

AM CHAI UPDATE

DECEMBER 2007 – FEBRUARY 2008 > WINTER EDITION

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

WEBSITE: WWW.AMCHAI.ORG

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From The Pulpit

Hanukkah is a very special time for me, not only because it is an important Jewish holiday. Seventeen years ago I left Russia and arrived in Toronto to begin a new stage in my life. It was *Hanukkah*. Toronto was very cold; I had \$22.00, one suit and a small suitcase of personal belongings. As I was walking on the streets of Toronto in the evening I could not help but think that it is cold and dark in this unfamiliar place. But then I saw a *menorah* lit in the window of the *Hillel* of the University of Toronto. I forgot about the cold. I have seen the light; the light that told me that it will always shine even in the darkest and most challenging hour.

This is why I prefer to describe *Hanukkah* as the time when we must make the light in the dark. *Hanukkah* teaches us perpetual hope. No matter how cold and dark it is this tiny light of the *menorah* will keep us warm, will help us move forward. So let us light the *menorah* this year thinking of those who need this light – the light of hope, those who need to feel the strength of our support. *Hag Sameyakh!*

RABBI MICHAEL TILLMAN

SERVICES

ALL SERVICES ARE HELD AT THE DEVONSHIRE,
1515 BARRINGTON RD.,
HOFFMAN ESTATES
CALL (847) 604-4060
THE AM CHAI TELEPHONE WITH ANY QUESTIONS

Friday night, **December 7, 2007** 8 PM
(*Hanukkah Service*)

Friday night, **December 14, 2007** 8 PM

Friday night, **January 11, 2008** 8 PM

Friday night, **January 18, 2008** 8PM
(*TuB'Shevat Service*)

Friday night, **February 8, 2008** 8PM

Friday night, **February 22, 2008** 8PM

HANUKKAH PARTY

Sunday morning, **December 2, 2007** 11 AM
At the Home of Arlene & Ron Bass

BAGELS & LOX WITH THE RABBI

Sunday morning, **January 20, 2008** 10 AM

Sun. morning, **February 17, 2008** 10 AM

PRIOR TO EACH BAGELS & LOX DISCUSSION, ALL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE DETAILS & FURTHER INFO SENT BY E-MAIL

Birthdays

Dec 3	Evan More
Dec 6	Michael Tutt
Dec 8	Megan Placko
Dec 8	Alexandria Rabe
Dec 10	Denise Wehrenberg
Dec 11	Albert Goldberg
Dec 11	Eric Henning
Dec 12	Averil Reisman
Dec 15	Maissie Rabe
Dec 18	Kris Sudrovech Ami
Dec 22	Debby Sandroff
Dec 24	Stephen Rubin
Dec 24	Michael Zider
Dec 30	Jerome Gilbert
Dec 30	Jacob Saucier
Dec 31	Marc Henry
Jan 3	Rick Rabe
Jan 5	Alan Bass
Jan 6	Kathy Goldberg
Jan 6	Barry Goldstein
Jan 9	Surella Bartel
Jan 9	Marvin Michnik
Jan 9	Tyler Stone
Jan 10	Josh Ludolph
Jan 13	Kathleen Henry
Jan 16	Dick Zittler
Jan 17	Matthew Isaac
Jan 18	Howard Ecker
Jan 19	Art Reisman
Jan 23	Ruth Lorinczi
Jan 27	Eugene Klionsky
Jan 30	Fred Weiner

Feb 1	Michelle Sandroff
Feb 5	Cindy Placko
Feb 7	Sharon Stone
Feb 9	Richard Aronoff
Feb 19	Jordan Bass
Feb 21	Shira Zider
Feb 26	Kenneth More
Feb 26	Marlene Zider
Feb 28	Breana Remack

Anniversaries

Dec 20	Mary Jo & Joseph Rotstein
Dec 24	Evelyn & Robert Miller
Jan 21	Deborah & David Henning
Jan 22	Maureen & Kenneth More
Feb 8	Britt Cohen & Robert Podunavac
Feb 13	Nancy & Michael Reich
Feb 26	Nancy & Richard Stallman

