiss (and her sister)
Karen Radest
Mindy Bear
Ed, Laura, Bill Wolf
Ron and Fern Raben
Melissa Gerlach
Heather Rosenbaum
Jana McFarlane
Marina Fink
Rochelle Fosco
Joe, Maureen, Molly Rosenfeld
Zahava Raz

We apologize in advance if we left anyone's name off the list.



Sherry Wiesman displays one of the many gift-wrapping options that were available at the Chanukah Bazaar this year.



Photos by Herb Gross

Torah Fund

Beauty, Brains & Brawn: The New World Balabuste

Ruth Bader Ginsburg (b. 1933) Supreme Court Justice

Upon her graduation from Columbia Law School, Ruth Bader Ginsburg—tied for first place in her class and a member of the Columbia Law Review—did not receive one job offer from a single law firm in the entire city of New York. At that time in the mid 1950's, law firms were beginning to relax their policies against hiring Jews, but the fact that Ginsburg was a woman and a mother rendered her search for a job in a law firm nearly impossible. Even Jewish Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter—known for his staunch advocacy of the down-trodden—was unwilling to hire her as a law clerk.



However, none of this prevented the Brooklyn-born lawyer from eventually being appointed to the highest court in the United States.

Ruth Bader was born to an immigrant father and an American-born mother. She attended New York City public schools, and then Cornell University where she met her future husband, Martin David Ginsburg. Both attended Harvard Law School, but when Martin graduated a year ahead of Ruth and took a job in New York, she transferred to Columbia.

In the years following her graduation, Ginsburg taught at Rutgers Law School (1963-1972), one of the few institutions willing to appoint a woman to its faculty, and distinguished herself in a number of legal initiatives. She directed the Columbia Project on International Civial Procedure (for which she learned

Swedish) and co-directed the Women's Rights Project. Sponsored by the ACLU, this project addressed workplace-related sex discrimination cases, determining whether statutes and policies violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

In 1972, Ginsburg was the first woman appointed to the Columbia Law School faculty, where she prepared the first casebook on gender-based discrimination. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. In 1993, she was appointed associate justice of the Supreme Court by President Bill Clinton, making her the first woman in a very small, but distinguished, fraternity of Jewish Supreme Court justices.

– Reprinted from the WLCJ *Beauty, Brains & Brawn: The New World Balabuste* exhibit

The Pleasure of Reading

Many of us take the occasion of the secular New Year to be introspective and make resolutions. Perhaps you have resolved that during these cold winter months you will learn more about being Jewish. Perhaps you have often wondered about the illustrious writings of Jewish scholars, Jewish ethics or Talmudic interpretations.

Our CKI Library is a great starting point for your journey of Jewish discovery. Spinoza, the great 17th century Jewish Rationalist, was considered quite controversial due to the many provocative positions he advocated. Judge for yourself. Read the translation of his masterpiece: *Philosophy, Ethics and Morals of Benedict De Spinoza*. Our shelves also house Maurice Leiber's book about the great Talmudic commentator: *Rashi*.

Perhaps you prefer a more modern thought. Consider *Great 20th Century Jewish Philosophers*; or Blau's *Story of Jewish Philosophy, Ethics and Morals*.

Our collection also includes several of the writings of Martin Buber. Using Chasidic tales and Biblical commentary, he explored Jewish ideals, morals and ethical behavior. Our library contains several of his works including: *Writings of Martin Buber*; *The Story of Jewish Philosophy, Ethics and Morals*; *Good and Evil*; and *On Judaism*. Abraham Twerski is well known for the books he authored including: *Let us Make Man and Generation to Generation*.

Explore deeper meaning in Solomon Schechter's *Seminary Addresses*. No exploration of Jewish Ethics would be complete without mentioning

Maimonides: *A Guide for Today's Perplexed*.

Share a reading experience with your children. Read together Lillian Freehoff's *The Right Way: Ethics of Youth*. You and your younger child can explore: *What Does Being Jewish Mean: Read-Aloud Responses to Questions Jewish Children Ask About History, Culture, and Religion*; or *Bible Stories for Jewish Children*.

Take advantage of stormy winter weather to discover more about your own personal relationship to G-d.



USY and Kadima News

Unfortunately, December's ice skating program had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. However, the good news is that **Liza Bachrach** and **Et Schillmoeller** have found an indoor venue and rescheduled this event for **Saturday, January 26 at the Leafs Ice Center** in West Dundee. A flyer has been emailed to all members of USY and Kadima.

The **USY Board** meets on **January 14 at 8pm** at CKI.

On **January 20 at 1pm**, USY and Kadima goes to **Gameworks** in

President's Message (cont'd from p. 2)

around Eilat, windsurfing or sunbathing on the many beaches along the Mediterranean and even snow skiing on Mount Hermon (during the Winter). I know this is sounding like a travelogue, but I have a hidden reason for encouraging as many of you as possible to plan a trip to Israel: to gain a real understanding about everything you've ever learned about in Synagogue about the *Torah*, holidays and our traditions. Being in Israel will make all of this very real for you.

