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**CALENDAR AND VOLUNTEER**

**CORRECTIONS FOR BEINEINU APRIL/MAY ISSUE**

*We regret the following errors from the previous edition of Beineinu:*

**PG. 6 | THE CUBA FAMILY ARCHIVES**
Bottom left-hand picture: (from left) Joseph Cuba, Joseph Zaglin, Louis J. Levitas, Rabbi Harry Epstein
Ahavath Achim’s Fran Eizenstat and Eizenstat Family Annual Lecture Presents: Wolf Blitzer. The son of Holocaust survivors, Wolf Blitzer is a German-born, award-winning, Jewish American journalist known for his Middle East expertise. He is CNN’s lead political anchor and the anchor of The Situation Room and Wolf, where he focuses on the most important news from Washington and around the world. We invite you to join us for this FREE and exciting event.

Questions? Contact acohen@aasynagogue.org | 404.603.5754
MAZAL TOV TO THE LOVED ONES OF THE NEWEST ADDITIONS TO OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY!

**ADLER SY WINEBURGH**
- **Born January 13**
- **Parents**
  - Elina and Samuel Wineburgh
- **Grandparents**
  - Adele and Michael Wineburgh and Revekkah

**ZOYEY BROOKE GODZDANKER**
- **Born March 16**
- **Parents**
  - Carly (Heyman) and Roy Godzdanker
- **Grandparents**
  - Gail and Lyons Heyman
- **Great Grandparents**
  - Betty and Leon Goldstein
- **Uncles**
  - Jared and Scott Heyman
- **Great Aunts**
  - Betty Ann Shusterman and Harriet Miller

**GRAHAM ROBESON BERNATH**
- **Born March 18**
- **Parents**
  - Lauren and Michael Bernath
- **Grandparents**
  - Renee and Jeffrey Cohen and Julia and Terry Bernath

**FIONA PEPPER COHEN**
- **Born March 21**
- **Parents**
  - Julia Faye and David Aaron Cohen
- **Grandparents**
  - Melissa and Walter Cohen and Lois and Norm Plotkin
- **Great Grandparents**
  - Pauline Cohen, Jeanette Rand, and Edyth Plotkin

**REID HILL DEUTSCH**
- **Born April 10**
- **Parents**
  - Lauren Estrin and Andy Deutsch
- **Grandparents**
  - Carol and Bob Deutsch and Kathy and Irv Estrin
- **Great Grandparents**
  - Martha Lichtman
- **Siblings**
  - Molly June Deutsch

**MARC ANDREW ANTEBI**
- **Born April 19**
- **Parents**
  - Rena and Michael Antebi
- **Grandparents**
  - Susan Gordan Moray, Lily and Mark Antebi, and Jay Rosenzweig
- **Great Grandparents**
  - Betty Ann Shusterman
- **Siblings**
  - Amelia Antebi

**MAYA JORDAN SILVER**
- **Born April 26**
- **Parents**
  - Melissa Cohen and Eric Silver
- **Grandparents**
  - Heidi and Jan Cohen, Melissa Hyatt, and Bini Silver
- **Great Grandparents**
  - Madolin Seldes, Sharon Cohen, and Millie Paul
B’NEI MITZVAH

Leah Cozewith and Henry Leusink will celebrate their B’nei Mitzvah on Thursday, June 8, 2017. For their Mitzvah Projects, Leah is volunteering at pet shelters, while Henry is volunteering for Buddy Baseball. Leah and Henry’s parents are Erica and Andrew Cozewith, Mindy and Neal Weber, and Bart Leusink. Their grandparents are Bernice and Harold Cozewith, Aimee and Don McCrory, and Norman and Shirley Chanin. They also have a brother, Harrison Leusink, and a sister, Rachel Cozewith. Mazal Tov, Leah and Henry!

ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS

AMANDA RICH & ADAM HIRSCH

Amanda Rich and Adam Hirsch are to be married on June 18, 2017! Amanda is the daughter of Lori Rich and Steven Elliot Garber and Alan Wesley Rich, z”l. She is the granddaughter of Shirley Rich. Adam is the son of Rae Hirsch and Dr. Martin Bruce Hirsch. Mazal Tov Amanda and Adam!

MANDY THOME & CRAIG NEWMAN

Mandy and Craig met almost 2 years ago in Chicago. As of June, they will be living in Portland, Oregon, where he will be working for the Adidas corporation, and Mandy will continue her nursing career. No wedding date has been set. Mandy is the daughter of Debra and Chuck Thome, and Craig is the son of Donna and Philip Newman. Mazal Tov Mandy and Craig!

YASHER KOACH

The AA SISTERHOOD will receive the Jewels in the Crown award at the Women’s League of Conservative Judaism 2017 conference in July. This award acknowledges Sisterhoods that have gone that extra step to nurture and sustain Jewish Life and vitality in their communities.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board of Directors has created a new Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Sara Papier and Larry Gold. We have formed a steering committee to help organize and manage the work. We expect the process to take 12 -15 months to complete. We will keep in touch with you as our work continues and provide you with updates from time to time. Please keep an eye out for official surveys and notices about small group meetings in which you can participate. You and your families are the lifeblood of our congregation. We are looking to you to provide important information about what you love, your hopes for changes, and the direction Ahavath Achim will take in the future.

YIZKOR BOOK

Yizkor, which means Remember in Hebrew, is a special prayer and service thought to renew and strengthen connections to our loved ones who have passed, to offer merit to their souls and to elevate them in their heavenly homes. It is said that “the soul gains additional distinction if the memory of its good deeds spurs their loved ones to improve their ways.” With this in mind, we invite you to honor the memory of your loved ones by including their names in the 2017-2018 Ida Pearle and Joseph Cuba Yizkor Memorial “Pages of Remembrance” Book. By inscribing their names in this book, you fulfill the mitzvah - good deed - of giving in honor and in memory of those who have passed. Please make your submission(s) to Jill Rosner at jrosner@aasynagogue.org.
IN MEMORIAM

May God comfort the friends and family of...

LEONARD BARKAN
• Husband of Mae S. Barkan
• Father of Andrew (and Cheryl) Barkan and Donna Renee Barkan
  Jensen z”l
• Grandfather of Alexander Barkan, Amanda Barkan, Jay
  Jensen, and Jeffery Jensen

SAM ECKSTEIN
• Husband of Marilyn G. Eckstein
• Brother of Harold (and Harriet) Eckstein

MARION FINKE FEINSTEIN
• Mother of Sandi Feinstein (and Gerald) Friedman, Sheree
  Feinstein (and David) Kanter, and Lori Feinstein (and Rob)
  Axelrod
• Sister of Dr. Jay Elliot Finke
• Grandmother of Jeremy (and Melissa) Friedman, Dr. Jared
  (and Beth) Friedman, Dr. Gregory (and Shari) Friedman,
  Corie Kanter (and Jackie) McHugh, Jodi Kanter (and Clark)
  Warner, and Marisa Axelrod (and Kent) Cecil
• Great-grandmother to Jake, Zachary, Nate, Landon, Karis,
  Leighton, and Lila Friedman, Mason Cecil, and Miles
  McHugh

IRENE SCHWARTZ FISHBANE
• Sister of Alan (and Joan) Schwartz

EVA FRIEDLANDER
• Mother of Dr. Lewis Friedlander and Dr. Lynne Friedlander
  (and Marc) Goldman
• Grandmother of Eva Marie Friedlander, Katarina
  Friedlander, Jeremy Goldman, and Ella Goldman

SHIRLEY GOFF
• Mother of Kimberly Goff, Ken (and Patty) Goff, and Jonathan
  (and Alice) Goff
• Sister of Milton Drucker
• Grandmother of Molly Goff

