



# NEWARK TO NAMUTUMBA - SISTER SYNAGOGUES' KETUBA



As we celebrate the Jewish New Year on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Tishrei in the year 5777 (October 3, 2016), we joyfully announce that Congregation Ahavas Sholom in Newark, New Jersey, USA and the Namutumba Synagogue of Namutumba, Uganda have become Sister Synagogues.



We establish this bond in the spirit of the core values we share: All of us in the Family of Israel are bound together, and we are obliged to bring justice and compassion to our communities and the world.



Congregation Ahavas Sholom is the oldest congregation in New Jersey's largest city. It is the last remaining shul in what was once home to a large and thriving Jewish community. It was founded by Jews who fled the pogroms of Eastern Europe to seek new opportunities in the USA. Today Ahavas Sholom serves Jews from many roots and sustains ties with its neighbors of all religions and ethnicities.



Namutumba Synagogue is the spiritual home and gathering place for a community of Abayudaya Jews, Ugandans whose ancestors adopted Judaism almost a century ago. During Idi Amin's reign of terror, their first synagogue was destroyed and they worshipped in secret. Now they proudly gather in their new one-room synagogue, a simple building with a Torah, still lacking a bima, benches, and book shelves. As the Synagogue brings hope to its own members, they also strive for peaceful cooperation with their neighbors of all religions and tribes.



In the spirit of a wedding Ketuba, we the Sister Synagogues pledge to respect, love, and learn from each other. We will share our understanding of Torah, prayer, ethical living, and community development. Through its 501(c)3 non-profit status with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Ahavas Sholom will accept tax-deductible contributions to support projects in Namutumba.



May the prayerful cries of shofars declare our unity, from Newark to Namutumba. May HaShem bless and sustain us for 120 years and beyond.



*Simon Rosenbach*  
Rabbi, Congregation Ahavas Sholom

*Mugoya Shadrach Levi*  
Spiritual Leader, Namutumba Synagogue



*Eric Freedman*  
President, Congregation Ahavas Sholom

*Robert Skeist*  
Liaison, Sister Synagogues

