

# AM YISRAEL BULLETIN

## From the President

Volume 14, Issue 12  
June 2009

### Flowers From Nancy

If you are a congregant at Am Yisrael, if you have ever considered becoming a congregant at Am Yisrael, if you have ever coordinated programming with Am Yisrael, if you have ever done business with Am Yisrael – pretty much if you’ve ever had a conscious thought about Am Yisrael – then you definitely must know Nancy. Nancy Holab Nevins’ title with the synagogue is “Executive Director”, but it hardly does justice. A more apt description would be: chief operating officer, chief financial officer, controller, first responder to simchas and crises, master calendar coordinator, editor and publisher (of this bulletin, among others), chief information officer, event coordinator and party planner. Admittedly, it would make for a challenging business card (not to mention voice mail greeting), so we stick with Executive Director.

Nancy recently marked a milestone anniversary, her eighteenth (Chai) year with the congregation. She arrived at the synagogue shortly after Rabbi Newman Kamin, recruited by our founding spiritual leader Rabbi Frankel z”l (who clearly knew something about finding committed professional staff). Over the years, she has witnessed, and helped design, implement and promote, important changes at Am Yisrael concerning our spiritual leadership, membership composition and our programming aims. But there are also remarkable consistencies about Nancy’s work, such as her command of the operational details of the synagogue, her meticulous attention to detail and her unwavering support for the entire Am Yisrael community.

Nancy prefers to avoid the limelight at Am Yisrael (and, I can assure you, is cringing at this essay). She regularly deflects richly earned credit for her many accomplishments to others within the synagogue (including me). In keeping with her wishes that we keep things relatively low key, the Board decided to celebrate Nancy’s anniversary with a private champagne toast at our last meeting. Rumors to the contrary notwithstanding, Nancy will not be joining Cantor Simon for a duet at US Cellular Field on June 2 (hat tip to Cantor Simon for that one).

Nancy has expressed one wish for her anniversary which, unsurprisingly, is more a gift to the congregation than to herself. Our sanctuary Bima is flanked by two silk flower arrangements. They started out as dignified, but are now a bit tired and should be replaced soon (kinda like this President...). Nancy would like to buy fresh flowers for the sanctuary on a periodic basis, whenever she sees the need, and would also like discretion to spruce up the synagogue along similar lines. But, as an indicator of financial realities at the synagogue, our operating budget simply has no cushion to support these regular outlays.

Undeterred, the Board has decided to help Nancy realize this very modest wish. The Board has established the “Executive Director’s Sanctuary Beautification Fund” a synagogue fund controlled by Nancy for the purposes set forth above. The Board, the professional staff and a few past presidents have seeded the fund with their own special donations so that Nancy can immediately begin buying fresh flowers. But she will need congregation support to make this a lasting gift. If you would

like to congratulate Nancy on her Chai anniversary, please consider sending a donation to the shul earmarked to that fund. Consider, too, making the fund a source for future donations, whenever Nancy enhances your congregational experience, or just to help ensure that Nancy can regularly bring some fresh beauty into our sanctuary.

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On a personal note, this will be my last bulletin essay as President of Am Yisrael. A number of you have shared with me your thoughts regarding prior essays, and I definitely appreciate and value that feedback.

It has been a true honor to serve as President of this blessed institution, and to work closely with our dedicated professional staff and lay volunteers in fulfilling our spiritual and other institutional commitments. I plan to share my full thoughts on the past two years at our Annual Meeting, which will be held on June 13 (Saturday) following Shabbat morning services. We are inaugurating a new tradition this year by having our Annual Meeting follow Shabbat services, and the synagogue will be honoring our outgoing Board members and officers with aliyot and other honors that morning. Please show your support for them all by joining us this special morning.

Joel F. Brown  
President

### From the Rabbi

Sometimes in the course of a very busy and fruitful year, we are forced to look at our jam packed calendar and make changes. This year we are not able to hold our annual meeting on the last Sunday of Religious School because I will be attending the first retreat of the “Good to Great” seminar. We decided, since every Sunday is filled with activities, to hold our annual meeting as part of Shabbat services on Shabbat June 13. At first it seemed a little uncomfortable to change that which we were so used to. But like so many things in life, what at first seemed strange, began to look like a rich opportunity to enhance the spirituality of our annual meeting. As more time passed, we began to get so excited by the idea, we wondered why we hadn’t done this before. Shabbat is at the center of everything we do here. Incorporating the installation of new board members as part of our service, reinforces the religious nature of their new commitment. What better way to honor our outgoing Board members and to welcome our new members than by giving them honors in the service? Naomi Fisher, our incoming President will be delivering the Dvar Torah. Joel Brown will chant the Haftorah and will speak to us over lunch on the state of the Synagogue.

