



Agudath Achim  
Shreveport  
Est. 1902

9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA. 71115

Tevet - Shevat 5781

January 2021

# The Shul Shpiel



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein  
[rabbi@agudathshreveport.com](mailto:rabbi@agudathshreveport.com)

Robert Lachman, President  
(318) 272-5123  
[Presidentafbob49@gmail.com](mailto:Presidentafbob49@gmail.com)

Email: [office@agudathshreveport.com](mailto:office@agudathshreveport.com)

Website: [agudathshreveport.com](http://agudathshreveport.com)

Phone: (318) 797-6401

## Shabbat Services:

Friday evening services on  
Zoom at 4:00 pm

Saturday morning services  
streaming at 10:00 am

(Please check your email for updates)

# Executive Message

## Thank you, fellow congregants

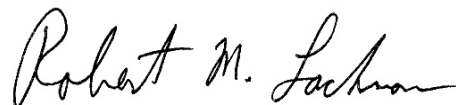
As I'm starting to write this on the first night of Hanukkah, I'm remembering all the family fun I had as a child, growing up in a family with lots of aunts, uncles, and cousins. Everyone got together to celebrate the first day—lighting the candles and playing dreidel, and all my uncles lined up to give us gelt as we walked past each one. Getting presents came after dinner. What a fun time that was! When we all Zoomed together on the first night this year, it made me thankful for our warm Agudath Achim Jewish community. We also have the NLA Jewish Federation creating an online party with kosher food and bagels from NYC to celebrate, a good pastrami sandwich and jelly rolls, dreidels for playing, and some chocolate gelt. Under the current circumstances I'd say bravo—we're not letting COVID ruin everything!

The main theme of my message is to thank everyone for supporting each other. Thank you for supporting Agudath Achim through paying your dues, giving donations in honor and memory of loved ones, supporting the Sisterhood and Men's Club, and contributing when you receive High Holiday honors. And of course, thank you for the many other categories of donations you have made.

Besides financial support, I'd like to thank all of the board members for attending meetings and collectively making the decisions that need to be made to keep Shul operations running every day.

I'd like to thank the staff: Thank you to Rabbi Sydni for providing weekly and holiday services that preserve our Conservative values and traditions, technical assistance, and leadership. Thank you to Rabbi Feivel, who is not technically staff but donates so many hours to assist our Shul and the community. Carnell, our custodian, is always there to help unload food for onegs, make beautiful plate presentations, and watch over the building. Our office manager Michelle came to the rescue when our previous secretary resigned, and she is greatly improving the bulletin format. Laura, our CPA, does so much to keep the financials straight. I can't forget about our security guards, who watch over us and provide professional security for us.

It really is a team effort to keep our house of worship running, and nobody should go unnoticed or unappreciated. We all play a role here at our humble synagogue. So, thank you everyone for contributing financially, attending services, and using your time to make our Synagogue an outstanding congregation. In the coming weeks, you will receive an end-of-year statement and a pledge form for next year. I appreciate your recommitment to your support of our community. With that, I'll say that I hope you had a Happy Hanukkah and holiday season!



Your President, Bob Lachman

# Rabbi Sydni's Message

## Tu Bishvat - A Jewish Spin on Earth Day

Back in the year 200 CE, the Rabbis of the Mishnah established Tu Bishvat, the 15th of the month of Sh'vat, as the beginning of the agricultural year—more precisely, the “New Year of the Trees.” In the modern age, it has become a sort of Jewish Earth Day celebrated in different communities with hikes, sponsoring planting trees in Israel, and holding a seder grounded by spiritual analysis of different fruits and nuts. But other than acknowledging that trees are pretty, what does Judaism have to say about respecting the environment?

In the very first chapter of Torah, God tells us to fill the earth and rule it; God designates every plant to us and to the rest of the animals for food. In the second chapter, God puts Adam—our representative of humankind—into the Garden of Eden to till it and to work it. From those first two stories of Torah, God assigns us not only the job of taking food to eat but of cultivating that greenery and making sure other creatures have access to it as well. Much later in Torah, in Deuteronomy's rules about war, God commands the people Israel never to destroy fruit trees when it besieges a town. Those fruit trees, the Torah pleads, are integral providers of food and life. Because of our unique abilities as human beings, the Torah teaches, we must give back as much as we take.

