

AM CHAI UPDATE

MARCH 2009– MAY 2009 > SPRING EDITION

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

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From The Pulpit

This year is different for all of us. It might end up being the most challenging year of our lifetime. Not only are we experiencing loss of income and/or loss of job - the overall economic situation is very grim, and the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel is nowhere to be found. I have spoken recently to several men who have been involved in trading for decades. One professional futures trader summarized their sentiment: "This is beyond bad".

What are we to do? Over the years I have learned that our spirit, our attitude is the primary and necessary condition to successfully overcome our challenges. Not only do we need to push hard to recover our losses and regain our jobs – we also need to have the right perspective of our current situation.

In December I visited *Der Alte Judenfriedhof* in Worms, Germany. This is the oldest Jewish cemetery in Europe. I came there on a frosty and sunny Sunday morning. I walked around the graves of great rabbinical scholars as well as those of ordinary people. I found the oldest known burial belonging to a famous medieval rabbi. The grave was dated by 1076, before the First Crusade. After that burial the cemetery remained active until 1911. The Crusades, the pogroms and wars came and went, but the people and the community endured. That is when it occurred to me that each era of Jewish history has its own Great Depressions and its own Crusades. The point is that they all pass. We just need to keep our spirits high. And then I said, "Crisis? What crisis?" *Shabbos* will come, *Purim* will come, *Pesakh* will come... The recession will

pass, but *Pesakh* will come again and again. Let us all remember that. We shall make it! We always do!

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, **March 13** (*Purim Service*) 8 PM
Friday night, **March 20** 8 PM
Saturday, **March 28** 9:30 AM

Friday night, **April 10** (*Passover Service w/ Yizkor*) 8 PM
Friday night, **April 17** 8 PM

Friday night, **May 8** 8 PM
Friday night, **May 29** (*Shavuot Service*) 8 PM
Saturday, **May 16** 9:30 AM

BAGELS & LOX WITH THE RABBI

Sunday morning, **March 29** 10 AM
Sunday morning, **April 19** 10 AM
Sunday morning, **May 17** 10 AM

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

Birthdays

Mar 6	Barbara Henry
Mar 9	Frances Silver
Mar 10	Steven Schulwolf
Mar 14	Joshua Placko
Mar 18	Sharon Zittler
Mar 19	Zach Zider
Mar 20	Richard Ginsburg
Mar 22	Dan Barnes
Mar 23	Joseph Rotstein
Mar 25	Sandra Marcus
Mar 29	Ryan Aronoff
Mar 29	Robert Miller
Mar 31	Angie Barnes
Apr 3	Richard Placko
Apr 5	Gabrielle Byer
Apr 17	Jeffrey Goldberg
Apr 17	Julie Remack
Apr 18	Sanford Ginsburg
Apr 18	Jacob Reich
Apr 21	Carrie Rose
Apr 26	Laura Rabe
Apr 28	Albert Silver
Apr 30	Anne Smilgoff
Apr 30	Dennis Zider
May 1	Ronald Bass
May 2	Eileen Aronoff
May 2	Leija Schulwolf
May 3	Helen Lubin
May 3	Michael Reich
May 3	Kadmiel Stampfer
May 6	Karen Arnet
May 9	Jacob Remack
May 17	Edwin Marcus
May 19	Mona Morrison
May 20	Mala Rotstein
May 22	Steve Stone
May 23	Dianna Schneidman
May 23	Marilyn Schwartz
May 25	Sandi Rotstein
May 28	Alan Isaac
May 30	May Tishler

Apr 8	Sharon & Dick Zittler
Apr 9	Leija & Irv Schulwolf
Apr 10	Karen & Donald Arnet
Apr 17	Sandi & Rubin Rotstein
Apr 22	Denise & Darren Wehrenberg
May 1	Carolyn & Jeffrey Goldberg
May 1	Lisa & Kadmiel Stampfer
May 12	Helen & Alan Isaac
May 24	Mary & Howard Ecker
May 31	Sharon & Albert Goldberg

Thanks to O'neg Shabbat

Sponsors

Dec 5	Al & Sharon Goldberg
Jan 9	Jane & Marvin Michnik

Thanks to Saturday Kiddush

Sponsors

Nov 22	Al & Sharon Goldberg & Ron & Arlene Bass.
Jan 17	Al & Sharon Goldberg & Ron & Arlene Bass.

