



Ahavath Israel Congregation  
1130 Lower Ferry Road  
Ewing, NJ 08618

# Ahavath Updates



## “Partnership” with Chabad Helps Expand Programming

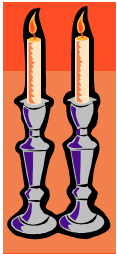
While Shabbat services continue to be “lay led” by members Len Epstein and Harold Goldmann, Sunday morning Minyanim have gotten an assist from Rabbi Goldenberg of Young Israel in Lawrenceville (YIL).

Ahavath Israel and Young Israel are combining forces for some services and programs in an effort to expand what is being offered for their respective congregations.

This past November and December the first of several planned adult education programs was held at Ahavath. “A Journey into Kaballah” was led by Rabbi Goldenberg and allowed participants a chance to ask questions and discuss the topics presented over the three sessions. Plans are being discussed for upcoming adult education programs to be offered in the Spring, including beginning Hebrew.

Also in conjunction with Young Israel, Ahavath is once again conducting a once a month Sunday Morning Minyan and breakfast. Held the first Sunday of the month and beginning at 9 AM, davening is followed by a breakfast, with donations gratefully accepted. It is hoped that this “partnership” will allow both congregations to benefit from the expanded programming

## Shabbat Across America Marks 10th Year on



On Friday, March 3 tens of thousands of Jews in hundreds of synagogues across the continent will come together to eat, drink, relax, dance, enjoy, debate, and celebrate Shabbat at the 10th Annual “Shabbat Across America-Canada.” Ahavath Israel is proud to again be hosting this event for our area. Join us as we take part in an historic national and continental Jewish event to celebrate what unifies all Jews — Shabbat! Lighting of Shabbat candles and a “beginner’s” Shabbat service will be followed by a traditional full course Shabbat dinner,

complete with chicken soup, gefilte fish, roast chicken, tzimmes, and kugel. (Vegetarian meals are available upon request.) Please see the flyer for more details.

Everyone is invited...singles,



couples, families — all ages. Bring your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers — let's all celebrate, together! Spread the word, then call to make your reservations as soon as possible. The date is coming up very soon! Leave your name and number on the office tape. (882-3092)

2005-2006—ISSUE 4/5  
LATE WINTER EDITION

JANUARY—FEBRUARY  
MARCH-  
2006

### Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
Bingo Takes a Winter Vacation	3
A Letter to Our Bingo Patrons	3
Purim Plans Underway	3
Look at What's Been Happening at Ahavath!	4
Donations	5
Get Well Wishes, Special Thanks, Condolences	5
Schedule of Services— Winter 2006	6
Coming Events	6

### Reminders:

- You are always needed and welcome for Services to help make a Minyan. Bring a friend. (Schedule on back page.)
- BINGO will still need your help. Call to volunteer. (Related articles p. 3)
- Check the enclosed flyer(s) for details on upcoming events.
- Donations are always needed for the Kosher Food Pantry. Drop off in lobby.
- Your Marrazzo's Receipts are still needed. Drop off in lobby or mail slot.





## President's Message



Dear fellow congregants,

There are several exciting developments in the works at Ahavath Israel.

I am working hard to make better use of our assets. As you may already know, the JCC will be moving from Ewing to West Windsor and the JCC is seeking appropriate locations for several of their functions, namely: The Ring Nursery, The Golden Agers, and the Carousel program. I have had many meetings with the JCC, The Greenwood House, Har Sinai, and the Ring Nursery Board to discuss usage of our building. I have conducted meetings with architects, Directors, NJ State Licensing personnel, and others to get a better idea of what the ideal use of our building could be. Several negotiations are in the works and you will be the first to know when any of these items bear fruit.

Bingo suspended operations in December due to high heating costs, low attendance, and limited profits. Bingo has historically been our largest fund raiser. Many of our past events like rummage sales have not been scheduled for a lack of manpower to work the tables. We should be looking at more lucrative ways to utilize our building that do not take a lot of manpower to implement.

Ahavath owns a lot (.81 acres) in Hamilton that is zoned cemetery, and I have been approached about selling it to another Jewish organization. We spend money yearly to have garbage and debris removed. The lot is heavily wooded and I have gotten very high estimates to clear the lot, approaching the value of the land. A congregational vote is necessary to dispose of real assets and this will be discussed and voted on at the next yearly congregational meeting.

