

## Melava Malka

*with Rabbi Fleer and Rabbi Polen*

October 23rd, Saturday, 8:00-10:00 p.m. Adam Street's Annual joyous after-Shabbat celebration: Join us for light refreshments, Chassidic music, stories, and teaching by two inspiring teachers and long-time friends, Rabbi Gedaliah Fleer and Rabbi Nechemiah Polen.

Rabbi Fleer is a world-renowned authority on Jewish Mysticism. He is a Master Teacher and storyteller of Kabbalah and Chasidism and its many applications to everyday life, and is acknowl-

edged by the Encyclopedia Judaica as one of today's leading authorities on Jewish Mysticism and the teachings of the Chassidic Master, Rebbe Nachman of Breslov. He lives in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, very close to the Western Wall. For more information, please visit his website at

<http://www.breslov.com/fleer/>

Rabbi Polen is professor and director of the Chassidic Text Institute at Hebrew College. Suggested donation: \$10/adult.

## UPCOMING LECTURE: "The Old Wooden Synagogue"

**Join us on November 14th for a talk by Tilford Bartman, entitled, «An architectural treasure; the old wooden synagogue at Zabłudow, Poland». More details to come!**

## WHY DO I LOVE ADAMS STREET?

*by Bert Grand*

It has a warm, intimate, traditional feeling to it. I love the Orthodox davening and the Nusach, that's part of it. I'm proud of its historical presence, the fact that so many shuls like it did not survive but we did. And we are recognized by being on the National Register of Historic Places.

## We Need Your Help on Friday Nights!

In an effort to strengthen our Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat Minyan, we need men who are willing to commit to attending our Minyan once every sixth week. As sundown comes earlier, this becomes increasingly important. Many say this is our most inspirational service, as we welcome the Shabbat. If you're a man, or a woman who would like to attend and bring along the men of your family, please make this very important commitment (and big mitzvah!) to help. Please contact Ronny Drapkin 17-969-4014, who is coordinating this effort.

## Mark Your Calendars for FUN:

**December 11th, Our Annual Chanukah Party You do not want to miss this motzei Shabbat (Saturday night) event!**  
LATKES, RAFFLES, LIVE MUSIC!!!!  
COME EAT AND SING AND DANCE WITH US!!

## Rosh Hashanah at the Chetwynde Nursing Home

*by Tali Cheses*

**D**uring the week following Rosh Hashanah, the younger members of the Adam Street Shul, paid a visit to the Chetwynde Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center and conducted a brief yet meaningful Rosh Hashanah program for

residents of the nursing home. Together Tali, Ashie and Doron Cheses, Zach Drapkin, and Rena Walker sang Rosh Hashanah songs and served honey cake to the residents. It was a great experience for everyone. While the kids were able to sing the holiday songs and integrate their knowledge of Rosh Hashanah

into a program for the elderly, the residents were pleasantly reminded of their childhood and were able to rekindle their Jewish roots. The smiles on the faces of the residents made the visit worthwhile! The Adam Street Shul plans on conducting more programs at Chetwynde for many years to come!

# From Our President's Desk

**By Adams Street President  
Beri Gilfix**

This month, I would like to share with you the very moving, motivating and uplifting words brought to us by Rabbi Gurkow on Rosh Hashana. They touched me, and I think they're worth a second look:

"...We gather here today in an attempt to express nothing but our most inner selves. We say to G-d; please look past our actions and past our outer appearances. See us for the gold and the preciousness that we are as we exist deep on the inside, where "we are your children" referring to you as our father. What mother/father bases their love towards their children upon their outer appearances or recent activities?

"We pray to G-d from the inside as well, from the inner depths of our hearts. The Talmud states "*Rahmana liba bai*" G-d prefers our hearts"

My children often ask me to play ball with them, and I oblige them with great joy. Sometimes they ask me to do their homework with them, and I oblige them with joy. Then there are times during which I am extremely pre-occupied with serious issues. During these moments I have no interest and zero tolerance in a ball, a game or even their homework needs. During these moments all their pleas fall upon deaf ears. But then when I look down at their little faces and I see the gems that they are to me, everything melts and I can't possibly refuse them a thing.

There are times or manifestations in which G-d takes interest in our various requests, pleas and prayers. During these times he may or may not respond positively depending upon our personal stature and level of intent. But through our hearts we can connect with G-d on a plane where he transcends reacting to our petty efforts. On this level he looks down towards us and grants us everything we are asking for, in abundance.

"My friends; this is the secret of the Shofar. Throughout the service we all approach G-d in our unique manners. No two people sitting here today are alike; our pleas come from all different directions.

