

AHAVAS SHOLOM ANNOUNCER



Ahavas Sholom is proud of how each member brings his or her own story to our community. People of all ages and backgrounds who are seeking a Jewish community have a place to call home. In our newsletter, you'll hear from these voices who are the heart of Ahavas Sholom.

In this issue...

D'VAR TORAH BY RABBI STEINBERG



A CHANUKAH MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

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MONTHLY SHABBOS LUNCHESES RETURN

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DAVID MENDEL

"David Mendel is one of our newest members. Although he only joined Ahavas Sholom a few months ago, he is actually a third generation Columbusite and was born here. Before returning to the cold weather about 3 months ago, he spent the last 16 years in Florida."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join Ahavas Sholom for one of our upcoming events this winter!



CHANUKAH VISION:

Seeing Things Before They're Here

The Talmud records a famous argument between Beis Hillel and Beis Shammai about the best way to observe the Mitzvah of lighting Chanukah candles.

According to Beis Hillel - which is our practice - you start with one candle on the first night, and you add a candle at the onset of each new night.

According to Beis Shammai, it's the exact opposite. The first night is the biggest display of light, and you take away a candle for each subsequent night.

Rabbi E.E. Dessler offers a fascinating interpretation of Beis Hillel and Beis Shammai's argument, based on a most fundamental aspect of human nature. At the onset of the holiday, everyone's inspiration runs high. But people have a hard time maintaining feelings of inspiration, and according to Beis Shammai, this is reflected in the manner in which the candles are lit. The first night is all bright lights, and by the last night, all that's left is a dim flicker.

But in a perfect world, by the last day of the holiday, after a full week of gratitude and praise for the miracles of Chanukah, say Beis Hillel, we'd be at the height of our spiritual inspiration.

And that's when the Menorah can burn its brightest.

Beis Hillel rule that we continuously add candles, to reflect the ideal state.

As a Shul in between rabbis and in a period of transition, it can be hard sometimes for naysayers to see how we can hold onto feelings of inspiration - and even excitement for what the future of Ahavas Sholom will bring.

They're quick to point out the challenges we face and the perceived obstacles to our growth.

And they're right. From a strictly Beis Shammai perspective.

But from a Beis Hillel perspective, we can see things they don't.

Where they see empty seats, we see seats still available. Where they decry the Shul as being too quiet, we applaud our respect for Tefillah. The lengthy walking distance to Shul? That's easy. It's an average twenty minutes extra of quality time with our family each Shabbos. Are we exactly where we want to be right now? Not yet.

But what we learn from Beis Hillel is that: having a strong vision is the way to get there.

In the interim, Happy Chanukah!

Rabbi Daniel
Steinberg,
Interim Rabbi, Cong.
Ahavas Sholom



LETTER FROM DOTAN HERSZAGE

AHAVAS SHOLOM PRESIDENT

BS"D

Dear Family!

I am so honored to introduce the inaugural Ahavas Sholom Quarterly newsletter. It is the result of much hard work and dedication, and I would like to first thank our communications team for making it a reality.

It is very fitting that our first issue coincides with the holiday of Chanukah. Chanukah means "dedication", and it is the holiday commemorating the rededication of the Beis Hamikdash, our holy temple. How appropriate it is, then, to use this new forum to rededicate our "Mikdash Me'at", Ahavas Sholom, as we review some of the big changes that have taken place over the past few months.

The biggest change has been the departure of our beloved Rabbi Claman. Although he will be fondly missed and we wish him well in his new position, we have been extremely fortunate to have acquired the timely talents and skills of interim Rabbi Daniel Steinberg. I am pleased to say that he "hit the ground running" and has wasted no time stepping up and enabling several new member-inspired innovations. The Pre-Shabbos Oneg, the Coffee Bar, the Rav Yoel Gold Tisha B'av program, and the Post-Yom Kippur Break-fast, to name a few, have kept the shul vibrant and busy. Thanks to his engaging style, the Men's Senior Scholar Chabura has nearly doubled in attendance. Moreover, his tireless work, in concert with our council of Rabbis over the high holidays and yom-tovim not only kept the ship afloat, but generated a wonderful atmosphere or decorum and kedushah.