Please make a point to join us for services and Kiddush lunch so that we can properly honor and thank these volunteers who spend countless hours caring and guarding our beloved synagogue.

#### Board of Trustees

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Joel F. Brown

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William Frankel z”l

#### Cantor

Stuart Simon

#### Executive Director

Nancy Holab Nevins

#### Religious School Director

Sally Brown Winter

#### Education Consultant

Dr. Elliot Lefkowitz

## Services

### Shabbat Evening Services

There is a beautiful prayer in our Siddur that we often read on Shabbat. It begins, "Grant me the liberating joy of Shabbat, the privilege of truly tasting the delight of Shabbat."

Traditionally, Conservative Jews usher in Shabbat by attending prayer services and then returning home to a leisurely dinner with loved ones. For those who enjoy a stimulating program, once a month we offer services at 8:00 p.m. followed by a program and an Oneg Shabbat. Our regular Friday night services begin at 6:30 p.m. except where otherwise stated.

**June 5 — 6:30 p.m.**  
**Heh Class Graduation Confirmation**

**June 12 — 6:30 p.m.**  
**Normally the Late Services, in June we are NOT holding our Late Services.** Instead we are hosting Israeli War Veterans through the American Friends of Israeli War Veterans, a group that is run by members of our congregation and brings in vets every summer for several weeks of "r & r". Join us and them for FNL and dinner on June 26. See below for details.

**June 19 — 6:30 p.m.**

### BirthDay Shabbat

*(third Shabbat of the month)*

May birthday celebrants are invited to the bimah for a blessing and a sweet treat from the Rabbi.

**June 26—6:30 p.m.**

### Friday Night Live Services

**followed by dinner**

**See page 6 to make reservations.**

### Shabbat Morning Services

Our Shabbat morning services begin at 9:30 a.m. and include a study session. Please join us to pray and study. Kiddush follows. During the month of June, the following will be call to the Torah as Bat Mitzvah.

**June 6—Talia Weiss**

Daughter of Lynn and Phillippe

**June 13—Annual Meeting**

We will honor outgoing Board members and officers and welcome incoming members and officer during services. Kiddush lunch follows, at which time Joel Brown will deliver the "State of the Synagogue" address. PLEASE call the office if you plan to attend.

**June 20—High School Grads Shabbat**

We will honor all students who have just graduated from high school. Following Kiddush, Cantor Simon will meet with the

grads to talk about being Jewish on college campuses. PLEASE respond if you and/or your child will be attending.

### Youth Services

*(THIRD Shabbat morning of the month)*

**June 20**

10:30 a.m. —11:30 a.m.

### Tot Shabbat—Room 3

Pre-school children. Led by parents. Prayer service, crafts, singing and snack. Adults are asked to attend with children.

### Mini Minyan—Room 2

Kindergarten through 2nd graders. Led by Marah Shuman Altenberg.

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### Sunday Morning Minyan

9:15 a.m. followed by breakfast.

*We encourage you to participate in our Sun. morning minyan. The services, led by Cantor Simon, last approximately thirty minutes and are followed by breakfast.*

*There is a core group of participants who regularly attend the Minyan and breakfast.*

*They are warm and friendly, and enthusiastically welcome newcomers.*

## From Dr. Lefkowitz

### To Give is To Receive

On Friday evening June 26th, Am Yisrael will host a dinner and program for the American Friends of Israel War Disabled Veterans, which provides home hospitality for those in the Zahal (Hebrew acronym for Israel Defense Forces) Disabled Veterans Association (ZDVO). For some thirty years, members of the Chicago Jewish community have been bringing a group of about ten disabled veterans to Chicago for a two week stay. Similar programs exist in several other major American, Canadian and European Jewish communities. For a number of years, the program here was spearheaded by the dynamic Sue Lewis. It is now headed by Neil Adelman, past president of our congregation, and a group of other volunteers who raise funds on their own initiative to maintain this most worthwhile effort. The Israeli visitors are representative of

the Israeli military. They are men and women. They include Druzim and Bedouins as well as Jewish veterans. They come from various backgrounds. They range in age from their twenties through their fifties. Some are religious. Most are secular. Some are professional soldiers. Most are not. In recent years, ZVDO has expanded to include disabled first responders dealing with terrorist activity-police, firefighters and EMT personnel-and also victims of terror. Some Israeli veterans have noticeable physical disabilities and are in wheelchairs or use prostheses. Others have no immediately visible disabilities but suffer from internal injuries or from Post Traumatic Stress disorder.

