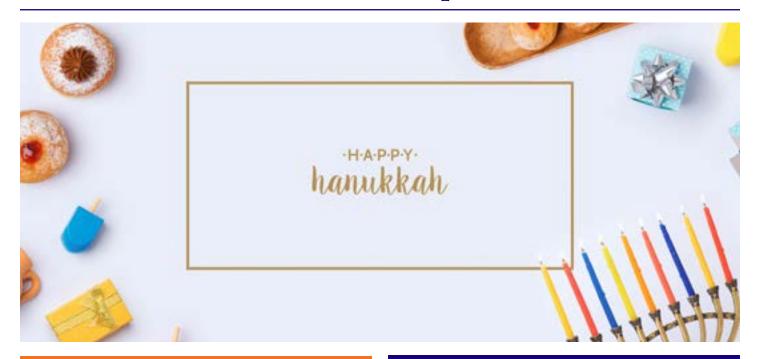


9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA. 71115

Kisley - Tevet 5782

December 2021

The Shul Shpiel



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein rabbi@agudathshreveport.com

Robert Lachman, President (318) 272-5123 afbob49@gmail.com

Email: office@agudathshreveport.com

Website: <u>agudathshreveport.com</u>

Phone: (318) 797-6401

Shabbat Services:

Friday evening services streaming & in-person at 7:30 pm

Saturday morning services streaming & in-person at 10:00 am agudathshreveport.com/live-stream

Executive Message

Dear Fellow Congregants,

It's December and that means it's time to spin the dreidel and light the Hanukkah candles. I wanted to emphasize the joy we get from light energy in this message-not just Jews, but everyone. Hanukkah comes early this year. I think one of the best parts of Hanukkah is lighting the menorah every night for eight days. Each night it gets a little brighter till we get all eight candles lit. But then it's also a little sad, because we have to wait another year for the bright lights to return once those candles go out. One of my best experiences with light was during a late winter while working outside on the B-52s at Eielson AFB, way up near Fairbanks, Alaska. I kept seeing these wavy colorful lights zooming across the skies every night, but didn't know what they were. Somebody finally told me those are the Northern Lights (aka Aurora Borealis) I was seeing. I have to say if you ever get a chance to witness them-it's worth it. They are mesmerizing, I promise you will never forget the experience.

It seems like all the winter holidays center around light and copy each other in many ways. Not too surprising, since the tradition of artificial lighting began with ancient pagan festivals that preceded any of the modern holidays. Like the ancient people, we celebrate light because we miss it due to the shorter days in winter. The further north you go the shorter the days get in winter. I remember in Germany it would stay light in June until 10 pm and in the winter, skies would be completely dark by 4 pm. We appreciate light because it brings warmth, knowledge, wisdom, and life.

The following winter holidays all use candles, electric lights, or fireworks to enhance and celebrate the occasion: Hanukkah, Christmas, Diwali, Kwanzaa, and Lunar New Year. One thing these holidays, celebrated around the world, all have in common is

illuminating lights of all types. While on this topic, I should include the energy we use to make latkes! After all, light is a form of energy.

As I mentioned above, in some ways the customs surrounding the winter holidays seem to copy each other. My 'Mench on the Bench' is standing by, ready to take his proud place on the shelf near the gifts this year. Now we have 'Ask Bubbe on the Bench' as well. Great idea, and I bet somebody made millions on it. Wish I had thought of it. If you're not familiar with 'Mench on the Bench' it was inspired by 'Elf on the Shelf', which came out a few years back for Christmas. Originally gelt or money was only given during Hanukkah but that has evolved into toys and gifts similar to Christmas. So lighting candles or electric lights is similar in all of these holidays, as is gift-giving and of course great food.

By the way, if you need Hanukkah candles please come by the Agudath Achim Gift Shop, run by Susan Gross. The gift shop has plenty of candles, menorahs and other fantastic Hanukkah items to meet all of your holiday needs. Also don't forget about the community Hanukkah party coming up on December 5th at Agudath Achim at 5 pm hosted by the North Louisiana Jewish Federation. Latkes and brisket will be on the menu plus music by the nationally renowned Jewish musician Noah Aronson.