Perry



CKI BOARD MEMBERS

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Rochelle Fosco & Wanda Pitzele

VP/Education, Anita Hornung

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Carole Burstein

TREASURER, Marc Zemel

FINANCIAL SECRETARY,

Chuck Zimmerman

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT,

Paul Glaser

Schaumburg for lunch and two hours of games. Watch for a flyer with RSVP info.

Looking ahead to February, the Regional USY Israel *Shabbaton* and SATO Marathon takes place, as well as the Regional *Kadima Kallah*. And please note that CKI Kadima has changed the date of **Lunar Golf** to **February 17** after Torah School.

Happy secular New Year to all!

— Maureen Rosenfeld, *Youth Chair*
847-888-1950

CKI COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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PUBLICITY - Melinda Abrams and Marcie Monteith

RITUAL - Paul Glaser

SOCIAL ACTION - Sherry Wiesman, Fern Raben and Tina Wolf

YOUTH ACTIVITIES - Joe & Maureen Rosenfeld

To contact a Committee Chairperson,
call CKI at 847-741-5656

Another Big Wish Has Been Granted!

Because of the great generosity and kindness of **KEN and GALE JACOBY** and **WALTER and FELY ARNOLD**, Torah School now has 8 new portable CD players! Thank you!

We're still wishing for...

- ◊ A new lectern for the social hall. The one we have now is old and quite dilapidated. It doesn't have to have a sound system; it just needs to be a durable and simple lectern.
- ◊ New lightweight tables for the social hall.

We appreciate anything you can do to help make these wishes come true. Thank you!

Also, the new couches are in the library. Come in and sit a while and say thanks to Helen and Manny Lindow!

Parashat HaShavu'a – Weekly Torah Portions

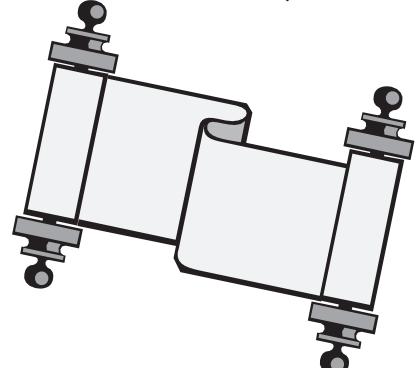
January 5
27 Tevet *Birkat Hahodesh*
Vaera – Exodus 6:2-7:7
Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

January 12
5 Shevat *Bo* – Exodus 10:1-11:3
Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28

January 19
12 Shevat *Shabbat Shirah*
B'Shalah – Exodus 13:17-15:26
Haftarah: Judges 4:4 -5:31

January 26
19 Shevat *Yitro* – Exodus 18:1-18:27
Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1 – 7:6; 9:5-6

COME TO SHUL!
SHUL IS GOOD!



Social Action

DARFUR UPDATE

The “**Lost Boys of Sudan**” are no longer boys. These remarkable and resilient young men have survived journeys almost beyond comprehension. Five now reside in the Fox Valley. Please mark your calendars for **Feb. 17 at 10 a.m.** when we are privileged to hear one boy’s story of survival and have a comprehensive update on the horrific situation in Darfur.

Marc Zemel has made me aware of IRC (The International Rescue Committee). Currently, the IRC serves over 740,000 displace people at camps in both Chad and Darfur, providing vital services to the victims of this crisis. The American branch of the European-based International Relief Association (IRA) was founded at the suggestion of Albert Einstein to assist Germans suffering under Hitler. It eventually merged with the Emergency Rescue Committee (ERC), at which time it was renamed the International Rescue Committee. Please visit its web site at www.theIRC.org.

FOOD PANTRY

Please bring non-perishable food items each time you come to the synagogue*. All items are donated to the Community Crisis Center’s food pantry. Your ongoing continued support of this project is extremely important. Unfortunately, there is a dire need; yes, there ARE hungry people in the Fox Valley. Donations can be brought to the CKI food cupboard which is located to your immediate right as you enter the synagogue from the parking lot. Non-perishable food items, baby diapers and formula as well as hygiene products are always needed.

TU B'SHEVAT

This year, **Tu B'Shevat** is **January 22**. Trees are major filters of carbon dioxide. While we in the Chicago Metro area cannot plant a tree here in January, we can do a variety of things all year round to reduce carbon dioxide in the environment. Observe this holiday by learning what you can do to reduce your carbon footprint. Educate yourself by visiting web sites such as: www.liveneutral.org/ or

www.countdownyourcarbon.org/. You and your children together can read *Tu B'Shevat: The New Year's Day for Trees* which is in the CKI library.