There is no shortage of disabled Israeli veterans. In the past nearly three years since the start of the Second Lebanon War through the war in Gaza, more than 935 soldiers became and will remain permanently disabled. In Israel, they are treated at Beit Halochem (House of Warrior) centers which help them and their families

deal with physical and mental disabilities and resume meaningful and dignified lives. During their two week stay in Chicago, veterans reside with a Jewish family and are shown sights of the city such as the Navy Pier, the Museum Campus and the Museum of Science and Industry.

They take part in a number of entertaining activities such as a barbecue, miniature golfing and a trip to Great America. They are also introduced to the Chicago Jewish community through dinners at synagogues and with host families, Shabbat services and a meeting with Chicago's Israeli Consul General.

Two questions were recently posed to several congregants who are involved with the group. The first was: what benefits do the veterans derive from their stay? Vera Ginburg: "They come here and have a home away from home. For a number of the veterans, it is their first exposure to American life and to American Jewish life. The time they spend here is a kind of "breather" for them but also for their fami-

## In Our Community

### Men's Emeritus Group

Once a month a group of our male congregants meets to have lunch and lively conversation. **The group gladly welcomes newcomers.** Call Marvin Bernstein at 847/480-0535 for details.

### Dr. Larry Layfer's Talmud Class

meets on Mon. evenings from 8:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. This is an ongoing class that continues throughout the year. Feel free to join anytime. The class meets in the library located in the Elyssa Meyers Learning Center (lower level of our school building).

### Refuah Shlema

Hospitals no longer contact congregations when a member is admitted. Please be sure to let the Rabbi or office know if you, a family member or friend is taken ill. Rabbi Newman Kamin makes hospital visits and special prayers can be recited.

### Book Club

The Am Yisrael Book Club is open to all members who enjoy sharing ideas about selected readings — mostly short stories. The Book Club meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in members' homes. **New participants are always welcome!** The readings this year are from the text, "50 Stories from Israel", edited by Zisi Stavi. **The end of the year Dairy Pot Luck dinner will be held on Sun. Jun 14 at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Toby Frankel, 409 Wilshire Drive East, Wilmette, 847/256-1058. Please call the host to respond.**

### Gift Shop

Looking for a gift or some new Judaica for your home? Am Yisrael has a gift shop filled with unique items. Call Nancy in the office to arrange a time to take a look, or stop in any time during regular business hours.

### Yasher Koach and Thank You

Every year our congregation sponsors a very special Council for Jewish Elderly event. We host a lunch for clients of the CJE in Chicago. An enthusiastic group of volunteers, ably led by Carol Ginsburg and including goes to Temple Emanuel and decorates, organizes and serves the lunch. Cantor Simon provides musical entertainment. This year, due to budget constraints, we considered cancelling the event, but several families stepped up to underwrite the cost of providing the lunch. Yasher Koach and thank you to all who participated.

#### *Thanks to outgoing officers:*

Joel Brown—President  
Naomi Fisher—Vice President  
Melissa Bleiweis—Treasurer  
Dan Frankel—Secretary

#### *Welcome to incoming officers:*

Naomi Fisher—President  
Randy Horton—Vice President  
Lisa Garoon—Treasurer  
Jeff Piell—Secretary

### From Dr. Lefkovitz *continued*

lies who care for them. They are introduced to each other and form bonds and friendships, which they carry away with them. For example, upon their return to Israel one veteran who is an amputee helped his fellow veteran get a more suitable prosthesis."

*Judy Adelman:* "They see that the American Jewish community cares about them and supports them. Just getting away from their daily routines and relaxing makes a difference for many. Some have not talked in depth to their families about their injuries and say things to us about them that they have not told their families thereby getting their feelings out into the open. We spend hours trying to figure out the best home placement for each veteran based on the preliminary information we have about them. We also carefully plan each day of their stay here to provide them with a wealth of meaningful and enjoyable experiences. And there is no doubt that they do indeed enjoy their stay."

The second question posed to the "Friends" was: What benefits do you derive from the visit of the Israeli veterans?

*Neil Adelman:* "For us it is truly a learning experience. We learn more about them, and we learn more about Israel. We maintain contact with a number of veterans. When we visit Israel, we visit them and their families. The families often tell us how rewarding their visit to America was."

*Judy Adelman:* "Our involvement with the veterans is so much more meaningful to me than writing a check. It's our way saying thank you for their sacrifices and of making at least some difference in someone's life."

