



July/August 2008 Kol HaShalom Voice of Peace

Congregation Ahavat
Shalom

July/August 2008
Tammuz/Av 5768

From the President

As I type this, summer has arrived and downtown TC is filling up with lots of tourists, many of them Jewish. While visiting our beautiful corner of Michigan they might welcome an opportunity to connect with the TC Jewish community – our community. In the seven years I’ve been associated with Ahavat Shalom we’ve always took the summer off, especially in July. I always thought we were missing a great opportunity to cultivate lasting relationships which might translate into support for CAS and our ongoing mission.

In discussions with our visiting Rabbis the concept of “summers off” was questioned, and both felt that CAS could benefit from providing a place where visitors could participate in services and get to know how open and wonderful CAS is. I couldn’t agree more. We need to embrace our visitors and get them involved in the

Jewish community in TC. Part of the grant money we have available to us is for community development and outreach. Summer is a wonderful time in Northern Michigan, CAS is a wonderful community, and the combination is unbeatable.

Although we won’t be able to take advantage this year, I think in long range planning we need to look towards programming and fund raising during the summer months. By next summer we will have our new Rabbi and a better handle on where we are heading, so we can plan accordingly.

Speaking of the Rabbi visits, we should have an announcement to make very soon. We’re still in the middle of discussions, and it would be premature for me to announce the congregation’s choice. But we are very close to finishing up and you can plan on seeing the new Rabbi at

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*** If you have a name(s) which you would like added to the Memorial List prior to High Holidays please email them to rose@ahavatshalom.com.**

Rabbi Search Committee

I want to express my gratitude to all of you who helped with the weekend visits of Rabbi Bovit and Rabbi Castleman. Many of you brought food for pot-lucks and treats for oneg. A special thanks goes to Dorothee Hansen, Shelly Goodman and Cindy Shapiro for taking charge of the onegs.

We were also privileged to enjoy wonderful family dinners and Havdallah services as part of these weekends. At Shelley and Arnie Goodman's, we wandered gardens and orchards, and we set off the smoke detectors with the Havdallah candles. Sharlene and Warren Kruger welcomed us to their new home nestled in the woods. On a stormy night by the bay, we ate yummy barbeque provided by Marlene Bevan and Jeremy Conaway. Thanks so much to each of these

families for their gracious hospitality.

I want to make sure everyone is aware of the invaluable contributions made to the Rabbi search by Rose DuPont, our administrator. Throughout this process, she tended to all the myriad details involved in screening potential candidates. When the finalists had been chosen, she worked with them to make travel plans and saw to it that their visits went off without a hitch. Most importantly, she helped the search committee to "keep the faith" when the going got tough. Thank you, thank you, Rose.

Polly Rea

Search Committee Chair

Happiness is a journey, not a destination.

Crystal Boyd

Tikkun Olam - CAS Social Action Committee

Dive Right In

The Tikkun Olam emphasis for this newsletter is an invitation. Let's go swimming! It's summer time. Time to enjoy our wonderful water. Water. So essential to life that the average person can live only about 3 days without it, whereas one can live a month without food. Our Jewish ancestors elevated water to the level of sacredness, making it a primary ingredient in ritual cleansing ceremonies. Greek philosophers considered water one of the basic elements of the physical world. Three-fourths of the earth is covered by water, but only 2% is fresh water. And to think: We Michiganders are surrounded by 20 % of all the freshwater in the world. Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake in the world. There is enough water in the Great Lakes to cover the continental United States to a depth of 9.5 feet, some 6 quadrillion gallons. WOW! Awesome! So enjoy your swim. But wait. Be sure and check to see if the beach is open today. You know, water that used to be drinkable, is sometimes unsafe to swim in now, (even though there were probably more waterfowl on the beaches then than now). Today, water has become a life-and-death issue for millions of people. Children, especially, are dying from dysentery and other diseases caused by drinking contaminated water. We who live in the middle of one of the world's greatest inland seas, need to dive right in and ask the hard question: Why have we used (misused) this precious resource as a dumping ground for our waste, turning pure, pristine water that we could drink, into waste water that is not safe to swim in, let alone to drink? The answer to this question gets complicated real quickly, and we soon find we are not just knee-deep; if we are not careful, we are in over our heads. And that's bad news. Because that's where the answers are...in our ability to think.