We seek to reach G-d on the distinct level – or in the exact chamber which houses our personal needs. In such attempts we are all so different from each other. Then the Shofar moment arrives! We approach G-d with a simple Shofar cry in which all – from the holiest Rabbi's to the simplest simpleton – produce the same exact pitch, sound, through which we touch G-d in the deepest way.

"How can we assure that G-d will indeed see us for whom we are on the inside? One way is by similarly assuring that we all look at each other for who we are on the inside rather than for what we

*(Cont. on page 4)*

## Israeli Facts:

**Israel, the 100th smallest country, with less than 1/1000th of the world's population, can lay claim to the following:**

*The cell phone was developed in Israel by Israelis working in the Israeli branch of Motorola, which has its largest development center in Israel.*

*Both Microsoft and Cisco built their only R&D facilities outside the US in Israel.*

*The technology for the AOL Instant Messenger ICQ was developed in 1996 by four young Israelis.*

*With more than 3,000 high-tech companies and startups, Israel has the highest concentration of hi-tech companies in the world — apart from the Silicon Valley, US.*

## WHY DO I LOVE ADAMS STREET?

**by Tali Cheses**

The Adam Street Shul is an incredibly interesting synagogue filled with a diverse yet unified community of people. It has an extremely welcoming atmosphere and makes everyone who comes through the doors feel welcome and at home. The members of the Adam Street Shul are

extremely warm and outgoing and never judge an individual based on a physical appearance. They are accepting of everyone and insist on focusing in on the good of every individual instead of lingering on the negative. I hope the Adam Street Shul can continue to grow, develop and exist for many years to come.

## High Holidays 5765



*Beri Gilfix, Lloyd Cohen and Al Landsman building the Shul's succah*

## 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

### For donations please contact Treasurer Jordan Wagner via the shul telephone:

617-630-0226, or email:

treasurer@adamsstreet.org

### Shul Web site:

<http://www.adamsstreet.org>,

or email:

publicity@adamsstreet.org

### Newsletter Editor:

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## Remembering the High Holidays at Adams Street...

**by Avigayil MacArthur**

PHEW! WE MADE IT! We made it through the High Holidays – that is a true accomplishment. Mazal tov to all who participated in our Selichot evening, in which we viewed a pre-Selichot film, and then held a halachically-correct 12:45 AM (!) Selichot minyan, led by Rabbi Gurkow. Mazal tov to those who expanded the women's section downstairs, to those who dressed the shul in white, and to those who kept the Torahs ready for reading. Let's not forget everyone who worked so hard to make sure our small children were in shul, happy and entertained. Think about the shul committees that planned and prepared for us. Remember those who walked such distances to be with us for all the Yom Kippur services, that they had to sleep in the shul. Those who built their succot – some of them in torrential downpours! – and then helped to build, decorate and take down the shul's succah as well. Those who managed various parties and events, and who set up Kiddush and Third Meals. Let's think about those who truly prayed for the people of Israel and for our congregation, and those who forgave offenses without a second thought. Remember the beautiful, at times heart-wrenching davening led by Rabbi Gurkow and Cantor Aptowitz, and the blessings we received from our Kohanim. Remember those who cooked meal after meal (after meal) for Rosh Hashana and Succot, keeping the ants out of the honey jar without killing them, buying an average of 75 challot, and fitting physically impossible numbers of hungry guests into their succot. Let's certainly not forget the Saturday night clean up at shul and home after the holidays ended, as well as all the work waiting on our desks after so many days off. And those who used all their vacation time (and then some) worrying about tak-

ing so many days off from work in order to be in shul and keeping the holidays. Mazal tov to our congregation and Ritual Committee who answered our call to thoughtfully explore Halacha for modest and appropriate ways to increase our mothers' and daughters' participation. And let's remember those who patiently taught others how to recite the blessings, shake the lulav, and do hoshanot. Think about our clean and pressed clothing, and that the kids were all dressed so smartly. Somehow, we pulled it all together. Mazal tov to those who felt fear of Heaven and cleaved to Hashem at the sound of the Shofar, to those who were hungry and tired, and who cried for their sins on Yom Kippur, to those who had fun and felt happy on Succot, to those who ate or slept exclusively in the succah, and to those who truly rejoiced in the Torah on Simchat Torah with their entire heart, soul and body. To all who arrived on time to services, who successfully built minyanim, and who lit candles on time – Yasher Koach! (May you have strength!) None of this is easy!

When we see each other day after day, and together we pray those special parts in the Siddur, reserved for these holy days; when we fast together, when we eat together, and when we perform these very Jewish rituals together; when the calendar draws our focus away from the outside world and into Torah, and we experience the resulting true simcha (joy), not only do our mitzvot alter the universe in a profound and eternal way, but we gain an incomparable sense of community – a sense of family – stronger than any other time of the year. It helps us to remember who we really are – each one of us is a mission-critical, irreplaceable member of the beautiful and precious Jewish family in this neighborhood, eternally linked to G-d, to Torah, and to each other.

