



Ahavath Israel Congregation  
 1130 Lower Ferry Road  
 Ewing, NJ 08618

# Ahavath Updates

## Officers for 2006-2007 Elected at Annual Congregational Meeting



The “new” officers for Ahavath Israel Congregation were elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting, held on Sunday, June 11. Elected were the following officers for 2006-2007: (l to r) President, Leonard Epstein; Recording Secretary, Mary Lou Byer; Vice President, Frances Laskey; Treasurer, Richard Byer; and Financial Secretary, Phyllis Stern. A special Kiddush is planned for later in August.

In addition to the Executive Board, positions on the Board of Trustees are: Arnold Applebaum—Cemetery; Sy Laskey—Blood Bank; Bob Pearson—

Buildings and Grounds; Phyllis Stern—Bingo; Herb Young—Honors and Memorials; Newsletter/Publicity/Education/Programming—Mary Lou Byer and Frances Laskey.

Approved by congregational vote at the June 11 Annual Congregational Meeting:

- Sale of unused, undeveloped (wooded) cemetery property;
- Budget for the coming fiscal year 2006-2007;

Discussion included new ideas and directions which are being investigated for Ahavath Israel. Among these were the possible use of our facilities by outside organizations (for a fee); presentations to the Board by representatives of United Synagogues (Conservative); Reconstructionist Movement; Mercer County Chabad (Orthodox); the JCC; and Greenwood House.

Suggestions from congregants included increased/expanded programming, investigation our working with another synagogue to share services, and moving to a smaller building. These suggestions would be discussed further by the Board. Members of the Congregation who attended this important meeting and offered their ideas, suggestions, and support are greatly appreciated.

If you have ideas or suggestions, or if you heard a rumor and would like to know if it is true, please call a member of the Executive Board.



## Shabbat Under the Stars—Friday, August 18

Join us Friday night Shabbat Services, held “Under the Stars” in the Sukkah area adjacent to our lobby. This has become an annual summer tradition at Ahavath. Come early (6:30 PM) for a light dairy dinner. Services will be led by Rick Byer following dinner. There is no charge, but reservations would be appreciated, as would any donations you would care to make to help us defray the costs. Prospective members and guests are welcome to attend. Please call the office to make a reservation: (609) 882-3092.

2006-2007—ISSUE 1

JULY—AUGUST 2006  
 INTERIM SUMMER ISSUE

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### Reminders:

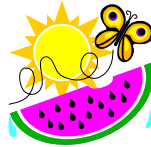
- You are always needed and welcome for Services to help make a Minyan. Bring a friend.
- BINGO needs your help. Call to volunteer.
- End-of-Summer Picnic—Sunday, Aug. 27 (12-2)
- Donations needed for the Kosher Food Pantry. Drop off in lobby.
- Your Marrazzo's Receipts are still needed. Drop off in lobby or mail slot.



## Mazel Tov!

Mazel tov to the families of our two B'nai Mitzvah this month. We wish both of their families a hearty “Mazel Tov” and wish to thank them for choosing Ahavath Israel for this important life cycle event.

## End-of-Summer Picnic Planned



Ahavath Israel's Annual End-of-Summer Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 27 from 12 Noon to 2 PM at the synagogue. As always, there will be lots of delicious food, prepared by our own chefs Rick Byer and Sy Laskey. (There are vacancies for "chef's assistants"—please let Rick or Sy know you are willing to help.) The menu will include hot dogs, hamburgers, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, corn, and watermelon. Vegetarian/Vegan available upon request at time of reservation. The price is still \$10 per adult. Reservations are required by August 21.

## Information Update — Your Help is Needed!

**We are trying to update our records. This includes having the correct mailing address and phone numbers of our members. We would also like to be sure that the information for each member's birthday, anniversary, children, Yahrzeits, Hebrew name, etc. is correct. Please take a few minutes to complete the information update form that is included and mail it back or drop it off at the synagogue. We would also like to know if there are other people who should be receiving our newsletter and notices of special events (other family members not living with you, friends, neighbors, etc.)**

### Special Thanks to...

...Bob Pearson and Sy Laskey for helping to keep our building up and running.

...Marcia Stern and family for sponsoring a wonderful Kiddush in memory of her husband's Yahrzeit.

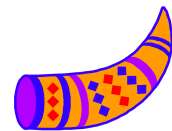
### Congratulations to...

...Len Epstein, Fran Laskey, Rick Byer, Phyllis Stern, and Mary Lou Byer for their re-election to serve as the Executive Board Officers for the coming year.

