



# Kol HaShalom

Cheshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5768

November/December 2007

## From the President *A Wonderful New Beginning*

As the last flag is waved on Simchat Torah, we bid a fond farewell to the High Holidays for the year 5678. I have learned a lot over the last several weeks and I'm sure you have too. Many of you responded to my request for input regarding the shared services with Beth El. The answers covered the whole spectrum of likes and dislikes, but all felt that having the "whole" Jewish community together was an ideal situation. I look forward to sharing many other opportunities with our brothers and sisters from Beth El.

Along with High Holiday services, we are working to blend our Sunday schools and post-mitzvah youth groups. We are thrilled to have teachers and Rabbi Al involved with our kids and it is important for our kids to interact with other Jewish kids. I couldn't agree more with Wendy Weckstien when she looked out over the congregation at the UU and said, "I never realized there were this many Jews in Traverse City". I believe that God has a plan for all of us, even when we don't understand what that plan is. Maybe what we've been going through is part of a plan designed to heal a rift that was due to be healed.

The next joint event planned is our Second Annual Hanukkah Party. It will be December 9 from 1-4 pm at the CAS office. **We are in need of a coordinator for this program.** Please contact Lisa Robitshek or Rose DuPont if you can help.

As wonderful as our joint relationship is, it is also important to remain true to our mission statement and to those who founded Ahavat Shalom. Maintaining our independence and providing a place for

spiritual growth for our members is paramount. Wherever this path leads, we will follow it as members of Ahavat Shalom.

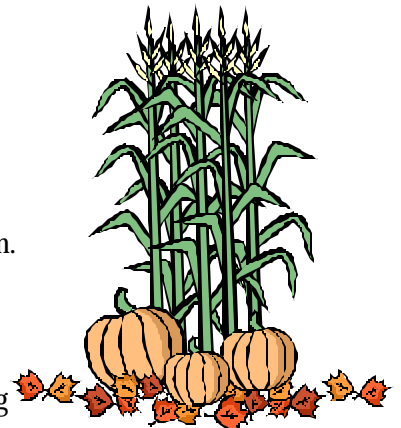
The CAS Annual Meeting is December 16 from 2-4 pm at the TC Library. I can't stress enough how important this meeting is. There will be critical discussion regarding our future and how we should proceed. We want your input! So please be sure to attend.

Along with long-range planning, we will be electing the next board of directors for CAS. In my three years as President, we've struggled to maintain a full board. Up to 12 members can sit on the board. I need to have your participation on the board so that we can make sure no one feels disenfranchised with regards to the process we take in moving forward. Please help Ahavat Shalom by taking an active role in choosing the path which insures survival.

Bill Hansen and the Social Action Committee have presented us with an opportunity to interact with the greater TC community at the Inter-Faith Community Thanksgiving Service at the Central United Methodist Church on Monday, November 19 at 7 pm.

The next transition committee meeting is scheduled for November 1 at 11:30 am at my office. We've had several new faces grace our recent meetings and their input was greatly appreciated. How about you? Pack a lunch and join us.

—Fred Goldenberg  
President



"Much of the vitality in a friendship lies in the honoring of differences, not simply in the enjoyment of similarities."

—author unknown

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Lisa Robitshek  
*(non board member)  
 Children's Ed Coordinator*

CAS Administrator  
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**November Board Meeting**

Thursday, November 15  
 5:30 pm at 236 1/2 E.  
 Front St.

**December Board Meeting**

Thursday, December 13  
 5:30 pm at 236 1/2 E.  
 Front St.

**All are welcome to attend.**

*Shalom by any other name is still Salaam*

In 1989, after a year of being stationed at Lucius D. Klay Kaserne in Germany with the U.S. Army, I was offered a chance to move out of the barracks and into a house in Bremen. Hating barracks life and it's "hey you" duty rosters, I jumped at the opportunity. A French friend of mine was sharing a house with a group of fellow college students. They had space for one more, (they always had space for one more) and invited me to move in. I would be sharing space with college students from all over the world and my friend hoped I could adjust to it. I was adventurous, so I went for it. What I was not told was that I was going to be sharing a house with Germans and French, as I expected, along with Palestinians, Egyptians and Saudi Arabians. Had I been warned, I might not have moved in. I grew up with a fear of Arabs, because of their hatred for Jews. I had seen *Exodus*, several times. My stuff was now moved in and unpacked and I was surrounded. They had not been fore warned that they would be living with an American Soldier who was a Jew too!

