



Agudath Achim  
Shreveport  
Est. 1902

9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA. 71115

Shevat - Adar 5781

February 2021

# The Shul Shpiel



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein  
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## Shabbat Services:

Friday evening services on  
Zoom at 5:00 pm

Saturday morning services  
streaming at 10:00 am

(Please check your email for updates)

# Executive Message

## Happy Purim!

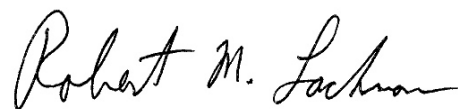
I was in the office last week when Michelle received photos of past Purim potluck dinners and services at Agudath Achim from Rabbi Kawaler. I started to reminisce. Some of the photos were of when Leonard Nimoy visited us and posed for pictures with Rabbi Kawaler; that must have been the year Rabbi Kawaler wore his Star Trek costume for Purim. The confirmation class—our children that all grew up so fast and have all moved away—were also in the photos. Pictures and photographs do such a great job of letting us relive our past. One picture that really captivated me was of Raymond Murov—he did so much for our Synagogue. Raymond was a major financial contributor and always had a joke to tell. He also served as treasurer for the Men's Club for years. Raymond was famous for his persistent phone calls asking you to buy squares for the football pool. Hardly anybody could turn him down.

I'm not going to explain too much about Purim because many of you know the characters and the story. Evil guy Haman wants all the Jews annihilated. Heroine of the story, Queen Esther, and her cousin Mordechai uncover the plot. They tell King Ahasuerus who has Haman executed saving the Jewish people. We read it every year in the book of Esther: the Megillah. Purim is on the horizon, (February 25) and we've decided to celebrate it on Zoom this year because we want to keep everyone safe. With vaccinations for Covid 19 getting into people's arms at an accelerated pace, I hope we're going to be able to get together in person sooner rather than later.

Our past Purims have included some great potluck dinners and great people with great costumes. We'd all head to the sanctuary and read the Megillah. Sharing a meal with everyone is one of my favorite things about coming to the synagogue, which I'm sure is no secret to anyone who knows me. Besides the good food, some of us, or myself, would bring something a little stronger than punch to wash it down with. The ladies of the sisterhood that made hamantaschen and others in our Shul kitchen were fantastic too. Playing the characters in the Purim shpiel brings back lots of good memories too. David Gross seems to always get the part of King Ahasuerus. He has the best commanding voice when he commanded SERVANTS!! I encourage everyone to play a character when they are asked as it really makes the story much more fun. If not, we always need groggers to make noise when Haman's name is read.

Here's a fact I didn't know and wanted to share for meals on Purim: Hamantaschen has a sister food, Kreplach—17 meat-filled dumplings often served in soup. We customarily eat them three times a year on Purim, the eve of Yom Kippur, and Hoshanah Rabbah. You can also fill your Kreplach with other things like potatoes or cheese.

I learn something new whenever I write about a subject. Be safe every day, and thanks for reading my message.



Robert Lachman

# Rabbi Sydni's Message

...They were to observe these as days of feasting and merrymaking and as an occasion for sending gifts to one another and presents to those in need (Esther 9:22).

Our most topsy-turvy festival is right around the corner, and as excited as I am about our Megillah reading and Purim carnival this year, I am even more excited to highlight two Purim mitzvot we often leave behind.

## Mishloah Manot - A Delicious Gift Exchange

As the book of Esther dictates, we are obligated not only to enjoy our own food and celebration, but also, to share that food and celebration with others on Purim. As Esther 9:22 mentions gifts (plural) to one another (singular), the custom has evolved for each person to give at least two gifts of food to at least one friend. That could mean handing a casserole and a tray of brownies to a neighbor who needs an extra boost, exchanging Tupperware containers full of food with a friend, or even placing some pre-packaged candies and cookies in the mail for family across the country. This year, especially, is a time to think about those in our community who would benefit most from a cookie and a card, from that reminder that we're still here for them even without close physical presence.

## Mishloah Manot - A Delicious Gift Exchange

We derive our obligation to donate to more than one individual or organization on Purim from that same verse of Esther, as "presents"

and "those in need" are both plural. We live in a community with multiple organizations that support individuals in need. Just as a couple of examples, as so much of Purim's appeal is food-oriented, the [Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana](#) feeds the hungry throughout our region, and [Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger](#) works to address food insecurity from the perspective of Jewish text and tradition. If you have another favorite organization or two, Purim is the time to reach into your pocket and give generously. If you live near a street corner where someone regularly asks for resources, Purim is the time to pause and give just a little more than you might normally.

At Agudath Achim, we're beginning to organize a food drive to kick off on Purim, to donate rather than dispose of the bread products we still have lying around before Passover. At the beginning of March, the Jewish Federation of Northwest Louisiana is hosting a talk from Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, during which we'll learn even more ways to give to our community. And of course, whether on Purim or any other day of the year, if you have any other ideas to inspire our community to give back, we would appreciate your input.

This Purim, may our actions reflect that eternal truth that our laughter and our happiness depends on the joy of those in our community, not just our friends and family. Hag Sameah! Happy Purim!



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein



# Prayer and Learning

## Limud - Learning

All classes and all services **except for Saturday mornings** 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.

Shabbat morning services are streamed at 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays, at [agudathshreveport.com/prayer/live](https://agudathshreveport.com/prayer/live).

### Hodesh Hadash - Women's Learning Group

**Tuesday, February 9, 11:00 a.m. on Zoom**

Late December of 2020 featured a series of opinion pieces from various news outlets that debated the proper title for Dr. Jill Biden, our First Lady. Soon afterwards, Sally Berkovic penned an article in eJewish Philanthropy entitled, "What Title for Henrietta Szold?," musing about the proper way to address an incredible figure in Jewish history. Together, we'll explore the importance of title, especially as it pertains to women of the past, present, and future.

