



Update



Edited And Published By Authority Of The Board Of Directors Of Am Chai

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September – November 2011 Issue

From The Pulpit

Every year we celebrate the High Holidays. Every year we repeatedly stumble upon the same word that is a leitmotif of the entire period of Yamim Noraim.

The word, of course, is repentance. Yet most of us would be honest enough to admit that we do not truly understand what it means. We know the meaning of the word but not the meaning of the act.

There are many reasons for it - both historical and cultural. The question is whether we can make this key concept relevant to our lives again. It is clear that without the repentance the High Holidays become a mere formality at best.

So how does one repent in the 21st century? When asked this question I point out to people that once in a while they do think about the purpose of their lives, about the direction in which they are going.

All that one has to do during the Yamim Noraim is to do the same and make one more step. One asks oneself whether the direction of his life is right and good and what should be done to make it right and good. That is all that needs to be happen.

So let us not be afraid to be old fashioned and exclaim without any reservation as the Holidays are approaching: it is time to repent!

Rabbi Tillman

2011 High Holidays

to take place at

Blocked in web version

Rosh Hashonah

Wednesday	September 28	7:30 pm
Thursday	September 29	9:30 am
Friday	September 30	9:30 am

Yom Kippur

Friday	October 7, 2011	6:15 pm
Saturday	October 8, 2011	9:30 am

Sabbath Services

All Services Are Held At The Devonshire, 1515 Barrington Rd., Hoffman Estates

Friday night	September 16	8 pm
Friday night	October 21 (Simchat Torah)	8 pm
Friday night	November 4	7:30 pm
Friday night	November 18	7:30 pm

Bagels & Lox With the Rabbi

Call 847-604-4060 for details

Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011, 10 am (Sukkot)

None scheduled in September or November

All our functions can be found on our online calendar at <http://www.amchai.org>

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Birthdays

9-10	Jillian Rosenfeldt
9-13	Frances Plotzker
9-21	Sandi Alter
9-22	Brendan Ginsburg
9-28	Alexander Raab
9-29	Nancy Reich
10-1	Mary Jo Rotstein
10-8	Jamie Rubin
10-9	Melanie Wagner
10-17	Dorothy Bass
10-23	Darren Wehrenberg
10-25	Donald Ami
10-26	Robert Baron
10-27	Warren Goldberg
10-27	Rubin Rotstein
10-29	Eric Goldberg
10-30	Helen Isaac
10-31	Roberta Weiner
11-1	Mary Ecker
11-2	Michael Tillman
11-7	Arlene Bass
11-8	Marc Zider
11-11	Amy Goldberg
11-16	Irv Schulwolf
11-21	Evan Karpel
11-22	Clifford Kelman
11-27	Carolyn Goldberg
11-27	Wayne Schneidman

Anniversaries

9-4	Ronald & Arlene Bass
9-14	Ellen & Evan Karpel
9-18	Julie & Joe Remack
9-22	Jerry & Arlene Weisberg
10-14	Kathy & Warren Goldberg
10-18	Richard & Eileen Ginsburg
10-29	Lauren & Garry Rosenfeldt
11-12	Rick & Laura Rabe
11-21	Sandra & Edwin Marcus
11-28	Eugene & Supriya Klionsky

Thanks for sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat

May 6 th	Cindy & Rich Placko
May 20 th	Mona Morrison
June 10 th	Marilyn Schwartz
June 10 th	Karen Arnet

Thanks for sponsoring a brunch

June 12 th	Cindy & Rich Placko
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Congratulations

Bob & Evelyn Miller on the birth of their grandson

Get well wishes

Al Goldberg
Jane Michnik

Condolences

Roberta Silvers on the loss of her mother



President Goldberg at Annual Meeting

From the President

As the High Holidays approach this gives our small congregation time to reflect on this past year. Last year at this time I reminded our members of the dire situation that was causing many synagogues to close. Although we had some savings to fall back upon we were not headed in the right direction. Our members made the effort to do what they could to see Am Chai continue. We had a very successful fund raiser led by Bob Miller which everyone supported with renewed spirit. Later this year we had a tremendous turnout for our Lox and Bagel discussion with Rabbi Tillman.

