



Ahavath Israel Congregation  
1130 Lower Ferry Road  
Ewing, NJ 08618

# Ahavath Updates



## Special Hanukkah Weekend Planned

This year the celebration of Hanukkah is sure to be a delightful treat for all who partake in the festivities being held at Ahavath Israel. Programming will be varied with both Conservative and Orthodox celebrations. All programs are free and are open to members of Ahavath Israel and to members of the greater Ewing community.

Ahavath Israel will hold its Annual Hanukkah Latke Party on Sunday, December 17. To add to the weekend's festivities, the Chabad of Greater Mercer County, will sponsor its Hanukkah Shabbaton to be held at Ahavath Israel on Friday, December 15 and Saturday, December 16.

The **Chabad's Shabbaton**, under the direction of Rabbi Schneur Zalman Schapiro of the Chabad of Ewing, will begin at 4 PM on Friday, Dec. 15 with a Hanukkah candlelighting. This will be followed by a Kosher Chinese Buffet. Orthodox Saturday Shabbat services will be held on Dec. 16 beginning at 10 AM and will be followed by a Kiddush luncheon prepared by Rebbitzin Chaya Schapiro. A full day of programming for men women, and children is planned for Saturday afternoon, including songs, festivities, education groups, special women's lectures, and candlelighting.

**Ahavath's Annual Hanukkah Latke Party** will take place on Sunday afternoon, December 17 from 1:00—3:00 PM. A short "Hanukkah Workshop" program for adults and a Hanukkah story and craft for children, will precede the "noshing" of our traditional home-made latkes, prepared under the direction of our Chief Latke Maven Sy Laskey, along with Assistant Latke Maven Rick Byer. Music, dreidels, gelt, and the lighting of Hanukkah candles will complete the afternoon. This is open to anyone wishing to attend at no charge, but reservations are requested (882-3092).



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NOVEMBER—

NOVEMBER-  
DECEMBER 2006

*Ahavath Updates* is published six times per year. Mary Lou Byer, Editor

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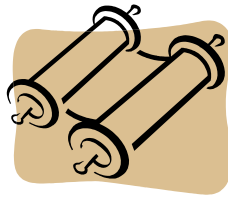
### Reminders:

- You are always needed and welcome for Services to help make a Minyan. Bring a friend.
- BINGO needs your help. Call to volunteer.
- 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.



## A Message from Our President

November, 2006  
From the President's Desk



Ahavath Israel Congregation can be proud of hosting the best High Holiday services ever with the largest attendance in the last few years. I received a lot of positive feedback from attendees. Our members and affiliated community participation really helped us reach out to the greater Ewing Jewish population and offer meaningful prayer services.

The shul looked great, inside and out, due to the Herculean efforts by your board of directors, volunteers, and sponsors. Now, the holiday season is over and we enter the long dark days of winter. But, do not despair! Every Shabbat, Ahavath Israel will continue to have morning services starting at 9am (if you come at 9:30am, that's OK too). We would love to see you more than once a year. Come for the Kiddush, to chat with friends, to pray to G-d, say kaddish for a loved one, or to just help us make a minyan so other people can say kaddish. Your attendance will be greatly appreciated and noticed!

B'shalom,

**Len Epstein, President**

## How is it really spelled??

It seems as though there has always been confusion about the spelling of "Hanukkah/Chanukah." According to [www.holidays.net](http://www.holidays.net), "Part of the reason for this confusion may be due to the fact there is no exact English translation of the Hebrew word for Chanukah." The website noted the following as some of the different spellings that one may encounter:

- Chanuka
- Hannukah
- Haneka
- Chanukah
- Hanukkah
- Hanika
- Chanukkah
- Hanuka
- Khanukkah
- Channukah
- Hanukka
- Hanukah
- Hanaka

So no matter how we spell it, rest assured we are all celebrating the same holiday!



