

# the Adams Street Bulletin בייה

the latest news from Congregation Agudas Achim Anshei Sfard

DECEMBER 2006 — KISLEV/TEVET 5767

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 SHABBATON WITH RABBI DR. ELIE HOLZER

“Using Song and Melody to Create  
A More Meaningful, Spiritual Davening”

Rabbi Dr. Elie Holzer, professor at the School of Education at Bar-Ilan University, Israel and a lecturer at the Mandel Center for Jewish Education at Brandeis University, is one of the founders of Shira Chadasha in Jerusalem, a minyan that has become internationally known, in part, because of its mindful work to use song to create a more meaningful davening. Rabbi Holzer will be joining us on **Saturday, December 9** to help us learn from their experience.

Three times each day we call out to G-d through our prayer. We come together each Shabbat, chag, and Sunday to pray as a community. Each of us is searching for something slightly different in this opportunity

to speak to HaShem, and each comes with a different model for the type of services we would most like — small wonder that it is difficult to unite with a common vision of davening. We also daven the same prayers every week, and come to Shabbat exhausted after a long week of work; the risk is great that we can fall into a rut, mumbling through the same prayers with the same tunes rather than celebrating our chance to cry out collectively to HaShem.

Please join us as we explore these issues and learn how we can make the most of our davening experience. Rabbi Holzer will join us on Shabbat, December 9, beginning with Shacharit at 9:00 AM, and speak about how

*continued on page 5*

## MELAVAH MALKAH WITH RABBI GEDALIAH FLEER

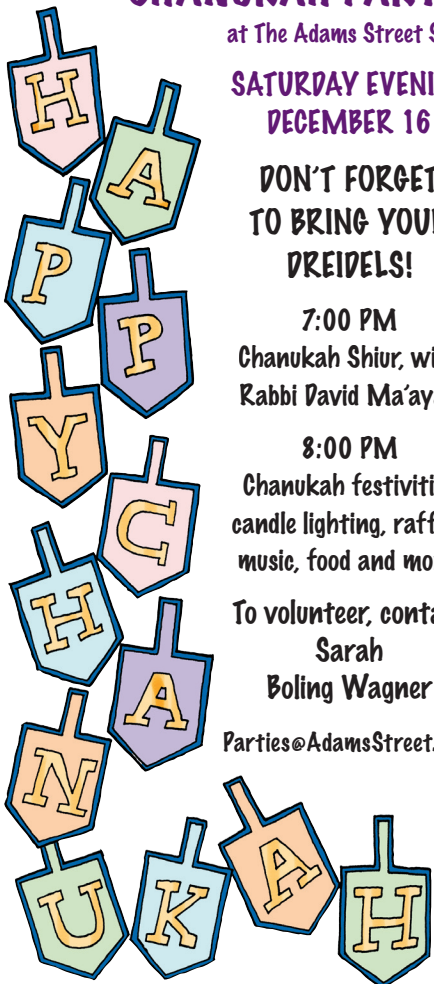
Join Rabbi Gedaliah Fleer, visiting scholar from Jerusalem, as he concludes his 21st annual teaching tour

in the Boston area with a *Melavah Malka* (traditional post-Shabbat celebration) at the Adams Street Shul on Saturday evening, December 2nd at 8:00 PM.

Rabbi Gedaliah Fleer is an independent teacher and storyteller who explores Jewish mysticism and Chassidic philosophy. He is acknowledged by the Encyclopedia Judaica as one of today's leading authorities on Jewish Mysticism. Rabbi Fleer

held numerous classes at various shuls throughout the Boston area in November, and this concluding event will include d'verei Torah, Chassidic music, and light refreshments. The cost for this event is \$10 per person (\$8 for shul members), and all are welcome.

For more information, contact Nechama Cheses [nechama@AdamsStreet.org](mailto:nechama@AdamsStreet.org) 617-527-7967.



### CHANUKAH PARTY

at The Adams Street Shul  
**SATURDAY EVENING  
DECEMBER 16**

**DON'T FORGET  
TO BRING YOUR  
DREIDELS!**

**7:00 PM**  
Chanukah Shiur, with  
Rabbi David Ma'ayan

**8:00 PM**  
Chanukah festivities  
candle lighting, raffles,  
music, food and more!

To volunteer, contact  
Sarah  
Boling Wagner  
[Parties@AdamsStreet.org](mailto:Parties@AdamsStreet.org)

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## FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

### A UNIQUE MITZVAH

IT IS A WELL-KNOWN FACT that there is nothing secret about the Jewish religion. All our books, lectures and worship gatherings are open to all those who wish to avail themselves of them. On the other hand, we are also not required to publicize and openly proclaim and display our religious activities.