In closing, I'd like to thank Rabbi Sydni, Rabbi Feivel, and Rich Dechowitz for helping replace US flags at the Agudath Achim Cemetery this past Veteran's Day for our Veterans buried there. Rabbi Sydni led a short service honoring our vets.

Have a Happy Hanukkah everyone!

Bob Lachman President, Agudath Achim

Message from Rabbi Sydni

Our Lost and Found collection is piling up at Agudath Achim! We have an assortment of glasses, a ring, and a fleece blanket. As a Jewish organization, it is our obligation to at least try to find the owner of each of these items, as the Torah teaches:

If you see your fellow's ox or sheep gone astray, do not ignore it; you must take it back to your fellow. If your fellow does not live near you or you do not know who she is, you shall bring it home, and it shall remain with you until your fellow claims it; then you shall give it back to her (Deuteronomy 22:1-3).

Returning lost objects is not just a nice thing to do, but a mitzvah - a commandment! It's not just a commandment about oxen or sheep, but in the modern day, it's about objects like rings, glasses, and blankets.

Long after Biblical times, the Rabbis of the Talmud—especially Tractate Bava Metzia established rules and limits to returning lost objects. For the mitzvah of returning a lost object to be binding, it must be something distinguishable, something that the owner most likely has not yet given up on finding, and something of value. In the case of Agudath Achim's particular lost objects, they are each distinguishable enough that if you know what you are looking for, you will be able to describe it. As the Talmudic Rabbis' examples of owners' despair are largely examples of the owners losing their objects in a crowded place, no owners should despair of losing their objects at Agudath Achim! We have a small enough building, and hopefully, a caring enough community that every object lost here should easily be found.

While objects like a stray cookie from an oneg or a singular hair clip are probably not valuable enough to return, we cannot truly know the value of a particular object to a particular person. Whenever we see a lost object that gives us pause, we must remember that that object may carry great emotional or practical meaning to a searching owner. It is always better to assume an object's value and, as the Torah requests, "do not ignore it." Instead, our Talmud teaches, we proclaim to our fellow townspeople in our case, Jewish community members-that an object has been found. We then hold onto it until the owner finds it, or until we are certain enough time has passed that the owner could not possibly still be looking.

Thank you to all who have repeatedly reminded me where my lost keys, journal, and water bottle are within this building. Each of these objects has significant value to me, as I would imagine so many of your objects, even those that others might take for granted, have value to you. Now, the next time you see a toy left on a park bench and post on your neighborhood Facebook group, you are doing much more than a good deed. When you see a dog wandering alone in the neighborhood and call the number on the collar, you are performing a mitzvah! And of course, thank you to those who claim your own lost objects for helping your Agudath Achim community to perform that same mitzvah of returning that which has been lost.

Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein

Please keep in mind that Rabbi Sydni will be out of the country from Sunday, December 19 -Tuesday, January 4, with limited access to e-mail and cell phone. To schedule a meeting before or after her vacation, please visit:

https://calendly.com/rabbisydni.

Prayer and Learning

All classes and services (except for Rabbi Feivel's Thursday class) are available both online and in person. Friday evening services are at 7:30 pm, and Saturday morning services are at 10:00 am.

Please note that as of October 27, 2021 face masks are optional at Agudath Achim. If you have recently been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or are feeling ill, please enjoy livestreamed services from home.

For attending online, all services are available at https://agudathshreveport.com/live-stream. All classes are available on Zoom, with the link in your email announcements.

Tefilah - Prayer

There will be no services held at Agudath Achim on Friday, December 10 or Saturday, December 18 due to Bat Mitzvahs being held at B'nai Zion. Please see calendar for service times at B'nai Zion for both dates.

Kabbalat Shabbat Shalem

Friday, December 3, 7:30 pm

On the first Friday of each month, we experience a full Kabbalat Shabbat service, taking time for all of the traditional Psalms and poetry, with a mix of melodies that are new and familiar to us. While there will not be responsive reading during this service, there will still be time for learning or a d'var Torah with Rabbi Sydni.

Kids' Shabbat Shindig

Saturday, December 4, 11:00 am

We'll sing, play, and learn together! Please ask your child to wear a face mask throughout our gathering, and please accompany your child if he/she is too young to do so. If weather permits, we'll gather outside.

Limudim - Learning

Learn to Read Hebrew 5782

Wednesday, December 1, 7:00 pm Wednesday, December 8, 7:00 pm Wednesday, December 15, 7:00 pm

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.

