

President's Message

Well the Winter is almost over and we look forward to the Spring and the return of our snowbirds. These have been a very active few months at Agudas and I am looking forward to more activities, holidays and the rest of the year.

A major upcoming event is our loss of Rabbi Yaffe to Chabad Harvard this Fall. The Rabbi, Chani and kids have been part of our Agudas family for the past 8 years. Anat and I are grateful for the opportunity to benefit from their wisdom, leadership, friendship and warmth. We have loved watching their children grow and being part of their smachot. We wish the Yaffes all the best with their future endeavors and will make sure to keep in touch. There will be a tribute event thanking the Yaffes in June and details will follow.

The departure of a Rabbi signals the start of a new chapter in the history of any shul, especially one with such a long history such as ours. The interview process gives us a chance to re-assess who we are and the type of congregation we would like to be. I am personally excited at the prospect of inviting candidates to check out our "Shtiebel in the big building". I think we are a warm, open and friendly community, with energy and spirit far beyond our numbers. If you have comments or ideas about the search please contact George Levine head of the search committee (I'm not sure if *unable to carry a tune* should be a criteria, but it would make the rabbi fit right in!)

We had a fun Chanukah dinner on December 26th with special programming for the kids and our second annual art contest. The younger winners got to see the movie "Born Free" and the older teens went to the movie "66". This is an excellent movie, which will be playing at the Jewish Film Festival. Rabbi Yaffe's new class "History Past-Future" is a big success, the Yiddish Club met and we showed/discussed the movie "The Counterfeiters" as a Living Room Limud. We also had a number of Israeli Sing Alongs, Friday dinners and Sunday breakfasts and talks (I found Dr. Margulis's presentation regarding Moshe's sons fascinating). Of course let's not forget the talk of the town, Asher Feigenbaum's Bar Mitzva that had us bursting at the seams, mazal tov!

There is a move to increase the degree of **cooperation between synagogues** in West Hartford, this has led to a number of joint activities. These include a "Cholent Off" against Young Israel on March 1st at Agudas; the joint Purim Party at Beth David on March 8th, and a joint Purim Seuda and entertainment on March 9th at Agudas (we are **representing China**).

As this is "going to press" we are anticipating an exciting Shabbat when we host 30-40 middle schoolers from the Hebrew Academy (27-28th February)! Please register for the joint luncheon ASAP.

If we survive that Shabbat! then coming up we have a Living Room Limud "A touch away" that should provide for an interesting discussion (Feb. 28th); an Israeli Sing Along (March 7th), and our next Friday dinner one week before Pessach (April 3rd). Please register in advance!

Please note that the deadlines for event registration are critical so we can order/make enough food for all. Thank you to all the many people that volunteer their time effort and/or money to make this shul so much fun to be part of!

Wishing you and your family a **חג כשר ושמח** Happy Purim and Pessach!

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