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Have you checked out our new website? (www.amchai.org). If you haven't, you're in for a big surprise. Mike Reich, our Webmaster has taken control of the site. We have more information than ever before. *Am Chai Update*, our quarterly bulletin, is on line for you. In an effort to cut our printing & mailing costs, *Am Chai Update* will be mailed only to current members. If you would like to be notified of changes to the website, including posting of the *Am Chai Update*, click the link on the front page of the website. Thank you and please keep in contact with Am Chai.

Congratulations to Evelyn and Bob Miller on the birth of granddaughter, Jillian Blyth, to parents Lauren and Garry Rosenfeldt.

The Prez Sez

As the season changes towards the coldness of winter we can look forward to the warm glow of the *Hanukkah* candles and the happiness families enjoy opening their presents. This is a time also when we can look to people less fortunate that may need help in celebrating *Hanukkah*. There are many Jewish agencies in the area like the **Ark** that are looking for donations and volunteers to help make the holidays happier for some people. If you would like to help in some way please contact the JUF (312) 346-6700 for information.

We will be having our annual *Hanukkah* party on December 2nd. This is a great time for families to get together and celebrate with games and enjoy home made latkes. One of the positive reasons for being a small congregation is that we are able to get together as family and enjoy each others company.

We hope everyone enjoyed the High Holiday services. I want to thank the choir and **Art Reisman** for the many hours of preparation they put in to make the services so enjoyable; to **Rabbi Tillman** for once again providing us with meaningful thoughts to take with us this coming year. To **Cliff Kelman, Dick Zittler** and all the people who helped with the set up a very special thank you. Most of all I would like to thank all members and guests who supported this congregation with their financial donations. 'Special get well wishes to **Ellen Karpel**. May you return to full health shortly. Hoping to see everyone soon whether at services or the *Hanukkah* party.

Al Goldberg

Membership Musings

Hello Everyone,

First of all I would like to welcome all of our new members to our family, **Eric and Amy Goldberg, Terry and Debby Sandroff, Robert and Britt Cohen Podunavac, Brian and Jean Saucier, Andrew and Amy Tutt, Albert and Francis Silver, Dennis and Rita Zider, Mona Morrison, Dr. Jonathan and Idala Gasser, and Kadmiel and Lisa Stampfer**. We hope that *Am Chai* meets all of your religious needs.

Next I would like to thank the Ushers that assisted in our High Holiday services. **Karen Arnet, Barry Duberchin, Mike Reich, Steve Wagner, and Bill Os**.

Thanks to all the people who helped with the setup and the take down at the Church. It was a nice feeling that everyone helped with the work.

We are always looking for new members. Try to shop at Jewish establishments to recruit prospective members.

Shalom,

Dick Zittler

CONGRATULATIONS

To Nancy & Mike Reich on the engagement of their son, Jacob to his high school sweetheart of many years, Amy.

THANKS

To Cindy & Rich Placko for the Aug. 19th hosting of the Bagels'n Lox with the Rabbi.

To Arlene & Ron Bass for the Sukkot that was constructed at their home and sponsoring the Bagels'n Lox with the Rabbi on September 30th.

To Sharon & Al Goldberg for sponsoring the O'neg Shabbat on Nov. 7th.

Ritual Corner

Our High Holiday services including *Selichot*, *Sukkot*, *Shemini Atzeret* and *Simchat Torah* are all history now. This year the joy of the holiday period came early and in less than a month was all over with. Now of course we can continue the joy by attending our Friday evening *Shabbat* services and the monthly Sunday morning function with the **Rabbi**. I must express my gratitude to the many involved in making our recently completed holiday services a total success.

