

# AM CHAI UPDATE

MARCH 2007 – MAY 2007 > SPRING EDITION

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

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## From The Pulpit

We live in a country that is politically and culturally divided. I did not make this up. Any news broadcast makes this statement at least a couple of times a day. The division in question is truly all encompassing. It is everywhere. It even penetrated the most profound and crucial realm of our lives – the realm of our worldview and our connection with God. This division can be easily seen even in the language.

For example, **Madonna, Barack Obama** and the likes of them have “spirituality”. If one utilizes the phrase “Jewish spirituality” in one’s speech, it definitely portrays a member of the “progressive” layer of our society. On the other hand, **George W. Bush, Charlton Heston** and Co. has “faith”. The phrase “my faith requires of me...” generally is uttered by someone who would certainly be a “conservative”. Finally, the “moderate” center (in other words, whose opinions heavily depend on polls) such as **Hillary Clinton** follow “religion”.

So where does Judaism fit in? Tempting, as it is to place it in the first group, it would be a grave error. Judaism is not spirituality, because it has no “Spirit”. It has the Law. Judaism is not a “faith”, because it has no Creed. It requires action. Judaism is not even a religion, because it does not focus on prayer. While worship is important it is study of the Torah and following its principles in our everyday life that define Judaism. In other words, Judaism is a way of life. And as such, it cannot endorse any political affiliation; it teaches us to make political decisions based on issues and not on labels or names.

As we entered the period of preparation for the next Presidential Election let us remember: voting for **Hillary Clinton** is not a *mitzvah*. Studying real issues that our society faces and casting our votes for better America is a *mitzvah*. Let us perform our *mitzvah*!

**Rabbi Michael Tillman**

## SERVICES

**All services are held at the  
Devonshire, 1515 Barrington Rd.  
Hoffman Estates (847) 604-4060**

Friday night **March 2** - 8 PM

Friday night **March 9** - 8 PM (Purim)

Friday night **March 23** - 8 PM

Friday night **April 6** - 8 PM (Pesach & Yizkor)

Friday night **April 13** - 8 PM

Friday night **April 27** - 8 PM

Friday night **May 18** - 8 PM

Friday night **May 25** - 8 PM (Shavout &  
Yizkor)

## BAGELS 'n LOX WITH THE RABBI

Sunday morning, **March 18** 10 AM

Sunday morning, **April 22** 10 AM

Sunday morning, **May 20** 10 AM (Film)

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

# Birthdays

<u>Mar 6</u>	<u>Barbara Henry</u>
<u>Mar 6</u>	<u>Staci Singer</u>
<u>Mar 10</u>	<u>Steven Schulwolf</u>
<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Joshua Placko</u>
<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Alex Wolf</u>
<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Sharon Zittler</u>
<u>Mar 19</u>	<u>Zach Zider</u>
<u>Mar 20</u>	<u>Richard Ginsburg</u>
<u>Mar 22</u>	<u>Dan Barnes</u>
<u>Mar 23</u>	<u>Joseph Rotstein</u>
<u>Mar 25</u>	<u>Sandra Marcus</u>
<u>Mar 29</u>	<u>Ryan Aronoff</u>
<u>Mar 29</u>	<u>Evelyn Miller</u>
<u>Mar 31</u>	<u>Daniele Richmond</u>
<u>Mar 31</u>	<u>Angie Barnes</u>
<u>Apr 3</u>	<u>Scott Goldstein</u>
<u>Apr 4</u>	<u>Richard Placko</u>
<u>Apr 5</u>	<u>Gabrielle Byer</u>
<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>David Henning</u>
<u>Apr 17</u>	<u>Jeffrey Goldberg</u>
<u>Apr 17</u>	<u>Julie Remack</u>
<u>Apr 18</u>	<u>Sanford Ginsburg</u>
<u>Apr 18</u>	<u>Jacob Reich</u>
<u>Apr 21</u>	<u>Johannah Simon</u>
<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Laura Rabe</u>
<u>Apr 30</u>	<u>Anne Smilgoff</u>
<u>May 1</u>	<u>Ronald Bass</u>
<u>May 2</u>	<u>Eileen Aronoff</u>
<u>May 2</u>	<u>Leija Schulwolf</u>
<u>May 3</u>	<u>Jessica Ecker</u>
<u>May 3</u>	<u>Helen Lubin</u>
<u>May 3</u>	<u>Michael Reich</u>
<u>May 3</u>	<u>Kadmier Stampfer</u>
<u>May 6</u>	<u>Karen Arnet</u>
<u>May 9</u>	<u>Jacob Remack</u>
<u>May 17</u>	<u>Edwin Marcus</u>
<u>May 19</u>	<u>Deborah Novus-Furlan</u>
<u>May 20</u>	<u>Iralee Cronin</u>
<u>May 20</u>	<u>Mala Rotstein</u>
<u>May 22</u>	<u>Howard Nicker</u>
<u>May 22</u>	<u>Steve Stone</u>
<u>May 23</u>	<u>Dianna Schneidman</u>
<u>May 23</u>	<u>Marilyn Schwartz</u>
<u>May 25</u>	<u>Sandi Rotstein</u>
<u>May 28</u>	<u>Alan Isaac</u>
<u>May 30</u>	<u>May Tishler</u>