HOWARD SANDERS HILLMAN
• Father of Shoshanah Hillman
• Grandfather to Ava and Chavi
• Brother to Jack (and Michal) Hillman
• Uncle to Annsley and Ben Klehr and Brittany and Alan
  Schwartzwald
• Great Uncle to Layla and Sawyer Klehr and Mack and Mimi
  Schwartzwald

LOUIS PICHULIK
• Husband of Jo Pichulik
• Father of Elissa (and Greg), Suzanne (and Seth), and David
• Brother of Jeannette (and Michael) Zukor
• Grandfather of Sam, Henry, Sela, and Solomon

GERTRUDE SCHROEDER
• Mother of Sara (and Paul) Feldman, William Schroeder, Lynn
  Teehan, Kristi (and Patrick) Fleming, and Jan Schroeder
• Grandmother of William Feldman, Ryan (and Ashly)
  Fleming, and Christopher Fleming (and fiancé Alexis
  Briggie)
• Great grandmother of Cooper Fleming
• Sister-in-law to Eleanor Luehrsen

ELEANOR VRONO
• Wife of Harold Vrono
• Mother of Robin (and Evan) Torch, Chuck (and Marsha)
  Vrono, and Don (and Bekki) Vrono
• Grandmother of Jeremy (and Megan) Vrono, Samantha
  (and Aaron Konter) Torch, Zachary (and Jodi) Vrono, Jessica
  (and Stephan Kallus) Torch, Todd Vrono (and fiancé Jamie
  Coffsky), and Leyton Vrono
• Great grandmother of Seth Vrono
• Sister- in-law to Fran Rothenberg and Irene Heller

along with the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem
ISRAEL BONDS BRUNCH

To Our AA Synagogue Family,

We were so honored to be presented the Star of David Award by Israel Bonds at the Ahavath Achim brunch on March 19th. This is such a wonderful partnership for our synagogue and Israel Bonds and we were proud to be part of it. We are appreciative of everyone who attended, touched by the generous words shared with us and thrilled that Israel Bonds had an extraordinarily successful morning. Our sincerest thanks to all for your good wishes and your support for our beloved AA and Israel.

B'ahava,
Margo and Larry Gold

SISTERHOOD

THANK YOU & MAZAL TOV

AA Sisterhood would like to extend a Mazal Tov and thank you to our outgoing co-presidents, Susan Berkowitz and Brenda Silverman. They have continued the long tradition of accomplishment in providing leadership for our AA Sisterhood.

AA Sisterhood is pleased to announce the following slate of officers for the coming year. This new Board will share the evening with the congregation at its Annual Meeting on June 4, 3:30 pm. Sisterhood is excited to celebrate the installation of its new officers while celebrating our ’kehilla kedoshah’!

Co-Presidents - Debra Elovich and Judy Marx
VP Programming - Delcy P. Harber and Jennifer Rosenfeld
VP Directory - Linda Landis and Barbara Nathan
VP Donor Fundraising - Betty Behr
VP Donor Event - Sherry Habif and Allie Jaffe
VPs Membership - Alyson Lapes and Debra Siegel
VPs Torah Fund - Glenna Hornstein and Shari Neumann
VP Education - Rachel Avchen and Sara Hoffenberg
Z’havah - Allison Feldman and Rachael Joseph
Corresponding Secretaries - Janet Kupshik and Vickie Reisman
Treasurer - Laura Nelson
Financial Secretary - Patsy Little
Recording Secretary - Shelly Dollar
Parliamentarians - Susan Berkowitz and Brenda Silverman

2018-2019 SISTERHOOD MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

It’s that time again for the publication of the 2018-2019 AA Membership Directory! The expected date of publication is September 1, 2017 and your help is needed! We are asking for volunteers to solicit advertisements, contact department chairs for articles, and work with committee members (all advertisers and patrons contracts will be available on line by June 15, 2017). This is a short term commitment. Please contact Barbara Nathan at bgnathan@mindspring.com or Delcy Harber at delcyharber@comcast.net.
Since I have returned to our congregation following my sabbatical earlier this year, I have often been asked, “How was your sabbatical?” “It was great!” was the answer I gave initially. And it was great! But vacations are also often “great!” A sabbatical certainly contains elements of a vacation, but it is not just a “vacation.” If a “vacation” is a time to “get away” in order to “take a break,” a sabbatical is an opportunity to “get away” for a greater purpose – to refresh oneself in order to gain new perspectives and return to one’s work with renewed purpose. Of course, others might define a sabbatical and its purpose somewhat differently, but the purpose I just put forth was the understanding I used as I approached the planning for my sabbatical. With that purpose in mind, after I returned, I quickly reframed my response to the question, “How was your sabbatical?” My answer became, “I did what I needed to do for myself.”

In my case, one of the activities I knew would serve to renew me was outdoor activity. I have often written and spoken about my experience of God’s Presence in the natural world, especially amongst the mountains. And if I am not specifically conscious of God’s Presence in every moment, I am almost always filled with wonder in such settings. During my sabbatical I planned to put myself in places I knew would satisfy my need and desire. So I went snowshoeing in Colorado and Utah, and I spent some time in Arches National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park and Canyonlands National Park in Utah.

Wow? Yes! But these moments were more than experiences of wonder. For me, they were connected with God. Hence the bracha, the blessing with which I began this column. For me, the offering the “Oseh Ma’ase Vereisheet” blessing is not a statement of fact. It is a response to how I see our world, a magnificent testimony to the Presence of God.

Summer is a wonderful time to place yourself and perhaps other family members in settings that evoke moments of awareness and feelings like the one I have described here. We can take the time to really recognize beauty and marvel in its sublime presence. The mountains of Colorado are my sanctuary, and that is undoubtedly why I return to them every year. But such evocative beauty can also be recognized much closer to home and in a number of places.

I hope you will take some time this summer to put yourself in such a place, recognize the wondrous beauty of God’s world…and offer a blessing to sanctify this uplifting moment of your experience.

Baruch Atta Hashem Elokaynu Melech Haolam Oseh Ma’ase Vereisheet
Praised are You Holy One, Sovereign of the Universe, Who gives life to the Works of Creation

By Rabbi Neil Sandler
This is a strange article for me to be writing. Firstly, I didn’t go to Jewish summer camp as a child. I went to YMCA camp for one and a half summers. The “half” should telegraph just how much I enjoyed myself. I have two memories from my short tenure as a camper. Number one – I was in a bunk with kids who didn’t like me. Memory number two – taking a header off the front of a BMX bike and bruising my ego more than my body, insisting on leaving the camp and after hours of crying and screaming, getting my parents to drive up to camp and fetch me. That’s how the “half” summer ended. So it goes without saying that I joined camp Ramah’s yahadut (teaching) faculty last year with a bit of trepidation. I didn’t know what to expect and what I did know….was that camp was the worst! That’s not a very good intention to set before committing myself to a month up in Clayton, GA.

What I quickly learned was that our Jewish summer camps were different. It’s hard to pinpoint what makes Camp Ramah, Camp Barney or Camp Coleman (to name a few) beyond the normal summer camp experience. Lots of camps have a lake for swimming or canoeing. Lots of camps have art, archery & sports. In fact, I would imagine that a camp specifically dedicated to just one or two things, like a sports camp or drama camp, could well exceed what our children experience during their drama chug (elective) at Jewish camp. However, the Jewish camping experience rises above because the focus at Jewish camp isn’t about the activity scheduled for the child, rather, the focus is always about the soul of the child.

