

AM CHAI UPDATE

JUNE 2006 – AUGUST 2006 > SUMMER EDITION

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE AM CHAI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WEBSITE: WWW.AMCHAI.ORG

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From The Pulpit

Recently my best friend's nephew asked me a strange question; "Do you represent God?"

While his question sounds outrageously incorrect, it reflects nonetheless a very common perception in our culture. A clergyman must be a "representative" of God. That is why people look up to him for guidance. Moreover, since he is a "representative", he is to live a "religious" life (as opposed to the rest of us who just live).

This stereotype is partly correct. The noble calling of a rabbi does involve guiding people in the matters of everyday life as well as extraordinary situations they might face.

However, the rest of it is not only misleading, but also quite harmful. If I represent God in the same sense as our senator represents us, then I would be claiming an authority greater than that of Moses! Woe unto me!

A rabbi is a professional interpreter and teacher of the Jewish law. As such he is a leader. However, he represents the Almighty One no more than anyone else. For every person in Israel does represent God.

Shavuot is the holiday of the *Giving of the Torah*. The Torah has been given to *everyone* (not to rabbis). Therefore, we as Jews must *all* study the Torah. In our congregation we always enjoy our open studies and discussions. Together we discover gems and hidden treasures of our great tradition. Together we rejoice in the study of the Torah. As we celebrate *Shavuot* we mark it as Recipients of the Torah. So let us rejoice in our learning and let us come to perform good deeds! Have a fantastic summer!

Rabbi Michael Tillman

SERVICES

**ALL SERVICES ARE HELD AT THE
DEVONSHIRE, 1515 BARRINGTON RD.**

HOFFMAN ESTATES (847) 604-4060

Friday night, **June 2** 8 PM

(*Shavuot incl'g Yizkor- Also Installation of Officers*)

Friday night, **June 16** 8PM

Friday night, **June 30** 8 PM

Friday night, **July 7** 8 PM

Friday night, **July 21** 8 PM

Friday night, **August 4** 8 PM

Friday night, **August 18** 8 PM

BAGELS & LOX WITH THE RABBI

Sunday morning, **July 30** 10 AM

Sunday morning, **August 13** 10 AM

(None scheduled in June)

**PRIOR TO EACH BAGELS & LOX
DISCUSSION, ALL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE
DETAILS & FURTHER INFO SENT BY E-MAIL
OR BY POSTCARD IN U. S. MAIL**

Birthdays

JUN 3 GAIL DUBERCHIN
 JUN 4 STEVE WAGNER
 JUN 5 KATHY OS
 JUN 6 MARTHA FELSER
 JUN 7 MYRA TRUSH
 JUN 10 SARAH ROTSTEIN
 JUN 12 CHARLOTTE SHEREY
 JUN 13 JULIE REISMAN
 JUN 15 JERRY WEISBERG
 JUN 18 JOE REMACK
 JUN 24 MARTIN ALTER
 JUN 24 ROBERT MILLER
 JUN 25 BARRY DUBERCHIN
 JUN 25 JONATHAN GASSER
 JUN 28 JIM LANGERMAN
 JUL 1 BERNARD APPLE
 JUL 2 SHARON GOLDBERG
 JUL 6 RICHARD STALLMAN
 JUL 8 DONALD ARNET
 JUL 8 FAITH BASS
 JUL 8 JEFFREY ZIDER
 JUL 13 MOLLY ZIDER
 JUL 15 NEIL HENRY
 JUL 16 STANLEY BRODSKY
 JUL 18 SUPRIYA KLIONSKY
 JUL 21 DAVID BASS
 JUL 24 ARLENE WEISBERG
 JUL 26 WILLIAM OS
 JUL 29 SHELLEY RUBIN
 JUL 30 RACHEL GALLO
 AUG 4 CAMERON GOLDBERG
 AUG 7 NANCY STALLMAN
 AUG 11 MICHELLE NOVICK
 AUG 12 CYNDI GINSBURG
 AUG 12 ARLENE PATRASSO
 AUG 14 IVAN NOVICK
 AUG 15 HELENE BLOOMBERG
 AUG 16 EILEEN GINSBURG
 AUG 21 ERIC BASS
 AUG 21 JONATHAN BASS
 AUG 22 ELLEN KARPEL
 AUG 26 EDWARD LEVIN
 AUG 27 JANE MICHNIK
 AUG 30 DAVID APPLE
 AUG 30 WENDY NOVICK

Anniversaries

JUN 5 HELENE & MARK BLOOMBERG
 JUN 7 SHARON & MARVIN KLINSKY
 JUN 10 SANDY & MARTIN ALTER
 JUN 13 DIANNA & WAYNE SCHNEIDMAN
 JUN 21 KATHY & WILLIAM OS
 JUN 22 KATHLEEN & MARC HENRY
 JUN 27 JANE & MARVIN MICHNIK
 JUL 17 GAIL & BARRY DUBERCHIN
 JUL 23 FAITH & ALAN BASS
 AUG 7 AVERIL & ART REISMAN
 AUG 8 SHELLEY & STEPHEN RUBIN
 AUG 13 CINDY & RICHARD PLACKO
 AUG 17 BARBARA & NEIL HENRY
 AUG 20 DEBORAH NOVUS-FURMAN &
 MARK FURMAN
 AUG 24 CYNDI & SANFORD GINSBURG
 AUG 30 ROBERTA & FRED WEINER
 AUG 31 MARLENE & JEFFREY ZIDER

CONGRATULATIONS..

