

# Happy New Year from Congregation Agudas Achim Anshei Sfard!

Shalom 5758  
September 1998

Volume 7, No. 1  
Rosh Hashanah 5759



The Adams Street Synagogue



## Russian Lecture

On Wednesday, September 9, at 7:30 PM, there will be a lecture by **Professor Ginsburg** entitled *The Days of Atonement*, in Russian. It is free and open to everyone.

## New Members?

We'd like to share the beauty of our *shul* and the warmth of our community with others. The *shul* is holding an Open House for prospective members, both English and Russian-speaking, on Sunday Sept. 13, from 10:30 AM to noon. It will include a new Russian-language version of the *shul*'s historical tour, thanks to **Ludmilla Dub**.

If you know of anyone who should be invited to attend, please contact Membership Committee Chair **Elinor Levy** at (617) 965-2471, or New Americans Committee Chair **Helen Kroner** at (617) 964-4871.

## High Holiday Services Schedule

High Holiday observances at Adams Street start with *Selichot* on Saturday, September 12. **Rabbi Zalman Gurkow** will speak at 10:30 PM, followed by refreshments at 11:30 PM. Services begin at 12:15 AM.

The *shul* celebrates the arrival of 5759 with *Rosh Hashanah* services on Sunday, September 20 at 6:30 PM. Services continue Monday, September 21 at 8:30 AM. At 5:45 PM we will meet at the *shul* for a walk to the nearby Charles River for *Tashlich* (symbolic casting out of sins). The second day of *Rosh Hashanah* is Tuesday, September 22, with morning services at 8:30 AM and *Minchah* at 6:30 PM.

*Yom Kippur* begins with *Kol Nidre* on Tuesday, September 29 at 5:15 PM sharp. Services continue on Wednesday, September 30 at 8:30 AM and will include a *Yizkor* memorial service. *Minchah* will be at 5:00 PM.

*Sukkot* will be celebrated on Sunday, October 4 at 6:00 PM. Services continue on Monday, October 5 at 8:30 AM, with *Minchah* at 6:00 PM. Services continue on Tuesday, October 6 at 8:30 AM, with *Minchah* at 6:00 PM.

*Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah* takes place on Sunday, October 11 at 6:00 PM. Services continue on Monday, October 12 at 8:30 AM, followed by *Minchah* at 6:00 PM. The holiday concludes on Tuesday, October 13 with morning services at 8:30 AM and *Minchah* at 6:00 PM.



## Can a Killer Cohen Duchen?

**Rabbi Joseph Polak** will deliver a provocative lecture at Adams Street on Sunday evening, September 12, at 8:00 PM.

The topic is: "*May a Killer Cohen Duchen?*" Investigation of this legal question has implications for repentance.

Rabbi Polak is Chairman of the Law Committee of the Rabbinical Court of Massachusetts, Professor of Public Health Law at Boston University, and Director of the B.U. Hillel House; as well as Consulting Rabbi to The Adams Street Shul.

Don't miss this unique High Holy Day preparatory event. Admission is free.

Services: Fri. eve. at candle-lighting time; Sat. at 9 AM and Sat. at 15 min. earlier than Fri. eve.

Visit our new web site! The URL is: <http://members.aol.com/caaasn>

## Eruv Nearly Ready!

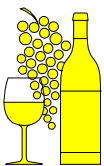
After a summer of construction, the Nonantum Eruv is nearing completion. We expect it to be in operation in time for the High Holidays. The Eruv will help us encourage young Sabbath-observant families to settle in the neighborhood and become active members.

An *eruv* is a convenience that enhances the enjoyment of the Sabbath. It lifts the rabbinic extensions to the Torah prohibition of *ho-tza-ah* ("bringing"). For example: one can bring wine to a friend's house for *kiddush*, take printed *Divrei Torah* home from the *shul* on Saturday morning, carry a *tallis* bag to and from services, or bring extra food to the *shul* for *shalosh seudos* (Third Meal).

Most importantly, an *eruv* makes it easier for young families to come to *shul* on *Shabbat* (and *Yom Kippur*). They can carry their young children so that both parents, indeed the whole family, can come to the *shul* together.

The Eruv requires a structure of fences and wires, surrounding the neighborhood. Constructing the Eruv is one of the largest projects undertaken by the *shul* since the building restoration. (The planning and the legal aspects were begun over three years ago.) We hope this will give our membership the boost that we need to preserve our *shul* as an active community for its second century. Donations to help pay for the *eruv* construction and maintenance are needed.

Please send your donation to: Eruv Fund, Adams Street Synagogue, P.O. Box 600371, Newton MA 02460.



To sponsor a *kiddush* or *shalosh seudos*, please call Albert Kalman at 781-899-0293.

## From the President



In my search for a timely topic for this column, my attention was drawn to the recent familiar news stories of the two newspaper columnists who were found to be guilty of betraying the trust of their readers. One case involved fabrication, and the other involved plagiarism, both abhorrent to and prohibited by our tradition.

