

Adams Street Welcomes the High Holidays 5765

As is our annual tradition, the Adams Street community will celebrate the high holidays with a full range of services and programs. Programs begin on Sept. 11th, with a full evening planned including a 10:30pm "Awaken, Rise Up and Shine" video presentation, followed by refreshments, "Dressing the Sanctuary", and then a 12:45am Selichot service, led by Rabbi Gurkow. We will observe Tashlich at the bank of the Charles, and there will also be a Kaparot service (9/21). Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services will be led by visiting Cantor Emanuel Aptowitz of Toronto and our own Rabbi Zalman Gurkow. For Succot, there will be a Succah Building, a Children's Succah Decorating Party, and a Community Succah Party. To complete the high holidays (and the Torah portions for the year), as is the Adams Street tradition, our Simchat Torah festivities will include dancing with the Torah for all in attendance. Be sure to save the special High Holiday Guide included in this newsletter. We wish you and your family a sweet new year!

Membership Dues Are Due!

Membership renewal forms have been mailed. Adams Street Membership Dues and High Holiday seating are especially affordable: Family Membership Dues (includes two high holiday seats): \$450.

Individual Member Dues: \$325. Additional High Holiday seats (for member's relatives, guests and adult children): \$50. High Holiday Seats for Non-Members: \$100. For more information, please speak with our Treasurer, Mr. Jordan Wagner.

jordan@webjew.org

A Brief Review of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik's Halakhic Man, Part I

by David Sloane

This is the first of two parts of a brief review of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik's text *Ish HaHalakha*, translated in 1983 by Lawrence Kaplan (in conjunction with R. Soloveitchik himself) as *Halakhic Man*. It is dubious that any review can do justice to the work it takes as its subject, but in the present case and by the present writer it is patently impossible.

The text is a symphony or a tapestry of themes integrated or woven together masterfully by a thinker seemingly as expert and comfortable with secular philosophy, theology, and psychology as he is with Torah, Talmud, and later Jewish writings. If one may unfairly oversimplify, however, it is essentially a manifesto of a life of Jewish thinking and observance.

Rabbinic Candidates Visit

The congregation met Rabbi Shlomo Shulman over Shabbat on Aug. 20th, and Rabbi Doctor Daniel Hoffman Jackson on Shabbat Aug. 27th. Rabbi Hershy Worch will visit over Shabbat Sept. 4th. Everyone is welcome to come, to listen, and get to know the rabbinic candidates. Please refer to the shul website for more information:

www.AdamsStreet.org



Rabbi Hershy Worch at his last visit to Adams Street. Join him on Sept 4th.

BOOK REVIEW

Part One, *Halakhic Man: His World View and His Life* depicts three archetypes: cognitive man, homo religiosus (religious man), and halakhic man. Cognitive man takes as the limits of his universe and the subject of his study those phenomena in the physical universe. He is essentially a scientist of one sort or another who strives to understand the world. Homo religiosus makes his primary focus the spiritual or transcendental world. Whatever his relationship with the physical world (repudiation and rejection or acceptance and immersion), he is a spiritualist who seeks to transcend the mundane. Halakhic man, R. Soloveitchik argues, in some ways resembles the other two, while simultaneously being distinct from both.

Cognitive man approaches physical reality with armed with questions and methods in order to arrive at understanding. Cognitive man ensconces himself in this world and ignores or denies any other. Homo religiosus approaches the world armed with a belief in and love for the transcendent G-d with whom he seeks to have a relationship. Homo religiosus, one way or another, seeks to escape the physical world and inhabit the spiritual.

*Continued on the shul website
www.AdamsStreet.org*

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New President's Acceptance Speech - Beri Gilfix

To stand here today as your newly elected president, in the shul my grandparents founded, as a part of the community they founded over a hundred years ago, is a profoundly moving experience for me. I am sure they had no idea, as they watched the first "life cycle" of their congregation and community wax and wane, that the shul would have a new life many years later and that one of their grandchildren (and a female at that!) would lead the congregation in its new life. I am deeply conscious that they (and my parents as well) are watching this historic moment from on high.

Last week our former president, Bert Grand, was discussing the pioneers, our grandparents or parents who made the journey from the old country to the new country. As he talked about their experiences, coming to a new country, founding new institutions like the one we are inhabiting right now, I began to recognize us as a group of pioneers as well. Like them, we live, not in the center of Jewish life, but in a little outpost, in the Jewish wilderness, physically removed in many ways from the easy, ready made Jewish communities which surround us. We have come together here for various reasons, just as our ancestors had varied reasons for leaving the old country to come to the new.

But we are ALL here, actively involved in this community, because of what ALL our parents and grandparents handed down to us: love of Judaism. I may be unique among you in having been handed a building, but our commitment to our way of life is the same. We express our love of Jewish tradition in many different ways, with many different customs and ceremonies, but we all feel it equally deeply.

