HAKOL הקול
The Voice of Congregation Kneseth Israel

January 2020

Tevet - Shevat 5780

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Established in 1892

CONGREGATION KNESETH ISRAEL

Lifelong Learning

Embracing Diversity

Building Community

Meaningful Observance

In this issue

- *Board Chairs 3*
- *Donations 4*
- *Book Club 4*
- *Birthdays 5*
- *Parashat 5*
- *Hadassah 6*
- *Yahrzeits 7*
- *Ritually Speaking 8*
- *Torah School 9*
- *Tree of Life 13*
- *Fundability 14*
- *Calendar 15*

From the Rabbi's Study

It's 2020. Wow! How did that happen? Wait, I thought it was 5780. Do we as Jews care about the changing of the secular year? Maybe? Sometimes? Maybe not so much? But for me it is a chance to reset. A good opportunity to yet again reflect. We are halfway through the academic year. What do we want to accomplish? What did we set out to do at the beginning of year that we're not quite on track for? How do we want to be? Some years it feels like wandering in the desert. And then here comes the new year, 2020, to tell us that we can be better than we are currently.

Often I hear that CKI isn't what it once was—but having returned from the AJR retreat, and even looking around Chicagoland, I can tell you, CKI is stronger, better than many congregations. Even those which are much larger. I will ask you to explain what you mean or what else you are missing or seeking.

I also hear from time to time that we are not warm and welcoming or that we are not kind. Again, I will ask for an explanation, and specifics. We are not perfect. And we could be kinder, no question.

continued on page 2

President's Message

Wow! What happened to 2019! 2020 is on the horizon. Often winter is seen as a time when we pull our blankets over our heads whenever possible and wait for the thaw that Spring brings. But activities continue at CKI. Keep your eyes on HaKol and E- blasts to continue to see what is going on. Many of our members travel during the winter, so when you can, please attend a service so we can make sure anyone who needs to say Kaddish, can.

Winter is also a time to get to those books you were too busy outside to read. You can check out the CKI library where copies of book club books may be found as well as other fiction and non-fiction resources.

Winter is also that time to try soups, all kinds. We try to have one soup a week and not just chicken soup. Need a recipe? Reach out to me or others. If you have a family favorite, share it. Here is one of our favorites.

Cod Chowder
Ingredients
1 tablespoon butter or margarine
½ cup chopped onion
½ cup chopped celery
1 carrot peeled and diced
4 small mushrooms
1 cup finely diced potatoes

continued on p. 3

RABBI MARGARET FRISCH KLEIN
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From the Rabbi's Study…

Recently I had a conversation about kindness. I once thought you could model kindness. If you were kind, others around you would be kind. I am not sure that is true.

The online definition reads, "Being kind means having empathy and/or sympathy. Being kind means that you should not have to put your other commitments to the side just because this person asked you for a last minute favor and expects you to do it because you're a 'naturally nice' person."

Kindness is a core value of Judaism. It is one of the 13 Attributes of the Divine. Just as G-d was full of *chesed*, lovingkindness, we should be full of lovingkindness. We are told that deeds of lovingkindness, *gemilut chasadim*, replaced the need for animal sacrifice once the Temple was destroyed.

Kindness is not quite enough. I recently read an article from Teaching Tolerance, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, that explained that kindness, that we all learned in elementary school, isn't enough. We need to educate for justice, *tzedek* in Hebrew. They are often linked, *chesed* and *tzedek*. The article goes on to talk about Martin Luther King, Jr., who said that we are not yet satisfied, "But we can also show students that his famous speech imagining a world where children are judged 'by the content of their character' is also the one in which he refuses half-measures toward equity, saying, 'No, no, we are not satisfied. And we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.'"

https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/fall-2019/teaching-kindness-isnt-enough?fbclid=IwAR3_Dcko2D82PjRP0Fz-Uu7tObNZgpiAM-9bPdDFy8QfEc_iuX8q0U-DmRk

Part of being kind is making sure that people have enough to eat. Please remember our annual Martin Luther King, Jr. food drive. This year instead of competing with Holy Trinity, we are going to try to be more inclusive. We are hoping for 100% participation from CKI, Holy Trinity and Kingdom Advancement Center. That means we need roughly 100 bags of food here at CKI to be delivered over the Martin Luther King Jr weekend.

This January, we are going to try something different. We are going to give out the Chesed Awards. There will be four of them. One for each week. They will be announced each week at Shabbat services. But I need your help. When you spot someone in the synagogue being kind, nominate them. Tell us about it. Hopefully there will be lots of people. Then Peg, Heather and I will sift through and choose those deserving recipients.

Who is kind? It could be someone who takes the garbage out who doesn't usually. Or shovels the walk. Or makes chicken soup. It could be someone who shares an encouraging word or story. It might be someone who steps up in unexpected ways. It could be an adult or a child.

