


the Adams Street Bulletin

בייה

the latest news from Congregation Agudas Achim Anshei Sfarad

MAY-JUNE 2008—IYYAR-SIVAN 5768

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: ANNUAL SHUL MEETING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2008



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Wednesday, June 18 at 7:30 PM. The agenda will consist of an invocation by Rabbi Weinberg, the President's report, Treasurer's report, election of officers and directors, and approval of the annual budget.

The nominating committee has nominated the following slate of candidates:

President: Ronny Drapkin

Vice President: Steve Cantor

Treasurer: Jordan Wagner

Secretary/Clerk: Sarah Boiling

Directors (3-year term): Yoni Kadden, Robin Walker

Director (filling 1-year vacancy): Yishai Ashkenazi

In accordance with our bylaws, nominations may also be made by petition. Such petition must be signed by at least 10 members in good standing and should be submitted to Dr. Leonard Berman, Chair of the Nominating Committee by June 4, 2008. Any nominee for president must be a current member of the Board of Directors; all other nominees must be shul members in good standing for at least one year. All members are urged to attend the annual meeting as a quorum of at least twenty members is required to validate the voting. All members in good standing as of May 1, 2008 are eligible to vote.

Absentee ballots are available to members unable to attend the annual meeting. To obtain such ballots, please contact **Dr. Berman** at (617) 965-3227 or ldberman@bu.edu. The deadline for requesting such absentee ballots is June 11, 2008. Everyone is urged to attend the meeting for the reasons stated above; in the event of an uncontested election, any absentee votes will have symbolic significance only.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE: MAY 18

Our discussion group, "Books of the Bible" will meet in the Elmer Lippin Social Hall on Sunday morning, May 18 to discuss the Book of Lamentations (*Eicha*). A continental breakfast is served at 9:15 AM (after the Sunday morning minyan), and discussion will begin at 9:30 AM.

Newcomers are always welcome, and knowledge of Hebrew is not required. Please read the selection before the meeting, and come with your questions!

The date and reading selection for June's meeting has not yet been determined. Check the shul's Web site ([www. AdamsStreet.org](http://www.AdamsStreet.org)) for more information later this month.

If you have any questions, contact **Beri Gilfix** (Beri@adamsstreet.org).

SHAVOVS: THE TIME OF MATAN TORAH

Shavous, celebrating the giving of the Torah (*Matan Torah*), harvesting the first fruits, and the culmination of *Sefirat HaOmer* (counting of the Omer) begins on **Sunday evening, June 8** and continues through **Wednesday, June 10**. Come celebrate the festival with us, and enjoy cheesecake and ice cream at the kiddushes.

Check the calendar pages in this newsletter for a complete schedule of service times. *Chag sameach!*

FROM THE SYNAGOGUE TO THE CAROUSEL

by **Beri Gilfix**

On April 6, the Adams Street Shul was proud to host **Professor Murray Zimiles** for a lecture on, "Gilded Lions and Jeweled Horses," the subject of an exhibit he curated at the American Folk Art Museum in New York. The exhibit in New York broke all attendance records at the museum and Prof. Zimiles' book on the exhibit won the National

Jewish Book Award in the Visual Arts Category. Professor Zimiles is Distinguished Professor of art at the State University of New York at Purchase.

Professor Zimiles' lecture focused on carousel animals and synagogue arks carved by Jewish woodcarver artisans who emigrated from Central and Eastern Europe to this

continued on pg 3

www.adamsstreet.org

168 ADAMS STREET, NEWTON, MA 02458 • P.O. BOX 600371, NEWTONVILLE, MA 02460

community news

Welcome to **Tomer and Shira Shamir**, who recently moved into the community.

Mazel tov to **Yoni and Rebecca Kadden** on the birth of their daughter on April 7.

Mazel tov to **Rivka Shamrakova and Eber** on their engagement.

Mazel tov to **Susan Weinberg** on the marriage of her son, **Daniel, to Zeldy Steinberg**.

Mazel tov to **Rabbi Weinberg** on the Bar Mitzvah of his grandson, **Ashie Schreier**, son of **Rabbi Joshua and Shira Schreier**, in Efrat, Israel.