Besides ensuring that these animals have food, the Torah establishes guidelines for how to treat our companions on this earth. The book of Exodus implores us to “return an enemy's ox or donkey”s. If that enemy's donkey has fallen

down under its load, we must help our enemy unload the animal so that she can stand up again. Frustration with other humans, or I'd like to think, hurriedness or any of life's other distractions, must not be excuses for neglecting living creatures in need. Later in Torah we learn that when we take the eggs or young birds from a bird's nest we must not kill the mother with them. The reasoning here is fascinating: “You may take the young, but be sure to let the mother go, so that it may go well with you and you may have long life” (Deuteronomy 22:6-7). While we do not have to be perfect in the ways we treat each living being on our planet, if we hold ourselves to some level of environmental decency, our actions have the ability to expand our lives and the lives of our descendants.

Yes, it is wonderful to follow Torah for our fellow creatures' sake, but even more selfishly, if we put a couple of reusable grocery bags in our trunk and remember to take them out when we go shopping, we contribute to a more stable climate for our children. If we reduce our meat consumption, or at least, pay attention to where our meat comes from, we act as compassionate role models for those with which we share relationships. In Judaism, we celebrate not just to praise the beautiful, but also, to remind ourselves of the good for which we're responsible. This year, on January 28 (the 15th of Sh'vat), we can enjoy a seder filled not only with dates, figs, and pomegranate seeds, but also with conversations about what you and your family can do to be even better stewards of the earth.



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein

# Prayer and Learning

## Limud - Learning

All classes can be accessed on Zoom.us with meeting ID **642-827-616**, password **kosher613**. While quality is better when joining Zoom online, you may join by phone at (312)-626-6799, meeting ID 642-827-616, password 256510

### **Hodesh Hadash - Women's Learning Group**

Tuesday, January 12, 12:00 p.m.,  
*on Zoom*

Thanks to a suggestion by Susan Gross, we'll be learning about Judaism's views of animals, both how animals should be treated and what animals appear in our Biblical and Rabbinic texts.

### **Learn to Read Hebrew - 10 Week Course**

Tuesdays, January 5  
7:00 p.m. *on Zoom*

For our last class of learning to read Hebrew, we'll review what we've learned and perhaps even try to tackle a prayer that isn't even Hebrew at all - the Kaddish!

### **613? Relevant? Commandments**

Thursdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28  
7:00 p.m. *on Zoom*

Explore the mitzvot (commandments) from the Torah with Rabbi Feivel! In this once/week series, we'll systematically work our way through the Torah, stopping at the commandments contained within. Using modern and ancient commentaries, we'll gain a deeper understanding of God's laws and explore why our sages did (or did not) count them in their 613 total. Along our journey, we will continually ask the question - is this

commandment still relevant for us today?

[You can access Rabbi Feivel's source materials here.](#)

### **Exploring Judaism**

Tuesdays, beginning February 16

Exploring Judaism will return to Agudath Achim on Tuesday nights in February! Together, we'll learn Jewish basics and beyond, with topics ranging from Torah to keeping kosher to raising a Jewish family. This class is geared towards learners of all backgrounds, whether you've been Jewish your whole life, are interested in becoming Jewish, or are confident in your current faith and just want to learn more. As learning changes with each group of people, you're welcome to join the class, even if you attended some or all of our sessions last year

This year, while Exploring Judaism will still run for 19 consecutive weeks, it will be divided into three sections - February 16 - March 23, March 30 - May 4, and May 11 - June 22. While Agudath Achim members may attend for free, we ask that friends and visitors contribute a \$60 donation per class section. That's \$10 per class or \$180 for the entire 19 weeks. If the class fee is a hardship, any donation is appreciated.

Please contact Rabbi Sydni with your interest, and know that more information will be available soon!

## Agudat Yeladim - Family Programming

### **Family Havdalah with Rabbis Rubinstein**

Saturday, January 16, 6:30 p.m.

Grab your candle, grape juice, and spices, and join us for Havdalah with Rabbis Rubinstein. We'll share song and story, all while practicing the joyful ritual that ends one week and begins the next! We'll meet either on Zoom or on the Rabbis' patio, to be decided closer to January 16.

