

The Latest News from Congregation Agudas Achim Anshei Sfarad

Bulletin

What is Jewish Music? by Ludmila Leibman

February 13th, 7:30pm

Do you really know what "Jewish Music" is? What makes Jewish music sound "Jewish"? Do you have to be Jewish to write (or play) Jewish music? How "Jewish" is our synagogue music, klezmer music, and folk music? Come hear Professor Ludmilla Leibman of the Boston University School of Music discuss these issues, which are the subject of a course that she has initiated at the university. She will be embellishing her presentation with examples and excerpts that promise to provide an enlightening and entertaining evening. Many of you may remember Professor Leibman's outstanding presentation of Holocaust related music that she gave at the shul last spring. We look forward to another inspiring experience.



UPCOMING SERVICES

2/11 & 2/18: 5:00pm.
2/12 & 2/19: 9:00am, 4:45pm
2/25 & 3/4: 5:15pm.
2/26 & 3/5: 9:00am, 5:00pm
3/11 & 3/18: 5:30pm.
3/12 & 3/19: 9:00am, 5:15pm
3/25 & 4/1: 5:45pm.
3/26 & 4/2: 9:00am, 5:30pm

Gurkow's Tribute Week-end a Huge Success

On the week-end of December 18th and 19th, 2004, a successful tribute was paid to Rabbi Zalman and Malkie Gurkow for their many and varied contributions to the shul during his rabbinate. Invitations were sent to all members. The Gurkow's legacy of achievement was celebrated at

the Shabbat service and at a festive kiddush after the service. It continued on Sunday at a gala breakfast when Mayor David Cohen of Newton proclaimed December 19th as Rabbi Zalman and Rebbetzin Malkie Gurkow Day in the city.

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Rabbi Zalman and Rebbetzin Malkie Gurkow with Mayor of Newton David Cohen

THE MITZVAH OF MIKVEH with Rabbi B. Samuels

Feb 27th, 7:30pm

On, The Adams Street Synagogue will present a program titled "The Mitzvah of Mikveh: Design, Maintenance and Usage." Rabbi Benjamin Samuels of Congregation Shaarei Tefillah will deliver the lecture. Attendees will learn about the history, the halacha and the relevance of the modern day mikveh.

Gurkow's Tribute Week-end a Huge Success

From the 1st page

During the weekend selected individuals were asked to speak about the honorees' specific attributes and skills. They were: David Sloane, M.D., Nechama Cheses, Beri Gilfix, Elinor Levy, Leonard Berman, M.D., Vivienne Kalman, Avigayil MacArthur and Michael Partensky. A Program Book was distributed to all guests documenting the tributes. A beautiful gift was presented to the Gurkows with love and appreciation from the congregation.

Co-chairs of the weekend were Beri Gilfix and Vivienne Kalman. Honorary Chair and Moderator was Jordan Wagner. Committee members were Lloyd Cohen, Ronny Drapkin, M.D., Avigayil MacArthur, Tsila Sloane, Chaya Esther Vaks, Oleg Weber, David Winer. Here is a letter from the Gurkow Family:

To the Adams-Street Lay Leadership & Membership

We would like to take this opportunity to use this forum in order to extend our deepest gratitude, thanks & appreciation to the Adams Street community for what amounted to a truly heartwarming and touching experience at the honorary breakfast on Sunday, December 19.

When we first came to this community in the summer of 1993 we instantly came to learn of the special harmony that exists here. We had since celebrated, enjoyed, hosted and joined together with you on countless memorable occasions every single one of which etched its very own place in our memories. The friends that we had developed here are truly dear to us and all of you will retain a very special place in our hearts forever.

Yes, we will be relocating from this community sometime in the near future in order to continually pursue our newfound goals & hopes. But no physical distance can undo the spiritual & emotional friendships that we had built here. We look forward to joining with you on continued occasions from hereon in the future.

The stunning silver gift that we humbly received from you will serve to keep this friendship fresh in our minds. Every Friday night when we gather to make Kiddush around your gift we will think of you. When house guests point in

amazement towards our silver display, we will always tell them about you.

These sentiments are focused also towards the many friends we found at Adams Street but who are unfortunately no longer with us. I am sure that somewhere in Heaven there was a simultaneous gathering where Adams Street came together. We are therefore so proud that this occasion was also utilized to resolve that the memory of our dear Pacie Millman will be assured to always grace our beautiful Shul.

We know that the organizing committee for this event worked long hours to make it the stunning success that it was. We hesitate to list individual names for the list is so very long but we extend our graciousness to all the organizers who proved that this could be done, to all the speakers who managed to somehow reach deep into us and pull at our hearts, to all of you who participated at the event and to all who wished they could participate but were unable to be there. Finally we wish to thank Mayor David Cohen for the humbling and overwhelming proclamation which will always hang proudly in our home.

Thank You.

