



Kol HaShalom

Tevet/Shevat/Adar 5764

January/February 2004

From the Rabbi *Abundance for the Coming Year*

2003 was perhaps the greatest year of growth for CAS since we began six and half years ago. I reflect on the growth of our membership, the Sunday School lead by our parent coordinators and teachers, our retreat center, ongoing programs like Rosh Hodesh, Torah study and the Monday night Minyan group.

I am literally overwhelmed by the amount of love, energy, time and commitment we saw in 2003, and I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to every leader, member and friend of CAS - you make all this possible.

One of my dreams for this year is to create a financially sustainable schul. That means that we will look at our finances with long term vision inspired by **abundant** thinking.

This spring, our Retreat Center, *Or Tzafon*, will be hosting a regional training in financial sustainability with a nationally known expert. Ahavat Shalom will have a front row seat at the table. Please let me know if you want to be a part of this training.

Another one of my dreams is to complete the M Glenn Grossman Prayer Book this year. This prayer book will help us define our identity through our spiritual language. We will begin meeting monthly in January. Please call the office if you would like to work on this awesome project.

My third dream is to be a better coach to project leaders this year. Rather than take on a lot of nitty gritty work myself, I would like to leverage the skills from my consulting days to help every member become a leader.

My fourth dream is to create a rotating *shammes* role for our Shabbat services. That person would be someone to make sure the sweet details are done with grace and class: greeters at the door, an oneg that makes our mouths water, and accessibility for our members and friends who need a little extra at services.

My fifth dream for 2004 is to take our Hebrew school class to the Washington DC US Holocaust Museum this Spring to enhance our studies.

My sixth dream is to enter into dialogue with the UU as they explore expansion of their building. Perhaps we'll find our shared home will grow!

My seventh dream is hear about **your** dreams: for your self, your families, the synagogue, the community, the world. CAS is a magical place - it should be for each of us a source of abundant dreaming, support and connection.

Thanks again for a great year in 2003, and I look forward to 2004!

Blessings –
Rabbi Stacie

“You must understand the whole of life, not just one little part of it. That is why you must read, that is why you must look at the skies, that is why you must sing, and dance, and write poems, and suffer and understand, for all that is life.”

– J. Krishnamurti

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Letter from the President

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Mar/Apr newsletter

article deadline - Feb 6.

Send to Sandy Swartz

taylorspines@core.com

Dear Members and Friends:

On behalf of the newly elected Board of Directors, *shalom*, and welcome to the next step in the evolution of Congregation Ahavat Shalom. We have some fabulous new ideas for growing and strengthening our congregation. We look forward to sharing not only our thoughts, but the effort and commitment which will be required to move this organization ahead.

But first, a well deserved *thank you* to the departing Board. Several Board members are leaving after long tenure and faithful service. Others stepped in and took on difficult tasks when no one else was willing. We owe them all our thanks and gratitude.

Our Congregation has come a long way from the casual meeting on a living room floor where the dream of an inclusive, open Jewish congregation was first discussed. Our Sunday school and adult education classes have blossomed, to the point we were compelled to acquire additional classroom space. Our services and programs are flourishing, with attendance on the rise. Our reputation in the community for good deeds and *tikkun olam*, in large part due to Rabbi Stacie's efforts, is outstanding. We have much to be proud of.

In Appreciation

Dear David and the Board,

I am grateful to those who gave of themselves so that the congregation could move forward and express the spirit and the purpose of our unique conglomeration of souls.

In other involvements (not spiritual/religious), I am in the role of being responsible, and there are people (like me with CAS), who sometimes show up, but who are not a consistent presence. No one

Still, there remains work to be done. As many of you are aware from the annual members meeting, we have a budget deficit. Quite simply, we cannot afford to continue providing the level of programming, education and services we currently offer without raising additional funds. The Board is committed to holding the line and continuing our growth, but we need your help, both financially and physically.

Please keep an open mind as you read this newsletter, looking for opportunities to contribute. If there is a program you find particularly attractive, consider giving either your time or some money to support it. If you have an idea for something that you do not see in place now, bring it to the Board and help us make it happen.

Now is the time for our Congregation to take the next step. We must now strive to become a self sustaining, mature and financially secure organization. We welcome whatever meaningful contribution you are willing and able to make.

Thank you in advance for your support during the coming year.

