

Kol Kneseth Israel

"The Voice of Kneseth Israel"



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Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at CKI

CKI is honored this year to host the Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Elgin Coalition of Religious Leaders.

Rabbi Kohn has been working with pastors **Beth Lawniczak** and **Denise Tracy** to create a Thanksgiving program that is both moving and meaningful to Americans of all faiths.

Congregants and parishioners of all our neighboring houses of worship will join us in the CKI Sanctuary to give thanks on **Sunday, November 19th, at 7 pm.** *Tsedaka* donations of cash and/or non-perishable food items (both kosher and non-kosher) are requested.

Each year the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service serves as a heartfelt reminder of how many things in our lives we should appreciate. As CKI has this opportunity to host this special event, every member, family and friend should find a way to participate.

Please join our celebration when the City of Elgin comes to *Shul*, and "our house is called a house of prayer for all people." (Isaiah 56:7).

In this Issue

Rabbi	2
Torah School	3
Sisterhood	4
Parashat	6
Social Action	9
USY/Kadima	9
Birthdays	10
Men's Club	11
Yahrtzeiten	12
Donations	13
Marketplace	14
Calendar	Back





Hope!

That's something we carry with us every day. Usually, it's pretty low-profile, but every now and then it rises to the surface and whispers, "Remember me. I'm still here." **It's unthinkable to live without hope.**

And during the holidays, we think of our life and pray and hope.

We hope for health, happiness, and sweetness for ourselves and our families. We hope for peace in the world. We hope for quick resolutions to all the problems that face us. We hope for fun and laughter. We hope for success. We hope our children will do well. We hope for love. We hope God will continue to bless us with goodness.

With that thought and this exquisite metaphor from one of my favorite poets, Emily Dickinson:

"Hope" is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the time
 without the words –
And never stops – at all...
I've heard it in the chilliest land –
And on the strangest Sea –
Yet, never, in Extremity,
It asked a crumb – of Me.

...and a prompt from Leslie Weiss at CFJE, I was inspired to create our own CKI TORAH SCHOOL HOPE CHAIN.

So I gave the children in school a large white envelope which included sheets of construction paper, a pattern for making links in the hope chain, and these instructions:

"On *Rosh Hashanah* we gather in the synagogue to do some hard thinking about how we spent our past year and how we can do better – for ourselves, our families, and the whole world.

"As a family, I'd like you to talk about your hopes for the new year. After you decide what each person hopes for in 5767, write that hope on one of the "links" to the chain. Then make a circle out of the "link" so that the hope is showing and attach the circles so they make your own small 'hope chain.'

"Here are some examples to get you started. I'm sure you will come up with more than these.

"Hope to be a better sister/brother, hope to help out in the house with chores, hope for health, hope to spend more time together, hope for peace, hope for clean air, hope to be a kinder sibling/ parent, etc.

"Bring your chain with you to school next Sunday, and we will join all the small personal chains together to make one large 'HOPE CHAIN' for CKI.

"Work on this together as a family so there will be at least one HOPE for each person." (Many children and adults wrote more than one.)

And here's a random sampling of the heart-warming hopes written on the links that create our chain:

- I hope I can set a good example.
- I hope I get a cool teacher.
- I hope to be a pro baseball player.
- I hope for peace in the world.
- I hope we get a new fish.
- I hope to be more caring of others.
- I hope to keep our Earth clean.
- I hope for goodness in Israel.
- I hope to do good in school.
- I hope my family gets a good night's sleep.
- I hope my children get a good education.
- I hope to listen more.
- I hope my Aunt _____ feels better.
- I hope my parents live for a long time.
- I hope to give more hugs.
- I hope my son makes a lot of new friends this year.
- I hope to hold my baby brother.
- I hope to play outside.
- I hope to have more patience with my children
- I hope to be a better sister.
- I hope for a mild winter.
- I hope my brother quits smoking.

This overwhelming chain was supposed to decorate our *sukkah*. However, the weather was uncooperative. So, instead, it now decorates the Social Hall. This chain is a symbol of the hopes that "perch in our soul" and "never stop at all."

Think about it. What a great "link" this chain is for us as we come off of the High Holidays and continue through our daily routines. This "link" reminds us that we can change and that we can be better. Our hopes are pillars in our life. They give us strength, commitment, direction, and heart!

As *Torah School* continues, I HOPE that all of you participate with us and take advantage of the vitality and energy that emanate from our children. I HOPE that all of you continue to support our efforts by bringing strong Jewish education to your home and life. I HOPE that *Torah School* stays a positive and exhilarating experience for everyone.



Coming up this month: Junior Congregation and Tot *Shabbat* on the 11th, Family Services celebrating *Gimel* class on the 17th, Confirmation Class on the 6th and 20th, Thanksgiving recess from the 22nd through the 26th. And don't forget New Member *Shabbat* on Friday evening the 3rd.

Also, on Sunday morning, November 12, at 10:30, **Dr. Roddy Frankel** presents a program for adults called "How Do Jews Navigate the Politics of Israel?"

The *Talmud* says, "Where there is life there is hope." There is life in *Torah School*, and there is hope in our children. Listen to the whispers of hope. Keep the links strong. Let it perch in your soul. **It's unthinkable to live without hope.**

L'chaim,

Sisterhood News

Many thanks are due to many Sisterhood members for making the High Holidays as wonderful as they were. Some rolled up their sleeves and some made generous donations, AND ALL ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Thanks are extended to:

- **Pearle and Ed Brody** who funded the bimah flowers for *Rosh Hashanah* in memory of **Gertrude Brody** and **Rhea Herzberg**.
- **Marla and Michael Finger and Family** who funded the *Bimah* flowers for *Yom Kippur* in memory of **Alan Finger**
- **Lisa and Dan Schulman** who funded the window flowers for *Yom Kippur* in memory of **Samuel and Esther Iseberg**.
- **Melinda Abrams** and **Amy Fosco** who shopped for Break-the-Fast.

