

Congregational Governance

A Message from Craig Caplan, President Kehilath Israel Board of Directors

Welcome to Kehilath Israel Synagogue, a warm and welcoming Traditional congregation located in Overland Park, Kansas. I am Craig Caplan, President of the congregation. Cathy, my wife, and I have been lifelong area residents, where we have raised and are raising our daughters Dana, Hannah, and Sarah. I grew up in another *shul* in the Kansas City area, which, at that time, was also a Traditional congregation. Since our family is small, we desired attending with our other family members, who were mostly at K.I. When we first visited, we were immediately welcomed. We attended some services and a couple of programs and we just knew we were home. That was twenty years ago, shortly after 20-year old, Hannah was born and had her naming. People seemed to enjoy watching Hannah first, then Sarah, our 14-year old, make their way down the aisles during services right after learning to walk. It was quite enjoyable watching our congregational family get as much enjoyment out of kids as we did. Since that time we have celebrated many *simchas* with our K.I. family. We have prayed together, attended programming together, continued learning in many classes together and, yes, cried and grieved together during those times of loss that are an inevitable part of life.

K.I. has provided our family with a spiritual home-away-from-home, where we have forged many friendships. We have received unbelievable support during times of loss where we became part of the daily *minyan*, where people give selflessly of their time to ensure that we have the only consistent, three service per day *minyan* in the metropolitan area. For those saying *kaddish* during the eleven months of mourning this is a tremendous support mechanism. We at K.I. are working hard to provide our members with great programming, an education for those with children of school age, continuing adult education, Rabbi Shron's *Shabbat* afternoon class before *Mincha*, *Maariv* and *Havdallah* or conclusion of *Shabbat*, which is a very moving service. Our *Chanukah* party was very well received, Grand Givers, our main fundraiser featured Capitol Steps, who were extremely entertaining and we are in the process of rolling out a women's program, *Purim* Ball and another of our Caviar Family Scholar-in-Residence Series in the future. These are but a few of the attributes to be found at Kehilath Israel Synagogue.

If you are new to town or just looking for another spiritual home or maybe your first spiritual home, you owe it to yourself, your family and your friends to check out K.I. I also want you to know if you have any questions at all, about anything, please call or email me at home (913) 851-8682, cell (913) 706-0933 or capcraiger@aol.com. Have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2014-2015/5774-5775. I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

Craig Caplan, President

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Kehilath Israel encourages its members to be active in leadership roles within the congregation. There are a number of committees, special project task forces and other opportunities to be involved. Please contact President Craig Caplan, Rabbi Jeffrey Shron or Executive Director, Elizabeth Peden if you are interested in volunteering.