

olshin
קולות ק.ק. עדת ישראל

 **Adath Israel**
Celebrate Jewish Life

Middletown, Connecticut
December 2015/Kislev-Tevet 5776



CAMP RAMAH IN NEW ENGLAND

by Rabbi Haaz

Because my first two articles for our monthly newsletter focused on the High Holy Days and the Nathan

Olshin Scholar-in-Residence Series, I have been waiting eagerly for months to tell you about Camp Ramah, and specifically our New England branch. This summer, I had the privilege and joy to spend a week at Camp Ramah as one of the rabbinic educators. I was thrilled to see flourishing Jewish life in daily prayer services, in the dining hall, on the sports fields, and anywhere and everywhere campers and staff could be found. And, I was overjoyed to learn that Camp Ramah in New England is experiencing record-breaking growth. This past summer saw a jump in the number of campers from 875 to 925. The increase in campers is a testament to the current leadership of Camp Ramah, and the camp looks forward to a brand new dining hall this year and a continuing effort to upgrade its facilities.

As a rabbinic educator, I taught full days of classes to children ranging from 3rd grade through 10th grade. This year's theme was the Friday night service, and I was deeply moved by the opportunity to challenge young Jews to extract meaning from the

(Rabbi Continued on page 2)

WHAT WE REMEMBER

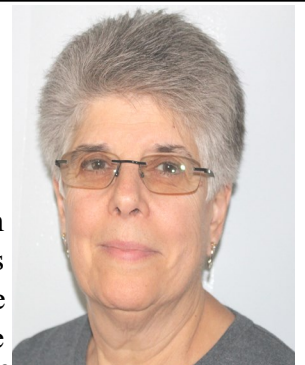
By Eileen Daling

There is a plaque in my den that says, "Life is what happens when you are making other plans." Over the years, this happens to all of us. We plan to do one thing and something else gets in the way. With our busy lives, we tend to forget things we should remember.

I believe this has happened with some of the ways we do things at Adath Israel. So, let me take this opportunity to remind everyone of some of the long-standing procedures that may have been forgotten and that our newer members may not be familiar with.

- Shabbat is a sacred time and phone calls should not be made to members, officers or employees unless an extreme emergency. At which point, the first contact should be your President.
- When the office is closed for vacation or holidays, the employees are off duty. Again, if there is an extreme emergency, contact your President.

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(Rabbi Continued from page 1)

experience of prayer. During each discussion, I felt an incredible gratitude to their parents for creating this opportunity for their children to be able to engage with a rabbi for a small part of each day through the informal setting of camp. At the same time, it was important to me to have my own children at camp during that week to expose them to a vibrant Jewish experience that can only be had at Camp Ramah. On the drive to Ramah I told my four year-old daughter Sophie that we would be singing Friday night prayers with hundreds of children – something that most Jews will never see outside of the Shabbat experience at Ramah. And, during the Shabbat service, I made sure to pick Sophie up and walk her all the way around the benches with hundreds of children singing so that she would be sure to absorb it all. Ramah is special. Ramah is special because children sing and dance together in the dining hall after each meal. Ramah is special because it provides unique Jewish experiences along with stellar sports, arts, and other camp activities. Ramah is special because the campers, often unbeknownst to them, learn important Jewish values that will guide them throughout their lives and help them to become good people, content people, and successful people.

In addition to the skills and values learned by individual campers, Ramah also serves the Jewish people as a whole. There may be no greater bulwark against the current decline in the American Jewish community than Camp Ramah. Camp Ramah produces excellent Jewish adults who care about others in their community and are devoted to Jewish values and their Jewish identity. ‘Graduates’ of Camp Ramah seek out opportunities to live a Jewish life and form the relationships necessary to do so. The strong bonds that unite the campers and those that unite the staff lead *Ramahniks* to seek each other out as they mature into adulthood. Prominently featured on the homepage, Camp Ramah celebrates those couples whose relationships began at Camp Ramah with a link to “Ramah Marriages.” This speaks to the strength of the relationships that are forged at Ramah, and, more importantly, it points to Camp Ramah’s understanding of the role that it plays in the future of the Jewish people, if it is to remain vibrant.