*Vera Ginburg:* "These veterans fought for Jews everywhere. I want to say, thank you. Participation in this organization is the least that I can do. Also, now I have friends in Israel. We e-mail back and forth. We are touching their lives, but they are also touching our lives."

*Arline Doblin:* "Mort and I have been with this program for at least fifteen years. We hosted an Israeli Druze Arab who worked in Israel's olive oil industry. One of his sons was killed serving in the army. We learned about the Druze and their religion. We hosted a veteran who

with his family had made aliyah from India. We learned about the Indian Jewish community. We hosted several women with Post Traumatic Stress disorder. One of our children is working on treatment for this condition. We also had a veteran whose injuries were due to "friendly fire" and had to deal with that sad fact. We were happy to open our home to them and to others. We have been enriched by the experiences and by the satisfaction of showing the veterans that they are not alone, that Jews around the world stand behind them."

Am Yisrael invites congregants to take part in the dinner hosting the Israeli disabled war veterans following services on Friday, June 26th. Participants will have a chance to meet them, show appreciation for their service to the Jewish state and learn more about the program which brought them here.

## School News from Mrs. Brown-Winter

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### The last day of Sunday

**School will be June 7.** During that morning, Gan through Dalet students will meet for a final assembly during which attendance certificates and other items of note will be presented. The students will be invited to sing and dance along with Mrs. Debbi Kohl and Cantor Simon. The festivities will continue with our annual Barbecue. Please go to the Am Yisrael website [www.AmYisrael.org](http://www.AmYisrael.org) for the reservation form. The cost of the lunch is \$5 per person and we will provide an alternative for vegetarians. The barbecue will run from 11:45a.m.-12:45p.m.

### The last day of weekday

**classes will be June 3.** We will end our weekday sessions with one gargantuan test for all the students. This exam will come to them in the form of a Jewpardy Game that will be conducted by the Dalet class. This is one of our great traditions!

**Lunch Drop off for the Interfaith Soup kitchen** located in Evanston will be on Sunday, June 7. Please drop off lunches before 10:00a.m.

**Please bring non perishable food for the ARK** any and every time you come to the synagogue. You may place your items outside room #2 in the school building. We will continue delivering food during the summer months.

**Good Bye/L'hitraot (see you soon).**

**Three of our longtime teachers will be leaving the Religious School. Please take a moment to wish each a farewell and thanks. They are: music teacher, Debbi Kohl; Dalet teacher, Larry Elsberg; and Heh teacher, Mrs. Kaufman. They have**

**engaged so many of our children in learning and deserve a Yasher Koach/great strength for their continued efforts. All three teachers who are leaving our school live near by and hopefully, we will see them again. Thank you, Debbi, Larry, and Michelle.**

### School will begin again...

Weekday Hebrew School, will open on Wed. September 9 at 4:15p.m. for grades Aleph (3<sup>rd</sup>) through Heh (7<sup>th</sup>).

Sunday classes will begin on September 13.

We will send a calendar via email during the month of July and Hard copies of curriculum and school handbook will reach you during the first month of August.

*Have a wonderful summer!*

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## Adult Education

Am Yisrael offers a heartfelt Mazal Tov to the following congregants who have successfully completed the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School coordinated by the Community Foundation for Jewish Education. They are: Judy Adelman, Neil Adelman, Jody Berkman, Sima Browne, Peggy Hoffman and Martha Loewenthal. They will each receive a Certificate of Hebrew Study from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In honor of their graduation, they will be called to the Torah on Shabbat morning, June 20th.

The Melton School was created at the Hebrew University to address the need for Jewish education for busy adults.

The two year program consists of thirty classes each year held weekly for two hours. It has met with a great deal of success. Because Am Yisrael is a Melton school consortium member, our congregants receive reduced tuition. For more information or to register, please contact: Keith Kantor at the Community Foundation for Jewish Education ([KKantor@cfje.org](mailto:KKantor@cfje.org) or 847-410-3900 ext. 25). Class size is limited, and enrollment is taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Am Yisrael invites congregants to take part in a dinner hosting Israeli disabled war veterans following services on Fri-

day, June 26th. Participants will have a chance to meet them, show appreciation for their service to the Jewish state and learn more about the program, American Friends of Israel War Disabled Foundation, which brought them here.

The last sessions of the intermediate and advanced adult Hebrew conversation classes taught by Tikva Moustakis will be held on Sunday, June 7 at the usual times. Am Yisrael thanks Mrs. Moustakis for all her worthwhile instructional efforts throughout the year. They were greatly appreciated by participants.

# Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World) Social Action Activities

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## Tikkun Olam (Social Action) Committee

*The Am Yisrael Social Action Committee is composed of socially concerned congregants who are willing to devote their time and energies to engage in Tikkun Olam (repair of the world). The Social Action Committee has adopted the following mission statement:*

*The Am Yisrael Social Action Committee seeks to engage in acts of Tikkun Olam, repair of the world, in keeping with the belief that as Jews we must partner with God in creating a better world and perfecting the work which God created. The committee will take part in Tikkun Olam activities both in the Jewish and general communities based on the values of Tzedek (justice) and Rachamim (compassion). These include programs whose goal is to care for fellow human beings in need, protect and preserve the environment and work for a peaceful world.*

*The committee will encourage individual members to seek out and participate in Tikkun Olam projects and will strive to cooperate with other faith based institutions in these endeavors. The committee will also suggest and coordinate Tikkun Olam programs which involve the entire Am Yisrael congregation in order to stimulate fellow congregants to take part in Tikkun Olam and to create a greater sense of synagogue community.*

**We are holding an ongoing food drive to help stock pantries during these trying times. Please bring kosher non-perishable food items to the synagogue building any time.**

**In these difficult economic times, kosher food donations brought to the synagogue for the Ark's food pantry are especially appreciated. Food pantries including the Ark's are facing increasing demands for their services. In the case of the Ark's pantry, there is difficulty in keeping the shelves stocked since items go out almost as rapidly as donations come in. The following are PRIORITY ITEMS; CANNED FRUITS, VEGETABLE OIL, TUNA, COLD CEREALS, CANNED FRUITS AND PAPER GOODS.**

Thanks so much for your generosity. Food donations will be transported to the Ark and other local pantries by Tikkun Olam committee volunteers. The Tikkun Olam Committee invites congregants to participate in a mitzvah outing to the Northfield food pantry on Thursday evening, June 11 from 7:00-7:45 p.m. Those taking are kindly requested to bring a donation of any size for the pantry. There is an overwhelming demand for the pantry's services. Volunteers will be stocking shelves and making food packages. For further information or to take part, kindly contact Lynn Denenberg at [lynndyken@comcast.net](mailto:lynndyken@comcast.net).

Many thanks to those congregants who have donated used cell phones to Shalva, which aids Jewish victims of domestic abuse. Shalva is most grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

**This collection drive is ongoing. Please bring your used cell phones to the Synagogue at any time.**

The Tikkun Olam Committee is continuing its volunteer activities with the Ark and with H.O.M.E. Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly.

Anyone who is interested in participating in Social Action activities should contact: Dan Frankel at [daff55@comcast.net](mailto:daff55@comcast.net) or Elliot Lefkovitz, 847/446-7215 ext. 15 or [elefkovitz@amyisrael.org](mailto:elefkovitz@amyisrael.org) Or visit Federation's website for TOV, (<http://www.juf.org/tov/index.asp>) an arm of the Jewish Federation that offers many different volunteer opportunities. We have been advised that the ARK is especially in need of volunteers for "Super Sundays". Please contact Dan Frankel. The ARK's pantry is in need of food items such as kosher tuna and cold cereals.. These food items can be brought to the synagogue. Please contact Elliot Lefkovitz in the office or at [ELefkovitz@AmYisrael.org](mailto:ELefkovitz@AmYisrael.org)

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## Donations

*Donations have been made to the following tzedakah funds.*

**The Board of Trustees of the congregation has established a new fund in honor of Nancy Holab Nevins' 18th anniversary with Am Yisrael. The Executive Director's Sanctuary Beautification Fund will help provide flowers and other decorations in our sanctuary. Please feel free to make donations to this fund.**

### General Fund:

In memory of Robert Nevins. (9)

In memory of Ellen Jane Neustadt. (2)

In memory of Anne Goldsmith. (2)

In honor of Larry Hochman's special birthday.

In memory of David Stein.

In honor of Tikva Moustakis.

In honor of Nancy Holab Nevins.

In memory of Marilyn Shonfeld.

In honor of Nitza Zisook's birthday.

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

In honor of Brandon Nasatir's Bar Mitzvah.

### Cantor's Discretionary Fund:

In memory of Robert Nevins. (4)

In honor of Brandon Nasatir's Bar Mitzvah.

### Executive Director's Sanctuary Fund:

In memory of Robert Nevins.

In honor of past and present Am Yisrael Board of Directors for keeping Nancy Holab Nevins gainfully employed for "chai" years.

### Youth Fund:

In honor of Charlotte Kamin's Bat Mitzvah. (2)

In honor of Lynn Polen's and Irwin Segal's new grandchild.

