



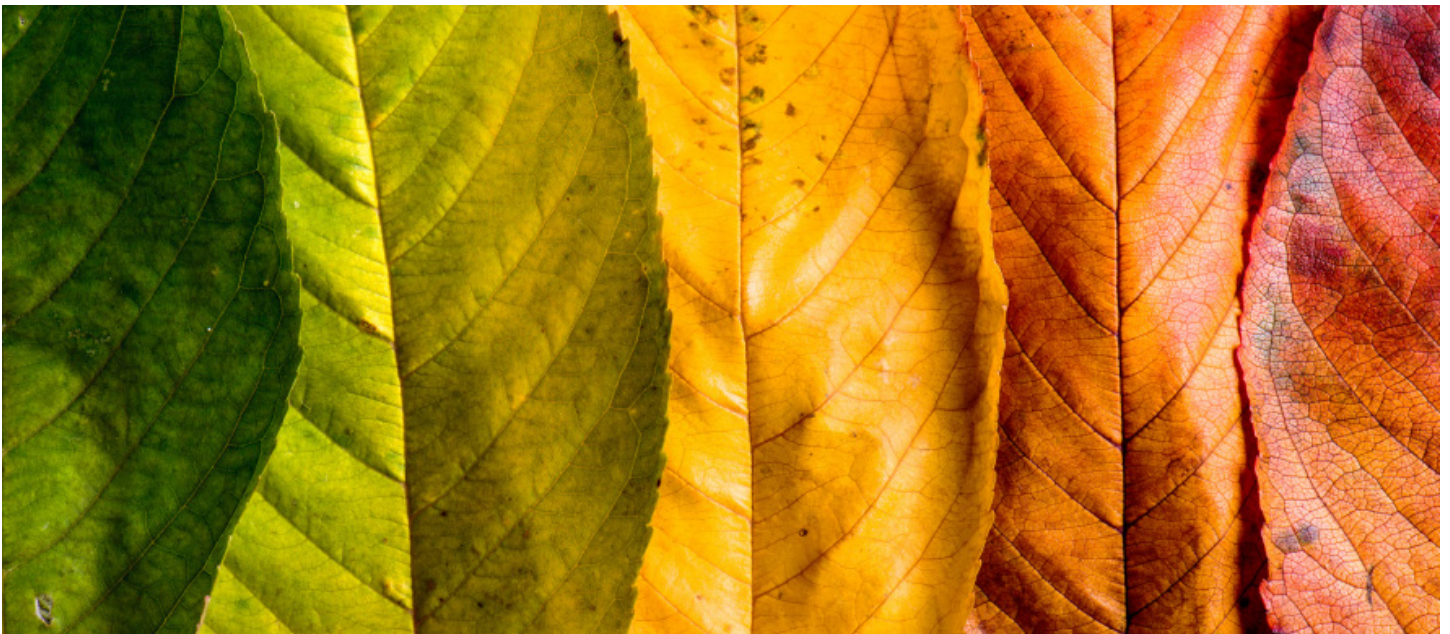
Agudath Achim
Shreveport
Est. 1902

9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA. 71115

Cheshvan - Kislev 5781

November 2020

The Shul Shpiel



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein
rabbi@agudathshreveport.com

Robert Lachman (318) 272-5123
President: afbob@gmail.com

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

The Jewish Values of Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933-2020)

"Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided."

-Book of Judges 4: 4-5

Like Deborah in the Book of Judges, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg ("RBG") was a judge, a leader, a role model and an exemplar of Jewish values. She was also one of the most influential Jewish women in history. Born in Brooklyn in 1933, Ruth learned what it meant to be Jewish, American and female from her mother, Celia. Celia Bader introduced her daughter to "women of valor, by virtue of their courage and humanity." Such women included Emma Lazarus (author of the sonnet, "The New Colossus", inscribed on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty and containing the words, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..."); Henrietta Szold (U.S. Jewish Zionist leader and founder of Hadassah) and Lillian Wald (women's rights activist and founder of American community nursing). These childhood encounters had an impact on the youthful Ginsburg. At age 13, in the aftermath of World War II and the Holocaust, she wrote in her synagogue's

bulletin, "We must never forget the horrors which our brethren were subjected to in Bergen-Belsen and other Nazi concentration camps."

