



# Kol HaShalom

Tevet/Shvat/Adar 5768

January/February 2008

## From the President

### *Looking forward to a great 2008*

By the time you read this newsletter we will have had our first visit from a “candidate” Rabbi. Rabbi Miller joined us on December 7 and provided some very insightful and spiritual moments during the service. Is he the one for us? Did he move us enough that we should ask him back for a second visit? These and many other questions were thought by those who attended the service. All those who attended felt good about our first rabbinical visitor.

If you desire to be part of the process, it is imperative that you attend services. Your comments will determine the direction CAS takes in hiring our new Rabbi. Through this evaluation process we will be able to find the right ingredients which will make the congregation feel good about the final decisions.

To date, we have had a wonderful response to our posting of the position on the internet. It is very exciting as we start to arrange additional visits in the months to come. One way in which you can help defray the travel costs to bring in these individuals is by donating your frequent flyer miles to CAS. If you have miles that you aren't using or are going to expire, please allow us to use them. Please call me if you have any questions or thoughts concerning this.

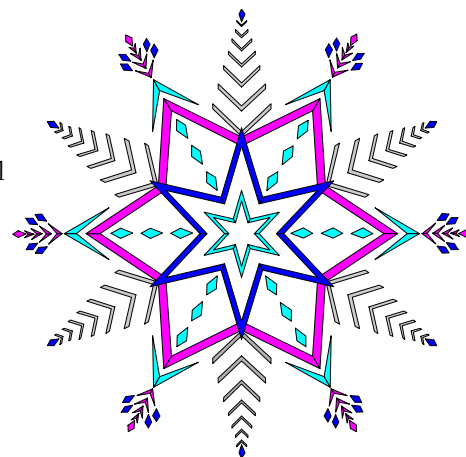
As you know we've been pretty busy trying to make all the pieces fit and keeping the lights on at the same time. We've done a pretty good job to date, but we have not had a fund-raiser in over a year. We are in need of ideas and bodies to resurrect

the Abundance Committee and plan fund-raisers for 2008. I know you're out there...so give me a call with ideas and your willingness to lead the committee.

Although Passover is four months away, it isn't too early to start thinking about our congregational Seder. If you are interested in helping plan this year's event, please let Rose or me know and we'll get going on it together.

One last note: by the time you read this we will have had our annual meeting. Unless there is a furious floor fight, I suspect that the slate will have been elected and I am still President of Ahavat Shalom. I also welcome back some of the most dedicated and hard-working board members I've ever had the privilege to work with. I pray that there are a few of you out there who have also stepped up and agreed to serve for the next couple of years. We have moved beyond transition and we've fulfilled our commitment to keep the doors open and the congregation together. Now we need new leadership and new faces to sit around the table at the board meetings. I love Ahavat Shalom and the community we've built, so please consider getting involved and helping to secure our future here in TC.

—Fred L. Goldenberg  
President



*“The future depends entirely on what each of us does every day.”*

—Gloria Steinem

#### Inside this Issue

<i>Tikkun Olam News</i>	2
<i>Rabbi article</i>	3
<i>CAS News &amp; You</i>	4
<i>Contributions</i>	5
<i>Rabbi Search</i>	back cover

*Board of Directors***Fred Goldenberg**

*President*  
922-1010  
fjg@srbenefitsolutions.com

**Andy Robitshek**

*Treasurer*  
409-2757  
robit@garlic.com

**Jeff Miles**

*Secretary*  
499-7717  
jeffreymilesphd@charter.net

**Bill Hansen**

*Tikkun Olam Committee  
Chair*  
267-9809  
beedeehansen@core.com

**Dan Miller**

*Chesed Committee Chair*  
313-2363  
mille1dk@gmail.com

**Jay Starr**

*Membership Chair*  
starrjay@excite.com

**Lisa Robitshek**

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

**CAS Administrator**

*Rose DuPont*  
929-4330  
rose@ahavatshalom.com

The next two Board Meetings are scheduled for:

**Tuesday, January 8** and  
**Thursday, February 14**  
at 5:30 pm at 236 1/2 E.  
Front Street. **All are  
welcome to attend.**

**Kol HaShalom****Editor-in-Chief**

Fred Goldenberg

**Editors**

Rose DuPont  
Dorothee Hansen

**Design/Production**

Sandy Swartz

*March / April newsletter  
article deadline - Feb 10.  
Send to Sandy Swartz  
taylorspines@torchlake.com*

# Tikkun Olam Committee News

In a beautiful ceremony on November 24, Ruby Kirby became Bat Mizvah. In her interpretation of the Torah reading for that day she cited Martin Luther King as a man who changed history. A reference to Dr. King in her commentary demonstrates how his influence lives on in our thinking.