## Fundraisers

- **BINGO**—Bingo continues to be our most consistent fundraiser. Come to help or to play, either way you'll be helping the synagogue in its fundraising efforts! We expect to be taking a winter break like we did last year. Your help is needed for November and December. The state has imposed new requirements on establishments conducting a Bingo...licensing fees have increased on the state and local levels... all games are in the process of being switched from "lap boards" (reusable) to "paper" (consumable) cards. This will definitely and sadly cut into our profits.
- **Marrazzo's Receipts Program**—We still need your Marrazzo's receipts! No older than the past 5 months. Circle the "**subtotal**" on each. Drop off in the lobby or mail slot. Thank you to everyone who has helped collect slips from their friends and neighbors. This small fundraiser gives us several hundred dollars each year, earmarked for rabbinical services.
- **Avon** — Our fall Avon fundraiser was a success! Thank you to everyone who took books to neighbors, friends, and co-workers. Our profit was \$182.
- **Ideas, Anyone?** We are always looking for ideas for fundraising and programming. If you have any ideas to share, please let one of the officers or board members know, and also let us know if you can help.

**Deadline for all copy for the January—February issue of *Ahavath Updates* is Friday, December 22.**

## Ahavath says...

### Mazel Tov to:

- **Marcia Stern** as we welcome her as our newest member;
- **Warren Barclay** for being honored by the New Jersey Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

### Thank you to:

- **Members of the Board of Trustees** for all of their hard work in getting the synagogue ready for the High Holidays;
- **Rabbi Daniel Aronson** for leading High Holiday services so beautifully;
- **Len Epstein, Rick Byer, and Harold Goldmann** for their assistance with the High Holiday services;
- **Ritual Chair Rick Byer**, for keeping High Holiday services moving smoothly;
- Everyone who helped get everything ready for the holidays: **Phyllis Stern, Frances and Sy Laskey, Bob Pearson, Rick and Mary Lou Byer, Marcia Stern, and Beverley Levenson;**
- **Sy and Fran Laskey** for providing home hospitality for the Rabbi and his family;
- **Len and Sherry Epstein** for the donation of flowers for the Bimah on Rosh Hashanah;
- **Phyllis Stern for the donation** of flowers in memory of her parents Lillian and Maxwell Stern, for Yom Kippur;
- The sponsors of our "Break-the-Fast" at the conclusion of Yom Kippur services: **Rick and Mary Lou Byer, Fran and Sy Laskey, Beverley Levenson, and Iris and Bob Pearson;**
- **Apache Lawn Service** for the donation of blocks for our new patio in the Meditation Garden/Sukkah area and **Len Epstein** for helping to orchestrate this donation;
- **Fran and Sy Laskey** for the donation of additional blocks needed to complete the project;
- **Bob Pearson, Martin Clayman, and Sy Laskey** for laying the patio;
- **Rudy Fuessel** for the donation of three tons of sand needed for the completion of this project and **Sy Laskey** for helping to orchestrate this donation;
- **Bob Pearson, Mary Lou Byer, Sy Laskey** for constructing and decorating the Sukkah with the assistance of **Fran Laskey;**
- **Howard Myers** for the donation of cornstalks for the Sukkah and to **Sy Laskey** for helping to arrange this donation;
- **BINGO volunteers**, for their tireless dedication and work in this ongoing fundraiser;
- To everyone who supported our Fall Avon Fundraiser;
- **Beth Lavine** for her donation of items for upcoming raffles and events; another thank you to **Beth** for contributing her collection of articles, pictures, and poetry for our archives;
- **Ruth Olinsky** for her artwork which graced the Memorial Booklets for Yizkor.; another thank you to **Ruth** for allowing us to use some of her original poetry in the booklet and in upcoming publications.
- Thank you to the **Pinsky Family** for their very generous donation to the food pantry. The many bags of groceries represent an abundance of caring, and are greatly appreciated by the families which make use of the Kosher Food Pantry.

### Donations for September and October    Yizkor Memorial Book Donations

- |                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| • Herb Young          | • Helen Esko               |
| • Warren Barclay      | • Annabelle Temkin         |
| • M/M Leonard Epstein | • Harold Goldmann          |
| • Ida Holland         | • M/M Sy Laskey            |
| • MM Ed Olinsky       | • Mary Markowitz           |
| • M/M Robert Pearson  | • M/M Irv Kramer           |
| • M/M Milton Seifert  | • Beverley Levenson        |
| • Phyllis Stern       | • Marcia Stern             |
| • M/M Herman Tashlik  | • Millie Temkin            |
| • Bella Applebaum     | • Dr./Mrs. Michael Kaufman |
| • M/M Richard Byer    |                            |



## September/October Donations (continued)

### Adoption and Dedication of *Mahzor Hadash* (High Holiday prayerbooks):

- Ruth & Ed Olinsky,
- Fran & Sam Friedman
- Martin & Ruth Clayman
- Estelle Applebaum
- Mr. & Mrs. Milton Kravitz