So here we all were. Had we met under other circumstances, we may have been killing each other, instead we were living together. It was not always easy, especially at first. With time, curiosity outweighed fear, and humor overtook any unintended missteps. And as the months went on uneasiness turned to common familiarity. We became a family unit. We shared each other's joys, pain, fears and we shared much laughter. We discovered that for all our differences, we were all very much the same.

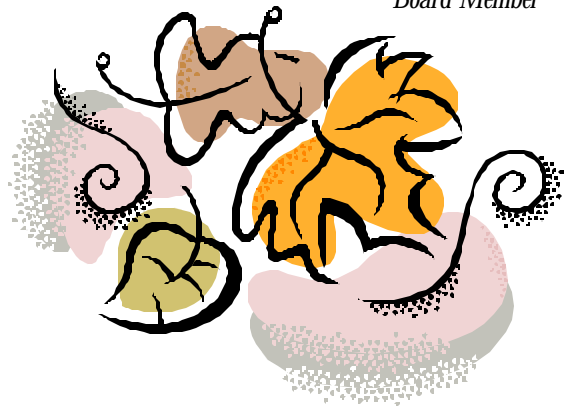
When I was deployed to Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Shield, this group cried, worried and sent care packages, and when I returned, welcomed me. I was probably the only American Soldier who had the prayers of Palestinians.

I can truly say that I am a lucky man. I have family all over the world. Not just biological family, not just my Jewish brethren, but also that family created in Germany in 1989. The residents of 16 Hohelohe Strasse now reside all over the world; from Traverse City, to Paris, Frankfurt, Bremen, Berlin to Riyadh and Cairo to East Jerusalem, but in that moment we proved that peace can prevail, and to them I sincerely wish Al Salaam a'alaykum.

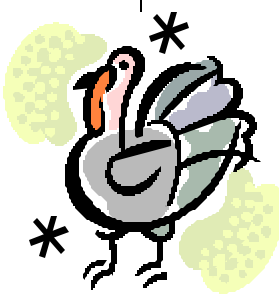
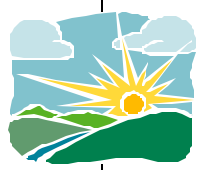

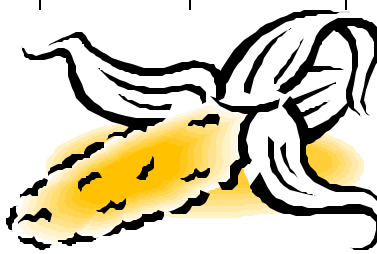
As we approach the end of the year holiday festivities, may this recounting of my experience inspire our members to uphold our Jewish values as we share them with those with other traditions. We will be participating in the Inter-faith Community Thanksgiving Service at Central United Methodist Church on November 19, along with sharing in Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and other celebrations.

Dan Miller is a member of the Tikkun Olam Committee of Congregation Ahavat Shalom. The committee's purpose is the 'repair of the world'. From caring for and preserving our natural resources, to building positive communities through peace and understanding, and it's a big job! Our goal is to find a way that everyone can help, either formally or informally. Salaam, Shalom, Peace.

—Dan Miller  
 Board Member



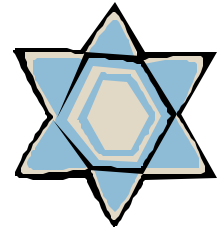
# Calendar/November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Transition Committee Meeting 236 1/2 E Front Street 11:30 am All are welcome to attend.	2  ⚡ Joanne Blum	3 Torah Portion Chayei Sarah Genesis 23.1-25.18  ⚡ Jay and Rachel Starr
4 Daylight savings time ends 	5	6 Election Day  ⚡ Derek Kuhn	7  All Jewish holidays begin at sundown the evening before	8	9 CAS Shabbat Service UU 6:30 pm	10 Torah Portion Toldot Genesis 25.19-28.9
11 Religious School CAS office Hebrew 9:45-10:45 am Community time 10:45-11:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am-12:30	12 Call for articles and info for the Jan/Feb issue of the newsletter (watch email for details)	13  ⚡ Mairead Ferguson	14  ⚡ Melody Ward	15 Board Meeting 236 1/2 E Front Street 5:30 pm All are welcome to attend.	16 Beth El Shabbat Service at Beth El 7:30 pm	17 Torah Portion Vayetze Genesis 28.10-32.3  Beth El Havdallah at Beth El 7 pm
18 Religious School see schedule above Hay Class Beth El 9:30 am-Hebrew Youth Group Beth El 11 am-12:30 pm	19 Inter-faith Community Thanksgiving Service 7 pm Central United Methodist Church  ⚡ Briere Lewis	20	21  ⚡ Ray Foresman ⚡ Ruby Kirby	22 Thanksgiving 	23	24 Torah Portion Vayishlach Genesis 32.4-36.43  Ruby Kirby Bat Mitzvah see side bar
25  ⚡ Jay Starr	26	27	28	29 	30	

