

Congregation Agudas Achim - Ezrath Israel

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☆ MARCH – APRIL 2016 ☆ BULLETIN ☆ ADAR II 5776 – NISAN 5776 ☆

Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you from Tel Aviv, near the end of a moving and fascinating ten-day stay in Israel to attend the annual conference of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Every seven years we hold our convention in Israel, and this year's gathering coincided with significant legal victories and historic events in the progress of Liberal Judaism in Israel. Thursday morning we gathered with over 150 rabbis, men and women to pray at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, in the first officially recognized egalitarian prayer space at the Wall. If the government fulfills its promises, in the face of ultra-Orthodox opposition, the southern part of the wall will be open to prayers of mixed groups of men and women. The previous day, our entire cohort of 300 rabbis from the U.S., Israel and around the world, were invited to attend a meeting of the Knesset committee on Absorption and Diaspora Relations. It was the first time a group of Liberal rabbis had been invited to meet with a standing Knesset Committee. Fifteen members of the Knesset addressed our group, including Tzippi Livni, Michael Oren, and Yair Lapid, as well as Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the president of the URJ and Anat Hoffman, the dynamic leader of the Women of the Wall and Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center. Among the themes raised was the historic progress of the Liberal movements in Israel in lobbying to strengthen alternative ways to be Jewish in Israel which strengthens it as a Democratic and Jewish state. The invitation and the speeches of the Knesset members impressed upon us that the Orthodox monopoly on Jewish religious life in Israel is finally being broken.

The theme of religious tolerance was central to our convention's program. On Wednesday night we gathered at the Church of the Dormition just outside the Old City of Jerusalem, for a candlelight march and prayer service. We were assembled at this beautiful Eastern Orthodox abbey to express our solidarity with a Christian community, whose beautiful house of worship was vandalized by Jewish extremists not long ago. We prayed and sang together for peace and tolerance in Israel.

Our journey to Israel last week began with two private visits. Barbara and I, together with my parents Rabbi Harold Kudan and Phyllis Kudan traveled to the Druze village of Osfiya near Haifa to meet with our old friend Zeidan Atashi and his wife Malaky. With the most gracious hospitality Zeidan and his family welcomed us and treated us to a delicious oriental lunch. Many members of the Malden community recall when Zeidan spoke at the Temple in Malden just a few years ago, to share with us his experiences as a member of the Druze minority in Israel. You may know that the Druze are fiercely devoted to Israel. Zeidan was the first Druze to serve as a diplomat for Israel abroad, the first to serve as a member of Knesset, and is still, in retirement, very involved in Israeli and middle eastern politics, both as an advocate for the Druze in Israel, and to help Druze refugees from Syria to find safe havens in Jordan and beyond.

The next day we had an extended visit to an amazing Israeli institution: Beit Issie Shapiro in Ra'anana. Beit Issie Shapiro is probably the most important Israeli organization you have never heard of. They are pioneers in serving children with disabilities and their families. They have been recognized in Israel as the most effective non-profit in the country. They are now also lauded by the United Nations as a model institution and they are asked to consult around the world to share their research and best practices with others. Some of their projects are the following:

- [Early Intervention Center – Ra'anana and Kalansua](#)
- [Special Education School](#)
- [Community Child Development Center](#)
- [Snoezelen Multi-Sensory Environment](#)
- [Dental Clinic](#)
- [Hydrotherapy Center](#)
- [Sport and Recreation Center](#)
- [Family Therapy Center](#)
- [Dual Diagnosis Center](#)
- Social Club for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities

- [Cerebral Palsy Center](#)
- [Technology Consulting Center](#)

One of the very many inspiring and impressive aspects of their work has been a collaboration with Google to make laptops easily adaptable for many sorts of disabilities. We hope to create a Boston friends of Beit Issie Shapiro in the near future.

