

AM CHAI UPDATE

September 2006 – November 2006 > Fall Edition
 Edited and published by authority of the Am Chai Board of Directors

WEBSITE: WWW.AMCHAI.ORG

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From The Pulpit

Summer is always a time when we can relax, feel lazy. Life, be it economic, political or spiritual, almost stands still. Not this year...

We have become witnesses to a new war in the Middle East, to a new televised panorama of death and devastation. Far from being in a resting mode we wake up every morning anxious to hear and see new developments in the Israeli-Arab conflict.

I think I will express a rather common sentiment if I say that the most puzzling and astonishing aspect of the matter is that both Judaism and Islam are congenial religions in many theological and ethical aspects. Jews historically have enjoyed many prosperous eras in the Muslim countries. Nevertheless, Israel and a part of the Islamic world (cheered by another part) are locked in a bloody battle. Why? It is this ultimate fundamental "why?" that remains unanswered.

Recently I took part in a round table at a Christian radio station. A Muslim scholar was one of the participants. In the course of our conversation I raised this very question. His answer was stunningly simple and obvious. He said, "They just don't know". Most Muslims simply do not know anything about Judaism, about the history of the Jewish people. Since they lack any knowledge they fall for meaningless and yet dangerous slogans fed by the radical propaganda. The professor went on to say that if the Muslims only had any idea about the profound and noble nature of Judaism (and vice versa, I might add), they would have had a very different attitude towards Israel and the Jews.

This conversation confirmed what I have learned from my experience in the Jewish-Christian dialogue: the more we understand one another, the more we know about each other, the better is the relationship between the communities. In other words, the ultimate key to peace and harmony is mutual education.

This does not abolish the fact that the Israeli military *must* accomplish its combat mission or that the international community should find a diplomatic solution to

cessation of hostilities. But true and lasting peace can only be achieved through Enlightenment. It will have to start at some point. Why not now?

Shana Tova to all and may we have an enlightened and peaceful year!

Rabbi Michael Tillman

HIGH HOLIDAYS

ROSH HASHANAH

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2006 AT 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2006 AT 9:30 AM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2006 AT 9:30 AM

YOM KIPPUR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006 AT 6:00 PM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2006 AT 9:30 AM

BREAK THE FAST

MONDAY, OCT 2, 2006 AFTER SERVICES

SERVICES

**ALL SERVICES ARE HELD AT THE
 DEVONSHIRE, 1515 BARRINGTON ROAD,
 HOFFMAN ESTATES (847) 604-4060**

Friday night, SEPTEMBER 8TH 8 PM

CELEBRATING SELIKOT

Friday night, OCTOBER 13TH 8 PM

CELEBRATING SIMCHAT TORAH

Friday night, OCTOBER 27TH 8 PM

Friday night, NOVEMBER 3RD 8 PM

Friday night, NOVEMBER 17TH 8 PM

Birthdays

Sep 17	Anthony Gallo
Sep 21	Sandy Alter
Sep 21	Maureen More
Sep 29	Nancy Reich
Oct 1	Susan Novick
Oct 1	Mary Jo Rotstein
Oct 2	Geraldine Apple
Oct 8	Jamie Rubin
Oct 23	Darren Wehrenberg
Oct 27	Warren Goldberg
Oct 27	Rubin Rotstein
Oct 29	Eric Goldberg
Oct 30	Helen Isaac
Oct 31	Roberta Weiner
Nov 1	Mary Ecker
Nov 2	Michael Tillman
Nov 6	Amanda Reich
Nov 7	Arlene Bass
Nov 8	Marc Zider
Nov 10	Karen Duberchin
Nov 16	Irv Schulwolf
Nov 17	Lala Fishman
Nov 17	Juana Furlan
Nov 20	Marla Reisman
Nov 21	Evan Karpel
Nov 22	Ariel Furlan
Nov 22	Clifford Kelman
Nov 23	Deborah Henning
Nov 26	Carolyn Goldberg
Nov 27	Wayne Schneidman

