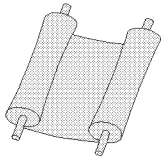


Happy Chanukah from Congregation Agudas Achim Anshei Sfard!

Shalom 5755
December 1995

Volume 4, No. 2
Chanukah 5756

The Adams Street Synagogue



Children's Shabbat !

The Adams Street Synagogue's monthly **Children's Shabbat Program** will be held on January 6 at about 10:15 AM (as the Torah Reading begins upstairs).

The program is designed for children from ages three to six. Each child must have a parent at the *shul* while the child is in the program. Younger children may participate if at least one parent stays in the program with the child.

The January event will be led by **Sybil Binder**. The program includes storytelling, sing-

Continued on page 2.



Lessons in Tanya

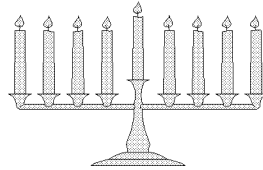
We have begun a weekly class in the *Tanya*, taught by volunteer **Rabbi Zalman Gurkow**. All interested congregants are welcome to attend. The *Tanya* is a classic work of *chabad* mystical philosophy, written by Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Lyadi.

The class meets Thursday evenings at the *shul* for one hour, starting at 7:00 PM.

Chanukah Party!

On Saturday evening, December 23, at 7:00 PM we will enjoy our annual *Chanukah* celebration!

The Boston Klezmet, the band we enjoyed so immensely last year, will be back performing their hot *klezmer* music. There will be potato pancakes (*latkes*), deep-fried jelly donuts (*sufganiot*), prizes, and surprises! Bring your friends! Bring your *dreidel*! Bring your dancing shoes! Bring your *menorah*!



A donation of \$5 per person (\$12 maximum per family) is requested. Children under ten are free. To help, or for information, call Beri Gilfix at 332-6140.

Jewish Film Series

We are beginning a series of private showings of Jewish films. In keeping with the age and historic character of the *shul*, most of the movies shown will be very rare old Yiddish films (with English subtitles added). All will be appropriate entertainment for families. Refreshments will be served.

To start off the series, we will offer something unique: a movie that was filmed at the Adams Street Shul and in which several of our congregants appear! The film is *The Imported Bridegroom*. The wedding scene was filmed in the *shul*, and several congregants were filmed as "extras" in other scenes too.

The Imported Bridegroom will be shown Sunday, January 7, at 2:00 PM, at **The Heritage at Vernon Court**, less than a mile from the *shul*. This is an assisted-living facility for senior citizens, located at Newton Corner in the former public library building. The entrance is on Vernon Court, off Centre Street.

Space is limited, so advance ticket purchase is required. A donation of \$5 per person, or \$8 per family is requested. For more information, call Nechama Cheses at 527-7967.

The Elmer Lippin Social Hall is available for celebrations. For rental information, please call Vivienne Kalman at 899-0293.



Heritage Shabbat

The next *Heritage Shabbat* event will be Friday, January 5, at 2:00 PM sharp. This is an intergenerational early *Kabbalat Shabbat* program for the whole family. Many thanks to **Al Landsman**, **Bert Grand**, and **Michael Partensky** for their help making recent events special. For more information, call Jordan Lee Wagner at 332-2507.



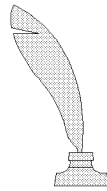
Children's Shabbat

Continued from page 1. ing, age-appropriate Sabbath prayers, a kosher snack, and other activities.

Each monthly event is conducted by one of a team of volunteer *Children's Shabbat* Leaders. Anyone interested in being a Leader should contact Jordan Wagner at 332-2507.

examines the special insert into the *Amidah* on *Shabbat Chanukah* one finds no mention of the oil. Rather, other miracles are cited: "Thou didst deliver the strong into the hands of the weak, the mighty into the hands of the few...the wicked into the hands of the righteous..and for thy people Israel thou didst work a great deliverance and redemption." These sentiments make it obvious that the holiday is more than just the miracle of the oil; it is a testimonial to what can be accomplished when Israel is motivated by the spirit of G-d. This holiday certainly deserves to be celebrated to the fullest extent.