# Anniversaries

<u>Apr 8</u>	<u>Sharon &amp; Dick Zittler</u>
<u>Apr 9</u>	<u>Leija &amp; Irv Schulwolf</u>
<u>Apr 10</u>	<u>Karen &amp; Donald Arnet</u>
<u>Apr 17</u>	<u>Sandi &amp; Rubin Rotstein</u>
<u>Apr 22</u>	<u>Denise &amp; Darren Wehrenberg</u>
<u>May 1</u>	<u>Carolyn &amp; Jeffrey Goldberg</u>
<u>May 12</u>	<u>Helen &amp; Alan Isaac</u>
<u>May 24</u>	<u>Mary &amp; Howard Ecker</u>
<u>May 26</u>	<u>Melanie &amp; Josh Ludolph</u>
<u>May 29</u>	<u>Geraldine &amp; Bernard Apple</u>
<u>May 31</u>	<u>Sharon &amp; Albert Goldberg</u>

# Thanks

- To the **Bass, Isaac, Goldberg** and **Placko** families for their food contributions to the Chanukah Party as well as to Arlene and Ron Bass for hosting the party.
- To **Al Goldberg** for leading the Chanukah service in the absence of the Rabbi
- To **Cindy & Rich Placko** on hosting the Bagels n' Lox discussion on 1/14/07.
- To **Ellen and Evan Karpel** for hosting the Bagels & Lox discussion on 2/11/07

**GET WELL WISHES**

to Davena Day

## *Membership Musings*

Due to circumstances beyond my control I was unable to write my article for the last bulletin. So here it is now.

I would like to welcome these new members to our Congregation. **Joshua and Gabrielle Byer, Elliott and Johannah Simon, Rick and Angela Stone, Steven Schulwolf, Sanford Ginsburg, Jodi Ginsburg, Eric and Amy Goldberg, Roderick Coleman, and Donald Ami.**

I would also like to thank our ushering staff, **Karen Arnet, Ron Bass, Barry Duberchin, Bill Os, Mike Reich, Marilyn Schwartz, and Steve Wagner.**

Again working with **Cliff Kelman** made the holidays a breeze. Help from **Ellen Karpel** is always appreciated.

The Board of Directors has also voted to have a picnic again this year. Maybe this time we can get a warmer day. Of course, if you have any picnic input you can get in touch with me or **Jim Langerman**. As always this year think membership for Am Chai.