*Rabbi Zalman, Rebetzin Malkie,
Freddie, Mushkie, Itta,
Mendel and Yechezkel, Gurkow*

The Chanuka Party

Our Chanuka Party Raffle donors need to know that we return their support with our patronage... When you visit these shops, don't be embarrassed, and please be sure to tell the salesclerks to thank the boss for his/her generosity to our shul. This really is appreciated by the donors! Thank you to: Adolph Sports, Beacon Street, Newton Centre; Bodavi Bakers, Commonwealth Avenue, Newton Centre; Butcherie, Harvard Street, Brookline; Games and Gizmos, Lincoln St, Newton Highlands; Gordon and Alperin, Commonwealth Avenue, Newton Centre; Green Planet, Lincoln St, Newton Highlands; Indulge Candy Shop, Lincoln St, Newton Highlands; Israel Book Shop, Harvard St, Brookline; Kolbo, Harvard St, Brookline; New England Mobile Book Fair, Needham St, Newton; Newtonville Camera, Walnut St, Newtonville; Newtonville Wine and Spirits, Austin St, Newtonville; Present Company Gifts, Walnut St, Newtonville; Rami's Harvard St, Brookline; Rosenfeld's Bagels, Centre Street, Newton Centre; Rubin's Deli, Harvard St, Brookline; Shoe Horn, Walnut Street, Newtonville; Swartz Hardware, Watertown St, Nonantum; Trader Joe's, Washington St, Newton.

Mazel Tov! Todah Rabah!

...to Eshel and Lavie Cern on their birthdays... to Meir Leikin and Orit Kent on their 9th anniversary... to the Gurkow family for their upcoming new Chabad House in Westford, MA.

TODAH RABAH (thank you!) to Michael Walker on the fruition of his efforts to have our Nonantum eruv joined together with the Greater Boston Eruv! What a great and welcome benefit this will be to the entire community on Shabbat... and to the Knight family for organizing our first congregational Shabbat meal... and to Sarah & Jordan Wagner, for their raising and distributing Tu B'Shevat baby esrog plants.

Save the date: Shabbat Lunch – February 12th
Tim and Nancy Knight are sponsoring their second Shabbat Lunch on Feb 12th. The January lunch was a lot of fun, attended by 24 adults plus their children. Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring friends. Please contact the Knights, or any Board member to sign up for the lunch, to make a contribution, or volunteer to help!

President's Corner

I have just completed the first half of my first year in office as president of your shul and I thought that this is a good time to review the past six months and look ahead to the next six months.

We began this year with several challenges to meet. Rabbi Gurkow was no longer our rabbi and his advice and guidance were no longer available to us. We still had not grown to the size in membership that would give us "breathing room" for minyanim each Shabbat. We faced the challenge of raising enough money to meet our expenses, maintain our historic building and provide the range of classes that our members would like to have.

But we faced these challenges with enthusiasm, and the knowledge that our shul, in its existence of over ninety years, had previously faced similar issues and overcome them successfully. In the first six months, we have had two very fortunate events, which have enabled us to weather this transition successfully.

The first event was that Rabbi Gurkow agreed to act as our Ba'al Koreh (Torah reader) as long as he and his family remain in the neighborhood. We have thus been able to benefit from his skill and experience, as well as his beautiful voice when he leads some of the services. The second event, which has just occurred, has given us an opportunity we have not had before, and which we had not anticipated.

Thanks to the tireless work of Michael Walker, who is the chair of the Eruv Committee, our Nonantum Eruv is about to be connected to the Greater Boston Eruv on the other side of the Turnpike (see article elsewhere in this newsletter for details).

Michael has worked for nearly ten years with various rabbinic authorities to find a solution to the particular challenges faced by the necessity for the eruv to cross train tracks and the Mass Pike. In the middle of January, he received word that his persistence had paid off. We anticipate that this connection to the Greater Boston eruv will have a positive effect on membership over the long run.

In this difficult transition time, when we do not have a rabbi, our members have remained loyal and worked hard to keep the shul going. The committees have met regularly to plan services, maintain the building, publish a newsletter, maintain the web site, schedule educational lectures, provide a pleasant and tasty kiddush each week after services, and even instituted a bagel breakfast on Sunday morning!

We continue to interview candidates for the position of rabbi and we are confident that we will have a new rabbi in place by the High Holidays in September. Our members have come to the weekends when the candidates are in town in order to see for themselves what the candidates have to offer. Their interest in this process and their support for the work of the Interview Committee has been very helpful.

I personally appreciate the support you have shown to the shul in this challenging time. Your dedication to the shul and to our little community is what makes the Adams Street Shul and the Adams Street family so unique and special. It is truly a privilege to serve this community.

- *Beri Gilfix*

Purim: March 25th

Our annual Purim party will be held following the Megillah reading by Rabbi Gurkow. There will be refreshments, and a costume parade for the children, and then we will hear an inspiring drosh from our newest Rabbinic Candidate, Rabbi Schmerl, who comes to us from Chelm. Schedule to be announced soon. Join us for an evening of kiddusha and merriment!

Shul Directory

Shul main office:

617-630-0226

For information on the status of the eruv:

781-446-9797

To report yahrzeits or special occasions (when you might need an aliya or to say kaddish):

Ritual Lloyd Cohen:

617-964-3511, or email:

ritual@adamsstreet.org

To sponsor Kiddush or a festive meal:

Harvey Lipsky

617-354-8426, or email

kiddush@adamsstreet.org

For membership information:

Membership Chair Elinor Levy:

617-965-2471, or email:

membership@adamsstreet.org

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Margery Freedman, Michael Shulman, Oleg & Yilena Weber, Ethel Alpert, Peter & Brenda Roberts, Charles & Elinor Levy.

For Kiddush:

Ronny and Beth Drapkin.

For the Eruv and Library:

Bernard & Carol Wagner.

Restoration Fund: Charles & Elinor Levy.



RECENT COMMUNITY EVENTS IN PICTURES



◀ *Nachman Kaluzhny
at the Chanukah party*

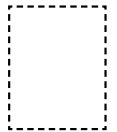


*Ronny Drapkin
speaking* ▶



▶ *Children's Menorah lighting at the Chanukah party*

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