

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To my Agudas family,

Well the Fall is over and we are gearing up for the winter. This has been a very active few months at Agudas and I am looking forward to the year ahead.

The High Holiday services and sermons were moving and thought provoking. A big thank you to Yoni Kadden and Rabbi Weiss for leading the services. Thank you also to the lay Hazzanim, women Dvar Tora presenters and Torah readers, your participation made it a truly enriching experience!

Our other big event was our Rabbi AvRutick Memorial Lecture on November 15th featuring Rabbi Lookstein. It was cosponsored with Beth David, United and Young Israel, we had excellent introductions and a fabulous talk. Having approximately 100 people from the greater Hartford community come together to learn and enjoy a mouthwatering brunch, was exhilarating. We hope this experience will facilitate future joint community endeavors. A big yishar coach to Renana for spearheading this event, to Mike for the great spread, and to the many helpers from all the sponsoring shuls!

We had many other events these past few months, in addition to our great kiddushes, regular Sunday hot breakfasts and monthly Friday dinners we had a Sukka Hop, spirited Simchat Tora with guests from Yeshiva University; a Sunday "Armchair Safari", the Yiddish Club; an "Israeli Sing Along", and the new Living Room Limud series providing unique perspectives on the Holocaust. Thank you Renana for organizing these, and to all the cooks, hosts and presenters. The high percentage of members involved in making these events happen is truly phenomenal!

Having the Weiss family here has been wonderful, we enjoy their kids, Deena's warm personality (and fish making skills!), and Rabbi Ari's many contributions enhancing our services. In addition, the Rabbi's classes are enlightening, interesting and going quite well, especially the one right after Kiddush on Saturdays, we may need to find a larger room! If you haven't gone to one of the classes yet you are missing out!

It looks like the Hebrew High School of New England has overcome its last major hurdle and will be moving this fall or next to their new campus. We will miss having them around. They were wonderful tenants and we were happy to do what we could to support the education of our Jewish youth. Yishar coach to Ted Zablotsky, Rabbi Lowe and all the rest that worked tirelessly to make this happen. Behatslacha!

Having HHNE leave is the end of a 14 year chapter in our long history, we are looking ahead to the future and will be weighing different options for leasing the lower level. As part of the process we are also moving forward with our plans to renovate the upstairs' sanctuary.

As this Announcer goes to press we have a number of exciting events coming up. We will have an Italian Friday dinner on Dec 4th, a special Sunday Memoir Writing workshop on Dec 6th; a Chanukah dinner on December 13th with a music, special programming for the kids and our third annual Art Contest; the new Living Room Limud series will continue; and before she goes to Israel my daughter Talya will be speaking about her Summer in Beijing. So many things for such a little shul!!!!

It has turned cold, so keep warm drive safely and for our "snow birds" follow the Connecticut weather reports, think of us and appreciate the beach!

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