613? Relevant? Commandments

Thursday, December 9, 7:00 pm Thursday, December 16, 7:00 pm

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?

Hanukkah Covered Dish Dinner

Friday, December 3, 6:30 pm

Sisterhood will provide latkes & "fixins," donuts, beverages & bread. Please bring a pareve or vegetarian dish AND your own serving spoons. See you then!

Turn it & Turn it Again

Saturday, December 4, 1:00 pm

The first Shabbat of each month, we'll learn Torah with Rebecca Austin after a delicious Kiddush lunch.

Hodesh Hadash — Women's Learning Group Wednesday, December 8, 11:00 am

Deciphering Hebrew Names

Welcoming & Inclusion Panel

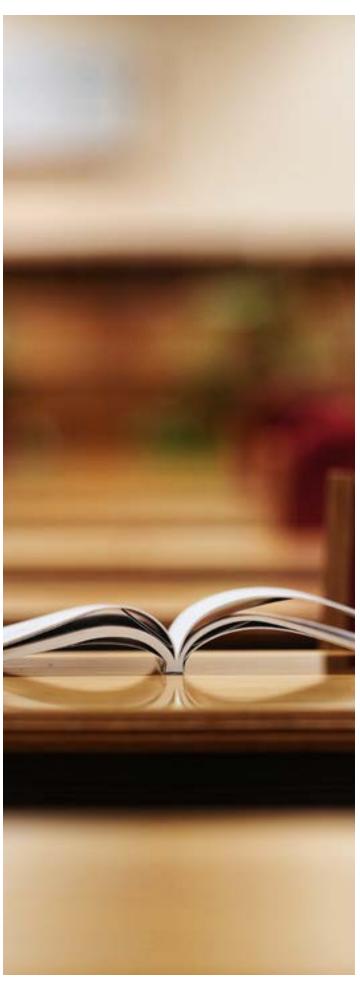
Sunday, December 12, 7:00 pm

For the past several months, Agudath Achim's Welcoming and Inclusion group has both studied the halakhah of inclusion and brainstormed some ways we can enact what we've learned at Agudath Achim. Before we spring into action, we'll learn from three experts in their fields. Rabbi Lauren Tuchman specializes in disabilities inclusion, Dr. Keren McGinity specializes interfaith inclusion, Anjelica Ruiz, and all will share their experience talking about the wider hows and whys of bringing people together in Jewish community. Our experts will be on Zoom, and you are welcome to attend either on Zoom or in person, at Agudath Achim.

Havdalah & Dinner

Saturday, December 25, 7:00 pm

Please join us after Havdalah for dinner at TBD. Please RSVP your attendance to Bob (afbob49@ gmail.com) or on ShulCloud no later than December 10.





WELCOMING AND INCLUSION PANEL



PANELIST Dr. Keren McGinity



PANELIST **Anjelica Ruiz**

Panel discussion + Q&A



Sunday, December 12, 2021



7:00 PM - 8:30 PM



 Join us on Zoom, or a live watch party at Agudath Achim



PANELIST Rabbi Lauren **Tuchman**

Find out more:

agudathshreveport.com/event/ welcoming-and-inclusion-panel.html

Welcoming & Inclusion Panel Meet our Panelists

Dr. Keren McGinity, USJC Interfaith Specialist



Keren R. McGinity is an educator-activist who specializes in Jewish intermarriage and gender roles. She is affiliated with the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute and teaches at Brandeis University. As of November 1,

2020, Dr. McGinity began her tenure as the Interfaith Specialist working towards greater diversity, equity, and inclusion at the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Dr. McGinity was the founding director of the Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement program at Hebrew College in Boston.

Rabbi Lauren Tuchman

Rabbi Lauren Tuchman is a sought after speaker, spiritual leader and educator.



Ordained by The Jewish Theological Seminary in 2018, she is, as far as she is aware, the first blind woman in the world to enter the rabbinate. She provides consulting to individuals and organizations across the Jewish community on a variety of matters pertinent to disability access and inclusion. She has taught in numerous synagogues and

other organizations across North America. She was named to the Jewish Week's 36 under 36 for her innovative leadership concerning inclusion of Jews with disabilities in all aspects of Jewish life. In 2017, she delivered an ELI Talk entitled We All Were At Sinai: The Transformative Power of Inclusive Torah. She is a participant in the Institute for Jewish Spirituality's Clergy Leadership Program. In 2020, she was honored by the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA).