As we approach the holiday season it becomes quite apparent that a high percentage of our most significant transgressions are verbal in nature. The tongue has the utmost capacity to do damage. A glance through the *Vidui* (*Yom Kippur* confessional service) reveals eleven transgressions of the tongue, comprised of common failings: "idle talk", "offensive speech", "defaming the holy name", "unclean lips", "foolish talk", "scoffing", "slander", "manner of speech", "passing judgement", "tale bearing" and "swearing falsely." I'm sure that we'll all be doing *t'shuvah* for many of these. An unfortunate example that readily comes to mind sometimes occurs at our board meetings and involves our dedicated, but occasionally over zealous board members, who get carried away in the heat of discussion.

These transgressions of the tongue are indeed distressing. However, they cannot compare to the transgressions of the pen (i.e. libel is more serious than slander). The reasons are twofold. First of all, any transgression of the pen is *ipso facto* deliberate and premeditated, and this automatically makes it more serious; i.e. the writer has presumably thought about and reviewed his material before he sent it off and any corrective changes that could have been made, would have been made. The participant at a meeting on the other hand, makes reflexive responses during the heat of discussion and is subsequently unable to retrieve words that he utters, even though he may wish to do so. Secondly, our writings become permanent records of our thoughts (paper trails), and are capable of inflicting damage, sometimes for years to come.

I therefore feel it is appropriate for me to inaugurate the holiday season by doing *t'shuvah* and asking forgiveness of anyone I may have offended in this column during the past year. I admit that I have been provocative at times, and deliberately so. Uniform lack of controversy would have made this column as dull as dishwater. Also, one has to use some occasional hyperbole to make a point.

I would like to conclude by inviting any member to send a contribution to the newsletter in the form of a "letter to the editor," either answering, supporting or rebutting anything, I or any of our other writers, have said. Also, please don't hesitate to send in a contribution in the form of a comment, holiday recipe, a story, a joke or a reference to Judaic scholarship. We welcome your involvement.

*Gut Yom Tov and L'Shanah Tova. See you in shul.*

--- Leonard Berman, President

## Nachas Notes!

The shul wishes *Mazel Tov* to the following members of the Adams Street Community: **Aryeh and Nechama Cheses** and family on the *bar mitzvah* of their son **Noah** this summer; **Bert and Polly Grand** on the engagement of their son **Russell** to **Marcy Katz**, daughter of **Thelma and Jordan Katz**. **Harold and Sybil Binder** on the marriage of their daughter **Judith** to **Aric Kabillio**, son of **Simon and Miriam Kabillio**. **Ira and Ann Seskin** on the graduation of their daughter, **Leah**, from the Prozdor at Hebrew College. Also to **Joel and Celia Seskin**, Leah's proud grandparents. **Albert and Vivienne Kalman** on the graduation of their grandsons including **Samuel Stolper**, from the Solomon Schechter Day School in Newton and twin grandsons, **Jeffrey and Barry Rothberg**, from Keefe Technical High School in Framingham. **Albert Kalman**, who was honored by the President of Northeastern University on the occasion of his 50th college reunion.



## In Memorium

The Adams Street community sends condolences to the following members: **Vivienne and Albert Kalman** on the death of Vivienne's mother, **Rosalind Joffe**. **Janice Rossbach** on the death of her husband **Leopold**. **Jonathan and Helene Dietz** on the death of Jonathan's mother, **Jean**. May their memories be a blessing.

## Lost, But Not Yet Found

Two bags with *tallis* and *tefillin* were found on the steps outside the shul. If you know who they belong to, please contact Lloyd Cohen at (617) 964-3511.

Two **winter jackets** and other **articles of clothing** which have been in the shul for several months will be given to a needy family if not claimed before September 1. Call (781) 899-0293 for more information.

## Officers Elected, Budget Approved

At the Annual Meeting, August 4th, members elected officers and approved the budget for the coming year. The officers, elected for one year terms, are: President **Leonard Berman**, Vice President **Lloyd A. Cohen**, Secretary/Clerk **Matt Kramer**, and Treasurer **Albert Kalman**. Directors, elected for three year terms, include: **Luba Shamrakova** and **Robin Walker**.

The election marked the conclusion of board service for some. A *Yasher Koach* and thank you to outgoing Vice President **Burt Freedman**, Director **Hillel Alpert**, and Publicity Committee Chair **Steve Anapolle**.

An amendment to the bylaws was discussed that would reduce the quorum required for the Annual Meeting from 30 members to 25. All present voiced support for such a change. Since the proposal was not on the agenda as required under the bylaws, it was not adopted but may be considered at the next Annual Meeting.

## The Corrective

There are two dimensions to *Teshuva*, writes the *Ba'al haTanya*.

The first is what we are most familiar with -- repenting for sins of omission or commission; a grace-after-meals we neglected to say because we did not sufficiently appreciate the food on our plate; a stupid remark to a family member that left feelings hurt, that needs to be attended to. We cannot ask G-d for forgiveness on *Yom Kippur* until we have done at least as much with our friends.

