

The Power of Prayer

Rabbi Zalman's series on "Prayer" continues on Wednesdays, April 17 & 24 at 7:30 PM

Prayer is clearly the single most spiritual adventure that we face on a daily basis. However, activities that repeat themselves every day may gradually lose their sense of meaning and significance. If only we had a broader understanding of our prayer responsibilities and a deeper perception of their impact, prayer could become a much more rewarding experience.

This is the focus of the four-part series on prayer currently being taught by Rabbi Zalman. The first class examined the distinct, unique qualities of private vs. communal prayer. While the Talmud and Jewish law clearly prefer communal prayer, one may also wish to benefit from a private prayer experience, which allows for inspiration through the inclusion of personal emotions and sentiments. One may incorporate both prayer formats into daily prayer, by choosing the right environment and the ideal format in which to pray.

Gender roles in prayer, a rather controversial theme, was the subject of the second class of this series. The discussion covered complex arguments made by Halachic authorities and lifestyle changes through history which have impacted

both gender prayer roles and developments in women's prayer. Class participants found these discussions very interesting and added their own personal memories of the way their grandparents prayed.

The third class, on Wednesday, April 17th, will focus on meditation in prayer. Various forms of meditation exist, ranging from a simple concentration on the meaning of words, to an in-depth absorption of the mind to the mystical representations and messages. The great Torah sages felt that attentiveness and preoccupation is a very important ingredient of the ideal prayer. These varying levels of absorption and reflection during prayer will be explored.

The series will conclude on April 24th with a less complex but still fascinating discussion on historical developments and impacts on Nusach. We all know that countless versions of prayer and prayer books exist, both Ashkenazi and Sefardi. How did they all develop? What were the causes that set them in motion?

Join us for these captivating classes to learn more about these subjects. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Boston Kollel Series on Prophecy



Rabbi Naftoly Bier, Rosh Kollel of the Kollel of Greater Boston, will present a three-part series entitled "The Relevancy of Prophecy: How Age-Old Prophecies Can Give Us Serenity, Purpose, and Achievement in Our Personal Lives" on Sunday evenings at the Adams Street Shul. The three lectures are as follows:

April 28: "Visions of the End of Days (Excerpts from Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Malachi)"

(Cont. on page 2)

Rabbi Naftoly Bier

April Calendar

Candle lighting:

4/5: 5:56 PM
4/12: 7:04 PM
4/19: 7:11 PM
4/26: 7:19 PM
5/3: 7:27 PM

Services:

Friday evenings:
 7:00 PM

Saturday mornings
 at 9:00 AM

Saturday afternoons:

4/6: 5:45 PM
4/13: 6:45 PM
4/20, 4/27: 7:00 PM
5/4: 7:15 PM

Sunday mornings
 at 8:00 AM

Events

Special Lecture:

"The Kindertransport: A Prelude to the Holocaust" April 14, 7:30 PM

Rabbi Zalman's Series on Prayer:

April 17 & April 24 at 7:30 PM

Kollel Series on Prophecy:

April 28, May 5, May 19
 (all at 7:30 PM)

A Presentation About the Holocaust

"The Kindertransport: A Prelude to the Holocaust" is the title of the presentation by Mrs. Helen Wertheimer on Sunday evening, April 14th at 7:30 PM at the shul. In 1939, Mrs. Wertheimer, at the age of 7, escaped from Nazi Germany to England through the Kindertransport program. Come hear about her experience during her youth.

Yom Ha'atzmaut - Wednesday, April 17

This year, Israel Independence Day - Yom Ha'atzmaut -- will come with an outpouring of mixed emotions in our hearts. Indeed, we remember the miracles that brought us the establishment of our state, we marvel at our people's perseverance and stamina in protecting and safekeeping our country. But we are also forced to acknowledge the scores of Jewish lives lost and the rivers of spilled Jewish blood which flow under its very foundations.

When Binyamin (Theodore) Herzl proposed and convened the first Zionist Congress, he concluded that anti-Semitism was a stable and immutable factor in human society, which assimilation did not solve. He declared that the Jews could gain acceptance in the world only if they ceased being a national anomaly. Envisioning a Jewish state, he hoped that this would root out anti-Semitism and establish international recognition of the Jewish people. To our

dismay, we have learned the truth of this reality: our enemies will forever seek nothing less than our total destruction.

As I write these words, bomb after bomb continues to explode in the streets of Israel, set off by Israel's enemies and with the single intent of murdering Jewish babies, children, men and women. Our brethren in the Holy Land conduct funeral after funeral daily. Young mothers bury their children and children do the same for their mothers. These heart-rending realities send a searing pain into the hearts of every Jew.