The one and only exception to this rule is the lighting of the Chanukah candles. We are specifically commanded to kindle our menorahs, if at all possible, at a window which faces the area where the greatest number of passers-by is to be found. The reason is that we are obligated to publicize our victory over the oppression of the Greek Empire, and send the message to the entire world that we stand for the freedom of all people and will fight oppression and tyranny wherever we may encounter it.

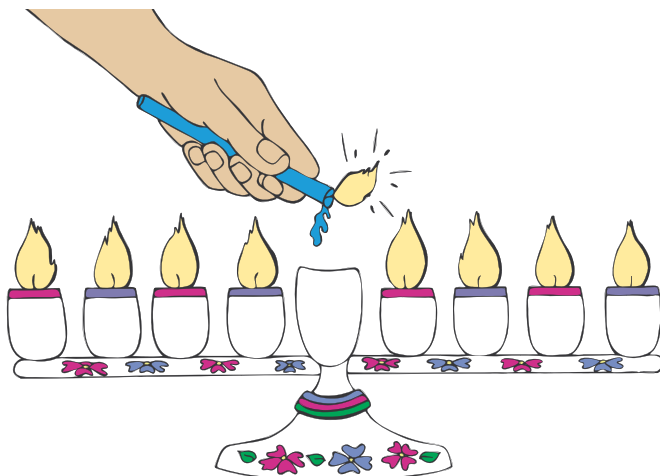
It would be an act of prudence and wisdom for the bellicose president of Iran and all his ilk to take serious note of these facts. He is part of the pathetic and discredited crowd of Holocaust deniers, and he advocates wiping Israel off the map. At the same time, he is threatening the whole world with the nuclear capabilities that he is rushing to perfect.

It is high time that he and all like him take note of the Chanukah beacons which illuminate the world. He should remember that all tyrants and dictators that made attempts to destroy the Jewish people, each and every one of them, together with their country, have met the same fate—they have gone down in destruction and disgrace.

So this year, let us gather around our menorahs in a spirit of hope, faith, and dedication as we continue to be a beacon of light unto the nations.

*A JOYOUS CHANUKAH TO ALL OUR CONGREGANTS AND FRIENDS!*

*~ Rabbi Norbert Weinberg*



### Early Mincha Services in the Winter

The Adams Street Shul will experiment with **early mincha services**, immediately following Kiddush at approximately 12:15 PM, on Shabbat during the months of December and January. At this time of the year mincha can be davened early; and with Shabbat afternoons so short and the possibility of inclement weather, it can be difficult for people to return to shul. Holding mincha right after Kiddush will ensure us of a minyan and enable us to read the Torah. We encourage everyone to stay for a few minutes after Kiddush for mincha (which takes about 15 minutes).

If you have any questions please contact the Rabbi or the Ritual Chair.

### Adult Education at Adams Street

Our weekly Adult Education classes take place every **Wednesday evening at 7:30-8:30 PM** in the Elmer Lippin Social Hall with Rabbi Weinberg. This year's class will discuss the *Shulchan Aruch*, with emphasis on the relevant rules and regulations which guide our lives. Coffee, tea and "pick-ups" are available as the class is conducted in a friendly and congenial atmosphere. Come once, or come often—please make every effort to participate in this opportunity of Jewish study!

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The falling leaves, the morning frost, and early darkness remind us that winter is approaching. As we usher in the cold winter months, we take solace in the fact that soon, the dark nights will be interrupted by the beautiful radiance of the festival of lights, Chanukah.

Chanukah is the symbol of hope shining through darkness. The triumph of light over darkness is an ageless saga that dates back to Bereisheit—it is the ongoing story of all that is. It reoccurs at every winter solstice, at every dawn of each day, with every photon of sunlight that breaks through the earth's atmosphere bringing it warmth and life-nurturing energy. With every stroke of genius and with every glimpse of beauty we are reminded that HaShem gave us that light so that we can choose to do good in the face of evil, to be kind where there is cruelty, and to build where others destroy. That is the light of Chanukah that shines in each of us.