**Birthday & Anniversary Key:**  
 ⚡ Birthday  
 ⚡ Anniversary

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

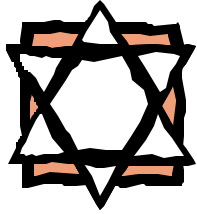
The Unitarian Universalist Congregation (UU) is located at 6726 Center Road, Traverse City, on the Peninsula, 2 miles north of Munson Ave (Grandview Pkwy & Garfield).



**Bat Mitzvah of Ruby Kirby**  
 To All CAS Members  
 You are invited to join the Kirby/Topol family as we celebrate our daughter Ruby as she becomes a Bat Mitzvah. Services will be held on **Saturday, November 24** at the Waterfront Conference Center at 10 am. A luncheon dance party will follow immediately. Rabbi Chava Bahle will officiate. Please RSVP to 946-8699 by November 3 if you will attend.



**Inter-faith Community Thanksgiving Service Monday, November 19**  
 7 pm  
 Central United Methodist Church  
 222 Cass Street, TC  
 Anyone interested in singing in the all-community choir should meet at Central at 5:30 pm. Contact Jeff Cobb at 946-5191 to get the music ahead of time.



Weekly Torah Portions  
Read for the week ending

**November 3**

*Chayei Sarah*  
Genesis 23.1-25.18

**November 10**

*Toldot*  
Genesis 25.19-28.9

**November 17**

*Vayetze*  
Genesis 28.10-32.3

**November 24**

*Vayishlach*  
Genesis 32.4-36.43

**December 1**

*Vayishev*  
Genesis 37.1-40.23

**December 8**

*Miketz*  
Genesis 41.1-44.17

**December 15**

*Vayigash*  
Genesis 44.18-47.27

**December 22**

*Vayechi*  
Genesis 47.28-50.26

**December 29**

*Sh'mot*  
Exodus 1.1-6.1



**CAS Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, December 16**  
TC Library  
2-4 pm  
Please mark your calendar!

# Calendar/December 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p><i>Hanukkah Party</i> <b>December 9</b> CAS office 1-4 pm A coordinator is needed for this event. Please contact Lisa Robitshek or Rose DuPont if you can help.</p>				<p><b>1</b> Torah Portion <i>Vayishev</i> Genesis 37.1-40.23</p>
<p><b>2</b> Religious School CAS office Hebrew 9:45-10:45 am Community time 10:45-11:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am-12:30</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> Hanukkah begins thru 12/12</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> CAS Shabbat Service UU 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>8</b> Torah Portion <i>Miketz</i> Genesis 41.1-44.17  ⚡ Sandy Swartz</p>
<p><b>9</b> Religious School see schedule above Hay Class Beth El 9:30 am-Hebrew Youth Group Beth El 11 am-12:30 pm  ⚡ Richard Lewis</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> Board Meeting 236 1/2 E Front Street 5:30 pm All are welcome to attend.</p>	<p><b>14</b>  ⚡ Dorothee Hansen</p>	<p><b>15</b> Torah Portion <i>Vayigash</i> Genesis 44.18-47.27</p>
<p><b>16</b> CAS Annual Meeting TC Library 2-4 pm</p>	<p><b>17</b>  All Jewish holidays begin at sundown the evening before</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b>   <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     Birthday &amp; Anniversary Key: ⚡ Birthday ❖ Anniversary                 </div> </p>	<p><b>21</b>  ⚡ Dorothee Hansen</p>	<p><b>22</b> Torah Portion <i>Vayechi</i> Genesis 47.28-50.26  Winter</p>
<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> Christmas</p>	<p><b>26</b> Kwanzaa</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> Torah Portion <i>Sh'mot</i> Exodus 1.1-6.1</p>
<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> New Year's Eve</p>					

# Children's Education

We are putting a lot of energy and spirit toward continuing the joy and excitement we all feel for the special place that is our Religious School!