COMPUTER RECYCLING

In order to be sure we don’t improperly dispose of our electronic equipment or its components when they are no longer useful, operable for us or outdated, we offer a couple of drop off locations for you to recycle computers and other electronic equipment.

Store: 1196 S. Main Street, Suite D, Lombard, IL 60148. Monday-Friday 9-6. Saturday 11-3. Telephone: 630-678-COM2

Warehouse: 195 E. Kehoe Blvd., Carol Stream, IL 60188. Monday-Friday, 9-6. Telephone: 630-653-COM2.

Please call ahead for directions and additional details.

–Tina Wolf, Sherry Wiesman, Fern Raben
Social Action Co-chairs

*Items are not accepted on Jewish holidays, including Shabbat.

Blue Book Policy

Recently, some of you have raised concerns about the use of our Blue Book for purposes other than for synagogue-related business. Specifically, this relates to whether individuals could use our mailing list for promoting their businesses either by mail, email or phone solicitation.

It is the Board’s position that it was never intended, nor desired, that our Blue Book be used for commercial purposes. Rather, there is an expectation that when you disclose your personal information to the synagogue, it will be treated with respect by the leadership and your fellow congregants.

However, there is another avenue that members of our synagogue can avail themselves of that can serve equally well for promoting their businesses: that of purchasing an ad in *HaKol*. *HaKol* is mailed monthly to every one of our members and is even accessible on our web site (www.ckielgin.org). In fact, last month the front page was dedicated to advertising the idea of using ads as an effective way to make our membership aware of services available in our own community. We would, therefore, encourage the use of this invaluable tool for your own business.

MILK AND HONEY

- Researchers in Israel developed a new device that directly helps the heart pump blood, an innovation with the potential to save lives among those with heart failure. The new device is synchronized with the heart's mechanical operations through a sophisticated system of sensors.
- With more than 3,000 high-tech companies and startups, Israel has the highest concentration of high-tech companies in the world outside apart from the Silicon Valley, US.

More next month...

From the Rabbi's Study

(cont'd from p. 2)

peace. Israel has tried to return all the captured territory and much of the disputed territory many times in exchange for peace, both through bilateral negotiations (e.g., the failed attempt under President Clinton that ended with the second *Intifada*) and through unilateral withdrawal (e.g., the evacuation of Gaza that ended with the *Hamas* putsch).

So much for "conquest theology," a term slanderously misapplied to the Israeli side of its existential dispute, although not inappropriate to the currently dominant Moslem interpretations of *Jihad*.

I'm also baffled by your phrase, "eschatological interests." Is eschatology now a business proposition, in which parties vie to promote their own interests? Judaism has an eschatology, but in it the interests of God alone, and of no single nation, play a role. Our purpose in Judaism is not to promote our own interests, or even to get us into heaven (as it seems to be in Christianity). It is to lead us toward service of God, and we are taught to do God's will even without expectation of reward. God's beneficence is irrelevant to our calling. We serve God for the sake of our Covenant, and for no other reason. The implication, therefore, that Israel defends itself for purposes of its own eschatological interests is as slanderous as the suggestion that it pursues some kind of "conquest theology."

Jewish eschatology differs from that of Christianity or Islam in that it includes no requirement for the conversion of the infidel, all the righteous of whom, according to the *Talmud*, hold a share in the world to come. In the end of days, each nation will worship the Biblical God in its own way and from its own land. Some say that the Temple will be rebuilt at that time, under God's own express command, and that we will again be able to worship God there precisely according to His instruction. But our eschatology holds no practical implications until we see the time, for instance, when the lion does in fact lie at peace with the lamb. God looks out

for His age, and we do well enough to attend to our own.

Israel's struggle, like that of Judaism, is existential, not eschatological. Our religion directs our attention to the present, teaching us to trust the ultimate future to God's better care. When Israel's neighbors put down their weapons, then they will know peace with Israel. Should Israel put down its weapons, then it will know only the peace of the grave.

The Jews are the only people who ever set their capital in Israel. We are the only people whose rulers of the land of Israel lived in the land. We are the only people, throughout the world, who direct all their prayers toward Israel, and who always have. We are the only people under whom the land ever blossomed, and the only people under whom all were free in the land to worship as they chose. We are the only people who maintained a physical presence of the same civilization

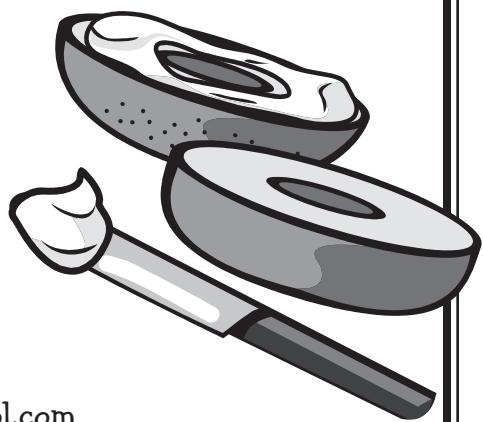
in the land for 3,200 years. (We are the only such people in any land in the world.) And of all the nations today, we are the land's earliest inhabitants. We never left the land voluntarily, nor did we ever leave it completely, and after a hundred generations we have returned to the only home that we have ever known.