2020 could imply a time of great vision—like you have 20/20 eyesight. What is that you want to see?

--Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein

Leaders of the Month: Shifra and Puah

Who are Shifra and Puah you might ask. They were the midwives in Egypt who rescued the Israelite boys instead of carrying out the orders of Pharaoh to kill all the newborns.

The rabbis argue about who these midwives are. I am so happy that their names were recorded for all time. The Talmud tells us some clues behind their names. Perhaps Shifra was really Yocheved, Moses's mother, and Puah was Miriam, Moses's sister. Or perhaps Puah was Elisheva, Moses's sister-in-law, Aaron's wife. Rashi teaches us that Shifra means "improvement" because Yocheved would improve the babies by cleaning them up. Puah means "cooing" because Miriam would coo to the babies and soothe them. So they were both nurturing. How many midwives were there? The text would lead us to believe that there were just these two. However, the commentaries suggest that because there were so many being born, which was exactly Pharaoh's fear, two women alone couldn't have handled it. They could not have been everywhere. The commentaries suggest that there were up to 500 midwives. Shifra and Puah were just the ones in charge. So they were delegators, mentors and leaders.

The midwives were really the ones who "birthed" a nation. The word Mitzrayim, Hebrew for Egypt, means "Narrow Places." Some see it as the birth canal, a narrow place. The Exodus is then leaving the narrow places in our lives. Each of us has the capacity to be a midwife, just like Shifrah and Puah, to help give birth and exhibit the sometimes quiet, defiant, behind the scenes, bit part role that the courageous midwives exhibited.

Leadership qualities: Brave, outspoken, courageous, delegators, nurturers, mentors, healers, defiant.

How to reach the Rabbi:

I am in the office at least ten hours each week for people to drop in to see me. Come sit and have coffee with me.

Mondays are my days off. I am in the office Tuesday mornings from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM; Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 PM; and, Thursday afternoons from 2:00-6:00 PM. Call first, just in case something has come up. Can't make any of those times? Call and set another time. I'll meet you almost anywhere, anytime. I am accessible by cell phone, 978-590-8268 or by email at rabbi@ckielgin.org

PLEASE…

If there is an illness in the family or the loss of a loved one, please call CKI at 847-741-5656 so that your CKI family can contact you and be of help.

CKI BOARD MEMBERS

President – Risa Cohen
Immediate Past President – Dick Johnson
Executive Vice-President – Robin Coyne
Treasurer – Sandi Phelan
Financial Secretary – Charlie Neuman
Recording Secretary – Barb Edelstein
VP of Education – Micheline Welch

CKI COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Adult Education – (available)
Bylaws – Rachel Newby
Cemetery – Dick Johnson
CKI Cares – Karen & Al Bender
Director of Education – Heather Weiser
Fundraising – Robin Seigle
***HaKol* Editor** – Peg Lehman
CKI Music Director – Stewart Levin
House Manager – Brock Friedman
Keruv – (available)
Kitchen – Theresa Friedman
Membership – Ken Jacoby
Publicity – Brad Burker
Ritual – Dan Knopoff
Roth Scholarship – Maureen Manning
Tikkun Olam – Ken Hillman
Vision – (available)
Youth Activities – Liza Bachrach

To contact, call CKI at 847-741-5656

President's Message

Cod Chowder Recipe Continued

¼ cup water
2 cups milk (preferably not skim)
1 cup canned or frozen corn kernels
½ teaspoon ground pepper (white or black)
½ teaspoon salt
½ lb cod (fresh or frozen, but if frozen, thaw first) cut into large chunks

Directions

Over medium low heat melt butter or margarine, sauté onion, celery, carrot and mushrooms until tender.
Add potato and water, cover and cook until potatoes are tender.
Add milk and corn along with the salt and pepper, Bring to a boil.
Reduce heat to a simmer, add fish, cover and cook until fish flakes (Do not let it boil.)

The original recipe is for two, but with salad and rolls, it's a dinner for four. Can also just be doubled. Enjoy! Whatever you do, stay warm and safe. See you soon.

--Risa Cohen

Java and Jews

Have you wondered about Judaism?
Have a question you need answered?
Like to learn a little of the weekly *Torah* portion?
Curious about Jewish responses to issues of the day?
Join Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein for a cup of joe (or other beverage or snack).

Tuesday: January 14, 2020

Arabica Café, 59 Douglas Ave, Elgin, 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM
Blue Box Café, 176 Chicago St, Elgin, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Good conversation, good coffee, good community.

Peg's CKI Office Hours

Monday: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Tuesday: 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Wednesday: 12:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Thursday: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Please remember to write checks to ***Congregation Kneseth Israel***, It's also helpful to note in the memo what the money is intended for. Thank you!