• The Break-the-Fast kitchen crew of **Melinda Abrams, Nancy Zimmerman, Sherry Wiesman, Jennifer Fogel, and Nina Finn**.

• **Jana and Bill McFarlane** for their generous donation toward Break-the-Fast in memory of **Pierce and Iris Richberg**.



December 1st – Sisterhood Shabbat. Please join us as we commemorate the founding of Sisterhood with a *Shabbat* dinner and service. Please return the enclosed form by November 21st if you wish to join us for dinner. Contact Adele Stein @ aistein55@aol.com if you would like to participate (in English or Hebrew) in the service.

December 2nd- Chanukah Bazaar Set-up. Come lend a hand and get a sneak peek at all the new merchandise.

December 3rd- Chanukah Bazaar. Check out all the great gifts for family, friends, and teachers!

Jana
Sandi

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 3rd- New Member Shabbat. Come welcome our new families. RSVP ASAP to Tina @ 630 377-1287

November 16th – Corned Beef Luncheon. Your help is DESPERATELY needed to make this fundraiser a success. Please see the *“We Need You”* box below for dates and times.

We Need You!!

Sisterhood desperately needs your help to make the **Corned Beef Luncheon** a success. Please sign up for one or more of the following shifts (sign-up sheets are posted on the parking lot doors, or you can contact Tina @ 630-377-1287):

- ✧ Pickle packing and non-perishable bag stuffing: Sunday (during *Torah* school), Nov 12th
- ✧ Miscellaneous set-up: Tuesday, Nov 14th, at 7 pm (at Sisterhood meeting)
- ✧ Sandwich making: Wednesday, Nov 15th, at 9:30 am
- ✧ Assisting with pick-up orders: Wednesday, Nov 15th, at 5:30-7 pm
- ✧ Sandwich delivery: Thursday, Nov 16th, at 9 am – 1 pm

CHANUKAH BAZAAR: HELP & SHOPPERS WANTED!!

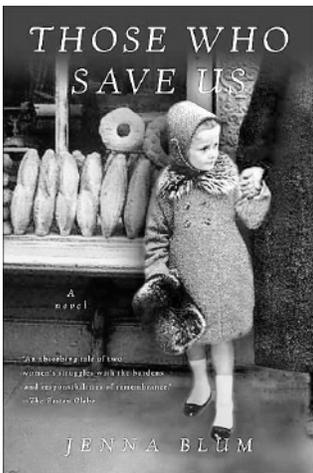
- **Set-up:** Saturday, December 2nd, at 6:30 pm
- **Gift wrapping:** Sunday, December 3rd, at 10 am
- **Shopping Assistants (for children):** Sunday, December 3rd, at 10 am
- **Take down:** Sunday, December 17th, during *Torah* School

We have many new and exciting items in ALL price ranges. Both religious and non-religious gifts are available for family, teachers, and friends.

Children should prepare their lists and plan to do as much of their shopping at CKI as possible. A form to help you and your child(ren) plan their purchases will be handed out in Sunday School to your child(ren). Please fill out the form and return it with your child(ren) on Dec 3rd, along with the amount to be spent. Volunteers are on hand to help them with their selections. Gift-wrapping is provided to help keep their selections secret, if desired.

The Gift Shop is open to adults also on that day, starting at 9:00 am. Items continue to be on display until the start of *Chanukah*.

If you have any questions or would like to help, contact Tina at 630-377-1287.



**Women's League for Conservative Judaism
Book Club Selection for 2006**

Those Who Save Us by Jenna Blum

The newest selection of Oprah's List and the book club of Women's League is a profound exploration of what we endure to survive and the legacy of shame.

For 50 years, Anna Schlemmer has refused to talk about her life in Germany. Her daughter Trudy was only three when they were liberated by an American soldier and went home with him to Minnesota. Trudy's sole evidence of the past is an old photograph showing Anna, Trudy, and a Nazi officer. Now a professor of German history, Trudy unearths the heartbreaking truth of her mother's life.

If we purchase at least 10 copies of *Those Who Save Us* in paperback, Harcourt will sell them to us at a 50% discount (that's \$7.00) plus postage and handling.

Please contact Tina Wolf in person, by phone (630-377-1287), or by email (ewolf59@comcast.net) by **November 20th** if you are interested in purchasing a copy.

An informal discussion of the book is being planned after a brief Sisterhood meeting on January 9th, 2007.

CKI Sisterhood
invites you to attend our

New Member Shabbat

Come meet, greet, and extend a hearty welcome to all those who recently joined CKI at a

**Special Shabbat Service
and DAIRY Oneg**
Friday, November 3,
at 7:30 pm

In order to give a more accurate number of how many will attend, please RSVP to Tina Wolf at 630-377-1287 or ewolf59@comcast.net

MILK AND HONEY

- In proportion to its population, Israel has more startup companies. In absolute terms, Israel has the largest number of startup companies than any other country in the world except the U.S. (3,500 companies, mostly in hi-tech).
- Israel is ranked #2 in the world for venture capital funds, right behind the U.S.