Bagels 'N Lox With The Rabbi

Sunday morning, **SEPTEMBER 10TH 10AM**
(AT RICH & CINDY PLACKO'S HOME)

Sunday morning, **OCTOBER 8TH 10 AM**
(CELEBRATING SUKKOT AT RON & ARLENE BASS'S HOME)

Sunday morning, **NOVEMBER 19TH 10AM**
(HOSTED BY THE KARPELS AT THE KENNETH YOUNG CENTER)

PRIOR TO EACH BAGELS & LOX DISCUSSION, AM
CHAI MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE DETAILS &
FURTHER INFO SENT BY EMAIL

Anniversaries

Sep 4	Arlene & Ronald Bass
Sep 7	Sharon & Steve Stone
Sep14	Ellen & Evan Karpel
Sep18	Julie & Joe Remack
Sep22	Arlene & Jerry Weisberg
Oct14	Kathy & Warren Goldberg
Oct18	Eileen & Richard Ginsburg
Nov12	Laura & Rick Rabe
Nov21	Sandra & Edwin Marcus
Nov28	Supriya & Eugene Klionsky

CONGRATULATIONS..

MARY JO & JOE ROTSTEIN ON THE BIRTH OF ANOTHER GRANDCHILD

O'NEG SHABBAT SPONSORS:

SHARON & AL GOLDBERG JUNE 2

GET WELL WISHES..

GO TO HELEN & ALAN ISAAC'S DAUGHTER, *DAVINA GEORGE*

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Dear Member:

By now most of you have received your new billing for the coming year. We had a slight increase in dues as well as a new policy on purchasing High Holiday Tickets. Due to limited seating all attendees will require a ticket.

I would like to go over the new policy for members in regards to additional tickets for the High Holidays.

- Family Membership includes children under 25 living at home(including students).
- High Holiday tickets for others (including children of members age 25 and over regardless of residence) is single membership at a cost of \$225.00
- Single membership married (one partner Jewish the other not) will receive 2 tickets for the holiday. The family membership applies for children living at home.
- If a family member has out of town guests for the Holidays and they are a member in good standing at an out of town congregation they will receive tickets at no charge. A letter from their congregation is required.
- Seniors can purchase Holiday tickets at a cost of \$150.00 which is the senior membership rate.
- Anyone interested in purchasing High Holiday tickets will be charged the same rate as our membership dues and they will then become a member.

Any questions can be directed to myself or Dick Zittler, membership chairman.

RON BASS—847-622-9024.

AM CHAI CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 8PM – SELIKOT SERVICES – THE DEVONSHIRE	9
10 10AM-BAGELS 'N LOX WITH THE RABBI-LOCATION TO BE AN- NOUNCED	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 7:30PM-ROSH HASHANAH	23 9:30AM-ROSH HASHANAH
24 9:30AM-ROSH HASHANAH – SCHAUMBURG PRAIRIE CENTER	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 6:00PM – KOL NIDRE	2 9:30AM – YOM KIPPUR	3	4	5	6	7
8 10AM –BAGELS 'N LOX WITH THE RABBI –IN THE SUKKOT AT RON & ARLENE BASS'	9	10	11	12	13 8PM- SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE - THE DEVONSHIRE	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 8PM-FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE – THE DEVONSHIRE	28
29	30	31				

The Prez Sez

The first of what we hope will be an annual Am Chai picnic was held last month. Although the weather was extremely hot we had a very nice turnout and everyone seemed to have a great time. There were games for the kids and a much needed sheltered area for everyone to get a break from the heat. Even the Hoffman Estates fire department showed up to show the kids even more fun. Many thanks to **Dick Zittler** and **Jim Langerman** for all the work and time they put in to plan our picnic.

