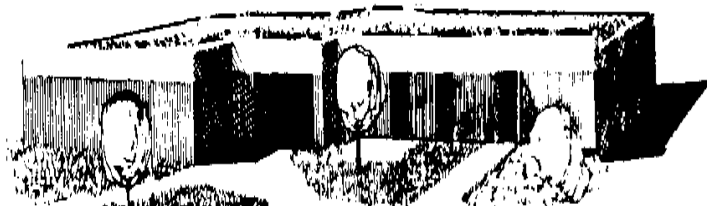


Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein
Rabbisydni@gmail.com

David E. Ginsburg
President (318) 469-8503
agudathachimsynagogue@gmail.com
Website: agudathshreveport.com

The Shul Shpiel



Congregation Agudath Achim Synagogue
9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA 71115
Phone: 318-797-6401

Shabbat Services:

For the time being, we will welcome Shabbat together on Friday evenings at 6
at: <http://zoom.us/j642827616>, password kosher613

IYAR—SIVAN 5780 MAY 2020

Annual meeting May 31, 2020 Social Hall or Zoom at 3:00 pm.



Shavuot: A Jewish holiday observed on the 6th of Sivan and by Orthodox and Conservative Jews in the Diaspora also on the 7th of Sivan in commemoration of the revelation of the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai.

Source: Merriam-Webster Dictionary



Executive Message

Covid-19 and What Jews Do

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed almost everything in the way we live, and may well represent a defining moment in our lives. While SARS-CoV-2 has wrought unprecedented sickness and death to Americans in general, and to Louisianans in particular, it has also brought out the best in people. Most especially, the daily heroic acts performed by our intrepid doctors, nurses, medical technicians and first responders – all of whom are deserving of our sincerest gratitude and deepest admiration. But others have also stepped up, including members of our own congregation. I am aware of a few examples, but I am sure there are others. The ones I am aware of: Rabbi Sydni (with assistance from Rabbi Feivel) for creating – seemingly out of thin air – a rich fabric of virtual programming, classes and worship services for our Agudath Achim community. Deena Lachman, for making cloth masks for our synagogue staff and congregants. And, most recently, Allen Organick, for donating \$125,000 (on behalf of Inferno Manufacturing Corporation) to support efforts to bring COVID-19 testing to medically under-served areas of northwest Louisiana.

This is what Jews do: perform Tikkum Olam, acts of kindness to repair the world. This is what Israel, since its birth, has always done. On February 11, 2020, when the coronavirus spread was largely confined to China, Iran and Italy, an Israeli company, Medtronic, publicly shared its cutting-edge design of ventilators to help alleviate the anticipated upcoming global shortage of devices. On March 20th, the Israeli company Teva Pharmaceuticals, regarded as the world's largest generic drug maker, donated 6 million hydroxychloroquine tablets to the USA, with a promise to donate an additional 4 million in April. The drug was thought to be effective in treatment of COVID-19 patients, and one of the few that had already been approved for clinical use.

These examples of Israeli selflessness are really nothing new. Israel, comprising 1/1000th of the world's population and occupying 1/7000th of its land area, has often been a first-responder in international crises where it has played an outsized role. On January 14, 2010, a day following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, 220 Israelis, comprising teams of doctors, rescue and relief workers, were already on their way to provide assistance. Israel was likewise amongst the first to offer rescue and medical services to Turkey following an earthquake in 1999, to the Philippines following a typhoon in 2013, and to Nepal following an earthquake in 2015. And, despite having no diplomatic relations with Indonesia, Israel immediately sent water purifiers to that country following a devastating earthquake and tsunami that killed >1400 in 2018.

These reminders of how Jews, more often than not, play the role of the mensch are just what we need to help us get through this COVID-19 crisis.

David S. Gross

Vice President

Rabbi Sydni's Message

This, Too, Is Torah

Rabbi Elazer ben Azaria says: Without Torah, there is no worldly occupation. Without worldly occupation, there is no Torah... (Pirkei Avot 3:17)

We are a congregation of experts - experts in medicine, baking, gardening, accounting, and even Torah. Without engagement and expertise in worldly matters, our Torah study would have no worth; we would have no ground upon which to practice the values we learn in Torah. Without study of our tradition, we would have no center upon which to shape our everyday actions. In this community, we demonstrate our commitment to Rabbi Elazar ben Azaria's teaching; we pursue mastery of both Torah and every-day action. We know that Torah and the rest of our expertise go hand in hand.