And we all are working to teach that same love of Jewish tradition to our children and grandchildren, so that someday, one of them will stand in this place and quote, as I do today, this saying from the Talmud: "I did not find the world desolate when I entered it. My ancestors planted for me before I was born. So do I plant for those who will come after me."

As we embark on our new journey together, I beg for your advice and support and participation in the daily, weekly and yearlong life of our synagogue. Without your hard work, I cannot succeed and our shul cannot succeed. As we honor our ancestors, as we in a very real sense, eat the fruit of the tree which they planted for us, we plant for our descendants as well. Together, we shall enable the Adams Street Shul and the Adams Street community, to flourish, and we will be able hand down to our descendants a strong, healthy congregation and community for them to enjoy, as was done for us.

May the memory of our loved ones be a blessing for our congregation and for our community, as we carry on the traditions they planted here.

President's Annual Report - Aryeh Cheses

I would like to welcome you and thank you all for coming to the annual meeting and elections of the Adams Street Shul. This has been a busy year for our shul with a great deal of activity and events. We have prepared an agenda and will make every effort to stick to it.

I would like to give you a brief review of this past year. We began our year with the High Holiday season. Rabbi Gurkow lead us with his most beautiful and inspiring davening. We were fortunate to have two new active families join us this year, namely David and Tsila Sloane and Rabbi Shmuel and Sherri Feld. Rabbi Feld blew the shofar for us this year and had a great deal of positive input into the Ritual Committee. We had our annual Succah party, chaired by Sarah Lesser. Rabbi Gedalia Fleer and Rabbi Nechemia Polen spoke at our 3rd annual Melaveh Malka, this fall. Our annual Chanukah party and auction/raffle was chaired by our Vice President Robin Walker. A highlight of our season this winter was our Shabbaton with Rabbi Hershy Worch. It was truly an inspirational weekend and was chaired by Tzvi and Debbie Rubinstein. Our always wonderful family Shabbat dinner was chaired by Beth Drapkin.

We had an excellent series of lectures this year featuring Dr. Jan Feldman, Dr. Fred Tauber and a most unusual program with Dr. Ludmilla Leibman, who spoke about the music of the Holocaust. We had two non-events this year, one the showing of the film the Imported Bridegroom, part of which was actually filmed in our shul 16 years ago - unfortunately this program was snowed out. Our Lag B'Omer picnic was rained out this year. We had regular classes every week with Rabbi Gurkow's Tanya class, Baruch Cohen's Hebrew class, and Rabbi Grossman's Parshat Hashavua class. All in all a lot went on here. On a sad note, our community experienced three losses this year. Al Landsman lost his dear wife Mary, and Tzvi and Oleg's fathers both just recently passed away. May our community only share Simchas this coming year.

This is the end of my third and final term as President and at the risk of omitting some people; I would like to express my thanks in public to sev-

eral individuals. First I would like to thank my Vice President Robin Walker. Robin was always there when I needed someone to simply listen to me and always offer sensible advice. Whenever a volunteer was needed and no one else would step up, Robin always could be counted upon and I appreciated that. I would like to thank our Treasurer Jordan Wagner who has really gotten our financial house and records in order. In addition Jordan has done far more than just the job of the Treasurer, thank you Jordan. I would like to thank our Secretary/Clerk, Vivienne Kalman. As I am sure Vivienne would tell you, we have not lacked for conflicts or disagreements. But, I always have a great deal of respect for Vivienne and I do appreciate that her motives are always of the noblest nature and that her heart is always in the right place. Vivienne is one of those people who is under appreciated because she does so many things, vital to the organization yet they are behind the scenes. Thank you, Vivienne.

I would like to thank my predecessor Dr. Len Berman who was the chair of our Education and special events committee. Len is really the one who was responsible for most of our successful events this year. I always appreciate Len's sage advice and I could go to him at almost any time unless of course, he was off fishing. Thank you, Len.

I would like to thank Saul Aronow and Al Landsman for keeping our physical shul in such great shape. I will never forget our episode with the squirrel in our shul. Initially we discovered the squirrel seemingly davening in the shul and then we found signs of him in our food supplies. Al persisted until we caught him and then he personally drove him out to the Blue Hills. Thank you again Al and Saul.

I would like to thank Tzvi, Lloyd and Michael for keeping the ritual committee going and I would like to thank Rabbi Gurkow, for always coming through when we needed him, in spite of a broken foot earlier in the year and now a broken shoulder.

Lastly I would like to thank my wife Nechama for always standing by me even though I would spend countless hours on the shul.