## Beach Clean-up Hands-on Tzedakah Project

On September 16, we kicked off the year with a Beach Clean-up Hands-on Tzedakah project. Joining in the International Coastal Clean-up project, we removed 50 lbs of garbage from our beach, including keys, an old shirt and shoe, and 1,012 cigarette butts! We then enjoyed picnicking, hanging out and reconnecting after the summer. We all left with first-hand knowledge of what each of us can do to make our world a better place, and a great feeling of being together as a community.

## First Day of the Year

Our new Religious School year began on October 7. Classes gathered to brainstorm about wishes for the year, created Class Midot (how we want to treat each other), delved back into Hebrew, and discussed and put together "Jewish Values Tool Kits". This year, we are connecting more deeply with the prayers we sing at services and learning how to sing them, what the words really mean, and their significance in the service and in our lives. We welcomed Marsha Foresman's beautiful voice and piano-playing and Iris Agastein, from Israel, into our community time to help us connect with the Barchu prayer.

## Welcome

Welcome to Alexa Langrock, our new Daled Sunday School teacher. We are thrilled to have Alexa, a senior from Interlochen, who brings a love of Judaism and broad Jewish knowledge, creative writing/storytelling, and a fun and flexible manner of engaging kids.

## Collaboration with Congregation Beth El / Jewish Youth Group!

This year, we have been collaborating with Congregation Beth El to bring the kids in our community together! This also allows our Hay class to meet with Rabbi Al Lewis once a month for Hebrew Class.

This year Jewish teens will come together for a Jewish Teen Youth Group, meeting with Rabbi Al once a month. It will include study and social activities. Please call Susan Abrahams at 941-1496 to sign up, or call me with any questions.

## Community Time: Get Involved!

We would love for members to come share a favorite holiday memory, lead a song, or tell a story. The brief program (only 15 minutes) can be provided for you or you can bring your own ideas!

## Substitute Teachers Needed

If you are interested in being a substitute teacher, please let us know!

I want to thank the teachers, community members, parents and children for coming together to create this "special place". I look forward to another wonderful journey this year. I am grateful for the opportunity to be involved in creating a rich and beautiful Jewish learning environment for our children! Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns or ideas!

—Lisa Robitshek

Children's Education Coordinator  
941-1080; [robit@garlic.com](mailto:robit@garlic.com)



## Hay Class & Youth Group Schedule November 18 & December 9

Hay Class  
Congregation Beth El  
9:30 am for Hebrew

Jewish Teen Youth Group  
Congregation Beth El  
11 am-12:30 pm

"Smiles are wondrous things; you can give them out for eternity and always have one left for yourself."

—Colleen  
age 13



## Thanksgiving: the American Sukkot?



"We give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way."

—author unknown

Did you know that Thanksgiving is really a Jewish holiday?

Although Thanksgiving is not on the Jewish calendar, historians believe Sukkot may have inspired America's favorite farewell to fall, often nicknamed "Turkey Day."

"The pilgrims based their customs on the Bible," says Gloria Kaufer Greene, author of the *New Jewish Holiday Cookbook*. "They knew that Sukkot was an autumn harvest festival, and there is evidence that they fashioned the first Thanksgiving after the Jewish custom of celebrating the success of the year's crops."

Linda Burghardt, author of *Jewish Holiday Traditions* says, "Sukkot is considered a model for Thanksgiving. Both holidays revolve around showing gratitude for a bountiful harvest."

The pilgrims invited local Indians to the first Thanksgiving during the fall of 1621. Historians speculate that this celebration occurred somewhere between Sept. 21 and Nov. 9, but most likely in early October, around the time of Sukkot.

"Originally, Sukkot entailed a pilgrimage to Jerusalem," says Greene, who believes the two holidays share much in common.