Chanukah is the holiday of inspiration. It comes in the middle of the darkest time of year and the darkest time of our history. In the middle of winter, when the day ends early and the candles are lit as a remembrance of that dark time in our history -- when a handful of courageous and brave men, the Maccabees, stood up against a dominant world power. With popular support, this small group grew and fought a successful war ousting the powerful Greek Empire and restoring the Second Temple to its original sanctity.

This Chanukah, as we bask in the familiar warmth of family and friends, enjoying our latkes, play-

ing dreidel, exchanging gifts, and singing songs, let's remember that the celebration is a remembrance, a remembrance of the victory of the pure and the weak over the evil and powerful. A triumph of right over might, a triumph of the spirit over the forces of terror. It is this epic struggle that makes us who we are and thrusts us to be the people HaShem intended us to be.

This Chanukah, let us all glow like the lights of the Menorah!

Join us in celebrating the festival of lights at our annual Chanukah party on December 16th. There will be a pre-party shiur at 7:00 PM followed by candle lighting, music, festivities and, of course, our famous raffle!

*Kol tuv,  
Ronny*

P.S.: I have started to send out **WEEKLY SHUL NOTICES** via email. If you would like to receive these updates, please send a note via email to [President@AdamsStreet.org](mailto:President@AdamsStreet.org).

### Thank You to Our Shul Volunteers

We wish to thank those who helped with services by leading the davening and reading the Torah over the last two months: **Steve Cantor, Aryeh Cheses, Noah Cheses, Ashie Cheses, Baruch Cohen, Eyal Cohen, Lloyd Cohen, Shalom Cohen, Rabbi Avinoam Durani, Zach Eban, Dani Eisenstock, Bert Grand, Meir Lakein, Lockie Milner, Avraham Segal, David Sloane, Jordan Wagner, Rabbi Norbert Weinberg.** And a very big "thank you" to the boys of Kol Adam who lead us in the weekly conclusion of Shabbat services: **Doron Cheses, Rave Cohen, Tor Cohen, Zach Drapkin, Barak Durani, Uriyah Durani.**

We also extend a thank you to the Kiddush and Seudah Shelishit Committees, who ensure that we enjoy the *oneg* on every Shabbat: **Sybil Binder, Zhanna Cantor, Nechama Cheses, Beth Drapkin, Beri Gilfix, Nancy Knight, Sarah Boling Wagner, Susan Wein-**

**berg; and Aryeh Cheses, Lloyd Cohen, Ronny Drapkin, Rabbi Avinoam Durani, Matt Kramer, Meir Lakein, David Sloane, Jordan Wagner, and Al Landsman.**

### Adams Street Youth to Visit Nursing Home on Chanukah

All children and their parents are invited to participate in the shul's annual Chanukah visit to the Chetwynde Nursing Home in Newton. This year, we will be visiting on Wednesday, December 20 at 4:30 PM. These visits are a wonderful way for our children to brighten the day of an elderly person.

If you would like to participate in this mitzvah, please contact **Aryeh Cheses** ([aryeh@AdamsStreet.org](mailto:aryeh@AdamsStreet.org) or 617-527-7967) so we can provide you with the details.

## ADAMS STREET SHUL HONORS TWO LIFELONG SHUL ACTIVISTS WITH GALA WEEKEND

**T**HE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 18-19, 2006 WAS SPECIAL AT THE ADAMS STREET SHUL as we honored **Vivienne Kalman** and **Saul Aronow**, two shul members who have contributed to the life of our community for over twenty five years.

Vivienne Kalman and Saul Aronow have been involved in every aspect of the shul's existence for over a quarter of a century. The list of their accomplishments and contributions to the shul include membership on or chairing almost every committee in the shul. They have ensured the smooth running of the shul by serving on the Board of Directors, changing light bulbs, pitching in to clean up after a kiddush or other event, planning programs, erecting the sukkah. Bert Grand, Chairman of the Board of Directors, commented that only at Adams Street would you find a Harvard Ph.D. changing light bulbs and cutting the grass! Over the course of the weekend's events, the community was privileged to learn about the lives of these two activists outside the shul as well. How they found the time to contribute so much to the shul, while also contributing to the Jewish community and the wider community, is a fine response to anyone who claims to be "too busy" to volunteer.

