



Kol HaShalom

Tishri/Heshvan/Kislev 5766

November/December 2005

From the Rabbi *Mutual Awe*

Recently, on the night of the birthday (18 or Chai Elul) of the Baal Shem Tov, z"L*, founder of Hasidism, I had this dream: Eliyahu HaNavi, Elijah the Prophet, who is a frequent guide in my studies, asked me where I wanted to go. I told him that, since it was his birthday, I would like nothing more than to visit the schul of the Baal Shem Tov. In a flash we were there. The main room was filled with men davvenen' (praying with focused intention), covered in great tallises (prayer shawls), and I was aware that at the front of the room, near the ark, the Baal Shem Tov himself, also covered with a tallis, was leading the service, although I could not see him. I turned to one of the Hasidim next to me and asked, "So what is it like to be a member of the Baal Shem Tov's schul?" He said: "When he preaches, we are in awe of him. But when we davven, he is in awe of us."

My dream illustrated to me the awesome potential we have when we are harmonious with one another, the reciprocal awe we are able to inspire in each other. When we do what we are here to do, each in our own way, we have the potential to create a truly sacred vessel together, one that leaves us, quite simply, in awe.

The relationship between a rabbi and her/his congregation is a rich and complex one. Without the strong presence of a rabbi, congregations can get too comfortable and "coast" spiritually, but without congregants, talmidim (students) and hasidim, all the rabbi-knowledge in the world is not terrifically meaningful.

My experience of you, both at the ordination celebration and the holidays, was one of awe. Awe at the power of your creative spirits, awe at your willingness to explore the depths of your souls, and awe at your love for one another and for CAS.

Part of my role as the rabbi is to create opportunities for our congregation to grow in kedusha, holiness. We do this through prayer, study, celebration and marking the turnings of the sacred calendar together.

Here is my pledge to you for this new year of 5766:

I vow to do all I can to be worthy of the great gifts you have given me by choosing me as your rabbi.

I vow to be innovative in creating opportunities for us to come together this year.

I vow to honor my teachers by striving to be a teacher of kedusha/holiness.

I vow to bring greater mindfulness to our interactions.

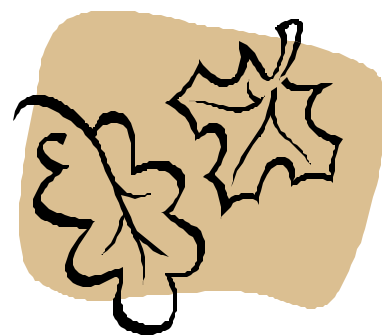
I vow to strive spiritually myself, so that I am constantly deepening my own connection to kedusha.

Indeed, when I am with you – as we celebrate, meditate, pray or just eat cake – I am in awe of the flow of holiness that CAS holds.

May you be blessed in the coming year with all good things, health, long life, a good living, love, and may the world come to know peace and harmony.

Rabbi Chava

* Footnote: The abbreviation z"L stands for "zecher tzaddik livracha" – the memory of a righteous person is a blessing.



"Everyone should carefully observe that way [to God] his heart draws him to, and then choose this way with all his strength."

—Martin Buber
Hasidism and Modern Man

Inside this Issue

Board News	2
Calendar	3-4
Education	5
Art Show	6
Contributions	7
Celebration Print	back cover

Board of Directors

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Marlene Bevan
Andy Robitshek
Sandy Swartz
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November Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 8
5:30 pm at the CAS office.

December Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 13
5:30 pm at the CAS Office.

All are welcome to attend.

Kol HaShalom

Editor-in-Chief
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Rose DuPont

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Sandy Swartz

November/December
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Rose DuPont

Emmy Lou Cholak

Fred Goldenberg

Curtis Kuttnauer

Judy Levin

Michael Orden

Melody Ward

Jan/Feb newsletter
article deadline - Jan 8.

Send to Sandy Swartz
taylorspines@core.com

Letter from the President

As you know, we will be holding our Annual Membership Meeting on November 13 at 1:30 pm at the UU. As always, this is a very important meeting. We need you there to ensure that all the voices of the membership are heard. **Please make very effort to be there** (I promise there will be cake).

Speaking of effort – I must take a moment to thank the Board of Directors for the exceptional effort they have put into making this year so wonderful. We tackled some very heady situations and each board member came through when needed. I thank each and every one of them for making my job look easy. Please note, we need new board members this year. I am asking for volunteers to step up and fill the void.

In its eight years of existence, Ahavat Shalom has accomplished what others predicted would be impossible. Although we can revel in our success, we certainly can't rest on our laurels. It is time for some

big and bold moves. It is time to take CAS to a new level, which will take a renewed commitment from all of us. Your involvement at the Board level can help make all things possible for us to accomplish.