CKI Book Club Schedule 2019-2020

Date	Book	Author	Hosts	Time
August 22 (Thurs)	The Tattooist of Auschwitz	Heather Morris	Sue Johnson	7:00 pm
September 19 (Thurs)	The Only Woman in the Room	Marie Benedict	Al & Karen Bender	7:00 pm
November 21 (Thurs)	This Narrow Space: A Pediatric Oncologist, His Jewish, Muslim, and Christian Patients, and a Hospital in Jerusalem TBD	Elisha Waldman	Gail Borden Library	7:00 pm
December 17 (Tues)	The Zelmenyaners: A Family Saga	Moyshe Kulbak	Joy Wener Bang	Postponed
January 21 (Tues)	The Three Escapes of Hannah Arendt: A Tyranny of Truth	Ken Krimstein	TBD	7:00 pm
February 18 (Tues)	The Last Watchman of Cairo	Michael David Lukas	TBD	7:00 pm
March 17 (Tues)	The Trial of God	Eli Wiesel	Bob & Nancy Protter	7:00 pm
April 23 (Thurs)	Looking up: A Memoir of Sisters and Skokie	Linda Pressman	Jay & Carol Thor	7:00 pm
May 19 (Tues)	The Pearl Harbor Conspiracy	J. G Schwartz	Nancy & Chuck Zimmerman	7:00 pm
June 16 (Tues)	The Zelmenyaners: A Family Saga	Moyshe Kulbak	TBD	7:00 pm
July 21 (Tues)	Pot-Luck planning session		Barb Razowsky	6:30 pm

Generous Donations

GENERAL FUND

Numerous Donations

- Douglas Bakley

In honor of Shimon Sowinski's conversion

- Jana & Bill McFarlane

For Hebrew School in honor of Stephanie Burak Gothmann

- Shira & Ronald Ramer

Donation for High Holidays

- Louise & Barbara Dolmon
- Jay Zitron

In honor of Jim & Peg Lehman's 50th wedding anniversary & Peg's birthday

- Jana & Bill McFarlane

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Augusta Hass & Lillian Grosken

- Norma & Alvin Hass

In memory of Phillip Arendt

- Helen Lindow

Thank you for your many kindnesses

- Deborah Arendt

CLARA WECHTER EDUCATION FUND

To Jerry Niederman & Family—
In memory of your father

- Paul & Risa Cohen
- Dick & Sue Johnson

Special Funds

The following funds are available to receive your generous donations:

- **Clara Wechter Education Fund** – Supports Torah School and Adult Education
- **General Fund** – For multi-purpose use
- **Jerome & Lillian Roth Scholarship Fund** – (See the President)
- **Memorial Plaques** – $300
- **Prairie Jewish Youth** – Support for programs for our synagogue youth
- **Prayer Book Fund** – Siddur is $36; Chumash is $60
- **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund** – Needs decided by Rabbi
- **Seltzer Music & Cultural Arts Endowment Fund** – Jewish cultural enrichment programs
- **Simon C.& Ruth L. Kaplan Torah Fund** – Repair of Torah scrolls
- **Sisterhood** – Support our women's group's various projects
- **Sisterhood Flower Fund** – Pulpit flowers
- **Sisterhood Vision Fund** – Large-type Siddur is $50
- **Tree of Life** – Leaf is $100; Rock is $1,000
- **Major Gifts** – $5,000 and up. (See the President)

Parashat HaShavu'a: Weekly Torah Portions	
January 4 *7 Tevet*	*Vayiggash* - Genesis 44:18-47:27 *Haftarah*: Ezekiel 37:15-28
January 11 *14 Tevet*	*Vayechi* - Genesis 47:28-50:26 *Haftarah*: 1 Kings 2:1-12
January 18 *21 Tevet*	*Shemot* – Exodus1:1-6:1 *Haftarah*: Isaiah 27:6-28:13, 29:22-23
January 25 *28 Tevet*	*Va'era* – Exodus 6:2-9:35 *Haftarah*: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

Click the button to find us on Facebook

January Birthdays

Jesse Njus	Jan 3
Cathy Aron	Jan 4
Madeline Lewis	Jan 5
Sarah Burker	Jan 5
Anita Hornung	Jan 6
Sarah Klein	Jan 6
Riley Miller	Jan 7
Shivali Klionsky	Jan 8
Kathy Lange	Jan 12
Henry Welch	Jan 13
Michael Welch	Jan 13
Jerry Niederman	Jan 16
James Morgan	Jan 16
Barry Rose	Jan 17
Judi Tepe	Jan 20
Kim Atkins	Jan 20
Jeremy Seigle	Jan 21
Bridget Hillman	Jan 22
Samantha Newby	Jan 22
Abigail Marczak	Jan 23
David Bromet	Jan 25
Karen Kehl Rose	Jan 26
Rowan Welch	Jan 26
Eugene Klionsky	Jan 27
Peggy Zonis	Jan 31
Ryan Finneran	Jan 31

January Anniversaries

Charlie & Helen Neuman	Jan 1

Click the button to Donate or Pay Your Dues

CKI Choir

All are welcome, and we are always looking to add members. If you would like to sing with us, please contact either Stew Levin at (630) 531-7164 or Dan Knopoff at (847) 280-0227.