On Shavuot, we traditionally celebrate the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai with an all-night Torah study session, ending with morning prayers as the sun rises. This year, we will celebrate our ability to learn Torah with a study of the worldly matters that support our Torah learning. On **Thursday, May 28, starting at 5:00 p.m.**, as Shavuot enters, our community members will share what it is that they know best. Whether you are an expert at art or cooking, physics or caregiving, *you are invited to share your knowledge with the congregation*. In a fifteen to thirty minute presentation, you will have the opportunity to teach us about your passion and explain how that passion ties into your Judaism. With a phone call or an email, let me know that you are excited to share your Torah with our community.

Elsewhere in Pirkei Avot, Rabban Gamliel, the son of Rabbi Yehudah HaNassi says that Torah study is wonderful in combination with a worldly occupation, as engagement with both prevents wrongdoing from entering one's mind. Let us take an evening to practice that fusion of Torah and worldly study, that fusion of deep values into real life. The more we learn, the less we have brain space for the unsavory. The more we learn from our community members' mastery of the world, the more we gain the tools for applying words of Torah to the actions of our lives.

Please note that as far in advance as we would like to plan, events listed in this bulletin are subject to change, due to social distancing guidelines and changes in the technology we use for Virtual Agudath Achim. Make sure to regularly check our email announcements for updates.

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As of now, all Agudath Achim events are held on Zoom.us, meeting ID **642-827-616**, password **kosher613**. Past events can be viewed on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLZ0ivxk89V1zhXOjfPIFzwvvZ0P6J3Is>.

You may also call into events from any phone at **(312)-626-6799**, meeting ID **642-827-616**, password **256510**.

Prayer and Learning Opportunities

Learn and Daven

Rabbi Sydni will lead morning prayers on our Zoom account Sunday through Friday mornings at **10:00 a.m.** On **Sunday mornings**, we'll begin with a discussion of one section of the traditional prayer service, both reading text and brainstorming ways to connect personally with the liturgy. We'll celebrate the entrance of Shabbat **each Friday night at 6:00 p.m.** with our Likrat Shabbat service.

To bring in Shavuot, on Thursday, May 28th, from 5-8 p.m., we'll celebrate the giving of the Torah with learning each other's Torah. If you are an expert at anything - medicine, baking, gardening, American literature, or a favorite Jewish text, you are invited to give a 15 to 30 minute presentation on the topic of your choice. And of course, feel free to share how your expertise and your Judaism affect one another. Feel free to eat dinner while we Zoom!

Exploring Judaism - Wednesday Nights, 7:00 p.m. *from the Miller Intro to Judaism Program*

May 6 - Mid-Course Review and the Jewish Middle Ages *of American Jewish University*

As a class, we'll go over some key vocabulary and concepts that we have learned so far in our course. We'll also spend time meeting some of the most colorful and important characters in Jewish history: From the mystics who probed the hidden world of Kabbalah to the Sultan's physician who taught that science and religion could be reconciled and the French winemaker who forever revolutionized Jewish study.

May 13 - Marriage, Love, and Kosher Sex

Does God belong in the bedroom? How about under the wedding canopy? In this class, we'll learn what Judaism has to say about love, marriage, and intimacy.

May 20 - From Birth to B'nai Mitzvah: Raising a Mensch

Between the bris and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, a lot goes into raising a Jewish child. In this class, we'll discuss the joys and oys of Jewish parenting.

May 27 - A Time to Mourn: Traditions for Death, Grief, and Healing

Judaism teaches us to approach life's hardest moments with compassion and community. In this class, we'll explore the sacred practices that help us navigate grief and heartache, and move from sadness to renewed life.

May Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Alexander Murov	May 2nd
Richard Murov	May 6th
LaCoura Danielle Ivory	May 8th
Kim Cornelious Wynn	May 8th
Scott Serkin	May 12th
Amia Henderson	May 14th
David Schwartz	May 14th
Moriah Herniter	May 15th
Nora Serkin	May 16th
Ivy Joseph	May 19th
Wendy D. Imany	May 22nd
Rabbi Feivel Ya'akov Rubinstein	May 23rd
Dr. Sofya Rubinchik	May 23rd
Dr. Jeffrey Leblang	May 26th
Lisa B. Dayan	May 27th
Naomi Alexandra Austin	May 28th
Jerry H. Diebner	May 28th
Yosef Henderson	May 28th
Dr. Bruce Herniter	May 30th



Bob Lachman will be receiving his Associates Degree in Culinary May 2020 from Bossier Parish Community College !!!Congratulations !!!!