In honor of the Feig's new grandchildren.

### Lefkovitz Education Fund:

In memory of Ellen Jane Neustadt.

In honor of Sharon Stern.

### Kiddush Fund:

In honor of Lynn Polen's and Irwin Segal's new grandchild.

# Friday Night Live

followed by dinner

**June 26**

**Services begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner.**

Cantor Simon and the Shabbatoness  
bring Craig Taubman's wonderful Shabbat melodies to Am Yisrael.  
You won't want to miss this delightful way to usher in Shabbat.

The Shabbatoness:  
Cantor Simon - guitar & vocals  
Corey Berman—keyboard, clarinet  
Rich Cohen - guitar & mandolin  
Shayna Levine—percussion  
Rod Loewenthal—saxophone  
E. Marc Nevins - guitar & vocals  
Howard Prager - tuba  
Donna Rubinson—accordion

*These dinners are very popular. PLEASE make your reservations early.*

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**Please respond no later than 2:00 p.m. on Mon. June 22.**

*Due to catering restrictions, responses received after that time will be placed on a waiting list.*

**\_\_\_\_\_ We/I will attend the FNL Dinner on June 26.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Number adults (\$20 per person) \_\_\_\_\_ Number children under 10 (\$12.00 per person) \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Number vegetarians \_\_\_\_\_

Seat me/us with \_\_\_\_\_

# Graduation/ Confirmation

**Friday, June 5—6:30 p.m.**

During our Kabbalat Shabbat services we will hold the Confirmation Class ceremony, signifying the culmination of our 10th grade students' formal Religious School education.

Heh Class students will help lead services that evening in honor of their graduation from our Hebrew School Department. The following will participate and receive their certificates.

## Confirmands

Samantha Cohen	Garrett Solomon
Mara Nussbaum	Rachel Stein
Rachel Palmer	Emily Turner
Alex Shenkman	Ben Zisook

## Hebrew Department Graduates

Kalee Alter	Zalman Gagerman	Ari Richman
Hannah Altman	Rachel Goldfinger	Lexi Salberg
Nicole Berkman	Brandon Nasatir	Rachel Shane
Sid Canchester	Jordan Palmer	Jonathan Shenkman
Matthew Cohen	Matthew Rauner	Emily Small
Charlie Elias	Jeremy Reich	Jacob Small
Chloe Elias	Joshua Reich	Matthew Smiley
Victoria Fishman	Liza Ross	





# *Going Green Everyday*

*Sunday, May 31  
10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.  
Am Yisrael Social Hall*

*Stuart Brodsky will lead a discussion on ways to live a more sustainable life and how to make informed choices. Learn how to have a healthier home, save money, and at the same time help the environment. Stuart will also facilitate a hands on activity to learn how to make sustainable choices.*

*Stuart, an Am Yisrael member, is an architect with 23 years experience in the design of educational facilities and specializes in sustainable design. He volunteers his time with the Chicago Chapter of the United States Green Building Council and serves as the chair of their Green Schools Advocacy Committee.*

Am Yisrael

# Youth Department

## Thanks to our board. Don't miss the car wash.

### Annual Car Wash

#### June 7

All congregants are invited to bring their cars to our annual car wash on the last day of Sunday School.

We will have our 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th graders cleaning your cars between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Thanks for your support!!  
Call Marah at ext. 16 with any questions.

#### Mark your calendar

Honors for USY **June 5**

USY Car Wash **June 7**

Wow, what a great year we have had. I want to thank all of our fabulous students who participated in our many events throughout the year. We are already hard at work coming up with a fun calendar for next year, with some unexpected surprises.

I want to give a huge thank you to our USY Board. The board was small but mighty this year and really exhibited incredible leadership in a year of rebuilding our older group. They all helped out with our younger groups as well and deserve big kudos. Thanks go to **Alex Shenkman**, our executive vice president and **Becky Dolinko**, who both made important contributions to our group. But the biggest, biggest thank you goes to **Samantha Cohen**, our fantastic president who put in enormous amounts of time and effort to get our youth motivated this year. She is an amazing role model for all of our youth and we are so lucky that she will be returning as president in the coming year.

I also want to thank our parents for all of their support. Thank you to my drivers. Without you our programs would not have been possible. Thanks to all of the parents who encouraged their kids to try a youth

group this year. Your support is invaluable and please keep it up for next year.

We want to congratulate our USY chapter (AMUSY) on winning 7 awards at our spring convention for programming and fundraising. We increased our fundraising by 781 percent over last year. Our last fundraiser for the year will be our **ANNUAL CAR WASH** on **JUNE 7**. Please come with your dirty cars between 9a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to support our efforts. All proceeds are donated to Tikun Olam.

