



Adams Street ^{ב"ה}

The Latest News from Congregation Agudas Achim Anshei Sfarad

Bulletin

July - August 2003
Tammuz - Av - Elul 5763
Shalom 5762/5763
Volume 11, No. 9

From the President's Desk

By Aryeh Cheses

(Adapted from the President's Remarks at the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 12, 2003)

It is my pleasure to accept the position of president of the Adams Street Shul for a third term. In some ways, this has not been an easy year for our shul. Sadly, we lost four dear friends: Al Kalman who was our treasurer and served on many committees and truly put his heart and soul into our shul; Joel Seskin a long time member; Yosef Krasik, son of our dear members Boris and Rosa; and Pacie Milman, the oldest known member of this shul and who had his bar mitzvah here over 65 years ago. All will be deeply missed, but I am sure that they would all be pleased to know that we are continuing this shul that was so important to each of them.

On a brighter note, we have had a busy year with a variety of events including a melave malka with Rabbi Gedalia Fleer, many lectures, our annual Chanukah and Purim parties, a wonderful community Shabbat dinner, and our regular classes with Rabbi Gurkow, Baruch Cohen, and visiting rabbis from the Greater Boston Kollel. We also hold a full schedule of weekly Shabbat and holiday minyanim.

One of our community's happiest events this year was the marriage of Jordan Wagner and Sarah Boling, and we have been delighted to include Sarah in our community. We were also pleased to

welcome and fully include Avigayil Chanah MacArthur into our community. We celebrated the bris of David Ramon Carmel, son of Julia Carmel, earlier this year. And, we share in the joy of the arrival of our two newest members, Menachem Mendel and Yehezkel Gurkow and we wish the biggest mazal tov to Malkie and Rabbi Zalman, Fradie, Mushkie, Ita, and the entire Gurkow and Pinson families.

One of our highlights during the year was celebrating the 90th year of the founding of our shul, with a dinner honoring our immediate past president, Dr. Len Berman. It was a beautiful event that was enjoyed by all who attended, and proved to be a successful fundraiser. Much of the credit goes to our longtime member and new Board member, Beri Gilfix.

I look forward to a busy and inspiring year to come. We have some new faces on the Board of Directors, as well as some old ones. We are excited about a new family who recently moved into the shul neighborhood, and we are eagerly awaiting to hear from two other young families who are seriously exploring housing opportunities here. I would like to thank all of you who have helped in so many ways this year. Each of you individually is what makes us such a unique community. We will all continue to work together in our little "treasure in Nonantum" and will make this coming year our best yet.

July/August Calendar

Candle lighting:

7/18:	7:59 PM
7/25:	7:53 PM
8/1:	7:46 PM
8/8:	7:37 PM
8/15:	7:28 PM
8/22:	7:17 PM
8/29:	7:06 PM

Shabbat Services:

Friday evenings

at 7:00 PM

Saturday mornings

at 9:00 AM

Saturday evenings

7/19, 7/26: 7:45 PM

8/2: 7:30 PM

8/9, 8/16: 7:15 PM

8/23, 8/30: 7:00 PM

Sunday Mornings

at 8:00 AM

Tisha B'Av Services

Wednesday, 8/6

Fast begins: 7:58 PM

Mincha/Maariv, 7:45 PM

Thursday, 8/7

8:00 AM & 7:15 PM

Fast ends: 8:28 PM

Tamuz 17 - Av 9: "The Three Weeks"

By Rabbi Zalman Gurkow

The three weeks from Tamuz 17 - Av 9 (corresponding this year to July 17-August 7) is a period of mourning in the Jewish calendar. In 70 CE, the Romans entered Jerusalem on the 17th of Tam-

muz and began destroying the city and its people. On the 9th of Av (Tisha B'Av), the Romans finally made their way on to the Temple mount, overpowered the heroic legions of the Jewish army, and set fire to our Holy Temple. During the last nine days of this period,

beginning with Rosh Chodesh Av, the mood turns even more somber and many refrain from eating meat or drinking wine (except on Shabbat), listening to live music, partaking in festive celebrations, swimming and bathing, purchasing or even laundering clothes.