## High Holiday Tickets

### Now Available

**Please call the office now to reserve High Holiday tickets for family members or friends. (Details in the next newsletter.)**



## High Holiday Plans Underway

As the High Holidays draw near, Ahavath Israel's Ritual Committee has been hard at work planning for this very special time of year. Rabbi Daniel Aronson will once again be leading our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. As he did last year, Rabbi Aronson, who has also done interim work as a Cantor, will also take on more of

the cantorial duties, with Len Epstein sharing some of the other Bimah responsibilities and further assistance from Harold Goldmann and Rick Byer. Participation by more of our members will also be encouraged.

Last year's High Holiday services saw the addition of a new Mahzor. Appropriately

named The New Mahzor, it includes more modern English, transliterations, and readings to inspire us during the holiday season. Donations are being sought to pay for this much-needed update to our High Holiday services. (See the enclosed flyer for details.)

Another much-needed update for which we are still seek-

ing a donor or donors, is for the paroches or curtains for the ark and mantling or Torah covers. These are changed to white for the High Holidays and are in need of being replaced. Please call the office as soon as possible if you wish to memorialize a loved one by beautifying our ark for the High Holidays. Deadline is Aug.14.

## Schedule of Services for August/September

**Saturday, Aug. 5**—Shabbat Services—9AM, Followed by Kiddush

**Saturday, Aug. 12**—Shabbat Services—9 AM, Followed by Kiddush

**Saturday, Aug. 19**—Shabbat Services—9 AM, Followed by Kiddush

**Saturday, Aug. 26**—Shabbat Services—9 AM, Followed by Kiddush

**Saturday, Sept. 2** —Labor Day Weekend—Please call the office tape to see if there are services.

**Saturday, Sept. 9**—Shabbat Services—9 AM, Followed by Kiddush

**Saturday, Sept. 16**—Shabbat Services—9 AM, Followed by Kiddush  
Selichot Services (details in next newsletter)

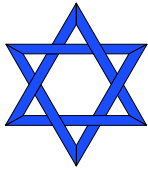
**Saturday, Sept. 23**—Rosh Hashanah and Shabbat Services—9 AM

**Sunday, Sept. 24**—Rosh Hashanah Services—9AM

**Saturday, Sept.30**—Shabbat Services—9 AM, Followed by Kiddush

**The High Holiday Schedule of Services** will be published in the September/October edition of Ahavath Updates. The schedule will also be published on our website: [www.ahavathisrael.org](http://www.ahavathisrael.org)





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**Tradition - Family - Friends**

Executive Board Officers

President  
Len Epstein

Vice President  
Frances Laskey

Treasurer  
Richard Byer

Financial Secretary  
Phyllis Stern

Recording Secretary  
Mary Lou Byer

Board of Trustees

Bingo Committee  
Phyllis Stern

Blood Bank  
Sy Laskey

Buildings and Grounds  
Robert Pearson

Cemetery Committee  
Arnold Applebaum

Newsletter/Publicity/  
Education/Programming  
Mary Lou Byer  
Frances Laskey

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.

**New Groups Waiting to Be Formed...**

Any Jewish Singles that you know?? (Friends? Co-workers? Children? Grandchildren?) Let us know about them so they can be contacted about upcoming events.

Looking for Jewish couples who are “empty-nesters or about to be, who are interested in forming a new “Chavurah-type” group. Get together will be informal and will be hosted by members of the newly formed group. Possible ideas for this group include Israeli dancing, book discussion, movie and discussion. Ideas will come from the group.



**“Hey Mom, Look at that clown!”**

“Fiery Freddie” (Sy Laskey) rode with the Sunshine Foundation in Ewing’s Fourth of July Parade this year.



Check out our Ahavath website:  
<http://www.ahavathisrael.org/index.html>  
or [www.ahavathisrael.org](http://www.ahavathisrael.org)

Always check the website and office tape for updates.

**Yizkor Book**

Letters will be out this week with requests for names to be included in this year’s Book of Remembrance. Please respond as soon as possible so that the names of your loved ones can be included. Also available will be sponsorship of the printing of the booklet.

*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. 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 (Call now for installation by Yom Kippur.)

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

The Kosher Food Pantry can always use your help. 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!

- **Ahavath Israel will be responsible for providing food for the food pantry for the month of February 2007.**

**Upcoming Events...**

- Friday, August 18 – “Shabbat Under the Stars”; Dinner at 6:30 PM, followed by Shabbat Service.
- Sunday, August–27–Annual End of Summer Picnic (12:00-2:00)
- Pre-High Holidays Pasta Dinner—Date and Time to be announced.
- Dinner?/Lunch?/Sundaes? in the Sukkah—Dates and Times to be announced.
- Fall Mah-Jongg and Chinese Kosher Luncheon—Date and Time to be announced.
- Also watch upcoming newsletters for information on adult education, speakers, and other programming.