We all know the phrase, ‘what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.’ People use that phraseology for a lot of different scenarios and locales. The idea is that we don’t talk about what we do or did on one place once we leave. Whatever our questionable behavior, our guilt into depravity, it is forgotten once we leave the area. This is definitely not something you want said to your child while they are away at summer camp. But Jewish summer camp operates in the opposite of Vegas (Barukh HaShem). What happens in Jewish summer camp doesn’t stay up at camp. It leaves camp and follows the child home, because what happens at Jewish summer camp, is the cultivation of each and every child’s neshama – the child’s soul. This is what makes Jewish summer camp special, and more importantly, this is what makes Jewish summer camp imperative! I most clearly saw this in my own children.

The first Shabbat back in Atlanta after last year’s summer at Ramah was rocking. My kids were around our dinner table, singing at the top of their lungs. I was blown away at how many of the prayers my children now knew, which they didn’t know before the summer. We talked about spirituality, God, Torah, peoplehood, Shabbat, and of course, camp.

The task of cultivating souls is easy to forget when we are back here in Atlanta. The focus cannot be about programs, calendars and a list of offerings on the website. The work we do at Ahavath Achim Synagogue is supposed to be the same as what happens at camp. We need to be creating, cultivating, nurturing and supporting Jewish souls. That’s it. Doesn’t matter if you are 12 years old or 112 years old. That’s our job. It’s not just MY job….it’s OUR job! It’s difficult and takes time but it is what we are here to do.

So the question that the Jewish summer camp experience reminds us in the synagogue world is: Are souls being nurtured, cultivated, inspired, and emboldened by the services we offer, the classes we facilitate, the holiday celebrations we conduct, the outreach to new and prospective members vs. the long, supporting ones? Are we cultivating interactions we have with those who come every day vs. those who can’t leave their homes? Are the souls of children and parents who are part of Ahava Early Learning Center or the Kesher supplementary Jewish Education program being nurtured and supported? Is our congregation cultivating souls? Are we reaching out in meaningful and bold ways to make a difference in the lives of all our members, affiliated families, non-Jewish members of our community, our staff, guests, and visitors?

I am honored and grateful to our leadership that will be sending me back to Camp Ramah Darom this summer from mid-July to mid-August. This time I hope to set a new intention for my time away: I know that camp is awesome and what happens up at camp needs to NOT stay at camp. It needs to permeate the work I do and the work we do in creating Ahavath Achim anew. I hope to spend time learning how Ramah imbues that mission into everything they do so that maybe one day soon, we can also spend all our time cultivating the neshamot of our congregation.

by rabbi laurence rosenthal

WHY JEWISH CAMP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

BY RABBI LAURENCE ROSENTHAL
I’ve modeled my Jewish Vision statement from the style of the Rambam’s 13 Principles (שלושה עשר עיקרים). The Rambam begins each statement “אני מאמין”, which means “I believe.” I chose that opening for the statements because I strongly assert that one’s vision of Jewish Education is as individualized as any other beliefs a person may hold. One important thing about beliefs is that life experiences and other sources of new knowledge have the ability to shift them. I expect that in 5, 10, or 15 years my beliefs will be drastically different from where they are now. This is all part of the natural progression we all go through, and I look forward to helping develop each of your visions of Jewish education, and allowing Kesher to grow in these desires.

Ani Ma’amin…

... that my personal and my Jewish identity are inseparable. I am proud of the fact that I have been able to embed my Jewish character into every aspect of my life. My non-Jewish and Jewish non-religious friends have accepted this aspect of me, and are happy to be a part of it when given the opportunity.

... that a ‘good’ Jewish education is very subjective. The ideal might be that a person is fluent in topics of Jewish sacred texts, history, sociology, anthropology, and theology, but that is not necessary for every Jew, nor has it been over history. Some people are more invested in that side of their identities than others. That’s okay. With that said, I believe that a strong level of literacy about what it means to live a Jewish life leads to pride in being Jewish. This pride might lead to curiosity about the study of texts or history, but those studies, once again, are not necessary.

... that the family sets the tone for each person’s individual Jewish identity. From my experience, when families embrace rituals, and show meaning in them at an early age, children feel comfortable with them, and they are a normal part of their lives. When these rituals and ideas are foreign for children in their teens, it is very difficult to convey how special or meaningful they can be. Without a strong family support system, the Jewish education system can be very empty.

... that Jewish children are meant to be taught לפי דרכו, which means “according to his/her way.”

... in a concept called “Cultural Pluralism”, which was coined by 20th century Jewish social-philosopher, Horace Kallen. This approach asks that each member of a society take full control and pride in their ethnic identity, and be able to project this identity without fear of social recourse or marginalization. This pride is what I want to promote in my students.

... I believe that Jewish education is the source of Jewish pride. It is lonely being a conscious Jew in our society. A strong education has the potential to ground a person, and place him within a larger spectrum. If a literate Jew is living in Idaho, he/she can connect with other Jews through these conversations.

Marc Silberstein was born in Atlanta, GA and grew up attending Ahavath Achim Synagogue. As a teenager, much of his Jewish identity was developed during his time at Camp Ramah and as a member of USY. Before attending Indiana University, Marc spent a year in Israel on the Nativ Leadership Program (where he met his wife). After graduating from Indiana, Marc packed up his car and moved to Colorado to hone his skills as a skier and a teacher. Marc spent two years serving as the Youth Director at Congregation Har HaShem in Boulder before moving to Jerusalem to attend the Pardes Educators Program. Once he completed his studies in Israel, Marc moved to Detroit and began working at the Frankel Jewish Academy of Metro Detroit, where he has had the chance to develop his craft as a Jewish educator. Along with his work, Marc began his work on an EdD at Gratz College, with a focus on Jewish education. Marc, his wife, Shosh, and their dog, Quinn, have loved their time in Detroit but are very excited for the opportunities that are ahead.

MARC’S VISION ON JEWISH EDUCATION
Marc Silberstein: Ok, so 1983 ish, I guess, I was in my first year of Kadima. We went to a convention in Charlotte, I think it was, and it was really the first time that the group that we went through all of USY together, that I’m still friends with today, it was really one of the first times that we all came together for a program like this. I don’t remember much from the weekend, whatsoever, I went to a lot of them, so they kind of blended together. But the thing I remember was, we were walking to the van, it was Sunday and we had just finished the program, and our youth director realized that he had locked the keys in the van. So this turned into a whole, maybe five hour delay, or so. But it turned into one of those very memorable thing because it was the first time our group of friends were just kind of there together. And it kind of set the standard for the mode, that I wanted the youth group to be in. And it summed up the fact that we were always just happy to be there together, it didn’t matter what we were doing. So that is one moment that will always stand out to me.

What’s your most memorable experience as part of an AA program?

Marc Silberstein: Ok, so 1983 ish, I guess, I was in my first year of Kadima. We went to a convention in Charlotte, I think it was, and it was really the first time that the group that we went through all of USY together, that I’m still friends with today, it was really one of the first times that we all came together for a program like this. I don’t remember much from the weekend, whatsoever, I went to a lot of them, so they kind of blended together. But the thing I remember was, we were walking to the van, it was Sunday and we had just finished the program, and our youth director realized that he had locked the keys in the van. So this turned into a whole, maybe five hour delay, or so. But it turned into one of those very memorable thing because it was the first time our group of friends were just kind of there together. And it kind of set the standard for the mode, that I wanted the youth group to be in. And it summed up the fact that we were always just happy to be there together, it didn’t matter what we were doing. So that is one moment that will always stand out to me.

What do you hope to accomplish in your first year as Director of Jewish Education?