More next month...

CKI BOARD MEMBERS

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The "CKI SENIORS" Lox & Bagel Luncheon

Mark your calendar:
Tuesday, November 14
 12:00 noon at CKI



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

Please respond **DEFINITELY NO LATER THAN**
 Thursday, November 9th.

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

Rabbi's Sermon (cont'd from p. 2)

which another rabbi is supposed to have exclaimed, "No, it doesn't!"

The Dalai Lama also wanted to know how we maintained our attachment to the land. To this, the rabbis responded as a single individual: we maintain our attachment by remembering the land in everything we do. Our prayers face Jerusalem. We constantly seek the peace of the land. Our rituals are directed toward the seasons and the agriculture of the Israel. And we end our holidays with the hope of "Next year in Jerusalem!"

I was told of an Eastern European invitation that announced a wedding that was to be held on such-and-such a date "in the holy city of Jerusalem.

"But," the invitation went on, "if for some reason the Messiah doesn't arrive by then, then the wedding will be held, God willing, here in Warsaw."

3) Demographic. Jews have always lived in the land since the time of Joshua: sometimes more Jews and sometimes fewer, but we never let it go.

You've heard, I'm sure, of the *Kotel* in Jerusalem, the Western Wall that is all that remains now of the courtyard of the ancient holy Temple. Well, you know that it has also been called the Wailing Wall. That name refers to a time when the Christians did not allow Jews to enter Jerusalem. The rulers made an exception, though, for one day in the Jewish year, the ninth day of the month of Av in the summer, the anniversary of the destruction of the Temple. On that day, we were allowed to enter, so that we could sit and cry, and mourn the destruction. Jews served the Christians thus as dramatic evidence of what seemed to be our utter humiliation. But that didn't stop us. We entered the gates and wept on that desolate anniversary, because our attachment to the land was stronger than our concern for appearances before our oppressors. We never forgot the land, and we never left it.

4) Political. What other nation had its claim to its own land ratified by representatives of all the countries of the world assembled? Israel alone

submitted to a vote of the United Nations in 1947 for the world's permission to exist, before Israel was privileged to fight for its life against five invading armies in the War of Independence. Israel's legal claim is at least equal to that of any other nation in the world.

5) Ecological. The Land of Israel was once densely forested. Where do you think the lions came from, that were the symbol of Judah? Where did the Bible get its references to the rhinoceros?

Over centuries of foreign rule, though, the land became waste. In 1869, the writer Mark Twain published his account of his travels in the Old World in a book called *The Innocents Abroad*. This is what he had to say about our land:

"Of all the lands there are for dismal scenery, I think Palestine must be the prince. The hills are barren, they are dull of color, they are unpicturesque in shape. The valleys are unsightly deserts fringed with a feeble vegetation that has an expression about it of being sorrowful and despondent. The Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee sleep in the midst of a vast stretch of hill and plain wherein the eye rests upon no pleasant tint, no striking object, no soft picture dreaming in a purple haze or mottled with the shadows of the clouds. Every outline is harsh, every feature is distinct,

there is no perspective—distance works no enchantment here. It is a hopeless, dreary, heart-broken land."

Have you ever received a picture postcard from Israel? Quite a difference, isn't it!

Once, standing in an overgrown field in Israel, I asked, "Who planted this grass?" I was told that no one did: the grass grew wild from seeds at the kibbutz next door.

I have been privileged to rest in the shade of a Negev orchard, on land that a British survey had once declared "uninhabitable." I could eat the oranges that grew there.

There is an old story about Israel's transformation. Once a priest, a rabbi, and a minister all died on the same day (you know that you're going to like this now, don't you?), and they found themselves sharing an elevator with an archangel serving as operator. The elevator's doors closed, and the room went down.

It descended a long time, but finally it stopped, and its doors opened. Outside there was a bleak, gray land of no color at all. Rats scurried there among pools of oil, and the air was as heavy as lead, muffling every sound into a faint, ghoulish cry. The archangel turned to the priest and motioned for him to exit.

Parashat HaShavu'a – Weekly Torah Portions

November 4 13 <i>Heshvan</i>	<i>Lekh L'kha</i> – Genesis 16:1-17:27 <i>Haftarah</i> : Isaiah 40:27-41:16	Page 86 Page 95
November 11 20 <i>Heshvan</i>	<i>Va'yera</i> – Genesis 21:1-22:24 <i>Haftarah</i> : II Kings 4:1-33	Page 112 Page 124
November 18 27 <i>Heshvan</i>	<i>Hayyei Sarah</i> – Genesis 24:53-25:18 <i>Haftarah</i> : I Kings 1:1-31	Page 137 Page 143
November 25 4 <i>Kislev</i>	<i>Tol'dot</i> – Genesis 27:28-28:9 <i>Haftarah</i> : Malakhi 1:1-2:7	Page 157 Page 163
December 2 11 <i>Kislev</i>	<i>Va'Yetze</i> – Genesis 31:17-32:3 <i>Haftarah</i> : Hosea 11:7-12:12	Page 181 Page 195

"But," said the priest, "this makes no sense. I've been good. I've led my flock faithfully. I've controlled all my urges, I've told the truth, I've never lost faith—almost never. What did I do to deserve this?"

The archangel gave no answer, but silently and irresistibly saw the priest through the door. Now only the minister and the rabbi remained, and the doors of the elevator closed.