I realize we all have busy lives and many commitments. We don't think we can commit the time to being on the board. Believe me I know...I have them too. But I also have a deep abiding love for Ahavat Shalom and a commitment to ensuring its continued success. I know you do too and I also know that we all can make the time necessary to make next year one of incredible accomplishments. If you feel as I do, then please join me on the board next year so we can make our spiritual home even better. Give me a call at 231-533-4621 if you feel as strongly as I do about our Jewish future in Northern Michigan.

If you were unable to be with us at Rabbi Chava's ordination celebration, you missed a beautiful tribute to an awesome individual. You can still participate in the celebration by purchasing a high-resolution print of the beautiful painting by Glenn Wolff presented to Rabbi Chava. The painting, titled *Tikkun Olam* (Healing the World) is a beautiful symbolic look at Chava's inexhaustible efforts to share with Traverse City the true meaning of Tikkun Olam. What a wonderful holiday gift for yourself or some one you love. Plus you're supporting Ahavat Shalom and the wonderful work Rabbi Chava is doing. Please see details on back cover.

By the time you read this your Yom Kippur fast will be over and I trust it was an easy one. I wish you all the health and wisdom you desire in the coming year. I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting, as well as a positive response to my request for board members.

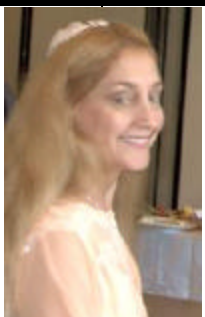
—Fred L. Goldenberg
President



Administrator's Update

As you can tell by all the mail and email you have been receiving, the CAS office is a busy place these days. Between the High Holidays, the Shalom Celebration, and the day to day business of things, my "10-2's" have been quite full. I know it can be quite a task in keeping it all in order, so I would remind (and encourage you) to utilize the resources available in contacting me when you feel like you can't quite keep the many happenings straight. OR pay a visit in person...whether it is to peruse the library for a selection to enjoy at home, or to come in and see the beautiful print commissioned for Rabbi Chava's ordination celebration, your visit to the office is also welcome. Thanks for making my time here so enjoyable, and hope to hear or see you soon!

Calendar/November 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Rosh Hodesh Gathering <i>watch for details</i>	2	3	4 No Services Please see Friday, Nov 11	5 Art Show Black Star Winery 10 am-5 pm <i>Call CAS office for info</i> Torah portion Noach Gen 6.9-11.32	
6 Art Show Black Star Winery 11 am-4 pm <i>Call CAS for info</i>	7 Rabbi ON week	8 Board Meeting CAS office 5:30 pm	9	10	11 Shabbat Service UU 6:30 pm <i>Please note time change</i>	12 Isreal/Palestine Forum UU 6 pm <i>see page 7 for details</i> Torah portion Lech L'cha Gen 12.1-17.27
13 Sunday School <i>Hebrew 9:30 am Regular class 10:30-12:30 CAS office</i> Annual Membership Meeting UU 1:30-3:30 pm	14	15 	16	17 Goodwill Inn Food Drive through the 20th <i>See below for more info</i>	18 Tot Shabbat <i>Home of the Lett's</i> 6 pm <i>RSVP to Jen</i> Beth El Service 7:30 pm	19 Rebbe's Tisch Rabbi Chava & Karl's home 10 am <i>RSVP helpful details page 5</i> Torah portion Vayera Gen 18.1-22.24
20 Sunday School <i>Hebrew 9:30 am Regular class 10:30-12:30 CAS office</i>	21 Rabbi ON week	22	23	24 	25	26 Torah portion Chayei Sarah Genesis 23.1-25.18
27 	28	29	30 Goodwill Inn Food Drive Meijer is once again providing the trailer and will match the first \$500 in gift cards received during the drive. Volunteers are needed Wednesday, November 17 through Saturday, November 19 from 9 am to 7 pm, and Sunday, November 20 from noon to 5 pm. This is a great tzedakah opportunity! Please contact Alex Cullen if you are interested in volunteering. <i>80 pairs of socks and \$84.50 (mostly via pennies!) were donated for the Goodwill Inn at Yom Kippur. Thanks CAS!</i>			

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.

Rosh Hodesh Gatherings

Monday, November 1 at 6:30 pm - host and leader needed

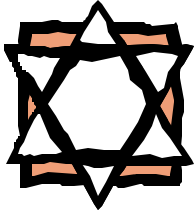
Thursday, December 1 at 6:30 pm - host and leader needed

Friday, December 30 at 6:30 pm
Host: Deb Kuhn
Leader needed

Look for more information via email.

