

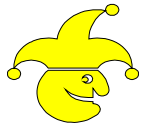
The Latest News from Congregation Agudas Achim Anshei Sfarad!

Shalom 5758
February 1997

Volume 6, No. 4
Tu b'Sh'vat 5757



The Adams Street Synagogue



Purim Party!

Purim will be coming soon. On Wednesday, March 4 at 8:00 PM, **Rabbi Shmuel Posner** will help us prepare for the holiday with a pre-Purim talk entitled "Unmasking Purim".

Rabbi Posner, a leader of the Chabad House in Kemore Square, is always an engaging speaker.

The event is free and all are welcome to attend.

Purim will be observed at Adams Street with festive services on Wednesday March 11th at 5:30 PM and Thursday March 12 at 7 AM.

Each year on the first day there is a lively Purimspiel with costumes, music, and lots of merriment, plus an address by **Rabbi Shmerl**, the visiting scholar from Chelm.

All that is needed is people to help organize this year's event.

Call Aryeh Cheses at 527-7967 if you can help.



Saturday Night Stories

Bring the whole family for a *Malaveh Malka* (a festive Saturday night gathering, with refreshments and songs, to start off the new week) that will feature an evening of storytelling by **Bonnie Greenberg**, a professional storyteller. The festivities begin at 7:30 PM on Saturday, February 28th. Bonnie will share stories about the upcoming holiday of Purim and the Sabbath, and also immigrant folk tales. All of this, plus songs and refreshments; indeed a very pleasant way to say farewell to Shabbat! Young children are welcome. Suggested donation is \$5.00 per family.



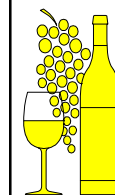
Adult Education

On Sunday morning, February 15, there will be a free Lecture by **Rabbi Joseph Polak**, Director of the **Boston University Hillel** and Rabbinic Consultant to The Adams Street Shul, with refreshments and a *shacharit* minyan beforehand. The talk begins at 9:00 AM, the service at 8:00 AM. Come for either or both.



Early Kabbalat Shabbat

Come enjoy an early *Kabbalat Shabbat* (Welcoming the Sabbath) event at 2 PM on Friday February 13, and again at 2:30 PM on Friday March 13. Children are welcome and much appreciated. These celebrations are held near the shul, at **The Heritage at Vernon Court**, in Newton Corner. The program includes an inter-generational service, followed by refreshments, conversation, and song. For more information, call Jordan Lee Wagner, at 332-2507.



To sponsor a *Kiddush* or *Shalosh Seudos*, call Albert Kalman at: 899-0293.

Services: Fri. eve. at candle-lighting time; Sat. AM at 9; Sat. PM at 15 min. earlier than Fri. eve.

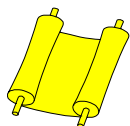
Weekly Torah Class with Rabbi Burton, Mondays at 8 PM, followed by maariv at 9 PM



Yasher Koach

Yasher Koach to all our congregants who led the services or chanted Torah since our last newsletter:

Robert Soll
Michael Walker
Stephen Harris
Nachman Kalyuzhny
Hillel Katchen
Michael Itzhakov
Menachem Wecker
Pinchas Zaltsman
Aaron Katchen
Lloyd Cohen
Ira Milman
Burt Freedman
Tzvi Rubinstein
Len Berman
Rabbi Zalman Gurkow
Aryeh Cheses
Noah Cheses
Bert Grand
Alex Shamrakov
Morris Hollander
Jordan Lee Wagner



Invitation to Torah

Adams Street congregants enjoy an in-depth class in the weekly Torah portion, held every Monday night at 8:15 PM. It is lead by **Rabbi Burton of The Greater Boston Talmudical Academy.**

It is free to everyone; there are no prerequisites; and it does not require weekly attendance to follow along and participate.



From the President

Bright, talented, G-d-fearing son... leaves home to make his way in the world... settles in a distant land. After many adventures, becomes enormously successful... eventually sends for aged father... provides for him in his declining years. This story has both timely and timeless aspects. First of all, having just recently finished our reading of Bereshit, it is obviously the Joseph story. Second, unlike many of the biblical narratives, the scenario is one that frequently recurs in contemporary society. It is even more consistent with contemporary society than with ancient times, since long distance travel has become so much more a part of our existence.

