



Agudath Achim
Shreveport
Est. 1902

9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA. 71115

Elul - Tishri 5781

September 2020

The Shul Shpiel



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein
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Shabbat Services:

Friday evening services
online on Zoom
6:00 PM

Saturday morning services
in Sanctuary and
streaming
10:00 AM

Executive Message

By Howard J. Silberman, Vice President

The year 2020 has been a very difficult and challenging year for all of us as individuals, as families, and as Congregation Agudath Achim. We all know why: Corona Virus—the plague that has killed tens of thousands and even millions around the world and disrupted all of our lives.

I was just thinking back to one year ago—September 2019 BCU (Before Coronavirus). At that time the world seemed so peaceful and uncomplicated as we went through our daily routines attending services and planning for the High Holy Days and the year to come; never even considering that within a few months the world would turn upside-down. Corona Virus has changed everything. The leadership of our congregation, officers, and Board of Directors have met and communicated regularly amidst the constantly changing information and regulations. Our commitment was first and foremost the safety of our congregants, and at the same time we felt the responsibility to carry on our synagogue's traditional role as a religious and cultural center. One day at a time we made plans; the next day things changed again, and we made a new plan and yet another and another. We never gave up and never gave in because we knew that Agudath Achim would find a way to carry on.

Carrying on is just what we did. We used Zoom for classes and even hosted a Zoom summer camp for the children. We also used Zoom for services and streamed services. Rabbi Sydni's energy and enthusiasm inspired

all of us while Rabbi Feivel worked to make all of the technology work.

So, on behalf of our Shul we thank each and every one of you for playing your part in the Agudath Achim family.

Project Isaiah, Agudath Achim's annual High Holidays food drive benefiting the Community Food Bank, occurs around the High Holidays each year.

The project is named for the Prophet Isaiah, who when asked why we fast on Yom Kippur, responded, "Is it not to share your bread with the hungry?" (Isaiah 58:).

Agudath Achim coordinates with the Northwest Louisiana Food Bank locally. Bagged donations may be dropped off at Agudath Achim. Most needed items include peanut butter, cereal and granola bars, canned soups, canned fruit, rice and pasta, beans, canned meats and vegetables.

Red River Radio High Holy Day Schedule 2020 Sept 18 - 20 and Sept 27-28

Birthday of the World PT 1 - Airs Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 11 a.m.

Remember Us Unto Life - Airs Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 7 p.m.

Musical Memories of the High Holidays with Itzhak Perlman - Airs Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at 8 p.m.

The Jewish New Year Music and Inspirational Teachings From the Kabbalah - Airs Wednesday, September 23, 2020, at 2 p.m.

Birthday of the World PT 2 - Airs Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 8 p.m.

Rabbi Sydni's Message

By Rabbi Sydni A. Rubinstein

Celebrating the High Holy Days From Home

Perhaps more than ever, this year is one to dive into the home rituals associated with the High Holy Days! As many of us will be celebrating primarily from the comfort of our kitchens or living rooms, we have the opportunity to make those spaces even more sacred.

In the days before Rosh HaShanah, it is common practice to sound the shofar every morning, to awaken our souls into repentance and awareness. If you have a shofar lying around the house, why not take this year to learn how to play? YouTube has some wonderful tutorials, but keep in mind that some of them have undertones from different faith traditions.

This month of Elul that precedes the holidays is also a common time for embracing daily writing exercises in reflection on the past year and hope for the coming year. It's time to revive that journal that's been sitting in your drawer for decades! As the second day of Rosh HaShanah is traditionally celebrated with new clothing and seasonal fruit that you haven't yet tasted this season, you may want to spend a few days before the holiday shopping for the delicious, the beautiful, and the comfortable.

Over Rosh HaShanah, many families celebrate by dipping apples in honey or by preparing other dishes with honey as an ingredient. Be creative as you culinarily invite your family into a sweet new year. And of course, as Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur involve both candle lighting and drinking wine or grape juice, these moments can be times for the family to offer blessings or messages of gratitude to one another.