In the summer of 1948, at age 15, she served as "junior rabbi" at Camp Che-Ne-Wah in upstate New York and led Shabbat prayers. In the accompanying photograph, she is giving a sermon at the camp. In 1950, RBG enrolled at Cornell University and in 1956, she was one of nine women admitted to Harvard Law School (out of a class of 500). RBG transferred to Columbia Law School, graduated co-first in her class, and later became a professor of law, first at Rutgers and then at Columbia. In 1980, she was nominated by President Carter to a seat on the District of Columbia Circuit Appeals Court, and 13 years later by President Clinton to a seat on the Supreme Court. Following her Senate confirmation (by a 96-3 vote), RBG became the second woman to ever serve on the nation's highest court.

Justice Ginsburg said, "I am a judge, born, raised and proud of being a Jew. The demand for justice, for peace, for enlightenment runs through the entirety of Jewish history and Jewish tradition. The Jewish religion is an ethical religion. That is, we are taught to do right, to love mercy, do justice, not because there's going to be any reward in heaven or punishment in hell. We live righteously because that's how people should live and not anticipating any award in the hereafter." While visiting Israel in 2018 to receive a lifetime achievement award, Ginsburg said she was driven by the Jewish values of pursuing justice and the concept of "tikkun olam," or repairing the world.

RBG was also a fervent advocate of women's rights. "It is because of Justice

Executive Message

Ginsburg that today women have equal protection of the law and that ideas that seemed radical are now commonsense,” said Sheila Katz, CEO of the National Council of Jewish Women. “I believe that her Jewish identity played a critical role in her values and in the way she went about being a judge.”

Ginsburg herself summed up the impact her Jewishness had on her at a speech she gave at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2004, saying, “My heritage as a Jew and my occupation as a judge fit together symmetrically. I take pride in and

draw strength from my heritage, as signs in my chambers attest: a large silver mezuzah on my door post; on three walls, in artists’ renditions of Hebrew letters, the command from Deuteronomy: ‘tzedek, tzedek, tirdof’ – ‘Justice, justice shall you pursue.’ Those words are ever-present reminders of what judges must do.”

As American Jews, we would do well to emulate Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who spoke openly and proudly about her Judaism, in her embrace of Jewish values and in the ethical life that she led.



David Gross
Vice President



RBG giving a sermon at Camp Che-Ne-Wa in the Adirondack Mountains, summer 1948

Rabbi Sydni's Message

Aliyot and the Case for Learning to Read Hebrew

Coming up for an aliyah can be a challenge. Those paragraphs before and after each section of the Torah reading contain some tricky words - bar'khu, b'tokheinu, and every permutation of that infamous sound that is alternatively transliterated as ch, kh, or h. Over the past year and a half, I've noticed the anxiety that some people feel upon coming up for an aliyah, whether it's their first time or their hundredth. While absolutely any Jewish adult can listen to recordings and read transliteration over and over to make sure the pronunciation is correct, I can say with confidence that the surest way to prepare for reading those blessings, or any other part of our liturgy, for that matter, is to learn the skill of reading Hebrew.

Even before delving into Hebrew vocabulary, Hebrew reading opens up a world of Jewish experience. Prayers and even names of holidays transform from indistinguishable clusters of sounds into individual words strung into phrases. When a person learns how to decode Hebrew letters, she can see the relationships between kaddish, kiddush, and kadosh, all derived from root letters that point to holiness. She can more easily notice the difference between bar'khu (a command) and barukh (a passive verb/adjective). By learning to read Hebrew, when a person loses focus on the page, she can jump right back in with the prayer leader. Anywhere in the world, she can walk into a synagogue or a Shabbat dinner and follow along with the

words guiding prayer. And if she practices that skill of reading enough, she can progress to leading prayer services, chanting Torah, and more advanced Jewish study.