# Shabbat Shalom



## January Schedule of Readings

Saturday	January 2	Torah Reading Haftarah	<b>Vayechi</b> Genesis 49:1-4 - 49:22-26 1 Kings 2:1 - 2:12
Saturday	January 9	Torah Reading Haftarah	<b>Shemot</b> Exodus 3:1-6 - 4:17 Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-29:23
Saturday	January 16	Torah Reading Haftarah	<b>Va'era</b> Exodus 7:8-13 - 8:15 Ezekiel 28:25 - 29:21
Saturday	January 23	Torah Reading Haftarah	<b>Bo</b> Exodus 11:4-10 - 12:28 Jeremiah 46:13 - 46:28
Saturday	January 30	Torah Reading Haftarah	<b>Beshalach</b> Exodus 14:15-20 - 16:10 Judges 5:1 - 5:31

# North Louisiana Jewish Federation News



## Celebrity Chef Series

Tuesdays in January/February  
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Enjoy a virtual international culinary journey with four celebrity chefs on the Israeli and American scenes. Explore their Moroccan, Yemenite, Persian, Tunisian, and Ashkenazi backgrounds, recipes and culinary inspirations

### Einat Admony – The Ultimate Balaboosta

**Tuesday, January 19, 7:00pm**

Menu: Moroccan Spiced Fish, Yemenite Salad with Fenugreek-Yoghurt Dressing, and Ja’ala

### Lior Lev-Sercarz – The Spice Master

**Tuesday, January 26, 7:00pm**

Menu: Freekah and Feta Salad; Charred Eggplant and Labneh Parfait

### Danielle Renov – Peas, Love & Carrots

**Tuesday, February 2, 7:00pm**

Menu: Meat stuffed artichokes; Sumac-Scented Fennel and Tangerine Salad

### Adeena Sussman – Sababa

**Tuesday, February 9, 7:00pm**

Menu: My Mother’s Irresistible Peach Kuchen; Chewy Tahini Blondies



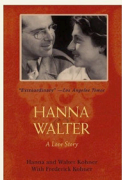
We hope you’ll join us for our Annual Purim Party to enjoy Food, Fun, Friends, and Community! This year, our party will be held on Sunday, February 28th. Due to the pandemic, we anticipate this year’s festivities to be fully online. Stay tuned for more details to follow, and be sure to check our website for up-to-date information.



2020 has been a wild ride to say the least, but we’d like to start off this year with a huge THANK YOU to each and every person who stuck with us through this difficult year, and continues to stick with us every single day.

## Voices of the Generations

A non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the memory and personal stories of Holocaust survivors.



*Hear the moving love story  
of Hanna and Walter Kohner*



Julie Kohner

**Teens & Family Programs:  
Voices of the Generations  
Sunday, January 10th, 2021**

Julie Kohner, daughter of Holocaust survivor Hanna Kohner, shares memories, videos, and her parents inspiring love story. This program is geared towards Middle & High School students and their families, but is open to the general public. Join us on January 10th, as we do our part to “Never Forget” the Holocaust.

Find out more about the North Louisiana Jewish Federation at [www.jewishnla.org](http://www.jewishnla.org)

# January Celebrations

## Happy Birthday

Lauren Bayer	Jan 1	Yehudit Platt	Jan 14
Gabriele Kappers	Jan 1	Lynne Perler	Jan 17
Cantor Neil Schwartz	Jan 2	Bryan Ardis Robinson	Jan 19
Rachel Jennifer Roubein	Jan 4	Yitzi Jason Dowd	Jan 19
Sharon Goldman	Jan 5	Jon Todd Arnold	Jan 22
Natalya Murov	Jan 5	Peggy Smith	Jan 25
Vivian Kawaler	Jan 8	Emily Brooks	Jan 27
Lindy Alberts	Jan 14	Margalit Murov	Jan 30
David E. Ginsburg	Jan 14		

## Happy Anniversary

Sara & Dr. Richard Zweig	Jan 1
Sandra & David Ginsburg	Jan 7
Joan & Dr. Aubrey Lurie	Jan 15

## Sisterhood

The light at the end of the Covid tunnel is getting brighter! Even though we don't know yet when life will go back to "normal," please send me your thoughts about future Sisterhood events and how you would like to participate.