We are also, incidentally, the only nation whose political state was established through the democratic vote of all the other nations of the world.

You ask me for online resources that might help you discuss the "Israeli/Palestinian conflagration." Let me suggest first that you undertake a search for any reference to an Arab identified as "Palestinian" before 1960. You might begin with the site noted below, which may convince you of the futility of searching further:

The "CKI SENIORS" Lox & Bagel Luncheon

**Tuesday, January 8
12:00 noon at CKI**



**RSVP to Phyllis Lesser
(847) 741-8784 or phyllisCKI@aol.com**

**Please respond DEFINITELY NO LATER THAN
Thursday, January 3rd.**

**If you will be paying by check,
PLEASE, make it out for \$8.00 payable to "Cash"**

<http://www.afsi.org/MEDIA/newsLinks/shockers/m100.htm>

Israel's "conflagration" is with the Arab world. Palestinian national identity is of recent provenance. If you doubt that, then keep searching. But the only ancient Palestinians are the Jews.

Other resources that might be helpful to you are on the following two sites:

<http://www.frontpagemag.com/media/pdf/biglies.pdf>

<http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/Printable.aspx?GUID={C1209FD3-B3D7-4282-A296-4E3AC7D0B3DE}>

Good luck to you, and thank you for making contact.



CKI's Own Money Tree

Did you know that CKI has its own little money tree? It's called FUNDABILITY!! How, you may ask, do I create the connection? Well, it's like this: properly feeding any kind of tree (apple, pear, etc., etc.) usually causes it to grow and yield both shade AND fruit. Water, sometimes a little fertilizer, is all that is needed to yield a great harvest.

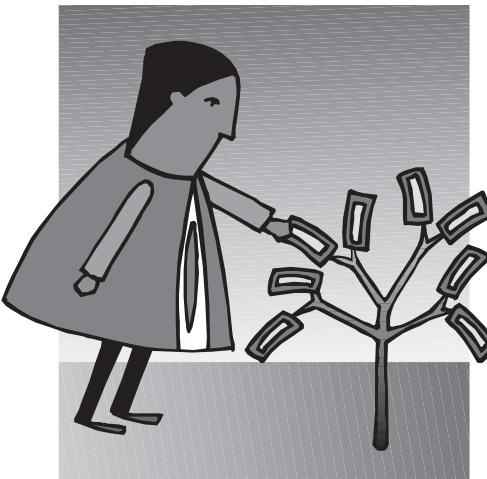
By the same token, Fundability, when properly fed by synagogue members, can yield some pretty incredible results. By using the pre-pay cards to pre-purchase food, drink, services, etc., the synagogue actually receives a "commission," or yields additional income, for doing nothing more than feeding the program—in essence, our very own MONEY TREE!

Now what can you get with Fundability? Most anything you would go out to the store to buy. When you run down the 7 pages of businesses to choose from, you will find quite a few places you do business with. In addition to the list of companies that participate, you will also see the percentage of what comes back to the synagogue as FREE MONEY! For example, a \$25 Dave and Busters pre-pay card pays the synagogue a \$3.25(13%) commission! Some places

may rebate more, some less. Either way, you get the full 100% value of what you pre-pay. Someone even bought their donation of tables from Menards using Fundability. Not only did the synagogue get the tables, we also got the commission for the pre-pay card!!

The easiest way to keep this tree alive and producing fruit for the synagogue is to make as much use of the Fundability program as possible. By spreading the word of the program and its benefit to the synagogue, we will together keep our own "money tree" healthy and returning a great yield to the budget!! While this may take a little "reprogramming" to set aside some funds to purchase the pre-pay cards, the end result is well worth it.

A New Year's resolution? It couldn't hurt...



Honorable Menschen...

and THANK YOU

...to **RODDY FRANKEL** for his donation of the following new DVDs: *Israel Up Close* (on 4 separate DVDs), *Journalism Fraud*, and *Chanukah in Teheran* (12/2006)

...to **SANDI PHELAN** for her donation of a new microwave for the CKI kitchen.

...to **FERN RABEN** and **MELISSA GERLACH** for helping with Fundability. December's sale was very successful!

...to **TINA WOLF** and **WENDY SHANKMAN** and their committee for organizing another wonderful *Chanukah Bazaar*.

...to **EVERYONE** who supported "The Dreidel Project" and bought toys to give to all the needy children. It, too, was very successful!