Ultimately, learning to read Hebrew is the starting point for greater exploration of ancient Jewish text and modern Hebrew language. Whether the goal is to know exactly what the words on the page of the siddur or Torah mean or to be able to order from a menu in Israel, reading Hebrew is a vital stepping stone to get to the further adventures of translation and interpretation.

Whether in the form of greater comfort in services or just a fuller sense of pride in an ability to learn and retain knowledge, one of the greatest results of learning Hebrew is self-confidence. No matter what the ultimate aim of Hebrew learning, that learning acts as an exercise in will and patience, and quite honestly, can be a whole lot of fun! Starting Tuesday evenings this month, we'll join together in learning how to read Hebrew. We'll start from square one, learning our consonants until we can make sure that our group feels strong enough to proceed to vowels, syllables, and later, full words. We'll learn for approximately ten weeks, although I'm happy to add on more if we feel we need it. Throughout our course, we'll refer back to those aliyah blessings, using them as our practice from week to week. By February, those engaged with our course in Hebrew reading should be able to approach the bimah in confidence, whether for an aliyah, to lead candle lighting, or just to feel further ease in a space designed to be a spiritual home for all who enter.



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, November 10 - 11:00 a.m.
In our Orchard and on Zoom

We'll experience some active learning this month, with an exploration of the morning blessings through yoga. If the weather is clear, we'll practice outside (wear warm clothing!), with an option to join via Zoom. In the case of inclement weather, check your emails for updates. **All activity and experience levels are welcome!**

Learn to Read Hebrew - 10 Week Course

Tuesdays, November 10, 17, 24 - 7:00 p.m. *On Zoom*

Whether you don't know the difference between alef and bet or you just need a refresher, join us for a Hebrew class that starts from square one! We'll focus on consonants and vowels for our first 5 weeks and then learn how to put them together in weeks 6-10. 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 Michelle know your interest at office@agudathshreveport.com.

613? Relevant? Commandments

Thursdays, November 5, 19 - 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?



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 bimah.

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 has been left on the bimah and in front of the sanctuary by 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 they do not live with. 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



November Schedule of Readings

Saturday	November 7	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Vayera</i> Genesis 18:1-22:24 2 Kings 4:1-23
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Saturday	November 14	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Chayei Sara</i> Genesis 23:1-25:18 1 Kings 1:1-31
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Saturday	November 21	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Toldot</i> Genesis 25:19-28:9 Malachi 1:1-2:7
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Saturday	November 28	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Vayetzei</i> Genesis 28:10-32:3 Hosea 11:7-12:12
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North Louisiana Jewish Federation News

Upcoming Events

We are a proud sponsor of **Unexpected Modernism: The Wiener Brothers Story**.

After some pandemic related setbacks, we are thrilled to announce that the **world premiere** will be screened online on **November 12th!**

Tickets are on sale through now through [eventive](https://watch.eventive.org/unexpectedmodernism/play/5f3b1a58490fcb008c60e897)

(<https://watch.eventive.org/unexpectedmodernism/play/5f3b1a58490fcb008c60e897>).

For more information about the film, to watch the official trailer, and to get your tickets today, check out <http://UnexpectedModernism.com>.

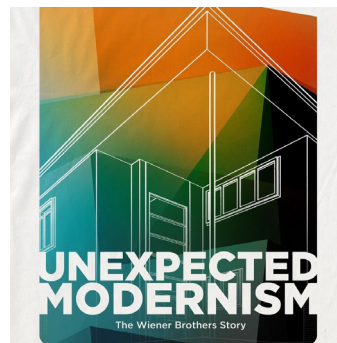
The new Museum of Southern Jewish Experience will be opening in early 2021, but we have the opportunity for a special tour... virtually! Join us online on **Sunday, November 22nd, at 7:00 p.m.**, as Executive Director Kenneth Hoffman describes the history of the museum, its mission, while displaying some exhibit renderings. He will speak not only about Southern Jewish history at large, but about our specific community, ending with an interactive Q & A. Register on our website to receive the zoom link information.

