



Agudath Achim
Shreveport
Est. 1902

9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA. 71115

Kislev - Tevet 5781

December 2020

The Shul Shpiel

Happy
Hanukkah



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein
rabbi@agudathshreveport.com

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Email: office@agudathshreveport.com

Website: agudathshreveport.com

Phone: (318) 797-6401

Shabbat Services:

Friday evening services in
Sanctuary and streaming
7:00 PM

Saturday morning services
in Sanctuary and
streaming
10:00 AM

Executive Message

Dear Members & Benefactors,

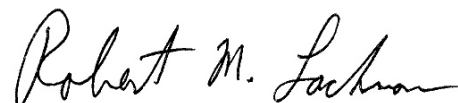
We have been in the process of discussing the addition of a structure in the area behind our synagogue for quite a few months now. The idea of an outdoor complimentary structure was suggested by Jennette Ginsburg who has advocated for the biblical garden, along with Rabbi Feivel; both have gotten it off to a great start. Our giant fig tree produces an abundance of fruit every year, and we have also planted pomegranates and olive trees as well. More vegetation planning is being considered for the future.

Phase two, and the most expensive plan of the Biblical Garden Orchard, is to add a professionally constructed, aesthetically pleasing structure that can have a dual purpose for providing shade for outdoor events such as meetings, classes, meals, and services, while replacing the dinosaur sukkah we assemble and disassemble every year on Sukkot. The sukkah assembly and disassembly takes several of us not-getting-any-younger-folks to transfer from the storage shed, put together, take down, and schlep back to the storage unit every year. It's served us well but is ready to be retired.

What I have suggested is a pergola that would be able to serve both purposes. If you don't know what a pergola is, look around Shreveport and you see them everywhere—especially in people's backyards. It's a wooden structure with open walls and an open roof made of pillars and beams.

I really believe this addition to our garden will be very beneficial to our congregation, especially since we have so much nice weather in the south. I have contacted Mr. David Boone from the Caddo Sheriff's office who runs the Re-Entry program that teaches Caddo prison inmates skills to find employment after incarceration. He has accepted our request to build a pergola for Agudath Achim. This would help us save thousands of dollars in labor costs. The only costs the Shul would incur are for materials. It's not cheap but is well worth the investment. However, others in the planning want to get estimates from private contractors as well so we can ensure we get the best product for the cost.

Jennette has created a GoFundMe account to help us pay for the garden project and it has already raised about \$1600 from family, friends, and some members of Agudath Achim. Depending on how big we decide to make the pergola, materials will probably be our biggest expense. If you can afford to pitch in a few dollars, I'm asking you to consider contributing to this worthy project that we will all benefit from. To donate, you can send a check to the office and make a note it's for the Garden structure. Also, we are working on making it possible to donate dues and donations online through the synagogue web page at www.agudathshreveport.com. I also want to wish everyone a happy Hanukah starting December 10th. If you need Hanukah candles or gifts, the sisterhood gift shop can sell you both (see p. 5 for gift ideas). Be safe as always.



Robert Lachman
President, Agudath Achim

Rabbi Sydni's Message

Elevating in Sanctity

Beit Shammai says: On the first day, one kindles eight lights, and from then on, gradually decreases [one by one].

Beit Hillel says: On the first day, one kindles one light, and from then on, gradually increases [one by one].

~Talmud Bavli Shabbat 21b

We are living in Beit Hillel's world. On the first night of Hanukah, we dust off our hanukiot and insert one candle to celebrate the beginning of the holiday. On night two, we insert and light two new candles, and so on and so forth.

The Gemara cannot decide whether Rabbi Yosei bar Avin or Rabbi Yosei bar Zevida taught that Shammai's reasoning was according to the Sukkot sacrifices; when the Holy Temple stood, the priests would sacrifice thirteen bulls on the first day and one fewer each day after that. Hanukah was, after all, the Maccabees' substitute celebration for Sukkot, after they were unable to celebrate during the Greek occupation of the Temple.

