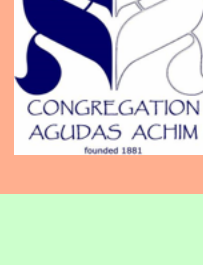


Shabbat Shalom

March 21, 2020 - 25 Adar 5780



Message from the Shul President

Dear Fellow Congregants,

What a strange and unusual time in our world. I gaze out the window and all seems beautifully & dependably on the verge of spring, with the hopeful promise of the simple gifts of sunshine and crabapple tree blossoms. But the news of the human world in all its shocking disarray is greatly unsettling. I have spoken to some congregants these past weeks who have seemed in a bit of a panic, and rightly so.

And yet. Much is happening that is good. Some are having unprecedented family time and family meal times. Some parents find themselves suddenly being home school teachers while still maintaining a job. Some folks are learning to adapt by connecting to their communities with Zoom or Skype. Some are having meetings and classes livestream, from minyan to piano lessons.

The office staff has a steady stream of work despite the closure, from the rescheduling of the Deborah Lipstadt event (now August 27th!) to unique shul communications, to reaching out to those who may be alone or unwell. Our community will make an effort to reach congregants by phone to check in.

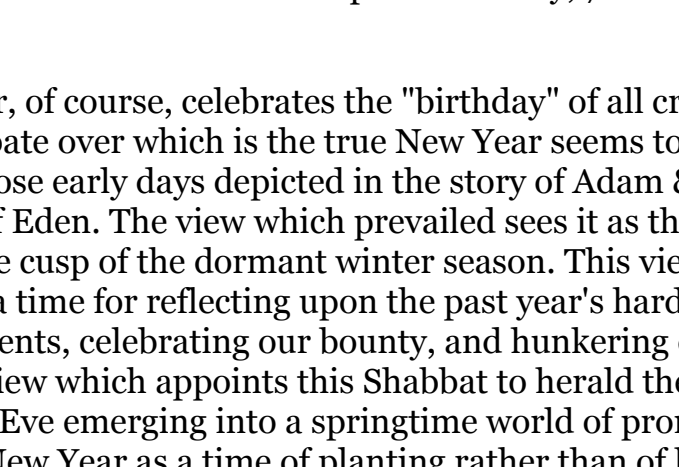
Our lay leadership has been working hard despite the shul closure. We are reviewing the 60 day recommendation from our 3 representatives in the Agudas/Tifereth Israel discussions.

We are delving deep into our financial health at this time, and you will soon be apprised of it.

We are wishing you well through this difficult period. Hold tight to all that is dear; maybe hand write letters to loved ones, read, listen to music, drink tea, eat your fruits and vegetables, and wash your hands. Back to basics seems to be the only way to get us back on track.

Sent with love,
Julie

Rosh Hodesh Nisan



This Shabbat is called Shabbat HaHodesh. If we were in synagogue we would announce Rosh Hodesh Nisan. According to the special Torah reading for this Shabbat, the month of Nisan is the first month of the Hebrew year (Exodus 12:2). The implication is the Jewish New Year is this week, and not as we celebrate it post-biblically, 7 months later in the fall.

The New Year, of course, celebrates the "birthday" of all creation. The Talmudic debate over which is the true New Year seems to hinge on how we picture those early days depicted in the story of Adam & Eve leaving the Garden of Eden. The view which prevailed sees it as the season of harvest on the cusp of the dormant winter season. This view sets up the New Year as a time for reflecting upon the past year's hard work and accomplishments, celebrating our bounty, and hunkering down for the winter. The view which appoints this Shabbat to herald the New Year sees Adam & Eve emerging into a springtime world of promise and potential. A New Year as a time of planting rather than of harvesting.

Spring is also a New Year which may be observed fully even in a moment of social distancing. Rather than convene en masse in the synagogue for communal prayer befitting sharing the harvest, we may individually explore the fresh new world emerging from winter all about us. There is even a blessing to say upon seeing the first fruit tree in bloom:

ברוך אתה יי - א - ה' הונו קוקה העולם, קיאה חסר בעולםנו כלום, וקרא בו
קריאת טובות ואיכות טובות, קריאת בקום בני אדם:
Blessed art thou...who lacks nothing in God's world, and who created in it goodly creatures and trees, to confer benefit upon humanity.

I have a proposal: Let's all try to discover a spring blossom this week. Extra credit for finding a fruit tree in bloom, but for this project any definitive sign of spring will do. Take a selfie of your discovery and send it to the Agudas office by next Thursday, March 26th. (info@agudasachim.org). We will share the pictures we receive on our website and our Facebook page.

Circumstances are rough now, but spring reminds us that better times lie ahead. Unfortunately we can't pray together, but we certainly may share our moments of springtime optimism and delight.

Byedidit (w/friendship),

Rabbi Mitch Levine
ml Levine@agudasachim.org

This Week's Shabbat Schedule

Candle lighting: 7:26 pm
VIRTUAL Kabbalat Shabbat service: 6:00 pm
Havdalah: 8:27 pm

There will be no services or classes at Agudas Achim this Shabbat.