The Michaelson Institute, Hope for Children with Low Vision

Children who are treated at the Michaelson Institute of Rehabilitation at Hadassah Medical Organization, Ein Kerem, receive a diagnosis, treatment, and visual rehabilitation to help them manage their daily lives. "We give parents the explanation they so desperately seek, we teach children how to live with their condition, and we give everyone who comes to the Institute hope and help," explains Professor Claudio Yahalom, head of the Institute.

The Michaelson Institute was created in 1973 by world-renowned Isaac Caesar Michaelson, former director of HMO's Department of Ophthalmology.

Today it is the only multi-disciplinary institute in Israel of its kind – a comprehensive facility that enables children as young as two months to capitalize on whatever vision they have. "There are only a few centers like it in the world," Professor Yahalom says.

Because many of the low vision problems kids face are due to genetic conditions, the Institute also offers genetic counseling and testing. Gene therapy is one of the biggest hopes in medicine today; intensive preclinical research is being done toward that goal.

One of the most common conditions seen at the clinic is nystagmus, characterized by continuous, involuntary movement of the eyes, inducing poor vision often as a result of a genetic disease for which there is no cure. Symptoms can be improved with eye muscle surgery, contact lenses and other visual aids. Yahalom recalls one patient who had applied to serve in the army. When she fitted him with contact lenses, he was so happy he could see better; the lenses made a big difference, both in improving his vision and in reducing the effect of nystagmus. He was able to become a soldier!

Go to hadassah.org to learn more... about Hadassah's chapter near you, Elgin Chapter (nanzim@foxvalley.net) and about research and healing in Hadassah Hospital, Ein Kerem, and Hadassah Hospital, Mt. Scopus. Hadassah also has travel Missions annually that introduce Members and Associates to every facet of our homeland. Ayelet Tours, Ltd. (1-800-237-1517)

Impressions from a First Timer at Hadassah's 99th National Convention

Carol Thor is a new Life Member from the Elgin Chapter in the Great Plains Region. She and her husband, Jay Yusko, a new Associate, are retired and live in Elgin, IL. They attended their first Hadassah Convention in July, 2019. Carol is looking forward to sharing the stories of success and positive imaging of Israel to inspire existing members, gain more financial supporters and new members.

What a great convention! It was filled with guest speakers, business meetings, testimonials, awards, recognitions, fundraising, membership and Israeli entertainment. Convention attendance was nearly 1,000 women and men ranging from lifetime members, 3rd and 4th generation members, Associates to newbies, like me.

As a delegate for the Elgin Chapter, I was honored to represent my unit and vote on matters of importance for the future of Hadassah. My primary objective for attending the convention was to learn more about Hadassah and its work. And learn is what I did! I learned about two hospitals, Hadassah Mount Scopus and Hadassah Ein Kerem. We also learned about the people—Israeli Jews and Arabs, Muslims, Christians, and Palestinian Arabs from the West Bank and Gaza, all of whom are treated at our hospitals.

Before attending the convention, my knowledge of Young Judaea and the Youth Aliyah Villages was limited. Speakers shared their fond memories of personal experiences at our Villages and with Youth Judaea summer camps and gap-year programs, which shaped them into the confident, successful women they are today.

In my mind, the Hadassah convention was all about seeing the glass as half full and presenting a positive message about Israel, how it is changing the world. Through medical care success stories, medical research accomplishments, cultivating future Zionist

leadership, and turning a negative into a positive, Hadassah is there to inform, educate and energize us to continue to make the Hadassah Mission Possible. So, keep informed, share success stories, inspire members, raise funds for Hadassah's continued success, speak out about your love of Israel and remember, Mission Possible is the future of Zionism and ours to build.