I'm more interested in Beit Hillel's reading. According to Rabbi Yosei, Beit Hillel reasoned that we must always elevate in sanctity; we must not lower. Accordingly, we increase in light on each night of Hanukah. At the darkest part of our year, Hanukah reminds us to keep pursuing the light, to keep increasing our attempts at everyday holiness. Those

little candles serve as reminders to us to dive even deeper into mitzvot from one day to the next—increasing our donations to the causes we support, expanding our practices of kashrut and prayer, and learning more about our Jewish tradition. As a synagogue, those little candles remind us of how, gradually, we must never settle for as is; instead, we must constantly rethink how to be more inclusive, more inspiring, more righteous in what we offer. As bleak as this time of year or this time in world history may look, Hanukah pushes us towards our obligation to embrace hope, especially in times like these.

Each day of Hanukah, we clear out yesterday's candles and begin anew. Even if we were not able to be our brightest selves yesterday, we have a new chance to pursue greater holiness today. While we may not be perfect in our attempts at sacred living, in Beit Hillel's world, complacency is not an option. This Hanukah, may we embrace the challenge to improve our Jewish practice and our righteousness each and every day. May we look to the light for the strength to know that increasing hope, and even increasing effort towards the good are ideas that our Jewish people have held for thousands of years.



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein



Prayer and Learning

Tefilah - Prayer

Shabbat services are at **7:00 p.m. on Friday nights** and **10:00 a.m.** on Saturday mornings. You may attend Shabbat services either in person or at <https://agudathshreveport.com/prayer/live>.

For all of our safety, please wear a face mask in our building, and keep six feet between you and those around you. If you or another member of your household is feeling unwell, please join us online.

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, December 15 - 11:00 a.m.
on Zoom

Together, we'll deep dive into how we celebrate Hanukah, learning the halakhah (Jewish laws) and sharing some of our personal holiday traditions

Learn to Read Hebrew - 10 Week Course
Tuesdays, December 8, 15, 22, 29
7:00 p.m. *on Zoom*

In our second month of learning to read Hebrew, we'll progress from identifying letters to reading syllables. Whether you've been in our class thus far, or you're familiar with the letters but want to learn how to put them together, please join us

on Tuesday evenings!

Our final goal will be confidently chanting the blessings before and after reading the Torah, as well as other prayers in our liturgy. Our course is free for members and \$18 for visitors. Please let Rabbi Sydni know your interest at rabbi@agudathshreveport.com

613? Relevant? Commandments
Thursdays, December 3, 10, 17, 24
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?

Agudat Yeladim - Family Programming

Family Havdalah with Rabbis Rubinstein
Saturday, December 19, 6:00 p.m.
Beit Rubinstein (RSVP for address)

In December, Rabbis Feivel and Sydni will begin the practice of inviting our congregation's families to their home for Havdalah on the third Saturday evening of each month. We'll begin by engaging in the multi-sensory ritual to separate Shabbat from the rest of the week, and we'll continue with song and story time. Please let Rabbi Sydni know of your attendance, and she will provide you with the address.



Hanukah Shopping

Please plan to visit the Rubenstein Gift Shop for new Hanukah items and old classics.



Standards for Safety

Just as a reminder, please refrain from coming to the synagogue if you are feeling unwell. Of course, we welcome your presence online.

Community members are encouraged to bring their own face masks, tallitot, and kippot. When walking in the door, people are encouraged to take a face mask, a prayer book, a kippah, a tallit, and an Etz Hayim from a table or two at the front. These can be taken home and brought back to synagogue for future use.

All other prayer books have been removed from the seats.

Congregants and visitors required to wear face masks when in the building.

The social hall, library, and office will be closed.

Every other row is taped off. If it seems necessary for us to have more space, we can open up the partitioned room as well.

During the service, if possible, the Torah and ark are only be handled by Rabbis Feivel and Sydni, who will switch off as Torah readers and singular gabbai (unless someone else wants to leyn). Those coming up for honors or leading parts of the service will stand at the secondary readers stand.

For those who wish to socialize during services, we will keep water bottles, iced coffee, and prepackaged snacks spread out on a table in the lobby.

There will be no bagel breakfast, oneg, or

kiddush lunch after services until it becomes clear that sharing food is not a threat to our health.

Hand sanitizer is on the bimah and in the foyer near the beverages and snacks.

Thank you, Carnell, for keeping surfaces clean between services.