Ahavath has a newly opened account at TD Ameritrade. All the large shuls in our area, the Jewish Federation, etc. have brokerage accounts so donors can contribute appreciated stocks and/or bonds. Let's say you want to contribute \$1,000 to Ahavath, that would be great and you will surely get the \$1,000 tax deduction on April 15<sup>th</sup>. But if you contribute shares of a stock that cost you \$500 and doubled, then you would still get the same \$1,000 tax deduction but avoid paying any capital gains taxes which would save you a minimum of about \$140. Please check with your tax preparer for more accurate figures. There are several donation opportunities that are available to upgrade our shul: new ark curtains, matching torah covers, refurbishing the pew seats in our sanctuary, lighting chandeliers in the sanctuary and more. If you would like to discuss one of these or other ideas you have, please call me at 609-466-1663 and I would be glad to meet with you and discuss how you would like your contribution allocated. Transferring securities is easy and accomplished by filling out a one page form.

We are quickly approaching Shabbat Across America (March 3<sup>rd</sup>), Purim (March 13<sup>th</sup>) and then the Passover festival and I look forward to welcoming each of you. Chag Sameach.

Len Epstein



## Bingo Takes a Winter Vacation

The anticipated high cost of energy and possible inclement winter weather has prompted Ahavath Israel's Bingo to take a much deserved vacation. The decision was made to close for the winter months of January, February, and part of March 2006. Patrons were notified of this change in December with notices posted at the entrances to the building and on the Bingo sign itself. Patrons were also asked to give us information if they wanted to be contacted about our planned re-opening date.

The Bingo Committee will be using this time off to make some much-needed changes and improvements to the Bingo. As of this publication, Ahavath Israel's Bingo is slated to re-open on Thursday, March 23 at 7:30 PM as a

"Smoke-Free" Bingo. This will be in compliance with the NJ State Law, which will prohibit smoking in public buildings. In order to make this transition easier for patrons who are smokers, an additional intermission will be added.

It is hoped that the change to "smoke-free" will allow Bingo players who could not tolerate the smoke, to now join us for an evening of fun. It is also hoped that some of our members, who could not help because of the smoke, will now find that they are able to assist with this weekly fundraiser.

## A Letter to Our Bingo Patrons

*The following letter was distributed to Bingo patrons during December.*

December, 2005

Dear Patrons of Ahavath Israel Bingo,

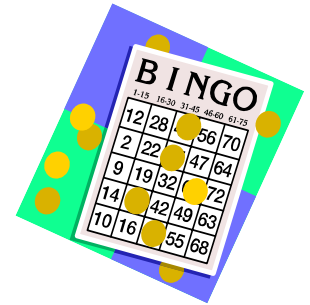
Thank you to all of our Bingo players. We welcome our "new" customers, and we appreciate the patronage of our "regulars", some of whom have been coming to our Bingo for over 30 years!

Because of anticipated inclement weather and high heating costs, we will be closing our Bingo temporarily as of January 1, 2006. We plan to re-open in the Spring of 2006.

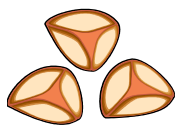
Please call the synagogue at 609-882-3092 for up-dates on our re-opening. If you would like us to call you before we re-open, please fill out the bottom half of this sheet [on the letter that was distributed] and give it to any of the Bingo workers.

On behalf of the entire Bingo Committee, we thank you for your support and hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,  
Phyllis E. Stern



## Purim Plans Under-

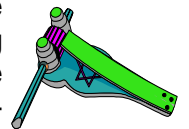


Purim festivities kick off with a Hamantaschen "Bake-a-thon" on Sunday, March 12 from 9 AM to 12 Noon. Bring your enthusiasm and an apron, we'll provide the necessary ingredients and bakeware. Bakers will all receive a "Mini-Shallach Manot" with samples of their work. Deluxe Shallach Manot Bags

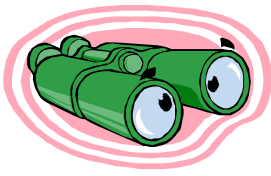
containing Hamantaschen, candy, and other goodies will also be available for purchase at \$5 each. (Orders must be in by March 8.)