While so much of Yom Kippur is spent in prayer, it is one of our holidays with the most clearly defined set of home rituals. Before the holiday begins we are encouraged to eat a festive meal—both acknowledging the positive anticipation of being relieved of our wrongdoings and comforting ourselves for the anxiety of the twenty-five hours to come. Along with our holiday candles, if we are remembering loved ones we light a memorial candle to acknowledge their presence as well. And as a final pre-Yom Kippur ritual, we traditionally bless our children before leaving the house. Yes, blessing children can include making phone calls from across the country! For those who take on the mitzvah of fasting on Yom Kippur, the mitzvah also includes refraining from intimate relations, bathing, using skin or bath oils, wearing leather shoes, and working. While so much of the day may be spent in prayer, you might also take a moment to gather with family and have the tough conversations you have been putting off for months or years. Yom Kippur alone cannot atone for wrongs committed between people—even for the little misdeeds that are bound to arise among those who spend the most time together.

On each of these holidays, as I wrote last month, set up a designated personal prayer space within your home. When it's time to either come to synagogue or sit in that space dress in the traditional white clothing that hugs the line between the joy of a bride and bridegroom and the fear of death. During this year of particular confusion, between the embrace of community and the chaos of COVID-19 and the social and political world, we need these High Holy Days more than ever. We need that balance between anxiety and excitement that comes with the blare of the shofar and the celebration of song. Whether at home or in community, let us embrace this opportunity to discover more about ourselves and our community and jump into the unknown 5781 with all the intention and courage we can muster! *L'shanah tovah!*

High Holy Days

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As of now, we are hoping to hold High Holy Day services in person with live streaming from home as an option for everyone. As with everything during this time of COVID-19, the timing and location of our High Holy Day services are subject to change.



Saturday, September 12 - Selihot Night Live - on Zoom and YouTube 7:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

The Conservative Movement comes together to learn, sing, and connect as a community. Over sixty rabbis and cantors will present, and a variety of Selihot services will be offered throughout the evening. We will usher in the High Holiday season focusing on Teshuva (Repentance: If I Am Not For Myself, Who Is For Me?), Tefilah (Prayer: And If I Am Only For Myself, What Am I?), Tzedakah (Righteous Acts: And If Not Now, When?), and Shema Koleinu (Hear our Voice, Accept Our Prayer).

In order to prevent any disruption or harassment on zoom, every individual that would like to participate in Selihot Night Live must register at www.cjselihot.org/register.

Rosh HaShanah

Friday, September 18 - Erev Rosh HaShanah on Zoom - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 19 - Shabbat Rosh HaShanah Morning Service - 10:00 a.m.

Please note that there is no shofar or Avinu Malkeinu on Shabbat.

Saturday, September 19 - Rosh HaShanah Evening Service I - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 20 - Rosh HaShanah Morning Service II - 10:00 a.m.

Yom Kippur

Erev Yom Kippur - Kever Avot - Sunday, September 27, 11:00 a.m.

This is at Hebrew Agudath Achim Cemetery on the corner of Yale and Walnut in Shreveport.

Kol Nidre - Sunday, September 27, 6:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur Daytime Services - Monday, September 28

- Shaharit (concluding with Yizkor) - 10:00 am
- Minhah - 6:00 p.m.
- Neilah - 7:00 p.m.

High Holy Day Family Programming

Family Tashlikh - Friday, September 25 - 4:30 p.m.

Location TBD

Family Experience with Eliana Light - on Zoom - Links to come in announcements

- Rosh HaShanah II - Sunday, September 20, 2:00-2:45 p.m.
- Kol Nidre - Sunday, September 27, 3:30-4:00 p.m.
- Yom Kippur - Monday, September 28, 2:00-2:45 p.m.

Standards for Safety

Community members will be encouraged to bring their own face masks, tallitot, and kippot. When walking in the door people will be encouraged to take a face mask (made by Deena or Sandra), 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.

After Shabbat we will note who was at services so that we can ask them to return these materials when the time comes.

All other prayer books will be removed from the seats.

People will be required to wear face masks when in the building.