Down, much farther down, went the elevator, and both of the clergymen were nearly overcome with anxiety. When they stopped this time and the doors opened, they saw fire and brimstone, and devils with pitchforks. The archangel gestured for the minister to exit.

"But," said the minister, "how can this be? I've converted so many to the faith. My ministry has had the highest ratings that were ever ..."

The archangel still maintained his impassive silence, and saw the minister out to his new, dreadful home.

Once again the doors closed, and, after a moment's hesitation, the room continued its descent. It dropped ever more rapidly. The rabbi turned white with terror, nearly fainting as the elevator slowed to a stop. But when its doors opened, he saw only a clear blue sky dotted with puffy white clouds, and he felt a gentle breeze flowing over lush, freshly mown grass. Farther off he saw a rose garden, and beyond that, a fishing hole. The land was altogether refreshing and pleasant. The rabbi, though, was prepared for an argument, and the echoes of his former terror

The Mazal Tov Corner...

Our hearty congratulations to...

Corinne Cohen Grotenhaus, daughter of **Shirley Friedman**, who was voted Swim Coach of the year for Illinois. She also won the Olympic title in her class for Olympic weight lifting in the World games in France.

would not allow the beauty of his surroundings to stop him.

"What are you doing?" he cried at the archangel. "What have you done? The priest and the minister were my colleagues. They may have transgressed from time to time, but they could not possibly have done anything to merit their terrible rewards when I, unworthy as I am, stay in this place. What is the reason for this?"

For the first time ever, the archangel spoke. He turned to the rabbi and said, "Would you believe it? The Israelis have been here only three years!..."

In our own day, the land of Israel has responded to the return of its people, and turned from desert back into the land of milk and honey.

Why, then, is Israel's claim, of all the nations', alone in question, and why is that claim challenged constantly throughout the world?

The land is not of great size, nor is it rich in natural resources. But still it is different from all other lands.

God didn't have Moshe lead us to a land like Sweden, where we could live in peace, off to one side of the world. He led us to the only land bridge between three continents. If you want to go overland from Europe to Africa, then you have to go through Israel. Asia to Africa, through Israel. Even from Europe to Asia, God took us to the only land

CKI COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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ENDOWMENT - Charles Zimmerman
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YOUTH ACTIVITIES - Joe & Maureen Rosenfeld

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

Honorable Menschen...

...to **ANITA HORNUNG** and **AMY FOSCO** for all their work organizing and facilitating the Yankee Candle fund raiser for *Torah School*.

...to **JERRY HIMMELFARB** who, once again, was the chauffeur who picked up our cases of Affy Apples.

...to **ARTHUR SHANKMAN, DAN MARSHALL, KEN HILLMAN, MARINA FINK, FERN RABEN, IRA FOSCO, ANITA HORNUNG, HERB GROSS, EMILY BURKER**, and **JESSICA SHANKMAN** for all their help in making *Sukkot's "Hut Dogs"* celebration a great event!

that every conquering army must vanquish if they would move from one continent to another. It doesn't matter what we do or what choices we make. As long as civilization stands up against barbarity, God in His wisdom has placed us between the hammer and the anvil.

To other nations, immortality may be an article of faith. To us it's a palpable fact. We are four thousand years old, and still young. And it is just as clear that we are a chosen people. To listen to the United Nations, we almost rule the world. We certainly dominate the world's agenda.

It has always been so. God has always placed us precisely where He needed us to be. When the nations were all nomads, then we were nomads. When they coalesced into kingdoms, then we became a kingdom. When religion divided the world, then we were a religion. And in the age of nation states, God saw that we turned into a nation state.

When barbarity was in Europe, then that's where our center was. It was not our choice. Who would choose such a role? And when civilization is threatened from the Middle East, guess whose center has moved over there? The Jews', always at the flashpoint, always the first line of civilization's defense.

(continued on p. 11)

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES. SAVE A LIFE. FOR REAL.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19th

Being a member of CKI sometimes takes a little sweat (like when the air conditioning isn't working exactly right), and sometimes a few tears. This time, we're asking members to consider giving a little blood. (One pint will do.)

On Sunday, November 19th, CKI hosts its **Fourth Annual Blood Drive**, from 8:30 to noon.

The Drive is being conducted with the assistance of **Heartland Blood Centers**, a non-profit medical organization that supplies blood to the area hospitals serving CKI members, such as Sherman, Provena St. Joseph, Delnor, and Central-DuPage. If you or someone you know had surgery locally in the past year requiring a blood transfusion, chances are the blood came from a Heartland donor.

Our goal this year is to supply 30 units of blood. Since each donor can only offer one unit, and since some prospective donors may be turned away due to medical reasons, we need a minimum of 50 volunteer donors to come forward.

Donations take place aboard Heartland's state-of-the-art Mobile Donation Unit (a/k/a The Bloodmobile) that is to be parked in our lot. If you're

here to drop off your children for Sunday School, this will be a perfect way to spend the morning. And bring a friend: non-members are welcome. And don't forget the juice and treats afterward!

If you've never donated blood before, it's easy, quick (in most cases the donation itself takes less than 15 minutes) and relatively painless. Most importantly, **IT'S A MITZVAH!**

The Social Action Committee is coordinating the Drive. Reservations are strongly suggested. To pre-register for a donation time, please e-mail Paul Glaser at pauljayglaser@sbcglobal.net. Or if you know you can't donate this year but would like to volunteer to help with the registration process that morning, let Paul know.