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Visiting Jerusalem

Rivka Shamrakova visited Israel in June. She shares her thoughts below:

Even if a Jewish traveler has visited Jerusalem many times before, each new visit is a discovery. A traveler could try to describe this city: its old and new neighborhoods; colorful bustling markets and lovingly landscaped parks; narrow streets, winding up and down like stairs; houses of white stone with flowers on each balcony and in narrow backyards; tiny tailors', barbers', shoemakers' shops, their simple equipment within narrow walls adorned with pictures of majestic Sephardic rabbis. But the real Jerusalem escapes any definition: more than anything, it is an experience of a new encounter with one's soul, accessing its greater depths.

The traveler walks the narrow streets, touches old stones, listens to soft sounds of liturgy coming from open windows of many synagogues, feels a light breeze on her face, bringing a sweet smell of flowering trees, and gradually her consciousness expands, she starts to feel truly alive, connected to the past, present and future.

She regains clarity and the sense of perspective, and starts to understand the true meaning of everything. She still reads the news, but it doesn't effect her in the same way anymore. "World leaders" suddenly diminish in stature, and their "decisions" do not seem to matter as much. She's amazed at a quiet radiance of some of the people she meets, which can only come from living a Jewish life in the Land of Israel. "Come to live here," they tell her. "It's good here."

She goes to the Western Wall, and the prayer comes easily, with abundant tears and joy.

She visits archeological excavations and ancient ruins, and then watches children play in the rebuilt square, becoming fully aware of what a great miracle Israel is, and is joyous to be a part of it.

On the streets and in the cafes, people greet each other and exchange family news, the air resonating with the phrase "Baruch HaShem!" Walking in the city, the traveler meets people she did not see for many years, but after the

conversation starts, the distance of years disappears. She meets new friends, and very soon feels like she knew them forever. To be sure, the traveler notices not only the things that are beautiful, but also some dirty streets, dusty cars, poverty. This does not diminish her love for Jerusalem, but makes it even more poignant.

A friend takes her to visit a Tzadik - a hasid who has been through Stalin's prisons and exile in Siberia, but now, at 90, is still productive in Israel as head of a yeshiva. His apartment is orderly and spotless, on the wallpapered wall - a picture of an empty chair of Rabbi Nachman. Despite old age, the man's eyes are full of life, wisdom and caring. He asks a visitor at length about her life and family, and then talks eloquently about the importance of a spontaneous prayer, that comes from the heart. Before the visitor leaves, he gives her a bracha for a productive, happy and purposeful life.

At the Shabbat table, there are people who came to live in Israel from many countries: England, France, Austria, Canada, Morocco, but the atmosphere is one of unity and friendship. The hosts are gracious, the food delicious, the songs longing and joyous at the same time. Guests share stories, laughing and warmth; the discussion revolves around questions of ethics and highest morality.

As the traveler's visit to Jerusalem draws to a close, more than anything, she wants to remember how she felt, to retain this state of expanded consciousness and being truly alive. As she goes back to her family and friends in the far away country, she also goes back to anxiously reading news, writing letters, participating in protests and rallies, which, their efficiency notwithstanding, are, as well as prayers, as natural and necessary expressions of love for the Land of Israel when one is away, as a joyous unity with the Land, when one is there. She knows that when the burden will be too much, she can always come back to Israel and regain the sense of peace and serenity.

Wednesday Night Classes at Adams Street

By Baruch Cohen

This year, the shul is fortunate to have a weekly Torah study class with a visiting rabbi from the Kollel of Greater Boston. Although the Kollel is located in Brighton, they send rabbis to teach shiurim all over the greater Boston area. Our study group began with Rabbi Berel Kelemer, son of the former Rabbi of Young Israel of Brookline, who has since moved to Monsey, NY. The weekly class is currently taught by Rabbi Binyomin Grossman. The sessions have been thought-provoking, and help us better understand the weekly Torah portion that is read in the synagogue.