Mazel tov to **Noah Cheses** on receiving a Wexner Graduate Fellowship. Noah was one of four Yeshiva University graduates to win this prestigious award. Noah receives his BA from Yeshiva College this month, and will continue his education towards *semicha* at YU's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and the master's program at YU's Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies in the fall.



Recent Daveners and Layners

Thank you to our recent daveners and layners:

Yishai Ashekenazi	Joshua Rosman
Len Berman	Michael Rosman
Steve Cantor	Tomer Shamir
Aryeh Cheses	David Sloane
Ashie Cheses	Richard Sloane
Noah Cheses	Jordan Wager
Eyal Cohen	Rabbi Norbert Weinberg and the boys of Kol Adam
Herb Dreyer	(Doron Cheses, Rave Cohen, Tor Cohen, Zack Drapkin, Nathan Lesser, Avi Sloane)
Zack Eben	
Yoni Kadden	
Meir Lakein	
Yecheiel Robinson	
Dov Rosman	

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

AM YISRAEL CHAI!

(Rabbi Weinberg sent us the following article while he was in Israel for the celebration of his grandson's Bar Mitzvah)

It is Thursday, May 1 – *Yom Hashoah*. A short while ago, I stood at the Kotel with my daughter. At exactly 10:00 A.M., sirens sounded throughout

Israel. No one moved – not a sound was heard. Cars stopped on the streets. People in buses stood. For two minutes, the martyrs of the Holocaust were remembered. The souls of our six million brothers and sisters stood next to us. I considered it to be a great and meaningful privilege to be sanding at this sacred spot at this moment.

The previous night, the huge auditorium in Efrat, Israel was filled to capacity as a somber program unfolded. Testimony was given by survivors, the memorial prayer was chanted and Kaddish was recited. As the program ended with the singing of Hatikvah, it meant a great deal to me that I was among my family. My grandson, Yair, was standing next to me. In his role of being responsible for the security of his neighborhood, he must wear his rifle at all times. He is a gentle and loving person. However, I would strongly advise anyone intent on harming our people not to be on the wrong side of his gun.

Next Wednesday will be *Yom Hazikaron* – Memorial Day for the soldiers of the Israel Defense forces who made the supreme sacrifice to defend our land from its hostile neighbors. Israeli flags are waving everywhere and smaller flags are flapping from the windows of cars. All Efrat will gather on a huge field on the eve of Independence Day. As the sun will set and darkness will descend, a magic moment will overtake the country. All the flags at half-mast will be hoisted and the Hatikvah will be heard throughout the land. Music, dancing, prayers and joy will mingle with hope and faith for a safe and secure future.

"Am Yisrael Chai!"

~ Rabbi Norbert Weinberg



Flags and flowers adorn graves in Har Herzl Military Cemetery on Memorial Day.

Photo © Yehoshua Halevi. Source: www.ou.org

Recent Kiddush/Seudah Shelishit sponsors

Vadim Rogachevsky, IHO his son Nathaniel's birthday
David & Tsila Sloane, IHO Nesy'a's eighth birthday
Michael Partensky, IHO his mother Rahel's birthday
The Grand Family Kiddush Fund, IMO Goldie Grand
Michael Froimowitz, IHO Linnea receiving certification
as a Teacher by the Department of Early Childhood
Education and Care

The Grand Family Kiddush Fund
Jordan & Sarah Wagner, IMO Sarah's father, Eldon Boling
Rivka Shamrakova, IMO her mother, Maya bat Mordechai
Len Berman, IMO his mother's yahrzeit

Eruv Sponsor

Vadim Rogachevsky

ADAMS STREET GOES GREEN

from the **president**

(On occasion, this column will be written by other officers of the shul or a member of the Board of Directors. This month's column is written by Robin Walker, Vice President and newsletter Editor.)

“Going green” seems to be the buzz words of the day. Whether it's recycling plastic water bottles, reusing paper bags, or purchasing reusable cloth grocery bags, everyone seems to be trying to do their part to help the environment. Taking care of our planet and its limited resources has also become one aspect of the Jewish concept of Tikkun Olam (making the world a better place).