Send email to Melody at stingrhea1155@sbcglobal.net or call 231-995-0881 if you are interested in hosting and/or leading.

Tot Shabbat
Friday, November 18
 At the home of Adam, Jen, Kayla & Nathan Lett
 6 pm
 Please RSVP to Jen at 231-938-0408.



Weekly Torah Portions
Read for the week ending

November 5

Noach
Genesis 6.9-11.32

November 12

Lech L'cha
Genesis 12.1-17.27

November 19

Vayera
Genesis 18.1-22.24

November 26

Chayei Sarah
Genesis 23.1-25.18

December 3

Toldot
Genesis 25.19-28.9

December 10

Vayetze
Genesis 28.10-32.3

December 17

Vayishlach
Genesis 32.4-36.43



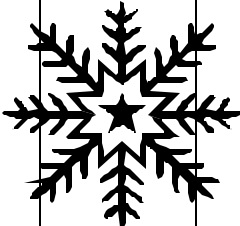

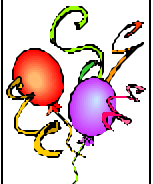
December 24

Vayeshev
Genesis 37.1-40.23

December 31

Miketz
Genesis 41.1-44.17

Calendar/December 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Rosh Hodesh Gathering <i>watch for details</i>	2 Shabbat Service UU 6:30 pm <i>(please note time)</i>	3 Board Appreciation Dinner <i>(current, incoming & outgoing)</i> Karl & Rabbi Chava's, 6:30 pm <i>Please RSVP</i> Torah portion Toldot Gen 25.19-28.9
4 Sunday School Hebrew 9:30 am Regular class 10:30-12:30 CAS office	5 Rabbi ON week	6	7	8	9	10 Torah portion Vayetze Gen 28.1-32.3
11	12	13 Board Meeting CAS office 5:30 pm	14	15 	16	17 Rebbe's Tisch Rabbi Chava & Karl's home 10 am <i>RSVP helpful details page 5</i> Torah portion Vayishlach Gen 32.4-36.43
18 Sunday School Hebrew 9:30 am Regular class 10:30-12:30 CAS office	19 Rabbi ON week	20	21 	22	23	24 Torah portion Vayeshev Gen 37.1-40.23
25 Hanukkah begins at sundown and continues for 8 days	26 	27	28	29	30 Rosh Hodesh Gathering 6:30 pm Home of Deb Kuhn	31 Torah portion Miketz Gen 41.1-44.17 



Hanukkah
Shabbat
Potluck for
Everyone!

Postcards and email with time, place and details will be in the mail at the beginning of December!

Rebbe's Tisch/ Rabbi's Table

Study opportunities with
Rabbi Chava

From the Talmud, Bava Kamma 22a
(*This is not a joke*)

"If a dog takes hold of a cake [to which live coals were stuck] and goes [with it] to a barn, consumes the cake and sets the barn alight, [the owner] pays full compensation for the cake, whereas for the barn [he] pays [only] half damages."

The word "cake" appears in the Talmud 159 times.

Thanks to everyone who came to our Shabbat Shuva study: CAKE, Jeff Miles, Arnie and Shelley Goodman, Curtis and Sandi Kuttner, Debbi Kuhn, Don and Kim Berg, Melody Ward, Bill and Dorothy Hansen, Alex Cullen, Annie Treadwell, Barbara Hertz, and our course our beloved President Fred Goldenberg! We had quite a morning eating CAKE and reflecting on the



Prayer Book News

The M. Glenn Grossman prayer book project is now ready to proceed to the next step: the first draft of the actual book itself. The rabbi will be working with the publisher to assemble a draft of the complete prayer book (which includes Shabbat evening and morning and many great songs, as well as CAS' unique additions) for final review. We will likely go to press before the end of 2005.

Start thinking now about how many copies you will want to have for yourself, your family, your home. Also consider the idea of purchasing an additional copy to donate to the schul so we have a permanent cache of books available for Shabbat visitors. Dedication plates are available for the inside cover. What a loving way to honor a relative, or remember a loved one. Watch for details coming soon!

beauties and depths of CAKE and Psalm 130. WHO KNEW such great stuff could be packed in such a tiny little psalm?

And more importantly, there was SO much loving wisdom around that table – life times of experience, reflection, thoughtfulness and depth. Speaking personally (this is Rabbi Chava), since I study alone 90% of the time, this was an amazing bracha/fountain of blessing! I received so much more because we were studying in chevruta (circle of friends).

In fact we liked the format so much, we're going to do it again!