Thanks to Bagel 'n Lox

Discussion Hosts

Jan 25	Ron & Arlene Bass
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Thanks to the Tu B'Shevat

Service Sponsors

Feb 6	Ron Bass for getting all the food items & Arlene Bass for making the phone calls reminding members.
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GET WELL WISHES

To Eileen Ginsburg on recuperating from her second knee surgery.
To Sharon Goldberg on recuperating from her gallbladder surgery.
To Arlene Weisberg on recuperating from her second knee surgery.

Anniversaries

The Prez Sez

Last week driving home from Saturday morning services my granddaughter (**Breanna**) asked me why we did not take the *Torah* out from the ark. I explained to her we needed 10 adults (*minyone*) for that to happen. Unfortunately we only had 8 adults and our service was missing the most important part. The next question was how come no one else showed up. I used the reply that maybe it was too cold for people to come out this morning. Considering how cold it had been, the weather today was a blessing, so that **Breanna** and I found that to be a viable reason. Then I thought to myself that with the conflict going on in the Mideast and Israel fighting for the right to live in peace more people would care enough to come and pray for their well being.

In this small congregation we are fortunate to have three young girls a year away from becoming adults and being *Bat Mitzvah*. As our new president **Barack Obama** has said "Now is the time for change". Maybe we can show these young girls (**Breanna, Megan and Alex**) that we do care about our religion and begin to attend Saturday morning services on a regular basis. With the holidays of *Purim* and *Passover* approaching the time is right to begin coming to services.

Al Goldberg

PLEASE NOTE

Members with e-mail addresses will receive their **Am Chai Updates** via email beginning with this issue. Or you may view the Update at our website www.amchai.org
If we do not have your email address, please send it to amchai@comcast.net

Membership Musings

Hi Everyone,

As I sit by my desk thinking about the Spring Bulletin, I say to myself, what can I write about now? I have talked about you recruiting new members and trying to find new families in the area, not much has worked. We signed up one new family this past couple of months.

We, as a small Congregation, have a lot to offer. We have to grow, we cannot just stand still. The attitude of "Let the other guy worry about it" does not work. You must talk up *Am Chai* and recruit new members.

I will sit by the phone and wait for all the calls to come in. This would be like; *OPERATORS ARE STANDING BY FOR YOUR CALLS.*

Take Care -

Shalom,

Dick Zittler



Ritual Corner

Winter is certainly making a huge impact on us this year. Between the cold and snow it definitely makes one consider whether or not to venture out for a religious gathering. Friday evening Services have had a very low turnout. Friday evenings are still impacted with a warm satisfying Service that includes the Rabbi's Torah portion which he interprets in comparison to today's world wide occurrences thus becoming extremely informative. Saturday morning Services have been even less attended by our members. On Saturdays without a *minyon* we are not able to take out the Torah. This in itself makes for a very short unfulfilling Service. The impact of the Torah readings adds so much more to the religious worship. Additionally our Hebrew students preparing for their *Mitzvah's* attend the Saturday worship and it is so important to give them the opportunity to experience the full spectrum of a religious procedure which certainly includes a Torah Reading. Let's all try to make an extra effort to attend the twice a month Friday evening and the once a month Saturday morning services.

There are some important Services coming up. *Purim* is on 3/13 which is always a fun family oriented Service. *Pesach* on 4/10 which includes the all important *Yizkor* Service as well. Then there is *Shavuot* on 5/29 which does include a *Yizkor* Service. Let's also remember our Sunday function that is once a month. The Bagels 'n Lox with the Rabbi Brunch/Discussion is always a fun-filled relaxed informative morning. 'Would like to see more attend this function as many do not realize how enjoyable it really is.