General donor qualifications include being: in good health and feeling well; 17 years of age or older (or 16 with written parental consent); 110 pounds or more; and at least eight weeks since the last donation. Medications for high cholesterol, blood pressure and allergies as well as most anti-inflammatory drugs, are acceptable. Some travel outside the U.S. might disqualify you. For more information, including a list of medications that may affect eligibility,

check out Heartland's website: www.heartlandbc.org.

Be sure to eat something prior to four hours of the donation, and bring a photo ID.

In the meantime, some excellent food sources of iron include chard, spirulina, blackstrap molasses, tofu, thyme, parsley, cinnamon, and tumeric. Once again, a special prize goes to the person who comes up with the best recipe combining all these ingredients. So eat healthy, and we'll see you all on November 19th.

We Send You To Hebrew School Because...

- **Because** one of the most important things the *Torah* expects of parents is that they teach their children *Torah*—and if we are unable to do that, we are obligated to find someone who can do it for us.
- **Because** Judaism is a rich and full heritage 4,000 years old, with lots to learn about, enjoy, and appreciate, and Hebrew School is a great place to be introduced to it.

More next month...

The Ever-Present CKI Wish List

We're always wishing upon that star!

- **Couches for the library**
- **Desk chairs for the CKI office**
- **Canopy for over the parking lot entrance into the synagogue**
- **10 table-top, movable desks and chairs for the 6th grade classroom**
- **A Macintosh computer (with OS X) for the Rabbi's office**

And...many of our large round and long tables are really beginning to show their age and use. Several are no longer usable, and others are on their way out. Also, they are heavy and cumbersome. There are now tables that are large but lightweight and easy for just one person to move. We'd love to either start a fund for the eventual purchase of new tables for the Social Hall or have someone underwrite the purchase of these tables. Please let us know.

Thank you, in advance, for anything you can do to make any of our wishes come true!

Reminder!!!

NOVEMBER 2
FIRM DEADLINE
for Corned Beef
Lunch orders!!

Social Action

Thank you for your most generous donations for the *Kol Nidre* Food Drive. These items were delivered to the Elgin Crisis Center Food Pantry.

Our food cupboard is located in the hallway off the parking lot. Food donations are ongoing throughout the year. Please...every time you go to the store, pick up one non-perishable food item that you can bring to CKI and put in the cupboard. (Baby items are always needed.) This is a great way to show our children that charity is offered throughout the year, not just at a particular time.

CFL's – COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTBULBS

I'm sure you've all heard the advertisements from Com Ed/Excelon promoting the use of CFL's instead of incandescent light bulbs in order to conserve energy costs. At CKI, we have been using CFL's for over one year in the library ceiling lights, social hall wall

scones, bathroom lights, and hallway chandelier off the parking lot.

If you aren't familiar with CFL's, this is what happens. When you first turn on the light, it is dim. Then the light increases in brightness shortly after.

CHANUKAH GIFT CERTIFICATE DRIVE

Over the past couple of years, you have been increasingly generous in your donations of gift certificates for needy Jewish children and families in Chicago and the suburbs. Jewish Children's Bureau distributes the certificates to these families before *Chanukah*.

Again this year we are collecting gift certificates that you can purchase through Fundability. (If you want to see a complete list of what gift cards you can purchase through Fundability, go to our CKI website, www.ckielgin.org, and click on the Fundability category. You'll see a long list of choices.)

Once again, the JCB has asked us to

participate. You purchase the gift certificates, give them to Ron Raben, and he delivers them in early December to the appropriate office. Therefore, you have the months of November and December to take advantage of Fundability. You can certainly purchase gift certificates on your own, but Fundability benefits CKI.

Certificates from Target, Penney's, Old Navy, Jewel/Osco, Toys 'R' Us, Border's, Barnes and Noble, Gap, Cub Foods, Sear's, Best Buy, etc., are very appropriate.

Thank you very much for your participation in this *Mitzvah*. Last year we donated about \$500 in gift certificates. Let's see if we can top that this year. JCB is so very appreciative for all they receive! We help so many needy Jewish families.

–Tina Wolf, Sherry Weisman,
Fern Raben
Social Committee Co-Chairs

USY and Kadima News

We're off to a great start! Thanks to everyone who attended the USY Pancake Breakfast on the first Sunday morning of *Torah* School. Your support helped our USY chapter raise \$201.99 for our Social Action fund. All of these proceeds have been donated to Israel Relief.

Our USY President attended the Regional Leadership Training Institute and had ideas to share at our first Board meeting of the year in October. Also, last month we held our opening program, a joint event for USY and *Kadima*. We had lunch, and went swimming and rock climbing at the Centre of Elgin. Everyone had a great time! Thanks to the parents who helped chaperone.

This month is a busy one. On Sunday, November 5th at noon, *Kadima* has lunch and go mini golfing at Heartland Miniature Golf in the Charlestowne Mall, St. Charles. The weekend of November, 10-12th, our USYers attends the Regional CHUSYFEST at Camp Chi in

Wisconsin. On Monday, November 13th at 7 pm, the USY Board meets briefly, and then they'll help Sisterhood with preparations for their Corned Beef Lunch. Finally, on Wednesday, November 22nd from 8-10:30 pm, Congregation *Beth El* hosts the annual Turkey Dance. This is actually two separate dances - one for *Kadima* and one for USY, at different ends of the building. Admission is only \$10 when you bring a can of food to donate; \$12 when you don't; and \$5 for alumni.