For November and December, please come for a sweet Shabbat morning nosh (snack) and study, at 10 am, at Rabbi Chava and Karl's home, **Saturday, November 19** and **Saturday, December 17**. RSVP helpful so I have enough copies of materials but not necessary – please just show up! Topics might be: a prayer, like the Shema, in depth, a little bit of Talmud, a psalm or a Hasidic text.

A New Year Moment

At Rosh Hashana services, I was moved to be standing with a group, holding hands, feeling the breeze and sun entering the sanctuary, and singing the Shema. There were several aspects of the prayer that really "put me in the moment". The feeling of togetherness that I was experiencing in the room, sharing it with those surrounding me. I am not typically at ease while singing. But at that moment, I seemed to relax and not particularly be burdened with the fact that I usually sing off key. Rabbi Chava then had us repeat the Shema several times, and as we did so, it only heightened my sense of openness to receiving an energy that I have not experienced before. For me, it was, and is, a moment to remember.

—Michael Orden



Library News: *Amazing Winter Reads*

Since we are preparing our prayer book for press, Rabbi Chava would like to recommend two books – very accessible and lovely – on prayer.

Rabbi Marcia Prager's *The Path of Blessing* is a step by step, word by word, even letter by letter, exploration of the basic prayer formula, beginning with the word "baruch". In this wonderful book, you will come to see the infinite depths available in every letter of the blessing – let alone the blessing taken as a whole! Perfect for both beginners and experienced prayers, *The Path of Blessing* also contains many Kabbalistic insights into the practice of blessing. Available online and can be ordered through local book sellers.

Holy Rabbi Maggid Yitzhak Buxbaum's *Real Davvening: Jewish Prayer as a Spiritual Practice and a Form of Meditation for Beginning and Experienced Davveners*. This brief 43 page pamphlet focuses not on what the prayers are, or the order, or the Hebrew, but on the basic question of HOW to pray: how do I pray with more depth? How do I create an environment for myself that really supports a deep experience? To order a copy, contact Rabbi Yitzhak yitzhak@att.net or Rabbi Chava. \$10.45 includes shipping.



"Life is not
about finding
yourself.
Life is about
creating
yourself."

—unknown



Art & Wine, Chocolate & Cheese

A Benefit for Congregation Ahavat Shalom
An Artist Showcase at Suttons Bay
Black Star Winery

Saturday, November 5, 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday, November 6, 11 am - 4 pm

Art, chocolate delicacies, cheeses,
live music & wine

For ticket information please contact the CAS office

Blessings for Everyone!

With the richness of tradition we will share our joy with all of our family and friends as our grandson, Aaron Moray Schwartz, son of Lisa and Stephen Schwartz, becomes a Bar Mitzvah November 5, 2005 at Beth Israel Congregation, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

We celebrated the third birthday of our littlest mermaid, Jacqueline Emma Jewel in Hermosa Beach, California, daughter of Lisa and Gerry Jewel on August 20, 2005.

With deepest appreciation to my wonderful husband, Shel Levin, children...Stephen and Lisa, Lisa and Gerry, Lori and Barry, Mike, and my sister, Stephanie...Ahavat family... Rabbi Chava, Anne and Bill Howson, Curtis and Sandi Kuttner...My assistants, Angela Ray and Jennifer Porter and all my co-workers at Coldwell Banker for their

wonderful caring and concern during my illness. I really know and appreciate what their love means to me. Blessings for everyone.

In the light of so much joy, it is my pleasure to make a donation to the Congregation in honor of Aaron and Jacqueline and with appreciation from me.

—Judy Levin
Member



In Gratitude for Recent Contributions

High Holiday Contributions:

Bob and Lolita Fisher
 Doug Ferguson and Kate Husband
 Marlene Bevan
 Anne Treadwell
 Yale and Marilyn Hechtman
 Fred and Debbie Goldenberg *in honor of new grandson Jack DeWolf*

Torah Repair/Cover

Arnie and Shelley Goodman
 Shel and Judy Levin

Miscellaneous Donations:

Brenda Biederman
 Fred and Debbie Goldenberg
 Kathryn Mead
 Bill and Anne Howson

High Holidays:

Marsha Foresman *in honor of Mrs. Samuel Hershman*
 Marion Sherman

Chava's Celebration:

Chris and Robin Bahle
 Rich and Lyn Bahle
 Shelly Metzger
 Tom and Darlene Shae
 Sandra Cartwright
 Michael Pollard and Wendy Liscow
 Sue Brightheart
 Marsh Foresman
 David and Sheryl Krause
 Karen McCarthy
 Karl Bahle
 David Kirby and Martha Topol

