

AM CHAI UPDATE

MARCH 2008 – MAY 2008 > SPRING EDITION

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

WEBSITE: WWW.AMCHAI.ORG

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From The Pulpit

Europe is an interesting continent. Every time I visit, it never fails to impress me with its multi-dimensional experiences. On my last trip I had a lot of interesting encounters. One of them occurred in **Bamberg, Germany**. Bamberg is a gorgeous Franconia town famous for its medieval atmosphere and its breweries. I enthusiastically partook of both. When you are in Bamberg, if you walk all the way up the *Judenstrasse* (Jewish St.), you will end up at the entrance to *Schlenkerla*, arguably the most famous local brewery. *Schlenkerla* produces a unique smoked beer. That is why it is a place of pilgrimage for so many tourists from all over the world.

While inside the *Schlenkerla* beer hall I struck a conversation with some locals. Very nice and hospitable people! The discussion somehow switched to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. My new friends expressed an idea I heard so many times before: these armed to the teeth Israelis just wouldn't let these poor Palestinians be *etc.*. In response I pointed out a very simple fact. The overwhelming majority of the Israelis do think that the Palestinian State ought to exist. Yet the majority of the Palestinians do think that the Jewish State shouldn't exist at all. Then how can you expect Israel to seek compromise with someone who believes that the Jewish State should be erased from the map? The Germans agreed with me.

This teaches us an important lesson. While in America the above paragraph would merely constitute preaching to the choir, in Europe things are not so obvious. The Arab world did do a good public relations job on the European continent. Many Europeans are aware of the Palestinian point of view. However, we, the Jews, have not done such a good job. We did not promote our point of view to a sufficient extent. I happen to think that we should do that, considering the fact that Europe continues to play a vital role in the world.

Europeans are very open minded people. They often express opinions critical of Israel merely because we fail to present our case properly. It is too easy to do it in the US, and it is more competitive out in Europe. So let us go out and compete for people's minds out there! It's about time.

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 7	8 PM
Friday night,	March 21	8 PM
	<i>Purim Service</i>	
Friday night,	April 11	8 PM
Friday night,	April 25	8 PM
	<i>Passover Service with Yizkor</i>	
Friday night,	May 9	8 PM
Friday night,	May 23	8 PM
	<i>Lag B'Omer Service</i>	

BAGELS & LOX WITH THE RABBI

Sunday morning,	March 16	10 AM
Sunday morning,	April 13	10 AM
Sunday morning,	May 18	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 6	Staci Singer
Mar 9	Frances Silver
Mar 10	Steven Schulwolf
Mar 14	Joshua Placko
Mar 18	Sharon Zittler
Mar 19	Brian Sandroff
Mar 19	Zach Zider
Mar 20	Richard Ginsburg
Mar 23	Joseph Rotstein
Mar 25	Sandra Marcus
Mar 29	Ryan Aronoff
Mar 29	Evelyn Miller
Apr 3	Scott Goldstein
Apr 4	Richard Placko
Apr 5	Gabrielle Byer
Apr 12	David Henning
Apr 17	Jeffrey Goldberg
Apr 17	Julie Remack
Apr 18	Sanford Ginsburg
Apr 18	Jacob Reich
Apr 26	Laura Rabe
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 15	Terry Sandroff
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

Anniversaries

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 12	Helen & Alan Isaac
May 24	Mary & Howard Ecker
May 26	Melanie & Josh Ludolph
May 29	Geraldine & Bernard Apple
May 31	Sharon & Albert Goldberg

CONGRATULATIONS

To Marlene & Jeff Zider on the birth of a grandson *Jake Matthew* to parents Jen & Marc Zider

RABBI'S NEW INTERNET NUMBERS

Website: www.rabbitillman.com

Email: contact@rabbitillman.com

The Prez Sez

As we go thru the cold, snowy month of January it seems to be the time of the year that takes forever to finish. After feeling those winter winds your body seems to say don't go outside unless you have to. Well it has been quite comforting to see the exceptional attendance at our two Friday night services this month. In spite of the cold there has been no need to count heads to see if we have a minion. The warmth we feel at Friday night services with a good hearty group participating seems to make you forget about the cold weather outside and makes you feel warm inside. And no, it is not because the temperature is so hot in the Devonshire, but rather it is because we are with other friends celebrating the Sabbath. This congregation being as small as it is has always seemed like an extended family. Your participation will hopefully make this family continue to grow and make others want to become members.

Before we know it the holidays of Purim and Passover will be here. The Purim service is a great opportunity to bring children of all ages to hear the story from the Megillah of Haman. We also will be having a Sunday morning adult ed brunch where we will have a discussion of the why's and why not's about the Passover holiday. I look forward to seeing everyone in the near future at one of our services.

I would like to extend a very special get well message to **Jane Michnik**. May you return to complete health and join us real soon. Also to **Eileen Ginsburg** may your recovery from knee surgery be as painless and quick as possible.