Then there is the second dimension of *Teshuva*, the type that applies even to the holiest among us. Here the literal meaning of *Teshuva* is invoked -- the return to G-d itself; like the correction of a satellite in orbit. We get so caught up in life, so engaged in the day-to-day stuff of living, that we forget who we are and why (and courtesy of Whom) we are here. We forget that we have a historical, covenantal relationship with the Creator; a relationship that, like any other, needs attention. If we ignore it -- like not writing a letter to close friends and relatives -- there lies within the relationship a certain peril, a certain ingratitude, a foolish negligence. This corrective, a thoughtful return, a careful reconnection with the King, is the essence of the Days of Awe, and needs to be observed anew each year with great care, and with finesse.

From my family and myself to all of you, *ktiva vahatima tova*; a sweet, joyous new year.

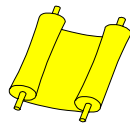
--- Rabbi Joseph Polak

The shul wishes to thank the following for their generous donations:

*Barbara and Sy Eellin in honor of the engagement of Russell Grand*  
*Sheldon and Marilyn Binder, in memory of beloved father Abraham Binder*  
*Michael & Ludmila Partensky*  
*Rakhil Partensky*  
*Sumner and Ruth Wheeler*  
*Richard, Karen, Benjamin and Marisa Abrahams in honor of Aryeh Cheses*  
*Beatrice Osterer, in memory of Rosalind Joffe, mother of Vivienne Kalman*  
*Rabbi and Mrs. Zalman Gurkow in honor of the birth of their daughter*  
*Leonard and Audrey Berman in memory of Mabel Berman*  
*Leonard and Audrey Berman in honor of Ruth and Leonard Greer*  
*H. Jean Birnbaum in memory of dear uncle, Irving Gilfix*  
*Judge Lloyd Buchanan Living Trust*  
*Ann Burack in memory of Rosalind Joffe, mother of Vivienne Kalman*  
*Bert and Pauline Grand in memory of Rosalind Joffe, mother of Vivienne Kalman*  
*Willian and Judith Zucker*  
*Naum and Etya Kalyuzny in memory of Isaak Ben Stuel, Pearl Bas Moshe Iskor, Nechama Bas Leah*  
*Sanford Rosenzweig*  
*Emma Taylor in memory of Bessie Goldman, loving aunt of Marilyn and Sheldon Binder*  
*Emma Taylor in memory of Harry Israel*  
*Rosalind Frim*

*Marilyn and Sheldon Binder in memory of beloved aunt, Bessie Goldman*  
*Michael Smookler*  
*Stuart Kaufman*  
*Mrs. Ann Burack in memory of her late husband Karl Burack*  
*Rebecca Sternberg*  
*Sheldon and Marilyn Binder in memory of Harry Israel, beloved mother Ida Binder, and beloved father Hyman Taylor*  
*Our Lady Help of Christians Parish*  
*Rebecca Sternberg and Sidney Stecker in memory of William Sternberg*  
*Gregory Potashinsky and Blyma Barkan*

The deadline for the October issue is September 15. Please send "nachas notes" and info about upcoming events to Barry Cohen by e-mail at Bmcohen1@aol.com, or by phone at: (617) 964-0190.



## Yasher Koach

Thank you to the following congregants, who recently led services: **Robert Soll, Yisrael Harris, Noah Cheses, Tzvi Rubinstein, Morris Hollander, Michael Walker, Alex Grinshpun, Lloyd A. Cohen, Rabbi Stanley Asekoff, Norman Jaffee, Jordan Wagner, Aryeh Cheses, Burt Freedman, Michael Yitzakoff, Pinchas Saltsman, Nahman Kaluzhny, Bert Grand, Rabbi Ira Milman, Len Berman, Rabbi Zalman Gurkow, Yechiel Robinson, Stuart Kaufman, and Menachem Wecker.**

## Thanks

Adams Street is your *shul*. Every activity happens because of the efforts of volunteers. The *shul* wishes to thank the following for their help:

Members enjoyed a light supper prior to the Annual Meeting August 4th, thanks to **Vivienne Kalman**, who was ably assisted by **Etya Landa, Maida Landa and Albert Kalman**.

Many thanks to the crack crew of volunteers who helped prepare a recent series of fundraising mailings:

**Yuriy Milkin, Leonard and Audrey Berman, Inna Gekht, Etya Kalyuzhny, Saul and Alice Aronow, Anna Plotkina, Bert Grand, Helen Kroner, Galina Rakhlevskaya, Olga Manuelyan, Ester Landa, Barry Cohen, Liliya Furina, Mark Stepner, Margarita Zaresky, and Raisa Levina.**

**Congregation Agudas Achim Anshei Sfarad**  
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**(617) 630-0226**  
**<http://members.aol.com/caaasn>**

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