There are a number of Jewish camps that offer opportunities to engage our children, but I am confident that Camp Ramah offers the most benefit for our

children and the most promise for the future of the Jewish people. This is why, in addition to the grant money available to Jewish campers through the Maxine Thumin Campership Fund, Adath Israel offers additional support to those families who wish to send their children to Camp Ramah. We are blessed to have an anonymous donor who is passionate about the contributions that Camp Ramah makes to the future of the Jewish people, and there is additional money in the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund specifically designated to help Adath Israel families send their children to Camp Ramah. In addition to these three sources of support, Federation offers a \$1,000 grant for a child’s first year of camp. I will help in any way that I can to help make summers at Camp Ramah a reality for your children.

There are many ways to learn more about the Ramah experience. I am available to talk about Camp Ramah as is Anna Elfenbaum, our Religious School Principal. In addition, Adath Israel will host the leadership of Camp Ramah over the coming years to become better acquainted with its program and philosophy. There are also opportunities to visit camp in action during the summer for a day or overnight visit. Please commit to learning something about Camp Ramah this year; visit the website at campramah.org, talk with me or Anna, attend informational sessions at the synagogue, or arrange a visit for this summer. At whatever level you are comfortable engaging Camp Ramah this year, please begin to consider Camp Ramah for the growth, meaning, and fulfillment of your children or grandchildren, and please consider Camp Ramah for the future of the Jewish people.



(President Continued from page 1)

- Any member is welcome to come and address the Board of Directors at any of our monthly meetings.
- Prior to the Board of Directors meetings, there is an evening minyon starting at 7:00 PM for those wishing to attend the short service or in need of saying kaddush.
- If there is something you are concerned about, please tell one of your Executive Board members so we can address the concern in a positive way. Hearing things second hand makes it difficult to deal with the correct issue(s) and inhibits our ability to work towards a successful resolution.
- If you have a question/issue/concern, your first contact should be the Committee Chair of the appropriate committee to enable them to try to handle the issue. If you are not sure who the Committee Chair is, please check your Membership Leadership Pamphlet (sent out in the August mailing). If you are unable to find the chair's contact information, please call the office during regular business hours to obtain that information. Finally, if there is still a problem, please contact your President.
- We are always looking for suggestions and/or help either on a committee or even for a one-time event. Find your passion and contact that committee chair to inquire about joining that committee. Have only little bits of time once in a while, call the office and add your name and contact information to a list of "Helpers." You will be called from time to time, asked to help with a simple task at which point you can decide if you are available to help. Your name remains on the list so you can be called again to help, if needed.

As your President, I encourage you all, both new and long time members, to be seen, heard and engaged in being part of Adath Israel's ever changing and wonderful future.

May the light of the menorah, brighten your families with a wonderful and fun filled Chanukah!

Don't forget to check the rest of this Kolot for activities, events, and programs that will take place this month. Wouldn't want you to miss something exciting.

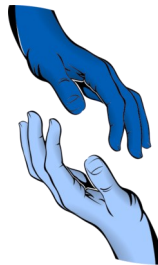
ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

We are so very blessed to have members/friends who give to the synagogue continually either financially or physically for the betterment of Adath Israel throughout the year. Their continued support helps to ensure the successful existence of our synagogue, our Jewish community and the education of our children. With their generosity and the addition of all who give to our Annual Giving Campaign, our Adath Israel continues to be a bee hive of activity, both old and new.

Our **Eleventh Annual Giving Campaign** has come to a close. The Board of Directors would sincerely like to thank the following who have sent in their donation: **Morty Pear, Hinda Niemeyer, Ruth Beit, Susi Delldonna, Andrea Fassler, Mark & Donna Fineklstein, Paulette Gewirtz, Joe & Sarah Glaz, Art & Ann Lerner, Arthur & Marcia Meyers, Stuart Osber, Mark & Luanne Paley, Sara Paley, Jeffrey Palmer, Shirley Ross, Phyllis Rubin, Robert & Barbara Sequenzia, Dave & Teresa Shulman, Ann Stehney, Jeremy & Vicki Zwelling, Edythe Rosenfield, Art & Phyllis Waldman, Judith Dembowitz, John & Marie-Dominique Boyce, Marian Katz, Harriet & Dewey Deeton, Stephen & Carol Shapiro, Daniel & Judith Merida, and Gertrude & Alan Steele.**

With these tough economic times, we appreciate all the support that our members and friends have given and continue to give the synagogue.