Anjelica Ruiz, Keshet



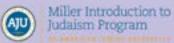
Anjelica N. Ruiz works in the Jewish community. She holds a B.A in Criminology from St. Edward's University, M.S. in Criminal Justice from Texas State University and M.S. in Library and Information Sciences

from the University of North Texas.

She loves traveling and is passionate about social justice. She completed the Anti-Defamation League's Glass Leadership Institute in 2016 and now sits on the ADL Texoma Regional Board. She recently completed the Union for Reform Judaism's JewV'Nation Fellowship in the Jews of Color cohort.

Anjelica loves reading and is a self-professed life-long learner. She also loves writing and is an alumna of the Tent: Encounters with Jewish Culture's Creative Writing seminar and the Yale Writers Workshop.





CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE MILLER INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM PROGRAM

PRESENTS

EXPLORING JUDAISM

From marriage to mourning, from God to Israel, from Torah to keeping kosher, we'll learn it all! **You** are welcome.

STARTING JANUARY 2022 ON ZOOM AND IN PERSON WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 PM

Call Rabbi Sydni at (318)-797-6401 or email rabbi@agudathshreveport.com to join our learning.



19 WEEKS OF EXPLORING FAITH AND TRADITION? I'M IN!

For each 6-week module, we request a \$60 donation to Congregation Agudath Achim, totaling \$180 for all three modules. Those who sign up for all three will receive a printed curriculum book. Members of Agudath Achim may attend the class free of charge, and cost should not be a barrier for anyone interested.

Module 1: January - March Beginnings, The World of the Bible, Exploring Jewish Diversity, Holidays, Shabbat, Prayer

Module 2: March - April Passover, God, Talmud, High Holy Days, Keeping Kosher, Medieval Judaism and Mid-Course Review

Module 3: April - May Love and Marriage, Birth to B'nei Mitzvah, A Time to Mourn, Stories from the Holocaust, Israel, Healing the World, Review

Shabbat Shalom



December Schedule of Readings

Saturday	December 4	Torah Reading Haftarah	Miketz, Rosh Hodesh Tevet, Hanukkah Genesis 41:1 - 44:17 Numbers 28:9-15 Numbers 7:42-47 Zekhariah 2:14 - 4:7
Saturday	December 11	Torah Reading Haftarah	Vayigash Genesis 44:18 - 47:27 Ezekiel 37:15-28
Saturday	December 18	Torah Reading Haftarah	Vayechi Genesis 47:28 - 50:26 I Kings 2:1 - 2:12
Saturday	December 25	Torah Reading Haftarah	Shemot Exodus 1:1 - 6:1 Jeremiah 1:1 - 2:3

North Louisiana Jewish

Federation News

UPDATE: Kosher Food in Shreveport



Today's the day! Shreveport is

supposed to receive its first shipment of Kosher meat & snacks! Chicken, turkey, beef, lamb, chips, snacks and more!

Jerusalem Market, a new Halal market in town has graciously offered to partner with our community to bring Kosher food to Shreveport! They are currently working with a distributor, Osem, out of New York and their first shipment arrives December 1st.

Once it arrives, Rabbi Feivel will be provided a list of everything kosher they carry and will pass that along to you. Stay tuned for more updates and for any questions contact Rabbi Feivel directly at: programming@jewishnla.org.

Annual Hanukah Party 5782 (2021) Sunday, December 5, 2021 at Agudath Achim 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Join us on December 5th for our annual Hanukah party and candle lighting! As always we'll serve latkes, sufganiyot (jelly donuts) and a delicious kosher meat dinner. (Veggie option available). We're very fortunate this year to be featuring a concert by the incredible musician Noah Aronson and his band. We hope to see you there!

Schedule

5:00 Doors Open5:30 Dinner & Candle Lighting6:00 Concert Begins

*Rides to/from the synagogue are available for those who need. Please reach out for more information.

Registration required.