As we sat at our Seder tables in celebration of the great miracles that brought us the exodus from Egypt and the birth of our nation at Mt. Sinai, we stopped for a moment to consider the painful realities of our people's history. In the Haggadah we read "In each and every generation they rise upon us seeking our annihilation, only *Hakadosh Boruch Hu* delivers us from their hands." The matzah and maror are eaten

simultaneously to recall our bitter past as we celebrate and rejoice. It is a Jewish custom to break a dish at every joyous celebration, thereby remembering our bitter-most past -- the destruction of the Temple. Jews never allow themselves to rejoice without first remembering. And in our own time, the day before Israel Independence Day is "Yom HaZikaron" - a day dedicated to the memory of Israel's fallen soldiers.

Let us utilize the strength of these great days to remember our lost ones and to strengthen our commitment to the path of Torah. We cannot allow ourselves to think of Israeli victims only in terms of numbers. Torah teaches that every single Jew is worthy to have the world created in his or her honor alone. Every life lost is an entire universe lost. Let us make the promise to our fallen brethren that we will continue the struggle for the sake of strengthening of the Jewish people in their land, national strength through spiritual strength. In the words of Prime Minister Menachem Begin (z'l), who paraphrased our great prophets: "No more war, no more bloodshed, no more tears. Peace unto you. Shalom."

A Letter From a Special Friend

The following correspondence was sent to Rabbi Zalman via e-mail. Yasher koach and thanks go to Michael (Moshe) Partensky on his great work with the shul's Web site!

Dear Rabbi,

I don't know how I found your Web site; I was performing a search for Newton and it just popped up on my screen.

Anyway, my great grandparents, grandparents and mother were part of the original congregation Agudas Achim. Although I was brought up in a reform congregation, I have many memories of attending services with my father at the Adams Street Shul when I was a very young girl. Of course this was in the 1970's when we were practically the only

worshippers present! I remember the beauty of the old place and how different it was from Temple Shalom, where we were also members.

I just wanted to write you a little note telling you how proud my mother would be over the "re-birth" of the congregation and that you have done a wonderful job with your Website!

Sincerely,
Marjorie Brody Barrett
Norfolk, MA

Boston Kollel Series on Prophecy

From page 1

What is the messianic era that we all hope and pray for? In what manner will our lives change? Will the changes be dramatic?

May 5: "Journey Through Exile (Studies from Isaiah)"

Israel's journey in exile has been long and tortuous. What are the underlying causes? In what manner does the "Galut" (diaspora) experience bring about change? We will discuss what the prophet Isaiah's vision is of it.

May 19: "The Secrets of David's Psalms"

Why is it that for thousands of years, both Jew and gentile, in times of need, joy, and sorrow, have turned to the Psalms to find expressions of the innermost feelings? King David in his psalms captures the essence of all humanity.

All lectures take place 7:30-8:30 PM at the shul. Mincha will precede each lecture at 7:15 and Maariv will follow.

The Kollel of Greater Boston offers classes in all aspects of Torah, both at its Beit Medrash on Corey Road in Brighton, and through outreach programs at colleges, institutions, offices, and homes.

Women's Night Out

Our on-going series on "Women in Judaism" will continue on Wednesday evening, May 8. The specific topic and activity will be announced in the May newsletter. Call Malkie Gurkow at 617-559-0394 if you have any questions or suggestions for future meetings.

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

Membership Chair Elinor Levy
(617) 965-2471
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Pesach Appeal: Please Be Generous!

By Aryeh Cheses, President

By now, everyone should have received the shul's annual Pesach appeal in the mail. It has become clear that we will be operating with a significant deficit this year. In order to meet our expenses and continue our high level of programming and services for our members and our community, we need to count on your donations.

Please respond generously to this appeal. Help us meet our goal of 100% participation. Your tax-free donation may be mailed to the shul in the return envelope that was provided.

Thank you for your generosity.

This Day in History

by Rabbi Zalman

Pesach Sheni

Friday, April 26 is Pesach Sheni - Second Pesach. In ancient Israel, Jews who were unable to observe Pesach, due to ritual impurity or physical distance, had a second chance to bring their Pesach sacrifice on this day. The Torah tells us that this holiday came about when our ancestors demanded, "Why should we be diminished?" Pesach Sheni is a mitzvah that was initiated by man. One must never underestimate the power of Jewish prayer and demand.