Executive Board Meeting, Summer 2004

Portions of the Annual Meeting Notes - Shul Clerk, Vivienne Kalman

The Annual Meeting of Congregation Agudas Achim Anshei Sfard (The Adams Street Synagogue) was held on Monday, June 21, 2004 at 7:00pm in the synagogue building. Registration commenced at 7:00pm to verify members-in-good-standing. Each member was given an Agenda, the proposed 2004-2005 Budget, and a ballot. A light supper was served in the Lippin Social Hall. The President informed the congregation that Rabbi Zalman Gurkow would not continue as the shul's rabbinic consultant. Although Rabbi Gurkow intends to pursue a career change, he and his family will remain members of the shul community where they will always be welcome. A reception honoring Rabbi Gurkow will take place in the fall. A Search Committee has been selected to contact yeshivas, rabbinical schools, and other appropriate sources for a potential successor rabbi

The Nominating Committee Chair, Leonard Berman, M.D., presented the slate of Officers and Directors to be elected. The Committee, in addition to Dr. Berman, includes Harold Binder, Beth Drapkin, Harvey Lipsky, and Sarah Wagner. Retiring members of the Board of Directors were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for volunteer service to the shul. They are: Harvey Lipsky, Chaya Esther Vaks, and Oleg Weber.

The Election was determined by a voice vote. Retiring President Aryeh Cheses becomes a member of the Board as the President Emeritus (per By-Laws). Robin Walker retires as Vice-President upon her election to the Board of Directors. Bertram Grand continues as Honorary Chairman of the Board. Chairs of Standing Committees, when appointed by the President and approved by the Board, become members of the Board of Directors (per By-Laws).

Dr. Berman further announced that the Board of Directors had unanimously recommended Rabbi Gurkow and his family for Honorary Life Membership in the Shul. Since this recommendation requires a vote of the Congregation (per By-Laws), it was favorably so voted.

Mazal Tov!

Mazal Tov's to **Lloyd Cohen** for his daughter **Zissi** who gave birth to a baby boy. To **Eliana Walker** on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah. To **Ashi Cheses** on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah. To **Orit Kent & Mayer Leiken** on the birth and bris of their first child. To **Freddie Gurkow** on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.



Lloyd Cohen at the Bris of his first grandchild

Baruch Dayan Haemet - Condolences

May they and their families be comforted among the mourners of Zion: To **Al Landsman**, who lost his dear wife Mary. To **Oleg and Yilena Weber**, who lost Oleg's father, Alex Weber. To **Tzvi and Debbie Rubinstein**, who lost Tzvi's father, Jacobo Rubinstein. For Mr. **Sol Boyar**, a past member of our shul who passed away.

Community Notes

Sarah Boling Wagner and Jordan Wagner, members of the Zamir Chorale, opened the Democratic National Convention at the Fleet Center in August.

Refuah Shleima! Speedy Recovery!

To Adams Street Clerk Mrs. Vivienne Kalman. Our prayers are with you for a speedy healing - we miss you!

Our Israeli Travelers:

We wish the best to Noah and Aviva Cheses as they return to school in Israel, and a happy welcome home to Rivka Vaks, who made aliyah, and is now home visiting through the high holidays.

Alpert Torah Fund

Special thanks to Rabbi Hillel Alpert for the generous establishment of a new fund to repair and maintain the Alpert Torah here at Adams Street.

The Alpert Torah is decorated with carved ivory figures and is the most beautiful Torah we have.



Victor Gvirtsman at last year's Succah Building

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Community Sukkot events at the Adams Street Shul

- * **Sunday, September 26, 9:15 AM** after morning services: **Sukkah raising (with refreshments).**
- * **Sunday, September 26, 1 PM:** **Sukkah decorating party for the children (with refreshments).**
- * **Sunday, October 3, 1 PM:** **Simcha Beit HaShoeivah Party a festive communal lunch in the shul Sukkah.**



Kapparot with Rabbi Gurkow last Yom Kippur season

Your Board of Directors 2004-2005

President: Ms. Beri Gilfix (Beri29@yahoo.com)

Vice-President: Dr. David Sloane (bostonsloanes@verizon.net)

Secretary/Clerk: Mrs. Vivienne Kalman (viviennek@comcast.net)

Treasurer: Mr. Jordan Wagner (jordan@webjew.org)

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Chair of the Publicity Committee:

Ms. Avigayil MacArthur (sheila_macarthur@yahoo.com)

Special Events Committee (Ad Hoc):

Mrs. Sarah Boling (sboling@suffolk.edu)

Eruv Committee (Ad Hoc):

Mr. Michael Walker (mdwrn@verizon.net)

Children's Service Committee (Ad Hoc):

Mrs. Beth Drapkin and Mrs. Tsila Sloane (rdrapkin@massmed.org)
and (bostonsloanes@verizon.net)

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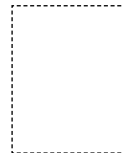
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The Tanya Class

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