The security guard will let people in and out of the building, with no one else touching the door handle. The sanctuary door will be left open with a visible sign asking for it to stay open. The social hall, library, and office will be closed.

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

During the service, the Torah and ark will 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 a cooler of water bottles and iced coffee with 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 will be left in front of the sanctuary by the beverages and snacks.

Carnell will deeply clean surfaces once a week after services.

We will continue to offer access to services and classes online for those who do not feel comfortable attending in person. We will 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.

These standards will stay in place until review at the next board meeting.

We will ask our security guard to watch for people following the standards, and we will ask one board member to volunteer to gently remind people if they are not following reopening standards. Rabbi Sydni will do the same.

Shabbat Shalom



September Schedule of Readings

Page 1	Saturday	September 5	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Ki tavo</i> Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8 Isaiah 60:1 - 22
	Saturday	September 12	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Nitsavim/Vayelekh</i> Deuteronomy 29:9 - 31:30 Isaiah 61:10 - 63:9
	Saturday	September 19	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Rosh Hashanah Day 1</i> Genesis 21:1 - 34 Numbers 29:1-6 I Samuel 1:1 - 2:10
	Sunday	September 20	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Rosh Hashanah Day 2</i> Genesis 22:1-24 Numbers 29:1 - 6 Jeremiah 31:1 - 19

Shabbat Shalom



September Schedule of Readings

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Saturday	September 26	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Ha' azinu</i> Deuteronomy 32:1 - 52 Hosea 14:2 - 10 Micah 7:18 - 20
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Monday	September 28	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Yom Kippur Morning</i> Leviticus 16:1 - 34 Numbers 29:7 - 11 Isaiah 57:14 - 58:14
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Monday	September 28	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Yom Kippur Afternoon</i> Leviticus 18:1 - 30 Jonah 1:1 - 4:11 Micah 7: 18 - 20
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L'ghana Tova!

North Louisiana Jewish Federation News

Shanah Tova Umetukah!

The High Holidays have arrived, and here at the North Louisiana Jewish Federation we wish you have a happy, sweet, and healthy new year!

To respect the busy nature of the holiday season, we have not planned any programming during the months of September and October. Instead, we'd like to encourage you to spend some time with one of the amazing Congregations here in North Louisiana and enjoy what they are offering either online or in-person.

Trouble Getting Online for the Holidays?

Or know someone else who is? We're here to help! In this new age of digital and distanced community, with services and programs online, having access to the internet has becoming more and more important. If you or someone you know needs some support getting online, please don't hesitate to reach out. Let your Rabbi know or reach out to us directly: (318) 868-1200

Mark Your Calendars

The Wiener Brothers film has officially been POSTPONED. Due to safety concerns regarding the pandemic, the film is no longer able to be hosted at the Strand Theatre. Instead, the film will be screened in an online format on November 12th. We will update you once we have more details for the screening.

Volunteer Opportunity

Love movies? Have fond memories of the North Louisiana Jewish Film Festival? Well, great news! We're bringing it back! We are exploring both virtual and in-person options for our film screenings to provide the best Jewish film entertainment around. However, before we can deliver, we need your help:

We're calling for volunteers to sit on a movie selection committee to help us choose the films to present in our film festival revival. Interested? Please reach out to our Program Director Rabbi Feivel: programming@jewishnla.org

We're Here For You

Times are particularly tough for many of us right now and Federation is here to help. If you or someone you know needs assistance during these difficult times, please reach out to our Executive Director, Bethany Sorkey by calling the office to see how we can be of support: (318) 868-1200



September Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Sophia Padin	Sept. 1st	Leo Schwartz	Sept. 17th
Irma Binder	Sept. 4th	Sandra Ginsburg	Sept. 23rd
Larry Evensky	Sept. 4th	Rafael Padin	Sept. 23rd
Gill Platt	Sept. 7th	Carolyn Sheehan	Sept. 24th
Beth Zweig	Sept. 8th	Deena Lachman	Sept. 25th
Cheryl Shirley	Sept. 10th	Karen Thomason	Sept. 25th
Gary Yellen	Sept. 10th	Michelle Bayer	Sept. 28th
Rebecca Austin	Sept. 12th	Ricky De Benedetti	Sept. 29th
Rachel Ginsburg	Sept. 14th		

Happy Anniversary

Leo & Michelle Leventhal	Sept. 1
Andrew & Rebecca Austin	Sept. 18th
Floyd & Michelle Brooks	Sept. 30th

Acknowledgments

Bob Lachman extends a thank you to Deena Lachman, Allen Organick, and Rebecca Austin for all of their help in the office.