It is customary for men, women and children to eat some matzah on this day. Remember: even if you missed out on your first try, G-d always gives us a second chance.

Lag B'Omer

Tuesday April 30th is "Lag B'Omer," the 33d day of the Omer. On this day in 123 CE, the great sage Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, author of the Zohar, passed away. In Israel, throngs of people gather at his holy grave site in the town of Meron, near Safad; bonfires and celebrations can be seen everywhere. This is also the day when a terrible epidemic that killed most of Rabbi Akiva's 24,000 students ended. We are permitted to do many things on this date that are not allowed during the other days of the Omer, such as getting married, and getting a hair cut.

Preparation for Annual Shul Elections

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Synagogue, preparations are being made for the elections and other voting that will be held at the annual Congregational Meeting ("the Meeting"), which will be held on June 11, 2002. The Board of Directors has selected a Nominating Committee ("the Committee") that will officiate at the voting. In accordance with the Bylaws, three members of the Committee are members of the Board of Directors and two are non-Board members. The members of this year's Committee are Board members Baruch Cohen (committee chair), Leonard Berman and Beth Drapkin, and non-Board members Harold Binder and Rivka Shamrakova.

Each year, all officers of the shul (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Clerk) and two of the six Directors (who serve for three-year terms) are elected. The Committee will prepare a slate of recommended candidates. If a shul member wishes to nominate alternate candidates, s/he should submit the names to the Committee at least 15 days prior to the Meeting, as a petition signed by at least 10 members and containing a statement by the candidate that s/he would serve if elected. Please contact Baruch Cohen, Chairman of the Committee, if you are interested in presenting alternative candidates. The Committee will prepare ballots for the Meeting with all eligible candidates.

Chess Tournament on March 17th

The 6th Annual Adams Street chess tournament took place on Sunday, March 17th, organized by Mr. Steven Frymer, vice president of Massachusetts Chess Association. Congratulations to the winning players:

Senior Division: Lazar Kaganov (1st), Reiley Nathans (2nd), Alla Chernyakova and Boris Krasik (3rd)

Junior Division: Daniel Wang (1st), Ezekiel Silverstein (2nd), William Lockwood (3rd)

Thank you to all who helped organize and to those who participated in this event.



Miriam Kramer



Liorah Rubinstein and Rena Walker



Ira Milman and Aryeh Cheses

Shabbat Dinner at the Shul

On Friday evening, March 8th, more than 50 members of our community gathered to share the spirit of Shabbat at the Shul's annual Shabbat dinner. Yasher koach and todah rabbah to Beth Drapkin and Deborah Rubinstein for organizing the event. And, special thanks to Nechama Cheses, Elaine Gerekht, Malka Gurkow, Freidl Kasoroff, Chaya Esther Vaks and Robin Walker, who volunteered their time arranging the Elmer Lippin Social Hall, setting tables, and putting the final touches on the food preparation.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Kiddush Sponsors:

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Jordan Wagner, IMO his grandmother, Celia Schwartzapfel

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Albert & Vivienne Kalman, IHO the renovators of the Shul

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov

To Jordan Lee Wagner, on his engagement to Sarah J. Boling of Lynn, MA

Condolences

To Chaya Esther Vaks, Leah Vaks, Rivka Vaks and Brataslava Belinkiy on the loss of Mark Belinkiy, beloved father, grandfather and husband.

To Rabbi Zalman Gurkow and his family on the loss of his beloved grandmother, Sonya Gurkow.

May the Almighty comfort them amongst all mourners of Zion and Jerusalem and may we all know of no further sorrow and grief.

Refuah Shleimah Wishes to:

Judith Binder Kabillio (Yehudit Sheindl bat Adina Sarah)

Al Kalman (Avraham ben Shifra)

Fran Novick (Freida Gittel Bat Malka Rachel), mother of Beth Drapkin.

Inez Smith (Chaya bat Sarah Leah), mother of Robin Walker.

Butcherie Receipts Program

As you do your shopping at the Butcherie, remember to have your receipts stamped for the Adams Street Shul. Send your stamped receipts to the shul, we will turn them in and the Butcherie will donate 5% of your receipt total (3% for credit card purchases) to the shul. It's definitely worth it - we recently received \$175 from the receipts program!

OUR
PURIM

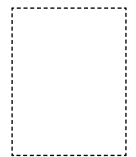


*Rabbi Schmerl of Chelm
(aka Jordan Wagner)*



Zachary and Beth Drapkin

Congregation Agudas Achim Anshei Sfar
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