On Sunday morning, eighty five family members, shul members and friends gathered in the Elmer Lippin Social Hall to honor these two activists. Guests were treated to a breakfast by **Ora Catering**, and heard tributes to the

two guests of honor by family members, other shul members, visiting rabbis and the mayor of Newton.

Tribute Weekend Chair **Beri Gilfix** welcomed guests and explained to visitors about the necessity of active volunteers in a shul with no paid staff. "Without our volunteers," she said, "we wouldn't have a shul at all. When we honor a volunteer at Adams Street, we are honoring our most vital resource." Following her introduction, shul President **Ronny Drapkin** recounted anecdotes about the two honorees. Guests also heard from **Rabbi Norbert Weinberg**; **Rabbi Zalman Gurkow**, former rabbi of the Adams Street Shul; **Rabbi Victor Reinstein**, a friend of the Aronow family; **Al Landsman**, who has worked closely with Saul on the Facilities Committee; and one of our young congregants, **Miriam Kramer**, who spoke on her experiences helping Vivienne in the kitchen. Moving and tender tributes by **Jamie Stolper** and **Jessie Aronow Kravette** about their parents gave the audience insights into the character and personality of the guests of honor. In addition, **Mayor David Cohen** declared Sunday and Monday, November 19 and 20, to be Vivienne Kalman and Saul Aronow Days in Newton, and presented each of them with a citation from the city.

In their responses to the tributes, Vivienne spoke about her desire to pass on Judaism to her children, and how her work at the shul is the public face of her



Vivienne Kalman, Mayor David Cohen, and Saul Aronow.

Jonathan Dietz

Jewish life, as her home is the private face. Saul took the opportunity to deliver a d'var Torah on the meaning of "building the ark" in Jewish life today.

The Adams Street Shul is honored by the presence and activities of these two unique and dedicated individuals. Their lives and the work of their hands should inspire each of us to dedicate ourselves to the shul and the wider community as our guests of honor have done. Their example is a humbling illustration of what can be accomplished by individuals for the greater good.

A heartfelt thanks go to the members of the Tribute Committee, who organized this wonderful weekend: **Beri Gilfix** (chair), **Audrey Berman**, **Jonathan Dietz**, **Beth Drapkin**, **Al Landsman**, **Avigayil MacArthur**, **Ira Seskin**, and **David Winer**.

Photos and more details of the weekend can be found on the shul's Web site, [www.AdamsStreet.org](http://www.AdamsStreet.org).

## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE : EZEKIEL MEETS DECEMBER 10

“Bagels, Breakfast, and Books of the Bible” is a monthly discussion class focusing on books in the Bible that may be less well-known. The next class will meet on **Sunday, December 10 at 9:15 am** in the shul, when we shall ‘meet’ the prophet Ezekiel in Babylon. Ezekiel is a vigorous nationalist. The role of priest and prophet are admirably blended in him. He becomes a trusted leader of the exiles and ministers to them for more than twenty years.

Started last November, Books of the Bible has become a stimulating, challenging and successful series, attracting a cadre of shul members, members of the community, and our own Rabbi Weinberg. Comments from several participants include: “Without these sessions, I doubt that I would ever make the time to study the Prophets and the Writings” (Bert Grand); “The class is an interesting introductory class and many of the questions are good starting points for discussion” (Lloyd Cohen); “All views of Torah are aired and appreciated for their particular merits” (Avigayil MacArthur); “ It has inspired me to purchase some of the texts for my personal collection and further reading.” (Ronny Drapkin).

For the class on December 10, please read Ezekiel, chapters 1-24. Bring your Bible with you, and be prepared for a most unusual discussion! Questions? Call Vivienne Kalman (781-899-0293).

### BOOK NOTES

We would like to acknowledge a generous donation of the Gutnick Chumash. This five volume set collects forty years of talks by the Lubavitcher Rebbe on sections of the Chumash, including explanations of the pertinent Rashi commentary.

The shul recently purchased several important English books for our library:

*A Translation of the Sforno Commentary to the Chumash*: masterful insights into the five books of Moses in one easily readable volume.

*Meat and Dairy*: an illustrated, practical guide to the problems one might encounter in the kitchen.

*Rite and Reason*: answers to diverse questions, such as, why do we eat in the Sukkah? Why are some matzos round? Why do we eat dairy on Shavuot?

*Sfas Emes*: The Gerer Rebbe’s essays on the three festivals.