Dr. King's philosophy of non-violence, based on a genuine love of and respect for all people, even those who profess to be your enemies, enabled him to move America closer to its principles than it had ever been. He believed that with this ideal we could achieve a truly integrated society at peace with itself and the world. Dr. King did not ask that we give up our identity or individuality, but instead that we gain from our interactions with those who are different from us. The whole world was impressed with our Civil Rights Movement. As they watched our society rid itself of some of the scourges of segregation, other nations began to view our nation with renewed admiration and respect. He truly changed history.

Dr. King's idealism was challenged then and it is challenged now. In academia, we hear it occasionally suggested that integration is not as natural as separateness, and that we might somehow lose our identity and our advantage if we work for equality of opportunity. From parents seeking the best education for their children, segregated or not, to geneticists toying with the human genome, trying to find some kind of differences by 'continent' among the peoples of the earth, the subtle temptation to abandon integration is all around us.

We need to examine these forces that tempt us to assume that integration has already happened or that it is an ideal that belongs to the past. We have serious current problems that are related to the results of segregation and re-segregation of our society: homelessness, prison populations, health care, neighborhood demographics, education, drop-out rates, income discrepancies, widening separation of socio-economic classes, treatment of illegal aliens, an increase in hate crimes. Swastikas and nooses can not be passed off as pranks or jokes; they are reminders of what prejudice and segregation can lead to.

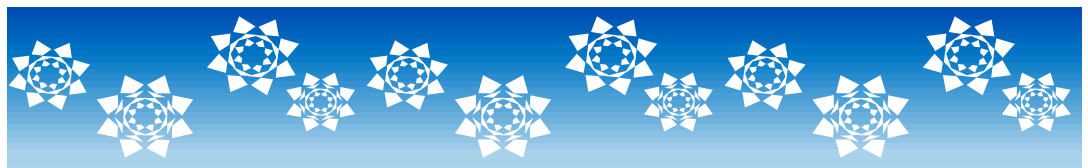
On January 20, there will be a community celebration of the life of Martin Luther King at Central Methodist Church at 3 pm. It will be a time when we can affirm together the concept that ideals can change history. We who strive to live by the ideals of the Torah should be there. Maybe we can find new ways to understand King's idealism and learn how we can more fully participate in the changes he made to our history. See you there.

—Bill Hansen  
*Tikkun Olam Committee Chair*

**Bob Love to Speak at Program**

Bob Love, NBA all-star player for the Chicago Bulls from 1969-76 will be the speaker at the Martin Luther King program on January 20, 3 pm at Central Methodist Church.

He was second only to Michael Jordan in total points scored in his career with Chicago. Love grew up in poverty, suffered from severe stuttering, became a basketball star and then lost it all due to a serious back injury. He is now the Director of Community Relations for the Bulls and a professional speaker. He was chosen to speak because of his association with King whom he counts as his mentor.



## The One God Walks

Our One God walks in this all too harsh world and cries and sees how the joy of faith has been turned to hate and rage; how those that have been taught to make peace have made war – and have done so in God’s name. They waged such wars in the past and swore: “No more!” Yet, blood still runs down limbs and through the streets while the heads of wives and youth go numb and some ask “Why?” And “why” floats on the winds and seeks an ear, a heart, one soul that would change the course of all life. Now and then one is found, but all too soon shunned and marked with a sign like Cain. Now and then there is a breath, a hint, a slight glimpse of peace and calm; but that life too, is hushed by those who dread change and growth. Lies are heaped as high as the neck can stretch and, when fed to the starved and parched, taste like warm milk or soup. Full of the food of fools, no one asks or dares to doubt the truth he has gulped down. “I am full and you are not,” he says. “That’s just the way it is!” And no one dreams one day she will not have, or “How must it feel not to have?”

“I have had my meal and my bed is warm. I know some lack a cot or small piece of fruit or the crust of cast-off bread, and I feel bad;” is the hymn sung as faith and acts throw their hands up in the air. Prayers are sent on high, but too few look at who sits in the seat next to them; and who would dare to say: “How may I help you as you walk your path of life?” And what if she tells me of a need I could meet? Will I? Will you?