We will continue to offer access to services and classes online for those who do not feel comfortable attending in person. We encourage people who feel unwell or unsafe coming in person to stay at home.

Community members should refrain from physical contact with others not in their household. A wave or thumbs up is a great substitute for a handshake or fist bump.

We review these standards at each month's board meeting.

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.**

Shabbat Shalom



December Schedule of Readings

| | | | |
|----------|------------|---------------------------|--|
| Saturday | December 5 | Torah Reading Haftarah | <i>Vayishlach</i> Genesis 32:4-36:43 Obadiah 1:1-21 |
|----------|------------|---------------------------|--|

| | | | |
|----------|-------------|---------------------------|---|
| Saturday | December 12 | Torah Reading Haftarah | <i>Vayeshev</i> Genesis 37:1-40:23 Numbers 7:18-23 Zechariah 2:14-4:7 |
|----------|-------------|---------------------------|---|

| | | | |
|----------|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| Saturday | December 19 | Torah Reading Haftarah | <i>Miketz</i> Genesis 41:1-44:17 1 Kings 3:15-4:1 |
|----------|-------------|---------------------------|--|

| | | | |
|----------|-------------|---------------------------|---|
| Saturday | December 26 | Torah Reading Haftarah | <i>Vayigash</i> Genesis 44:18-47:27 Ezekiel 37:15-28 |
|----------|-------------|---------------------------|---|

North Louisiana Jewish Federation News

We hope you had the opportunity to enjoy our Virtual Tour of the **Museum of Southern Jewish Experience!** If you missed it, you can still see the video on Federation's YouTube page.

Annual Hanukkah Party **Sunday, December 13th** **5:30pm Candle-Lighting**

Get excited for our **Annual Hanukkah Party** hosted both in Agudath Achim's Biblical Garden as well as online. This year's celebration and community candle lighting will take place on Sunday, **December 13th**, the fourth night of Hanukah.

In light of public health concerns, the program will be outdoors, masked and require registration in advance to ensure we have enough room to accommodate any necessary safety guidelines.

*Please note that this event will also be streamed online, so those who are uncomfortable, unwell, at risk, or have been exposed to covid are encouraged to watch from home. Please see the website for more details.

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.



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

Find out more about the North Louisiana Jewish Federation at www.jewishnla.org

The Shreveport Chapter of **HADASSAH** invites you to:



**COVID-19:
'A SILVER LINING'**



COVID-19: 'A Silver Lining'

Sunday, December 20th

2:00pm - 3:30pm

Hadassah presents 2 incredible speakers to discuss the current science of COVID, the advancement of treatments, and what to expect in the future.

Linda Freedman Block, a former SW Region President and current National Gatekeeper (big gift donor) Chair, will address the virus' impact in Israel.

Dr. Richard Zweig, a Neurologist at Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport & Associate Member of HADASSAH, will present current research about the virus and the vaccine.

\$18 Zoom Access

All proceeds and donations go to HADASSAH
Prefer to pay by check? Checks can be made out to Hadassah and sent to:

Debby Dlin 5705 River Rd., 71105 or
Elizabeth Arceneaux 615 Jordan Street 71101

Sisterhood

As we celebrate Hanukah, the Festival of Lights, we are beginning to see the light at the end of the Covid tunnel. Even though we don't know yet when life will go back to 'normal', please send me your thoughts regarding future Sisterhood activities and how you would like to participate.

As always, thank you for supporting our Kroger Community Rewards program and our Social Service project of toiletries for Project Celebration, Inc.

Shalom,
Sandra Ginsburg, *Sisterhood President*

December Celebrations Happy Birthday

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Harriet Dechowitz | Dec. 1 |
| Rabbi Foster Kawaler | Dec. 9 |
| Anne Lachman-Marsala | Dec. 13 |
| Kari Dicken | Dec. 14 |
| Jennifer R. Goodpaster | Dec. 16 |
| Miguel Padin | Dec. 19 |
| William Serkin | Dec. 20 |
| Lesley Padilla | Dec. 21 |
| Laurie S. Feigenbaum | Dec. 23 |
| Dalia Reisman | Dec. 25 |
| Bill Cornelious | Dec. 26 |
| Susan Gross | Dec. 29 |
| Leo Laventhal | Dec. 30 |

Mazel Tov!