Mark Your Calendars

Get excited for our Annual Hanukkah Party hosted by Agudath Achim. This year's celebration and community candle lighting will take place on Sunday, December 13th, the fourth night of Hanukkah.

In light of public health concerns, the program will be outdoors and require registration in advance to ensure we have enough room to accommodate any necessary safety guidelines. Be on the lookout to for more details to follow!

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



November Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Aman Henderson	Nov. 4	Alex Rubenstein	Nov. 20
Nadine Lurie	Nov. 6	Curtis Joseph	Nov. 21
Edward Diebner	Nov. 7	Sara Zweig	Nov. 21
Paul Willson	Nov. 11	Charlie Silberman	Nov. 23
Terrence Thompson	Nov. 13	Maxine Levine	Nov. 24
Jennette Ginsburg	Nov. 15	Leslie Browning	Nov. 25
Josue Padin	Nov. 17	Dorothy Lobel	Nov. 30
Leonardo Feoli	Nov. 18	Yonathan Platt	Nov. 30

Happy Anniversary

Barbara & Curtis Joseph	November 17
Dr. Jeffrey & Judy Leblang	November 22
Karen Thomason & Arnold Vedlitz	November 30

Mazel Tov!

Mazel Tov to Dr. David Gross for the \$1.2 million NIH grant awarded to his laboratory to study the mysteries of DNA, genes and chromosomes, and how their 3D structure contributes to cell survival under stressful conditions.

Thank you from the President

Bob Lachman would like to thank the Deputy Sheriffs Office for providing a safe house of worship for us. A special thank you to Officer Chad Davis for helping to fix a flat tire after services.

Community Religious School Director

In September's bulletin, I mentioned Jewish values that build resiliency and guide personal and communal health and wellness. In this time of uncertainty, it helps to turn to these values, both for ourselves and for our children.

This month, I'd like to focus on the value of Ometz Lev.

The Hebrew phrase, ometz lev, translates to "strength (ometz) of the heart (lev)" and often is translated as "courage" in colloquial English. It is often used to mean one's "inner strength."

This phrase is found in Psalm 27, reminding us to look to God for strength. "Look to God. Be strong and strengthen your heart. Look to God!" There are two action-oriented elements in the phrase, ometz lev:

- **Ometz means strength, so we first have to strengthen ourselves** – In order to use the power of ometz lev, we have to realize we have untapped reserves that can help us when our emotions run high – whether of anger, excitement, happiness or fright. Engaging our inner strength allows us to pause and take control of the behavioral choices we make next.

- **Lev means heart, so we then have to reach inward into our heart** – We must intentionally choose to use our inner strength. This means facing the things in life that may frighten us and, using appropriate coping mechanisms, to help calm ourselves and others. Genesis Rabbah (an ancient collection of midrash) tells a powerful story of how a person engaged their ometz lev in the face

of perceived danger. The text says, "A person walking on the road saw a pack of dogs and felt afraid of them, so he sat down in their midst." It is that inner strength that is at the heart of ometz lev.

To regulate one's emotionality, one needs to have inner strength, i.e., strength of the heart, to recognize when big feelings are taking over and to identify the appropriate coping tools to help return to a regulated state. Referencing Maslow's hierarchy of needs, once a person's physiological needs (food, water, air, shelter) are met, then safety needs must be taken care of, including one's personal security, especially the ability to recognize and calm one's big feelings.

Ometz Lev connects to Rabbi Hillel's famous quote in clear ways:

- **If I am not for myself, who will be for me?** – We want to empower children to recognize when they are experiencing "Big Feelings" and to access tools/techniques that can facilitate a return to a state of calm using their own power of ometz lev. While all feelings are valid, all behaviors are not.
- **If I am only for myself, what am I?** – We want to empower children to look beyond themselves, to notice when others are dysregulated and may need support in remembering their own ometz lev. Empathy also plays a role here.
- **If not now, when?** – We want to empower children to take action for calming themselves in the moment, for regulating their emotions.