In the biblical narrative Jacob's life finishes on a serene note. The patriarch's last days in Egypt are spent surrounded by loving family, including his favorite son, Joseph, whom he had assumed was dead for many years. In contemporary versions of this scenario, the aged parents are frequently not so lucky. For them the process proves disastrous. Displaced from the home environment and frequently institutionalized with few visits from family and friends, they become lonely and depressed. The additional ravages of ubiquitous chronic illness also exert their additive effects. Thus, the final chapters of life so frequently end in this dismal fashion.

In our tradition, visiting and comforting the aged and infirm is an important mitzvah. On a personal level, I urge all of you to "adopt" at least one or two such individuals; a parent, a relative, an acquaintance, etc., and make that person your special concern. Make frequent visits and phone calls, and try to share some aspect of holiday observance, even if it means only sending a greeting card. It is so vitally important to let them know that you are concerned.

On an institutional level we must also make a commitment. It cannot be overemphasized that the Reform movement has no monopoly on organized social action. In this vein, our shul has been conducting a monthly *Kabbalat Shabbat* celebration at The Heritage, an assisted living community in Newton Corner. This program, led by Jordan Wagner, with the assistance of Bert Grand and Morris Hollander, has been ongoing for a few years and is much appreciated by the Heritage's Jewish residents. These monthly events are held on the second Friday at mid-afternoon. Anyone wishing to share in this mitzvah with a goal of perhaps expanding it, should contact Jordan at (617) 332-2507. The satisfaction, I can assure you, will be well worth the effort.

--- *Leonard Berman, President*



The Exodus

As we read the Exodus passages in the Torah these weeks, we cannot but be struck by the oral imagery. The children of Israel cry out to Hashem, they groan, they scream, they shriek out in pain and suffering. But what do they actually say? Nothing articulate, it turns out.

So also Moses, who forever entreats G-d to send someone else, for he is *`aral sefatayim*; his lips are "thick". *`Aral* is the word used for the male organ before it is circumcised. It is as if Israelite speech, in Egypt, is primitive; it is as if it were pre-verbal. It produces sounds that are heartfelt and piercing (like a baby's cry?), but devoid of intellectual content.

Can we say, then, that part of oppression is having one's words eviscerated? Can we say that oppression is all about losing one's voice; not about losing the ability to talk about one's self, but to talk seriously? The oppressed nation can babble endlessly, but it can say, actually, very little.

So that the predominant image of the Exodus becomes the circumcision of the lips, the recovery of the voice of Israel, such that the first real thing our forebears did as a nation, was not receive the Torah, not agree to its contents, not even avenge their captors: the very first thing they did as a nation was to Sing together the Song at the Sea: *az yashir Moshe uvNei Yisrael*-- then Sang Moses and the Children of Israel, etc.

Do you know people who can babble but not speak, much less speak poetry? Do you suppose they are prisoners of one sort or another?

Is it not interesting that the primary way we celebrate the Passover Seder is with the command of *maggid* --- of telling the story?

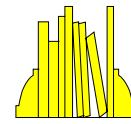
--- Rabbi Joseph Polak



Chanukah Party

The Adams Street Shul's Annual Chanukah Party, held this year on the fifth night of Chanukah, was again a smashing success. Over 100 people enjoyed *latkes* (potato pancakes), *sufganyot* (jelly-doughnuts), singing, and live music. With the help of the generosity of almost thirty local merchants and private gift donations, the raffle raised almost \$300 for the *Shul*.

Yasher koach to all those involved in this successful event, including: **The Walker Family, The Cheses Family, Sofiya Kesselman, Eleanora Kesselman, Bert and Polly Grand, Len and Audrey Berman, Albert Kalman, Saul and Alice Aronow, Helena Vaks, Helen Kroner, Gadi Almaliah, and Matt Kramer.**



New Librarian!