Yahrzeits

We recall with loving memory those whose yahrzeits 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 August. ***It is appropriate for members of their families to be present when these names are read.***

Name	Actual Date Observed	Date of Service	Name	Actual Date Observed	Date of Service
Joyce Kofkin	Jan 4	Jan 3 & 4	Donald Frisch	Jan 21	Jan. 17 & 18
Sylvia Glaser	Jan 5	Jan 3 & 4	Betsy Lynn Zeman*	Jan 21	Jan. 17 & 18
Sarah Hymovitz*	Jan 5	Jan 3 & 4	David Zemel	Jan 21	Jan. 17 & 18
Foster Poper*	Jan 6	Jan 3 & 4	Barnett Kadin	Jan 22	Jan. 17 & 18
Sarah Meyer*	Jan 7	Jan 3 & 4	Molly Levine*	Jan 22	Jan. 17 & 18
Mary Dreyer	Jan 8	Jan 3 & 4	Albert Smilgoff	Jan 22	Jan. 17 & 18
Jean Eagels	Jan 8	Jan 3 & 4	Ellen Goodman	Jan 23	Jan. 17 & 18
Erika Lindow*	Jan 8	Jan 3 & 4	Elizabeth Chesler	Jan 24	Jan. 17 & 18
Michael Glaser	Jan 9	Jan 3 & 4	Sarah Miller	Jan 24	Jan. 17 & 18
Hyman Miller	Jan 9	Jan 3 & 4	Jean Fischer Shenker*	Jan 24	Jan. 17 & 18
Sarah Cohen*	Jan 10	Jan 3 & 4	Gerald London	Jan 26	Jan. 24 & 25
Harold Durchslag	Jan 10	Jan 3 & 4	Marlene Gordon	Jan 27	Jan. 24 & 25
Frances Ruth Hayden*	Jan 10	Jan 3 & 4	Roy Rifken*	Jan 27	Jan. 24 & 25
Louis Meyer*	Jan 10	Jan 3 & 4	Florence Schwartz	Jan 28	Jan. 24 & 25
Leo Neuman	Jan 10	Jan 3 & 4	Yetta Bear*	Jan 29	Jan. 24 & 25
Celia Flowers Reback*	Jan 10	Jan 3 & 4	Maurice Bender	Jan 29	Jan. 24 & 25
Julie Venetianer	Jan 10	Jan 3 & 4	Michelle Diane Fosco*	Jan 29	Jan. 24 & 25
Sarah Sweet	Jan 11	Jan 10 & 11	Lizzie Richberg	Jan 29	Jan. 24 & 25
Anna Gilbert*	Jan 12	Jan 10 & 11	Helen Sugar	Jan 29	Jan. 24 & 25
Lillian Salk Stein*	Jan 12	Jan 10 & 11	Ruth Kaplan*	Jan 30	Jan. 24 & 25
Maurice Davis	Jan 13	Jan 10 & 11	Sibyl Kaplan Moses*	Jan 30	Jan. 24 & 25
Martin Fischer*	Jan 13	Jan 10 & 11	George Neumark	Jan 30	Jan. 24 & 25
Henry Grosken	Jan 13	Jan 10 & 11	Joseph Ruben	Jan 30	Jan. 24 & 25
Irene Kramer*	Jan 13	Jan 10 & 11	Jane Barrow*	Jan 31	Jan. 24 & 25
Manfred Leo Lindow	Jan 13	Jan 10 & 11	Lillian Davis	Jan 31	Jan. 24 & 25
Argo Parrello	Jan 13	Jan 10 & 11	Rochelle Fey*	Jan 31	Jan. 24 & 25
Henry Norman Eisner*	Jan 14	Jan 10 & 11	Peretz Mehr	Jan 31	Jan. 24 & 25
Louis M. Brenner*	Jan 15	Jan 10 & 11	Sol Rolnitzky	Jan 31	Jan. 24 & 25
Dorothy Cohen	Jan 15	Jan 10 & 11	Wendy Karen Slutsky	Jan 31	Jan. 24 & 25
Harry Sweet	Jan 15	Jan 10 & 11	Mandel Bochner*	Feb 1	Jan. 31 & Feb 1
Vivian Atkins	Jan 17	Jan 10 & 11	Sarah Seltzer Frisch*	Feb 1	Jan. 31 & Feb 1
Melvin Garland	Jan 17	Jan 10 & 11	Edythe Kadin	Feb 3	Jan. 31 & Feb 1
Robert Allen	Jan 18	Jan. 17 & 18	Lillian Ruth Seigle Roth*	Feb 3	Jan. 31 & Feb 1
Sylvia Coady*	Jan 18	Jan. 17 & 18	Lillian Bloomberg	Feb 4	Jan. 31 & Feb 1
Harry Richberg	Jan 18	Jan. 17 & 18	Bernie Miller	Feb 4	Jan. 31 & Feb 1
Florence Shankman	Jan 18	Jan. 17 & 18	Louis Gordon*	Feb 5	Jan. 31 & Feb 1
Bertha Beler*	Jan 19	Jan. 17 & 18	Theresa Silber	Feb 5	Jan. 31 & Feb 1
Miriam W. Cohen*	Jan 19	Jan. 17 & 18	Sam M. Becker*	Feb 7	Jan. 31 & Feb 1
Mollie Kleinman	Jan 19	Jan. 17 & 18	Nathan Cohen*	Feb 7	Jan. 31 & Feb 1
James Ryon	Jan 19	Jan. 17 & 18	Sonja Duke	Feb 7	Jan. 31 & Feb 1
Harry Seigle*	Jan 20	Jan. 17 & 18	Herman Garson	Feb 7	Jan. 31 & Feb 1
Irving P. Durchslag*	Jan 21	Jan. 17 & 18	Martin Kornstein*	Feb 7	Jan. 31 & Feb 1