As always, thank you for supporting our Kroger Community Rewards program (If you haven't already, it's easy-peasy to link your Kroger Rewards to our Community Rewards program, KK925) and our Social Service project of toiletries for Project Celebration, Inc.

Wishing y'all a Healthy and Happy secular New Year!

Shalom,  
Sandra Ginsburg, *Sisterhood President*

# Community Religious School Director

Religious School classes will resume on Sunday, January 10, and Hebrew classes will resume on Wednesday, January 6.

In collaboration with the North Louisiana Jewish Federation, on January 10th there will be a special presentation geared towards the seventh-grade Religious School students and the Chai 5 students (grades eight through ten). The rest of the community is also invited to hear Julie Kohner of Voices of the Generations. Julie is the daughter of Holocaust survivor Hanna Kohner, and she will share memories, videos, and her parents' inspiring love story. Please join us on Zoom on January 10th, as we do our part to "Never Forget" the Holocaust. More details are at the Federation's website ([https://www.jewishnla.org/events/event/2021\\_01\\_10\\_1606240351](https://www.jewishnla.org/events/event/2021_01_10_1606240351)), and in the Federation section of this bulletin.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy rest of 5781 (and 2021!)  
Barbara Joseph



Barbara G. Joseph

**Regarding Covid exposure:** if you have been in close proximity with a family member who has tested positive, please get tested yourselves. This will provide as much protection to others as possible.

Please do not come into the synagogue until that family member tests negative and you have waited an additional 14 days after their negative results to ensure that you are not positive without knowing it. Asymptomatic people are actually the biggest spreaders of Covid. So far, the masks and social distancing seem to be working. The Executive Board agrees that this information was important for all to know if the situation arises. **See CDC guidelines for further information.**

## Updated Service Information

Through at least mid-January, we will continue online services only. While we miss seeing more of each other in person, we are comforted by our congregation's commitment to keeping each other safe, while still learning and gathering together online. Please check your emails to stay updated on service times and locations.

Likrat Shabbat will be **Friday afternoons at 4 p.m.** on Zoom.us with meeting ID **642-827-616**, password **kosher613**. While quality is better when joining Zoom online, you may join by phone at (312)-626-6799, meeting ID 642-827-616, password 256510

Shabbat morning services will be streamed at [agudathshreveport.com/prayer/live](http://agudathshreveport.com/prayer/live) at **10:00 a.m. on Saturdays.**



# Donations

## In Beloved Memory of

Paul Shapiro  
Jeri Stern  
Casey Nicole Colley  
DeSean Terrance Howe-Strain  
Casey Nicole Colley  
DeSean Terrance Howe-Strain  
DeSean Terrance Howe-Strain  
Samuel Owen Strain  
Myron Gordon M.D.  
Evelyn Kawaler  
Allen Rubin  
Rose Lincove Vogel  
Manuel Lincove

## In Honor of

The birth of Hannah Cecilia Marsala  
The birth of Hannah Cecilia Marsala  
The birth of Hannah Cecilia Marsala  
The birth of Hannah Cecilia Marsala

## Biblical Orchard

Ellen Soffer & Allen Organick  
Jennette Ginsburg

## General Fund

Doug Stegall  
Keith Davis  
Laura Huff  
Keith Davis

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Janice & Warren Epstein

## For Recovery

Deena & Bob Lachman

## By

Jackie Fleschman  
Dr. Karen & Bob Gordon  
Tammy & Paul Willson  
Dr. David & Susan Gross  
Ellen Soffer & Allen Organick  
Ellen Soffer & Allen Organick  
Dr. Thomas Strain  
Dr. Thomas Strain  
Dr. Thomas Strain  
Rabbi Foster & Vivian Kawaler  
Rabbi Foster & Vivian Kawaler  
Janice & Warren Epstein  
Janice & Warren Epstein

## By

David & Susan Gross  
David & Sandra Ginsburg  
Ellen Soffer & Allen Organick  
Richard & Sara Zweig

## Cemetery Fund

Jackie Fleschman



**DO YOU HAVE A SMALL BUSINESS?**  
**Advertise with us**

Agudath Achim is now offering business advertising in the bulletin. Call us for prices or questions.