...to **PAUL GLASER**, **BILL McFARLANE**, **ED WOLF**, **SCOTT MILLER**, **CHUCK MILLER**, **HERB GROSS**, **DICK JOHNSON**, **DAN RICH**, **IRA FOSCO**, **JERRY GOOZH**, **PERRY PITZELE**, **STEVE EAGELS**, and **KEN ABRAMS** – a.k.a. "The Alter Cookers" – for the fabulous Latke Luncheon!

... and to **JANA McFARLANE** who is now an honorary member of Men's Club (??!!)

We Send You To Hebrew School Because...

- Because if you didn't go and later found out all that you had missed, you'd probably be mad at your parents.
- Because Judaism is precious and beautiful and important and your parents want you to share in it and be connected to it.

More next month...

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 that 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*, phone 847-741-5656
Congregation Kneseth Israel Endowment Fund, 330 Division Street, Elgin, IL 60120

Special Funds

The following funds are available for your generous donations:

Seltzer Music & Cultural Arts Endowment Fund – Jewish cultural enrichment programs

CKI Education Fund – Support Torah School

Clara Wechter Education Fund – Support Torah School

Endowment Fund – See the President

General Fund – For multi-purpose use

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Needs decided by Rabbi

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 Torah scrolls

Sisterhood Flower Fund – Pulpit flowers

Sisterhood Vision Fund – Large-type *Siddur* \$50

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

USY/Kadima Youth Group – Support for programs for our United Synagogue Youth

January Birthdays

- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 3 | Dorothy Perlman |
| 4 | Cathy Aron |
| 4 | Jeff Rifken |
| 4 | Irving Durchslag |
| 4 | Cory Radest |
| 5 | Sarah Burker |
| 5 | Madeline Lewis |
| 6 | Anita Hornung |
| 7 | David Goodman |
| 10 | Gordon Roth |
| 12 | Kathy Lange |
| 13 | Elena Fossa |
| 17 | Barry Rose |
| 19 | Irene Loss |
| 20 | Katie Burstein |
| 20 | Edward Stein |
| 21 | Nicole Zeoli |
| 23 | Howard Rubin |
| 25 | Melissa Gerlach |
| 26 | Estee Berg |
| 26 | Karen Kehl Rose |
| 30 | Zachary Hymer |
| 30 | Rebecca Hymer |

January Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 3 | Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Kofkin |
| 16 | Louis & Merrian Rifken |
| 17 | Daniel & Lisa Schulman |
| 26 | Joe & Maureen Rosenfeld |
| 27 | Daniel & Lily Marlene Flynn |
| 31 | Robert & Nancy Cox |



Adult Education

Love Your Neighbor

If we love our neighbor, then will we do the right thing? Only if we know what the right thing is. If we haven't learned, then our chances are only fair.

Conscience won't teach us. Moshe had a conscience. He saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite slave, and he knew that it was wrong. But he didn't know what was right. So he killed the Egyptian and ran away. That's pretty good, but it wasn't the right thing.

If we really want to lead a good life, then we have to study. There is a tremendous wealth of rules and insights that can fill our lives with goodness if we learn them.

Let's begin. Come to CKI, to our course called Love Your Neighbor, and become more proficient in the art of doing good.

Love Your Neighbor.

Tuesdays, 8-9:30 pm.

January 22 and 29; February 12 and 19.

Total tuition, including text: \$35.

Congregation Kneseth Israel, Rabbi Kohn.

Please call the office to register.

CKI Book Club

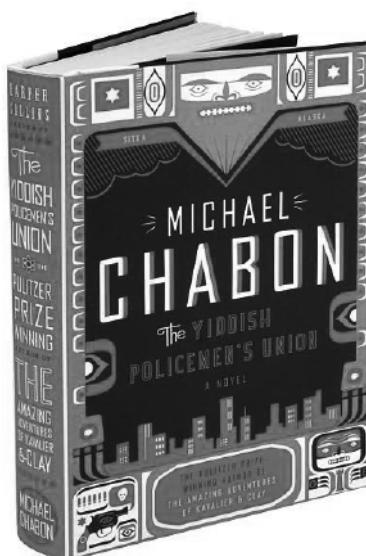
The Book Club of CKI gets together on **Saturday, January 19, 2008** at **2:30 p.m.** to discuss