However, pour yourself a cocktail and join us for a virtual Kabbalat Shabbat service led by Cantor Lauren Bandman at 6:00 pm tomorrow, Friday, March 20th! Limited to the first 100 people to sign on!



Please follow these instructions:
You are invited to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Kabbalat Shabbat
Time: Mar 20, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/5412805125>

Meeting ID: 541 280 5125

One tap mobile
+19292026099, 5412805125# US (New York)
+13126266799, 5412805125# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
+1 929 202 6099 US (New York)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US
+1 301 715 8592 US
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
Meeting ID: 541 280 5125
Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/5412805125>

Minyan Service Times - March 21-27

There will be no morning or evening services at Agudas Achim.

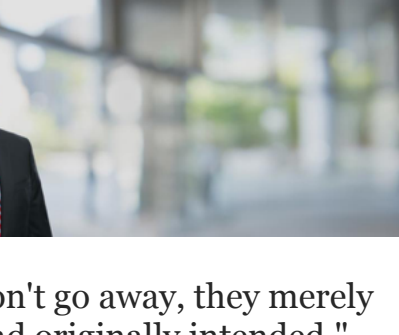
Simchas for the Week

Happy Birthday to: Ilan Levine, Rachel Cohen, Jeff Jonas, Igor Kaplan, Dane Rudolph, Edward Shingler, Janice Walden, Steve Block, Maud Epstein, Maxton Kramer, Jack Meizlish, Micah Palmer, Austin Schnitzer, Stanley Yenkin, Elza Paleyeva, Julie Block-Glassman, Richard Gurevitz, Rachel Leiner, and Jeff Weisman.
Happy Anniversary to: Ben & Judy Braun and Ilya Spivakov & Mila Spivakova.

Yahrzeits this Week

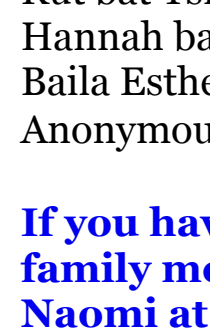
This week we mark the following yahrzeits and remember:

Florence Cabakoff, Magda Heksh, Mollie Levinson, Leon Maybruck, Suzanne Cowan, Phil Gouz, Thea Hodge, William Sekel, Herbert Spector, Bodie Thrasher, Goldie Ruben, James Steinberg, Ralph Steiner, Marilyn Knable, Harold Shapiro, Lillian Weber, Moshe Hershage, Edward Katzol, Florence Parish, Nathan Shtizler, Fanya Trostyanetsky, Martin Kaplan, Martin Lazear, Renee Obermeier, Vladimir Slabodkin, Sheldon Goldberg, Minnie Minkin, and Julius Waitzman.



D'var Torah Series

Dr. Tali Zerkowicz was scheduled to present the March 14th D'var Torah on the topic of **Break Two Tablets and Call Me in the Morning: Leadership for a Fractured World**. Dr. Zerkowicz has served as head of school at the Columbus Jewish Day School and is currently the Wexner Foundation's first Director of Curriculum and Research.



Click here to read her revised D'var.

Robert H. Cohen, Esq., Partner at Porter Wright, was scheduled to present the D'var Torah this coming Shabbat, March 21, in honor of "Welcoming the Stranger" Shabbat. Rob's primary area of practice is immigration and nationality law. He has extensive experience in all aspects of business and family immigration procedures. When sending his D'var to us, Rob said, "Some of the comments might have been a little more timely a weeks ago, before the corona-virus changed everything. I wanted to say that this Administration thinks closing the border is the solution to all problems, but this sounds a little different in the age of this virus. However, the problems of refugees don't go away; they merely become more severe. Since I wasn't sure how to deal with that, I prepared this as I had originally intended."



Click here to read Robert's D'var Torah.

Misheberach

Esther bat Channa Mina
Uhdal Bat Zelda
Menachem Mendel Simcha ben Sara
James Feeney
David Wolf
Ellyn Smith
Polly Hass
Aron Shlomo ben Rose
Arianna Jacobowitz
Larry Eisenman
Golda bat Sheyana
Ephraim Ruvane Ben Golda
Rut bat Tsviva
Hannah bat Le'ah
Baila Esther bat Chana
Anonymous



If you have a name you'd like to add to the Misheberach list, or if you/one of your family members is in the hospital and you'd like the rabbi to know, please email Naomi at nkurland@agudasachim.org. We need your help informing us, as we have no other way of knowing if you/your family member is in the hospital. Thank you for your cooperation!