Looking ahead to next month: December 1st and 2nd is the CHUSY Region Eighth Grade Shabbaton. Watch for a flyer. On Saturday, December 2nd at 6:30pm, USY helps set up the CKI *Chanukah* Bazaar, and at 7:30 they go ice skating. And, finally, the USY International Convention takes place December 21st-28th in Boston.

If you've already submitted your 2006-2007 dues, thank you! If not, additional forms can be found on the Bulletin Board in the first floor hallway.

Please enjoy the remarks below from two of our students who attended Camp CHUSY this past August at Camp *Ramah* in Wisconsin.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Maureen Rosenfeld, *Youth Chair*
847-888-1950 or JustSayMo18@cs.com

☆ ☆ ☆

I recently attended CAMP CHUSY 2006. Personally, I thought that the program this year was EXCELLENT! I came across some good points and information that will help me in reality. We also got to attend a lumberjack show! It was great! We ate lunch there, and stayed for about 2 hours for the show itself. It was a good part of Camp CHUSY. One of the reasons that I go to camp is the food. No offense, Mom, but nothing can compare to camp food! It was awesome. I thought that doing an activity about "The 5 People You Meet

(continued on p. 13)

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Special Funds

The following funds are available for your generous donations:

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

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

November Birthdays

- 1 Chuck Miller
- 1 Laura Cox
- 1 Michael Gantz
- 2 Margot Seigle
- 3 Stephanie Berg
- 5 Helen Neumark
- 7 Rose Goldstein
- 7 Isabella DiSilvestro
- 9 Danny Seigle
- 9 Marsha Schwartz
- 9 Jason Rosenbaum
- 9 Elaine Sofferman
- 13 Morgan Abrams
- 15 Daniel Flynn
- 18 Adam Levine
- 20 Shana Bender
- 22 Miriam Evans
- 22 Rebecca Berg
- 22 Marci Zeoli
- 22 Lisa Wohl
- 23 Karen Myrent
- 25 Alvin Zeman
- 25 Sandi Phelan
- 25 Ruth Bachrach
- 26 Shelby Fosco
- 27 Rebecca Eagels
- 29 Denise Rosenbaum
- 29 Steven Flynn
- 30 Larry Berg

November Anniversaries

- 3 Helen & Ian Wiseman
- 6 Pat & Nina Finn
- 19 Don & Phyllis Lesser
- 22 Jerry & Sue Goozh
- 23 Marc & Sue Zemel

Make your Father's Day 2007 plans now.

Invite your parents, children and other relatives to celebrate Father's Day 2007 (June 17th) in Elgin. Enjoy with loved ones the beautiful music of **Neshama Carlebach**. Tickets will be available in January.

Rabbi's Sermon (cont'd from p. 7)

Why does God do this to us? Because His values are not our values, and because we would never want them to be. Imagine if the verse in Leviticus that begins the Holiness Code read, "Speak to the entire people and say to them, 'You shall be happy, because I, the Lord, am happy.'"

That would be ridiculous. Life is so very short, and what is our happiness in the larger scheme? God said, "You shall be holy." Holiness lasts. And in the end, if we do not choose to be holy, then God will require it of us.

I am never prouder to be American than when I consider what enemies this country has earned. Every tyranny in the world opposes us. So do all their friends. That is a wonderful thing.

Of all God's promises, none has been kept more faithfully or more clearly than His promise to our founder Abraham: "I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you." Who are the most cursed of nations in the world today? Under whose sway would you least like to live? Which regions of humanity are the most benighted? They are the nations that curse the Jews. Which are the most fortunate and free? They are the nations that bless the Jews. What is the first sign of a nation's decline? The beginning of its oppression of the Jews.

What has put us in this position? What has made us so different from all the

other peoples of the world? It cannot possibly be who we are. As individuals, we are clearly no different from anyone else. We are people, born like everyone else, with the same strengths and weaknesses, faults and virtues.

The difference is not in who we are. It can only be in what we have. The Jews are different because of *Torah*, and because of *Torah* alone.

Torah is the "good news" that we have brought to the world. But it isn't the good news that people want or expect. It isn't the news, for instance, that individuals can continue living forever.

Instead of infinite length, our message is that our lives can have infinite depth. Our news is that we can't do everything that we want. People who follow that rule live wonderfully good lives. But it's not a rule that people want to hear. And it is a rule that every tyrant and barbarian will oppose, to the world's great harm and to their own destruction.

Our God is holy, but He is not happy. He cannot be happy: He has failed in everything that He has tried. This world is not what He had intended. But He is still working on it. He works on it desperately. And He needs our help.

That's what it means to be chosen.

Men's Club News

The Men's club is in full swing!

We now have 22 men signed up as members of Men's Club. That's great; now we need even more.

Having served food for the new member picnic this summer, we have had a busy October:

- Serving Hut Dogs for *Sukkot* 10/11
- Sponsoring the *Simchat Torah* Ice Cream Social 10/14
- Hosting a regional board meeting for the FJMC (Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs) 10/23
- Setting-up for Café CKI Folk Night 10/28

So now we catch our breath... for these upcoming events:

Monday, Nov. 6th – First Men's Club meeting of the year, at 7:30 pm, at CKI.

In addition to the ones listed above, we've got lots of activities in the months ahead and plenty of need for your help: ushering at the Interfaith Service (11/19), and the Latke Lunch (12/17). Come to the meeting and see what's in store.

Mark your calendar now for Regional Retreat, Sat.-Sun. January 13-14th, 2007, at Indian Lakes Resort.

