HAKOL הקול
The Voice of Congregation Kneseth Israel

January 2022

Tevet—Shevat

330 Division Street
Elgin, Illinois 60120
Ph: 847.741.5656
Fax: 847.741.5924

Established in 1892

CONGREGATION KNESETH ISRAEL

Lifelong Learning

Embracing Diversity

Building Community

Meaningful Observance

In this issue

- *Board Chairs 3*
- *Donations 4*
- *Birthdays 5*
- *Parashat 5*
- *Hadassah 6*
- *Yahrzeits 7*
- *Ritually Speaking 8*
- *Torah School 9*
- *Blood Drive 11*
- *Acts of Chesed 12*
- *Tree of Life Dove 13*
- *Calendar 15*

Save the Date

From the Rabbi's Study

Father Time. Old Man Time. A New Year, secular, but new, nonetheless. Time to hunker down, because it is winter. Time to try new things. Time to learn new things. Time to do a puzzle or read a book or try a new recipe. Time to plant. The seeds of our community garden will be planted indoors in January, just as we are celebrating Tu B'shevat, the new year of the trees.

In Pirke Avot we learn that Shamai used to say, "Make your study fixed" (Pirke Avot 1:15). He was referring to making study a fixed habit, a fixed time. We know that studying a foreign language, for instance, gets easier if you practice, much like practicing scales on a musical instrument or doing drills on the soccer field. That is why we should "fix our study of Torah," to keep those brain muscles sharp. It is also part of what enables us to participate in life-long learning, meaningful observance and building community.

We at CKI offer a number of options for learning something new.

continued on page 2

President's Message

130 years! Having been incorporated in 1892, CKI has now been officially serving the Elgin/Fox Valley community for an amazing 130 years. There are few organizations that survive that length of time, and I have to say CKI is doing much more than surviving; it is truly thriving and growing!

CKI is a place with something for EVERYONE, from the very young to the those who have genuinely experienced life! I have had the pleasure of popping in on Torah School. It is a joy to see our future leaders, from the adorable toddlers to the maturing pre-teens, preparing for their "B"- Mitzvahs. I love the camaraderie of the Shabbat "regulars" and always look forward to seeing who else will join us either in person or via Zoom. Whether it is Java & Jews, Torah Study, Hebrew class, or special programming, CKI is a treasure of knowledge and experience. What wonderful stories and sharing of philosophies. If you aren't already participating, please do and add to the richness.

Dick and Sue Johnson are coordinating our 130th Anniversary events, so if you have an idea, please share it with them.

continued on page 3

RABBI MARGARET FRISCH KLEIN
rabbi@ckielgin.org

ROBIN COYNE, President
robincoyne@outlook.com

HEATHER BAUMANN WEISER, Director of Education
cki.educator@gmail.com

PEG LEHMAN, Office Manager
cki@ckielgin.org

From the Rabbi's Study...

- There is the monthly **book group**. 10:30 AM on a Tuesday morning. January's book is *The Last Kings of Shanghai* on January 18th. Looks interesting!
- **Torah Study** on Thursday afternoons at 4:00 PM. We are just starting the book of Exodus. No prerequisites required.
- The **ADL** is coming in January to do their program **"The State of Hate"** at 4:00 PM on January 23rd. We are working out the details as of this writing.
- On Sunday mornings during Torah School, I will be teaching a three-part series on **"The Structure of the Siddur."** Join me Jan. 9, 23rd and 30th from 9:30 AM-10:30 AM in person or on Zoom, where I will explore the Friday night service and the Saturday morning service as presented in Sim Shalom. We'll talk structure, meaning and choreography. Come try to stump me with your questions. The last day we will talk about how to choose a siddur, prayerbook, for your own personal use.
- Currently we offer an **Intermediate Hebrew class**. They are finishing up a Biblical Hebrew primer. It has been a labor of love. Next up, **Alef Bet Hebrew for Adults**, 7:00 PM on Weds on Zoom. And a separate class in **Prayerbook Hebrew** will begin after the Intermediate Hebrew Class finishes their primer.
- Finally, I will offer **Introduction to Judaism** again. I do this about every 18 months or so. Don't feel you learned enough growing up? In an interfaith family and just want to know more? Interested in possible conversion? This class is for you! This is a 12-week class. Topics include Jewish History, Jewish Understandings of G-d, Torah and Other Jewish Books, Israel and Tikkun Olam, Lifecycle, Holidays, Celebrating in our Jewish Homes, Shabbat, Celebrating at CKI.
- Then there will be other offerings along the way. A possible cooking class. More movies. Tu B'shevat and Shmita, the 7th year, when the land lays fallow.