We at Adams Street have decided to do our part in helping the environment. In today's electronic age, with email, text messaging, and voice mail so prominent in our lives, many of us have discovered that the traditional methods of communication – paper and pencil and “snail mail” may take more time and use more resources. So, starting in October, the shul's monthly newsletter will join the 21st century and go electronic as the default means of communication with our members and the greater community.

What will this mean for you? First of all, I'd like to point out that for several years now, the newsletter has been posted electronically on the shul web site (www.AdamsStreet.org) within hours of being finalized. And, it has been distributed via email to those on the President's electronic distribution list, also within hours after its final approval. Those of us who receive the newsletter in this fashion are able to print it out ourselves, if we'd like, or read it on-line days before it shows up in

our mailboxes at home. Thus, receiving the newsletter in the mail becomes redundant.

Of course, we will continue to publish some paper copies of the newsletter for distribution at the shul or other venues where paper copies would be appropriate. For anyone who currently receives the newsletter in the mail and prefers this means of communication, we will be happy to accommodate you. But, you'll need to let us know that you want a mailed copy of the newsletter.

We are asking everyone to take a few minutes to contact **Melissa Frank**, the shul's office manager, and let her know your preference on how you want the newsletter delivered. If you can email Melissa (Melissa@adamsstreet.org) to let her know that you want electronic delivery, we will be able to add your name to our distribution list immediately. If you want to continue to receive the newsletter via mail, please call the shul and leave her a message, or email her if you can.

Remember, the newsletter, shul calendar, and announcements about events are always available 24/7 via the Adams Street Shul web site. Please do your part to help the shul “go green” and keep us “in the green” on our yearly budget by reducing postage, paper and printing costs.

Any comments or questions can be addressed to me at Robin@AdamsStreet.org.

-Robin Walker

Carousel continued from pg 1

country around the turn of the twentieth century. These carvers, who established workshops in several cities, were the proud inheritors of a creative folk art tradition in Jewish history, which embellished all kinds of objects, including the walls of synagogues, tombstones and cut paper art, as well as the arks.

This talk was most appropriate for our shul, as our ark was built by Samuel Katz, one of those aforementioned woodcarvers who built most of the synagogue arks of that era in the Boston area. Mr. Katz was the most prolific ark carver known to the experts, with

over 27 arks attributed to him. The ark at Adams Street is one of the very few remaining in a functioning synagogue. Furthermore, Professor Zimiles noted that he had never seen a Sam Katz ark such as ours, with the open book under the hands of the Cohanim. Since Professor Zimiles is the internationally recognized expert on this subject, the shul can be proud of owning a unique piece of Judaica.

The lecture, accompanied with slides from all over Eastern Europe, offered a glimpse into the world of Jewish art which is both fascinating and unfamiliar. Lions, griffins, horses and other animals pranced around

the carousels of New York and other cities, including the famous carousel in Central Park, which is over 100 years old and whose animals are all the products of Jewish carvers. Old arks, cut paper mizrachs and works, old Jewish tombstones, and carousel animals are now, because of Professor Zimiles' work, recognized as both authentic folk art and religious art. Until his pioneering work, the Jewish contribution to such art was not acknowledged or understood.

The talk was well attended, and two of the attendees were descendants of Samuel Katz. Special thanks to **Len Berman** for organizing this program.

MAY 2008: IYYAR 5768

sun	m	t	w	th	f	sat
				1	2 Candles 7:28 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:00 PM	3 Kedoshim Shacharit 9:00 AM Mincha/Maariv 7:15 PM
4 Shachrit 8:00 AM	5 Rosh Chodesh Iyyar	6 Rosh Chodesh Iyyar	7	8	9 Candles 7:35 PM Mincha/Maariv 7:00 PM Omer 38	10 Emor Shacharit 9:00 AM Mincha/Maariv 7:15 PM
11 Shachrit 8:00 AM	12	13	14	15	16 Candles 7:43 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 PM	17 Behar Shacharit 9:00 AM Mincha/Maariv 7:30 PM
18 Shacharit 8:00 AM Books of the Bible 9:15 AM	19	20	21 Parsha Revisited, with R. Weinberg 7:30 PM	22	23 Candles 7:49 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 PM	24 Hallel Shacharit 9:00 AM Mincha/Maariv 7:30 PM
25 Shachrit 8:00 AM	26	27	28 Parsha Revisited, with R. Weinberg 7:30 PM	29	30 Candles 7:56 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 PM	31 BaMidbar Shacharit 9:00 AM Mincha/Maariv 7:45 PM



The Etzel Memorial in the cemetery in Safed, marking the burial site of seven Jewish fighters hanged by the British in 1947.