Greeting the Bride

"One of the joys was that I saved the things that the children wrote about the weekly *Torah* portion, and when a kid would be preparing for *Shabbat*, she would always ask to look at what the other had written last year about it. I would show them and they would come to the table and say: She was all wrong last year. That is not what it says...."

— Sally Shafton
in *The Art of Jewish Living: The Shabbat Seder*

Fundability News

November is your last chance to purchase "Fundability" before *Chanukah*. Fundability certificates are available from a variety of local retailers: Eddie Bauer, Men's Warehouse, Gap, Macy's, William Sonoma and many more. Barnes & Noble, Blockbuster, and Borders' certificates make good gifts for teachers, paperboys, and school friends. Be good to yourself with certificates from Circuit City, Best Buy, Home Depot or Sears. Treat the family to dinner at Maggiano's, Olive Garden, Bonefish, or

one of the "Lettuce Entertain You" restaurants.

Be good to your family, yourself and your synagogue. Remember, every item you purchase aids our CKI.

Something new: Jewel certificates are now Albertson's debit cards, and Cheesecake Factory and Kohl's are also now available.

And something old: Dominick's is again available as Safeway debit cards.

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 **November**. It is appropriate for members of their families to be present when these names are read.

Oct 28	Nov 1	Samuel Strickman*	Nov 4	Nov 10	Sylvia Fishman Wigodner*	Nov 18	Nov 20	Arthur Sidney Mendel*
Oct 28	Nov 2	Janet Ellyn Eisner*	Nov 4	Nov 10	Sidney Julius Raffelson*	Nov 18	Nov 20	Albert Brazner*
Nov 4	Nov 4	Harriet Poncher	Nov 11	Nov 11	Joseph Fischer*	Nov 18	Nov 22	Samuel Loss
Nov 4	Nov 4	Warren Rubnitz*	Nov 11	Nov 12	Harry Jacob Becker*	Nov 18	Nov 22	Ken Rose
Nov 4	Nov 5	Lillian Rosengarden*	Nov 11	Nov 12	Julius Kornstein*	Nov 18	Nov 22	Jennie Kreeger*
Nov 4	Nov 5	Barbara Ann Burstein*	Nov 11	Nov 13	Serena Kornstein*	Nov 18	Nov 24	Hannah Goldstein*
Nov 4	Nov 5	Abraham Miller*	Nov 11	Nov 13	Anna N. Brenner*	Nov 18	Nov 24	Gloria Hayden*
Nov 4	Nov 7	Joseph Fischer*	Nov 11	Nov 14	Henry Cohien*	Nov 25	Nov 25	Dorothy Rosenbaum
Nov 4	Nov 7	Joseph Kreeger*	Nov 11	Nov 15	Edward William Goldstein*	Nov 25	Nov 26	Gary John Seigle*
Nov 4	Nov 9	Louis Gold	Nov 11	Nov 15	Cyrus Demont	Nov 25	Nov 27	Melvin Ruben*
Nov 4	Nov 10	Sarah Loss	Nov 11	Nov 16	Harry Fischer*	Nov 25	Nov 28	William Sharf*
Nov 4	Nov 10	Sarah Gordon*	Nov 11	Nov 16	Bessie Fischer*	Nov 25	Nov 28	Isaac Kreeger*
			Nov 11	Nov 17	Gertrude Osmansky*	Nov 25	Nov 28	Gertrude Mestetsky*
			Nov 11	Nov 17	Pinchas Dermer*	Nov 25	Nov 28	Mary Greenberg
			Nov 11	Nov 17	Libby Kupper*	Nov 25	Nov 29	Walter Kohlhagen*
			Nov 18	Nov 18	Dr. George Cutts*	Nov 25	Nov 30	Helen Skolnik
			Nov 18	Nov 18	Alvin Burstein*	Nov 25	Nov 30	Emma Vopner Salk*
			Nov 18	Nov 19	Adolph Bernstein*	Nov 25	Nov 30	Charles Fox



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

Nov. 34:24 PM
 Nov. 104:17 PM
 Nov. 174:10 PM
 Nov. 244:05 PM

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

Acknowledgements

Generous Donations

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Michael Berkson's mother

Michael & Marla Finger

CKI EDUCATION FUND Donation

Katherine Guzman

In honor of Earl Sternfeld's extraordinary dedication and achievement with the *B'nai Mitzvah* students of the past 2 years.

Ron & Fern Raben

To Molly Rosenfeld in gratitude for all her help with the *Rosh Hashanah* snacks for youth services.

Fern & Ron Raben

To Paul Glaser in gratitude for all he did to organize High Holiday honors.

Fern & Ron Raben

To Joe Rosenfeld for all he did to organize High Holiday honors.

Fern & Ron Raben

To Sue Zemel and the CKI Choir, in honor of our wonderful CKI Choir.

Fern & Ron Raben

In gratitude to Emily Burkner, Sarah Shankman, Shayna Stein, Rachel Pitzele and Danielle Stone, for all they did for High Holiday youth services.

Fern & Ron Raben

To Wanda Pitzele and Adele Stein in gratitude for all they did for High Holiday youth services

Fern & Ron Raben

To Jerry Himmelfarb – in his honor

Fern & Ron Raben

In memory of Nancy Ashcraft

Roy Ashcraft

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Fern & Ron Raben for all the behind-the-scenes tasks and acts of kindness that only a few see or even know about – their dedication is always given with love and generosity to all.