So God walks in the world and bears in mind the flood of old and the son who died and the seer from the sands and asks: “How long will they not see, not hear, not cry out...not be all they – each of them – is meant to be?”

And the guns roar, and sleek jets bring home our dead youth. And those whom we “freed” hate us and we hate them. And fingers point at “him” and ships of war point at “them”. And life in the too real world goes on. But it’s wrong. And God cries...still.

—Rabbi Albert M. Lewis

## Administrator's Update

It is hard to believe how time flies. Throughout the second half of 2007, there has been much talk about the ups and downs we have all experienced. Upon taking a step back, I have come to the realization that this is a theme which we all experience each and every year. What magnifies our current dilemmas is the fact that they are happening to us now. But, just as we have done in past years, when the road seemed to be a tough one to travel, the fortitude, dedication and commitment which has always been a mainstay continues to carry us over to a smoother place. As the board works to find solid ground from which to

move forward and the search committee considers applications from six impressive candidates for the Rabbi position, I remember and believe what this congregation is capable of and the obstacles which have been overcome in the past, and which we stand ready to face together. Much of this progress serves as a reminder that in spite of the fact that there will always be turmoil in some way, shape or form, the fact that we can work together to find a way is a stronger power and one which is timeless.

Rose



### Shabbat Services

Please join us as we celebrate Shabbat!

**Friday, January 4 and  
Friday, February 1**

UU

6:30 pm

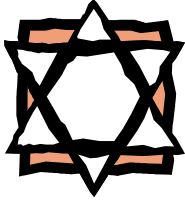
### Shabbat Across America

**March 7**

UU

*(Watch e-mail for more  
information.)*





### Weekly Torah Portions

*Read for the week ending*

#### January 5

*Va'era*

Exodus 6.2-9.35

#### January 12

*Bo*

Exodus 10.1-13.16

#### January 19

*B'Shalach*

Exodus 13.17-17.16

#### January 26

*Yitro*

Exodus 18.1-20.23

#### February 2

*Mispatim*

Exodus 21.1-24.18

#### February 9

*T'ruma*

Exodus 25.1-27.19

#### February 18

*Tetzave*

Exodus 27.20-30.10

#### February 25

*Ki Tisa*

Exodus 30.11-34.35

### Schedule

9:45-10:45 Hebrew Class

10:45-11:30 Community

Time

11:30-12:30 Sunday School

**January 20** TuBeshavav  
Celebration

**January 27** My Jewish  
Cycles of Time

**February 3** Jewish Life  
Cycle Events

**February 10** Living  
Jewishly in my Home  
and Community

*\*Jan 27 & Feb 10 Hay Class  
meets at Cong. Beth El for  
Hebrew at 9:30 am; Jewish Teen  
Youth Group at Cong. Beth El,  
11 am-12:30 pm.*

## CAS News and You:

### New Chesed Committee Chair

Dan Miller is now the chair for the CAS chesed committee. Community has always been a very important part of the congregation. An important part of that is helping out those who are in need. If you ever here of need, please contact the CAS office 231-929-4330 or Dan at 231-313-2363 or mille1dk@gmail.com. If you, or someone you know in the CAS family, should need help outside of normal business hours, please contact Dan, so that he can be sure the needs of our membership are met in a manner which upholds the standards of 'community' which we strive to maintain.

### Donating Flyer Miles

What to do with all those frequent flyer miles? A number of the inquiries for the rabbi position have come from individuals outside of the area. If you have an abundance of frequent flyer miles (and could use the benefit of a tax deduction) please consider donating those for use in flying in the candidates to officiate Services. For more information please contact the CAS office 231-929-4330.



## Children's Education

### CAS Religious School has been in full swing!

We missed being together on December 2 when we had to cancel due to weather, but hope the families enjoyed getting packages in the mail of a "Let's celebrate Chanukah booklet" with the story, lessons of the holiday, blessings, songs, recipes and games, dreidels and gelt. We rejoiced in Chanukah festivities on December 9 and kindled the chanukiah (menorah), as Iris from Israel beautifully sang the blessings. We ate latkes and sufganiyot (jelly-filled donuts), played dreidel, sang songs, and made fun crafts of candle hats, menorahs (wooden and clay) and gelt bags! We also were wowed with a special Chanukah-themed magic show from our own magician, Alexa.