All these positive steps lead me to believe that you our members want Am Chai to continue on for future years to come. This is the fortieth anniversary since our congregation was started in a store front on Roselle Road. With your continued support we will be here for many more years.

Under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Michael Tillman and the beautiful tones of our choir once again we look forward to a rewarding experience.

On a personal note I would like to thank you for your cards and good wishes following my recent surgery. On behalf of Sharon and me may the year 5772 bring good health and happiness to you and your families.

Al Goldberg

Membership

A strong core. A family environment. Adult education at member's homes. Hebrew training for kids. An engaging rabbi (Michael Tillman) who was raised in Russia and brings his international perspectives to services. What do these items all describe? They describe our congregation, Am Chai. Top that off with the lowest membership rates of any synagogue in the Northwest suburbs and these give you a number of great reasons to come to services at Am Chai.

Our synagogue has been around for over 40 years. Much like a wandering tribe, we've had many locations but are currently located in Hoffman Estates.

(Although we're not sure if Moses ever made it to Hoffman Estates, we're sure he'd enjoy the conservative, family-friendly approach that members take every week.)

High Holiday services are coming up soon...so please call 847-604-4060 to get your High Holiday tickets.

If anything written above has piqued your curiosity and you'd like to learn more about membership or anything about the synagogue, please call us at 847-604-4060, or email us by going through our website at www.amchai.org. Hope to hear from you soon! Shalom!

Cindy Placko, Membership Director

Education

Summer is almost over and we now look forward to the beginning of a new year 5772. Our Hebrew School will start Sept. 6 and our students Maissie and Joshua will meet 2 times a month with Cindy, our Hebrew School teacher. WELCOME BACK! We look forward to a good school year and if anyone is looking or knows someone who is looking for a Hebrew Education please call 847-604-4060.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our High Holiday Services, especially our Post Bat Mitzvah students who are a great addition to our services.

Happy New Year - Helen Isaac



Am Chai Board At Work

Ritual Corner

The summer as we know it has passed. The long hot hazy days have come and for the most part are gone. This alone tells us that the High Holidays are right behind at very close range.

We finished with only 2 Friday Night Services this summer, 1 each in July and August. The attendance although only mediocre in July was in fact decently attended in August. I appreciated all those that attended. But also wished that there were more in attendance. Unfortunately Friday Night Shabbat Services are always going to be the same thus are quite repetitive. Yet the Rabbi has the knack and ability to take each weeks Torah portion and create a new and different story surrounding that message and how it relates to our lives today. This in itself makes our Services on Friday nights well worth attending. Then again so are our Oneg Shabbats also very repetitive. But if i could get others to want to sponsor one they probably could come up with fresh ideas for the serving menu.

High Holidays will begin with the Selichot Service on Friday 9/16. Rosh Hashana starts on Wednesday 9/28 and continues through Friday 9/30. Yom Kippur follows on Friday 10/7 and goes through Saturday 10/8. this will be followed by Sukkat on 10/16 and Simcha Torah on Friday 10/21. Everyone enjoys the holidays with the Rabbi leading and the Choir performing. This year will be no exception.

But let's remember that after the High Holidays we will still be having our monthly Friday night Service and next Year in January Saturday morning Service as well. We need everyone's help in making sure that attendance on Saturday morning will in fact be at least a Minyon so that our students can have a full morning Service. Let's not disappoint them.

Oh, as a point of information our Friday Night Service starting in November will begin at 7:30P instead of 8:00P. So please mark your calendar. I look forward to seeing everyone at Sevices.

La Shana Tova ,
Cliff Kelman

YIZKOR LIST

Please call (847) 604-4060 or email ritual@amchai.org with any new names you would like included on our Yizkor List. All names on last year's list will be repeated this year. All names will be displayed on boards at the Yom Kippur Yizkor Service and they will be read aloud during the Yizkor service.