See: <http://en.beitissie.org.il>

It is amazing what Israel has accomplished in so many fields of endeavor, the arts, science, medicine, humanitarian aid, yet it is tragic that so much of Israel's effort and treasure must be devoted to defense. No wonder that Israel's search for peace is foremost in our minds. As rabbis and Jewish leaders we sought to educate ourselves on Israel's security situation and the tragedy of the many missed opportunities for peace that have been thwarted and squandered over the decades. At our conference one session focused on the prospects of achieving a two-state solution. Several individuals who are intimately acquainted with the peace process presented. Professor Reuven Hazon of Hebrew University raised our hopes with an assessment of the possibility of achieving a two-state solution that would ensure that Israel remain a democratic state while retaining a Jewish majority. The other panelists MK Hilik Bar of the Zionist Union, and Elias Zananiri, Vice Chairman of the PLO Committee for Interaction with the Israeli Society. The panel was followed by a fiery address by MK Benny Begin who put forth a much less optimistic assessment of the peace process. We understood that we have a long way to go toward reaching an accord between Israeli, the Palestinians, and Israel's neighbors.

Of the many moving and memorable moments of this conference in Israel, I must highlight our Shabbat morning - Shacharit service. This morning our rabbinic group assembled for prayer at the Tel Aviv museum. Our prayers were led by an amazing ensemble of musicians, and rabbis, including an Israeli born woman, Shani Ben Or, who will become the first Israeli woman cantor-rabbi. The theme of the service was expressed in the words of the spiritual leader of the early days of Israel, Rav Kook, who said that in Israel (then Palestine), "The old will be renewed, and the new will be made holy -- Ha yashan yitchadesh ve-hechadash yitkadesh." It was especially moving to see my father Rabbi Harold Kudan honored with an Aliyah to the Torah. As the most senior rabbi attending the convention, he stood beside Thalia Halpert Rodis, a first-year rabbinic student at the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem, who served as the Torah reader. Indeed, we felt as if the words of Rav Kook represented a prophecy fulfilled in our own time, for there, in the Old-New city of Tel Aviv, in the vibrant state of Israel, as Jews of the Diaspora prayed together with ancient words and with enchanting modern melodies, as the youngest and oldest generations of rabbis and teachers and leaders led us in reflection and prayer, "The old was renewed and the new was made holy."

Rabbi David Kudan

Bikkur Cholim/ Visiting the Sick

Please call the office or have someone call on your behalf if you are ill, or know of a congregant who is ill and would like a visit by Rabbi Kudan. The only way Rabbi Kudan will know if you are hospitalized or ill is if he is notified. Please rest assured that the Rabbi does his best to protect a person's privacy.

KOFFEE WITH KUDAN RETURNS: MONTHLY TORAH STUDY WITH THE RABBI

Koffee with Kudan Returns -- by Popular Demand

Come explore the Torah portion with Rabbi Kudan over coffee and a nosh.

10:30-12:00

Thursdays MARCH 10, APRIL 7, MAY 5

RSVP NOT REQUIRED BUT WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO KNOW YOU ARE COMING:

email rabbi@kudan.net

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Rabbi David Kudan

rabbi@kudan.net

cell: 617-877-3818

Home and Study

26 Sacramento Street

Cambridge, MA 02138

President's Message

This will probably be my last message as president. I wish the best to the new line of officers. They have a hard job ahead of them. It will be up to all of us to help them. Have a healthy and safe spring and summer.

President Philip Butkovitz

2106 Tu B'Shevat Donations

Thank you to the following people for their generous donations towards our Tu B'Shevat celebration:

M/M Michael Simons, Dvora Zimmerman, Vicki Hamberg - In memory of Leonard Hamberg & In honor of Don's birthday, Leslie & Elaine Lerman - In memory of Victor Lerman & In honor of Don's birthday, Beverly Visnick - In memory of Ted Visnick, John & Regina Kaufman - In honor of Don's birthday, Allan & Laraine Alpert - In honor of Don's birthday, Phyllis Werlin & Alan Levine, Arlene & Joe Ceppetelli - In honor of Don's Birthday, Cheryl Rivers - In honor of Don's birthday, Barbara Weiner - in honor of Don's birthday

Building Fund Donations

To: Arthur Kahn - for being an honoree of the North Shore Black Women's Assoc.
From: Barbara & Don Weiner