There is a time for everything and a time for study. There is also a time for celebrating. Our 2022 will be particularly enriched as we begin our celebrations of the 130th anniversary of CKI. We want to hear from you. What do you find meaningful about CKI? What do you want CKI to be in 5 years? 10 years? 130 years?

As part of Tu B'shevat we often tell the story of Honi, the Circle Drawer. He sees someone planting a carob tree. It will never bear fruit in his lifetime. He asks why someone would plant it. The answer is appropriate both for Tu B'shevat and for this celebration of 130 years. Just as my ancestors planted for me, so do I

plant for my children and grandchildren. Come plant for your children and grandchildren with us. That is part of your legacy.

—Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein

Zoom Hanukkah Celebration with Adult Intermediate Hebrew Class

To reach the Rabbi
please call her cell number:
978-590-8268.
If there is an illness in the family
or the loss of a loved one,
please call CKI @
847-741-5656
so that your CKI family can
contact you and be of help.

CKI BOARD MEMBERS

President – Robin Coyne
Immediate Past President – Risa Cohen
Executive Vice-President – (available)
VP Ritual —Gene Lindow
Treasurer – Charlie Neuman
Financial Secretary – Sandi Phelan
Recording Secretary – Barb Edelstein
VP of Education – Barb Razowsky

CKI COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

To contact, call CKI at 847-741-5656

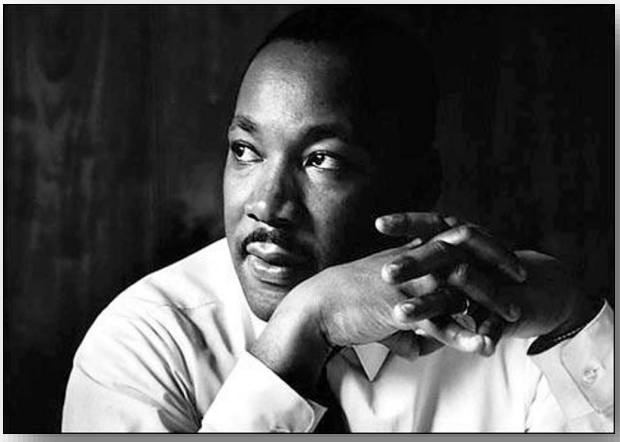
Tuesday, January 4th @ 9:00 am

On Zoom only. Check your email or contact Rabbi Margaret: rabbi@ckielgin.org for more information.

President's Message cont.

We want the events commemorating this mile-stone to be meaningful and memory making for EVERYONE! I wish you all a happy, HEALTHY, safe, and joyful 2022!

—Robin Coyne



CKI Office Hours

The CKI building is open, and
Peg is back in the office.
If you need to reach the office, please call 847-741-5656 during office hours, which are:
Monday—Friday:
10:30 AM – 3:30 PM

IMPORTANT REMINDER:
When writing a check, please make it payable to *Congregation Kneseth Israel*, NOT CKI as the bank does not recognize CKI. Please note in the memo line what the money is for. Thank you!

CKI Book Club Schedule 2021—2022

Date	Book	Author	Moderator	Time
September	No discussion			
October 19 (Tues.) Zoom	Hello Darkness My Old Friend	S. Greenberg	Deborah Arendt	10:30 am
November 16 (Tues.) Zoom	Florence Adler Swims Forever	R. Beanland	TBA	10:30 am
December 21 (Tues.) Zoom	The Light of Days	J. Batalion	Sue Johnson	10:30 am
January 18 (Tues.) Zoom	The Last Kings of Shanghai	J. Kaufman	Gareth Sitz	10:30 am
February 15 (Tues.) Zoom	The Adventures of the Peculiar Protocols	N. Meyer	Chuck Zimmerman	10:30 am
March 15 (Tues.) Zoom	Eternal	L. Scottoline	Judi Tepe	10:30 am
April 19 (Tues.) Zoom	The Lev Effect	S. Greene	Bob Protter	10:30 am
May 17 (Tues.) Zoom	The Nine	G. Strauss	Risa Cohen	10:30 am
June 21 (Tues.) Zoom	Sacred and Profane	F. Kellerman	Deborah Arendt	10:30 am
July 19 (Tues.) Zoom	Selection of new books			10:30 am