HOST an O'NEG SHABBAT

Please contact the Ritual Committee if you'd like to sponsor an Oneg. Call (847) 604-4060 or email ritual@amchail.org

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

Yahrzeit

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 ritual@amchai.org to notify the Ritual Committee of the date and name of the person to be remembered so that you can be advised of the relevant service. (Yahrzeit will be said for you, in the event you are unable to attend).

Oops!

We overlooked this in the prior issue:
Belated Anniversary wishes to **Barry and Judith Goldstein** on August 28th. Many more in the future.



Am Chai Board At Work

Editors Notes

We would like to thank Evan and Ellen Karpel for all the work that they have done through the years on the Bulletin. We hope that we can continue the tradition that they have started. If you have any questions or want to put something in the Bulletin please let us know.

If we forget a Birthday or Anniversary we also want to know if we missed it. We feel that this publication should be informative to the members of the Congregation.

Editor-Perry White (Dick Zittler)

Boy Reporter-Jimmy Olson (Mike Reich)

Tribute Cards

You can buy Tribute Cards for someone's birthday, to offer condolences, to honor Bar/Bat Mitzvahs or other events (even a great golf game).

You can purchase a package of five cards with envelopes for a \$20 donation or we will mail a card for you for a contribution of \$5. This is a sample of what the custom cards that we mail look like:



You can order tribute cards 24/7 on our website www.amchai.org – click on Fundraiser & Tribute Cards and see the various types of cards. Then fill out the order form & send your order online or you may contact us via email tribcard@amchai.org

They Sent Tribute Cards

May through July 2011

Recovery

Helen & Alan Isaac to Mrs. Jane Michnik

Condolences

Marilyn Schwartz to Mr. Robert Nettleton
Marilyn Schwartz to Mrs. Sara Chambers & Family

Helen & Alan Isaac to Mr. and Mrs. Scott Boucher & Family

Helen & Alan Isaac to Mr. and Mrs. David Routenberg & Family

Helen & Alan Isaac to Ruth Dubkin And Family

Helen & Alan Isaac to Mr. Al Kramer and Family
Albert & Sharon Goldberg to Andy & Kerry Schwarcz

Marilyn Schwartz to Joyce and Myron Sturm and Family

Congratulations

Barb & Neil Henry to Art and Averil Reisman
Helen & Alan Isaac to Art and Averil Reisman
Helen & Alan Isaac to Miss Breanna Remack



Attendees at 2011 Annual Meeting

Fundraising Plans

Congregation Am Chai will be having another fundraising evening out this year. This time, the fun will be at Pilot Pete's, 905 Irving Park Road, Schaumburg 60193 (847-891-5100) on Sunday, Oct. 30, 2011 from 4:30 pm until ? Please RSVP Bob Miller at fundraiser@amchai.org.

With the success of last year's silent auction, we will again be offering ways for you to have a good time and support Am Chai at the same time. Last year I solicited for most of the donations. However, this year I am counting on your help to make the silent auction even more appealing. If every family can solicit at least one donation from their community, it would be a wonderful bonus to what I can make available. Please contact me (847-604-4060) or by e-mail (fundraiser@amchai.org) to discuss how you can get local businesses and merchants to support Am Chai and attract new customers as well.

Bob Miller



PRAYER BOOK PURCHASE

If you would like to honor someone, a great way to do so is to buy an Am Chai prayer book in his or her honor. For a donation of \$30.00 we 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.



Attendees at 2011 Annual Meeting

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A JUF Joyfully Jewish Event!

JUF Book Buddies Fall Holiday Celebration

Celebrate the Jewish fall holidays with JUF's Book Buddies Program!

This fun event is best for families with children ages 6 and under.

Sunday, September 25

9:30am - 11:30am

Kohl Children's Museum

2100 Patriot Boulevard, Glenview

Storytelling • Arts and Crafts • Kosher Holiday Snacks

\$36 per family in advance,

\$45 at the door (space permitting)

Includes two hours of private museum access!

Reserve your space now before it's sold out!