Save the Date! Scholar in Residence Weekend: Benzy Kogen Friday, January 21 through Sunday, January 23, 2022

Ben Zion (Benzy) Kogen is a Consultant for Leadership and Education. He has devoted his career to senior leadership positions within the Jewish community—in the worlds of Jewish Education and Nonprofits. Read more about Benzy here.

Community Trip to Israel February 14-24, 2022

Already registered? Bring a friend! Our trip is NOT limited to only those who live in town. Bring your family, a friend, the more the merrier! Spots are filling up - Reserve Yours Today!



For more information visit us at jewishnla.org

Announcements Sisterhood

Yay! Life is (almost) back to normal! Synagogue covered dish dinner! Community Hanukkah party! B'nai Mitzvah without masks!

Jewish Community Directory - in addition to advising Karen or Tessa of updates/corrections - please give permission to print your information.

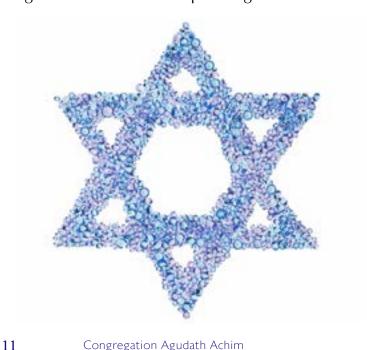
We still have some available slots for Onegs.

We wish y'all a delightful Hanukkah and a happy, healthy secular New Year.

Sandra Ofinsburg Sisterhood President

Volunteers Needed

The USA national boxing championship is coming to town, and they need volunteers! Volunteers will be paid on behalf of an organization, \$10/hour for each person. The championship will be December 6-10, 11:30-4:30 and 5:30-10:30 pm shifts. Some volunteers will be watching on the sidelines (scorecard runners) and some will be sitting at the gate. Please call Jimmy Dicken ((815)-919-1699) if you are willing to volunteer. Please consider Agudath Achim as the recipient organization.



Community Religious School

Recently I shared with the Religious School Facebook group an article about being the "Hanukah parent." While I had never heard this phrase before, it became immediately clear what it meant – the parent of the sole Jewish student in the class coming to school and explaining the holiday that falls near Christmas. I remember my mother doing this at various points when my sister and I were in elementary school, and trying it myself when my own kids were younger. While I was never ambitious enough to make latkes for the class, a menorah and dreidel did make an appearance.

This article was especially meaningful on the heels of the program put on last month by Shreveport's own Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein along with Dr. Keren McGinity of the USCJ. To paraphrase Dr. McGinity, Christmas falling in the month of December is an annual reminder that we live as a religious minority in this country, and for interfaith families, that can be an even greater challenge. At the same time, combining various celebrations from multiple backgrounds can be a powerful symbol of interfaith cooperation and shalom bayit, peace in the home.

I hope all in our community enjoy this season of colder weather and winter holidays, and leave you with some discussion questions suggested for a Hanukah parent: "What makes freedom important for all people?" and "How can a small group make a difference?"

Happy Hanukah,

Barbara of Joseph Community Religious School Director

Congregation Agudath Achim December 2021

December Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Harriet Dechowitz	December 1	William Serkin	December 20
Rabbi Foster Kawaler	December 9	Lesley Padilla	December 21
Aylah Orillion	December 9	Laurie S. Feigenbaum	December 23
Anne Marsala	December 13	Daila Reisman	December 25
Jason Oller	December 14	Bill Cornelious	December 26
Kari Dicken	December 14	Susan Gross	December 29
Jennifer R. Goodpaster	December 16	Leo Laventhal	December 30

Miguel Padin

Yasher Koach to our Oneg sponsors

Thank you to the following members for sponsoring an Oneg and Kiddush lunch in November:

Candice Richard Candice Richar Barbara & Curti Dr. Howard Lip

Thank you to the following members for sponsoring an Oneg and Kiddush lunch in December:

December 19

rdson	November 5	Patti & Steve Parker	December 3
rdson	November 12	Deena & Bob Lachman	December 10*
tis Joseph	November 19	Rosa Tirado & Rafael Padin, in honor of Miguel's birthday	December 17*
ppton	November 26	Dr. Thomas Strain, in honor of his son's birthday	December 24
		Sandra & David Ginsburg	December 31

^{*}There will be no services held at Agudath Achim Friday, December 10 or Saturday, December 18 in honor of B'nai Mitzvahs at B'nai Zion.