Rachel Yudin
 Mr & Mrs Ulrich Straus
 Amelia Hasenohrl
 Marlene Krohner
 Lanny and Mary Ann Leak
 Dan and Peg Jonkhoff
 Rev. Robert and Bettirae Kimes
 John and Penelope Ort
 Glenn Goodman and Pami Sprague
 Curtis and Sandi Kuttbauer
 Paul Dechow and Joanne Blum
 Mr. Lou Gordon
 Jeremy Conaway and Marlene Bevan
 Joel Magner
 Barry Levin and Becky Beauchamp
 Debra Kolodny
 Fred and Debbie Goldenberg
 Bob and Betty Maynard
 Roger Gerstle and Marjie Rich
 Dan Miller
 Bill and Dorothee Hansen
 Marion Sherman
 Oran Hesterman and Lucinda Kurtz
 Henry and Karen Reisch
 Bob and Lolita Fisher
 Victoria Krawcheck
 Tom Gilbert and Marsha Smith
 Ron and Karen Culp
 Tom Gilbert
 Linda Grossman
 Pete and Karen Strom

Israel/Palestine Forum

There will be an Israel/Palestine Forum to learn about and discuss the issues and challenges in the Middle East. This Forum is open to the public and all are welcome! Questions for our speakers should be prepared in writing.

The Forum takes place **Saturday, November 12** at 6 pm, at the UU.

The speakers are:
 Bob Feferman, an Israeli American who, following his service in the Israel Defense Forces, worked in social services as a community worker in public housing neighborhoods.

Hani Bawardi, an Arab American from the Mid East, born of Palestinian parents, and a professor of Mid-Eastern Studies at Wayne State University.

This Forum is sponsored by Social Justice Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse.

For more information, please call Emmy Lou Cholak 943-7999. Donations welcomed.

Welcome New CAS Member Families

CAS is honored to welcome new members to our congregation family! Please greet **Jeffrey Miles, Lou Gordon, Rachel, Ray and Abe Starr, Aron, Julie and Jake Gordon and Shawn** and help them feel at home in "the little schul that could"!

Special thanks! *Rabbi Chava wishes to thank . . .*

Curtis Kuttbauer and the Shalom Celebration committee and the many angels who made the day possible. Words cannot express the deep gratitude. I will try to live up to the wonderful vision created by the beauty of that day.

Everyone who helped straighten the room after holiday services at the UU. What a team we are - especially those awesome kids!

Special thanks to **Daniel Levine and Micah Appel** who read portions of the holiday services.

Pami Sprague, Sandi Kuttbauer, Lisa Robitshek and Jen Lett - the Sunday School women - for creating the perfect container for our kids' learning and growth.

The CAS Board - **Fred Goldenberg, Curtis Kuttbauer, Anne Howson, Adam Lett, Andy Robitshek, Rachel Yudin, Sandy Swartz** -

those whose service on the board ends this year, and those who continue in 2006 - for your excellence in Jewish leadership in guiding the little schul that could.

Thanks to **Roger Gerstle** for his work as our Membership Chairman. Thanks for helping our new families feel so welcome!

A mazal tov to **Judy and Shel Levin** on the celebration of their grandson Aaron Moray Schwartz becoming bar mitzvah!

Blessings to **Marsha Foresman** for a continued and speedy recovery!

Condolences to the family of Kathy Keedy. May the source of peace bring them comfort in their healing.

Congregation Ahavat Shalom
413 North Division
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

Phone: 231-929-4330
E-mail: rose@ahavatshalom.com

Look for us on
the web!
www.ahavatshalom.com

Address correction requested



Mission Statement

We are an independent Jewish congregation open to all people of any cultural origin. Our purpose is to meet celebrational, spiritual, education and philosophical needs through exploration together; and to interact with the larger community by actively sponsoring and supporting diversity and inclusivity with harmony and peace-based programs.



“Tikkun Olam” Glenn Wolff Print Sale

In honor of Rabbi Chava Bahle’s Jewish Renewal Ordination, local artist Glenn Wolff was commissioned to create a unique piece of artwork inspired by Rabbi Chava’s teachings. In this beautiful painting, you will find numerous hidden treasures that reflect Rabbi Chava and her work. The piece is entitled, *Tikkun Olam*, meaning “The repair of the world” which is a favorite and important teaching of Rabbi Chava.

So that all of us can enjoy this creation, we have for sale a limited number of signed and numbered high-resolution prints available in three sizes. All proceeds from the sale of these prints go to the newly established Rabbi Sustaining Fund.

Please contact Rose at the CAS office for more information and to place your order.