The Puritan Christians who landed on American shores seeking religious freedom were called pilgrims, in deference to their journey from England. Their dream of finding a place where they'd be free to worship as they pleased is a recurrent theme in Jewish history.

After their pilgrimage to Jerusalem, the ancient Israelites lived for a week in temporary huts while giving thanks for a plentiful harvest. Likewise, during their first winter in Massachusetts, the pilgrims dwelled in makeshift huts, wigwams that the Indians helped them build.

Piping hot casseroles brimming with vegetables and fruit grace the American and Jewish harvest tables, as do pastries that are filled with apples, nuts, pumpkins and squash. Stuffing one food inside another as a metaphor for abundance is the hallmark of Sukkot cuisine.

But since the two holidays are so close in time, is there any reason for American Jews who celebrate Sukkot to pay homage to a second harvest festival six weeks later?

"While Thanksgiving is not technically a Jewish holiday, it's not a Christian one either," says Burghardt. "It's a great equalizer with a multicultural theme."

Although Burghardt believes that Thanksgiving with its chocolate turkeys and pilgrims lacks Sukkot's depth, Greene feels there's something spiritual about the whole country partaking in a communal meal, even though menus and customs vary from home to home. At her table, she asks guest to share one thing for which they're grateful.

"Like Sukkot, at Thanksgiving you're supposed to invite people to share abundance with your family," says Burghardt. "You can't serve too much food. Could there be anything more Jewish than that?"

—Linda Morel  
Jewish Telegraphic Agency  
Excerpts from article

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## Administrator's Update

As we begin a 'new' year and other 'new' events, I am pleased that this newsletter will reach some 'new' readers. One very interesting (and very nice) component of my position is the opportunity to interact with people who are unfamiliar with CAS and the events and activities which go on in the congregation. The High Holidays always bring more new inquiries than does the rest of the year. So 'hello' to all those whom I have recently 'met'. I hope you enjoy this edition of Kol HaShalom. For those whom have gotten the newsletter for a longer period of time, I wish you the best in the New Year. We are pleased to announce that the newsletter is being offered electronically for those who would prefer to an 'e-delivery' method. In the interest of economics and the environment, I hope you find it to be something 'new' that is good for CAS and its members. If you wish to be included for electronic delivery next time, please contact the CAS office and provide the email address to which your newsletter should be sent.

Rose



## In Gratitude for Recent Contributions

*In Honor of Rebecca Sherman*  
Marion Sherman

*In Memory of Martin Rabinowitz*  
Hal Grossman

*In Honor of Interfaith Dialogue*  
Debra Hansen

*High Holiday/Newsletter in Memory of Diane Hagan*  
Beth Inman-Simons

*High Holidays*  
Robert Borin  
Hal Grossman  
Bob and Lolita Fisher  
Bill and Dorothee Hansen  
Curtis and Sandi Kuttbauer  
Iris Markham  
The Starr Family  
Greg Stone  
Bill and Robbin Stott  
Elizabeth and William Walker

*Computer and desk for Sunday School*  
*Books and bookshelf for library*  
Dan Miller

**Email Request**  
When sending an email for distribution to CAS members, please include contact information such as email address and phone number, in the body, if a reply is requested. Thanks.

**CAS Abundance**  
Meijer rewards applications are available for those who have not yet signed up. Remember this is also available for friends and family who shop at Meijers and do not currently have an organization they are supporting.

**Senior Housing Fair**  
Jewish Apartments & Services  
**Sunday, November 18**  
**12:30-3 pm**  
Teitel Jewish Apartments  
15106 W. Ten Mile  
Oak Park  
Jewish Apartments & Services is more than just a place to live, it's a community!

**Kol HaShalom**  
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### CAS Contribution Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

? This donation is in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

? This donation is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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**Make checks payable to CAS**      VISA     M/C     Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send form to:**                      Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation Ahavat Shalom              Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Look for us on  
the web!  
[www.ahavatshalom.com](http://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.*



### *Sukkot Havdalah enjoyed by all!*

We all enjoyed the Sukkot service lead by President Lay person, Fred. The day was cool but fitting, as we were out in the country on a beautiful farm. Fred explained that the shelter the Sukka provided was for bringing in the harvest. Thanks to Ray and Debbie Kuhn for sharing their home and farm with us and to everyone who came and added to the event.

—Arnold Goodman  
CAS Member