"The Yiddish Policeman's Union"

by **Michael Chabon**

at the home of
Irma Davis
1104 Lakewood Rd.
Elgin, IL 60123

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Yahrtzeiten

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

Dec 29	Jan 1	Harry Seigle*	Jan 5	Jan 10	Maurice Bender	Jan 19	Jan 20	Milton L. Durchslag
Dec 29	Jan 2	Betsy Lynn Zeman*	Jan 5	Jan 10	Bessie Puklin*	Jan 19	Jan 21	Frank Lindow*
Dec 29	Jan 3	Albert Smilgoff	Jan 5	Jan 10	Natalie Iris Troy*	Jan 19	Jan 21	Lester Fischer*
Dec 29	Jan 3	Molly Levine*	Jan 5	Jan 11	Joseph Ruben	Jan 19	Jan 21	Anna Gombiner*
Dec 29	Jan 4	Joseph Kleiman	Jan 5	Jan 11	Sybil Kaplan Moses*	Jan 19	Jan 23	Yuddy Wolfinson
Jan 5	Jan 5	Jean Fischer Schenker*	Jan 5	Jan 11	Ruth Kaplan*	Jan 19	Jan 24	Sidney Slutsky
Jan 5	Jan 5	Sarah Miller	Jan 5	Jan 11	George Neumark	Jan 19	Jan 24	Henry Greenberg*
Jan 5	Jan 5	Elizabeth Chesler	Jan 12	Jan 12	Jane Barrow*	Jan 19	Jan 24	Bernice Sievers*
Jan 5	Jan 5	Arlene B. Schachter	Jan 12	Jan 12	Jean Boskind*	Jan 26	Jan 26	Howard Karl Lebovits
Jan 5	Jan 7	Gerald London	Jan 12	Jan 13	Mandel Bochner*	Jan 26	Jan 26	Anna Libby Strickman*
Jan 5	Jan 8	Roy Rifken*	Jan 12	Jan 13	Pearl Harris*	Jan 26	Jan 27	Mildred Lipofsky*
Jan 5	Jan 9	Michelle Diane Fosco	Jan 12	Jan 14	Marvin Schneider	Jan 26	Jan 27	Lena Simon*
Jan 5	Jan 10	Helen Sugar	Jan 12	Jan 15	Lillian Roth*	Jan 26	Jan 28	Dr. Harlan Levin
Jan 5	Jan 10	Yetta Bear*	Jan 12	Jan 16	Lillian Bloomberg	Jan 26	Jan 28	Isadore Ginsberg*
			Jan 12	Jan 16	Hyman Ableman*	Jan 26	Jan 28	Harold Modes
			Jan 12	Jan 17	Zeldah Demont*	Jan 26	Jan 28	Fannie Rosenthal*
			Jan 12	Jan 17	Louis Gordon*	Jan 26	Jan 29	Sophie Kaplan*
			Jan 12	Jan 18	Max Kohlhagen	Jan 26	Jan 30	Ann Lillian Rogoff*
			Jan 12	Jan 18	Eugene Bernstein	Jan 26	Jan 30	Anna Perlman*
			Jan 19	Jan 19	Martin Kornstein*	Jan 26	Jan 31	Millie Flowers*
			Jan 19	Jan 19	Nathan Cohen*	Jan 26	Jan 31	Beryl Niznik*
			Jan 19	Jan 19	Nate Krohn*	Jan 26	Feb 1	Morris Agins
			Jan 19	Jan 19	Sam Becker*			



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

KINDLE THE SHABBAT CANDLES

- Jan. 4 4:15 PM
Jan. 11 4:22 PM
Jan. 18 4:30 PM
Jan. 25 4:39 PM

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

Acknowledgements

Generous Donations

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Avrom Blumberg

Cyril Friend

In memory of Ann Jacoby

Dr. Joe & Maureen Rosenfeld

In memory of Tom Arnold, brother of Walter Arnold

Jana & Bill McFarlane

THE PRAYERBOOK FUND

In memory of Gertrude Burstein

Cyril Friend

In memory of Lora Seigle

Cyril Friend

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of my father, Sanford

Wolke's 2nd Bar Mitzvah

Estee Berg and Family

In gratitude for your thoughtful prayers for my recovery

Howard Minkoff

LEE MILLER BOOK FUND

In memory of Augusta Hass, Joseph

Hass, Lillian Grosken, and Henry

Grosken

Norma & Alvin Hass

CKI EDUCATION FUND

To Earl Sternfeld, in memory of your beloved brother-in-law, Burton Kahn

Fern & Ron Raben

Ira & Amy Fosco

Jana & Bill McFarlane

In honor of Fern & Ron Raben and all they have done for our family

Marylyn & Howard Minkoff

Happy Chanukah to Ron Raben

Leah Schillmoelleer

Jeffrey Barrash

In memory of Tova Kaplan's mother, Sarah Nussbecker

Wendy Barrash

Happy Chanukah to Wanda Pitzele

Jeffrey Barrash

CKI YOUTH GROUP (USY/KADIMA)

In memory of Ann Jacoby

The McFarlane Family

In Our Family

HAMAKOM YENAHEIM ETKHEM – CONDOLENCES

The congregation expresses condolences to the family of ...**Ann Jacoby**, mother of **Dr. Ken (Gale) Jacoby**, grandmother of **Brett and Cory Jacoby**

...**Tom Arnold**, brother of **Walter (Fely) Arnold**

May God comfort you and may their memory be a blessing

May God comfort you and may their memory be a blessing

R'FUAH SH'LEIMAH – GET WELL

Fern Raben	Shirley Friedman
Ben Rifken	Irv Durchslag
Rose Goldstein	Herman Loeb
Lisa Schulman	David Goodman
Sarah Frisch	Pearle Brody
Sherry Wiesman	

May God bring speedy and complete healing to you and all others who are ill among the people of Israel.