Mazel Tov to Bob & Deena Lachman on the birth of their granddaughter, Hannah Cecilia Marsala, on 11/29/2020. Her proud parents are Drs. Anne & Andrew Marsala.

Community Religious School Director

Since one of the themes of Hanukah is dedication, I want to recognize these people who have dedicated themselves to education this year:

- Kindergarten teachers Rosa Tirado and Sophie Wiener
- First grade teacher Morgan Conway
- Third and Fourth grade teacher Amanda Dodson
- Fifth and Sixth grade teachers Jennifer Parris and Rebecca Austin
- Seventh grade teacher Rabbi Feivel Rubinstein
- Chai 5 teachers Rabbi Feivel and Rabbi Jana
- Rabbi Jana and Rabbi Sydni, with their inspiring Rabbi Time visits and special events
- All the parents and other adults who support the children in this community with tech support, calendar reminders, and are role modeling Jewish values.

Last month the Education Committee met to discuss how our Religious School year will proceed. Classes will continue on Zoom through our coldest months. After Spring Break and Pesach, students in first through seventh grade will meet outside on Sunday mornings. There may be some changes in how different ages are grouped, and we may extend the calendar through July, with the re-introduction of specialties like art and dance. Religious School families can expect updates on these changes via email in the coming weeks.

We will continue to have family programs once a month, as well as occasional gatherings by grade. In November, the sixth graders met to learn about Tzedakah and Mitzvot.

There is Shabbat programming available for our youngest Jewish community members—I encourage everyone to take advantage! Rabbi Jana hosts KID-dush Shabbat on the second Shabbat of each month, and starting this month, Rabbi Sydni will have a children's service on the first Shabbat, and a Havdalah service on the third Shabbat.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy Hanukah!



Barbara G. Joseph

6th grade meetup



Special thanks to Landon Crawford, our ISJL fellow, for his virtual visit last month!



Donations

In Beloved Memory of

Maemarye Wolf Parker
Mary Toys
Joseph Goldman
Mollie Shapiro
Beverly Iverson
Michelle Valletine
Michael Maynard
Casey Nicole Colley
Jose Hemsani
Leah Schorr
DeSean Terrance Howe-Strain
Jeri Stern
Jeri Stern
DeSean Terrance Howe-Strain

By

Stephen & Patti Parker
Elliot & Sharon Goldman & Goldy Marrus
Elliot & Sharon Goldman
Jackie Shapiro Fleschman
Dr. Thomas Strain
Dr. Thomas Strain
Dr. Thomas Strain
Annemarie Ain
Sara Tebele
Bill & Paula Schorr Cornelious
David & Sandra Ginsburg
David & Sandra Ginsburg
Dr. Charles Stern & Gary Yellen
Dr. Karen & Bob Gordon

Biblical Orchard

Martin Ginsburg
Barbara & Curtis Joseph
Tyler Gage
The Men's Club
David & Sandra Ginsburg
Jason & Jill Himmelstein

Cemetery Fund

Isabella Chapman



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.

The advertisement features a grey background with a pattern of dark blue hexagons. Three hexagons contain white icons: a building, a bar chart, and a stack of boxes. The text is in orange and dark blue.

December Yahrzeits

*May Their Memory be
for a Blessing*

Week of Dec. 1 - Dec. 5

Allen E. Gregory
Ida Gross
Jake Rubenstein
Paul Shapiro
Harry Yellen
Ethel L. Diebner
Libby Velinsky
Mary Cohen
Belle P. Finkelstein
Joseph Chapman

Week of Dec. 13 - Dec. 19

Frieda Sanders
Leonard Lazarus
Casey Nicole Colley
Al Rifkin
Nathan Rosenfeld
Morris Yellen
Leon Abrams
Sam Willer
Charles Yellen
George Bersin
Martha Rochelson
Leah Schorr

Week of Dec. 6 - Dec. 12

Herman L. Brandt
Sam Kottle
Dora Seltzer
Dr. Samuel Perlman
Jean Druker
Lillian Rothkopf
Rhea Dean Bowman
Louis McClendon
Jake Evensky
Rose S. Vedlitz