It can be said that the shul does not belong to us, but rather that we are borrowing it from the next generation. It is therefore incumbent on us to make it a hospitable place for our youth. In that spirit, we are pleased to announce the hiring of our new youth director, Ms. Stephanie Stillman. Ms. Stillman comes to us from Columbus Torah Academy and has been a welcome addition to our staff. She has introduced new educational content to our Shabbos youth programming and is successfully engaging our Ahavas Sholom Teens to provide additional structure and supervision! This is a win-win-win for the children, the teens, as well as the parents. Look forward to many new and exciting programs for children of all ages.

In keeping with our core value of making Ahavas Sholom a dedicated and welcoming home to all, the leadership of Ahavas Sholom takes your safety seriously. Our security committee has recently met with Jewish Columbus and the Bexley Chief of Police to review and optimize our safety protocols. We have tested our emergency response system and we will continue to work with local authorities to ensure that this system remains in the highest state of readiness and that we can all feel safe.

As mentioned above, Chanukah is the holiday of dedication. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the incredible dedication of our member volunteers. In particular, I would like to single out this year's Annual Dinner Honorees, Rabbi Avi and Perle Ben-Moshe. Their tremendous dedication to the shul is inspirational. I would especially like to highlight the recent delicious Shabbos Mevorchim Luncheon that was very well attended. Yasher Koach to the Ben-Moshe's and all the volunteers who made it possible. Hope to see you all at the upcoming Chanukah Bingo, and bring a friend!

The Rabbinic Search is now in full swing, and the Committee is hard at work meeting with potential candidates who will embody the spirit of Ahavas Sholom, expand on the foundations laid by our venerable predecessors, and will carry the torch into the future. Thank you in advance for your patience as we navigate the transition to what we hope will be a prosperous and exciting future at Ahavas Sholom.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of Phil Weinerman and thank him for all he does for the shul. May he have a Refuah Shleimah and be back on his feet soon!

Have a wonderful winter and a joyous Chanukah!

Best,
Dotan Herszage

AHAVAS SHOLOM HAPPENINGS

SHABBOS MEVARCHIM LUNCHEON

Prior to the COVID pandemic, the monthly Shabbos Mevorchim Luncheon was a mainstay of the Ahavas Sholom Calendar. It provided an opportunity for the entire community to come together for good food and socializing. Last month, on Shabbos Mevorchim Kislev, November 19, Ahavas Sholom was proud to bring back our monthly Shabbos Mevorchim Luncheon. The luncheon took place after davening on Shabbos morning and featured a scrumptious Mediterranean menu including, shawarma, schnitzel, pastrami, a wide assortment of fresh Israeli salads, delicious cholent by "Chani's Catering", and tasty desserts. For the first time, the meal was followed by a Women's Shiur, given by our own Rebbetzin Nechama Fried, about the journey of the Hannukah oil and the women of Hannukah, which was well attended and very well received.

Over two hundred people, of all ages, from all over the community, were in attendance. The success of the luncheon is due in large part to all the volunteers who gave of their time and cooking skills to prepare the meal for such a large group of guests



We would like to extend a hearty yasher koach to the following volunteers for all their hard work: Avi and Perle Ben Moshe, Simha Wolf, Julie Weirnerman, Josh Grashin and his mother Debbie Grashin, Sophie and Daniel Silberstein, Inna Bertman Zatz. Of course, the event would not have been possible without our sponsors, and we would also like to thank them for their generosity. We are, Baruch Hashem, looking forward to many more Shabbos Mevorchim luncheons. If you would like to attend, sponsor, or volunteer to help, please contact the shul office. See you at the next one!

AHAVAS SHOLOM HAPPENINGS

AVOS U'BANIM

Every Motza'ei Shabbos, during the fall and winter months, about one hour after Shabbos is over, Ahavas Sholom is transformed into the "funnest place in Columbus", as we host the weekly community-wide Avos U'Banim program. Led by the energetic and always-entertaining Rabbi Yaakov Yosef Feigenbaum, of the Columbus Community Kollel, Avos U'Banim provides children of all ages with a precious opportunity to bond with their parents through freestyle Jewish learning. Parents and children learn a wide variety of topics together, including Torah, Mishnah, Halacha and Gemara, from a variety of texts and at a variety of levels. Books can be provided, by parent request. Following the learning, children wait eagerly, to see if they won one of the prizes in our amazing raffle. The evening is then capped by a Pizza party and, without exception, an impromptu game of dodge ball. Although the program is scheduled for about an hour, please expect some difficulty getting your child to leave!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DAVID MENDEL

David Mendel is one of our newest members. Although he only joined Ahavas Sholom a few months ago, he is actually a third generation Columbusite and was born here. Before returning to the cold weather about 3 months ago, he spent the last 16 years in Florida. He is an attorney who specializes in insurance claims.