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

Kindle the Shabbat Candles		**and *HAVDALAH* Candles**	
Fri Jan 3	4:16 pm	Sat Jan 4	5:25 pm
Fri Jan 10	4:23 pm	Sat Jan 11	5:32 pm
Fri Jan 17	4:31 pm	Sat Jan 18	5:40 pm
Fri Jan 24	4:39 pm	Sat Jan 25	5:49 pm
Fri Jan 31	4:48 pm	Sat Feb 1	5:57 pm

NOTE: Shabbat ends 50 minutes after candle lighting time on Saturday night

Ritually Speaking

I wanted to thank everyone who responded to our CKI High Holiday 5780 Congregant Survey. The survey had 20 questions/requests for responses. It mirrored last year's survey, so we were able to compare some information "year after year" – but it wasn't identical, based on our adding in a few new questions.

The survey responses were anonymous, and we had the survey open about 3 weeks. We had 40 responses – from a survey point of view, that's a great response.

In most cases where we had a click in question (like rate a specific topic), we had a spot where people could add comments.

To get an overall understanding of how things went, we asked "In general, how would you rank your overall experience with this year's High Holiday Services?" The response was 62.5% - Very Positive; 27.5% - Positive; and 7.5% - OK for a total of 97.5% (39 out of 40 responses were OK or better).

We did add in some new elements to the service and changed how we handled some other things (like, the honors). So, we did a number of things well – and I'm extremely happy with that response.

Again, most of the responses were positive – but I have to agree that while Kol Nidre on the cello was awesome with our CKI youth carrying in the Torahs. It set an amazing tone for the evening – but it did go on a bit too long. OK, it seemed like it went on forever - but it was really cool.

So, as we move forward with planning for next year, we'll be looking at how we can "keep the good things" and grow or change other areas.

Dan Knopoff, CKI Ritual Chair
cki.ritual@gmail.com

From the Torah School

Shalom! I hope everyone is staying warm and dreaming of dreidels!

This month at our teachers' meeting we studied as a group as we always do. This was the portion we discussed. It was from Pirkei Avot, Chapter 2, verse 4 which states, "Hillel said: do not separate yourself from the community. Do not trust in yourself until the day of your death. Do not judge your fellow man until you have reached his place. Do not say something that cannot be understood, [trusting] that in the end it will be understood. Say not: 'when I shall have leisure, I shall study;' perhaps you will not have leisure."

What does this mean? How does it apply to a new decade? How does this apply to people of all ages? The teachers had some different thoughts that I had never considered. I had always considered "don't separate yourself from the community" as meaning always be involved in the Jewish community. Belong to a synagogue, have a circle of Jewish friends, follow the Jewish calendar, continue to study, etc. However, one teacher said, "Perhaps it means to be involved in the greater community. Be involved where you live. Get out. Experience the greater community!"

That was what we did in November and December. In November, as a Torah School Community, we got out, talked to the manager of Jewel in Elgin, purchased food for the Community Crisis Center, and donated it. We were part of our Torah School Community and we did something for the greater Elgin community.

In December, we celebrated Hanukkah as a Torah School Community with our Fried Food Fest and dedication of the sensory room. Then in the early evening, families as a group went to the Morton Arboretum to experience "Illumination." Illumination is an event where trees are lit up. Since Hanukkah is the festival of lights, and trees are so important in Judaism, it was nice to see the trees illuminated. As a group, we walked to see the lights and sang songs about trees and songs about fire as we gathered around the fire. We were one community together in another community. It was such a unique group experience.

On February 9th, we will be having a family pizza and bowling event after Torah School. More information will be out shortly!

In looking back at the Pirkei Avot quote, I'd say we are trying our best to not separate ourselves from the community.

Stay warm,

Heather

ILLUMINATION
TREE LIGHTS AT THE MORTON ARBORETUM

Chanukah Parody

By Earl Sternfeld
(With apologies to George Wyle and Edward Pola)

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year
With Chanukah gift-buying,
And latkes are frying, and time for good cheer;
It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

It's the Hap-Happiest season of all!
The dreidles are spinning,
And candles are dripping, and friends come to call;
It's the Hap-Happiest season of all!