– Adam M. Lett
President

can do it all, and when others are doing, I want to tell them how appreciative I am. I cannot imagine what it was like to take on the role of president or serve on the Board especially in an organization that is still relatively new and setting up its policies and traditions.

Thank you very much for your year in leadership.

– Cindy Shapiro

Calendar of Events

There will be no service at
the UU in January.



January Shabbat

Please join Craig, Sandy and Taylor Swartz at their home on **Friday, January 9** for *Winter Solstice Shabbat in Bellaire* beginning at 5 pm. Come early to ice skate, sled, snow shoe and cross country ski. Bring a dish to share for a pot luck dinner at 6:30 pm followed by singing and dancing around the Bon Fire. Dress for outdoor fun!

Directions to the Swartz's in margin.

Rosh Hodesh Women's Gathering for the New Moon

Friday, January 23 at 6:30 pm
Rachel Yudin hosting (Traverse City)
Contact Kate Husband at 264-6034 or
mairead@chartermi.net.

February Shabbat

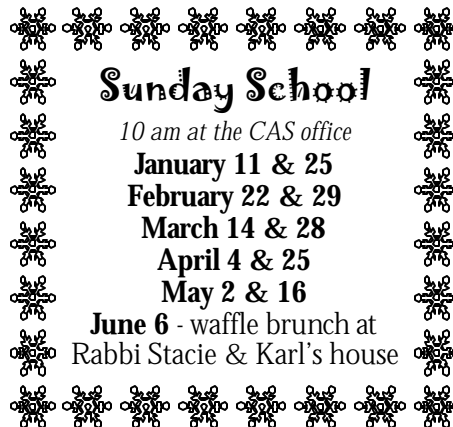
Friday, February 6 at 7 pm at the UU join us for Shabbes and the installation of the new CAS Board. Our new members will share their vision for the schul.

Tu B'shvat Potluck

Sunday, February 8 at 10 am at the CAS office, all CAS members are invited to join us at Sunday School as we celebrate a Tu B'shvat potluck seder brunch in honor of mother earth! You don't have to be the parent of a Sunday School student, you just have to love the great outdoors and love food! RSVP to the CAS office 929-4330 to save your spot. Bring your own place setting so we can reduce reliance on disposable products.

Rosh Hodesh

Saturday, February 21
Possible sleepover, or overnight retreat at Whispering Waters.
Contact Kate Husband at 264-6034 or
mairead@chartermi.net.



Sunday School

10 am at the CAS office

January 11 & 25

February 22 & 29

March 14 & 28

April 4 & 25

May 2 & 16

June 6 - waffle brunch at
Rabbi Stacie & Karl's house

Other Family/Kid Friendly Events

Sunday, February 8 at 10 am

Tu B'shvat Potluck Seder Brunch
(see left)

Sunday, March 7

CAS members will prepare and serve a meal at the Goodwill Inn Homeless Shelter prior to our Purim Celebration.
Details forthcoming.

Sunday, March 7 at 5:30 pm

Purim Party & Potluck
(see below)

Friday, April 9 at 6 pm

Community Passover Seder at the UU.

Friday, May 7 at 7 pm

Sunday School leads services at the UU!

Looking Ahead

Purim Celebration

Our Purim celebration and costume party will take place on **Sunday, March 7** at 5:30 pm at the UU. Comedy writers and actors are desperately needed, as you know from having allowed the rabbi to do much of the writing last year. **Please call Rabbi Stacie to help!**

An Informal Coffee

On **Monday, March 22** at 7 pm at the CAS office, meet Debra Kolodny, National Development Director of ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal.

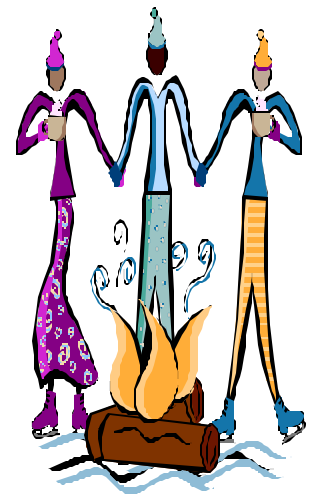
The Congregation Ahavat Shalom (CAS) office is located at 413 N. Division, Traverse City. It is just south of Grandview Parkway on the west side of Division Street.