Visit www.juf.org/joyfullyjewish/FallHolidays

Call **312.357.4851**

Email joyfullyjewish@juf.org

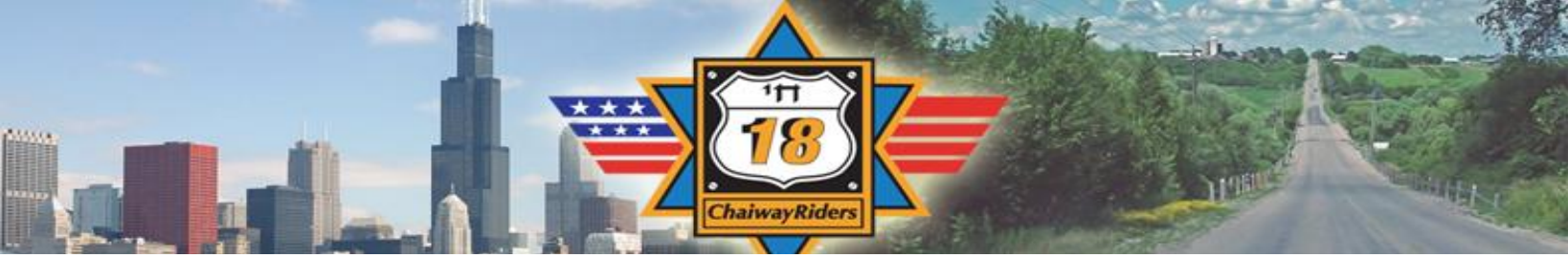


JUF's Joyfully Jewish Family Programs — JUF Book Buddies, JUF Right Start, Shalom Baby and the PJ Library — help connect young families with the joys of Jewish life, community and learning. Learn more at www.juf.org/joyfullyjewish.



The PJ Library wants to send your child a Jewish bedtime story each month – **for free!**

Visit www.juf.org/pjlibrary for details.



Chaiway Riders-a Jewish Motorcycle Club

As spring approaches each year, Jews anticipate the Passover season. For some however, spring is also the harbinger of the motorcycle riding season.

The Chaiway Riders is Chicago's oldest Jewish motorcycle club with almost 60 active members from all corners of the Chicagoland area. We have members from Chicago, the Western Suburbs and the North Shore; our membership stretches from Carol Stream to Wadsworth. Some of our members have been riding for more than 40 years while some have only recently discovered the thrill and excitement of motorcycling. We ride all makes and models of motorcycles. Our members are Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. Some attend services regularly, some less frequently. We welcome male and female riders as well as passengers, whatever your Jewish identity or religion may be. Our goal is to provide a safe environment for Jewish motorcyclists to gather and ride together.

The club gathers each Sunday morning for breakfast all year at George's What's Cooking, 350 South Waukegan Road, Deerfield, IL. We start assembling about 7:30AM and during the riding season leave at 9AM for a group ride, usually through Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin. Lunch is, of course, always on our ride itinerary.

The Chaiway Riders was formed in 2004 after the first Ride-2-Remember sponsored by the Jewish Motorcyclist Alliance. The JMA is an umbrella organization connecting Jewish motorcycle clubs around the world. Today the JMA has over 40 member clubs with more than 3,000 total members.

Supplementing our weekly rides, the club participates in a number of local charity motorcycle events and the annual Ride-2-Remember sponsored by the JMA. In addition to the camaraderie of this event, fund raising efforts support a charity chosen by the JMA dedicated to fighting anti-Semitism, bigotry, ethnic discrimination and hatred while promoting tolerance through Holocaust education. Past charities have included the Whitwell, Tennessee Middle School, the subject of the documentary *Paperclips* and the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie.

The club and its members are also active in the local Jewish community. Many of our members are involved in Jewish education and their temple's leadership. This year, the club will be joining Arie Crown Hebrew Day School students as they celebrate their reading achievements by having several members ride their cycles around a parking lot. The club is also a regular exhibitor at the Greater Chicago Jewish Festival.

For further information visit our web site, www.chaiwayriders.com.

If motorcycling and friendship with Jewish motorcyclists is something you may be interested in, please join us any Sunday at George's.

*George's What's Cooking
350 S. Waukegan Rd
Deerfield, IL 60015
GPS Coordinates N42° 08.868" W87° 49.930"*