There will be parties for hosting,
Kosher marshmallows for toasting,
And candles that give off a glow.
There will be tales of the oil,
And Maccabees foil the enemies of long, long ago!

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!
For eight days and nights
Celebrate with delight that our Holiday's here!
It's the Most Wonderful Time,
(Oy, I can't think of a rhyme!)
It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Happy Chanukah to all, and to all, a good light!

Jewish Film Festival

April 18 & 19, 2020

This year co-sponsored by CKI, Gail Borden Library, and The Chicago JCCs.

Thank you!

To all our intrepid Christmas Eve Soup Kettle volunteers

Have you noticed the "Tree of Life" in our social hall with the bronze leaves and rocks?

This has been a major CKI fundraiser since the 1960's and is a meaningful way to memorialize AND honor those in our congregation - while also raising needed funds for our synagogue.

For $100 per leaf or $1,000 per rock you can honor a teacher or special mentor, acknowledge the birth of a new baby, celebrate a birthday, wedding, anniversary, *bar/bat mitzvah*, or give as a *Hanukkah* gift.

Of course this is also a perfect way to memorialize the loved ones we have lost.

To make this fundraiser even more affordable, consider 'chipping in' with other congregants to purchase a leaf or rock. Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for installation.

Take note that the prices will be going up in February, so if you're planning to make a purchase **DO IT NOW.**

As of February 1, 2020, the prices will increase to $125 per leaf and $1,250 per rock.

HOW TO ORDER:

Go to our CKI homepage and click on the link under the 'Tree of Life' photo.

It will give you the option to either **DOWNLOAD** an order form to fill out and mail in with your check, or you can easily place your order **ONLINE**.

Thanks so much in advance for your support and helping us continue this meaningful tradition at CKI!

Robin Seigle, *CKI Fundraising Chair*
Email: robin.seigle@gmail.com or call: 847.426.8426

FUNDABILITY... THE EASIEST CONTRIBUTION TO CKI YOU WILL EVER MAKE!

GROCERY/DRUG STORES

Albertson's (Jewel/Osco) (4%)	$25	___	$100	___
CVS Pharmacy Debit Card (6%)	$25	___		
Walgreens Debit Card (6%)	$25	___	$100	___
Whole Foods Market (3%)	$25	___		

MISCELLANEOUS

Amoco/BP (1.5%)	$50	___		
Exxon/Mobil Debit Card (1%)	$50	___		
Shell Debit Card (2.5%)	$25	___	$50	___
Marathon Gas (3%)	$25	___	$100	___
SpeedWay (4%)	$25	___	$100	___

RETAILERS

Ace Hardware Debit Card (4%)	$25	___		
Aeropostale (7%)	$25	___		
Amazon.com (3%)	$25	___		
Americal Eagle Outfiters (10%)	$25	___		
Barnes & Noble Debit Card (9%)	$10	___	$25	___
Bath & Body Works (13%)	$10	___	$25	___
Banana Republic Debit Card (14%)	$25	___		
Bed Bath & Beyond Debit (7%)	$25	___		
Best Buy Debit Card (3%)	$25	___	$100	___
Claire's (9%)	$10	___		
Crate and Barrel (8%)	$25	___	$100	___
Eddie Bauer (10%)	$25	___		
Express Debit Card (10%)	$25	___		
Foot Locker (9%)	$25	___		
Groupon (9%)	$25	___		
Gymboree (13%)	$25	___		
Harry & David (10%)	$25	___		
Home Depot Debit Card (4%)	$25	___	$100	___
Jo-Ann Fabric Debit Card (8%)*	$20	___		
iTunes (5%)	$15	___		
Kids/Toys/Babies R Us (1.5%)	$20	___		

RETAILERS (CONT)

LL Bean (16%)	$25	___		
Lands' End (16%)	$25	___		
Lane Bryant (6%)	$25	___		
Limited (9%)	$25	___		
Lord & Taylor (8%)	$25	___		
Lowe's Home Improve (4%)	$25	___	$100	___
Macy's (10%)	$25	___	$100	___
Marshalls/TJ Maxx (7%)	$10	___	$25	___
Meijer (3%)	$25	___	$100	___
Menards (3%)*	$25	___	$100	___
Men's Warehouse (8%)	$25	___		
Michaels (4%)	$25	___		
Office Depot Debit Card (4%)	$25	___		
Office Max Debit Card (5%)	$25	___		
Old Navy/GAP Debit Card (14%)	$25	___		
Pier 1 Imports Debit Card (9%)	$25	___		
Pottery Barn (8%)	$25	___		
Restoration Hdwr Debit Card (12%)	$25	___		
Staples Debit Card (5%)	$25	___		
Talbots (13%)	$25	___		
Target (2.5%)	$25	___	$100	___
Williams-Sonoma (8%)	$25	___		
Wal-Mart (2.5%)	$25	___		
Zappos.com (8%)	$25	___		