Zahava Raz

PRAYERBOOK FUND (Chumash)

In memory of Frieda Simon

Barb & Paul Maring

Get well wishes to Rose Goldstein

Michael & Marla Finger

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND Donation

Fatima Izel

FLOWER FUND

Flowers for *Yom Kippur* in Memory of Alan Finger

Michael & Marla Finger

CLARA WECHTER EDUCATION FUND
In honor of the birth of Zachary John, grandson of Marc & Sue Zemel

Barb & Paul Maring

In memory of Frieda Simon

Dr. & Mrs. Ken Jacoby

Welcome to Rabbi Jonathan Kohn

Ron & Barb Razowsky

In honor of the 1st birthday of our granddaughter, Maya Elm Henschel

Carole & Ron Burstein

TREE OF LIFE

ISABEL SARA ZIMMERMAN

BORN 2-28-06

GRANDCHILD OF

CHUCK & NANCY ZIMMERMAN

ABRAHAM M. & ANNA ROSE SELTZER
MUSIC ENDOWMENT FUND

In honor of our new Rabbi

Jonathan Kohn

Barb & Paul Maring

SHALOM ACADEMY

In honor of Wanda Pitzele, our Woman of Valor Award winner

Jerry & Rose Goldstein

In Our Family

R'FUAH SH'LEIMAH – GET WELL

Fern Raben

Lora Seigle

Ben Rifken

Nancy Zimmerman

Rose Goldstein

Sherry Wiesman

Lisa Schulman

Deborah Stone

Sarah Frisch

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

Encore Performance

On Nov. 6th at 6:30 pm, there will be a repeat performance of the *Selichot* service with "Half a Life," Star Trek's "Jewish" episode. The Rabbi is presenting it for the Confirmation Class and all are welcome and invited to attend.



USY & Kadima

(cont'd from p. 9)

in Heaven" was good. It said a lot about who makes a difference in your life. That's basically it, besides Maccabiah and how much fun it was! GREASE WATERMELON RULES!!! AND SO DOES THE TEAM GREEN!

– Teddi Stanczak

"Eenie, meenie, miney moe, catch a tiger by the toe." Camp CHUSY this year was a blast! The theme for this session was CHOICES - choices in Judaism, in school, in friendships, and everything in between. In our discussion groups, we talked about the pressures we face each day growing up as teenagers in the year 2006. It was reassuring for me to know that everyone is going through the same things I am and that we can all

help each other. Being a Junior at Camp CHUSY means that you get the privilege of having the campers from Israel in your cabin. These girls (there were Israeli boys, too, but not in our cabin!) were some of the most amazing people I've ever met! In only a week we talked and learned so much about each other that it was as if we had been friends our entire lives. Maccabiah 2006 (GO TANGERINE TEAM!) was so much fun. There's always so much competition as well as *ruach* in the air that everyone is pumped up and ready to participate. Camp CHUSY was full of amazing memories this year, and I have the photos to prove it. I hope to see you all at the next CHUSY event!

– Molly Rosenfeld

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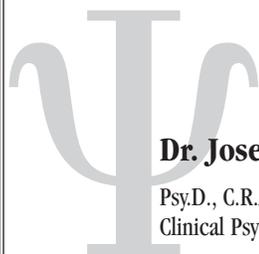
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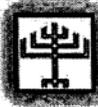
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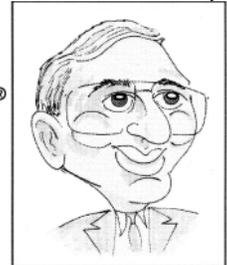
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November 2006

Shabbat Services: Friday evenings 7:30 pm
Saturday mornings 9:30 am

1	Hebrew School	5:00 pm	14	Sisterhood Meeting and Corned Beef prep	7:00 pm
2	FIRM DEADLINE for Corned Beef Lunch orders		15	Pick Up Corned Beef Lunches	6:00 pm-7:00 pm
3	New Member Shabbat	7:30 pm	16	CORNED BEEF LUNCH	9:00 am-1:00 pm
5	<i>Kadima</i> Lunch and Mini Golf	Noon	17	PICK UP FUNDABILITY CERTIFICATES	
6	Confirmation Class Repeat performance of "Half a Life" Star Trek's secretly Jewish episode All are invited (see flyer)	6:30 pm		<i>Ima & Me</i>	10:30 am
	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 pm		Family Shabbat Services - Gimel	7:30 pm
7	CKI Board Meeting	7:30 pm	19	<i>Torah</i> School	
8	Hebrew School	5:00 pm		BLOOD DRIVE	8:30 am
10	<i>Ima & Me</i>	10:30 am		INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE Held at CKI	7:00 pm
	ORDER FUNDABILITY CERTIFICATES			Confirmation Class to attend Thanksgiving Service in lieu of class on the 20th	
	CHUSYFEST November 10-12		22	No Hebrew School	
11	Jr. Congregation/Tot Shabbat <i>Dalet</i> in Sanctuary 9:30 am <i>Alef, Bet, Gimel</i> in library; tots in 1st grade room 10:00 am			USY & <i>Kadima</i> Turkey Dance at Beth El	8:00-10:30 pm
12	<i>Torah</i> School Dr. Roddy Frankel lecture (see flyer) In the Sanctuary	10:30am	23	U.S. Thanksgiving	
13	USY Board meeting and Corned Beef prep	7:00 pm	26	No School	
			27	<i>Hadassah</i> Board & Pot Luck	
			29	Hebrew School resumes	5:00 pm
			Dec. 1	Sisterhood Shabbat (SEE FLYER)	Dinner 6:15 pm Service 7:30 pm