You can sponsor these new acquisitions by purchasing a bookplate for any of them. Bookplates are a way to remember a loved one, celebrate a happy occasion, or honor someone.

Looking for an EASY WAY  
to support the shul?

Do you shop at the Butcherie in Brook-  
line? Just say 3 magic words:  
“STAMP IT PLEASE!”

Then send your receipt to the shul.

We receive 5% for cash purchases, and  
3% for credit card purchases.

### Shabbaton with Rabbi Dr. Elie Holzer

continued from page 1

we can approach certain prayers, and help us model what we have discussed in our davening. Shacharit will be followed by a kiddush lunch at 12:00 PM, where Rabbi Holzer will lead a discussion on how we might want to apply what we have learned to the davening at Adams Street.

For more information on this event, or to RSVP, contact Meir Lakein ([vicepresident@AdamsStreet.org](mailto:vicepresident@AdamsStreet.org)).

## SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL TOURS STOPS AT ADAMS STREET

On Sunday October 22, the Adams Street Shul was pleased to host a visit by 40 members of a tour sponsored by the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts, led by Brandeis University historian **Ellen Smith**. Participants in the tour included **Alan Teperow**, executive director of the Synagogue Council and **Steven Greenberg**, executive director of the Vilna Shul's Boston Center for Jewish Heritage. After spending about 30 minutes at Adams Street, the group continued on to view the locations of former synagogues in Roxbury and Dorchester, as well as the Vilna Shul in Boston.

The Synagogue Council hosts a tour each year of historic Jewish sites, with the aim of educating community members about local Jewish history, past and present. Ellen Smith is a long-time friend of Adams Street and has

spoken at synagogue events in the 1980s and 1990s. Her lively and informative talk highlighted the shul's history and its current revival very effectively. This was a wonderful opportunity for people who had never been to the shul to hear about its history and Ellen suggested everyone return for a longer visit at a later time.

The Synagogue Council tour was so successful that it created a "buzz" in the community. Temple Isaiah of Lexington arranged for a similar tour for members of their congregation. They came to Adams Street with Ellen Smith on Sunday, November 12, for a visit which was very exciting and interesting. We hope that other organizations will be motivated to come and visit as well.

**Beri Gilfix** was on hand on both occasions to answer questions raised by visitors. A sincere thank you is due to the Synagogue Council and to Ellen Smith for including us in this wonderful event.

## Thank You to our Generous Donors

### GENERAL FUNDS

Nachman & Etya Kalyuzhny, IMO Sara Beila bas Isaak Temple Isaiah of Lexington

### LIBRARY FUND

Rabbi Avinoam & Chaya Durani

### TZEDAKAH FUND

Eyal & Shenhav Cohen

### ISRAEL BONDS APPEAL

Dr. Leonard & Audrey Berman

### HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL

(RECEIVED THROUGH 11/17/06)

Rachel F. Albert

Dr. Steven J. & Renee Bellin

Dr. Sheldon & Marilyn Binder,

IMO Abraham, Ida and Sidney Binder;

Bessie Goldman; Hyman Taylor; Jacob & Rebecca Neiberg

Oscar & Eva Friedfertig

Vladimir & Tanya Geisberg,

IMO Riva Geisberg

Priscilla E. Glovsky

Marie & David Kutas

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Eyal and Shenhav Cohen,

IHO Eyal's and Tzukit's birthdays

Nachman Kalyuzhny, IMO his

grandfather, Meir ben Nachman

David & Tsila Sloane,

IHO Moshe's 1st birthday

Rabbi Norbert & Susan Weinberg

### IN HONOR OF VIVIENNE KALMAN AND SAUL ARONOW (PARTIAL LISTING)

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# THE CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2006 (KISLEV/TEVET 5767)