We are pleased to welcome **Sofiya Kesselman** as our newest addition to the library! Sofiya will be the librarian at our lending library. She can speak Russian as well as English and will soon announce her "office hours".

We are also pleased to note the following additions to our lending library of Jewish books:

"Living Inspired", by Akiva Tatz, in English, donated in honor of **Pinchas and Raisa Zaltsman** by **The Partensky Family**.

"Gerary -- The Resnick Family Folk Tale", in Russian, donated in memory of **Sylvia and Sam Wagner**.

"Chicken Man", by Michelle Edwards, a book to keep young children entertained in *shul*, donated in memory of **Sol and Celia Schwartzapfel**.

Large Print Prayerbooks

Many thanks to those whose donations enabled us to get large-print prayerbooks: **Dr. Joseph Lewis** and **Mrs. Karola Lorch** in memory of **Hugo Lorch**. The books will be used in our monthly **Heritage Shabbat** celebration. The next event will be Friday, February 13, at 2 PM.

For more information on this intergenerational early *Kabbalat Shabbat* event, call Jordan Lee Wagner, at 332-2507.

Eruv Coming!

To guarantee the preservation of the Adams Street Synagogue in perpetuity, we are taking steps to attract Jewish families to the shul's neighborhood (which is called Nonantum).

A key component of this effort is constructing an *eruv*. This is particularly important to us because we are located just a few blocks outside **The Greater Boston Eruv** that other synagogues enjoy.

An *eruv* enhances the enjoyment of the Sabbath, particularly for families with small children, and many young observant families will not choose a community that lacks one.

Constructing an *eruv* is a significant financial undertaking. Donations may be made to the shul's **Eruv Fund**.

For more information, contact Michael Walker, Chairman of our Eruv Committee, at 969-9016.

The Endowment Fund

A trust to ensure the maintainance and preservation of our synagogue.
The following gave \$1,000 or more:

The Estate of Manis Albert

Herbert and Susanne Spatz

Ann Burack

Samuel J. Gilfix

Ruth A. Shiff

George and Evelyn Reisman

Dr. Cyril and Harriet Mazansky

Sara Hochberg, in memory of Ira Hochberg

Gerald M. Swartz, in memory of
Gertrude Weiner and Eli Swartz

Bertram and Polly Grand

Ms. Ida Rosenblum,
in memory of the Rosenblum Family

Gerald M. Swartz, in memory of Jean M. Swartz

In memory of Dr. David Michael Hochberg,
late son of late

Ira I. Hochberg and Sara Hochberg

Edith G. Shoolman, in memory of Jean M. Swartz

Dr. Leonard & Audrey Berman

James and Adelaide Rosen

In memory of Aaron J. Birnbaum
by H. Jean Birnbaum

Harry L. Roiter

Gerald M. Swartz

In memory of Beth Dina Cohen by Lloyd Cohen

In memory of Jacob & Anna Kligman
by Mr. & Mrs. Myron L. Bloom

Robert S. Snyder

Milton Namiot

Betty and Myer Nieberg
in memory of daughter and sister
Libby Marcia Nieberg

Edith G. Shoolman

The Shoolman Family Trust

In memory of Rose and Bertha Greenwald
by Sadie Greenwald

Albert and Vivienne Kalman

Saul and Alice Aronow

Arthur, Barbara Kligman, and Daniel Green

Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Newman

Ruth G. and Gene E. Fax, in memory of
Edith H. & Maurice H. Goldstein

Jennette Bram in memory of
Samuel, Rose and Philip Bram

Michael A. Joel

Mrs. Eliot B. Shoolman

In memory of Moses and Bessie Greenwald

In memory of
Pearl Andelman Brown and Arthur Brown
Phyllis & Carl Zimble Philanthropic Fund

Rabbi Abraham Nowak and Ann Segal Nowak
remembered by sons Welville and Peter

In memory of
Rosella Horvitz, Dallas and Samuel (Shy) Goodman
by Ruth and Gene Fax

In honor of the birth of our granddaughter,
Dina Michelle Rabinovitz,
by Mel and Shane Rabinovitz

Celia and Joel Seskin

Caroline and Alan Wu

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