Generous Donations

GENERAL FUND

Donations

- Douglas Bakley
- Martin Andress
- Blossom Wohl
- Marc & Suzy Zemel

To Matt & Lacretia, in memory of Lucas Jacob Schwartz

- Helen Lindow
- Robin Coyne

To Jerry Niederman in honor of his becoming Asher Vincent's grandpa

- Robin Coyne

To Barb Razowsky in honor of her becoming VP of Education

- Robin Coyne

Raise the Roof Fund

- Ada Novak

In memory of Alvin Hass

- Lorelei Hass

In loving memory of Nancy Mariasis Ashcraft and Saul and Dora Mariasis

- Roy Ashcraft

In memory of Rhoda L. Frank, beloved cousin

- Suzanne Rubin

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Donation to cover Illumination ticket

- Chris & Jeanette Pacanowski

In memory of Kerric Tratt

- Earl & Debbie Sternfeld

CLARA WECHTER EDUCATION FUND

To Heather Weiser, in memory of Kerric

- Risa & Paul 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 Ed
- **General Fund** – For multi-purpose use
- **Jerome & Lillian Roth Scholarship Fund** See the President.
- **Memorial Plaques** – $300
- **CKI Youth Fund –** Supports 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** – Supports women's group's varous projects
- **Blossom Wohl Flower Fund** – Pulpit flowers
- **Sisterhood Vision Fund** – Large-type Siddur is $50
- **Tree of Life** – Leaf $125; Rock $1,250
- **Major Gifts** – $5,000 and up. See the President.

Parashat HaShavu'a: Weekly Torah Portions

Jan 1 *28 Tevet*	*Parashat Va'era*— Shemot 6:2-9:35
Jan 8 *6 Shevat*	*Parashat Bo*— Shemot 10:1-13:16
Jan 15 *13 Shevat*	*Parashat Beshallah* —Shemot 13:17-17:16
Jan 22 *20 Shevat*	*Parashat Yitro*— Shemot 18:1-20:22
Jan 29 *27 Shevat*	*Parashat Mishpatim*— Shemot 21:1-24:18

January Birthdays

Jesse Njus	Jan 3
Cathy Aron	Jan 4
Sarah Burker	Jan 5
Rylee Sheba	Jan 5
Anita Hornung	Jan 6
Sarah Elizabeth Klein	Jan 6
Riley Miller	Jan 7
Shivali Klionsky	Jan 8
Sabrina Rabin	Jan 8
Kathy Lange	Jan 12
Charlene Goldman	Jan 16
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
Eugene Klionsky	Jan 27

January Anniversaries

Charlie & Helen Neuman	Jan 1

Click the button to find us on Facebook

Click the button to Donate or Pay Your Dues

WANTED!

School parents who would like to help with the gift shop while your child/children are in school!

Don't want to do it every Sunday? No problem! Have a friend join you and take turns, or just commit to whatever works for you (such as the 1st Sunday of every month).

It is an easy and great way of getting to know other people, raising money for CKI, and providing a service to our community. Besides, you will get to see all the new merchandise first!! If interested, simply email Tina at ewolf59@comcast.net

Study Links Blood Glucose Levels to Risk for Serious Case of COVID 19

Nondiabetic individuals with high blood glucose levels after fasting who contract COVID-19 are at higher risk for developing a serious case of the disease, according to a collaborative study conducted by the Jerusalem College of Technology, Hadassah Medical Organization, Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine and the Israeli health fund Meuhedet.