The *Chanukah Party* was well attended. Children and adults both enjoyed the festivities. **Ron and Arlene Bass** graciously allowed us the use of their home for the occasion. *Latkes* baked by members were as usual delicious. **Ron's** preparation and serving of the food was impeccable. **Cindy Placko** did a superb job of creating the games and entertainment. All in all a perfectly

delightful day that was a huge success.

'Want to remind everyone about sponsoring an *O'neg Shabbat* on Friday's and *Kiddush* on Saturday's. Also, we really need homes in which to host our Sunday Bagels 'n Lox Discussions. Please remember to keep us informed of family occurrences so we can put them in the quarterly bulletin so we all really care about one another. Wishing everyone a *Purim* and *Passover* that is happy and enjoyable!

Cliff Kelman

ANYONE WISHING TO SPONSOR AN O'NEG SHABBAT

PLEASE CONTACT THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

(847) 604-4060 or info@amchail.org

We're also looking for homes to host a Bagels n' Lox Discussion with the Rabbi.

Yahrzeit Dates

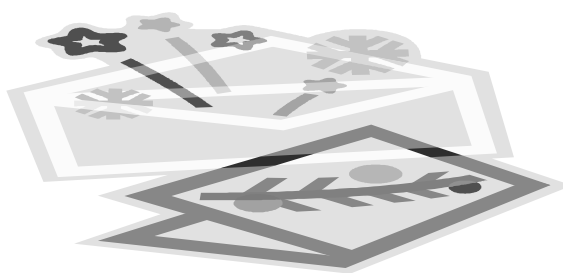
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A LOVED ONE'S YAHRZEIT RECALLED AT A FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE?

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.)

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By phone (630) 462-0652

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amchai_mr@yahoo.com

THEY SENT TRIBUTE CARDS

November through January 2009

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Ron & Arlene Bass to John &
Jeanette Gallagher

Al & Sharon Goldberg to Mr.
& Mrs. Kroopkin

Al & Sharon Goldberg to the
Kaplan family

Al & Sharon Goldberg to
Naida Meyers

Mr. & Mrs. George Day to
Dr. & Mrs. Barth Green &

family

Alan & Helen Isaac to Dr. &
Mrs. Barth Green & family

Richard & Eileen Ginsburg to
Frank & Carol Ramljak &
family

Michael & Nancy Reich to
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Shore

BIRTHDAYS

Michael & Nancy Reich to
Helen & Alvin Michaelson

Mary Jo & Joe Rotstein to
Marvin Michnik

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February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Ground Hog Day	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> 8 PM Sabbath Services	<u>7</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> Tu B'shevat	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>  Lincoln's Birthday	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>  Valentine's Day
<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>  President's Day	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> 9:30 AM Sabbath Morning Service
<u>22</u>  Washington's Birthday 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday Morning Bagels 'n Lox with the Rabbi	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> 8 PM Sabbath Services	<u>28</u>
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

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March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>8</u> Daylight Saving Time Begins	<u>9</u> Ta'anith Esther	<u>10</u> Purim	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> 8 PM Sabbath Services	<u>14</u>
<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>  St. Patrick's Day	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> 8 PM Sabbath Services	<u>21</u>
<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> Rosh Chodesh (Nisan)	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> 9:30 AM Sabbath Morning Service
<u>29</u> 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday Morning Bagels 'n Lox with the Rabbi	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>1</u> April Fool's Day	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

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April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday Morning Bagels 'n Lox with the Rabbi	30	31	April 1 April Fool's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Pesach (Passover)	10 8 PM Sabbath Services	11
12 Easter	13	14	15 Fed. Income Tax Due Pesach ends	16	17 8 PM Sabbath Services	18
19 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday Morning Bagels 'n Lox with the Rabbi	20	21	22	23	24 Rosh Chodesh (Nisan & Iyyar)	25 Rosh Chodesh (Iyyar)
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

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May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 8 PM Sabbath Services	9
10  Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16 9:30 AM Sabbath Morning Service
17 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday Morning Bagels 'n Lox with the Rabbi	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Rosh Chodesh (Sivan)	25  Memorial Day	26	27	28	29 Shevuot 8 PM Sabbath Services	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

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