HELPING HANDS



Please remember to sign up for Adath Israel's Helping Hands and don't forget to check the calendar to volunteer at lotsa-helpinghands.com. If you are in need of a volunteer and want it posted on the calendar, please contact Debbie Seligman at deb@debsteele.net.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by *Anna Elfenbaum*

Religious School Principal

On any given Wednesday afternoon or Sunday morning, a visitor to the religious school will enjoy a multi-sensory experience

- the sound of children learning to lead Shabbat Services
- the smell of challah baking
- the controlled chaos of a recreation of the destruction of the Temple and aftermath
- the sight of an artist talking to children about abstract art and the Creation story

Our committed and enthusiastic faculty works hard to ensure that lessons are engaging, content-rich and are addressing the learning styles of all our students. This makes for a wonderful mixture of experiences every day. Volunteers are stepping up to do story time with our children and to help teach our Bar Mitzvah students. We welcome your talents and ideas and would be happy to find a way to share your skills and interests with our students.

As the days get shorter and the dark comes earlier, we are excited to bring light to our community during the Chanukah season. We are getting ready for our annual Menorah lighting and dinner on December 9 and hope to see many of you there.



Next Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 8 @ 7 PM
in the Nester Center

Discussing

***Lincoln and the Jews*, by Jonathan Sarna & Benjamin Shapell.**

For More Info

Roberta Levine Glass 860-632-1320
rjlevine610@gmail.com
Holly Simon 860-395-8989 hfpsimon@gmail.com

JOIN US!

Adath Israel's Community Candle Lighting



All are welcome!

Wednesday, December 9

5:30 PM Blessings; 6:00 PM Dreidels & Nosh

To RSVP please contact the synagogue at
860-346-4709 or office@adathisraelct.org
BYOM: Bring Your Own Menorah

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Myra Finkelstein

This month's honoree is a fixture both in Midletown and in the synagogue. He was very active in the past and is still active on many synagogue boards today. He is an ambassador of the welcoming committee, always introducing himself to our new members and/or guests and engaging them in a "get to know you" conversation. Irwin Zagoren was President from 1981-1983. While serving as President, 25 new families joined the synagogue; there was an increase in the children attending religious school; and Sisterhood was revitalized. Not one but two Dodge Omnis were the grand prizes for the car raffle during his term. The synagogue's budget was \$117,000 while maintaining little or no wage increases. During Irwin's term the ritual committee revised the rules concerning music and dancing at Saturday Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. Irwin formed committees to refurbish both the interior and exterior of the synagogue. The main hallway, the office, the ladies and men's room was phase 1 with an approximate cost of \$25,000. The roof, the caulking and sealing of the building were tended to as well. The painting of the sanctuary and the purchase of a new refrigerator were also accomplished. Since leaving the office of President, Irwin has served on many of the synagogue boards often as chairperson. He was chairman of the House Committee. He was one of many who was instrumental in the purchase and renovation of the Nestor Center. He hoped the Nestor Center would be self-sustaining through rentals as well as a meeting place for our youth to congregate. On the High Holidays, Irwin is a permanent fixture at the door, ushering new members to their seats or helping visitors find a seat. Irwin was past chairperson of the personnel committee; now he is a member of the committee. Irwin also serves on the golf committee and the contribution review committee. Please thank him for all that he did and all that he will continue to do.

"The work an unknown good man has done is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green." Thomas Carlyle

IT'S NEWS

BARUCH HABAH!