Marc Silberstein: I want to create a product that every investor and every person that has some involvement in it, makes something they’re proud of, first and foremost. So, that means that I want to have the sustainability and structure and to know where we’re going, the students know where we’re going, the parents know where we’re going, the shul knows where we’re going. Also I want something that represents the values and the interests of parents and students. I want to create something that reflects the community, not just something that we think needs to be done, but something that is desired to be done, and I don’t know if that’s something that is going to happen after only a year as well, I think that the project that is being taken on is a big one. But really I want all the parties involved, to be part of it, to buy into it, so that’s really my first priority, and I think once we have that happening the possibilities are endless.

What’s one thing that you would want students and parents at AA to know about you?

Marc Silberstein: I think one of the things, especially coming into a community is that I see my voice as one of many, many, many voices that are highly invested in the same thing. And so I never see myself as someone who needs to be followed, needs to be adhered to, just because it’s me. I’m more excited to hear and learn from other people instead and that’s really applicable to most parts of my life. My first point is to always be there for the other, not necessarily for whatever I’m looking for.

Chocolate or vanilla ice cream?

Marc Silberstein: M: Chocolate, chocolate, chocolate, chocolate.

Rainy or sunny days?

Marc Silberstein: M: Sunny.

What’s your favorite tv shows and/or movies?

Marc Silberstein: M: How I Met Your Mother, Game of Thrones, Parks and Recreation, and then Marvel stuff.

If you could have any job in the world what would it be?

Marc Silberstein: M: This one!

Say you could go back in time and relive one moment in your life-- what would it be?

Marc Silberstein: M: This is probably like the hardest question so far. I don’t know, this one is a hard one to answer. I don’t think like that. I let go of things pretty quickly. I second guess myself like 20 times before I do something, but after I do it, I live with it as well. I really don’t think I could look back at something and say to change it.

Favorite place in the world?

Marc Silberstein: M: Jerusalem.

Did you ever go to a Jewish summer camp?

Marc Silberstein: M: I went to Barney from ’89 to ’92, I went to Ramah in Palmer from ’93 to ’95, this is before Darom existed. And then I did USY on Wheels in ’96 and then I did USY Pilgrimage in ’97 and then I worked at Darom from ’98 to 2004.

What are you looking forward to the most as Director of Jewish Ed?

Marc Silberstein: M: As a side, I’m looking forward to starting my day later. I’ve been waking up at 5:30 in the morning for the past 7 years. So I’m really excited to wake up when the sun’s up. But, for the work part though, I’m excited for the fact that I get to give back to something that I gained so much from. It’s really, really rare to actually give back to something that gave so much to you, so I’m really excited to start doing that.

Do you have any pets?

Marc Silberstein: M: I do, I have a 103 pound Alaskan Malamute named Quinn. He’s the love of our lives.
What is Jewish Service-Learning?
by Robyn Faintich

There are many ideas about what service-learning is and is not, but every methodology outlines that the engagement with a social issue extends beyond just volunteering. The AAtid teens learned about one framework in which advocacy, philanthropy (including in-kind donations), education, and community organizing are layered on top of direct service. They also learned that they need to understand the larger impact and root causes of an issue in order to determine where interventions might lie.

Once they chose homelessness as the core issue they wanted to explore (see section by Jeremy Colton), they spent time researching both impacts and root causes (see photos) and researched statistics (see section by Chase Kleber).

We researched many different Atlanta-based organizations that work to combat homelessness. In our searching, we found that there are two main types of these organizations: those that take temporary measures to help and those that look for long run solutions. Organizations such as HOSEA Feed the Hungry and shelters such as the Nicholas House and the Zaban Paradies Shelter at the Temple fall into the former category, while organizations such as Mercy Care and Homestretch fall into the latter. An interesting phenomenon we discovered was that these long-run care organizations tend to focus on the mental health issues that are so prevalent among the homeless.

Through prior research we had already found that mental health was a leading cause of homelessness, so we decided to focus on this issue in particular. With the more specific goal of finding an organization that helps with both the short-run issue of housing and the long-run issue of mental illness, we discovered an organization called Project Interconnections, Inc. PII is an Atlanta-based organization founded in 1988 with help from former First Lady, Rosalynn Carter. The organization owns five properties throughout metro Atlanta, each containing apartments which it leases to formerly homeless people, many with mental illness. Case workers on site work with clients to ensure they’re progressing from their unfortunate past situations. On a site visit to one of PII’s properties, we discovered a community of residents who work to support each other. One man to whom we spoke grows vegetables in a garden which he shares with others in the property. We asked a staff member at PII what the organization truly needs, and she told us that travel-size toiletries are their most sought after item. During the recent synagogue Purim Extravaganza, we collected such items. From generous donations from the congregation, we collected over 100 rolls of toilet paper, hundreds of bars of soap and bottles of shampoo, and dozens more of other items. (see Matanot L’Evyonim section for more info).

Over the course of our involvement with PII and our interactions with its residents, our feelings towards the homeless changed a great deal. Before this project, we saw homeless people as much of society does, as “others” who, while existing alongside us, could never be us. But our attitude has come a long way and now we can clearly see that the homeless are people just like us, and with some bad luck or mental illness, anyone can end up experiencing homelessness.

How We Chose This Topic
by Jeremy Colton

This year in our AAtid class, we decided to focus on issues faced by modern day society and how these issues relate to Judaism. After discussing gun control, the death penalty, racial injustice and prison reform, we decided to focus our attention on an issue which we believed we could make the most impact on: homelessness.
Statistics on the Intersection of Homelessness and Mental Health
by Chase Kleber

When we began to explore the intersection of homelessness and mental health, we started by researching some basic statistics.

• On a single night in GA (in 2015): 13,790 homeless. That statistic encompasses two main types of homelessness – unsheltered and sheltered. Those who are unsheltered are individuals who live in parks, cars, abandoned buildings, or other public spots where they choose to sleep. The sheltered homeless live in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or hotel or motels paid for by an organization. Of those 13,790 people, 5,803 of them are unsheltered and 7,987 are sheltered.
• 16% of people who are homeless in GA are chronically homeless, which means they have some sort of disability and have been homeless for at least one year.
• It is estimated that 1,838 people who are homeless in GA have a mental illness.

In 2016, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development released an Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, and the statistics found for the nation demonstrated the problem is obviously not isolated to Georgia. Nationwide, 549,928 people were experiencing homelessness in the United States. Most (68% or 373,571 people) would fall under the category of sheltered homeless, while 32 percent (176,357 people) were staying in unsheltered locations. In a staggering statistics, 83,170 individuals, or 15% of the homeless population, are considered chronically homeless.

• More than 124,000 – or about one-fifth – of the homeless people across the USA suffer from a severe mental illness, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. They’re gripped by schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or severe depression – all manageable with the right medication and counseling but debilitating if left untreated.

We found the main causes were family violence, medical problems, substance abuse, criminal background, and mental illnesses. We took a special interest in the mental illness category, because we were disheartened at the fact that these people are suffering from serious untreated problems which, if addressed, could eliminate their homelessness.

In AAtid, we were struck by these statistics. We had all encountered homelessness in various ways, whether it be through observation of someone sleeping under a bridge, or someone we knew being thrown out on the streets. However, to view the problem from a meta-scale demonstrates how serious it is. The numbers are staggering, and as a group, we took more time to investigate why people are homeless in the first place.

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Core Jewish Values
As part of our AAtid experience, we learned about dozens of Jewish values which frame social justice issues and social action. From them, we narrowed down a list of core Jewish values which directly showcases the obligation Jews have in helping to end the crises of homelessness, and in particular, for those with mental illness.