If you have not noticed, our web site has a new and improved look. The person whom we hired originally was unable to continue on in maintaining our site so board member **Michael Reich** stepped in and has done a fantastic job in presenting our congregation to the public. Why not take a few minutes and go to www.amchai.org to view it. Michael has been a great addition to our board the last year and I greatly appreciate all his ideas and time he has put in.

The new budget that was approved this past month showed an increase in dues for the first time in the last 15 years. We had hoped after last year's *High Holiday* services that we could find a location that would be larger and affordable. Our committee searched throughout the area for options but came up empty. One of the reasons was that the holidays this year fall on the weekend. So we were able to go back to the Prairie Center where everyone is comfortable but seating is limited. With the increased cost here it was deemed necessary to raise dues. Statements have gone out for this coming year's dues and as noted on the statement we would request some payment before the holidays to know how many families are coming back and whether or not we should sell

new memberships. Seating is very limited as you were aware from last year.

I would like to take this opportunity along with my wife **Sharon** to wish you all the best wishes for a happy and healthy new year. *La Shana Tova,*

AL GOLDBERG

Membership Musings

I would like to start my column with our picnic. **Jim Langerman**, thank you for your help in organizing this event. We had a good time shopping for the children and adult prizes. As steady as I would hold the cart Jim refused to sit in it. Thank you to **Ron Bass** for all the goodies that we raffled. Thanks to **Warren Goldberg** for the hula-hoops and bean bag game and to **Sharon** and **Al** for their delivery. Thanks to **Mike Reich** for taking pictures and posting them on our website. www.amchai.org Take a look, see for yourself. **Mayor Bill McLeod** of Hoffman Estates and his wife **Joanie** stopped by to visit with us. During the afternoon the Hoffman Estates Fire Department sent over Firefighters and three trucks. The children were especially thrilled as some of them were allowed behind the wheel. It was a very hot day, but I believe everyone had a good time.

The next item I would like to mention is the *High Holidays*. This year your ticket(s) are more important than ever. As in the past, please present them at the door. If you have any questions before or during the services, we have the smartest ushering staff in the northwest suburbs. We are always looking for Ushers so if you are interested, contact me. Seats will be at a premium, so I urge you to attend the services early. With all this in mind, have a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Shalom,

Dick Zittler

Ritual Corner

Yes, I'll say it again, another new year is here!

And again everyone will be able to share the High Holiday experiences with one another. This is that time of year when we can get together for the solemn services of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur but also include the joyous services of Sukkot and Simchat Torah. We also have the opportunity to be with Rabbi Tillman and enjoy his spiritually moving sermons. Then there is Art Reisman and the choir who adds so much to the depth of spirituality in our services.

Then of course it does not have to end there. Everyone can continue to enjoy one another at our twice a month Friday Night services and the monthly SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSIONS BAGELS 'N LOX WITH THE RABBI THAT COMBINE GOOD FOOD WITH EQUALLY DELECTABLE CONVERSATION. THE RABBI IS ONE THAT LOOKS FORWARD TO THESE INFORMAL GATHERINGS A WAY FOR EVERYONE TO GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER AND AT THE SAME TIME SHARE ONE'S KNOWLEDGE. LET'S NOT FORGET OUR FUND RAISERS THAT COME UP DURING THE YEAR AS A WAY TO AGAIN SHARE EACH OTHERS COMPANY WHILE WE HELP THE SHUL GENERATE A LITTLE EXTRA INCOME. SO THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS IN THE MIX THAT ALLOW US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE OUR LIVES WITH ONE ANOTHER, SPIRITUALLY AS WELL AS PHYSICALLY.

LET'S NOT FORGET THAT AM CHAI IS HERE ALL YEAR ROUND AS A HOUSE OF WORSHIP AND A PLACE FOR FRIENDS TO GATHER AND SHARE THEIR LIVES AND EXPERIENCES WITH ONE ANOTHER. IT'S HERE FOR YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHAT IT HAS TO OFFER AND IN TURN FOR YOU TO SHARE WHAT YOU MAY HAVE TO GIVE BACK. AM CHAI IS HERE FOR YOU BUT IT ALSO NEEDS YOU IN ORDER TO FULFILL ITS INTENDED SPIRITUAL OFFERING.