DEPARTMENT STORES

Cabela's (11%)	$25	___		
Dick's (8%)*	$25	___	$100	___
JC Penney Debit Card (5%)	$25	___	$100	___
Kohl's (4%)	$25	___	$100	___
K-Mart Debit Card (4%)	$25	___		
MC Sports (8%)	$25	___		
Sears Debit Card (4%)	$25	___		
Sports Authority Debit Card (8%)	$25	___		

RESTAURANTS

Applebee's Debit Card (8%)	$25	___
Arby's (8%)	$10	___
Bahama Breeze Debit Card (9%)	$25	___
BoneFish Grill (8%)	$25	___
Boston Market Debit Card (12%)	$10	___
Bubba Gump (9%)	$25	___
Buffalo Wild Wings (8%)	$10	___
Burger King (4%)	$10	___
California Pizza Kitchen (4%)	$10	___
Cheesecake Factory (5%)	$25	___
Chevys (8%)	$25	___
Chili's Debit Card (11%)	$25	___
Chipotle Mexican Grill (10%)	$10	___
Claim Jumpers (9%)	$25	___
Cold Stone Creamery (8%)	$10	___
Dave & Busters (13%)	$25	___
Denny's (7%)	$10	___
Einstein Bros Bagels (10%)	$10	___
Jamba Juice (7%)	$10	___
Kentucky Fried Chicken (8%)	$5	___
Lettuce Entertain You (12%)	$25	___
Lou Malnati's (8%)	$10	___
Macaroni Grill Debit Card (11%)	$25	___
Maggiano's Debit Card (11%)	$25	___
Olive Garden Debit Card (9%)	$25	___
Outback Steakhouse (8%)	$25	___
Panera Bread (9%)	$10	___
Pizza Hut (8%)	$10	___
Rainforest Cafe (9%)	$25	___
Red Robin (9%)	$25	___
Smashburger (10%)	$10	___
Starbucks Debit Card (7%)	$25	___
Steak 'n Shake (8%)	$10	___
Subway (3%)	$10	___
Sweet Tomatoes (8%)	$25	___
TGI Fridays (9%)	$10	___
Wendy's (4%)		

See our Website (ckielgin.org) for a complete listing of all available retailers.

Note: * = No Change

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO :
Congregation Kneseth Israel
(Please do not abbreviate)
Orders due by the 10th of the month

TOTAL SALE _____
TOTAL CERTIFICATES _____

Name:_____

CONGREGATION KNESETH ISRAEL
330 Division Street, Elgin, Illinois 60120-5685

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Elgin, Illinois
60120-5685

Building Community
Embracing Diversity
Meaningful Observance
Lifelong Learning

Return Service Requested

January 2020

Shabbat Services: Fridays at 7:30 PM, Saturdays at 9:30 AM

January 1	Office Closed		January 15	Adult Intermediate Hebrew	5:30 pm
January 3	Musical Shabbat Service	7:30 pm	January 17	Pick Up Fundability Certificates	
January 4	Shabbat Service	9:30 am		Musical Shabbat Service	7:30 pm
January 5	No Hebrew – Torah School		January 18	Shabbat Service	9:30 am
January 6	Men's Club Dinner	6:30 pm	January 19	Hebrew - Torah School	9:00 am
January 7	Wise Aging Class	1:30 pm	January 21	Wise Aging	1:30 pm
	Hebrew Coaching	4:15 pm		Hebrew Coaching	4:15 pm
	Calendar Meeting	5:00 pm		CKI Book Club	7:00 pm
January 8	Hebrew Coaching	4:30 pm	January 22	Hebrew Coaching	4:30 pm
	Adult Intermediate Hebrew	5:30 pm		Adult Intermediate Hebrew	5:30 pm
January 10	Order Fundability Certificates		January 24	Shabbat Service	7:30 pm
	Shabbat Service	7:30 pm	January 25	Shabbat Service	9:30 am
January 11	Shabbat Service	9:30 am	January 26	Hebrew – Torah School	9:00 am
January 12	Hebrew – Torah School	9:00 am		Rosh Hodesh Challah	11:30 am
January 14	Java & Jews	8:00 am	January 28	Wise Aging	1:30 pm
	Java & Jews	11:30 am		Hebrew Coaching	4:15 pm
	Wise Aging	1:30 pm	January 29	Hebrew Coaching	4:30 pm
	Hebrew Coaching	4:15 pm		Adult Intermediate Hebrew	5:30 pm
January 15	Ha Kol Submissions		January 31	Shabbat Service	7:30 pm
	Hebrew Coaching	4:30 pm		Second Baptist Guests	7:30 pm