Hatzolah/Lo Ta’amod Al Dam Rei’echa
Do Not Stand Idly By
Leviticus 19:16: Do not stand still when your neighbor’s [life is in danger]. I am Adonai.

Anei Ircha Kodmin
The Local Poor are the Priority
Bava Metzia 71a: "If you lend money to any of My people that is poor by you…" The concept that your primary tzedakah responsibility is to those closest to you.

K’vod & K’vod Habriyot
Dignity and Respect
Pirkei Avot 2:10: Your friend’s dignity should be as precious to you as your own.

Kupah
Community Fund for the Needy
Shulchan Aruch, Yoreh Deah 256:1: Every Jewish community is obliged to appoint charity administrators, respected and reliable individuals who will collect from each person what they are able to contribute... and give to each poor person sufficient for their needs for the week

Nedivut
Generosity
Proverbs 19:17: One who is generous to the poor makes a loan to the Lord; God will repay that person their due.
Rambam, Mishneh Torah, Laws of Gifts to the Poor 7:3: You are commanded to provide the needy with whatever they lack. If they lack clothing, you must clothe them. If they lack household goods, you must provide them... You are commanded to fulfill all their needs, though not required to make them wealthy.

Rachamim
Compassion
Zachariah 7:9: This is what the LORD Adonai said: Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.
Exodus 23:6: Thou shalt not wrest the judgment of thy poor in his cause
Sota 14a: R. Hama son of R. Hanina further said: What means the text: You shall walk after God (Deuteronomy 15)? But [the meaning is] to walk after the attributes of the Holy One. Just as God clothes the naked... so do you also clothe the naked. The Holy One, blessed be God, visited the sick... so do you also visit the sick. The Holy One, blessed be God, comforted mourners... so do you also comfort mourners. The Holy one, blessed be God, buried the dead...so do you also bury the dead.

Shmirat Haguf
Guarding Your Health
Kiddushin 39b: When injury is likely, one should not rely on a miracle.
Deuteronomy 30:20: Therefore choose life that you and your descendants may live.

Somaych Noflim v’Rofay Cholim
Supporting and Healing the Sick
Baba Kamma 46B: Whoever is in pain, lead him to the physician.
Shulchan Aruch, Yoreh Deah, 249: Doctors are required to reduce their fees for the poor. Where that is still not sufficient the community should subsidize the patient.

V’hechezakta Bo
You Shall Strengthen Another
Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5: Whosoever sustains and saves a single soul, it is as if that person sustained a whole world.
Mishneh Torah, Laws of Charity, 10:7–14: The greatest level, above which there is no greater, is to support a fellow ... in order to strengthen his hand until he need no longer be dependent upon others...
Leviticus 25:35: You shall strengthen him, be he a stranger or a settler.

Matanot L’Evyonim
It is customary to give gifts to the poor on Purim. According to Megillat Esther IX:22, As an occasion for sending gifts to one another (misloach manot) and presents to the poor (matanot l’evyonim).

This year we asked participants in the Purim ExtravaganzAA to bring items we could donate to Project Interconnections. When we met with them during our site visit, they explained they needed mini-toiletry items, toilet paper and feminine hygiene products. Our community came through and donated (see photo below): Toilet Paper (126 rolls), Toothbrushes (13), Toothpaste (30), White Strips (1), Floss (27), Hair Care (110), Oral Electrolytes (5 packets), Sunscreen (1), Bug Spray (1), Soap (130), Lotion (49), Razor (1), Pads (38), Mouthwash (3), Chap stick (4), Earplugs (1 pair), Napkins (2 packs), Potty Toppers (1 pack), Perfume (1), Tissues (1 box), Socks (1 pair), Hair clips (1 pack), Wet Wipes (2 packs).
We recently held the second Ahava Early Learning Center Annual Meeting, and it was my honor and pleasure to present the Director's Report to our community:

L’tfum tzara agra, according to the effort is the reward. – Ben Hei Hei, Pirkei Avot, 5:26.

It is only through the work and dedication of our entire team that we have achieved so much in so little time, and the reward has been tremendous! I can speak of the numbers... And they certainly are impressive: we have grown from a tiny start-up program in a temporary space with 11 children and three teachers to a thriving preschool in an amazing state of the art facility with a waitlist in several of our classes! Not only has our enrollment more than quadrupled over the last year to nearly 50 students, not only are we on track for an enrollment of close to 70 children who will attend Ahava next school year, we have grown with intention, always keeping a watchful eye on our high standards, ensuring that we provide a program to our families that is truly a model of excellence.

How have we been able to manage rapid growth while maintaining this excellence? Of course our building is beautiful. Our playground is an outdoor learning lab where children can share experiences in a wonderful natural setting. Our atelier is abustle with art and science explorations. Our Piazza is a welcoming multi-purpose space for multi-age play and loose parts building, in addition to being the home of our school library. All of these are treasures - pieces of the puzzle that are helping us earn the reputation that brings families to us at numbers higher and faster than we could have hoped for. However, the cornerstone of our success is our faculty. Not only do they, as a team, have the education, experience, warmth and good humor to manage the ins and outs of our children's experience with professionalism and grace, they also are models of lifelong learning, and bring to the table a growth mindset, a collaborative spirit, and the flexibility needed to be successful in their own rights while contributing to our school's success. Each teacher on our faculty is carefully chosen, hired for what they bring to the team, for their individual strengths and backgrounds. In the coming year, we are excited to add to this team by hiring at least six new teachers to accommodate our growth. We are also extremely lucky to have a Board of Directors that supports the school in every way. Partnering with our board has enabled us to make swift decisions for the benefit of our school. From our decision to include babies and toddlers in our preschool model, to our ability to provide amazing professional development opportunities to our teachers, our Board of Directors serves as guardians of our fiduciary responsibilities, and also ensures that we are able to maintain the expectation of excellence that our community, and the greater Atlanta community, has already begun to expect from us. And, amidst all of this remarkable growth, I see a community coming together. I see parents chatting in our greeting space at pick up time, I hear of families getting together outside of school for play dates, leaning on each other in times of need, and coming together to celebrate each other's milestones. This is beautiful, one of those "intangibles" that is our best marker of success. If there is a metric to measure relationships, I'm not sure I know about it... But it warms my heart to know that it is happening at Ahava!

Thank you all for a wonderful first official full year in our building. Thank you to our teachers, who work passionately to provide the best experience possible for our children. Thank you to our Board of Directors, for your guidance and support. Thank you to our synagogue leadership for a shared vision and for partnering together every day. Thank you to our parents, for trusting us with your most precious children. We celebrate our successes and look forward to another year of growth - Hazak, hazak, v’nithazek!
Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal signed legislation Monday, May 8, requiring insurance companies to cover hearing aids for children after a long, difficult effort by two mothers to make such health insurance coverage standard.

Sara Kogon and Kelly Jenkins, both of whom have hearing-impaired children, struggled for more than six years to enact a law to help kids like theirs.

Kogon’s son Gerald, now 7, failed three newborn hearing screenings at Northside Hospital and was diagnosed with mild to moderate hearing loss.

“We never had it in our family. It was very traumatic for all of us. You take a lot for granted, I think, when having babies,” Kogon told the AJT.

“I called the insurance company, but they told me hearing aids weren’t covered because they were considered a cosmetic device,” the Jewish community member said. The company told her it would be better if she allowed Gerald to go completely deaf because then he could get cochlear implants, which would be covered.

“Are you kidding me? I thought that was absolutely ridiculous,” Kogon said. “If you do not stimulate the nerve for hearing, eventually they go deaf. A cochlear implant is what you give a child when they are totally deaf. You’ve destroyed the nerve through lack of stimulation, so they do brain surgery. They said, ‘Sorry, that’s the best we can do.’ ”

Jenkins, mother of Sloane, also 7, was equally infuriated with the system. Kogon said. The two met at the Atlanta Speech School, which their children attended; the women became friends and decided to fight back.