Elliot and Sharon Goldman would like to proudly acknowledge that their granddaughter, Lauren Turner, was accepted into The National Society of Leadership and Success at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Lauren's proud parents are Brent and Amy Turner.

Mazal tov to Hurshieil Douglas Stegall, Dalton Jones, and Amanda, Justin, Cadence, Dominic, and Eliza Dodson for taking the plunge into Judaism by completing their mikvah and beit din in August. We are looking forward to even more celebration of Judaism with you in times to come!

Community Religious School Director

By Barbara Joseph

The Religious School started a new academic year, and the virtual classes in August got off to a great start! Thank you to all the teachers, students, and parents for their support of the current format and their patience as we work through the occasional challenges that are a part of these new experiences.

Once a month we will be providing an opportunity for families to come together, either on Zoom or in person. This month, there will be an in-person gathering at B'nai Zion at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 13 (Note, there will not be Hebrew classes that day). Watch your email for more details about this Post-Selichot, Pre-Rosh Hashana, shofar-Blasting, Parking Lot Party!

In addition to the curriculum components, students are exposed to in a “regular” year, the faculty is also incorporating Jewish values that build resiliency and guide personal and communal health and wellness:

- sukkat shalom (a shelter of peace)
- ometz lev (inner strength)
- g'vurah (courage)
- k'hillah (community)
- hesed (loving kindness, tying into hope)

Follow-up activities for the student, as well as the rest of the family, will be available after a class examines one of the values.

To everyone in our community, I wish you a happy and healthy 5781.

L'shana tova,
Barbara



Biblical Garden News

It has been suggested to enhance and proceed to beautify our biblical garden making it more practical for our congregation to enjoy. The next step is to add an outdoor structure such as a Pergola or Gazebo. If anyone has ideas on a design please share your ideas with us. I like the thought of a structure outside that can have multiple functions like that of a sukkah in the fall and then just a nice place to relax outside while having lunch. Please send your ideas to Bob Lachman, David Ginsburg or Rabbi Feivel. Thanks

Want to volunteer to pull weeds or water the trees? Email Rabbi Feivel: contact@rabbifeivel.com



Please feel free to stop by and pick some figs. Pickers should bring a bag or other container, and if they are willing to get into the interior of the tree they will find even more than what is on the perimeter.



Donations

In Beloved Memory of

Alice Alexander
Daniel Lincove
Manuel Lincove
Isie Toys
Judah Silberman
Charlie and Sara Yellen
Darlene Swiff
Alice Alexander
Alice Alexander
Helen Charsky

By

Susan and David Gross
Jan Lincove Epstein
Jan Lincove Epstein
Elliot and Sharon Goldman
Howard Silberman
Gary Yellen
Gary Yellen
Sandra and David Ginsburg
Tammy Wilson
Tammy Wilson

In Honor of

Honoring Dr. Donald Mack for the thirtieth year of founding the Dream House and raising 350 million dollars for St. Jude's in the Shreveport/Bossier Area.

By

Gary Yellen

Bar Mitzvah of Evan Drazin, son of Cheryl and Arron Drazin, grandson of Alex and z"l Carolyn Rubenstein

David and Sandra Ginsburg

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Masks

In addition to the white masks provided by the state, Agudath Achim's "First Ladies" Deena Lachman and Sandra Ginsburg have made Star of David masks that are located in the Star of David gift bag in the foyer. Suggested donation is \$4.00 for Sisterhood.

Sisterhood

As we all ponder "who by fire, who by water," and this year—who by Covid—we also acknowledge our many blessings and realize many in our community who are less fortunate.