Photo © Yehoshua Halevi. Source: www.ou.org

JUNE 2008: SIVAN 5768

sun	m	t	w	th	f	sat
1 Shachrit 8:00 AM	2	3	4 Rosh Chodesh Sivan Parsha Revisited, with R. Weinberg 7:30 PM	5	6 Candles 8:01 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 PM	7 Nasso Shacharit 9:00 AM Mincha/Maariv 7:45 PM
8 Erev Shavuot Shacharit 8:00 AM Candles 8:01 PM Mincha/Maariv 8:00 PM	9 Shavuot I Shacharit 9:00 AM Mincha/Maariv 8:00 PM Candles after 9:13 PM	10 Shavuot II Book of Ruth, Yizkor Shacharit 9:00 AM Mincha 8:00 PM Yom Tov Ends 9:14 PM	11	12	13 Candles 8:04 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 PM	14 Beha'alotcha Shacharit 9:00 AM Mincha/Maariv 7:45 PM
15 Shachrit 8:00 AM	16	17	18 Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Election 7:30 PM	19	20 Candles 8:07 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 PM	21 Shelach Shacharit 9:00 AM Mincha/Maariv 7:45 PM
22 Shachrit 8:00 AM	23	24	25	26	27 Candles 8:08 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 PM	28 Korach Shacharit 9:00 AM Mincha/Maariv 7:45 PM
29 Shachrit 8:00 AM	30	1 JULY/ TAMUZ	2	3 Rosh Chodesh Tamuz	4 Rosh Chodesh Tamuz Candles 8:07	5 Chukat Shacharit 9:00 AM Mincha/Maariv 7:45 PM

Rabbi: **NORBERT WEINBERG**
617-244-3927
rabbi@AdamsStreet.org

President: **RONNY DRAPKIN**
President@AdamsStreet.org

Vice President: **ROBIN WALKER**

Clerk: **SARAH BOLING**

Treasurer: **JORDAN LEE WAGNER**

Chairman of the Board: **BERTRAM GRAND**

Newsletter Editor: **ROBIN WALKER** newsletter@AdamsStreet.org

Newsletter Design: **ALTHEA CHEN**

Newsletter production:
BERI GILFIX, HAROLD and SYBIL BINDER

Newsletter items contributed by
**LEN BERMAN, ARYEH CHESES, BERI GILFIX,
ROBIN WALKER, RABBI NORBERT WEINBERG**

TO SPONSOR KIDDUSH OR THIRD MEAL: Kid-dush@AdamsStreet.org

TO SPONSOR ERUV CHECKING:
JORDAN LEE WAGNER
Treasurer@AdamsStreet.org

TO REPORT YAHRZEITS, OR OCCASION WHEN YOU NEED AN ALIYA OR SAY KADDISH:
ARYEH CHESES, Ritual@AdamsStreet.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:
BERI GILFIX, Membership@AdamsStreet.org

DONATIONS:
LEN BERMAN, Development@AdamsStreet.org

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:
NECHAMA CHESES, Nechama@AdamsStreet.org

NEWSLETTER ITEMS:
ROBIN WALKER, Newsletter@AdamsStreet.org

SHUL OFFICE: 617-630-0226

OFFICE MANAGER: **MELISSA FRANK**

ERUV STATUS: 781-446-9797

DIRECTORY

אגודת אחים אנשי ספרד



CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM ANSHEI SFARD

The Adams Street Shul
168 Adams Street • Newton, MA 02458
P.O. Box 600371 • Newtonville, MA 02460

