



offering

TRADITIONAL-CONSERVATIVE
FAMILY-ORIENTED SERVICES

to the

Jewish Community
of Western New York

700 Sweet Home Road
just north of Sheridan Drive
Amherst, N.Y.

KEHILAT SHALOM
700 Sweet Home Road
Amherst, N.Y. 14226

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US?

You are invited to attend
our next Sabbath, Festival
or High Holy Day Service
and see what we're talking
about.

For further information call: 634-2748

Shalom!

We'd like to introduce you to KEHILAT SHALOM, a unique congregation formed in the Spring of 1977. At that time six families met and decided to hold family-oriented, traditional conservative religious services. This produced a spiritually and ritually satisfying experience which was educationally stimulating and rewarding. The Silverman Conservative Sabbath and Festival Prayer Book and the Hertz Torah text were acquired for use in prayer and study.

We seek to be participants rather than observers at our services, so our services are led by able volunteer members of the congregation. Our children are also encouraged to take part. Dr. Mitchell Parker acts as religious coordinator as we do not employ a professional rabbi or cantor.

A custom has been established wherein each week a different member of the congregation presents a D'var Torah, a commentary on the week's Torah portion. This is done voluntarily by members, both men and women, age 13 and over. Some members may present a D'var Torah several times a year, while some may choose to participate in other ways. Each member can decide what his or her involvement will be in this and all activities of the Kehilah.

As part of our Sabbath morning services, Dr. Parker may discuss topics of Jewish interest: Ethics of the Fathers (Pirke Avot), historical subjects, the Haggadah, the development of the Siddur, etc. Questions

from the floor are encouraged and lively discussions often ensue from these talks.

After morning services we have a Kiddush, often given in honor of a member's simcha: a birthday, anniversary, welcome home, graduation, etc. We and our children have shared many happy occasions around the Kiddush table. Following the Kiddush, Dr. Parker often holds a study group for the younger members, providing a more in-depth review of the weekly Torah reading.

Once a month all members are invited to attend a congregational meeting when all matters of the Kehilah are discussed and voted on. There is no Board of Directors; thus each voice is heard and counted. Four officers of the Kehilah are elected every two years.

Our thirty families consider themselves to be part of one big extended family. Our annual social events are family events, too. We have enjoyed many successful social activities: our Purim party, with costumes, entertainment, prizes and food for all; our Yom Kippur break-the-fast; our Chanukah and latka party, with games, prizes and more than you could

possibly eat; our Spring picnic; family soccer games; a tour of Jewish Toronto;...and whatever else one might suggest.

Kashrut is strictly observed at all Kehilah functions.

Attendance at our educational activities is high with young and old, men and women participating. Weekly study groups during Fall and Winter have covered Jewish Community Life Around the World, Torah reading, synagogue skills, Pirke Avot, Medieval Jewish Personalities, etc.

The Kehilah has provisions for religious instruction for your young children. We are now affiliated with the Tikvah Community School, which serves children in kindergarten to eighth grade. We have been blessed already with many Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations. In the unfortunate event of a death in the family, the Kehilah will help to make the necessary arrangements. Members assist in assuring a minyan for prayers at the home of mourners.

And so we continue to study, learn and grow. Our extended family offers us support and personal warmth throughout the year. Our Jewish consciousness is raised; we learn more about our religious heritage, ourselves and the world. And we share and take part in the worldwide Jewish community and the support of the State of Israel.