Week of Dec. 20 - Dec. 26

Velvel Shifra
Rebecca Preskell
Jack Stein
Joe Schorr
Willie Vedlitz
Nathan M. Chapman
Rabbi Ronald Myron Goldstein
Isaac Louis Kottle
J. Morris Ritman
Rachel C. Frumer
Bertha Pesses Gold
William Mantinband
Hirsh Rubenstein
Elliott Organick
Samuel Owen Strain
Bertha Kassof
Newman Zelinsky
Allen Rubin

Week of Dec. 6 - Dec. 12 (cont.)

Fanny Wolper
Samuel Fox
Abe Chapman
Rabbi Israel Sachs
Miriam Feurstein
Samuel Howard Waltman
Dorothy Suckle
Ethel Abramson Greenfield

Week of Dec. 20 - Dec. 26 (cont.)

Dora L. Maritzky
Zisie Brainis
Bertha Rosenwasser

Week of Dec. 27 - Jan. 2

Harold Murov
Charles Kalman Kahn
Fannie Bownstein
Samuel Goldberg
Gertrude Murov
Reuben Abrams
Arthur Arnold
Dorothy Kaufman
Evelyn Kawaler
Herman Siegel
Jose Hemsani
Jerold Suckle

Condolences

We are saddened to share the passing of DeSean Terrance Howe-Strain, son of Dr. Thomas Strain, and Jeri Stern, cousin of Gary Yellen.

HaMakom y'nahem etkhem b'tokh sha'ar aveilei Tzion virushalayim.

May the Omnipresent bring comfort to their families and friends among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | 1 Kislev 15 Learn to Read Hebrew 7 pm | 2 Kislev 16 | 3 Kislev 17 613? Relevant? Commandments 7 pm | 4 Kislev 18 Kabbalat Shabbat 7 pm Candle Lighting 4:50 pm | 5 Kislev 19 Parshat Vayishlach Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Shabbat Shindig 11 am Havdalah 5:51 pm |
| 6 Kislev 20 | 7 Kislev 21 | 8 Kislev 22 Learn to Read Hebrew 7 pm | 9 Kislev 23 | 10 Kislev 24 613? Relevant? Commandments 7 pm Hanukah: 1 candle 5:51 pm | 11 Kislev 25 Kabbalat Shabbat 7 pm Hanukah: 2 candles 4:52 pm Candle Lighting 4:52 pm | 12 Kislev 26 Parshat Vayeshev Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Hanukah: 3 candles 5:52 pm |
| 13 Kislev 27 NLJF Annual Hanukah party 5:30 pm Hanukah: 4 candles 5:52 pm | 14 Kislev 28 Board Meeting 7 pm Hanukah: 5 candles 5:52 pm | 15 Kislev 29 Hodesh Hadash - Women's Learning 11 am Learn to Read Hebrew 7 pm Hanukah: 6 candles 5:53 pm | 16 Tevet 1 Rosh Chodesh Tevet Hanukah: 7 candles 5:53 pm | 17 Tevet 2 613? Relevant? Commandments 7 pm Hanukah: 8 candles 5:54 pm | 18 Tevet 3 Kabbalat Shabbat 7 pm Hanukah: 8th Day 4:54 pm Candle Lighting 4:54 pm | 19 Tevet 4 Parshat Miketz Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Family Havdalah with Rabbis Rubinstein 6 pm Havdalah 5:55 pm |
| 20 Tevet 5 Hadassah COVID 19: A Silver Lining 2:00 pm | 21 Tevet 6 | 22 Tevet 7 Learn to Read Hebrew 7 pm | 23 Tevet 8 | 24 Tevet 9 613? Relevant? Commandments 7 pm | 25 Tevet 10 Asara B'Tevet Kabbalat Shabbat 7 pm Candle Lighting 4:58 pm | 26 Tevet 11 Parshat Vayigash Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Havdalah 5:58 pm |
| 27 Tevet 12 | 28 Tevet 13 | 29 Tevet 14 Learn to Read Hebrew 7 pm | 30 Tevet 15 | 31 Tevet 16 | | |



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Shreveport
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Congregation Agudath Achim

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