“We bonded immediately. We joined forces and said, ‘We’re going to fix this,’” Kogon said. “The whole goal was to get insurance companies to cover the hearing needs of children.”

Hearing aids typically cost $6,000 and must be replaced every three to five years. “We were so lucky to be able to provide that for Gerald,” Kogon said, but most parents can’t afford it. “This has to change. We want everyone to have that.”

Kogon and Jenkins created Let Georgia Hear, a resource center for parents that other states now use as a model, and they began pressuring legislators at the local and state levels for changes in the law, all while being full-time mothers to their other kids as well.

“We started going to the Capitol, to sessions, making inroads, friends,” Kogon said. “We had no idea. We were just two moms. We were like lobbyists, but not paid, obviously.”

With help from Sen. P.K. Martin (R-Lawrenceville) and Rep. Penny Houston (R-Nashville), Senate Bill 206, known as Jack’s Law after Atlanta teenager Jack McConnell, this year passed the House on a vote of 155–5 and cleared the Senate on a vote of 57–6.

The Hearing Aid Coverage for Children Act will take effect Jan. 1, 2018.

Their work is not done, however, Kogon said. “It takes more than a hearing aid to teach a child how to speak. Is it a traveling audiology booth, a networking system for parents on training, resources for listening and spoken language? We are looking at ways to bring these services to rural counties.” - [http://atlantajewishtimes.timesofisrael.com/moms-on-hearing-mission-make-legislators-listen/](http://atlantajewishtimes.timesofisrael.com/moms-on-hearing-mission-make-legislators-listen/)
Sharon Spiegelman and Viv Kurland view themselves as “old-fashioned” matchmakers. Only instead of matching young couples, they pair seniors with volunteer companions, or “friendly visitors.” The two run One Good Deed (OGD), an 11-year-old program that recently celebrated its one-year anniversary as part of JF&CS.

“It was a match made in heaven,” Spiegelman said of the union. “JF&CS recognized the success of our program, and, rather than re-inventing the wheel, invited us to participate in its senior programming. That also opened up access to needed services for our seniors, like transportation, counseling and geriatric care management.”

With 64 matches in the past year alone, Spiegelman and Kurland are most proud of the meaningful friendships that have developed. It’s clear they are very good at matching the right volunteer to the right senior, as some of the matches have continued as long as seven years.

“They have become like family to each other,” said Kurland. “Especially those long-term matches. It’s pretty incredible.”

One Good Deed began in Toco Hills in 2006, after Spiegelman’s brother-in-law, Marty Halpern, was inspired by similar programs he saw while on a Federation trip in Israel. He brought on Spiegelman to run the nonprofit. After three years of growing OGD, she was able to hire a coordinator, thanks to a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta.

“This work we are able to do, and our ability to further support our volunteers and seniors as a program of JF&CS, is so fulfilling,” said Kurland. “And without the love and commitment of our incredible volunteers, we would not be able to make such a strong impact on the lives of our seniors and their families.”

If you would like to learn more about One Good Deed, or if you’re interested in volunteering as a friendly visitor, please call 404-274-2431, email onegooddeed@jfcsatl.org or visit www.jfcsatl.org/services/older-adults/one-good-deed. To learn more about JF&CS’ other programs and services for older adults, please visit aviv@jfcs-atlanta.org.

Thank you to SALLY KAPLAN AND SALLY’S FRIENDS for helping Ahavath Achim raise the most money at this year’s Hunger Walk 2017!
BLOOD DRIVE

My deepest gratitude and thanks to all May blood donors. We collected 73 pints of blood, our best drive! It wouldn’t have happened without the donors who came and shared their blood to save the lives of people they don’t even know: a true Mitzvah. There is always somebody who needs blood to survive and the only place blood can come from is donors like each of us. The cost of donating blood is an hour of your time. **Mark your calendar for the next Blood Drive: Sunday, August 6, 9am - 2pm!** We thank the following for their blood donations and help at the May blood drive:

**Donors:**
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- Joe Citron
- Harold Cohen
- Stan Cristol
- Douglas Diamond
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- Alexandra Eichenblatt
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- Ahavath Achim Synagogue
- Congregation Shearith Israel
- Congregation Or VeShalom

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BY GAIL SOLOMON

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ZABAN PARADIES CENTER

BY JENNIFER ROSENFELD

The Zaban Paradies Center (originally called the Temple Zaban Night Shelter for the Homeless) was founded in 1984 as the first and only shelter for homeless couples in Atlanta. The mission of The Zaban Paradies Center is to assist couples transitioning from homelessness to resettlement and independence by providing shelter, basic necessities, and counseling services. Volunteer support is still a critical success factor for the Center. Zaban is open annually October 15 - April 30 to serve homeless couples:

**Members of AA provided 14 meals to Zaban residents from October 2016 through March 2017. The following members were gracious with their time and financial resources to provide dinner to the 40 residents at the Center:**

- Shelia and Dave Adelman, Cindy Becker, Faith Benda and Family, Marilyn Bravman, Carol, Zoe, and Rachel Glickman, Deley Harber, Jean Jackson, Marcia Jacobson, Angela and Arielle Johnson, Roz Konter, Janet Kupshik, Judy Marx and Family, Harriet and Eric Miller, Vicki Morris, Barbara Nathan, June Neumark, Barry Prussin, Jen Rosenfeld, Joann Rosenthal, Debra and Zoe Siegel, Carla and Cody Wertheimer, Alan Wexler, and Ilene Zier

For more information, visit [www.zabanparadiescenter.org](http://www.zabanparadiescenter.org) or contact Jennifer Rosenfeld at ienhrosenfeld@gmail.com.
INCLUSION: IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU DO

BY MARCIA LINDNER

On Sunday morning, April 23, Ahavath Achim Synagogue, in cooperation with the Jewish Abilities Alliance (JAA), sponsored the final segment of the Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson. In addition to being a rabbi, author, and Dean of the Zeigler School of Rabbinic studies at AJU, Rabbi Artson is the father of two twin children, Shira and Jacob. As he told a group of us that Sunday morning, Shira is neuro-typical, but Jacob, by age 3, received his first diagnosis of Pervasive Developmental Delay (PDD), often a euphemism for Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Jacob was non-verbal and unable to communicate his needs, which often would lead to behaviors that were seen by others as disruptive, inappropriate, and unwanted. At the time, Rabbi Artson was a congregational rabbi outside of a major metropolitan area. As Jacob’s needs grew and formal school commenced, it became obvious that Jacob needed more support, more likely to be available in a big city like Los Angeles. In addition, while Jacob loved the synagogue, Shabbat, and the Torah, Rabbi Artson would, at times, find his congregants to be less than understanding of Jacob’s special needs and wanted to find a place to worship that would better accommodate Jacob and embrace him as an integral part of the community. Rabbi Artson found a position at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles and began the journey of finding a spiritual home for his family.

The first congregation in which they settled wasn’t really the fit the Artson’s were looking for – the manifestations of Jacob’s disorder would occasionally bring stares, disgruntled comments from congregants, and, occasionally, a request that Jacob be removed from the sanctuary – a place he loved. These folks, who Rabbi Artson dubbed “The Defenders of the Faith”, were misguided in thinking that anyone who wasn’t sitting quietly in the pew and following along in the siddur, was not appropriate in the sanctuary. While this congregation called itself inclusive, it really meant that they had special programs for children and/or adults who had special needs, but the congregation wasn’t inclusive, much less tolerant.