Wedding Anniversaries

Jerry & Carolyn Sheehan	May 1st
Rabbi Foster & Vivian Kawaler	May 24th
James & Kari Dicken	May 28th



Community Religious School Director

Despite the extenuating circumstances we all find ourselves in, I am grateful to the Rabbis, Teachers and Madrichim who have worked diligently to maintain the sense of community and educational goals of the Religious School.

Although students missed an in-person day of Religious School on March 15, there have been Zoom lessons for all students from Kindergarten through the Seventh Grade on all regularly scheduled Sundays since then. Our Religious School year is scheduled to end May 3. However, I am collecting input from parents and students about what type of activity might be appreciated for the rest of May and possibly into the summer. Please reach out via email or the private Religious School Facebook group to let me know your thoughts!

In addition to moving online, another result of social distancing was not being able to host our ISJL fellow for a Spring visit. While I missed seeing Julia in person, I am glad to report that the ISJL quickly responded to this unprecedented change by launching a new section of their website and offering many resources to educators in the region. The ISJL conference will be online this year, and will only be one day. This may benefit our school with the possibility of more teachers being able to attend.

I'd like to express my gratitude to Sharon Goldman and Goldy Marrus for their many years of teaching Religious School together. They have touched the hearts and minds of many preschoolers, making that initial Religious School experience for so many of our current students a positive one. Thank you Goldy and Sharon!

Barbara Joseph,
Director Community
Religious School

Did Jew Know?

Did Jew Know –

As the May bulletin is being put together, the loosening of stay at home restrictions are being considered. So, celebrations plans of Mothers' Day, Lag BaOmer, Memorial Day and Shavuot are very tentative.

May, however, does have some fun holidays to lighten our mood: May 2nd is World Naked Gardening Day, but with all the time we've had at home, we are caught up on those chores. The Fourth, of course, is Star Wars Day, "Patience you must have my young Padawan". The 11th is Eat What You Want Day, we were doing that anyway during lockdown. The 14th is Dance Like a Chicken Day, something we can do at home. Oh, one of my favorites – the 25th is National Wine Day. And the 27th is Senior Health and Fitness Day – need that after all the eating and drinking. And to end the month, the 31st is National Smile Day.



Men's Club

As we start to roll into warmer months and are still coping with this current pandemic, I'm glad we haven't heard of any of our current members getting seriously ill here in Shreveport. I guess that this social distancing thing must work. Passover definitely hit the nail on the head this year with the question of why is this night different from all others. I hope everyone had a good Seder using Zoom or Google hangout. As many of you have heard, I have been asked to be the next President of Agudath Achim. I've been the Men's Club president for at least a dozen years and feel it's a bit much to have both positions. Please think about leading our Men's Club. It's time for someone else to lead our brotherhood. Experience required. Cooking skills and football pool fundraisers a plus!

Thanks and Zei Gezunt,
Bob Lachman, President

DONATIONS

In Honor of

Allen Organick/Inferno's Community
In fighting COVID-19

By

David & Sandra Ginsburg

In Beloved Memory of

Abram Ginsburg
Thomas Strain, Sr.

By

Guss Ginsburg
Dr. Thomas Strain

In Recovery of

Paula Cornelious

By

David & Sandra Ginsburg

Sisterhood

Thank you for your Community Coffee proof of purchase and Box Top Labels for Education for Creswell Elementary School and soft drink can tabs for St. Jude's Children Hospital. And thank you for your toiletry donations to PCI, the domestic violence services agency. Unfortunately for some people to stay at home is not a safe place. Containers for all are on the table in the foyer. Thank you to all y'all who contributed to these worthy causes.

MAY YAHRZEITS

Week of Apr 26 - May 2

Sally Bayer
Harold Levinson
Rachel Bercowitz
Rose Cole
Nathan Fox
Meir Shamgar
Rose Perlman

Week of May 3 - May 9

Benson Zweig
Fanny A. Rubin
Hedwig Alcus Bath
Theodore Gomolsky
Isadore Kuperman
Pincus Rozeman
Hyman P. Mandel
Meyer Gelfand
Nancy Claire Fox Fannie Goldman
Joseph Perlman Sarah Bayla Sachs

Week of May 10 - May 16

Robert Diebner
Lynn Goldberg
Nat Greenstein
Miriam Cohen
Nossen N. Shapiro
Eva Rubenstein
Joe Anisman

Week of May 17 - May 23

Fannie Goldman
Frieda Kottle
Abe Diebner
Herbert Diebner
I. H. Ginsburg
Sylvia G. Rubenstein
Jake Chapman
Nathan Meisel
Sarah Kottle Wilson
Abraham S. Lieber
Edith G. Benson
Freeda W. Ritman

Week of May 24 - May 30

Hannah Gilinsky
Harry Muslow
Mildred Rubin
Mildred Werner
Sylvia Dyne
Mayme Selber
Samuel J. Sugar
Alex Michel Rosen
Jared C. Simmons
Norma Safren Waltman
Sylvia Dyne
Ida Eisen Kutcher

Week of May 31 - June 6

Abe J. Katz



If there are any errors or omissions, please contact the office with corrections.