I am grateful to all of you for being part of our wonderful kehillah, community.

Happy Thanksgiving,



Barbara G. Joseph

Special thanks to Rabbi Sydni, Rabbi Jana and Rabbi Feivel for their role in our Simchat Torah Festival last month!

Donations

In Beloved Memory of

Eden Imany
Marlene Chappell
Bettie Cahn Alcus Levy
Sylvia Ginsburg
Marlene Chappell
Sylvia Ginsburg
Sylvia Ginsburg
Bessie Carroll
Sylvia Ginsburg

In Honor of

The Dodson Family
Dalton Jones
Doug Stegall
The birth of Ophelia Zweig
Rachel Cristol
Rachel Cristol
Charlie Silberman

For Recovery

Jerry Sheehan - Gary hopes you're feeling better!

General Fund

Doug Stegall

Note from the Treasurer

I want to acknowledge three people who have given us a boost this year. First is Joe Baca , owner of Affordable Plumbing. Joe gave up three or four of his normal income generating days in February & March—a time when paying customers were still letting him inside their houses. He installed various equipment in our kitchen & bathrooms, with assistance from David Glnsburg, and wrote down the invoice to zero. If not for this donation, we would have spent almost five thousand dollars to have the work done. So, a big thanks to Joe Baca. Second is a shout-out to Dr. Thomas Strain. He is a gracious and thoughtful donor—thank you. Third is someone who came up at AA many years ago: Cas Barbara Rivkin. Her father, Al, was one of a handful of furniture store owners on Texas Avenue by day (and a weekly poker player at night). Cas honored both her parents, Al and Ethel Rivkin, by making a very generous donation in June. Cas from N. Little Rock, we look forward to meeting you. Volunteering of special skills, pure love, honor, & tradition—all important ways and motivations for giving. Thanks to each of you.

PS-An interim Dues & Contribution Statement for members went out this week by mail. If you have given, but don't receive the notice, please let us know. For our non-member donors, final Statements will be sent in January.

By

Tammy Willson
David and Sandra Ginsburg
Berte Muslow
John and Karen Hodge
Dr. Karen and Bob Gordon
Dr. Karen and Bob Gordon
David and Sandra Ginsburg
Sam Carroll
Mark Kaplan & Betsy Beall and Family

By

David and Sandra Ginsburg
David and Sandra Ginsburg
David and Sandra Ginsburg
David and Sandra Ginsburg
Richard and Harriet Dechowitz
Dorothy and Bernard Lobel
David and Sandra Ginsburg

Foundation

Dr. Karen and Bob Gordon
Betsy Beall

Sisterhood

Last month we received a quarterly check from Kroger Community Rewards, so thank you all who support Sisterhood via Kroger. If you're not already, our member number is KK925. It can be used whether in-person shopping or on-line. Even if your family Thanksgiving is virtual, we've still got to buy groceries.

Even with all the preparation, Thanksgiving and Passover have always been my favorite holidays—not only good food, but also mild (usually) weather, and of course, family gathering. Celebrations in 2020 have been different, for sure, but even so, we have a lot to be grateful for – a caring community, running water, available medical treatment, and the electronic/technical devices to “visit” with family & friends. So, Happy Thanksgiving.

Thank you,
Sandra Ginsburg, Sisterhood President

Updated Service Schedule

We have an updated service schedule beginning this month.

Friday Evening Services
7:00 pm

Friday evening services will now be held in-person in our sanctuary. Our new service time is 7:00 pm. Friday evening services will also be streamed at agudathshreveport.com/prayer/live.

Saturday Morning Services
10:00 am

Saturday morning services are held in-person in our sanctuary. Our service time is 10:00 am. Saturday morning services will also be streamed at agudathshreveport.com/prayer/live.