We must first face the reality that almost all water is contaminated to some degree. Think about the flood water in Iowa which is so toxic that it is unsafe for body contact. Where are all those poisons going?. Where did they come from? And how will all the other creatures be affected in the Mississippi, the Gulf, the Atlantic? To undo the damage humans have done during their rise to dominance



(photo courtesy of Dick Sanderson)

on the earth is unrealistic and prohibitively expensive. But the good news is that we believe in Tikkun Olam, that the world, no matter how broken, can be repaired. And you can and even must have a part in its repair. You can start by doing the usual things to conserve water—turn off water while brushing teeth, take shorter showers, washing car with bucket and cotton rag instead of garden hose, accepting an "American Heritage" (natural) lawn that needs no watering—and then move into the deeper issues that require more contemplation. Clean, clear water requires a long-term solution. (Sorry about the pun.) Our forefathers on this continent who had lived here for thousands of years before we arrived, thought in terms of seven generations. For us invaders that may seem a long time. But when we arrived on these shores the water was what we now call pristine. The first people lived what we now refer to as a sustainable lifestyle, seeking harmony with nature rather than privatizing nature as a commodity to be exploited and conquered. Today, we often see nature like the Iowa farmer who, standing by his flooded cornfield, mused, "I guess we're losing the battle against nature". Right now, right here in Michigan, we are being confronted with a critical decision: Is water a commodity or is it a resource that is held in common as a public trust?

Should water be mined and sold like oil or copper or should control of water remain in the public domain? If it belongs to the people, should it be made available to those who need it most first, and how is that need to be determined? Right now, right here in Michigan, water is being sucked out of the ground, bottled and exported to far-away places, gone forever from our watershed. It is being sold as private property. Not only does this process hold the potential for changing the ecology of the lakes and streams of whole areas, but it is also bottled in plastic which is processed with water and which is made from petroleum. When the water reaches the store shelf, it often costs more than gasoline.

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July 2008

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

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation (UU) is located at 6726 Center Road, Traverse City, on the Peninsula, two miles north of Munson Avenue (Grandview Parkway and Garfield)

Fred Goldenberg's Office is located at 236 1/2 E. Front Street

Traverse City, MI (231) 922-1010

Board of Directors
Fred Goldenberg

President
922-1010
fg@srbenefitsolutions.com

Andy Robitshek

Treasurer
409-2757
robit@garlic.com

Jeff Miles

Secretary
499-7717
jeffreymilesphd@charter.net

Bill Hansen

Tikkun Olam 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 Education Coordinator

Polly Rea

(non board member)
Rabbi Search Committee Chair

CAS Administrator

Rose DuPont

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Birthdays & Anniversary Key Birthday  Anniversary 		1 Jeffrey Miles & Polly Rea 	2 Joanne Blum & Paul Dechow 	3	4	5
6	7	8 Cindy Shapiro 	9	10 Martha Topol 	11	12 Michael Hansen 
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Lena Gerstle 	24	25	26 Hal Grossman  Elissa Wolf
27	28	29	30	31		

Our greatest fear is not that we are inadequate, but that we are powerful beyond measure.
Marianne Williamson



August 2008

Weekly Torah Portions
Read for the week ending

July 5th

Chukat

Numbers 19.1-22.1

July 12th

Balak

Numbers 22.2-25.9

July 19th

Pinchas

Numbers 25.10-30.1

July 26th

Matot

Numbers 30.2-32.42

August 2nd

Mase'ei

Numbers 33.1-36.13

August 9th

D'varim

Deuteronomy 1.1-3.22

August 16th

Va'etchanan

Deuteronomy 3.23-7.11

August 23rd

Ekev

Deuteronomy 7.12-11.25

August 30th

Re'eh

Deuteronomy 11.26-16.17

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Kabbalah Shabbat Service 6:30PM at the UU	2 Kim & Don Berg 
3	4	5	6 Martin Hansen 	7	8	9
10	11	12 Zack Fivenson  Marjie Rich	13	14	15 Doug Gibson & Cindy Shapiro 	16 Micah Appel 
17	18	19 Talia Gerstle 	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Children's Education

Dear CAS Families,

We had an exciting end of the Religious School year! Each class took a couple of weeks to reflect on all they have "*Loved and Learned about CAS Religious School this year*" and then delighted an audience of parents with an end of the year program on May 18th. It was so wonderful to see the love and enthusiasm and hear what the children took away from the year, such as a Thank you G-d book from the littlest Aleph class, a collage representing G-d in the Gimmel class, a Torah scroll in the Daled class, and reflections from the oldest Hay class about how G-d became a bigger part of their lives this year and how a discussion about Chanukah helped them feel special during a potentially alienating time of the year in small town Traverse City.

The children learned that their weekly efforts of giving *Tzedakah* has resulted in \$300, which will help make the world a better place with a donation to the Fresh Food Partnership www.freshfoodpartnership.org and combined Social Action to

kick off the school year in the fall (watch out for the date in the next newsletter!) We will start the Social Action project learning about hunger in our region and the world, will physically go to farms to purchase fresh produce and then will deliver it to food pantries to feed those in need. \$300 will feed 18 area families for 3 days. It is very compelling that the number 18 represents *Chai*, or Life, in Hebrew, and our children will be giving life to 18 other area families!