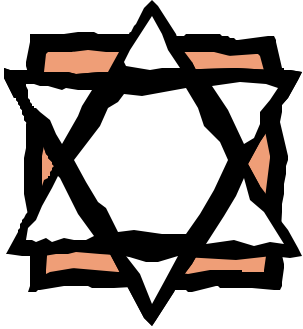
The Unitarian Universalist Congregation (UU) is located at 6726 Center Road, Traverse City. It is on the peninsula, 2 miles north of Munson Avenue (Grandview Pkwy and Garfield) on the east side of Center Road.

Directions to the Swartz's

From T.C. go to Acme and turn right on M-72. Travel 10 miles and follow sign for Rapid City/Alden by turning left on Hill Rd. At stop sign turn left and go thru Rapid City to Alden. In Alden take a left on E. Torch Lake Drive. Go 3/4 mile and turn left to stay on E. Torch Lake Drive. Go 3.5 miles and turn right on Crystal Springs Road (by DeWitt Marina). Travel 1.25 miles and turn right on private road with 3 names: Basil, Warner and Power. House on right at top of hill.

Address: 7310 Basil
Phone: 231-377-6615





Weekly Torah Portions

Read for the week ending

January 3

Vayigash
Genesis 44:18 - 47:27

January 10

Vayechi
Genesis 47:28 - 0:26

January 17

Shemot
Exodus 1:1 - 6:1

January 24

Vaera
Exodus 6:2 - 9:35

January 31

Bo
Exodus 10:1 - 13:16

February 7

Beshalach
Exodus 13:17 - 17:16

February 14

Yitro
Exodus 18:1 - 20:26

February 21

Mishpatim
Exodus 21:1 - 24:18

February 28

Terumah
Exodus 25:1 - 27:19

Adult Education Events

Sabbath Morning Services

Rabbi-Lead Sabbath Morning Services will now take place bi-monthly. For those who wish to gather for weekly text study at the office, we will rotate coordinating responsibility. The coordinator is responsible for making sure the building is open (and closed at the end).

On **Saturday, January 17** and **Saturday, February 14**, we'll travel to the Leelanau Center for Contemplative Arts in the village of Lake Leelanau for an open, gentle Yoga class (lead by Sara Carr of Union Yoga), Kabbalistic chant and silent Meditation. Program begins at 9 am (best to arrive and be ready by 8:45 am) and an RSVP is required. \$20 fee is payable to CAS in advance includes yoga instruction, meditation program and handouts. For those who wish, we'll hop across the street to Keijara's Bridge for a vegetarian meal following.

Rabbi About Town Community Events

City of Traverse City Martin Luther King Day Celebration will take place on **Sunday, January 18** at 6 pm at the Central United Methodist Church in Traverse City. Rabbi Stacie will be the closing speaker.

Traverse City Reads! is a community-wide reading project that features *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel this year. The book is a wonderful and inspiring story that even includes reference to Jewish mystic Isaac Luria. Among many events, Rabbi Stacie will be part of a panel presentation on **Saturday, January 17** at 6 pm at the Denno Museum Center. For more information contact Chris Allen at 935-9265.



Saturday Torah Study

Torah study is an informal gathering for students at **all levels**. The discussion is group-lead, comfortable, humorous and insightful. Torahs and commentaries from feminist, mystical, psychological and historical/rabbinic are provided to the full group to explore.

Torah study will take place:

January 10 - coordinator needed

January 17 - Yichud Yoga and Meditation in Lake Leelanau with Rabbi Stacie

January 24 - coordinator needed

January 31 - Rabbi-lead, 10 am at office

February 7 - coordinator needed

February 14 - Yichud Yoga and Meditation in Lake Leelanau with Rabbi Stacie

February 21 - coordinator needed

February 28 - Rabbi-lead, 10 am at office

Say Hi to the

Sandi, Curtis, and Nicole Kuttbauer moved to Traverse City this summer, relocating from Bloomfield Hills. There they were longstanding members of Congregation Beth El; Nicole was a 6th-generation member!

The Kuttbauers are already well integrated into CAS activities. Nicole attends Sunday School with the *middle kids*. Curtis is Treasurer for our Board.

Nicole, 6, is a kindergartener at Pathfinder School. She is described as vivacious, and enjoys ballet, swimming, and skiing.