So, they looked elsewhere. They found a home at Ikar (located in the Los Angeles area), a place that is truly a community and much more than a synagogue. Rabbi Artson knew they had found their spiritual home from that first Shabbat. Jacob had been a “speaker” at the congregation before Rabbi Artson joined. He had been invited to speak through facilitated communication as part of a program on inclusion and disability. When Rabbi Artson arrived, he introduced himself as Jacob’s father. Jacob was welcomed to dance in the aisle and walk up close to the Torah. No one stared, shushed, or discouraged him. Rabbi Artson’s message that Sunday morning was very clear, at least to me. Inclusion is NOT something you do or have programs for. For inclusion to really work, it has to be inherent in who you are. It must be about welcoming everyone, celebrating everyone, and finding space for everyone who wants to be in your midst.

How do you adequately thank someone for a gift that brings new perspective, invokes new ideas, and shares such profound wisdom that it has the potential to reframe one’s whole outlook on life or on religion? I’m not sure there is a way; however, that is certainly the gift that was bestowed upon our congregation from your immense generosity. The gift of bringing Rabbi Bradley Artson to the AA, of introducing him to an audience that otherwise may or may not have known about him, and for being so personally inspired by his teachings that you felt compelled to share his insight with our community-at-large is a contribution that will pay infinite dividends. We are forever grateful for your immeasurable impact on our community, and from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

TO SALLY & PHIL KAPLAN:

How do you adequately thank someone for a gift that brings new perspective, invokes new ideas, and shares such profound wisdom that it has the potential to reframe one’s whole outlook on life or on religion? I’m not sure there is a way; however, that is certainly the gift that was bestowed upon our congregation from your immense generosity. The gift of bringing Rabbi Bradley Artson to the AA, of introducing him to an audience that otherwise may or may not have known about him, and for being so personally inspired by his teachings that you felt compelled to share his insight with our community-at-large is a contribution that will pay infinite dividends. We are forever grateful for your immeasurable impact on our community, and from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.
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Irma Shulman-Weiner
Mariannne Shultzberg
Betty Ann Shusterman
Andy and Caryn Sigel
Philip and Debra Siegel
Barry Silver
Brenda Silverman
Susan E. Simon
Judy and Allen Soden
Jack Spielberg z”l
Jennifer and Kevin Spindel
The Srochi Family
Allen and Merna Stein
Howard and Irene Stein
Stanley and Marilyn Steinberg
Toby and Gayle Steinberg
Steven and Lynne Steindel
Mark and Tamar Stern
Ruth and Hiram Sturm
Charitable Remainder Trust
Dr. Alan and Betty Sunshine
Rick and Cathy Swerdlin
Ben and Julie Taube
Dr. Paul Teplis
Jeanie and Bob Tepper
Karlia Tievsky and Seth Kirschbaum
The Vantosh Family
Cecile Waronker
Drs. Nancy and Mark Weiner
Mark Weinsein
The Wildstein Family
Larry and Sheila Wilensky
Joel and Hannah Williams
Sue and Jon Winner
Jack and Rina Wolfe
Sharon J. Zinns
Jeannette and Michael Zukor
Jack and Sophie Zwecker
JOIN YOUR FELLOW CONGREGANTS IN TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF AA

BY JACK BALSER & STACY FIALKOW, CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

As you have probably heard by now, we are excited to announce that Ahavath Achim’s capital campaign, The Campaign for AA: Transforming the Future, is moving into its final phase. We’re very proud of the success we’ve achieved to date, having raised over $7.25 million from almost 180 families - and counting. The Ahava Early Learning Center, located in the Orkin Education Building, has now been open for a year, and enrollment continues to steadily climb. This vibrant and nurturing preschool is providing our children and grandchildren with a rich and meaningful Jewish education and is proving to be a worthwhile investment in our future. We have also rehabilitated our building’s aging infrastructure with some basic, but vital, renovations to the outdated and deteriorating mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems.

The next phase of the campaign will focus on responding to both the physical needs of the synagogue complex and the spiritual needs of our congregation. Our aim is to take the openness and vitality that infuse the Ahava Early Learning Center and create those same qualities in our majestic and awe-inspiring Sanctuary and remaining communal spaces. These changes will bring not only warmth and intimacy to our synagogue, but also flexibility and functionality, ensuring that we continue to meet our multi-generational congregation’s evolving needs.

Over the next 100 days, our members will be asked to join in fulfilling our ambitious goal of $13 million. This is our once-in-a-generation opportunity to be the agents of change, to restore, reform and re-energize the spaces where we gather and worship. The Campaign for AA will honor our legacy, while sustaining and securing our synagogue’s future.

Your gift and your participation at whatever level is right for you is essential to our success. To learn more about the campaign, you can visit our website at www.aasynagogue.org/giving/capital-campaign or call the development office at 404.603.5755. You can also make a gift online, and please note that pledges may be paid over a period of up to five years. We welcome your participation in transforming AA’s future.

THE OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD OF US

BY ROB WILDESTEIN, PRESIDENT

Friends:

We have some challenges. And I am reminded that where there are challenges there are always opportunities. We find ourselves in the midst of some exciting times. We have successfully launched the congregational phase of our Capital Campaign. With over $7 million already raised, we are well on our way to our $13 million goal. Our new strategic planning process is now underway. Marc Silberstein will soon be starting as our new educational and youth director. Barry Herman has joined us to serve as our Interim Executive Director, and Ahava preschool continues to increase its enrollment monthly, serving as a national model of excellence.

At the same time, for the second year in a row, we have a financial deficit. While there are many reasons for the deficit, our continued growth requires us to revisit how we marshal our finances. Currently, we are in the process of implementing new systems and processes to ensure that we have access to accurate financial information in a timely manner. In addition, a task force of key individuals is being assembled to assist in developing a multi-year plan to address the deficit.

We are fortunate to have a devoted staff of individuals who work hard on a daily basis to ensure the success of our congregation. The same is true of our volunteers with their unwavering devotion to our synagogue. For 130 years, our synagogue has produced an incredible lineage of leaders in our local, regional, and national community. It is not because we are better – it is because we demand of ourselves to be the best. That tradition continues today. Our leadership remains steadfast in its commitment to a being a congregation of excellence, and we will do everything necessary to ensure that we thrive.

As we move forward, please reach out to me or any of the other officers to share your thoughts, concerns and ideas. Together we will continue to build a strong and vibrant community.
**AA EVENTS**

*Tues*AA*ys*AA will resume on October 17.
*Unraveling the Talmud will resume in October.
*Latte and Learn will resume in October.

**TORAH STUDY**
**SATURDAYS, 10:00 AM THROUGH JUNE**

Please join us for Torah Study session every Saturday. For a list of facilitators, visit aasynagogue.org/learning/adult. *Torah Study sessions for 2017 end June 24.* Vacation Bible Shul will begin July 1 (see “Vacation Bible Shul”).

**SaturPlay@AA**
**SATURDAYS, 10:00 AM**

Families with children 7 and under are welcome to join us every Saturday (except Groove Shabbat Saturdays) for Shabbat play on the Ahava play yard! Afterwards, feel free to join for Kiddush lunch in Srochi.

**MAH JONGG**
**SUNDAYS, 10:00 AM**

Please join Sisterhood women every Sunday to play, schmooze, have fun, and connect with other women. We are patient, willing to teach, and will welcome you. For more information, contact Nancy Canter Weiner at ncweiner@mindspring.com.