Born to Shop!! Enjoying the Chanukah Bazaar are, left to right: Maddy Lewis, Lily Kendall and Becca Fishman.

Don't Forget the BLIZZARD EVENT – SISTERHOOD SHABBAT!

Please join our Sisterhood Shabbat on **January 18, 2008 at 6:15 pm** for dinner and **7:30 pm** for services.

There is still time if you would like to participate by leading an English or Hebrew prayer. Please contact **Adele Stein** at aistein55@aol.com or call 630-406-1043, to make arrangements. This is an annual service run by the Sisterhood women of our congregation.

To make dinner reservations, see the next page.

If you'd like to become a member of Sisterhood, please contact Adele Stein.

Greeting the Bride

I like doing the blessing over bread. I try to say it with my Dad.

— Emil Kelman

in *The Art of Jewish Living: The Shabbat Seder*



Sisterhood's Blizzard Event – *Oops, we mean...*

Sisterhood *Shabbat*

Join us as we welcome *Shabbat*!

The weather outside may be cold and miserable, but the warmth of CKI's Sisterhood Women makes the effort worthwhile!

Friday, January 18
Dinner 6:15 p.m.
Services 7:30 p.m.
Oneg following Services



It's not too late to sign up to participate in the service.
contact Adele Stein at 630-406-1043 or aistein55@aol.com

We'll brave the weather and have dinner with the Sisterhood and welcome *Shabbat* – how bad can it get, any way?

Name _____

Adults ____ @ \$15.00 = _____ # Children (under 13) ____ @ \$7.50 = _____
(Family Maximum \$45.00)

I know I'll need more ice scrapers!.....\$3.00 each _____

Total \$ _____

Send reservations to:
Wendy Barrash, 622 Brookdale, Schaumburg, IL 60194

Soup's On

You don't have to be a Sisterhood member to support this Sisterhood fundraiser.

Enjoy delicious homemade soup for only

\$7.50 per quart.

Each quart serves 4 (8oz) servings.

The cooks are preparing

Minestrone (meat)

and

Corn Chowder (dairy).

Take home both!



Order by February 18, 2008

Pick-up on February 24, 2008

Use the order form in HaKol,
or download the order form from the
CKI web page.

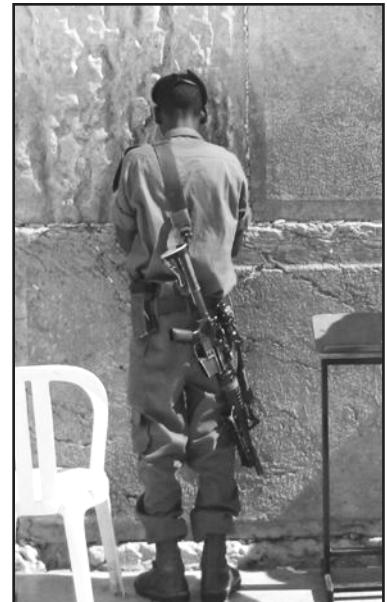
For more details, call Shari Heiss at
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~~~ THANK YOU ~~~

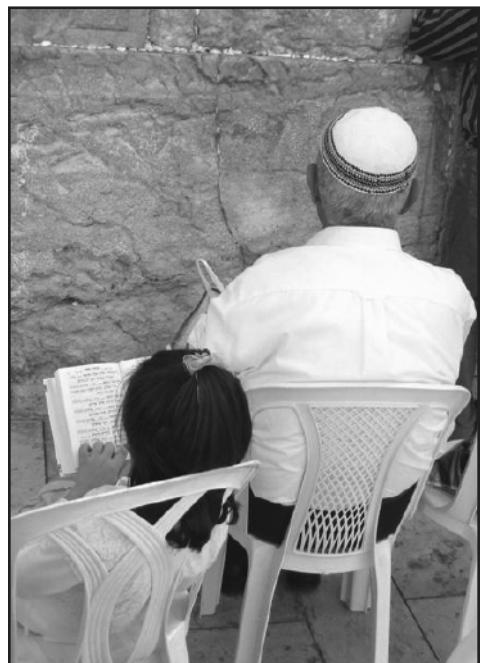
The family of Ann Jacoby wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude for all the acts of kindness bestowed upon us. Your thoughtfulness has helped us all through this most difficult time. We were especially touched when our home was filled during *Shiva*. Although we were unable to talk to everyone, being surrounded by so many caring friends was a great comfort. CKI is a very special community. It is touching to be so well taken care of when needed. We are fortunate to have made this our home. Many, many thanks.