Further, the study revealed that the higher the glucose values, the greater the risk of severe COVID-19. People with glucose values of 125-140 mg/dl were twice as likely to develop COVID-19 complications than patients with glucose values less than 105. The standard blood glucose level for an adult is between 70-100 mg/dL, after having fasted at least eight hours.

For diabetics who contract COVID-19, the risks are different: the highest risk (one in four) for having a serious case of COVID-19 is among those with low blood glucose levels—that is, below 80 mg/dl.

Dr. Orit Bernholtz-Gulchin, head of the Meuhedet regional diabetes clinic, notes that the study findings should alert the medical community to place emphasis on preventing hypoglycemia, where blood glucose levels drop radically from the norm.

At the same time, the lowest risk for diabetics to develop a serious case of COVID-19 (1 in 12) was when their blood glucose level was between 106–125 mg/dl. The risk then increased with levels above 125mg/dl.

Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine Prof. Ora Paltiel comments, “The study shows very strongly how much can be learned from quality and continuous medical recording, such as we have in the Israeli health care system.”

The authors conclude, “Elevated pre-infection blood glucose is a risk factor for severe COVID-19, even in non-diabetics. For patients with a diagnosis of diabetes, both high as well as low pre-infection glucose levels are risk factors for severe COVID-19. Further research is required to assess whether these associations are causal, but we believe these findings can already have clinical implications for COVID-19 risk assessment and stratification."

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 January. ***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
Mandel Bochner*	Jan 8	Jan 7 & 8	Isadore Ginsberg*	Jan 23	Jan 21 & 22
Sarah Seltzer Frisch*	Jan 8	Jan 7 & 8	Yetta Haft	Jan 23	Jan 21 & 22
Edythe Kadin	Jan 10	Jan 7 & 8	Betty Hillman	Jan 23	Jan 21 & 22
Lillian Ruth Seigle Roth*	Jan 10	Jan 7 & 8	Harlan Levin	Jan 23	Jan 21 & 22
Lillian Bloomberg	Jan 11	Jan 7 & 8	Harold Modes	Jan 23	Jan 21 & 22
Bernie Miller	Jan 11	Jan 7 & 8	Sophie Kaplan*	Jan 24	Jan 21 & 22
Emil Arendt	Jan 12	Jan 7 & 8	Anna Perlman*	Jan 24	Jan 21 & 22
Louis Gordon*	Jan 12	Jan 7 & 8	Jerome Arendt	Jan 25	Jan 21 & 22
Theresa Silber	Jan 12	Jan 7 & 8	Marion Weiser Belgrad	Jan 25	Jan 21 & 22
Max Smith	Jan 12	Jan 7 & 8	Barbara Parrello	Jan 25	Jan 21 & 22
Minnie Barnett Gordon	Jan 14	Jan 7 & 8	Ken Weiser	Jan 26	Jan 21 & 22
Sam M. Becker*	Jan 14	Jan 7 & 8	John Joseph Harrington	Jan 27	Jan 21 & 22
Nathan Cohen*	Jan 14	Jan 7 & 8	Sara Mehr	Jan 27	Jan 21 & 22
Sonja Duke	Jan 14	Jan 7 & 8	Morris Agins	Jan 28	Jan 21 & 22
Herman Garson	Jan 14	Jan 7 & 8	Sanford J. Zemel*	Jan 28	Jan 21 & 22
Martin Kornstein*	Jan 14	Jan 7 & 8	Benjamin Garland	Jan 29	Jan 28 & 29
Elina Cortes	Jan 16	Jan 14 & 15	Max Kahn	Jan 29	Jan 28 & 29
Lester Fischer*	Jan 16	Jan 14 & 15	Henry Schillmoeller	Jan 29	Jan 28 & 29
Anna Newmark Gombiner*	Jan 16	Jan 14 & 15	Philip Sternfeld	Jan 29	Jan 28 & 29
Frank Lindow*	Jan 16	Jan 14 & 15	Suzanne Greenfield	Jan 30	Jan 28 & 29
Ada Pannenbaum	Jan 16	Jan 14 & 15	Israel Hymovitz*	Jan 31	Jan 28 & 29
Betty David*	Jan 18	Jan 14 & 15	Faye Ginsberg Korn*	Jan 31	Jan 28 & 29
Yuddy Wolfinsohn	Jan 18	Jan 14 & 15	Joseph Fishman	Feb 1	Jan 28 & 29
Yuval Berger	Jan 19	Jan 14 & 15	Sheldon Franks*	Feb 1	Jan 28 & 29
Beverly Iseberg	Jan 19	Jan 14 & 15	Marion Bromberg	Feb 2	Jan 28 & 29
Joy Jacobson	Jan 19	Jan 14 & 15	Jerome Roth	Feb 2	Jan 28 & 29
LeRoy Liss	Jan 19	Jan 14 & 15	Lillian Nitzberg	Feb 3	Jan 28 & 29
Sidney Slutsky	Jan 19	Jan 14 & 15	Leonard Abraham Plotzker	Feb 3	Jan 28 & 29
Geraldine Bonner	Jan 20	Jan 14 & 15	Philip Turek*	Feb 3	Jan 28 & 29
Mildred Lipofsky*	Jan 22	Jan 21 & 22	Sylvia Zimmerman*	Feb 3	Jan 28 & 29
Marian Ginsberg Loeb	Jan 22	Jan 21 & 22	Barbara Sharf*	Feb 4	Jan 28 & 29