Jenette Ginsburg has set up a GoFundMe page for our biblical orchard project. If you would like to make a donation please visit the link below.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/biblical-orchard-amp-garden?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

Thank you from Bob Lachman to everyone who helped put up and take down the sukkah. A special thanks to Steve Parker for loaning his trailer to haul it to and from the storage building.



September Yahrzeits

Week of Nov. 1 - Nov. 7

Judah Samuel Ober
Boruch Cohen
Philip Rubin
Herman Gardsbane
Sol Kaufman
Herman Charski
Abe Goodman
Jennie Etta Abrams
Richard Larry Dowd

Week of Nov. 8 - Nov. 14

Fanny Ginsburg
Dr. Hyman Jacob Gardsbane
Samuel Lachman
Louis Abrams
Esther Kaminsky
Morris Lewis Roos

Week of Nov. 15 - Nov. 21 (Continued)

Joseph Schwartzberg
Arthur Werner
Dorothy Muslow
Carl Byron Arnold
Bettie Cahn Alcus Levy
Katherine Michalak
Maemarye Parker
Joseph Goldman
Miriam S. Kaufman
Norman Norris Kesilman
Mary M. Toys
Nathan Murov
Taube Ober

Week of Nov. 22 - Nov. 28

Isaac Cullick
Harold Kaplan
Max Kalisky
Eric Wiener
Morris Kottle
Bella Siegel
Irvin Levine
Louis Bayer
Jay Goldberg
Sam Toys

Week of Nov. 29 - Dec. 5

Goldie S. Gelfand
Irvin Kassof
Charlotte Sugar
Allen E. Gregory
Ida Gross
Jake Rubenstein
Paul Shapiro
Harry Yellen
Ethel L. Diebner
Libby Vilensky
Mary Cohen
Belle P. Finkelstein
Joseph Chapman

*May Their
Memory be for
a Blessing*

Condolences

We are saddened to share the passing of Marlene Chappell, mother of Lindy Alberts; and the passing of Sylvia Ginsburg, mother of Trudi Ginsburg Foster.

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.

November 2020 Cheshvan - Kislev 5781

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Cheshvan 14	2 Cheshvan 15	3 Cheshvan 16	4 Cheshvan 17	5 Cheshvan 18	6 Cheshvan 19	7 Cheshvan 20 Parshat Vayera Shabbat Shaharit 10 am 613? Relevant? Commandments 7 pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7 pm Candle Lighting 5:01 pm Havdalah 6 pm
8 Cheshvan 21	9 Cheshvan 22	10 Cheshvan 23 Hodesh Hadash - Women's Learning 11 am Learn to Read Hebrew 7 pm	11 Cheshvan 24	12 Cheshvan 25 "Unexpected Modernism: Wiener Brothers Story" 6-10 pm	13 Cheshvan 26 Kabbalat Shabbat 7 pm Candle Lighting 4:56 pm	14 Cheshvan 27 Parshat Chayei Sara Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Havdalah 5:55 pm
15 Cheshvan 28	16 Cheshvan 29 Sigd Board Meeting 7 pm	17 Kislev 1 Rosh Chodesh Kislev Learn to Read Hebrew 7 pm	18 Kislev 2	19 Kislev 3 613? Relevant? Commandments 7 pm	20 Kislev 4 Kabbalat Shabbat 7 pm Candle Lighting 4:53 pm	21 Kislev 5 Parshat Toldot Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Havdalah 5:52 pm
22 Kislev 6 Virtual Museum of Southern Jewish Living 7-8 pm	23 Kislev 7	24 Kislev 8 Learn to Read Hebrew 7 pm	25 Kislev 9	26 Kislev 10 Office Closed Thanksgiving	27 Kislev 11 Kabbalat Shabbat 7 pm Candle Lighting 4:51 pm	28 Kislev 12 Parshat Vayetzei Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Havdalah 5:51 pm
29 Kislev 13	30 Kislev 14					



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Congregation Agudath Achim

9401 Village Green Dr.
Shreveport, LA 71115

Phone: 318.797.6401

www.agudathshreveport.com

General inquiries:
office@agudathshreveport.com