Sincerely,

Ken, Gale, Brett, Cory & Kurt Jacoby and  
Judy (Jacoby), Paul, Alisa, Dana & Tim Riback



*"War, Peace and Jewish Diversity at the Wall"*



*"Grandpa, can we go to Disneyworld when I finish the Book?"*

CKI congregant **Leonard Kofkin** was in Jerusalem in mid-October and took dozens of photos. Here are a couple of shots taken at the Western Wall.

• • •

If you have any photos that would be of interest to our congregation, please submit for consideration via email to Ron Razowsky at [ronrazowsky@gmail.com](mailto:ronrazowsky@gmail.com).

# *DARFUR UPDATE*

Join us FEB 17<sup>TH</sup> AT 10am

Congregation Kneseth Israel  
330 Division Street--Elgin

*The Lost Boys of Sudan*

WILL MAKE AN  
IMPORTANT MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION

They will speak regarding the continuing Crisis in Darfur and will share their survival stories of journeys through war torn Sudan. A question and answer period to follow.

Open to the public. Bring your friends and neighbors. This program is appropriate for 8<sup>th</sup> graders through adults. To ensure an adequate audience; please RSVP to Sherry Wiesman at 847-915-0517 or [Sherry\\_Wiesman@yahoo.com](mailto:Sherry_Wiesman@yahoo.com). Last-minute attendees are welcome. There is no charge to attend.

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*...Since we NEVER know what tomorrow will bring.*

**P**re-plan...

*...To ease the burden of loved ones & make our wishes known.*

**P**rotect...

*...Keep steadfast to our heritage and our customs.*

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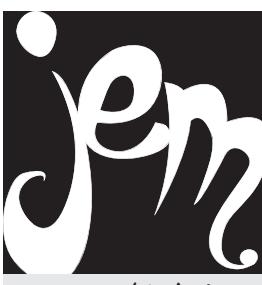
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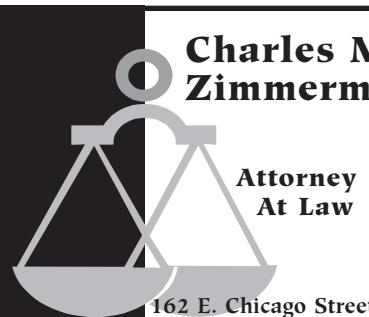
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## January 2008

|                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                      | Shabbat Services: | Friday evenings<br>Saturday mornings                        | 7:30 pm<br>9:30 am |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 8                                                                                        | Seniors Lox & Bagel Lunch<br><b>Sisterhood Board Meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                        | Noon<br>7:00 pm                      | 19                | Junior Congregation                                         | 10:00 am           |
| 9                                                                                        | Hebrew School Resumes                                                                                                                                                                                               | 5:00 pm                              | 20                | Tu B'Shevat School Activity<br><b>USY/Kadima Game Works</b> | Noon               |
| 10                                                                                       | Fundability orders due                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                      | 21                | <i>Hadassah</i> Board Meeting                               |                    |
| 13                                                                                       | <b>Sisterhood Soup Sale</b>                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                      | 22                | <b>Adult Education Class:<br/>"Love Thy Neighbor"</b>       | 8-9:30 pm          |
| 14                                                                                       | Confirmation Class<br>USY Board meeting                                                                                                                                                                             | 6:30 pm<br>8:00 pm                   | 23                | Hebrew School                                               | 5:00 pm            |
| 16                                                                                       | Hebrew School                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 5:00 pm                              | 26                | <b>Kadima Ice Skating at Leafs Ice Center</b>               | 7:30 pm            |
| 17                                                                                       | Fundability order pick-up                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                      | 27                | <b>Sisterhood Tallit Project Lunch and Learn</b>            | 12:30 pm           |
| 18                                                                                       | <b>Sisterhood Shabbat</b>                                                                                                                                                                                           | Dinner Service<br>6:15 pm<br>7:30 pm | 28                | Confirmation Class                                          | 6:30 pm            |
|                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find insight</li> <li>• Find meaning</li> <li>• Find community</li> <li>• Find yourself</li> <li>• Find <i>Shabbat</i></li> </ul> <p>Come to services and find it all!</p> |                                      | 29                | <b>Adult Education Class:<br/>"Love Thy Neighbor"</b>       | 8-9:30 pm          |
|                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                      | 30                | Hebrew School                                               | 5:00 pm            |
| <i>Drs. Albert &amp; Frieda Simon Adult Study Group</i><br>Sunday mornings      10:00 AM |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                      |                   |                                                             |                    |