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 7	4:19 pm	Sat Jan 8	5:29 pm
Fri Jan 14	4:27 pm	Sat Jan 15	5:37 pm
Fri Jan 21	4:35 pm	Sat Jan 22	5:45 pm
Fri Jan 28	4:44 pm	Sat Jan 29	5:54 pm

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

Ritually Speaking

TEN COMMANDMENTS

On January 22 we will read parashat Yitro which contains the revelation at Mount Sinai. The aseret hadibberot is usually called **"the 10 commandments,**" but the Hebrew phrase actually means, **"The 10 pronouncements.**" These pronouncements are phrased as absolutes, with the repeated phrase, **"YOU SHALL NOT,"** because to engage in these actions is wrong in the eyes of the Lord. I have had the honor of interacting & praying with Native Americans on the Cheyenne reservation in Montana. It was a wonderful, life-enlightening experience that continues to impact me and my decisions. Native Americans have their own "Ten Commandments," and I would like to share them with you along with ours for comparison. I truly believe in the ten commandments, but find that the Native American's commandments are very thought provoking and have the same desire---to be the best person you can be for yourself and for all you meet.

1. I am the Lord who brought you out of Egypt ….You shall worship only Me.
2. You shall not make a graven image; Do not bow down or serve them.
3. You shall not use the name of the Lord your God in vain (take a false oath).
4. Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father & mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet…..neighbor's wife, field, servant or belongings.

1. The earth is our Mother; care for her.
2 Honor all your relations.
3. Open your heart and soul to the Great Spirit.
4. All life is sacred, treat all beings with respect.
5. Take from the earth what is needed & nothing more.
6. Do what needs to be done for the good of all.
7. Give constant thanks to the Great Spirit for each day.
8. Speak the truth but only for the good in others.
9. Follow the rhythms of nature.
10. Enjoy life's journey, but leave no tracks.

May the start of 2022 bless you with health, happiness, compassion, and empathy. And may you truly accept that you and your actions can make a difference for everyone whom you encounter. To paraphrase Isaiah**—"Be a light upon the nations."**

Gene Lindow
CKI Ritual Chair
cki.ritual@gmail.com

From the Torah School

Shalom-

In Pirkei Avot Chapter 1, verse 2, it states, "Shimon the Righteous was from the remnants of the Great Assembly. He would say, 'On three things the world stands: on the Torah, on the service and on acts of loving-kindness.'"

What does this mean? How do we take this and apply it to our lives right now? As we continue to figure life out during the COVID 19 pandemic, how do we take a piece of text and apply it?

Maimonides, a 12th-century Jewish scholar, invented the following ladder of giving. Each rung up represents a higher degree of virtue:

1. The lowest: Giving begrudgingly and making the recipient feel disgraced or embarrassed.
2. Giving cheerfully but giving too little.
3. Giving cheerfully and adequately but only after being asked.
4. Giving before being asked.
5. Giving when you do not know who is the individual benefiting, but the recipient knows your identity.
6. Giving when you know who is the individual benefiting, but the recipient does not know your identity.
7. Giving when neither the donor nor the recipient is aware of the other's identity.
8. The highest: Giving money, a loan, your time or whatever else it takes to enable an individual to be self-reliant.