sun	m	t	w	th	f	sat
					1  Candles 3:55 PM Kabbalat Shabbat: 4:00 PM	<b>2 Vayetze</b> 9:00 AM Shacharit 11:45 AM Kiddush 12:15 PM Mincha 8:00 PM Melavah Malka with Rabbi Gedaliah Fleer
3 8:00 AM Shacharit	4 Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 PM	5	6  Shulchan Aruch Class w/ Rabbi Weinberg, 7:30 PM	7	8  Candles 3:54 PM Kabbalat Shabbat: 4:00 PM	<b>9 Vayishlach</b> Shabbat with Rabbi Elie Holzer 9:00 AM Shacharit 11:45 AM Kiddush Luncheon, followed by Mincha
10 8:00 AM Shacharit 9:15 AM Books of the Bible	11  Tanya Class with Rabbi Gurkow, 6:00 PM	12	13  Shulchan Aruch Class w/ Rabbi Weinberg, 7:30 PM	14	15 <b>Erev Chanukah</b>  Candles 3:54 PM Light menorah (1 candle) before Shabbat candles Kabbalat Shabbat: 4:00 PM	<b>16 (Chanukah 1)</b> 9:00 AM Shacharit 11:45 AM Kiddush 12:15 PM Mincha <b>7:00 PM Chanukah Talk w/ R' David Ma'ayan</b> <b>8:00 PM Chanukah Party</b> Light menorah (2 candles) after Havdalah
17 <b>Chanukah (3 candles)</b>  8:00 AM Shacharit	18 <b>Chanukah (4 candles)</b>	19 <b>Chanukah (5 candles)</b>	20 <b>Chanukah (6 candles)</b>  Shulchan Aruch Class w/ Rabbi Weinberg, 7:30 PM	21 <b>Chanukah (7 candles)</b>  <b>30 Kislev/ Rosh Chodesh Tevet</b>	22 <b>Chanukah (8 candles)</b>  Candles 3:57 PM Light menorah (8 candles) before Shabbat candles Kabbalat Shabbat: 4:00 PM  <b>Rosh Chodesh Tevet</b>	23 <b>Chanukah 8 Miketz</b>  9:00 AM Shacharit 11:45 AM Kiddush 12:15 PM Mincha
24 8:00 AM Shacharit	25  Tanya Class with Rabbi Gurkow 6:00 PM	26	27  Shulchan Aruch Class w/ Rabbi Weinberg, 7:30 PM	28	29  Candles 4:01 PM Kabbalat Shabbat: 4:00 PM	<b>30 Vayigash</b>  9:00 AM Shacharit 11:45 AM Kiddush 12:30 PM Mincha
31 8:00 AM Shacharit  <b>Fast of 10th of Tevet</b>	January 1	2	3  Shulchan Aruch Class w/ Rabbi Weinberg, 7:30 PM	4	8  Candles 4:08 PM Kabbalat Shabbat: 4:00 PM	<b>6 Veyechi</b>  9:00 AM Shacharit 11:45 AM Kiddush 12:30 PM Mincha

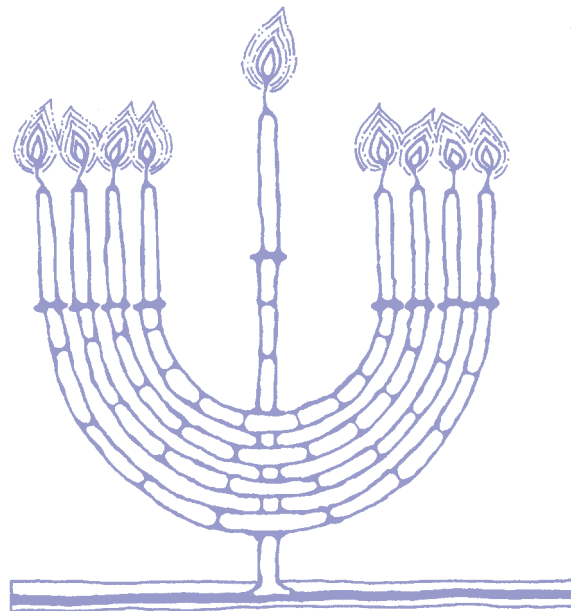
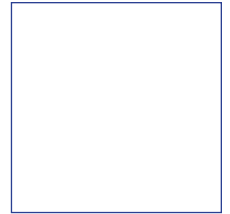
ITEMS FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 15.  
PLEASE SEND THEM TO [NEWSLETTER@ADAMSSTREET.ORG](mailto:NEWSLETTER@ADAMSSTREET.ORG).

אגודת אחים אנשי ספרד



CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM ANSHEI SFARD

The Adams Street Shul  
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P.O. Box 600371 • Newtonville, MA 02460



HAPPY CHANUKAH  
FROM  
THE ADAMS STREET SHUL  
CHANUKAH 5767 : DECEMBER 15-23, 2006