

# the ADAMS STREET BULLETIN

the latest news from Congregation Agudas Achim Anshei Sfard

November 2005    Cheshvan 5766

## From the Rabbi's Study

### WHY ALL THE SIMCHA?

The serious and introspective days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur have passed. Our services were truly inspirational and meaningful. The final sounds of the Shofar marking the end of the Holy Season were sounded amid a full synagogue of adults and children, all making their voices heard on High.

No sooner had Yom Kippur passed than we prepared our little tabernacles in preparation of Succot, which comes only four days after Yom Kippur. This year, there was even a Shabbat in between. With very little time, we rushed to construct the booths and purchase the "Four Species"—*Lulav, Etrog, Hadassim and Aravot*.

Then we were ready for the "Season of Our Joy." Succot is the time of the Great Ingathering of the crops as we experience Hashem's bounty. We also recall our travels in the wilderness from Egypt to the Promised Land.

This long and beautiful holiday season concludes with Simchat Torah—a time of total joy and rejoicing. Why should this be? Because we have completed the annual cycle of the weekly Torah readings? That could be a time of sadness. It's all over. It's like saying, 'I'm glad that I'm through with you!'"

Of course, it's not like that at all.

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### INSTALLATION OF RABBI WEINBERG

The events celebrating the formal installation of Rabbi Norbert Weinberg as rabbi of the Adams Street Shul will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 19 and 20 at the shul. Although the shul

has had the benefit of the rabbi's presence since August, these events are his formal welcome to his new pulpit by the congregation and the greater Boston Jewish community.

Saturday's Shabbat service will feature a sermon by a congregation member in honor of the rabbi. There will be a special festive Kiddush sponsored by the shul in the rabbi's honor following the services. A congregant will also deliver a *drosh* at the Third Meal in the rabbi's honor.

Sunday features further festivities, starting at 2 PM, including welcoming speeches by Newton's mayor David Cohen, other rabbis, and local notables. There will be music and refreshments as well.

We invite everyone to attend this wonderful event to welcome our new rabbi. All events are free and open to the public.

☛ don't forget

THE CONGREGATIONAL

**SHABBAT LUNCH**

NOVEMBER 5

rsvp ~ [lunch@adamsstreet.org](mailto:lunch@adamsstreet.org)

### Announcements

- ☛ Get well wishes from the congregation to Harold Binder and Etya Kalyuzhny. We hope they'll soon be in good health.
- ☛ Help us find raffle prizes for the annual Chanukah party! Contact Len Berman at (617) 965-3227.

## Highlights of the Month

Sat, Nov 5  
Congregational Shabbat  
Lunch after services

Mon, Nov 7  
Hebrew classes begin at 7 pm

Wed, Nov 9  
Bible Study Group meets  
at 7:30 to discuss the book  
of Joshua

Sat-Nov 19-Sun, Nov 20  
Kiddush and Gala Installation  
Events to honor Rabbi  
Norbert Weinberg

## INTRODUCING BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

A new study group will meet monthly to discuss books of the Bible which are not often read. The first meeting is on Nov. 9, 7:30 PM in the Elmer Lippin Social Hall. Vivienne Kalman, the group's founder, has selected the book of Joshua; there will be a different facilitator each month. The selected books will introduce the reader to our Biblical ancestors, their relationship with G-d, with other peoples, and with the land of Israel. Knowledge of Hebrew is not required; prepare by reading an English translation of the book. For more information call Vivienne at (781) 899-0293.

*From the Rabbi's Study cont.*

Moments after we finish the Torah, we start the new cycle again. We are joyful for all that we have learned over the past year and look forward to even deeper insight in the coming year.

That is exactly how we should start the month of *Cheshvan*. It is a time to put

into practice all we have learned and determined to do. In the few months that we have been together, I have learned a great deal from you. I enjoyed your *Divrei Torah*, your questions and responses. There were times when you even shouted an answer or gave an idea during my sermons.

How wonderful! You were awake and alert. I look forward to more enrichment and closeness in the months and years ahead as we continue to make the Torah the central part of our lives.