Procedure to commemorate Yahrzeits

Recently, our tradition has been to announce yahrzeits on the Shabbat of the week before they occur. **Now, we will announce yahrzeits on the Shabbat of the week that they occur.** For example, if a *yahrzeit* is on a Tuesday, it will be announced at Shabbat services on the following Friday and Saturday. If a yahrzeit is on Shabbat, it will be announced on that Shabbat. By announcing yahrzeits in such a way, we acknowledge that Shabbat is the conclusion, rather than the beginning, of a week. If you have questions about our new yahrzeit procedure, please contact Rabbi Sydney at rabbisydni@gmail.com.

During this time of caution regarding COVID-19, we will continue to hold all events online. For now, all Agudath Achim meetings are held on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/642827616?pwd=UDZXU0NocWw5Q3UrOTI1bDhqdTJ3UT09>.

That's **Zoom.us**, Meeting ID **642-827-616**, Password **kosher613**.

Please keep reading your emails, as this web address is subject to change.

For all North Louisiana Jewish Federation events, including concerts and lecture series, please visit jewishnla.org/events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					7 Iyar 1 22nd Day of the Omer 6:00 PM Likrat Shabbat on Zoom  7:38 PM Candle Lighting	8 Iyar 2 23rd Day of the Omer Parashat Achrei Mot-Kedoshim 8:38 PM Havdalah
9 Iyar 3 24th Day of the Omer 10:00 AM Learn and Daven 6:00 PM Saul Kaye Concert	10 Iyar 4 25th Day of the Omer	11 Iyar 5 26th Day of the Omer	12 Iyar 6 27th Day of the Omer 7:00 PM Exploring Judaism	13 Iyar 7 28th Day of the Omer 7:00 PM Dr. Joel Hoffman Lecture Series	14 Iyar 8 Pesach Sheni 29th Day of the Omer 6:00 PM Likrat Shabbat on Zoom  7:43PM Candle Lighting	15 Iyar 9 Parashat Emor 30th Day of the Omer 8:43 PM Havdalah
16 Iyar 10 31st Day of the Omer 10:00 AM Learn and Daven Shema and Its Blessings	17 Iyar 11 32nd Day of the Omer	18 Iyar 12 Lag BaOmer 33rd Day of the Omer	19 Iyar 13 34th Day of the Omer 7:00 PM Exploring Judaism	20 Iyar 14 35th Day of the Omer 7:00 PM Dr. Joel Hoffman Lecture Series	21 Iyar 15 36th Day of the Omer 6:00 PM Likrat Shabbat on Zoom  7:38 PM Candle Lighting	22 Iyar 16 Parashat Behar-Bechukotai 37th Day of the Omer 8:43 PM Havdalah
23 Iyar 17 38th Day of the Omer 10:00 AM Learn and Daven Sh'ma and Its Blessings	24 Iyar 18 39th Day of the Omer	25 Iyar 19 40th Day of the Omer	26 Iyar 20 41st Day of the Omer 7:00 PM Exploring Judaism	27 Iyar 21 42nd Day of the Omer 7:00 Pm Dr. Joel Hoffman Lecture Series	28 Iyar 22 Yom Yerushalayim 43rd Day of the Omer 6:00 PM Likrat Shabbat on Zoom  7:52 PM Candle Lighting	29 Iyar 23 Parashat Bamidbar 44th Day of the Omer 8:53 PM Havdalah
1 Sivan 24 Rosh Chodesh Sivan 45th Day of the Omer 10:00 AM Learn and Daven Amidah	2 Sivan 25 46th Day of the Omer	3 Sivan 26 47th Day of the Omer	4 Sivan 27 48th Day of the Omer 7:00 PM Exploring Judaism	5 Sivan 28 Erev Shavuot 49th Day of the Omer 5:00 PM Shavuot- Learning From the Experts 7:58 PM Candle Lighting	6 Sivan 29 Shavuot I  7:57 PM Candle Lighting	7 Sivan 30 Shavuot II 8:57 PM Havdalah
8 Sivan 31 2:00 PM Board Meeting 3:00 PM Annual Meeting						