In December we had our first Super Science Sunday. Who knew Hanukkah had so much science involved? There was making candles out of oil, learning about light and prisms, tasting different types of oil, learning about the colors in a flame, and even making an LED battery-powered menorah. It was a challenging day of working together and learning together!

Tu B'shevat is quickly approaching, which means that somewhere spring is near!

Creating an LED menorah

B'Shalom,

~Heather

Oil tasting

Lifelong Learning at CKI

Sunday

Torah School 9-11 AM

Structure of the Siddur, Jan 9, 23, 30, 9:30-10:30 AM, Hybrid

Tuesday

Java and Jews, First Tuesday of the Month, 9:00 AM on Zoom

Book Group, usually 3rd Tuesday of the Month, 10:30 AM

Wednesday

Intermediate Hebrew, 5:30 PM, on Zoom

Alef Bet Hebrew, 7:00 PM, on Zoom

Thursday

Torah Study, 4:00 PM

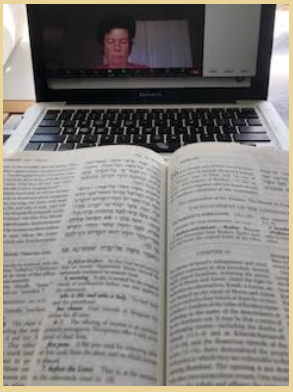
Introduction to Judaism, 7:00 PM

Friday

Kabbalat Shabbat, 5:30 PM, Hybrid

Saturday

Shabbat Morning Services, 9:30 AM, Hybrid



Blood For Benjamin Community Blood Drive

Baby Benji is an adventurous one year old from Elgin, a member of Congregation Kneseth Israel, who was diagnosed with leukemia in the Summer of 2021. He is currently a patient at Lurie Children's Hospital undergoing a bone marrow/stem cell transplant, Because of all that, Benji has needed at least 21 blood transfusions and will need more as his treatment continues.

Sunday January 2

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

Drive sponsored by Congregation Kneseth Israel
330 Division St. Elgin, IL.
Blood Drive will be held in Social Hall.

To schedule an appointment scan the QR code below or use link bit.ly/GiveBenji or call (800) 7TO-GIVE or go to www.versiti.org/IL

You DO NOT NEED the COVID-19 vaccine in order to donate. You are also eligible to donate if you received a COVID-19 vaccine on or before 12/30/2021.

Each donor will receive a $10 egift card as a thank you for their donation.

Each Donation Saves and Impacts 3 Lives!

NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH 2021

versiti™ Blood Centers

ACTS OF CHESED

Thank you to those who have pitched in to make CKI warm and welcoming (and safe). Many times, things are done very quietly and anonymously, so if you did something that isn't acknowledged, know that your deed was greatly appreciated, we just weren't aware that you did it –

Elijah Morgan, Mike Castro & Matt Trygar – Helping out with Torah School Science Sunday. You were a great help! Thanks to James & Kara for teaching Elijah to be so skilled with electronics.

Eugene Klionsky, Barbara Njus, Simon Klein, Karen Bender and Chevy Marchovsky - Sharing their stories and recipes for Hanukkah Homecoming. Truly enriching!

Earl Sternfeld - Organizing the Hadassah Hanukkah party. So joyful!

Barbara Razowsky - Organizing the Soup Kettles. A true mitzvah!

The Berger Family – Treating Torah School to adorable, yummy goodie bags. A delight!

Dan Marshall – Helping to get the HVAC system working efficiently. Crucial help!

Judi & Vern Tepe, the Morgan Family, Rabbi Margaret , Dick & Sue Johnson & Barb Razowsky - Helping out with the Soup Kettle November 30th. It was especially festive with Kara leading the lighting of the menorah for Hanukkah. A bright and cheery event!