On Monday, March 13, at 7:00 PM, try not to explode, when our musical Purim schpiel "Lotz and Lotz of Purim Plotz" begins the evening, followed by the reading of the Megillah at around 7:30 PM. Plan to stay to enjoy some of the home-

made Hamantaschen that were prepared by our baking crew on Sunday. Come in costume to add to the fun (and win a prize!). "Graggers" will be available, but please feel free to bring your own, more creative noise-makers to help blot out Haman's name!



**Celebrate Adar!**



## Look What's Been Happening at Ahavath!

### Ahavath Lights Up the Night with Hanukkah Events

Ahavath Israel's Hanukkah celebrations allowed the congregation and many friends to enjoy the lights, laughs, and latkes that go along with the holiday. Latke mayven Sy Laskey and assistant latke mayven Rick Byer turned out dozens of delicious latkes which were enthusiastically devoured by those in attendance at our annual "Latke Party." Dreidels, gelt, and songs rounded out the afternoon. On the first night of Hanukkah donuts and hot chocolate were served as we lit candles and our newly installed large Hanukiah on the front of our building. Thank you to Sy Laskey for its design and construction and to Sy, Bob Pearson, and Len Epstein for helping with the installation.



### Sunday Morning Minyan Does the World Wide Wrap VI

Once-a-month Sunday Morning Minyanim have returned to Ahavath, complete with breakfasts and discussions. Our February Minyan also marked our 6th year of participation in the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs' World Wide Wrap. This event celebrates the mitzvah of laying tefillin and encourages participation in davening morning prayers. Participants in the World Wide Wrap joined

with "wrappers" around the world in a unique event promoting awareness of a Jewish tradition. Following the service, participants enjoyed a breakfast of bagels, lox, herring, and (of course) veggie "wrap" sandwiches. Lots of "haemisch" discussion always follows our breakfasts. Plan to join us for our next Sunday Morning Minyan, on the first Sunday of the month, beginning

### Spring Fundraiser -- Avon Calling!!

Our Fall "Avon" Fundraiser was very successful! We only took orders for two weeks, and yet we made over \$400. Thank you to everyone who supported this endeavor and to Debbie G. from Bingo, our Avon representative, for

her help and generosity. Because it was successful, we expect to do another "Avon Calling" for the Spring. Watch for more information in April or May as to when catalogs will be available, due dates for orders, etc. We hope

that everyone will again support this fundraiser. Avon makes products for men, women, and children and also carries clothing, jewelry, and gift items for the entire family. Be sure to check it out when our next sale comes along.

## Thank you to...

- the members of the Board for their hard work and dedication to Ahavath Israel;
- the “regulars” who help to make a Minyan each Shabbat;
- everyone who supports our shul with contributions and by participating in and helping with our



- fundraisers and activities;
- our members who pay their bills on time and to those who are “Paid in Full,” thereby allowing the synagogue to stay current with its bills;
- Len Epstein and Harold Goldmann continuing to serve as our interim lay leaders.

## Get Well Wishes to...

- Shirley Rosenberg
- Rose Goldberg
- Anne Palatt
- Charles “Chuck” Stern
- Sherry Epstein
- Seymour Blaustein



**Please let us know if you (or someone in your family) has been ill.** We would like to have the opportunity to send a card, give a call, or say a mishaberach for you. It is important to know you have a caring synagogue behind you. Please call or have a relative or friend contact us if you would like the support of your Ahavath Israel family (609-882-3092).

## Donations

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

#### Yahrzeit Donations:

**In Memory of Aaron Davids and Ella Blaustein from Seymour and Ruth Blaustein**

In Memory of her mother, Lena Gilman from Mildred Temkin

In Memory of her mother, Lilian Stern and grandmother, Celia Stern from Phyllis Stern Leonard Epstein

#### GET WELL WISHES



Amy Stern, Mishaberach for her mother Marcia Stern

#### OTHER

- Marcia Stern
- Rabbi Dan Aronson

*Remember, there are many ways to memorialize or honor your loved ones. Seat Plaques, Leaves for the Tree of Life, Prayer Books, and Memorial Plaques are but a few examples. (See “President’s Message” on p. 2) Call and we will gladly help with suggestions.*



#### Honors and Memorials

**Book Adoption:** Sim Shalom (Weekly– Saturday Shabbat Prayer Book) @ \$18

**Book Adoption:** The New Mahzor (High Holidays) @ \$18

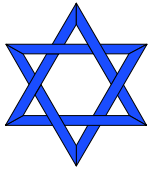
**Tree of Life:** @ \$50/leaf

**Seat Plaque:** @ \$150

**Yahrzeit Plaque:** @ \$300

A very special “Thank You” to an anonymous donor for the contribution of \$700 to the shul.