### Yahrzeit Donations:

- Barry & Sohraya Neufeld in memory of Bessie and Lawrence Jaspán
- Herb Young in memory of Ella Young
- Sherry and Len Epstein
- Phyllis Stern in memory of Rose Tankle
- Seymour & Ruth Blaustein in memory of Ed Spiro

### Ways that you can donate

Remember, there are many ways to memorialize or honor your loved ones. Seat Plaques, Leaves for the Tree of Life, Prayer Books, Memorial Board Plaques, or the Dedication of a Memorial Window are but a few examples. Call and we will gladly help with suggestions.

Please remember that donations for different designations get deposited to different accounts, and these are different from the account for dues. Please, to be more efficient, do not combine donations with dues on the same check.

Suggestions for donations: Yahrzeit, Aliyah, Charity (Tzedakah) Fund, Stained Glass Window Repair, Bimah Coverage, kitchen, Oneg Shabbat or Kiddush...and the list goes on.

Did you know that we now have a Price Waterhouse investment account set up to receive donations of stocks that you may wish to give to Ahavath? Call Len Epstein for details.

Remember, no matter how you donate, or how much, you are always helping your synagogue!

### Miscellaneous Donations:

- Millie Temkin in honor of the hard work and dedication of President Len Epstein and all of the members of the Board.
- Mr. and Mrs. Milton Kravitz, for a donation toward the repairs of the Heating and Air Conditioning system.

## In the Community...

### Films at Princeton University

Sunday, November 12, 2006

#### *Metallic Blues*

Directed by Dan Verete, (2004) 90 minutes

*Metallic Blues* is a touching and amazing tragicomic road-movie, about two Israeli car dealers who risk it all in search of a better life, only to find out the most unexpected personal and historical truths. The opportunity of a lifetime has crossed paths with Shmuel and Siso; or so they think. A film about friendship and reconciliation surrounded with the memories of the dark days in the history of Germany and Israel.



Sunday, November 19, 2006

#### *Free Zone*

Directed by Amos Gitai, (2005) 90 minutes

Rebecca, an American who has been living in Jerusalem for a few months now, has just broken off her engagement. She gets into a cab driven by Hanna, an Israeli. But Hanna is on her way to Jordan, to the Free Zone, to pick up a large sum of money that "the American", her husband's partner, owes them. Rebecca persuades Hanna to take her along. When they reach the Free Zone, Leila, a Palestinian, explains that the American isn't there and that the money has vanished....

Sunday, December 3, 2006

#### *Minotaur*

Directed by Jonathan Tammuz, (1997) 90 minutes

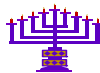
Based on a best selling novel by Israeli writer Benjamin Tammuz. Rebecca, a young American lady who has been living in Jerusalem for a while, suddenly breaks off her engagement with Julio, her Israeli fiancé. In a state of emotional shock she gets into a taxi and asks the driver to take her anywhere she likes but away from the place where she broke up. Although reluctant, Hanna, the driver lets her accompany her to Jordan's Free Zone where she is to meet "The American", her husband Moshe's Palestinian business partner. Once there, they realize "The American" is not there but a Palestinian woman named Leila offers them, after much bickering with Hanna, to take them to the oasis where "The American" lives...



### Free Hebrew Classes

Rabbi Bassous is offering a Free Crash Course for beginners to learn to read Hebrew in 5 easy lessons.

They begin on Tuesday, November 7th at 8pm to 9pm at Etz Ahaim in Edison. The next lesson will be on November 21 and every other Tuesday thereafter. This class is open to members and non members. Please reserve your space by contacting Rabbi Bassous. (Rachel Weintraub—rachel@weintraubworld.net)



### Community Candle Lighting

The Greater Mercer County Chabad will lead a Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremony in front of the NJ State House in Trenton, on Friday, December 15 at 1 PM and on Saturday, December 16 at 7 PM.