To: Leslie Lerman - In memory of his uncle Victor Lerman
From: Arthur & Barbara Kahn

To: Gary Parker, get well
From: Phyllis & Bob Lerner

To: Lisa Cianci - in memory of her brother
From: Arleen & Dina Fox

Dates to Remember

March 10 - Adult Education (10:30-12)
March 21 - Sisterhood Meeting with Speaker (7:30 p.m.)
March 23-23 - Purim (tba)
April 7 - Adult Education (10:30-12)
April 10 - Sisterhood Meeting (10 a.m.)
April 22 - Passover 1st Seder
23 - Passover 2nd Family Seder (6:30 p.m.)
April 30 - YIZKOR

DUES DUES DUES!!!

If you have not paid your Congregation Dues, please do so ASAP. We really need your cooperation this time of year. Your dues bills have been sent out and it would be appreciated if you would remit payment. Thanks in advance!!!!

MEMBERSHIP

Please --- Help your synagogue by paying your Dues!!!! PLEASE HELP US OUT.

Thanks!



CANCELLATIONS OF SERVICES, ETC. FOR ANY REASON, WEATHER ESPECIALLY, WILL BE PUT ON TV CHANNELS 4, 5, AND 7.

Recycle

Recycle your Ink Jet cartridges, dispose of your cartridges in the marked box in the Temple office. Not only are you recycling, we will be getting back a donation that will be used for office supplies.

The Tree of Life

The TREE OF LIFE is on the wall in the lobby at the entrance. Not only does this enhance the beauty of our Temple, but the purchase of a Leaf is a way to permanently commemorate a joyous occasion, a special day or a Memorial. Please consider the purchase of a Leaf on our Tree of Life.

CONTRIBUTION - \$200.00

For more information, inquire at the Temple Office (781) 322-7205

Religious committee

As I sit at my desk, gazing out into the early dawn of a late February morning, I am in awe – in awe of the fact that I can see the black top of my driveway and not the 12 feet of snow that was there last February!!!! All you snowbirds – you didn't have to go south to enjoy this winter. We're managing just fine up here! (Oy, I hope the gods of winter don't throw me a curveball.)

I hope everyone is enjoying this relatively mild winter. Our Shabbat minyans have been well attended. Our thanks to Gerry Shulman who has come on several occasions to chant the Haftorah; to Michael and Mark Simons who always manage to liven up the liturgy; to Elaine and Leslie Lerman who are there as much as weather permits; to Bella and Dave Westerman who still manage to make services several times a month despite their wide travels. And of course, my thanks to the minyanaireses – Marilyn Masters, Dvora Zimmerman, Carol Sugerman, Dina Fox, Bobbie Epstein (who's finally well), Barbara and Don Weiner, David Alpert, our intrepid president, Phil Butkovitz, and our sexton, Wayne Freedman. Most of all, our thanks to Rabbi Kudan who always manages to make Shabbat into a lively discussion of biblical extrapolations and references to modern life. Of course, there are sometimes surprises when Marilyn decides to make her special herring or her delicious cottage cheese and scallion dip. Is it wrong to want to come on Shabbat primarily to eat? I don't think so – we're Jews; it's in our DNA.

I'm sure you're all excited about our special event coming up in September. We're still accepting donations to help defray the cost of the Ljuba Davis Ensemble concert which will be held at the Temple on September 18. Large or small – everything helps – please send the checks to the Temple where they'll be put into a special account. I hope to see you before then, however, especially on Saturday!

Paula Sack, Ritual Chair

***** DO YOU NEED A RIDE TO A CONGREGATION FUNCTION OR SERVICE? ******

Call Don Weiner at (781) 324-0108. He will try to arrange transportation for you.

Do you have a Simcha coming soon? Let us help you celebrate such Happy Occasions. Sponsor an Oneg or Kiddush and enjoy with Family and Friends. Call Marilyn Masters (781) 322-2035.

Have you given your E-mail address to the office for our TEI Lifeline? We are trying to keep everyone updated on all important Temple news electronically. So, if you want to be included on this listing, please leave your information with Dina in the office at (781) 322-7205 or send to Laraine Alpert at Lja609@aol.com.