## JEWISH CALENDAR NOTES



### When is the Next Holiday?

#### Chanukah:

**Wed-Wed Dec 8-15th:**

No work restrictions, except for while the Chanukah candles are burning.

## Clerk's Corner

**by Vivienne Kalman, Shul Clerk**

Managing an all-volunteer synagogue can be confusing and disorganized. Often times rules are misunderstood or non-existent. This is a new column aimed at our generous and committed volunteers who plan our educational and holiday programs, participate in our religious services, and solicit new members as well as donations.

Advertising of any kind is not permitted in the synagogue, not on the bulletin board, not on the table in the foyer outside the sanctuary, and not downstairs in the social hall. Notices on the bulletin board will be initialed and posted only by the President (B. Gilfix), the Vice-president (D. Sloane), and the Chair of the Facilities Committee (S. Aronow). Any advertising or unauthorized postings will be removed immediately. In order to preserve the paint, nothing shall be affixed or taped to any wall.

Volunteers, of necessity, purchase items for the shul. Such items could be food for the kiddush or 3rd meal, books, stationery, postage stamps, serving utensils, etc. To be reimbursed for these purchases, receipts must be submitted to the Treasurer, stapled to a shul expense form. These forms can be obtained from the Clerk (V. Kalman) or the Treasurer (J. Wagner). Remember, the Treasurer is not authorized to reimburse volunteers unless the required paperwork has been submitted to him.

# From Our President's Desk

(From page 2)

appear on the outside. You know? Our people have been broken up and divided into denominations. The Adams Street community stands unique in that we constitute an ingathering of representatives from all these denominations, and yet all of the variations that serve to distinguish us from each other are only external and on the outside whereas deep on the inside we are all really one and the same. We are all equally human, equally Jewish and equally consistent of a G-dly soul which burns with passion and love.

"We must find a way to look past the external qualities or lack thereof which fragment us and yearn to honor the precious interior that unites us. From this perspective we are all one and the same. No-one in this community is expendable; every member is precious and irreplaceable. Those on the right must stop looking leftward when viewing those on the left and those on the left must stop looking rightward when viewing those on the right. We must all look \*Up\* towards each other as absolute equal components of the beautiful puzzle which is this congregation. Take one piece out or lose it and your entire puzzle becomes incomplete.

My friends; this is not an easy request that I make of you. Sure, there are enormous contributions that each component adds to the puzzle. There are those who maintain the ritual activities, there are oth-

ers keep alive the administrative activities, neither of which is more integral or less integral than the other. But we must focus our visions of each other beyond the varying contributions and instead recognize our overall commitment to the single cause.

We must make a \*Total Commitment\* towards ensuring harmony, and sometimes it means sacrificing matters of extreme importance for the benefit of the whole. Sometimes it may require you to give up a large chunk of yourself for the benefit of the \*Us\*.

We see the particular strengths in each other when we spend some time to understand each other. We all have interests that sometime conflict with each other, but when we understand where each one's respective needs come from, it is easier to respect them and live together.

Today happens to be the birthday of Adam & Eve. I want you to contemplate a fascinating concept. Eve was convinced by the serpent to eat from the tree and she fed it to Adam. They were then punished and banished from Eden. In modern day mode Adam would have immediately pointed a finger towards Eve blaming her for the entire escapade. "You altered the lives for all of history," he should have thundered? But instead what does the Torah tell us? Immediately upon having been driven out of Eden; «*ve-haadam yada et hava*» Adam understood Eve. Our sages interpret this to mean that Adam mated and bonded with

Eve, but perhaps we shouldn't lose sight of its most literal meaning; Adam sat down and tried to understand his wife, they made a mistake, and they were paying for it dearly.

It's so important for all of us to respect each other's needs and interests rather than easily disqualify them. It's important for us to recognize each other's strengths rather than their weaknesses. It's important for us to see and perceive each other for what we are on the interior, a true family of brothers & sisters belonging to one father in heaven.

And when G-d sees our commitment to relating towards each other with such appreciation, he will undoubtedly be moved to view us from that same perspective. And he will instantly bless us with a Kesiva V'chasima Tova, a year of reigning success, growth, harmony and happiness."

## Membership Dues Are Due!

Membership renewal forms have been mailed, and it's time to fill them out! Membership at Adams Street is especially affordable: Family Membership Dues: \$450 (including two High Holiday seats, and a three-month membership in the mikvah, worth \$54). Individual Membership Dues: \$325. If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact our Treasurer, Mr. Jordan Wagner at [Treasurer@AdamsStreet.org](mailto:Treasurer@AdamsStreet.org), or leave a message on the shul telephone at **617-630-0226**.