# January Yahrzeits

## Week of Jan 1 - Jan 2

Beatrice Lipton  
Dr. Joseph Shavin  
Katie Abrams  
Nathan Levine  
Frances Maritzky

## Week of Jan 3 - Jan 9

Judah Leib Reshin  
Ann Robertson  
Esther Ablon Fox  
Baer Abramson  
Morris Pesses  
Diane Aldin  
Pincus Gardsbane  
Jenny Diebner  
Phillip Kottle  
Max Carroll  
Florence Shiffman  
Kate Shavin

## Week of Jan 10 - Jan 16

Debora Greenberg  
Elkie Chapman  
Carol Goodman  
Bernard Fox  
Arnold Lincove  
Della Weis  
Lynn Strauss  
Abraham Charski  
Samuel Reisman  
Charles E. Howard Sr.  
Nathan Rubenstein  
Eliezer Sugar  
Sam S. Schwartz

## Week of Jan 17 - Jan 23

Julius Williams  
Morris Siegel  
Rabbi Noah Gamze  
Milton Shiffman  
Ruth Kopew Slutsky  
Harry Sternberg  
Nathan Sadoff  
Jacob H. Groner  
Max Malach  
Alex Goldstein  
Irwin Muslow  
Margarethe Braun  
Rae Schreiber  
Charles L. Williams  
Dora Weis Diebner  
Michael Lazarus  
Frank Applebaum  
Samuel Anisman  
Sherman Kottle  
Ray Marks Gilbert  
Harold Strausman  
Benjamin Clark

## Week of Jan 24 - 31

Paul Gardsbane  
Minnie Aldin  
Dr. Julius Jay Kaufman  
Sophia Meisel  
Clara Schnurr  
Rose Pesses  
Leib Sachs  
Grandmother Fox  
Sadie Kuperman  
Leslie Gross  
David Lazar Abrams  
Glen Kramer  
Herman Reshin  
A. B. Marker  
Annie Kaplan  
Birdie Williams  
Harry Schwartzberg

*May Their  
Memory  
be for a  
Blessing*

# January 2021

# Tevet - Shevat 5781

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 Tevet 17 Likrat Shabbat 4 pm Candle Lighting 5:03 pm	2 Tevet 18 Parshat Vayechi Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Havdalah 6:03 pm
3 Tevet 19 Voices of the Generations 11 am	4 Tevet 20 Board Meeting 7 pm	5 Tevet 21 Learn to Read Hebrew 7 pm	6 Tevet 22	7 Tevet 23 613? Relevant? Commandments 7 pm	8 Tevet 24 Likrat Shabbat 4 pm Candle Lighting 5:08 pm	9 Tevet 25 Parshat Shemot Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Havdalah 6:09 pm
10 Tevet 26 Voices of the Generations 11 am	11 Tevet 27	12 Tevet 28 Hodesh Hadash - Women's Learning 11 am	13 Tevet 29	14 Shevat 1 Rosh Chodesh Shevat 613? Relevant? Commandments 7 pm	15 Shevat 2 Likrat Shabbat 4 pm Candle Lighting 5:14 pm	16 Shevat 3 Parshat Vaera Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Family Havdalah with Rabbis Rubinstein 6 pm Havdalah 6:15 pm
17 Shevat 4	18 Shevat 5	19 Shevat 6 Celebrity Chef Series: Chef Einat Admony 7 pm	20 Shevat 7	21 Shevat 8 613? Relevant? Commandments 7 pm	22 Shevat 9 Likrat Shabbat 4 pm Candle Lighting 5:21 pm	23 Shevat 10 Parshat Bo Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Havdalah 6:22 pm
24 Shevat 10	25 Shevat 11	26 Shevat 12 Celebrity Chef Series: Chef Lior Lev-Sercarz 7 pm	27 Shevat 13	28 Shevat 14 Tu BiShvat 613? Relevant? Commandments 7 pm	29 Shevat 15 Likrat Shabbat 4 pm Candle Lighting 5:27 pm	30 Shevat 16 Parshat Beshalach Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Havdalah 6:28 pm
31 Shevat 18						



Agudath Achim  
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## Congregation Agudath Achim

9401 Village Green Dr.  
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General inquiries:  
[office@agudathshreveport.com](mailto:office@agudathshreveport.com)