TO *KATHY & BILL OS* ON THE BIRTH OF
THEIR FIRST GRANDCHILD IN MARCB.

O'NEG SHABBAT SPONSORS

JAN 20 EVELYN & BOB
 MILLER
 FEB 24 HELEN & ALAN ISAACS
 MAR 31 ARLENE & RON BASS

The Prez Sez

We are approaching the end of our fiscal year. We just recently elected a new slate of officers and approved a budget for the coming year. Many of the board members have agreed to serve for the umpteenth time. I sincerely thank each and every board member who has once again volunteered to serve another year. Your commitment to our congregation is one of the reasons we have been able to continue our existence and actually see growth in our membership. Certainly a large part of the increase in attendance both at services and Sunday morning discussion groups is the leadership of **Rabbi Tillman**. His views and interpretations of current events and the Bible create very lively discussions. I feel very fortunate to have **Rabbi Tillman** as our spiritual leader and thank him for his contributions.

Recently we were saddened by the passing of our past spiritual leader, **Rabbi Morris Fishman**. He joined us in 1980 when we were in serious difficulty as Woodfield Jewish Congregation both with our finances and no place to even meet. He agreed to be our Rabbi on a part-time basis and helped send us in the right direction. **Rabbi Fishman** served us for twenty years and touched many lives. Many families can look back with fond memories of his participation as he officiated at Bar or Bat Mitzvahs, weddings and baby namings. His spiritual leadership and friendship is something that will stay with us forever. To his wife **Lala** and the **Fishman family**, I know we all express our deepest condolences.

Al Goldberg

Membership Musings

Hi, what a great time of the year. The weather is getting warmer, the flowers are blooming, the grass is growing, and everyone is thinking about membership. I think that this is the correct order or is membership first?

In July we are having a **picnic** to thank our members for being with us. The date is Sunday, July 16, 2006 at High Point Park in Hoffman Estates. The event is FREE, you bring your food we bring the soft drinks. This would be a great time to bring friends or possible new members to join our family. We will have games for the kids, kibitzing for the adults, possible surprises, and just a day of relaxation. It is also a time to think about the Holidays. Be first to renew your membership so that you can be first in line at the door on *Rosh Hashanah*. This is the start of our membership drive for the year. Thank you for your past support. I just want to let you know that I never received my company car, cell phone, or fax machine.

In spite of all this I will still continue on as your Membership Vice President.

Shalom,

Dick Zittler

Ritual Corner

THE WINTER MONTHS HAVE FINALLY SLIPPED AWAY AND TURNED INTO SPRING. BEFORE WE REALIZE IT THE SUMMER SEASON WILL BE UPON US. THE JEWISH CALENDAR YEAR IS APPROACHING THE AUTUMN OF ITS EXISTENCE. THE INCREASED DAYLIGHT BRINGS US LONGER DAYS FILLED WITH MORE SUNLIGHT AND WARMTH THAT INEVITABLY MAKES OUR DAILY ROUTINE THAT MUCH MORE ENJOYABLE.

THUS THE INVOLVEMENT IN GREATER ACTIVITIES COULD ALSO INCLUDE OUR FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES AND THE SUNDAY MORNING BAGELS 'N LOX WITH THE RABBI. BOTH CAN BE NOT ONLY SPIRITUALLY SATISFYING BUT ALSO OFFER A SENSE OF ENJOYMENT AND AN INNER FEELING OF CONTENTMENT. SO LET'S ALL TRY TO INVOLVE OURSELVES IN SOME OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE WITH ONE ANOTHER.

I WANT TO MENTION A FEW BELATED THANK YOU NOTES. MY APPRECIATION GOES TO THE **BASS, GOLDBERG, MICHNIK, AND ZITTLER** FAMILIES FOR THEIR EFFORTS AND THE DELICIOUS FOOD AT THE DECEMBER 30TH *HANUKKAH* SERVICE. FOR REFRESHMENTS AT THE *TUB'SHEVAT* SERVICE ON FEB. 10, OUR THANKS TO **RON BASS** FOR THE FOOD AND **JOE ROTSTEIN** FOR THE WINE. WE THANK **MARY JO & JOE ROTSTEIN** FOR THE *HAMENTASHEN* AT THE MARCH 17TH *PURIM* SERVICE *O'NEG SHABBAT*. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO **EVELYN & BOB MILLER** FOR THE DONATION OF A TORAH COVER FROM HER FATHER, MR. **BERT COHEN**, WHOSE SYNAGOGUE IN NEW YORK HAD RECENTLY CLOSED.

INCIDENTALLY, WITH THE HIGH HOLIDAYS COMING UP, LET'S KEEP IN MIND OUR HIGH HOLIDAY PRAYER BOOK DRIVE.

WISHING EVERYONE A GREAT SUMMER!

CLIFF KELMAN

**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.**

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.*

2007 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

AVAILABLE IN AUGUST

STILL \$ 20.00 EACH

OUT-OF-TOWN BOOKS MAKE A SUPERB GIFT FOR THOSE FRIENDS WHO LIVE
OUT OF OUR AREA

CONTACT:

ARLENE BASS

(847) 622-9024

Tribute Cards



From AM CHAI
Cards available for

***birthdays, condolences, 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 contribution of \$5.00.

Please contact:

Mary Jo Rotstein
(630) 462-9899