Many cultures have holidays involving lights around *Chanukah* time, which is also the time of the winter solstice, as a manifestation of the early desire to demonstrate the triumph of light over darkness. Thus we light our candles around the same time as our Gentile neighbors light their holiday decorations. We are told to display our candles as prominently as possible. I feel we should do this with an attitude of pride, and a feeling that we are indeed in the mainstream. So have a truly joyous *Chanukah*, and we look forward to seeing you at our *Chanukah* party December 23.



From the President

Two current events deserve comment -- one recently passed and one upcoming.

The first of these is the Rabin assassination, which is for me the saddest Jewish event since the Holocaust, and in the history of the State of Israel.

We at Adams Street join the vast majority of Orthodox congregations in mourning and in totally condemning this act of desecration of G-d's name. What makes this a particularly depressing event is that the killer, and those influencing him, distorted Jewish Law (*halacha*) to serve their agenda. In doing so, they also lost sight of *chesed*, one of the key pillars of our faith. I personally feel that any *halachic* interpretation that is not leavened by *chesed* should only be embraced with caution, if at all.

The second event is the upcoming December holiday season. This time of year presents a special challenge for many of us. The Christmas holiday is hyped and publicized like no other holiday by our secular culture, because a large segment of the business community depends on it as a make-or-break factor on the bottom line. We are thus constantly reminded of it when we turn on the radio, read the newspaper, shop, or walk around town. Many of us are obliged to participate, as we shop for holiday gifts for employees or business associates and when we get invited to their homes and to the annual office party. This is the one official "secular" holiday that reminds us of our status as members of a minority group, as outsiders looking in.

What is the antidote to this dilemma? It may be found in the joyous celebration of *Chanukah*! As a counterbalance to Christmas, *Chanukah* has assumed more importance than its traditional status as a minor Jewish holiday. Expanded celebration of *Chanukah* has been embraced by such diverse groups as *Chabad*, which has been busy installing public menorahs, and the secular business community, which encourages us to buy *Chanukah* gifts and cards.

How good is all this? It is said that the holiday commemorates the miracle of the oil lasting for eight days. So why all the fuss? Well, if one

Leonard Berman, President

What's Nu?

Congratulations to **Anna Schiff** on celebrating her 100th Birthday. (No, that's not a typo. Anna is enjoying her second century.) Congratulations also to **Israel Alpert** and **Jordan Wagner**, both of whom recently celebrated (somewhat lesser) birthdays. Best wishes to **Jean Birnbaum** for happiness in her new home in Chestnut Hill.

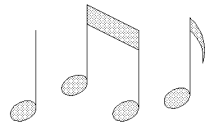
About fifty people enjoyed our first *Erev Shirah* (Family Sing-Along) on November 18. Many thanks to **Nechama Cheses** and her committee for producing this happy occasion.

Many thanks to **Beri Gilfix** and her committee for the outstanding fund-raising dinner in honor of **Bert Grand**, held on September 17. Those present enjoyed the meal, music, dance, and guest speaker **Dr. Moshe Waldoks**; and a significant sum was raised for our Endowment Fund, whose purpose is to guarantee the preservation of our *shul* in perpetuity.



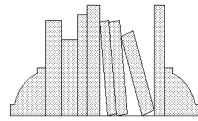
Yasher Koach to the following congregants who recently led services: **Hillel Alpert**, **Aryeh Cheses**, **Noah Cheses**, **Lloyd Cohen**, **Bertram Grand**, **Rabbi Zalman Gurkow**, **Maurice Hollander**, **Michael Itzhakov**, **Nachman Kalyuzhny**, **Michael Partensky**, **Peretz Partensky**, **Jorge Rubinstein**, **Jordan Lee Wagner**, and **Pinchas Zaltsman**.

New job? *Simcha* in the family? When you hear news about members, please call our editor Matt Kramer (244-4354).



South African Choir

A group of Newton-area residents from South Africa (and several other former colonies of the British Empire) have recently banded together to form a synagogue choir. They sing the congregational melodies they remember from the synagogues of their homeland. They will be leading our Sabbath morning *Musaf* service on January 27.



Book Notes

Recent English additions to our library include: *Living Each Day*, a collection of insights into self-improvement by Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski, M.D.; *Beyond Milk and Honey*, a collection of Israeli recipes; *Hardship and Hope*, the autobiography of the author of *Tosafos Yom Tov*; *Itzik Be Strong!*, the sixth volume in *The Holocaust Diaries*; *Along the Maggid's Journey* a collection of short inspirational stories; *Ethics from Sinai*, an eclectic commentary on *Pirke Avot* by Irving M. Bunim; an illustrated edition of *The Book of Judges* with artwork by Jacob Shacham; *Destiny - The Story of the Jewish People in the Western World*, by Yaakov Reinman; and more.