# November 2006

10 Cheshvan 5767 – 9 Kislev 5767

## Ahavath Israel Congregation

1130 Lower Ferry Road - Ewing, NJ 08618

Phone: (609) 882-3092 Fax: (609) 883-2067 E-mail: ahavath@aol.com

Website: www.ahavathisrael.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10 CHESHVAN	2 11 CHESHVAN BINGO Volunteers and Players needed! First Game - 7:30 PM	3 12 CHESHVAN 4:36	4 13 CHESHVAN Lech Lecha SHABBAT SERVICES 9:00 AM, followed by Kiddush Shabbat Ends: 5:43
5 14 CHESHVAN	6 15 CHESHVAN	7 16 CHESHVAN	8 17 CHESHVAN	9 18 CHESHVAN NO BINGO THIS WEEK!	10 19 CHESHVAN 4:29	11 20 CHESHVAN Vayera SHABBAT SERVICES 9:00 AM, followed by Kiddush Shabbat Ends: 5:36
12 21 CHESHVAN	13 22 CHESHVAN	14 23 CHESHVAN	15 24 CHESHVAN	16 25 CHESHVAN BINGO Volunteers and Players needed! First Game - 7:30 PM	17 26 CHESHVAN 4:23	18 27 CHESHVAN Chaye Sarah SHABBAT SERVICES 9:00 AM, followed by Kiddush Shabbat Ends: 5:30
19 28 CHESHVAN	20 29 CHESHVAN Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 PM	21 30 CHESHVAN Rosh Chodesh Kislev - Day 1	22 1 KISLEV Rosh Chodesh Kislev - Day 2	23 2 KISLEV Thanksgiving Day NO BINGO TONIGHT	24 3 KISLEV 4:18	25 4 KISLEV Toldot Shabbat Ends: 5:26
26 5 KISLEV	27 6 KISLEV	28 7 KISLEV	29 8 KISLEV	30 9 KISLEV BINGO Volunteers and Players needed! First Game - 7:30 PM		



# December 2006

10 Kislev 5767 – 10 Tevet 5767

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 10 KISLEV 🕒 4:16	2 11 KISLEV 🕒 Vayetze SHABBAT SERVICES 9:00 AM, followed by Kiddush 🕒 Shabbat Ends: 5:24
3 12 KISLEV	4 13 KISLEV	5 14 KISLEV	6 15 KISLEV	7 16 KISLEV BINGO Volunteers and Players needed! First Game - 7:30 PM	8 17 KISLEV 🕒 4:15	9 18 KISLEV 🕒 Vayishlach SHABBAT SERVICES 9:00 AM, followed by Kiddush 🕒 Shabbat Ends: 5:23
10 19 KISLEV	11 20 KISLEV	12 21 KISLEV	13 22 KISLEV	14 23 KISLEV BINGO Volunteers and Players needed! First Game - 7:30 PM	15 24 KISLEV 🕒 4:16 Hanukkah Candle Lighting 4:00 PM Chabad Hanukkah Shabbaton	16 25 KISLEV 🕒 Hanukkah - Day 1 🕒 Vayeshev Chabad Shabbaton - SHABBAT SERVICES 10:00 AM-Kiddush/Launch- Program 🕒 Shabbat Ends: 5:24
17 26 KISLEV 🕒 Hanukkah - Day 2 Hanukkah Program and Latke Party 1:00 - 3:00 PM	18 27 KISLEV 🕒 Hanukkah - Day 3 Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 PM	19 28 KISLEV 🕒 Hanukkah - Day 4	20 29 KISLEV 🕒 Hanukkah - Day 5	21 30 KISLEV 🕒 Hanukkah - Day 6 🕒 Rosh Chodesh Tevet - Day 1 BINGO Volunteers and Players needed! First Game - 7:30 PM	22 1 TEVET 🕒 Hanukkah - Day 7 🕒 Rosh Chodesh Tevet - Day 2 🕒 4:19	23 2 TEVET 🕒 Hanukkah - Day 8 🕒 Miketz 🕒 Shabbat Ends: 5:28
24 3 TEVET	25 4 TEVET 🇺🇸 Christmas Day	26 5 TEVET	27 6 TEVET	28 7 TEVET BINGO Volunteers and Players needed! First Game - 7:30 PM	29 8 TEVET 🕒 4:23	30 9 TEVET 🕒 Vayigash 🕒 Shabbat Ends: 5:32
31 10 TEVET 🕒 Tenth of Tevet						

**YOUR AD COULD APPEAR  
HERE!**

See below for details.



**Be sure to support  
our advertisers!**

**Ads Needed!**

Please help us to reach out to individuals and businesses in and around our community. Our newsletter is sent to our own Ahavath members, prospective Ahavath members, members of the community, other synagogues, and some of our local businesses. If you know of anyone else that you would like to receive our newsletter, please contact Mary Lou Byer, at (609) 882-3092. We are especially interested in getting advertisers for our newsletter. Ads may be from businesses or individuals. Ad information is listed below. Please share this with anyone who you patronize.