SPECIAL THANKS GO OUT TO **JERRY WEISBERG** FOR HIS WINE DONATIONS AT THE PASSOVER SERVICE AND THE RECENT O'NEG SHABBATS. WISHING EVERYONE *LA-SHANA TOVA*,

CLIFF KELMAN

SPECIAL NOTICE

PLEASE FORWARD ANY NEW NAMES YOU NEED ADDED TO LAST YEARS YIZKOR LIST TO BE READ ALOUD AND DISPLAYED ON BOARDS AT YOM KIPPUR YIZKOR SERVICE. (NAMES OF THOSE THAT HAVE PASSED AWAY SINCE LIST WAS CREATED PREVIOUSLY.)

HIGH HOLIDAY PRAYER BOOK DRIVE

DUE TO INCREASED MEMBERSHIP, AM CHAI PURCHASED 12 NEW PRAYER BOOKS. A DONATION OF \$30.00 WILL PUT YOUR NAME INSIDE THE FRONT COVER ALONG WITH ANYONE'S NAME THAT YOU WANT TO HONOR. FOR FURTHER INFO, CALL (847) 604-4060 OR EMAIL INFO@AMCHAI.ORG.

ANYONE WISHING TO SPONSOR AN O'NEG SHABBAT

PLEASE CONTACT THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

1-847-604-4060 OR INFO@AMCHAIL.ORG

WE'RE ALSO LOOKING FOR HOMES TO HOST BAGELS & LOX WITH THE RABBI

Yahrzeit Dates

Would you like to have a loved one's Yahrzeit recalled at a Friday night service?

Please call (847) 604-4060 or send an email to

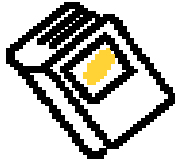
info@amchai.org to notify ritual of the date & name of the person to be remembered so that you can be advised of the service.

(Yahrzeit will be said for you, in the event you are unable to attend the service.)

2007

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

NOW AVAILABLE



ONLY \$20.00 EACH

OUT OF TOWN BOOKS MAKE A SUPERB
GIFT FOR THOSE FRIENDS OR RELA-
TIVES WHO LIVE OUT OF OUR AREA.
GROCERY AND CAR WASH COUPONS
ARE INCLUDED.

PLEASE CONTACT:

ARLENE BASS
(847) 622-9024

TRIBUTE CARDS

FROM AM CHAI

**CARDS AVAILABLE FOR BIRTHDAYS, CON-
DOLENCES, BAR & BAT MITZVAHS, ETC.**

FOR ANY OCCASION!

**YOU CAN PURCHASE A PACKAGE OF FIVE CARDS
WITH ENVELOPES FOR A \$20.00 DONATION.**

**WE WILL SEND A CARD FOR YOU FOR A CON-
TRIBUTION OF \$5.00**

PLEASE CONTACT:

MICHAEL REICH
(630) 462-0652

OR

AMCHAI_MR@YAHOO.COM

BREAK THE FAST EVENT

JOIN YOUR FELLOW CONGREGANTS TO BREAK THE
YOM KIPPUR FAST AFTER SERVICES ON OCT. 13.
\$12 FOR ADULTS \$6 FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12
SPACE IS LIMITED, SO MAKE YOUR
RESERVATIONS EARLY.
CALL ELLEN KARPEL (847) 517-4075 OR EMAIL HER
AT AMCHAI@COMCAST.NET

NOTICE

Do you have any pictures of "old" Am Chai or Wood-
field Congregation events? If you do and would like to
submit them for possible posting
on our web site, contact us at webmaster@amchai.org.
You can send digital images (such as JPG or TIF) or
arrange to loan us the original to be scanned into digi-
tal form.