Al Goldberg

HANUKKAH PARTY REPORT

The following *Am Chai* members made last year's *Hanukkah Party* a success for all the adults and children who attended. The turnout was fantastic. The party was held at the home of **Arlene** and **Ron Bass**.

The *latkes* were prepared and served with the usual accompaniments by the following host or hostesses:

Ron Bass
Sharon Goldberg
Helen Isaac

Cindy Placko was kept very busy handling the *Hanukkah games* for both the adults and the children.

Mike Reich took many pictures of the events as they occurred and published them in the *Am Chai website*. The photos turned out to give an accurate picture of the fun that everyone had.

MAH JONGG PLAYERS ALERT

Six residents of the *Devonshire* are interested in learning to play the game of Mah Jongg.

Diane Kearney, Lifestyle Director of the Devonshire, requests our help in finding experienced Mah Jongg players who would be interested in teaching the six residents how to play.

If you or someone you know would like to teach six people the rules and intricacies of the game please contact the editor at writer303@comcast.net or his cell phone number, for further details.

Ritual Corner

Here we are in the middle of winter. We have had our share of precipitation as well as cold weather. Under such circumstances one may wonder if we would have a decent turnout for services. And yet on 1/11 we had a very good turnout, much better than expected. Also our *Tu B'Shevat* service on 1/25 was well attended. It is a good feeling to see that members do want to attend services and be with each other. Some may even say it is almost like getting together with friends, going out to dinner and a fun evening. Well, actually we are friends since being a member of *Am Chai* creates that close knit kinship to one another. There is always much *kibitzing* before and after services. We do not want to forget the service itself with **Rabbi Tillman's Torah** portion reading and interpretation Which, in comparison to today's world-wide occurrences can be so eye opening. We hope to continue having nice turnouts.

Our *Hanukkah* Party was well attended and a huge success. A huge thanks to **Ron and Arlene Bass** for the use of their home as the location; to **Cindy Placko** for her leadership skills in keeping everyone entertained with well coordinated games; to **Mike Reich** for his impeccable ability to photograph and transfer onto our website the day's activities; to **Ron Bass, Sharon Goldberg, and Helen Isaac** for their delectable "*latkes*"; not to mention **Ron and Arlene's** ability to obtain, prepare and serve all that food.

Let us remember that we have important services coming up. *Purim* on 3/21 is a fun filled family oriented service. The *Passover* service on 4/25 will include a *Yizkor* service. On 5/23 we will have our *Lag B'Omer* service. Those are just some of our Friday night services. Remember our monthly Sunday morning Bagels 'n Lox with the Rabbi Brunch/Discussions are always an enjoyable encounter.

Let's keep in mind "sponsoring" an *Oneg Shabbat* for any reason and then inviting your family and friends to enjoy the festivities. Plan to "host" a Sunday Brunch/Discussion with the

Rabbi (you will be reimbursed for any expenses incurred in hosting) and invite your family and friends. Both ideas can make for a great time. If you would like to host a Sunday function but your home cannot accommodate 13 to 20 people, you may consider hosting at the Kenneth Young Center in Elk Grove Village. The facility is centrally located and easily accessible. We would check with **Ellen Karpel** for availability.

Also please remember to keep us informed of family occurrences, may they be happy, sad or worrisome i.e. an illness or recovery. Such events can be posted in the *Am Chai Update* so that all of our members share it with you. We at *Am Chai* want to share your joys or sadness. This is what makes us a family oriented Congregation. We care about one another!

I am wishing each of you a family participated *Purim* and *Passover* that all may enjoy!

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

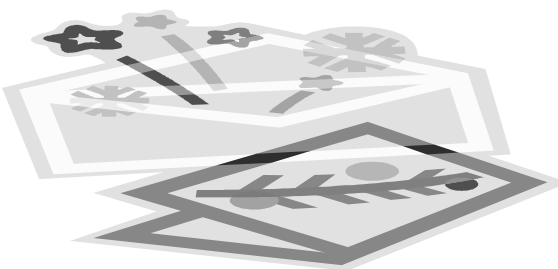
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A LOVED ONE'S Yahrzeit RECALLED AT A FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE? PLEASE CALL (847) 604-4060 OR SEND AN EMAIL

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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MICHAEL REICH

By phone

or by email at

amchai_mr@yahoo.com

GET WELL WISHES

- > Joshua Placko who had his tonsils removed.
- > Jim Langerman on his recovery from surgery
 - > Jane Michnik
 - > Eileen Ginsburg
 - > Sharon Goldberg

THANKS

- > Cindy & Rich Placko for hosting *Bagels'n Lox with the Rabbi* on Feb 24
- > Ron Bass for the food and wine for the *Tu B'Shevat Service* on Jan 25

O'NEG SHABBAT

- > Jerry Weisberg on Dec 7, 2007
 - > Sharon & Al Goldberg on Dec 14, 2007
 - > Cindy & Rich Placko on Dec 14, 2007
- > Melanie & Steve Wagner on Jan 11, 2008

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