**YOUR AD COULD APPEAR HERE!**

Ahavath Israel's newsletter, Ahavath Updates, is now accepting ads for upcoming editions. The newsletter is published every other month, six times per year. Remaining issues for this year will be published for January-February, March-April, and May-June. If you or anyone you know is interested in advertising, please complete the form below, attach your business card or copy-ready ad, and mail with your check for the correct amount, made payable to: **Ahavath Israel Congregation**.

**Deadline for all copy is Friday, December 22.**

_____ Standard Business Card	\$40 for all three issues
_____ Quarter Page	\$60 for all three issues
_____ Half Page	\$75 for all three issues

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

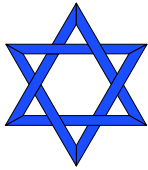
SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN TO: AHAVATH ISRAEL CONGREGATION, 1130 LOWER FERRY ROAD, EWING, NJ 08618

ATTENTION: MARY LOU BYER

ADS MAY BE FAXED TO: (609) 883-2067

FOR MORE INFO CALL: (609) 882-3092.



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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

**Education**  
Mary Lou Byer

**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.

**Upcoming Events at Ahavath Israel . . .**

*Please join us. All activities, services, and events are open to everyone. For more information, please call the synagogue office and leave a message for a call-back (609-882-3092).*

- Saturday, Nov. 4 — Shabbat Services 9:00 AM, followed by Kiddush
- Saturday, Nov. 11 — Shabbat Services 9:00 AM, followed by Kiddush
- Saturday, Nov. 18 — Shabbat Services 9:00 AM, followed by Kiddush
- Monday, Nov. 20 — Ahavath Israel Board of Trustees, 7:30 PM
- Saturday, Nov. 25 — Thanksgiving Weekend—No Services
- Saturday, Dec. 2—Shabbat Services 9:00 AM, followed by Kiddush
- Saturday, Dec. 9—Shabbat Services 9:00 AM, followed by Kiddush
- Friday, Dec. 15—Hanukkah Candle-lighting 4:00 PM and Kosher Chinese Buffet sponsored by the Chabad of Greater Mercer County. Everyone is invited. No charge!
- Saturday, Dec. 16—Orthodox Shabbat Services 10:00 AM, followed by Kiddush Luncheon and an afternoon of Hanukkah activities.
- Sunday, Dec. 17 — Ahavath’s Hanukkah Program & Latke Party (Hanukkah Gift Shop open)
- Monday, Dec. 18 — Ahavath Israel Board of Trustees, 7:30 PM
- Friday, Dec. 22 — Deadline for submissions for Jan/Feb newsletter
- Saturday, Dec. 23 — Winter Break—No Services
- Saturday, Dec. 30 — Winter Break—No Services
- Sunday, February 4—World Wide Wrap VII - 9:00 AM, followed by a Bagel & Wrap Breakfast
- Friday, May 4—Shabbat Across America—6:00 PM—Shabbat Dinner & Friday Evening Service
- Spring Mah-Jongg, Cards, and Games (Date to be determined)
- Israeli Dancing (Demo and possible classes—Dates to be determined)
- Also watch upcoming newsletters and flyers for information on adult education, speakers, and other programming. Suggestions for future programs and events are always welcome.

**Ahavath Trivia**



Can you name any five of our Ahavath past presidents without checking the plaques or pictures in the lobby?



How about Rabbis?



**Keep Checking Our Website for Updates**

**www.ahavathisrael.org**



**Hanukkah Websites:**

<http://www.holidays.net/chanukah/> (Chanukah on the Net-Information, games, crafts, and much more)

<http://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah/> (Virtual Chanukah-customs, recipes, games, Chanukah around the world, and much more)

<http://www.hanukat.com> (Comic character helps celebrate the holiday)

<http://www.chanuka.com/> (Shopping, games, postcards to send, and much more; plus links to lots of other related websites!)

<http://www.torah.org/chanukah.html> (A great resource! Lots more than just Chanukah!)

<http://www.everythingjewish.com/Hanukah/origins.htm> (History, customs, religious significance -- a good source of information for those who like to read—connect to shopping, art, and other Jewish Holidays)