Brotherhood News

Brothers,

First I want to apologize. Our January 17 meeting never happened, due to a lot of things that ganged-up on me. It won't happen again.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 20. Please make every effort to attend. We have things we must talk about. As a reward for the punishment of your showing-up, our award-winning Snack Team will provide the usual top-notch nasheri and all the coffee you can drink. (oy)

I'm going to take off my Brotherhood President hat for a minute.

It's no secret that our shul is in financial trouble. Groups like the Brotherhood and the Sisterhood raise money to help, but the bills come in faster than we can pay. We must all do something. I hear many people complain, "I can't go to the meetings because the building is too far. I can only go there on the High Holidays" (and bingo-night). Well, if the bank forecloses and locks the doors, now you will really have a hike to the nearest shul. One way to keep ours 'alive and healthy' is to donate money. If all you people reading this mail a check every month to the shul office, it would help cover expenses. Any amount you can afford is good. I can hear all the arguments against this suggestion – "I already pay Membership Dues...I can't give any more money...I'm on a fixed income...I'm too busy...Let someone else pay...My \$5 won't change anything..."

Here's an even better argument –

"Who are you, to tell everyone to send money. 'We' didn't authorize you to say that."

You want to know who I am? I am a concerned Jew who doesn't want the shul to close. And I don't need anyone's permission to say that we all should do what we can to keep one of the few remaining shuls in Malden vibrant and active. Once it closes, many of us will lose a connection to our forebears who founded it almost a hundred years ago.

This financial doom-and-gloom is a fact. Ask anyone on the Board. It's not too late to act. However, if we kid ourselves into thinking it's not that serious, start shopping around for a new shul to join.

Now I'll put my hat back on.

Leslie Lerman, Brotherhood President

******* TEI Cemetary *******

Please note that Don and I are preparing to retire as chairpeople of Ezrath Israel Cemetery as of July 1, 2016. We have been doing this job for many years and we're hoping that someone who has grave sites in the cemetery and are members of our congregation will take over. If not, we plan to turn the running and business of the cemetery to John Ross & Son, people who have been caretakers, etc. for well over 50 years. If you are interested in purchasing lots, please get in touch with us as we have no idea what the purchase prices will be after the change of ownership. We will keep you informed as we get closer to the change.

Barbara Weiner
Bobie52003@yahoo.com
781-324-0108

Oneg/Kiddush Sponsors

Please consider full or partial sponsorship of an Oneg Shabbat (Friday night after services), a Kiddush (Saturday morning after services) or even a Friday Night Dinner in honor of a simcha in your life, in memory of a loved one, or just because you want to. Call the shul office at 781-322-7205 for details.

*******Saturday Minyans*******

We are in need of YOU, our members, to attend Saturday Morning Services as often as you can (Men & Women). Services begin at 9:30 am, followed by Kiddush.

Come and enjoy the services and friendship of our weekly "Minyannaires."
Hope to see you soon!

Adult Education

Hello everyone! Our Spring Lifelong Learners Koffee with Kudan program is continuing on March 10, 2016 at 10:30am. We are studying Torah Parshas in depth. Some people might be a little scared to study these Parshas and feel clueless or feel you might have nothing to contribute. But let me assure you of several things. First you Don't have to read Hebrew. Second you Don't have to come to services to understand the area of the Torah that's being studied. Third you Don't have to be Bar or Bat Mitzvahed to learn anything. Fourth the Rabbi loves any ideas anybody has. No idea or interpretation is wrong. Fifth you can join us on any of the dates. Personally, I found it fun to listen to what interpretations of a verse the different famous Rabbis have had and if I agree or not. Everyone has a different way of thinking. I like hearing what everyone thinks because their ideas might open my mind to something I hadn't thought of before. I hope you feel a little more comfortable about the program. Lifelong Learners is just that: nobody has to have any previous knowledge because the whole idea is to Learn! So please come and join us!

If you have any questions, please call me at 781-223-8501 or the Rabbi at the office 781-322-7205.