**Groove Shabbat**
**SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Come join Mr. Michael and PJ Library on the first Shabbat morning each month for stories and interactive songs celebrating Shabbat and upcoming Jewish holidays. Stories and songs at 10:30 am, followed by snacks, playtime and kiddush lunch. All free, and geared towards families with children ages 0-4. Mr. Michael Levine is the co-founder of The Learning Groove & the music producer for the first four *Pete the Cat* picture books. PJ Library offers free Jewish themed books for children of all ages.

**WHERE WE’VE BEEN & WHERE WE’RE GOING**
**ANNUAL MEETING**
**JUNE 4, 4:00 PM**

You’re invited to Ahavath Achim Synagogue’s 130th Annual Meeting in combination with Sisterhood’s 97th Annual Meeting. This year’s theme is *Where We’ve Been and Where We’re Going*. AA celebrates: the election and installation of new Officers and Board of Directors, presentation of the Strategic Plan, Capital Campaign Report, Ahava Early Learning Center Report, and debut of the ShulCloud Member Portal. Join us for this FREE event. RSVP required. Childcare will be provided.

**LUNCH AND LEARN**
**JUNE 21, 12:00 - 1:00 PM, OFFICES OF BIRNBREY, MINSK, MINSK, AND PERLING, 1801 PEACHTREE STREET NW #300, ATLANTA, GA**

To RSVP and pre-order lunch, contact Jill Rosner at jrosner@aasynagogue.org or 404.603.5741.

**NAOMI’S BOOK CLUB**
**JUNE 29 AND JULY 10, 10:15 AM**

Naomi’s Book Club is held on the first Monday of each month. Sisterhood honors the memory of Naomi Gold, who actively encouraged and coordinated literary growth. All are welcome to join for lively book discussions. Contact Madeleine Gimbel at maddy_gimbel@yahoo.com for more information. June’s book is *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead (facilitated by Sandybeck Lease), and July’s is *The Far Side of the Sky* by Daniel Kalla (facilitated by Shirley Minsk).

**VACATION BIBLE SHUL**
**JULY 1, 8, 15, AND 22, 10:00 AM**

2017 topic: The Story of Samson. For a list of facilitators, visit the AA website at aasynagogue.org/learning/adult.

**HANNAH ZALE PRESENTS: A NIGHT OF LOCAL JEWISH SONGWRITERS**
**JULY 20, 7:30 - 9:30 PM**

A night featuring original Jewish music from local songwriters featuring Hannah Zale, Paula Krone, and Sammy K. (more artists to be announced!)

**TISHA B’AV**
**JULY 30, 7:30 PM, THE TEMPLE**

More information coming soon.

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**WOLF BLITZER**

CNN’s lead political anchor, and the anchor of the Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer. For more information, contact Anne Cohen at acohen@aasynagogue.org.
BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, AUGUST (DATE TBD), 8:30 AM
Directly following Morning Minyan, this wonderful breakfast is the best way to start your Sunday. All are welcome especially those celebrating a June, July, August birthday or anniversary! For more information, contact Anne Cohen at acohen@aasynagogue.org. RSVP to Catherine Ficke at cficke@aasynagogue.org or 404.603.5747.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

JF&CS EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP SERIES
Join JF&CS for this innovative series of workshops that offer essential tools for today’s job seekers: job search basics, resume writing, interview skills, etc. For more information and to register, visit https://www.jfcsatl.org/services/careers/career-workshops.

INFERTILITY SUPPORT GROUP
EVERY SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT MACOM
700-A MOUNT VERNON HWY NE, 30328
Join together with others who struggle with this difficult situation as we support each other and learn about opportunities and hope for the future. RSVP at RSVP@JewishFertilityFoundation.org. For more information, contact Lynn Goldman at 404.275.9678.

AA VOLUNTEER/SOCIAL ACTION EVENTS

ACFB FOOD SORTING AND PACKING
JUNE 3, 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Help us sort and box donated food. There is something for everyone to do, regardless of physical ability or experience. Closed-toed shoes are required. For more information, contact Nancy Canter Weiner at nweiner@mindspring.com.

BLOOD DRIVE
SUNDAY AUGUST 6, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Please be a blood donor. To schedule an appointment, go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code JWV - you will be taken directly to the AA Blood Drive where you can schedule your appointment. For more information, contact Gail Solomon at gailsol@gmail.com or 404.351.1900. The quarterly Red Cross Blood Drive is co-sponsored by Ahavath Achim synagogue, the Jewish War Veterans, the Fulton Masonic Lodge, and new co-sponsor, Congregation Shearith Israel.

2017-2018 SISTERHOOD DIRECTORY
It’s that time again for the publication of the 2018-2019 AA Membership Directory! The expected date of publication is September 1, 2017 and your help is needed! We are asking for workers to solicit advertisements, contact department chairs for articles, and work with committee members (all advertisers and patrons contracts will be available on line by June 15, 2017). This is a short term commitment. Please contact Barbara Nathan at bngathan@mindspring.com or Delcy Harber at delcyharber@comcast.net.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR MONDAY MOTIVATION EBRLASTS?
Every Monday our eblast features a different congregant, a cause that is meaningful to him/her, and the organization he or she is involved in to support the cause. If you would like to expose “your” cause and teach others how they can get involved, please reach out to Director of Marketing, Anne Cohen, at acohen@aasynagogue.org.

SHARE YOUR SKILLS
Do you have skills (or expertise) you’d like to share? For example, do you have a background in Public Relations, Writing, Event Planning and/or Coordination, Volunteerism, Fundraising, Teaching, Customer Service, Research, Education, Sales, or anything else? We’d love to know about it! Please email Director of Marketing, Anne Cohen, at acohen@aasynagogue.org.

SISTERHOOD TORAH FUND
Torah Fund supports the five major educational institutions of the Conservative Movement and helps to ensure a healthy future for Conservative Judaism. These institutions educate not only rabbis and cantors but also administrators, social workers, and lay leaders. This year, there are five new beautiful Torah Fund Greeting Cards. To purchase cards, contact Glenn Hornstein at 904.616.1697 or itsallrelative@bellsouth.net.

AMAZON SISTERHOOD FUNDRAISER
Sisterhood invites you to do your online shopping with us at Amazon.com (you can do it with or without an Amazon account). By shopping through Sisterhood’s associate link, you allow us to receive up to 15% of your total purchase, including gift cards. There is no cost to you! From the AA website home page (aasynagogue.org), click on “Community”, then “Sisterhood”, then “Amazon.com Sisterhood Fundraiser” to start shopping with us!

GREETERS NEEDED
If you can smile and say “Shabbat Shalom” then you are a fully trained greeter. Greeters welcome everyone with a smile. They stay in the foyer in front of Ellman Chapel for approximately one hour on Shabbat. Now is the time to volunteer for one hour shifts for the High Holidays. To join the greeter team contact Mildred or Marty Kwatinetz at zaydek@comcast.net or 404.812.1734.
We are a dynamic, egalitarian, conservative congregation that inspires our members to forge strong connections with God, Jewish life, Israel, and our community.

**WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning Minyan (Monday - Friday)</td>
<td>7:15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Minyan (Sunday)</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evening Minyan (Sunday - Thursday)</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shabbat Evening Service (Friday)</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service (Saturday)</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
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</tbody>
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**Beineinu ... Between You and Me**

**The Newsletter of Ahavath Achim Synagogue**

Our newsletter is funded by a grant from The Center Family Foundation

AHAVATH ACHIM BEINEINU (USPS-009-780) / Published Bi-Monthly / by Ahavath Achim Synagogue, 600 Peachtree Battle Ave., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30327 / Synagogue Office: 404.355.5222 / Fax: 404.352.2831 / Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism/Periodical Postage Paid at Atlanta, Georgia.

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