We will hold committee meetings over the summer for those interested in helping us plan our pre-convention weekend for the upcoming International Convention that will be held in Chicago during winter break in December.

We are asking all of our synagogue families to plan their vacations around this very important USY pre-convention in which all Conservative synagogues in the Chicago area will be participating. We ask that you make it a priority not to travel between Dec. 23 and Dec. 27. We will need housing for upwards of 50 USYers and staff coming to us from other parts of the country. It would be great for some of our Chaverim and Kadima families to host USYers to get a flavor for this amazing youth program. Kadima members will be able to participate in many of the



preconvention activities. We will be encouraging all of our families to attend Shabbat services the weekend of Dec. 25 to make our visitors feel welcome. We want to show them the true spirit of our congregation and the enthusiasm we have to offer. Please contact Marah if you are interested in housing USYers. You will receive e-mails and letters regarding this program and what you can do to help.

I wish everyone a very wonderful summer and look forward to working with your children again in the fall.

Please contact Marah for more information on upcoming events or youth activities— maltenberg@amyisrael.org or 847-446-7215 ext. 16.

# Am Yisrael Annual Meeting

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**Shabbat morning, June 13—9:30 a.m.**

Board members will be honored during services.  
Kiddush lunch follows services at which time, Joel Brown will deliver  
the “State of the Synagogue” address.

Join us as we thank outgoing officers:

Joel Brown—President  
Naomi Fisher—Vice President  
Melissa Bleiweis—Treasurer  
Dan Frankel—Secretary

And outgoing Board members:

Norm Eckstein  
Dan Frankel  
Lisa Garoon  
Randy Horton  
Livia Klein  
Irwin Segal

and welcome incoming officers:

Naomi Fisher—President  
Randy Horton—Vice President  
Lisa Garoon—Treasurer  
Jeff Piell—Secretary

and Board nominees:

Melissa Bleiweis  
Marsha Emanuel  
Jody Gerbie  
Craig Ostroff

There is NO CHARGE to attend, but we do ask that you respond so  
we can provide the appropriate amount of food.  
847/446-7215 or [nhnevins@AmYisrael.org](mailto:nhnevins@AmYisrael.org)

# June 2009 9 Sivan 5769 - 8 Tammuz 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 9 SIVAN Talmud class 8 p.m.	<b>2</b> 10 SIVAN Rabbi's class 9:30 a.m. Cantor sings at the Cell!!	<b>3</b> 11 SIVAN last weekday of Religious School	<b>4</b> 12 SIVAN	<b>5</b> 13 SIVAN  <b>8:03</b> services 6:30 p.m. Graduation/Confirmation	<b>6</b> 14 SIVAN  Naso  <b>9:13, ca ht man</b> services 9:30 a.m. Talia Weiss' Bat Mitzvah
<b>7</b> 15 SIVAN services 9:15 a.m. last day of Sunday school car wash/bbq	<b>8</b> 16 SIVAN Talmud class 8 p.m.	<b>9</b> 17 SIVAN NO Rabbi's class	<b>10</b> 18 SIVAN	<b>11</b> 19 SIVAN	<b>12</b> 20 SIVAN  <b>8:07</b> services 6:30 p.m.	<b>13</b> 21 SIVAN  Beh'alotecha  <b>9:17, ca ht man</b> services 9:30 a.m. annual meeting
<b>14</b> 22 SIVAN services 9:15 a.m.	<b>15</b> 23 SIVAN Talmud class 8 p.m.	<b>16</b> 24 SIVAN Rabbi's class 9:30 a.m.	<b>17</b> 25 SIVAN	<b>18</b> 26 SIVAN	<b>19</b> 27 SIVAN  <b>8:09</b> services 6:30 p.m. Birthday Shabbat	<b>20</b> 28 SIVAN  Shelach  <b>9:20, ca ht man</b> services 9:30 a.m. HS Grads Shabbat Melton Grads honored Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 10:30 a.m.
<b>21</b> 29 SIVAN services 9:15 a.m.	<b>22</b> 30 SIVAN ✨Rosh Chodesh Tammuz - Day 1 Talmud class 8 p.m.	<b>23</b> 1 TAMMUZ ✨Rosh Chodesh Tammuz - Day 2 Rabbi's class 9:30 a.m.	<b>24</b> 2 TAMMUZ	<b>25</b> 3 TAMMUZ	<b>26</b> 4 TAMMUZ  <b>8:10</b> Friday Night Live services 6:30 p.m. Israel Vets group join us for dinner and program	<b>27</b> 5 TAMMUZ  Korach  <b>9:20, ca ht man</b> services 9:30 a.m.
<b>28</b> 6 TAMMUZ services 9:15 a.m.	<b>29</b> 7 TAMMUZ Talmud class 8 p.m.	<b>30</b> 8 TAMMUZ Rabbi's class 9:30 a.m.				