JudiTepe, Simon Klein, Robin Coyne, Jay Garland & Rebecca Ralston– Helping out with the Soup Kettle at the Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren on December 25th. Heart-warming action.

Robin Seigle & Liza Bachrach—Creating a flyer announcing a new opportunity to donate a dove for our Tree of Life. Exciting fundraising development!

Robin Coyne—Donation of a space heater/cooler/purifier for the CKI office. Much appreciated by staff!

Soup Kettle News

Thanks to **Sue and Dick Johnson, Judi and Vern Tepe and Kara, James, Elijah and Ezra Morgan** for cooking, cleaning, packing and serving our November Soup Kettle dinner. Once again, the Soup Kettle was curbside pick up. Lots of laughter along with the cooking.

Judi Tepe volunteered to be in charge of the CKI March and May 5th-Tuesday-of-the-month Soup Kettle. We will be looking for volunteers to help at those dinners.

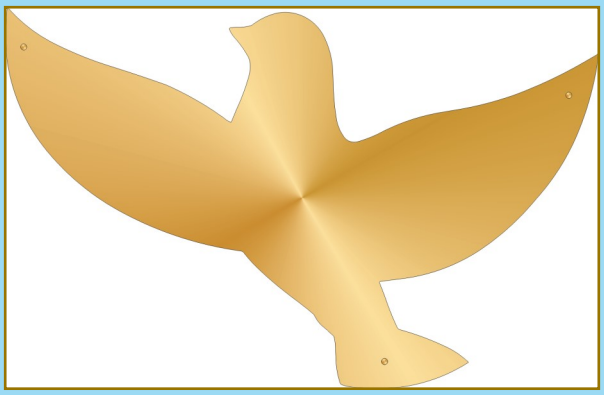
See you in the Spring!

~Barb Razowsky

Elijah

PURCHASE A LEAF
DOVE OR ROCK
FOR THE TREE OF LIFE

Order online at ckielgin.org



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

In the past we have offered two choices, leaves or rocks, but we now have a NEW option, which is a DOVE! The prices are as follows: $125 to purchase a leaf, $500 for a DOVE or $1,250 for a rock. You can honor a teacher or mentor, acknowledge the birth of a baby, celebrate a birthday, wedding, anniversary, bar/bat mitzvah or give as a Hanukkah gift. Of course, this is also the perfect way to memorialize the loved ones we have lost. To make this fundraiser even more affordable, consider "chipping in" with other members to purchase a leaf, dove or rock.

You can order online at ckielgin.org or print a form off the CKI website and mail it to the synagogue. Please allow 6 - 8 weeks for installation.

Thanks so much in advance for your support and allowing us to continue this meaningful tradition. Help us make a difference at CKI with your generous contribution to our Tree of Life.

~Robin Seigle, CKI Fundraising Chair
e-mail robin.seigle@gmail.com, or call 847.426.8426

Rosh Hashanah 5782—
A Time to Plant and a Time to Reap

Thank you for this opportunity to say a few words. Today's theme is a Time to Plant and a Time to Reap. I'm sure I was selected because along with Robin I tend the CKI vegetable garden. All of our harvest is donated to the church across the street and used to feed those less fortunate. Occasionally a squirrel would steal a tomato and leave it half eaten in the parking lot which frustrated me. But, as Robin reminds me, "Squirrels are G-D's creatures too."

I grew up in West Rogers Park in a Conservative congregation. My family wasn't overly religious but we were Jewish. We observed the holidays, Dad made gefilte fish for Rosh Hashanah and Passover. We helped my mother's uncles convert their house to Kosher for Passover and had the big family seder. I asked the Four Questions until I was 38. Like most kids in the religion school, I absorbed all the Hebrew lessons and Torah lessons and participated in the holidays. I was Bar Mitzvah'd, finished the year and only went back on the High Holidays.

I married outside the faith, moved to the suburbs but continued to schlep to High Holiday services in the city with my parents. Every year the rabbi's sermon included a piece on how interfaith marriage was destroying Judaism. With that and my first daughter getting to Sunday School age, I decided it was time to get my own temple membership. I felt that the only choice was a Reform temple because, obviously the Conservatives didn't want me or my kids.