*Dick Zittler*

## *Mazel Tov*

*to Arlene & Ron Bass on the birth of a grandson, Thomas A, to parents Vanessa & Jonathon Bass*

*to Sharon & Al Goldberg on the birth of a granddaughter, Olivia R. to parents Amy & Eric Goldberg*

*to Supriya & Eugene Klionsky on the birth of a daughter, Shivali H.*

## *Mazel Tov (continued)*

*to Jim Langerman on the birth of a grandson Andrew B. to parents Elissa & Brian Langerman*

## *The Prez Sez*

As we approach the end of winter our thoughts are looking toward the signs of spring and the opportunity to change from bulky winter wears into lighter, more comfortable clothing. It also brings on the holidays of *Purim* and *Passover*. We look forward to the reading of the *Megillah* as adults and children ring out their gregors hearing the name of the evil *Haman*. Then, soon afterwards, we celebrate the historical story of the Jews exodus from Egypt at the *Seder* in observance of *Passover*. As usual there are traditional foods we look forward to partaking during these times. Why not take the time during this period to join us as **Rabbi Tillman** relates the history behind these holidays.

I would like to thank **Cindy Placko** and **Ron Bass** for all their hard work in helping set up our successful *Chanukah* party. A great time was had by all children and adults. Thanks to everyone who made potato *latkes*. That would be **Helen Isaac, Sharon Goldberg** and **Ron Bass**.

We are glad to hear that **Marilyn Schwartz** is out of the hospital and recuperating at her daughter's home. **Sharon Zittler** is home from the hospital and we are thankful she is recovering from her surgery. Keep up the recoveries and we look forward to seeing you soon.

*Al Goldberg*

# Ritual Corner

The winter season is entrenched around us. This causes some to question do I really want to go out to services tonight? There is cold temps and sometimes even precipitation. Some will even say, it's not like i'm going out to meet friends to have dinner and a fun evening. But yet you are meeting friends and can have a very enjoyable time. There is the pre-service period where you can *kibbitz* with friends and acquaintances not to mention our spiritual leader, Rabbi Tillman. Then we have the service itself including a very interesting Torah portion not only read by the Rabbi but also he gives us an interpretation of the contents he read within the scope of what is going on today in the world around us. After we finish the service there is of course *Kiddush* and then the enjoyment of more *kibbitzing* during the *O'neg Shabbat*. So you see it really can turn out to be a very enjoyable fun evening.

We have our Friday Evening Services coming up in the next 3 months whereby we will be having 3 Services in each March and April. This will give us more time to have those enjoyable Friday Evenings together. In addition there is *Purim*, *Pesach* including *Yizkor*, and *Shavout* again with *Yizkor*. To add to that enjoyment there is the monthly Sunday function Bagels 'n Lox with the Rabbi which combines good food in the form of a brunch accompanied by a very enjoyable group Discussion led by none other than **Rabbi Tillman**. And believe me it not only can be filled with light humor but also very interesting facts. What more could one ask for but a happy learning experience.

Let's remember to plan an *O'neg Shabbat* for any reason and then invite your friends to enjoy the festivities. Plan to host a Sunday Brunch/Discussion with the Rabbi and invite your friends. Both ideas can make for a great time. Considering hosting a Sunday

Function but your home is not adequate to a gathering of say 13 to 20 people, then plan to host it at the Kenneth Young Center as **Ellen** and **Evan Karpel** did in February. It's centrally located and easily accessible.

I am extending to all of you a Sensational Purim and Ecstatic Passover! May everyone enjoy!

*Cliff Kelman*

**ANYONE WISHING TO SPONSOR AN**

**O'NEG SHABBAT**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE RITUAL COMMITTEE**

1-847-604-4060 or [info@amchail.org](mailto: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.)**

## CHANNUKAH PARTY HUGE SUCCESS

ON DECEMBER 11, 2006 THE CHANNUKAH PARTY WAS HELD AT THE **PLACKO** HOME. BECAUSE IT WAS HELD ON A SUNDAY INSTEAD OF AT A FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE THERE WAS A LARGE AMOUNT OF CHILDREN ATTENDING. **CINDY PLACKO** DID AN EXCELLENT JOB OF SUPERVISING THE ACTIVITIES AND EVERYONE HAD A GREAT TIME. THE *LATKE* FESTIVITIES WAS ENJOYED BY ALL

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