Contributions

Synagogue Fund
Andy & Julie Glassman in memory of mother, Ruth Glassman
Mark & Terry Mitzman in memory of Ed Frankel's brother, Jeffrey Bruce & Nancy Meyer in memory of mother, Bertha Meyer
Svetlana & Mikhail Stolpner in memory of mother, Janna Gelfand
Yakov Vaysberg & Larisa Tverskaya in memory of mother, Sonia Tverskaya
Marcia Goldstein in memory of grandmother, Alice Weider
Gail Ferber in memory of mother, Rhoda Zimet
Jon & Robyn Silberstein in memory of sister, Bobbie Silberstein
Sylvia Ebner in memory of mother, Goldie Ruben

Kiddush Fund
Frances & Steven Lesser in memory of father, Jerome Shaiman
Mike Shackett in memory of Jerome Hackman
PJ & Stan Maybruck in memory of mother, Chane Maybruck

Minyan Breakfast Fund
E laine & Victor Goodman in memory of Martin Adler

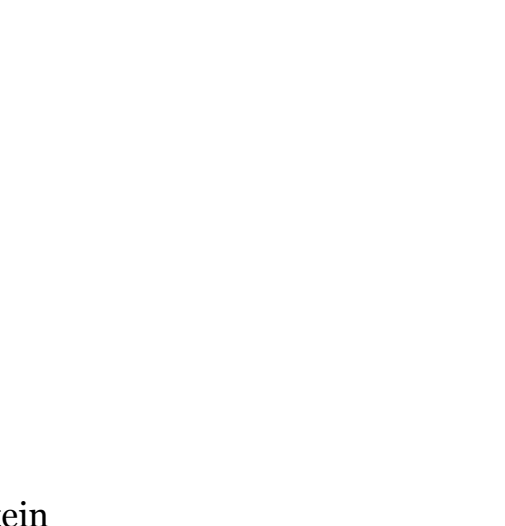
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Herb Solomon in memory of father, Jacob Solomon
Herb Solomon in memory of Mollie Levinson
Bruce Wasserstrom in memory of Reva Haberman
Bruce Wasserstrom in memory of Marty Adler

Eleanor Yenkin Ruach Fund
Bernie & Miriam Yenkin in memory of father & grandfather, Meyer Schottenstein

Harry Maybruck and Howard Sanderow Candy Fund
Barbara Sanderow in memory of Ed Frankel's brother, Jeffrey

Bruce Siegel Education Fund
Ken & Laura Clubok in memory of Jessica Mills' father, Paul Garrett
Ron & Suzy Rudolph in memory of grandfather, Israel Kahn
Shaaron & Tom Fisher in memory of Lynn Endlich
Shaaron & Tom Fisher in memory of Rita Waitzman

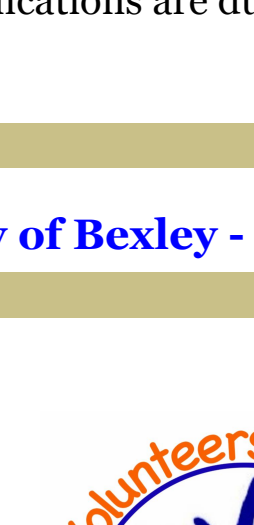
Youth Program Fund
Allan Weiss in memory of father, Isadore Weiss



Social Action at Agudas Achim

"Welcoming the Stranger" Shabbat - March 20 & 21

Agudas Achim joins with a nationwide effort by Jewish congregations to recognize and welcome immigrants and refugees in our communities. **Click here** for a special meditation that can be recited at home prior to lighting Shabbat candles tomorrow night, Friday, March 20th.



Agudas Achim Brotherhood's Bernard (Buzz) Kanter Campership Fund

The Agudas Achim Brotherhood is offering a camp scholarship for a 2020 Summer Camp Experience.

For the guidelines & application, **click here**.

For more information, email brotherhood@agudasachim.org.

Applications are due April 2, 2020.



City of Bexley - Those in Need and Willing Volunteers

The City of Bexley would appreciate your help in identifying those in need and willing volunteers during this COVID-19 crisis. If you are a Bexley resident, and are in need of assistance or are able to provide aid, please fill out the applicable survey. Furthermore, please assist Bexley residents in completing the appropriate survey if they are unable to do so independently. Those who have already filled out the survey do not need to do so again. These surveys will also be available on Bexley's website, social media, and included in the quarterly newsletter. For questions or concerns, please contact the City's Volunteer Coordinator, Elizabeth Ellman at (614) 559-4200 or edelman@bexley.org.

Click here to read Robert's D'var Torah.



Front Axle Farm 2020 CSA Program

Join our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program to receive a box of organic, freshly picked, and delicious vegetables from June through October.

Our Customers say:

- "Thanks for such beautiful boxes of vegetables. What a pleasure to pick up every week!"
- "Everything is super yummy"
- "We LOVED our veggies! The first night, my daughter announced, 'This meal is a 10!'"

Convenient pick up every Tuesday at Congregation Agudas Achim!

Options for our 20-week CSA Share:

Half Share - \$20 /week — \$400
Full Share - \$35 /week — \$700

Send any questions to ewan@frontaxlefarm.com, sign up at www.frontaxlefarm.com, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

If you require assistance to attend or participate in any synagogue program, please contact the shul office.

Around the Community

To view a list of **Community Events**, **click here**.
To learn more about creating a B'nei Tzedek Fund through JewishColumbus, **click here**.