Welcome to our newest members:
Ben, Jack, Julie & Jeremy Weiss

TODAH RABAH

"Where There Is No Bread, There Is No Torah"

Thank you to following people for sponsoring and assisting with meals:

Early Risers Minyan

November - Marge & Stanley Sadinsky

Pray- Eat-Sing

Helpers

Harriet, Marcey, and Aaron Thiela, Arlene Pressman, Myra & David Finkelstein, Sharon Slossberg, Lynn & Star Bennett

Sponsors

Stephanie & Eliot Meadow, Ruth & Mike Sigal, Myra & David Finkelstein, Lynn Bennett, Lee & Irwin Zagoren

Oneg & Kiddush

Milton M. Shapiro in honor of the yahrtzeit of Rose W. Shapiro

OTHER GIFTS & ACTS OF GENEROSITY

SIMCHA MENORAH

IN HONOR OF

Stanly Sadinsky's 80th Birthday by Harriet & Jay Cudrin and Edie & Burt Slossberg

Kol Hakavod to our sukkah masters extraordinaire for helping to put up & take down our sukkah:

Grace and Colleen Poliner
Jonathan Shapiro
Katie, Elise, and Jodi Gendrich
Emma and Levi Axelrod
Holly Simon
Shelly & Rich Palladino
Ellie, Cooper, Jaime & Rich Bruno
Thank you



SPEEDY RECOVERY

Art Director, Mark Itkin, Hal Kaplan, Arthur Lerner, Randy Parks, Bob Soll

MAY GOD GRANT COMFORT TO

The Berman Family on the recent death of Selma Citron Berman

ONE WHO GIVES LENDS TO THE LORD

ARTHUR & EDYTHE DIRECTOR FAMILY FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF RIDES TO & FROM
SYNAGOGUE

Naomi & Richard Kamins by Edythe Rosenfield

CHEVRA KADISHA

Ann Penfield

HOWARD FELDMAN BEAUTIFICATION FUND

IN HONOR OF

Stanley Sadinsky's Special Birthday

Dotty & Harold Kaplan

Ruth Maron

Nihla Lapidus

Linda & Jack Adler

MAXINE THUMIM CAMBERSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Ron Rubel by Eileen & Michael Daling

MUSEUM FUND

IN HONOR OF

Ruth Schwarz's 94th Birthday by Maryann & Mort
Hoffman

NATHAN OLSHIN SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND

Scott Sadinsky

Howard Sadinsky

Marc Sadinsky

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Stanley Shulman by Teresa & Dave Shulman

Ron Rubel by Sandra & Paul Beckman

YAHRTZEIT FUND

Irving Friedman by Larry Friedman

Ralph "Mickey" Paley by Lori, Philip, Jillian & Nicole McDermott

Ivon Newberg by Esther Newberg

Ada Golensky by Hazel Kurlansky &

Anita Hennessey

Morris Kaplan by

Dotty & Harold Kaplan

Edith Kabatznick

Pearl Searle by Jonas Searle

Nathan A. Olshin by Phyllis O. Silverman

Resel Parrilis Zeidman by Penny Z. Apter

Jane Mellman by Barbara & Steven Weiss

Ida Lerner by Bernard & Diane Blum

Hyman Nathan Paul by Debby Paul Fuller

Rose & Philip Shapiro by Susan Arel

Israel Louis Grower by Liz Grower Whittaker

Robert Maron by Ruth Maron

Samuel Fabian by Veta & Bernard Fabian

Samuel & Sidney Goldreich by Luise Goldreich

Rose W. Shapiro by Milton M. Shapiro

Dora Hoberman by Marvin & Mimi Hoberman

Francis Becker by Andrew Becker

Margot Mittelman by Sharon Mittelman

Louis Lerner by Natalie Kirschbaum & Family

Claire Hoffman by Sanders Hoffman

Sonia & Julius Goldberg by Lewis &

Francine Goldberg

SYNAGOGUE

Hortie Kabel

CELEBRATE JEWISH LIFE THROUGH PRAYER



Morning Minyan:

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM

Sunday: 9:00 AM

Early Risers Minyan: 7:00 AM,

1st Wednesday of the month

Shabbat Evening Service:

Friday, 7:00 PM

Pray-Eat-Sing Service: 5:30 PM, one Friday night a
month; see calendar for details

Shabbat Morning Service: 9:30 AM

ADULT ED.