♥ *Rabbi Norbert Weinberg* ♥

## *A Note from the President*

I hope you were able to participate in the High Holiday services this year. They were truly inspiring and spiritually nourishing. Our new rabbi, Rabbi Weinberg, added richness to the services in the form of thought-provoking sermons and explanations of various portions of the service, not to mention his enormous, amazing shofar!

The energy that the services provided has me moving quickly to put new programs and ideas into effect. This month's calendar will see two major programs, as well as the continuation of previous programs. The lay-led "Jewish Book Club," which begins this month, offers members a chance to research and present programs on parts of the Bible which are less often studied. The installation of the rabbi is going to be a wonderful party. And the start of Hebrew classes and the

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rabbi's weekly lecture means the congregation is moving ahead full steam.

As always, our all-volunteer community needs your ideas, energy and participation. We're off to a great start this year and we're looking forward to seeing you at services, lectures and other activities. Check out our web site for the most up to date information. The newsletter is scheduled to be mailed the last week of each month. Its new design makes it more readable and hopefully more informative as well.

We hope that the year ahead will be one of growth and spiritual development, as well as intellectual stimulation and pleasant social events for everyone. See you at Adams Street!

♥ *Beri Gilfix* ♥

## SUCCESSFUL PHONE-A-THON

On October 21 the Adams Street Shul held the very first fundraising phone-a-thon in its history! Organized by Ronny Drapkin, chair of the Development Committee, six volunteers met at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center to eat dinner together in the sukkah, and then call individuals who had donated to the shul in the past.

The dedicated volunteers are Aryeh and Noah Cheses, Ronny Drapkin, David Sloane, Beri Gilfix and Bert Grand. Together they made the evening enjoyable and successful with their energy and enthusiasm, raising over \$1,000.

The Development Committee is planning a follow-up in November. We welcome volunteers for the next phone-a-thon, when we will reach people who were not home the first time.

## HEBREW CLASSES

Baruch Cohen and Aryeh Cheses announce the start of this year's Introductory Hebrew class, which is part of the National Jewish Outreach Program. The first class is November 7, 7:00 PM. The class, which has been given at the shul for the past several years, teaches beginners how to read Hebrew. The class has attracted over a dozen students every year. The class is free and open to the public and is publicized nationally in both the press and on the radio.

## NEWSLETTER AND PUBLICITY INFORMATION

Send your announcements, *mazal tovs*, get well wishes, comments, and suggestions to [newsletter@adamsstreet.org](mailto:newsletter@adamsstreet.org). To help us produce the newsletter on time, please e-mail us by 9 AM on the third Monday of each month. Our goal is to mail the newsletter on the fourth Monday of the month so that you can plan for events and activities during the upcoming month.

For newspaper and e-mail publicity, send information THREE weeks in advance. This allows us to contact media outlets on time; it helps us meet our goal of making two announcements through local media as well.

*The Publicity Committee*

*Congregation Agudas Achaim Anshei Sfarad*  
The Adams Street Shul  
168 Adams Street • Newton, MA 02458  
P.O. Box 600371 • Newtonville, MA 02460



THANKS TO THE VALIANT SUKKAH BUILDERS WHO CAME OUT ON OCTOBER 16!

Saul Aronow, Jonathan Dietz, Beri Gilfix, Bert Grand, Alvin Landsman, David Winer, and Caroline Wu

This year's Sukkot celebrations featured the first annual Adams Street Shul Sukkah Hop! On the second day of Sukkot, members of the community visited each others sukkots for refreshments, games, and socializing. One sukkah stop featured a pomegranate treasure hunt, the rabbi's sukkah stop featured goodies and a football game, another offered some tasty *Lechaims*, and the last stop featured feeding chickens, fish in a pond, and delicious cakes and cookies. The sukkah hop concluded at shul with mincha and maariv services. A big *Yasher Koach* to the people who made it happen: Nechama Cheses, Beth Drapkin, Sarah Wagner and Susan Weinberg.