FAMILY FACTOIDS

- His grandfather ran a grocery store in what is today German Village, on Beck Street in the early part of the 20 th century and during the great depression.
- He has three siblings in Columbus, two of whom live in Bexley!
- David started in practice with his father and credits his father for his own organizational ability and fundamental legal skill.



PASSIONS AND PASTTIMES

David picked up a trombone for the first time at 10 years old, then played in high school, college, and law school. He even spent three years playing in a big 40's jazz band. Nowadays, he enjoys singing and has performed in choirs and theater, including a 1998 Columbus JCC production of Fiddler On The Roof. More recently, you may find him belting out the tunes at one of Columbus's karaoke bars. David is also a voracious reader of historical fiction and science fiction.

JEWISH GEMS

The biblical character David admires most is his namesake, David Hamelech, for his astonishing complexity, and because he was a brilliant leader, warrior, poet and a musician of great sensitivity. David likes to keep up with the parashas hashavua, and is especially fond of Chabad.org podcasts and all aspects of Chassidus.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DAVID MENDEL

ATTRACTION TO AHAVAS

David joined Ahavas Sholom because he enjoys the warmth and musicality of the services at Ahavas Sholom, which is reminiscent of his former shul in Florida. He hopes to brush up on his Ba'al Tefilla skills and share his voice with the congregation in the future. His fondest memory from his brief time at Ahavas Sholom was the Simchas Torah Luncheon because of the delicious food and the spirit of camaraderie.

AHAVAS SHOLOM SUPERPOWER

"In a word ... Commitment". David understands the importance of a daily minyan in sustaining the Jewish community. He faithfully attends our weekday minyan at every opportunity and has become one of our most committed and reliable minyan members! He hopes to inspire others to become active in the minyan in a similar fashion.

David is very grateful for his Ahavas Sholom neighbors, the Liebermans, the Ligators and the Weinermans who have eased his transition back to Columbus and made him feel at home in such a short time. He looks forward to meeting more of you in shul.

Come meet David and welcome him back to Columbus when you see him next at Ahavas Sholom!

YAHARZEITS

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING

Dora Abrams
Ida Ackerman
Elliot Bain
Mania Bain
Pinchas ben Yehoshua
Blumenbaum
Benjamin Ben Yosef
Jack Berenstein
Judith Berenstein
Anna Berliner
Goldie Bloom Blaustein
Bryna Bruce
Shirley (Shifra) Chernow
George B Cohen
Ben Dolinger
Mary Dolinger
Milton Ettinger
Bertha Feldman
Nathan Feldman
Martin Feuer
David Frank
Franklin Furman

Tillie Gaba
Steven Geiger
Louis Gertner
Philip Gold
Herman Gross
Max Hahn
Ranald Hay
Moshe Hazzan
Avraham Hershoff
Robert Lane
Steven Mathless
Mendel
Menachem Mendel
Celia Modes
Miriam Modes
Sarah Modes
Solomon Modes
David Moses Davidson
Fannye Nusgart
Frank Nutis
Goldie Golda Bas Nissan
Press
Dr. David Raikin
Frieda Raikin

Ditzi (Daurene) Rising
Andrew Robert
Herb Romanoff
Sylvia Rosenberg
Elaine Rosenstein
Max Ruben
Jean Schottenstein
Edith Seff
Reva Shapiro Shindel
Helen Silberstein
Dr. Jack Silberstein
Rebecca Simon
Annette Tanenbaum
Herman Tanenbaum
Benemi Tashayev
Sone Tashayeva
Oscar Wechsler
Sam Winter
Udla (Adele) Winter
Louis Wool
Julius Yudel
Osher Z. Yablock
Florence Zimmerman
Esther Ziskind
Koppel Ziskind

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AHAVAS SHOLOM NOW ACCEPTS VENMO



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