Domestic violence continues and has increased. Donations to our social service project of complimentary toiletries for Project Celebration, Inc have decreased due to Covid's travel restrictions. When you're in the drug store or grocery store, whether in-person or online, please consider purchasing travel/trial or full size toiletries for this local domestic violence resource agency. Either drop off at the synagogue office or call Sandra for pick-up.

Thank you and L'Shana Tovah,
Sandra Ginsburg, Sisterhood President

September Yahrzeits

Week of Aug 30 - Sept 5

Fannye Zelinsky Kottle
Elsie Stegall
Stira Laya Sugar
Moshe Brill
Bruce David Wiener
Barbara Cullick
Phyllis Kolanko Graham
Mary Super
Ronald Schwartz
Bertha Roos
Julius Saizow
Anna Belle Sugar

Week of Sept 6 - Sept 12

Ray Hickman
Oliver Dees Hebert
Judah Silberman
Gertrude Kottle
Stephen Muslow
Leonard Hyman
Sara Lena Shapiro
Ben Abrams

Week of Sept 13 - Sept 19

Menah R. Marker
Jennie Abramson
George Schwitzer
Dr. Donald Rosen
Goldie Toys
Jacob Jerome Abrams
Rosie Strauss
Neal H. Nierman
Mellanea Mayers Rosenbloom

Week of Sept 20 - Sept 26

Rose Dorfman
Phillip Josephson
Leib Kovner
Harry Diebner

Week of Sept 27 - Oct 3

Freida Reisman
Dorothy S. Heller
Samuel Lieber
Ella H. Feldman
Arthur Provisor
Rose Wanger
Sam War
Yetta Brody
Bessie Lachman
Esther K. Lobel
Louis Dorfman

*May Their
Memory be a
Blessing*

Condolences

We are saddened to share the passing of Alice Alexander, mother of Deena Lachman

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

May the Omnipresent bring comfort to her family and friends among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

September 2020 Elul - Tishri 5781

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Elul 12	2 Elul 13	3 Elul 14	4 Elul 15 Likrat Shabbat Zoom 6 pm Candle Lighting 7:15 pm	5 Elul 16 Parshat Ki Tavo Shabbat Morning Service 10 am Havdalah 8:14 pm
6 Elul 17	7 Elul 18	8 Elul 19	9 Elul 20	10 Elul 21	11 Elul 22 Likrat Shabbat Zoom 6 pm Candle Lighting 7:06 pm	12 Elul 23 Leil Selichot Parshat Nitzavim-Vayeilech Shabbat Morning Service 10 am Selichot Night Live 7:30 pm Havdalah 8:05 pm
13 Elul 24	14 Elul 25 Board Meeting on Zoom 7:00 pm	15 Elul 26	16 Elul 27	17 Elul 28	18 Elul 29 Erev Rosh HaShanah Erev Rosh HaShanah Service Zoom 6 pm Candle Lighting 6:56 pm	19 Tishrei 1 Rosh HaShanah Rosh HaShanah Morning Service 10 am Family Experience w/ Eliana Light 2 pm Candle Lighting 7:55 pm
20 Tishrei 2 Rosh HaShanah II Rosh HaShanah Morning Service 10 am Family Experience w/ Eliana Light 2 pm Havdalah 7:54 pm	21 Tishrei 3 Tzom Gedaliah	22 Tishrei 4	23 Tishrei 5	24 Tishrei 6	25 Tishrei 7 Family Tashlikh 4:30 pm Likrat Shabbat Zoom 6 pm Candle Lighting 6:47 pm	26 Tishrei 8 Parshat Ha'Azinu Shabbat Shuva Shabbat Morning Service 10 am Havdalah 7:46 pm
27 Tishrei 9 Erev Yom Kippur Kever Avot 11 am Family Experience w/ Eliana Light 3:15 pm Kol Nidre 6:30 Candle Lighting 6:45 pm	28 Tishrei 10 Yom Kippur Shaharit 10:00 am Family Experience w/ Eliana Light 2 pm Minhah 6:00 pm Neilah 7:00 pm Havdalah 7:43 pm	29 Tishrei 11	30 Tishrei 12			