June 6th was the Religious School Shabbat service and each child and class present had an important role in leading many parts of the service (we also missed the children that weren't able to be there because of beginning summer commitments.) What a delight to feel their joy, hear their sweet voices sing the traditional Hebrew prayers, see them take leadership roles of carefully preparing the Torah for the Torah service, and experience all of the families participate in parts of the service. We enjoyed recognizing the children with a special certificate. A significant part of the service was honoring and thanking the teachers for the life-long impression they have made on our children. As a gift of appreciation, they

were given items we hope they will cherish and that will help the world as they do so well – a journal which is fair-trade certified and the purchase will assist a group of cooperative women in Bangladesh and a pot, made from rice and which can be composted, where they can see a plant grow, just as they help our children nurture and grow their joy and Judaism. I would like to express my appreciation for the beautiful gift I received of a lovely Jewish scrapbook, made with significant care by our Pami. I will treasure it!

This summer, we will be spending time preparing for next year. As always, we would love for you to be involved!

Thank you once again for entrusting us with the Jewish education of our beautiful children. We hope everyone has a beautiful summer and look forward to gathering together as a Religious School again in the fall!

Blessings,

Lisa Robitshek

CAS Children's Education Director

I would like to honor and thank our wonderful teachers again here with the inscription in their journal. To Penny Concannon, Pami Sprague, Talia Gerstle, Alexa Langrock (who we will miss very much next year when she goes to college!), Dorothee Hansen, and also our special community-time teacher from Israel, Iris Agatstien (who we will miss very much next year when she moves to Grand Rapids!):

We thank you and honor you for the wisdom and compassion you have shared with our children – L'Dor V'dor - From Generation to Generation. You have forever touched their lives and nurtured their lives and nurtured their minds and spirits to grow in ways we can only begin to imagine. May this handmade journal, which represents the tzedakah you so beautifully instill in our children, be a special place for you to express your joys and wishes, perhaps starting with !): reflections of how you have touched others and been touched this year as a teacher. May the Holy Presence that blessed our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Rachel and Leah, also bless you. May you be blessed, as you are a blessing to so many.

We begin a new feature, introducing Congregation Ahavat Shalom members to a new family each newsletter.

Introducing Debbie and Fred Goldenberg...We hope you enjoy our story.



Sharing a bit of our life story is such a joy! Our Goldenberg Family, Fred and Debbie, met in Huntington Woods in August of 1984. Debbie drove over one day to pick up David. Our two sons, Chad DeWolf and David Goldenberg, became best friends in the same Kindergarten class, so they planned a play date that day. Little did we know our whole life would be changed! The boys introduced their recently divorced parents (us) immediately. Time passed, we meet again enrolling the boys into 1st grade. On October 20th, we went out on our first date. The boys proceeded to ask us to get married on our third date, in November, so that 'they could be brothers'. At that moment, we were shopping with the three children, Elana Goldenberg, 3 years old, and she also piped up, 'and sister too'! So how could we deny our children? One year from our first date, we married! All five of us were under the chuppah. The rest is history.

The children continued to be close, our family blended, we were fortunate to gradually get all the children fulltime, by the time they became teenagers. Fred worked, managed and owned various businesses in the insurance and the employment leasing fields. Debbie taught at the Yeshiva and was a career coordinator for Royal Oak schools. The children were very active in Jewish life, Hebrew school, Macabbi games, BBYO, along with school sports and band.

Our family's introduction to the North happened by chance. Friends had an A-frame in Interlochen that we spent summer weeks at. We loved the area, picked cherries and shopped in Traverse City. Later, we traveled up to Shanty Creek, in Bellaire, on a cross-country skiing trip, loving the beauty of the snow and area. Then, we visited for a week of golf at Wilderness Valley. Before we knew it, we were hooked. One Anniversary week-end, we went to Shanty Creek for a golf week-end, and came home purchasing 4 different weeks of a timeshare. The family loved the golf, lakes and more. Then we decided on purchasing a second home at Shanty in January of 2000. While all three children were in college, we decided to put our house up for sale in Huntington Woods. We moved full-time to Shanty Creek in 2002. See what happens when the children are away? The parents play!

Our first visit with Congregation Ahavat Shalom happened to be a movie in Suttons Bay. At that time, we meet the Rabbi, but more interesting, Gary Appel and Mimi were there. Fred and Gary were friends growing up in Oak Park. We immediately became active members and love our synagogue family. Even though, Bellaire is 45 minutes from TC, having both Goodman families and the Swartz family has made it extra special, as we celebrate all the holiday feasts together, when our children can or can't join us. Having children out of state now, does limit that time together, but we are fortunate enough to get together or visit on the web cam/internet. The children continue to be close, calling each other most days. Of course, calling us not as often!