These free classes are held Wednesday evenings at 8:00 PM in the Elmer Lippin Hall. There will be a break after

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Shul Directory

Shul main office:

(617) 630-0226 Fax: (617) 244-4667
Rabbi Zalman Gurkow
(617) 559-0394
rabbi@adamsstreet.org

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 Chair Tzvi Rubinstein
(617) 244-3775
ritual@adamsstreet.org

To sponsor Kiddush or a festive meal

Harvey Lipsky (617) 354-8426
kiddush@adamsstreet.org

For membership information

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(617) 965-2471
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For donations

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Tamuz 17 - Av 9: "The Three Weeks"

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The Fast of Tammuz, ushering in the three-week mourning period, takes place this year on Thursday, July 17th. The fast begins at 3:34 AM, and ends at 8:52 PM.

Tisha B'Av begins on Wednesday evening, August 6th. Not only was the Second Temple destroyed on Tisha B'Av, but the First Temple was set aflame on this date by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezer in 586 BCE, the city of Betar fell to the Roman emperor Hadrian in 120 CE (effectively ending the Bar Kochba revolt), and in 1492, the Jews of Spain were expelled. In commemoration of these terrible tragedies, boys from the age of 13 and girls from the age of 12 are pro-

hibited from eating or drinking. We also refrain from Torah study, bathing, wearing leather shoes, having sexual relations and using ointments. One should also try to avoid going to work. The fast begins at 7:58 PM.

Tisha B'Av services will be held on Wednesday, August 6th at 7:45 PM, featuring the reading of Eicha (Lamentations), which was written by the prophet Jeremiah and describes the loss and suffering of this day. Services will continue on Thursday, August 7th at 8:00 AM (no Tefillin) and recitation of Kinot, a collection of liturgy on the sadness of the day. Mincha, with Tefillin and Torah reading, will be held at 7:15 PM, followed by Maariv. The fast ends at 8:28 PM.

A Letter from Israel

The Ben-Sander family lived in Newton for almost a year and returned to Israel in January. We received the following from them in early June:

Dear Adams Street Community,

We were very excited to receive your contribution. Your support is very important to us and we highly appreciate it. It is very important especially considering the situation we find ourselves today. It took a bit of time for your letter to arrive. Apparently it had to do with the recent strikes.

You wrote in the letter that the war in Iraq seems to be over. Everyone in Israel wanted to believe that things would improve after the war. Unfortunately, we have not seen any signs of improvement in either the economy or security. When we returned to Israel, we were happy to see our friends and neighbors again. Sadly, three of them we will never see again. One of our neighbors lost his sister just a few weeks ago. She and her husband were killed in Hebron by terrorists.

However, we are glad that we are back here, in the Land of Israel. During Chol Hamoed Pesach, I joined some friends from our community on a hike from Nokdim

(our town) to the Dead Sea. It took us about ten hours to walk. What a beautiful country we have! I hadn't made such a long trip since my basic training in the Israeli army! It was a rather difficult trip, but we enjoyed every minute. We loved walking and seeing Eretz Israel, and the Judean Desert.

The fact that you remember us and think about us is no less important than the contribution itself. We are glad to have such friends as you and we still see ourselves as part of the Adams Street family. You give us more strength to stand here. We are happy that we met so many people in the U.S. who love Israel so much and care about it. We miss these people today. We miss you all, and we wish that Mashiach will come so we can all gather here in Eretz Israel.

We loved having Baruch (Cohen) visit us. We'd like you to know that all of you are welcome here any time.

Thank you, again, for your support,
Ze'ev & Miriam Ben-Sander

Adams Street News via E-mail

Do you have an e-mail address? Would you like to receive or post up-to-the-minute announcements regarding the Adams Street Shul? An e-mail list for members of the Adams Street community is up and running. To add your name to the list, please e-mail Aryeh Cheses: President@AdamsStreet.org.

Report of the
Annual Meeting
and Elections
see on page 4

Community News

Mazal Tov to:

Rabbi Zalman & Malkie Gurkow and their family on the birth of their twin sons, Menachem Mendel and Yehezkel, on June 23rd. The britot millah were held at the shul on June 30th.