Curtis is self-employed, working out of his home as an executive recruiter. Sandi is currently looking for work. They enjoy skiing, snow shoeing, boating, and traveling.

Say hi to the Kuttbauers!

– Roger Gerstle

News from Departing Board

Abundance. Family. Community. Perseverance. Passion. Congregation Ahavat Shalom experienced a year of tremendous growth both in terms of membership, events, services and educational programs. Along the way, we experienced the subsequent aches, pains and twinges of a growing schul as well.

Rabbi Bahle and Gary Appel used to call us, "The Little Schul that Could". We're no longer that little schul. For over six years CAS has continued to climb upward, each of us supporting the other with love and laughter and amazing food. Looking around now at the new faces, at the new families, I feel the rush of excitement and a resurgence of energy. We're alive and re-charged and eager to continue the journey.

Looking Ahead

It has been an honor to serve as board president this past year. Everyone who served on the board this year was committed to helping CAS and devoted their time, talent, and resources throughout the year, not just at the bi-monthly meetings.

This past year may have marked a pivotal juncture in the future of CAS. I believe we have reached a point where *business as usual* will have to make a fundamental change.

If one could travel back in time and attend a CAS service Rabbi Stacie lead four or five years ago they may wonder what it was. Our time traveler would not know many of the people in attendance, the liturgy would be different, many songs would be different, the teachings different, the Hebrew different, the *Jewishness* different, and not as much food afterward.

If the time traveler went to a board meeting they would see our financial demands were much smaller. A few very generous members could help us through periodic financial difficulties. One major fundraiser

After our October Board of Directors meeting, Rabbi Bahle said the following: "We have the faith, the courage and the will to ensure an abundant Jewish future for this synagogue and community for ourselves and our children." This concept was heartily supported when the membership committed to eliminate our budget deficit for 2004.

Abundance. Family. Community. Perseverance. Passion. A lovely way to summarize the passing year. An exciting way to set forth on our journey into the next year.

– Pami Sprague
Board Secretary 2002-2003

could carry us for two years. Rabbi Stacie had another income producing job and we had no administrative assistant.

Our time traveler would see just a few kids involved in CAS. Only limited adult education and Sunday school. No Saturday morning torah study, Hebrew classes or Rosh Hodesh.

So much has changed. The new board, with the help of membership, cannot use the same processes that served us well in the past.

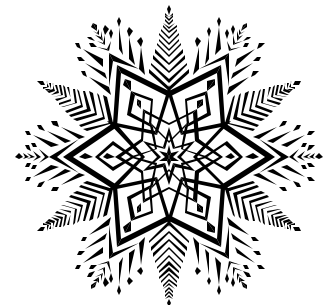
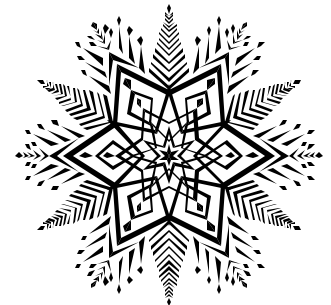
My hope is that the new board, comprised of many new members and enough long term members to create balance, will start to form the structures, processes, procedures, roles, boundaries, culture and other basic components of a sustainable organization to meet the challenges that CAS faces as it continues to attract and retain members.

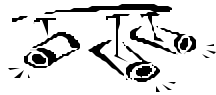
I feel confident we can meet the challenge.

– David Halperin
President 2003

"Opportunity falls into the hands of those who are prepared to receive it."

– Yalkut Shimoni





CHICAGO!



Thank you to everyone for making CHICAGO
and "310" an amazing evening



Sponsor Donors

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Bahle's Clothing Store in Suttons Bay

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Sandy Swartz
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Thank you for the work and time invested by Old Town Playhouse, 310, Linda Grossman, Anne Howson, Jennifer Lett, Nancy Summers and Sandy Swartz to help make the event a success!

Thanks to Midas
Auto Service
Experts on
Grandview
Parkway for your
generosity toward
the Secret Dreidel
Society.



The Secret Dreidel Society

Thank you Ahavat Shalom members and friends for your generous response to the Secret Dreidel Society (a specific request sent out via e-mail to help a member). It took you wonderful Secret Dreidel Society *angels* literally **minutes** to meet an important need. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness. You know who you are - feel a little glow today!