Our Family Now: Fred works in Traverse City as a Senior Certified Advisor, has been active on the CAS board and serves as President while Debbie teaches Kindergarten in Mancelona. David is married to Nami, living in Dupont Circle, and they are working in Washington DC. He is Chief of Staff for Representative Alcee Hastings. Chad is married to Kate, living in Lexington, Georgia. He is a former teacher, now an Integrated Technology Specialist for the Athens School District. We are fortunate to brag about our grandchildren, Jack, 2 ½ years and Anna, 7 months old that they have blessed us with. SO cute! Elana lives in the West Loop (8 blocks from the Sears Tower) and works in Chicago, Illinois. She is a Specialty Pharmaceutical Representative involved in the eye 'Glaucoma and such' industry.

Belonging to and keeping Ahavat Shalom strong and active while living in this beautiful region has been a dream come true. Together our 22 years, 6 years here, has given us such happiness. Thank you for letting us share our story.

**We will be asking members to volunteer their personal story.
Please consider sharing your family life in the future issues.**

CAS Abundance

In Gratitude for Recent Contributions:

Program Underwriting

Roger Gerstle and Marjie Rich

Marlene Bevan and Jeremy Conaway

Hosting CAS Havdallah Services

Arnie and Shelly Goodman

Sharlene and Warren Kruger

Marlene Bevan and Jeremy Conaway

In Honor of Dan Miller's New Job

Debbie and Fred Goldenberg

In honor of Rachel Starr's compassion and kindness, as well as in tribute to the 'community' which is CAS

Polly Rea and Jeffrey Miles

Passover Seder

Alex Cullen

Arnold and Shelly Goodman

Debbie and Fred Goldenberg

* A special thanks to Debbie for all of her hard work coordinating the Seder!

Thank you, Melody Ward, for providing the weekly Torah Portions!

Thank you Dorothee Hansen for helping edit the Newsletter!

(President's Message—continued from Page One)

our August services. Our August service should be exciting, I won't tell you what we're thinking about, but all I'll say is Kabalah and Madonna. Stay tuned for further details. But make sure you mark your calendar for the first weekend of August.

I want to thank Roger & Marjie, Arnie & Shelley, Warren & Sharlene, Marlene & Jeremy as well as, Debbie & me (it's weird thanking myself, but what the hey!) for sponsoring the 'lunch & learns' and the Havdallah services. Thanks to all who brought nibbles and noshes to the programs. I also want to thank everyone who took this process to heart and responded as you did. We had an unbelievable response to both Rabbis' visits. We heard you and we are working towards a conclusion which I think will please all who were there.

Have a great July, and we'll see you at the August services. Keep an eye out for an important announcement. As soon as we know, you'll know.

Shalom,

Fred

Administrator's Report

As we welcome yet another Summer to beautiful Northern Michigan, I can hardly believe my three year anniversary with CAS has come and gone—where does the time go?

In some ways it has passed oh, so quickly. In looking back over all that has transpired, it has been a very full three years.

I thank you all for your kindness and support during my tenure as CAS administrator. Your support, especially of late, has served to revitalize my enthusiasm as we march forward together in a new direction.

I wish you all a blessed and joy filled Summer, and I look forward to another wonderful year together!

~ Rose

(Tikkun Olam Article—continued from Page Two)

Moreover, bottled water has questionable effects on health due to chemical leaching from the plastic, and it usually undergoes little or no testing by public health agencies, as does water from your faucet. And since water bottles were curiously not covered by our deposit law, most often they end up in landfills. Oil seems beyond our control. But when we run out of oil, maybe we can find an alternative. Nobody has ever suggested an alternative for water. So remember this summer as you're swimming or boating or fishing, not only your fun but your very life depends on how well we take care of our water. So dive right in while you still can. Get active...be informed and participate in working toward a clear, clean solution (sorry there's that pun again). Discover ways you can be a part of the solution and not part of the pollution! - *Bill Hansen, Social Action Committee Chair*

The Tikkun Olam Committee would like to remind you to bring a canned good to Services, so that they may be delivered for use by local food pantries. *Thank You!*

Congregation Ahavat Shalom

413 North Division Street
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

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

We're on the Web
www.ahavatshalom.com

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.

Whatever the faiths you have known, or the flags of your heritage – you are welcome here. Whoever you are, whatever the circumstances of your life, and whomever you love – you are welcome here. And, whether you ran in here on little feet today, or walked in briskly, or ambled, or rolled in, you are welcome here. Whether you agree or disagree, have doubts or certainties, lean left or right or like the middle, you are welcome here.

Save the Date!

Friday, August 1st

6:30 PM at the UU

Come for the films...stay for the Kabbalah!

Celebrate the First Annual CAS Kabbalah-Shabbat Service

If you are interested in helping to coordinate this new and exciting event, we would love to hear from you!

Contact the CAS Office: 929-4330