Thanks to **Rabbi Tillman** for his ability to successfully lead the many different services; to **Art Reisman** and the Choir for the music, which adds so much to the prayer services; to **Dick Zittler** for his determination to make things work; to **Karen Arnet, Ron Bass, Bill Os, Mike Reich, Joe Rotstein, Marilyn Schwartz, Steve Wagner** and **Jerry Weisberg** for their combined assistance in setting up, taking down and many things in between; to **Ron Bass** and **Al Goldberg** for their help during the *Torah* reading; to **Laura Stone** for handling the *Shofar* so well; to **Cindy Placko, Laura Rabe, Davena Day** and **Warren Goldberg** for their reading of *Haftarah* during the *Torah* portion including *Jonah*; to **Jane Michnik** for producing the brochures; to **Arlene Bass** for her delectable *Challah*; to **Cindy Placko** and **Ellen Karpel** for a beautiful Break-the-Fast; to **Rich Placko** and **Rick Rabe** for helping with the room set-up for the break-the-fast; and to the many extra individuals who assisted in breaking down the sanctuary room after services ended. Special thanks to **Sharon** and **Dick Zittler** who donated the flowers for *Yom Kippur*; to **Al Goldberg** as President who made an excellent Appeal; and to the many who took *Aliyahs* and those who just showed up to pray and enjoy the services.

I MUST thank each and everyone for helping me to make sure the holiday services were SUBPERB!

Sukkot as usual was excellent. Without the home of **Arlene** and **Ron Bass** where we erected the *Succoth* it would not have been possible. *Simchat Torah* was very enjoyable.

Thanks to **Jane** and **Marv Michnik** for donating the Taffy Apples for both festive holidays.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the many Friday evening services and our monthly Sunday morning *Bagels 'n Lox with the Rabbi Brunch & Discussions*. 'Wishing all a happy and enjoyable *Hanukkah*.

Cliff Kelman

YIZKOR LIST

Please call (847) 604-4060 or email info@amchai.org any new names you would like included in our *Yizkor* List. All of the names on the list last year will be repeated again this year. These names will be displayed on boards at the *Yom Kippur Yizkor* Service as well as being read aloud during the *Yizkor* service.

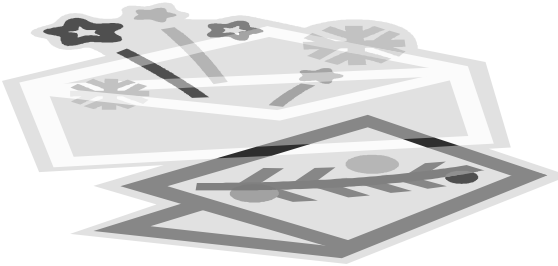
ANYONE WISHING TO SPONSOR AN O'NEG SHABBAT PLEASE CONTACT THE RITUAL COMMITTEE
1-847-604-4060 or info@amchai.org
We're also looking for homes to host a Bagels 'n Lox Discussion with the Rabbi.

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.

TRIBUTE CARDS

FROM AM CHAI



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BAR & BAT MITZVAHS, etc

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MICHAEL REICH

BLOCKED

or by email at

amchai_mr@yahoo.com

IN ORDER TO KEEP POSTED ABOUT THE AM CHAI WEBSITE

“Would you like to keep up-to-date with the *Am Chai* web site and receive an email alert when one of the web pages is updated? Just send an email to the Webmaster (webmaster@amchai.org) and request to be added to the “Notification” mailing list. You can also send the request by going to www.amchai.org and clicking on the link in the left column.”

This information is courtesy of our Webmaster, **Michael Reich**, who adds that if your web-based email; such as *Yahoo* or *Gmail* is used the email links on our pages may not work. If not right click the link and click Copy Email Address. Then paste the address into your email program.

If you use *Internet Explorer* click *Copy Shortcut* and paste the address into your email program. You may also need to remove the words *email to:* from the pasted address.

GET WELL WISHES

...Ed Marcus, Jane Michnik,
Ellen Karpel

CONDOLENCES

...Cliff Kelman on the passing
of his mother-in-law

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