Meijer Community Rewards Program

Congregation Ahavat Shalom is now a participant in the Meijer Community Rewards Program. What this means is that every time you shop at Meijer you can contribute to CAS without any additional cost to you personally. The easiest way to sign up is at www.Meijer.com/rewards and put our number: **474758** in the organization information. Applications are also available at the Temple office and at Meijer. You can mail in your application to the address listed on the form. Meijer will send you a card in the mail (not a credit card) that you present when you pay and they will donate a % of your purchase to CAS. The more that is purchased the higher the % (from 1% to 4%). If you already participate in the program, please consider adding CAS to your card. Meijer will equally split your award earnings.

Please participate and help CAS grow.
Thank You!

– Jennifer Lett

In Gratitude for Recent Contributions

Contributors

Anne Treadwell for the address stamp for the office.

Sponsors for Chicago event - Audicare Hearing Centers (Marlene Bevan) and Bahle's Store (Karl and Stacie Bahle)

Doug Ferguson & Kate Husband

Ellen Fivenson

Roger Gerstle & Marjie Rich

Arnold & Rochelle Goodman

Fred & Debbie Goldenberg

Harold & Ann Gurian

Jeff Haas & Kate Pearson

David Halperin & Carol Schiffman

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Melody Ward

Harold & Gail Willens

Rachel Yudin

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When you are experiencing prosperity be happy, and when things are going against you remember: God created both of these times.

-Bible, Ecclesiastes 7:14

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So You Want to be a Member of Congregation Ahavat Shalom,

Perhaps you are wondering how to become a member of CAS, and what membership entails. As the new membership chair, let me explain:

Prospective new members typically first make contact with the office or Rabbi Stacie directly. Their name is passed on to me, Roger Gerstle, and I call them and tell them about our various activities. If interested, they are then sent the last newsletter and a pledge card.

Once the pledge card is sent in with part or all of their membership dues, the new member individual or family will receive a welcome packet and a membership directory.

New members are embraced and flooded with gifts and food (just kidding, but it wouldn't hurt). Members are entitled to rabbinical services including all the life-cycle events, pastoral care, member only

events, discounts on retreats, are included in the directory, and of course participate in whichever activities they like. There is no requirement at this time for service to CAS, but this is something I would like to have dialogue about. Please contact me or any board member if you have thoughts about this.

We have many *friends of CAS* who come to services and other activities and contribute financially and in deed. We have many others who receive our bimonthly newsletter. We are in the process of more clearly defining these categories.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Congregation, please contact me, Roger Gerstle at 922-9107 or email at richgerstle@chartermi.net or contact Rabbie Stacie.



Yes! I want to help Congregation Ahavat Shalom continue to grow and thrive!

Please call the office to

Or Tzafon Retreat Center

The Retreat in early November with visiting Rabbi Rami Shapiro was a great success. Not only was the retreat sold out at capacity, but the special Friday night Shabbat Dinner and Program was overflowing with local participants. The retreat title *Spacious Heart/Spacious Mind* opened us up to the many possibilities that now lie ahead.



First, there is a new name and logo for the retreat center (at left). *Or Tzafon* means Light of the North or Hidden Light.

Second, we have begun a new project in partnership with Aleph: Alliance for Jewish Renewal, in Philadelphia to host caravan style mini-retreats in three cities around the Great Lakes Region. Dates and locations for Spring and Fall 2004 will be announced. Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee are possibilities. We hope to share the taste and flavor of *Or Tzafon* retreats.

The third new venture brings together members of the Pathfinders of *Or Tzafon*,

members of the Board of Aleph and other interested representatives of Renewal Congregations from around the country in two Sustainability Training Workshops. The purpose of these workshops is to develop an understanding of how to create and maintain financially sustainable organizations. This training will benefit both our congregation and retreat center.

We have truly been blessed with wonderful retreat leaders at our Northport Bay Retreat Center Weekends, Rabbis Avram Davis; Jack Gabriel; Tirzah Firestone; Shefa Gold and Rami Shapiro. The next scheduled retreat is in the Fall of 2004. The secret has yet to unfold!

We have begun this year 5764 with the opening of great opportunity. Like the rays of illumination in the new logo, may our intentions and our efforts reach far to bring healing to the World in our time.

—Anne Howson
Liaison CAS/Pathfinders

Congregation Ahavat Shalom

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