Elaine Lerman, Adult Education Chair

Koffee with Kudan Thursdays at 10:30am

March 10, 2016

April 7, 2016

May 5, 2016

******* Kaddish *******

You can now arrange for Kaddish to be said for a loved family member or friend at our weekly Shabbat Services. Call the shul office at 781-322-7205 for details.

Bingo News

Bingo is one of our Temple livelihoods; think of this as giving a few hours a month as a nice donation to the Temple. **PLEASE HELP!!!** -- If anyone would like to lend a hand on Tuesday nights -- please get in touch with me. We especially need sellers on the floor for the first half.....for as long as you can stay...maybe 1 – 2 hours, once or twice a month. I will be more than happy to hear from you.

I would to have some volunteers to help sell strips out front (for backup) – we seem to be shorthanded on Tuesday nights - because someone is sick, has some kind of problem and can't make it for some other reason. It's from 5:00 – 6:45. Just give me a call at 781-324-7562 or leave your name and phone number at the temple.

I would also like some volunteers to call back numbers from the floor when bingos are called. It is not a hard job - it can be taught in a few minutes. Leave your phone numbers with me or the office.

Bobbi Epstein (781) 324-7562

Sisterhood News

Hello ladies! Mother Nature decided we weren't going to have our February get-together. We were all ready for a quick meeting and discussion of Boston Girl led by Celia Brown, but the weather didn't cooperate. Perhaps we can talk about discussing Boston Girl some other time. It is hard to believe with some of the warm weather we have been getting, that it is still winter until March 20, 2016. We start out Spring by having our meeting the very next day!

Our March 21st meeting we will be discussing our Passover meeting, Donor Luncheon and Sisterhood Sabbath. The speaker will be Ellen Potash, professional organizer. She will give a brief talk followed by a question and answer period. It's never too late for organizing your stuff, because things tend to accumulate no matter how neat you are. Perhaps you have a closet that is getting crowded or drawers that are messy or stuff with no home. Ellen will help you with all of these organizational problems. So I hope to see you there ready with questions for Ellen. Even if you don't have questions, come and join us and spend time with your friends. It's been a long time since we saw you.

For our April 11, 2016 meeting, the Rabbi will be joining us to talk about Passover cooking with his brisket recipe. We would like to have our own little cooking show. The Rabbi would like to know if anyone would like to demonstrate chicken soup or a Passover dessert. Remember it has to be Kosher and to be made in the AA-EI kitchen. Also, if you would be interested to share your favorite Passover recipes, bring them along and we will make copies for everyone who wants one. This should be a lot of fun, so please come! For any questions about either of these meetings or anything else, please call me at 781-223-8501.

Elaine Lerman, Sisterhood President

April 10, 2016	Sunday	Pesach cooking with the Rabbi
May 15, 2016	Sunday	Sisterhood Donor Luncheon
June 25, 2016	Saturday	Sisterhood Sabbath

Sincerely,
Elaine Lerman
Sisterhood President

Sisterhood Contacts

Club-o-Grams:

Club-o-Gram cards are sent out for any and all occasions. Cost is \$3 each.
Sent by chairs Barbara Weiner - (781) 324-0108 or Phyllis Werlin - (781) 321-0238.

Kitchen Fund:

Donations can be made to support the Sisterhood kitchen – contact Kitchen Fund chair Beverly Visnick at (781) 388-6995.

Kitchen Committee:

The Sisterhood Kitchen Committee can always use assistance for Kiddushes, Temple Functions, and Sisterhood meetings and dinners. If you can offer some help, either in food preparation or setting tables, contact Marilyn Masters at (781) 322-2035.

Judaica Shop:

Contact Laraine Alpert at lja609@aol.com if you are looking for something for yourself, kids or hostess gift.