**Am Yisrael Congregation**  
**4 Happ Road**  
**Northfield, IL 60093**

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## Yahrzeits

### June 5 (14—20 Sivan)

William Friedberg, Zelda Jacobs, Isadore Kanter, Emanuel Platt, Ida Goodman, Arthur Greenman, Paul Seligman, Rose Eatman, Sol Graff, Maurice L. Lewis, Steve Trachtman, Felix Greenthal, Richard Kirschner, Phillip Schmidt, Harry Shalowitz, Max Silber, Harriet Stein, Charles S. Cushner, Jack Fisher, Morton Geller, Charles Grosberg, Rhea Kaufman, Hilda Pearlman, Dr. Allen Schultz, Sherwood Thomas, Jacob Ziven, Ethel Hyman Huvad, Helen Lang, Anna Skobel, Irving Ringel.

### June 12 (21— 27 Sivan)

Samuel Aaron, Susan Millman, Herbert Swimmer,, Tillie Brody, Norman DeNosquo, Jack Lehmann, Joseph Zisook, David Stein, Rebecca Weinberg, Dorothy Adler, Florence Eisenberg, David Stein, Dorothy Ziven, Sol Holzman, Helen Jaman, Rae Miller, Reva Rachlin, Muriel Saber, Norman Cohen, Ida Olshonsky, Dr. Betsy Rosenwasser, Zelda Salk, Arthur Blonder, Edward Horwitch, Aron Skobel.

### June 19 (28 Sivan—4 Tammuz)

Adrienne Adelman, Nettie Bloch, Frances Ferencz, Albert Fox, Carl Katz, Carl Katz, Lucy O'Connor, Gussie Braun, Jay Brodsky, Rachel Zuckerman, Morris Dubin, Esther R. Epstein, Esther D. Isaacs, Alice

Ragins, Edward Hochman, Anna Rasky, Rebecca M. Sanders, Erma Schafheimer, George Ciocci, Pauline Mason, Rona Cohen Rose, Joseph Rubenstein, Edith Ruebner.

### June 26 (5—11 Tammuz)

Morris I. Conner, Donald Adelman, Sheldon Goldberg, Lester Kozin, Seymour Wollack, Judy Hirsch, Beatrice Rogers, Leon Eisenstaedt, Selma Jacobs, Dorothy Kaplan, Sam Schwartz, Miriam Soboroff, Shalom Nasatir, Aaron Abramson, Louis Witz.

### Am Yisrael Funeral Plan

The purpose of the Am Yisrael Funeral Plan is to simplify the process and reduce both the cost and the stress of making funeral arrangements when a loved one dies. At the time of your loss, you may call the synagogue office or **page Nancy at 847/210-1234. Or you may call Shalom Memorial Funerals directly at 847/255-3520.** All arrangements can be handled on the phone. A detailed description of the funeral plan is available from the synagogue office. ***Please note: Our plan with Shalom Memorial Funerals DOES NOT require interment to be at Shalom Memorial Park. ANY Jewish cemetery is acceptable. Funeral services can be held at that cemetery, the synagogue or at the chapel at Shalom.***

### Condolences

To **Debbie and Ken Shonfeld** on the passing of his mother, Marilyn Shonfeld.

To **Lois and Rob Neustadt** on the passing of his mother, Ellen Jane Neustadt.

To **Nancy Holab Nevins and E. Marc Nevins** on the passing of his father, Robert G. Nevins

To **Renee and Howard Schickler** on the passing of her father, Morris Wlodawski.

### Mazal Tov

To **Meredith and Marvin Feig** on the birth of two grandchildren: Frances Shea McClure, daughter of Suzanne Feig McClure and Timothy McClure; and Joshua Robert Feig, son of Carrie and Jonathan Feig.

To **Lynne Polen and Irwin Segal** on the birth of a grandchild, Sasha Isabel Knight, daughter of Sari and Eric Knight.

To **Barbara and Glenn Ferencz** on the birth of a grandchild, Simon Andrew Ferencz, son of Dawn and Max Ferencz.

To **Sheryl Cohen** on her engagement to Jay Becker. To Sheryl's parents, **Marilyn and Ray Cohen.**