AHAVATH ISRAEL  
CONGREGATION  
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EWING, NJ 08618

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*Tradition - Family - Friends*

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**Vice President**  
Mary Lou Byer

**Treasurer**  
Frances Laskey

**Financial Secretary**  
Phyllis Stern

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**Honors and Memorials**  
Herbert Young

**Ritual Committee**  
Richard Byer

Additional positions on the Board are available and are currently shared by the Executive Board Officers. If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact Len Epstein, if you are interested.

**Schedule of Services—Winter 2006**

**Sunday, January 1**

Morning Minyan and Breakfast-9AM

**Saturday, January 7**

Shabbat Services at 9 AM, followed by Kiddush

**Saturday, January 14**

Shabbat Services at 9 AM, followed by Kiddush

**Saturday, January 21**

Shabbat Services at 9 AM, followed by Kiddush

**Saturday, January 28**

Shabbat Services at 9 AM, followed by Kiddush

**Saturday, February 4**

Shabbat Services at 9 AM, followed by Kiddush

**Sunday, February 5**

“World Wide Wrap 6”

Morning Minyan and Breakfast

**Saturday, February 11**

Shabbat Services at 9 AM, followed by Kiddush

**Saturday, February 18**

Shabbat Services at 9 AM, followed by Kiddush

**Saturday, February 25**

Shabbat Services at 9 AM, followed by Kiddush

**Friday, March 3**

“Shabbat Across America”

Dinner followed by Shabbat Service  
(details to follow)

**Saturday, March 4**

Shabbat Services at 9 AM, followed by Kiddush

**Sunday, March 5**

Morning Minyan and Breakfast 9AM

**Saturday, March 11**

Shabbat Services at 9 AM, followed by Kiddush

**Saturday, March 18**

Shabbat Services at 9 AM, followed by Kiddush

**Saturday, March 25**

Shabbat Services at 9 AM, followed by Kiddush

Please note that all services and events are dependent upon the weather. If there is snow, or if the roads are slippery, please call and get an update on our taped message (882-3092). If you would like to be called about cancellations, please leave your name and number on the tape.

I would like to thank everyone for their kind get well wishes and support during my recent hospitalization and illness. Ahavath truly is my “family!” The newsletter got a little off track while I was unavailable, but hopefully we’re back in business again! Mary Lou Byer, Vice President and Editor, *Ahavath Updates*.

**Keep Checking Our Website for Updates**

Check out our Ahavath website:

[www.ahavathisrael.org](http://www.ahavathisrael.org)



**Kosher Food Pantry Still in Need of Donations**

Donations are still greatly needed! Our red shopping cart in the front corner of the lobby has been far from over-flowing—often completely empty. If you are unable to donate nonperishable food items, please request donation coupons and make a monetary contribution. The food bank needs our help. All items marked as Kosher will be donated to the Kosher Food Bank. If any non-kosher items are donated they will go to the Ewing Food Pantry, so nothing will be wasted. Please help!



**COMING EVENTS**

Friday, March 3—“Shabbat Across America” Shabbat Services & Dinner (See flyer for details.)

Monday, March 13—Purim! Megillah Reading and Purim Schpiel 7 PM  
Pasta Dinner—Tentative Date-Sunday, March 26

Monday, April 24-7:30 PM Yom HaShoah Remembrance Day observance

Sunday, April 30—9 AM Morning Minyan/Breakfast followed by Presentation by the Consulate General of Israel

Spring Mah-Jongg and Chinese Luncheon—Date to be announced

Indoor Flea Market—Date to be announced

**Also watch upcoming newsletters and flyers for information on adult education, speakers, and other program-**