Donations

In Beloved Memory of DeSean T. Strain

Maemarye Wolf Parker Joseph Goldman Annemarie Ain Jose Hemsani **Casey Colley**

In Honor of Harriet & Richard Dechowitz

General Fund Southern Belles Red Hatter Society David Ain

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund George Rothkopf Foundation

Hurshiell Stegall

Sisterhood

Rosa Tirado & Rafael Padin

Dr. Thomas Strain Patti & Steve Parker Sharon & Elliott Goldman Alex Rubenstein Sara Tebele Tammy & Paul Willson

By Alex Rubenstein



December Yahrzeits

Week of Nov. 28 - December 4

Jake Evensky
Rose S. Vedlitz
Samuel Fox
Dorothy Suckle
Leonard Lazarus
Morris Yellen
Nathan Rosenfeld

Week of December 5 - 11

Casey Nicole Colley
Charles Yellen
Leah Schorr
Martha Rochelson
George Bersin
Vevel Shifra
Leon Abramson
Rabbi Ronald Myron Goldstein
Willie Vedlitz

Week of December 12 - 18

Rachel C. Frumer Bertha Kassof Samuel Owen Strain Elliott Organick Allen Rubin

Week of December 19 - 25

Herman Siegel
Evelyn Kawaler
Dorothy Kaufman
Arthur Arnold
Jose Hemsani
Jerold Suckle
Beatrice Lippton
Nathan Levine
Joseph LeBlang
Ann Robertson
Esther Albon Fox
Baer Abramson

Week of Dec. 26 - Jan. 1

Pincus Gardsbane Florence Shiffman Max Carroll Carol Goodman May their
Memory
be for a
Blessing

Condolences

We are saddened to share the passing of: Annette Sterman Schwartz

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.

December 2021 Kislev - Tevet 5782

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
5 Tevet 1	6 Tevet 2	7 Tevet 3	1 Kislev 27 Hanukkah Candle Lighting (4 Candles) 5:48 pm Learn to Read Hebrew 7:00 pm 8 Tevet 4 Hodesh Hadash - Women's Learning Group	Hanukkah Candle Lighting (5 Candles) 5:48 pm Tevet 5	Hanukkah (6 Candles) 4:48 pm Candle Lighting 4:51 pm Covered Dish Dinner 6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Shalem 7:30 pm Tevet 6	4 Kislev 30 Parshat Miketz Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am Kids' Shabbat Shindig 11:00 am Turn it & Turn it Again 1:00 pm Hanukkah Candle Lighting (7 Candles) 6:00 pm Havdalah 5:59 pm 11 Tevet 7 Parshat Vayigash Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am
NLJF Annual Hanukkah Party at Agudath Achim 5:00 pm Hanukkah Candle Lighting (8 Candles) 5:48 pm	Hanukkah		11:00 am Learn to Read Hebrew 7:00 pm	613? Relevant? Commandments 7:00 pm	Candle Lighting 4:52 pm Arden Gillum's Bat Mitzvah at B'nai Zion 6:00 pm	Havdalah 6:00 pm
12 Tevet 8 Raymond Murov Unveiling at Hebrew Agudath Achim Cemetery 3:00 pm	13 Tevet 9	14 Tevet 10 Fast of Tevet	15 Tevet 11	16 Tevet 12	17 Tevet 13	18 Tevet 14 Parshat Vayechi Natalya Murov's Bat Mitzvah at B'nai Zion 10:00 am
Welcoming & Inclusion Panel 7:00 pm	Board Meeting 7:00 pm		Learn to Read Hebrew 7:00 pm	613? Relevant? Commandments 7:00 pm	Candle Lighting 4:54 pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm	Havdalah 6:02 pm
19 Tevet 15	20 Tevet 16	21 Tevet 17	22 Tevet 18	23 Tevet 19 Office Closed	24 Tevet 20 Office Closed Candle Lighting	25 Tevet 21 Parshat Shemot Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am
26 Tevet 22	27 Tevet 23	28 Tevet 24	29 Tevet 25	30 Tevet 26	4:57 pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm	Havdalah & Dinner 7:00 pm
	Office Closed				Candle Lighting 5:02 pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm	



Congregation Agudath Achim

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Phone: 318.797.6401

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General inquiries: office@agudathshreveport.com