- Stand by for further information about our program for Dec. We are actively working on
- two potential speakers, with more updates to follow in the near future.

■ Arlene Pressman
■ Harriet P Thiela□



Mark your calendar for

Pray-Eat-Sing

Friday, December 11

Services at 5:30 pm followed by
Shabbat Dinner at 6:30 pm

JOIN US! Our whole community comes together to celebrate the joy of Shabbat. Early services let us pray together and share a meal and conversation. After dinner Rabbi Haaz will teach Shabbat songs (and take requests).

PLEASE BRING a non-perishable food item for Amazing Grace Food Pantry.

RSVP to the Synagogue office at office@adathisraelct.org or 860-346-4709 by **December 4** in order to be sure we have enough food for all who join us.

COST: Free for members (donations gratefully appreciated). Not a member yet?

Be our guest for your first dinner. After that, there is a charge of \$10 per person or \$18 per family each time you attend thereafter.

HELP: Contact the Synagogue office if you would like to help with shopping, preparing the meal, set up or clean up. Many hands make light work and leave more time for singing & schmoozing.

ISRAEL NEEDS OUR HELP

Robert Poliner

When Israel fought the six day war in 1967 and then the Yom Kippur war of 1973 and all the time between and for years after, the Middletown Jewish community rallied to the side of Israel. We held gatherings at private homes and at Adath Israel where tens of thousands of dollars were raised through pledges to UJA and purchases of State of Israel Bonds.

We did it because we knew if we didn't come to Israel's assistance, no one else was going to. We understood that without the support of every Jewish community in America, Israel might not survive.

We made a point to involve our elected officials. We wanted them on Israel's side. It wasn't always a certainty where the U.S. State Department stood. In fact it wasn't until 1973 when the U.S. government supplied Israel with the weapons needed to replace the ones destroyed in the sneak attack by Egypt and Syria on Yom Kippur Day that American support of Israel became 100%.

It was that war that laid the foundation for peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan and a UN sanctioned "arrangement" with Syria. It was that war that led to the removal of the Soviet military presence from the area and began a 40 year period in which the U.S. was the only superpower operating in the Middle East. Regrettably, the Russians are back and that is not good for us or Israel.

Innocent Israelis have become the targets of random attacks by Palestinians. The cost of keeping the nation safe is enormous. Israel needs support from the U.S. government as well as other nations. Unfortunately, we have entered another period where support is in short supply.

We can't let Israel fend for itself. We need to provide help by donating money to those charities that help Israeli citizens under attack and through investments in State of Israel Bonds. If we do not come to Israel's aid, who will?

We can also help by contacting our representatives in Congress. That is critically important because without the 100% support of our government, Israel's enemies are emboldened and no good can come of that. It is not in the United States strategic

national interest to have Israel's position in the Middle East compromised or reduced.

There are many worthwhile organizations like American Friends of Magen David, Hadassah Medical Centers, the Jewish Federation of North America. They are all organizations directly involved in protecting Israeli lives. AIPAC works to keep support of Israel in Congress strong. Although AIPAC is not a charity, it does as much as the other organizations to keep Israel safe and strong.

Let's rekindle the spirit and the unity that motivated our giving of years ago. Let's double or triple our yearend contributions. The survival of Israel and one-half of the world's Jewish population is at stake.

A list of organizations and their addresses are available on the synagogue's web site and at the office.



JEWISH CHARITIES

Jewish Federations of North America, c/o JFNA
Network Communities, 25 Broadway, Suite 1700,
NY, NY 10004

Jewish National Fund, P.O. Box 5609, Hicksville, NY
11802

Hadassah, National Processing Center, P.O. Box
97153, Washington, DC 20090-7153

American Friends of Magen David Adom, National
Processing Center, P.O. Box 96402, Washington, DC
20090-6402

American Israel Public Affairs Committee, P.O. Box
96727, Washington, DC 20077-7617

State of Israel Bonds-Call Barbara Starr at West Hart-
ford Office (860) 656-2110

Barbara will provide you with forms and other infor-
mation about the bonds or you may purchase directly
via <http://www.israelbonds.com> in lieu of filling out a
form.