Hostess Fund

Members who have donated to the Hostess Fund are:

Birthdays:

February

Marilyn Masters, February 9

March

Dottie Scott, March 24

April

Cheryl Rivers, April 15

Lee Goldman, April 18

Happy Birthday Wishes

Anniversaries:

March

Reisa and Gary Parker, March 19

Ilysa and Brian McCarthy, March 29

Sylvia and Hy Sandler, March 30

April

Dvora and Jack Zimmerman, April 1

Happy Anniversary

So, whether it be a birth, birthday, anniversary, new home or other celebration, please remember the Hostess Fund

Happy and Healthy forthcoming holidays,

Cheryl Rivers

(617) 389-1447

cmel5@aol.com

Sisterhood Club-O-Grams

CONGRATULATIONS

To: Cheryl Rivers, in honor of birth of great granddaughter, Nadia Monique
From: Elaine & Leslie Lerman

GET WELL

To: Gerry Ventrano
From: Bobbi & Dickie Giller

To: Bernie Yessin
From: Congregation, Barbara & Don Weiner, Marilyn Masters, Laraine & Allan Alpert, Dina Fox, Beverly Visnick

To: Maurice Kipnis
From: Congregation, Barbara & Don Weiner, Marilyn Masters, Laraine & Allan Alpert, Dina Fox, Bobbi Epstein, Paula Sack

To: Shirley Gilgulin
From: Bella & Davis Westerman, Barbara & Don Weiner

To: Bob Scott
From: Congregation, Paula Sack, Dina Fox, Barbara & Don Weiner, Marilyn Masters, Bobbi Epstein, Carol & Alan Sugerman, Laraine & Allan Alpert

To: Ilysa McCarthy
From: Congregation, Sisterhood, Sheila & Maurice Kipnis, Laraine & Allan Alpert, Bobbi Epstein, Carol & Alan Sugerman, Barbara & Don Weiner, Dina Fox, Paula Sack

To: Stewart Don
From: Congregation, Barbara & Don Weiner

To: Ruth Greenberg
From: Bella & David Westerman

CONDOLENCES

To: Elaine Piven, In memory of sister Irma Adler
From: Congregation, Sisterhood, Barbara & Don Weiner, Sheila & Maurice Kipnes, Lorraine Bendell, Miriam & Ed Cohen

To: Lerman Family, In memory of uncle Victor
From: Congregation, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Barbara & Don Weiner, Marilyn Masters, Paula Sack, Dina Fox, Bobbi Epstein, Arlene & Herbert Baron, Dottie & Bob Scott, Bella & David Westerman

Officers of Sisterhood Congregation Agudas Achim-Ezrath Israel (2015-2017)

President	Elaine Lerman	(781) 223-8501
First Vice President	Ilysa McCarthy	(781) 321-0042
Second Vice President	Amanda Alpert	(781) 775-0174
Treasurer	Marilyn Masters	(781) 322-2035
Financial Secretary	Bobbi Epstein	(781) 324-7562
Asst. Financial Secretary	Carol Sugerman	(781) 321-4535
Recording Secretary (Board & Body)	Phyllis Werlin	(781) 321-0238
Corresponding Secretary (Board)	Dottie Scott	(781) 321-2528
Corresponding Secretary (Body)	Dina Fox	(781) 324-1145



JF&CS Family Table Helping Those in Need

Congregation Agudas Achim - Ezrath Israel has partnered with JF&CS Family Table and will be collecting food for their monthly distributions.

Jewish Family & Children's Services Family Table provides low-income families, isolated seniors, disabled adults, unemployed, working poor and Waltham residents with emergency or monthly groceries.

JF&CS has grown dramatically since its inception, and have gone from assisting 40 families in 1993 to assisting over 400 families in Greater Boston today. With the donations of food from 48 collection sites, JF&CS Family Table currently provides kosher food, fresh produce, dairy products, meats, and Jewish ritual and holiday items each month.

We have been asked to make a commitment to collect 1 lb boxes or bags of rice or raisins every month. Our goal is to collect ten of each item before delivering them for distribution. We hope you will help us reach our goal.

Next time you purchase your family groceries; won't you please add one of these items to your shopping cart and bring it with you to the temple? Please help us fulfill our responsibility to provide the corners of our field for the poor and needy. Help us make a difference and help feed the hungry in our community.

A collection bin has been set up in the Temple office.

Thank you,

**Phyllis Werlin
Family Table Site Coordinator for AAEL**