Congregation Agudas Achim Anshei Sfar  
168 Adams Street, P.O. Box 600371  
Newtonville, Massachusetts 02460



**Address Service Requested**

## A Special TODAH RABAH! (Thank You!)

To the Cheses, Rubinstein and Wagner families for hosting the visiting rabbinic candidates. To our annual Anonymous Donors for the post-Yom Kippur "Break the Fast" food. To the Tanya Class & Oleg Weber for setting up the Sanctuary for High Holiday davening. To Lloyd Cohen for the restoration of the Torah Crown. To Victor Gvirtsman who set up and ran the pre-Selichot movie. To Debbie Rubinstein for the beautiful flower arrangements on Yom Kippur. To Al Landsman, Avigayil MacArthur, Beri Gilfix, Lloyd Cohen, Ronnie, Beth, Sarah and Zachary Drapkin, Sarah Wagner, & Victor Gvirtsman and for the Succah Construction & Decorating. To Rabbi Zalman Gurkow, David Sloane & Jordan Wagner for their Torah teaching over the holidays. To Rabbi Zalman Gurkow and Tanya Class for hosting Kapparot Ceremony before Yom Kippur. To Ashie Cheses for leining several times through Succot. To Debbie, Simcha, Beth, Sarah, Nechama, Sybil, Rivka, Tsila, and Avigayil for Kiddush set-up. To Lloyd, Michael, Harold, David and Victor for Shalosh Seudos (Third Meal) set-up. And OUR BIGGEST TODAH RABAH goes to SIMCHAH SALEH for almost single-handedly cleaning up after Shalosh Seudos every week.

If you know someone in our congregation who deserves a Todah Rabah, please speak with any Board member, or leave a message on the shul telephone, **617-630-0226**.



## Our Calendar Upcoming Candle Lighting & Service Schedule

**Friday 10/15 – Tishrei 30**

### **ROSH CHODESH I**

Light candles **5:44pm**

Minchah/Kabbalat Shabbat Services **5:45pm**

### **Shabbat 10/16**

### **ROSH CHODESH II**

Shacharit Service **9:00am**

Minchah/3rd Meal/Maariv/Havdalah Services **5:30pm**

(Parshas Noach)

**Friday 10/22 – Cheshvan 7**

Light candles **5:33pm**

Minchah/Kabbalat Shabbat

Services **5:30pm**

### **Shabbat 10/23**

Shacharit Service **9:00am**

Minchah/3rd Meal/Maariv/Havdalah Services **5:15pm**

(Parshas Lech Lecha)

**Friday 10/29 – Cheshvan 14**

Light candles **5:23pm**

Minchah/Kabbalat Shabbat Services **5:30pm**

### **Shabbat 10/30**

Shacharit Service **9:00am**

Minchah/3rd Meal/Maariv/Havdalah Services **5:15pm**

(Parshas Vayiera)

**Friday 11/5 – Cheshvan 21**

Light candles **4:14pm**

Minchah/Kabbalat Shabbat Services **4:15pm**

### **Shabbat 11/6**

Shacharit Service **9:00am**

Minchah/3rd Meal/Maariv/Havdalah Services **4:00pm**

(Parshas Chayei Sarah)

## High Holidays 5765

Thank you to Our Generous Donors from August & September



**Kapparot 5765:**

*Sarah Drapkin and David Rubinstein greet the guest of honor*

Edwin & Helen  
Cohen  
Sumner & Ruth  
Wheeler  
Alfred Tauber &  
Paula Fredriksen  
Marcia & Martin  
Kestenbaum  
Marilyn Breslau  
Temple Reyim  
Oleg & Yilena  
Weber  
Gary Phillips  
Helen Andler  
Eileen Rogoff

### **Flower**

### **Endowment Fund**

The Galpern  
Family;

### **Yahrzeit**

Sheldon & Marilyn

Binder

### **Chumash**

### **Sponsors**

David & Tsila

Sloane

Jordan & Sarah

Wagner

### **Kiddush Sponsors**

Naum & Etya

Kalyuzhny

Gordin & Alperin

Oleg & Yilena

Weber

### **Eruv Fund**

Carl & R.S. Hershfield

## Upcoming Simcha? Sponsor A Kiddush!

Do you have a birthday, anniversary or other simcha coming up? Would you like to honor someone from the congregation, a family member, or a friend? Then we welcome you to sponsor a Shabbat kiddush or Third Meal for \$36. Your sponsorship will be announced from the bimah at the end of the Shacharit service, and printed in the next newsletter. If you are able to attend the Kiddush or Third Meal, and would like to say a few words, you are welcome to do that as well. Please contact Harvey Lipsky for sponsorship via email at

Lipskyh@hotmail.com, or leave a message on the shul telephone: **617-630-0226**