Many thanks to **Muriel Yoffe** for the donation of several books, including two collections of stories by Isaac Bashevis Singer, a commentary on the Torah by Rabbi Hertz (the late Chief Rabbi of Great Britain), works by Elie Wiesel and Leon Uris, and an English translation of the *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* (the short 19th-century handbook of Jewish law for home use, based on the *Shulchan Aruch*).

Many thanks to **Jorge and Debbie Rubinstein** for donating an English translation of *Sefer Ha-Mitzvot* (The Book of Commandments), one of the classic works of The RaMBaM (Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, also known as Maimonides). This donation is in memory of **Avraham Moshe ben Hirsh v'Chana Miriam**, grandfather of **Deborah Rubinstein**.

Many thanks to **Lloyd A. Cohen** and **Zissi Cohen** for the donation of *The Festivals in Halacha*, a comprehensive three-volume set by Rabbi S. Y. Zevin. This donation is in commemoration of the *yahrzeit* of **Beth Dina Cohen**, wife and mother.

We still lack many of the classic works of rabbinic tradition needed to support adult study programs. A complete *Talmud* or *Shulchan Aruch* with English translation and commentary would each cost many hundreds of dollars. Excellent English translations of other classic works are also available. These are wonderful opportunities for donors to make a lasting gift that has the potential to inspire others in memory of a loved one. Bookplates will acknowledge your donation. For more information about needed volumes and costs, contact Jordan Lee Wagner at 332-2507.

The Endowment Fund

A trust to ensure the maintainance and preservation of our synagogue.

The following gave \$1,000 or more:

The Estate of Manis Albert	In memory of Dr. David Michael Hochberg, late son of late Ira I. Hochberg and Sara Hochberg
Herbert and Susanne Spatz	Ruth G. & Gene E. Fax
Ann Burack	James & Adelaide Rosen
Samuel J. Gilfix	In memory of Aaron J. Birnbaum by H. Jean Birnbaum
Ruth A. Schiff	In memory of Beth Dina Cohen by Lloyd Cohen
George and Evelyn Reisman	Milton Namiot
Dr. Cyril and Harriet Mazansky	Celia and Joel Seskin
Sara Hochberg, i.m.o. Ira Hochberg	Edith G. Shoolman
Harry L. Roiter	The Shoolman Family Trust
Gerald M. Swartz, i.m.o.	In memory of Rose and Bertha Greenwald by Sadie Greenwald
Gertrude Weiner and Eli Swartz	In memory of Jacob and Anna Kligman by Mr. & Mrs. Myron L. Bloom
Bertram and Polly Grand	Albert and Vivienne Kalman
Ms. Ida Rosenblum, i.m.o. the Rosenblum Family	Saul and Alice Aronow
Gerald M. Swartz, i.m.o.	
Jean M. Swartz	
Gerald M. Swartz	
Edith G. Shoolman, i.m.o.	
Jean M. Swartz	
Dr. Leonard and Audrey Berman	

There is a handsome new plaque in the *shul*, made of walnut and etched brass. It expresses our thanks to our Endowment Fund donors, who are listed above. There is room on the plaque for many more contributors to be added.

Our usual donor listings will return in the next issue.

Help Wanted

As the tax year closes, Adams Street has a number of good works that can use your contributions.

Our education classes could use a portable blackboard, and our office lacks a modern photocopier. If you have these or other items that you could donate please call the *shul* office, at 630-0226.

Adams Street has established the following funds:

The Torah Fund: to repair our Torah scrolls;

The Tzedakah Fund: to raise funds for the needy;

The Eruv Fund: to build an Eruv around the parts of Newton north of the Pike (Nonantum and West Newton); and parts of Newton Corner and Auburndale);

The Endowment Fund: to guarantee the preservation of the historic Adams Street Shul in perpetuity;

The Book Fund: to purchase classic works for our lending and reference library;

The Restoration Fund: We still have the original ceiling stenciling to restore, as well as exterior brick work.

The Operations Fund: to support our ongoing programs.

Send donations to the attention of: Albert Kalman, Treasurer.

Congregation Agudas Achim Anshei Sfard
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