Elinor Levy on the publication of her book, "The New Killer Diseases," available in bookstores on July 15th. A book signing is scheduled at Brookline's Booksmith on August 19th at 7:00 PM.

Alex Grinshpun, son of Rivka Shamrakova, on his graduation from McGill University Medical School. Alex has begun his internship at Beth Israel Hospital in New York and plans to continue with residency there in emergency medicine.

Noah Cheses, son of Aryeh & Nechama Cheses, on his graduation from Maimonides High School. Noah plans to spend next year at a yeshiva in Israel, then will continue his studies at the University of Maryland.

The shul welcomes:

Shmuel & Sheri Feld, and their son, Kailev, to our community

Rivka Vaks, daughter of Chaya Esther Vaks, who is back from her year of study in Israel.

Wednesday Night Classes

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Tisha B'Av; classes are planned to resume after the High Holidays. Since each week's session is an independent topic, one can come on a regular basis, or just as a "drop-in." For information, call Baruch (617-964-0190) or Aryeh (617-527-7967).

The shul's Hebrew reading class meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM, and is moving on to the second level in late summer. This class may be a good choice for those who already took the first level (beginner) class, or for those who have a limited facility with Hebrew reading and would like to improve. For information or to sign up, contact Baruch Cohen (617-964-0190 or e-mail: bmcohen1@aol.com.) If you are interested in the beginners' first level, it is likely to begin in November. Announcements will be forthcoming after the High Holidays, or go to www.njop.org as the time nears.

Kiddush Sponsorship

Did you know that you can sponsor a Shabbat kiddush or seudat shelishit (afternoon third meal) for as little as \$36? Consider honoring a loved one, celebrating a milestone or simply supporting the shul with a sponsorship.

Contact Harvey Lipsky at 617-354-8426 or via e-mail (kiddush@AdamsStreet.org) for more information and available dates.

Recent kiddush and seudat shelishit sponsors:

Ronnie & Beth Drapkin, IHO the birthday of Beth's father, Arnold Novick, and their son Zachary's 3rd birthday

Inez Smith, IHO her granddaughters, Eliana and Rena Walker
Oleg Weber, IHO his birthday

Rivka Shamrakova, IHO her son Alex's graduation from medical school

Rabbi Zalman & Malkie Gurkow, IHO of the birth of their twin sons, Menachem Mendel and Yehezkel

Tsvi & Deborah Rubinstein, IHO their son David's 9th birthday
Shimon Dershowitz, IHO his family's visit to our community

Thank You to Our Generous Donations

Michael & Lucy Partensky
(Endowment Fund)

Norman Kram

Nachman & Etya

Kalyuzhny

Rakhil Partensky

Oleg Weber

& Yelena Temkin

Lloyd Cohen

Russell Grand

Maria Firer

Sheldon Binder

Boris Krasik



Report of the Annual Meeting and Elections

By Dr. Leonard Berman

The Annual Meeting of the congregation took place on June 12th. Thirty-one voting members attended - one of our best turnouts. The following items were approved:

1) Election of the slate of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee: Aryeh Cheses, president; Robin Walker, vice president; Jordan Wagner, treasurer; Vivienne Kalman, secretary; Beryl Gilfix and David Winer, directors.

2) Annual budget (\$46,900 expenses; \$48,300 estimated income).

3) One year appointment of Rabbi Zalman Gurkow as rabbinic consultant to the congre-

gation, as recommended by the Board of Directors.

A questionnaire regarding educational speakers was distributed at the meeting; there was no clear consensus on the optimum number of annual speakers among those who responded (20 in all). Most of the respondents preferred that varied types of talks be held, and most felt that they could attend at least some of these events.

We wish to thank author Annette Francis for donating copies of two of her books, "Smart English", and "The Medical Yellow Pages", which were given to all who attended the meeting.

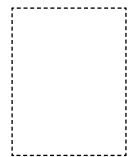
Brit Milah

of Menachem Mendel and Yehezkel Gurkow

on June 30th



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Address Service Requested