I joined a Reform temple in the area. My first introduction to the temple was monthly interfaith discussion groups that included a same-sex couple. I appreciated that and thought that never would have happened at the old place. However, I was never fully comfortable with Shabbat and High Holiday services. I mean, how can a Rosh Hashanah service be done in under 4 hours? There was a lot of music and instruments, and I thought that never would have happened at the old place. I stayed at that temple for about 20 years while my kids were attending because, for the most part, they were comfortable and accepted.

After my daughters no longer attended religion school and weren't involved in temple life, and I was divorced so the Catholic wife wasn't an issue, I decided to find another temple. I thought about what was important to me. Religiously I wanted the old school melodies, the Saturday morning Torah reading, full blown High Holidays, the formality I was used to when I was a kid. Politically, I was looking for something more liberal. Somewhere that accepts interfaith, that allows women to have leadership roles and is involved in the community, not just the Jewish community.

I found my way to CKI and tried out a Friday night. Now one of the reasons I left my last temple was too much music. My first Friday with CKI was with Stew and the Crew. After the service Rabbi Margaret assured me the musical Shabbats were a once a month thing. I tried a couple more Fridays and Saturday mornings. I enjoyed the more informal Friday night services in the library. I look forward to the day we can get back to those. And now I like Stew and the Crew. I enjoy the more formal Saturday morning Shabbats in the sanctuary. I help tend the garden. I have helped feed the homeless at one of the local churches, and I helped grill hot dogs at National Night Out. In CKI I found the formal Judaism of my youth and the liberal beliefs I acquired over the years. I look forward to many more years and more activities with CKI.

I want to close by wishing everyone an easy fast. A happy, healthy and safe new year. And, just enough to kvetch about.

~Jerry Niederman

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

Building Community
Embracing Diversity
Meaningful Observance
Lifelong Learning

Return Service Requested

January 2022

Shabbat Services: Fridays @ 5:30 PM, Saturdays @ 9:30 AM

Jan 1	Shabbat Service Zoom only	9:30 AM	Jan 17	Office Closed for MLK Observance	
Jan 2	No Torah School		Jan 18	CKI Book Club	10:30 AM
Jan 2	CKI Blood Drive	9:00 AM	Jan 19	Adult Intermediate Hebrew	5:30 PM
Jan 4	Java & Jews Zoom Only	9:00 AM		Alef Bet Hebrew Class	7:00 PM
Jan 5	Adult Intermediate Hebew	5:30 PM	Jan 20	Torah Study	4:00 PM
Jan 6	Torah Study	4:00 PM		Intro to Judaism	7:00 PM
	Intro to Judaism	7:00 PM	Jan 21	Shabbat Zimrah Service regis. in person & Zoom	5:30 PM
Jan 7	Shabbat Service registered in person & Zoom	5:30 PM	Jan 22	Shabbat service registered in person & Zoom	9:30 AM
Jan 8	Shabbat Service registered in person & Zoom	9:30 AM	Jan 23	Torah School	9:00 AM
Jan 9	Torah School	9:00 AM		Structure of the Siddur Class	9:30 AM
	Structure of the Siddur Class	9:30 AM		ADL The State of Hate Presentation	4:00 PM
Jan 11	CKI Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Jan 26	Adult Intermediate Hebrew	5:30 PM
Jan 12	Adult Intermediate Hebew	5:30 PM		Alef Bet Hebrew Class	7:00 PM
	Alef Bet Hebrew Class	7:00 PM	Jan 27	Torah Study	4:00 PM
Jan 13	Torah Study	4:00 PM		Intro to Judaism	7:00 PM
	Intro to Judaism	7:00 PM	Jan 28	Shabbat service registered in person & Zoom	5:30 PM
Jan 14	Shabbat Service registered in person & Zoom	5:30 PM	Jan 29	Shabbat service registered in person & Zoom	9:30 PM
Jan 15	Shabbat Service registered in person & Zoom	9:30 AM	Jan 30	Torah School	9:00 AM
Jan 16	Ha Kol Submissions Due			Structure of the Siddur Class	9:30 AM
	Torah School - Tu B'Shevat	9:00 AM		Hadassah: Toyko Summer Olympics 2020	4:00 PM