### Abundance Chair Needed

If you have other 'abundance' ideas and would like to fill the much-needed role of abundance committee chair, we would love to hear from you! Whether it be for one particular project, or to fill a position which entails coordinating the efforts of others... there is a vacancy which is very much in need of being filled! Contact the office with your ideas or your intentions – it would great to start 2008 with either one!

### Grant Writer

If you are available to help in pursuing grant opportunities available to the congregation, please contact the office. We have several grants which we could be considered for, but we are in need of someone (perhaps with experience, but not necessarily so) to help in pursuing these for CAS.

We took the opportunity to highlight the Jewish Identity theme during the December Dilemma time. Hopefully, the kids went home beaming about the magic of Chanukah!

As we are concluding our Chanukah season filled with light and hope, we are so grateful for the opportunity to come together – multiple generations – to bring the love and meaning of Judaism to our precious children.

Many blessings for a wonderful 2008!

—Lisa Robitsbek  
Children's Education Coordinator  
941-1080; robii@garlic.com

### Food Pantry Donations

In these difficult economic times, the Tikkun Olam Committee would like our congregation to get in the habit of donating to a local food pantry on a regular basis. I would be happy to deliver any donated items which are brought to Shabbat services. Let's start January 4. When you're at the grocery, pick up an extra can of food or a personal care product (toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, etc.) and bring it with you to services. If we each contribute an item or two each month, we can make a difference to those in need. Thank you.

—Polly Rea  
 Tikkun Olam Committee  
 pread@charter.net

### Talk and Slide Show

*"Pain in the Land of Love, a Talk about Peace in the Middle East"*

**Wednesday, January 9**

11 am  
 UU

### January Movie

**Friday, January 18**

*(Saturday, January 19, snow date)*

7 pm  
 UU

### Safe Harbor

Dates that CAS and UU can work to provide healthy sustenance and some relaxed social sharing with the Homeless are

**Saturday, January 19 thru Saturday, January 25.** We are to provide all of the suppers. To find out more and to sign up please contact Emmy Lou Cholak at 943-7999 or sjatc@charter.net.



### January

*Birthdays*

- 2 Kim Berg
- 22 Jim Bransky
- 26 Debby Kuhn

### February

*Birthdays*

- 4 Curtis Kuttbauer
- 7 Cooper Kirby
- 8 Kate Husband
- 17 Greg Stone
- 20 Jonah Starr
- 23 Jocelyn Kuhn
- 25 Raffi Appel
- 27 Judy Levin

*Anniversaries*

- 15 Shel & Judy Levin
- 21 Craig & Sandy Swartz
- 26 Curtis & Sandi Kuttbauer

## Senior Benefit Solutions, LLC

*surrounding seniors with safety and security*

**Fred L. Goldenberg**  
 Certified Senior Advisor (CSA)

236 1/2 E Front Street #23  
 Traverse City, MI 49684  
 www.srbenefitsolutions.com

231-922-1010

### Wanted:

Sewing machine I can borrow indefinitely or buy very inexpensively. If you have a sewing machine that is not in use, or to sell, please contact me at: Melody Ward stingrhea18@gmail.com or 231-499-8541 Thank you!

## CAS Contribution Form

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**Make checks payable to CAS**  
**Please send form and check to:**

Congregation Ahavat Shalom  
 413 N. Division  
 Traverse City, MI 49684

VISA     M/C    Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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



### Contributions

*In honor of Ruby Kirby's Bat Mitzvah*

Bob & Dee Topol

*General*

Robert Lee  
 Bob & Lolita Fisher

*Year End*

Bill & Dorothee Hansen  
 Bob & Lolita Fisher  
 Arnie & Shelly Goodman

## **Congregation Ahavat Shalom**

413 North Division  
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

Phone: 231-929-4330

E-mail: [rose@ahavatshalom.com](mailto:rose@ahavatshalom.com)

### **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.*



## *Rabbi Search Committee*

*The newly established Rabbi Search Committee is forging ahead with this most important task. Spearheaded by Jeff Miles and Polly Rea, the process of reviewing the seven candidates under consideration has begun. If you would like to be a part of this committee, and serve a very important role for the future of CAS, please contact the CAS office at 231-929-4330 or [rose@ahavatshalom.com](mailto:rose@ahavatshalom.com) or Polly Rea at [prea@charter.net](mailto:prea@charter.net).*