### 613? Relevant? Commandments

**Thursdays, February 4, 11, 18, 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?

## Exploring Judaism

**Tuesdays, February 16, 23, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**

*While members may attend Exploring Judaism at no charge, we ask that friends of Agudath Achim sign up*

*for the course with a donation, with details on p. 9.*

### Beginnings: From Creation to the Edge of the Wilderness - February 16

The Torah opens with the words, "In the beginning" and, for thousands of years, that has been the starting point for all Jewish learning. This class is a sweeping introduction to the Torah - its transformative ideas and vivid characters. It starts in the Garden of Eden and ends at the edge of the Promised Land.

### The World of the Bible - February 23

The Hebrew Bible records the first thousand years of Jewish history - including the stories of the kings and judges, poets and prophets who shaped the Jewish People from the beginning.

## Hag Sameah - It's Purim!

**Megillah Reading B'yahad (Together)**

**Thursday, February 25, 6:15 p.m. - on Zoom**

This Purim, we want you to read Megillah! Whether in English, Spanish, or Hebrew, in song, dance, or the traditional trope, we want your wackiest interpretation of Esther's story! In between chapters, we'll enjoy a trivia game with prizes for the winners. Please contact Rabbi Sydni with your interest in reading megillah. And of course, costumes are more than welcome, both for those reading and those more interested in sitting back and enjoying.

### Shaharit and Megillah Reading

**Friday, February 26, 10:00 a.m. - on Zoom**

Bring your tallit and tefillin to Zoom for a traditional but still wacky morning service and Megillah reading, with space to explore the book of Esther with Rabbis Rubinstein.

## Agudat Yeladim - Family Programming

**Family Havdalah with Rabbis Rubinstein**

**Saturday, February 20, 7:00 p.m. - on Zoom**

Grab your candle, grape juice, and spices, and join us for Havdalah with Rabbis Rubinstein. We'll share song and story, all while practicing the joyful ritual that ends one week and begins the next.

# Shabbat Shalom



## February Schedule of Readings

Saturday	February 6	Torah Reading Haftarah	<b>Yitro</b> Exodus 19:20 - 20:22 Isaiah 6:1 - 13
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Saturday	February 13	Torah Reading Haftarah	<b><i>Shabbat Shekalim, Rosh Hodesh Adar, Mishpatim</i></b> Exodus 22:4 - 23:19 Numbers 28:9 - 15, 30:11-16
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Saturday	February 20	Torah Reading Haftarah	<b><i>Shabbat Zakhor, Terumah</i></b> Exodus 26:1 - 30 Deuteronomy 2:17 - 19
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Saturday	February 27	Torah Reading Haftarah	<b>Tetzaveh</b> Exodus 28:31 - 29:18 Ezekiel 43:10 - 43:27
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# North Louisiana Jewish Federation News

2021 is off to a great start, and we're gearing up for some great new programs! Our religious school students had an educational experience learning with Julie Kohner, daughter of Holocaust survivor Hanna Kohner. Then, many of you have enjoyed the culinary delights of our Celebrity Chef series! (I hope your cooking attempts have been more successful than my own).



Our first two events of the Chef series were a delicious success! There are still two more on the calendar, and it's not too late to register for them. 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.

## [Adeena Sussman – Sababa](#)

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

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

## [Danielle Renov – Peas, Love & Carrots](#)

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

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

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



## **Sunday, February 21st, 2021 - Hamentashen with Bethany**

Prepare for **Purim** by joining Bethany as she teaches you how to make her famous and delicious **hamentashen**!



## **Sunday, February 28th, 2021 - Purim Carnival**

We hope you'll join us for our **Annual Purim Party** to enjoy Food, Fun, Friends, and Community! This year, our party will be held on **Sunday, February 28th**. Due to the pandemic, this year's festivities will be fully online.



In Partnership with the

**Presents**



## **Thursday, March 4th, 2021 - "This is Hunger" with Mazon**

Any donations made will support the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana

"This is Hunger" is a powerful, immersive digital video experience that explores who struggles with hunger in America and why. "Until we recognize the profound prevalence of hunger here at home, we will never rally the political will to end it. From that core belief, 'This Is Hunger' was born." (Mazon)

# February Celebrations

## Happy Birthday

Jackie Fleschman	Feb 2	Les Alan Lobel	Feb 11
Daniel Lachman	Feb 3	Dr. Antolio Wasserman	Feb 15
Wendi Bretner Marrus	Feb 4	Adam Schwartz	Feb 17
Patricia Anne Parker	Feb 4	Alex Joseph Leblang	Feb 18
Yoshi Brooks	Feb 5	Barbara Joseph	Feb 19
Tammy Ain Willson	Feb 6	Amy G. Turner	Feb 25
Jonathan Zweig	Feb 8	Richard Dechowitz	Feb 27
Bernard Lobel	Feb 10	Leon Tchinkindas	Feb 27
Elisa Campbell	Feb 11	Anne Kawaler	Feb 28

## Sisterhood

This month we celebrate Purim. Often Vashti gets a bad rap, but she's to be admired for a couple {only a couple} of reasons. Verse 9 states she made a feast for the women, perhaps it was an early Al-anon meeting or a women's support group with a different focus—we don't know. But apparently, her women's feast emboldened her to say 'No' to the King's outrageous and drunken command to show her beauty—all of her beauty. And Vashti's disobedience ultimately led to Esther being crowned Queen and saving her people: us.

Purim reminds us of women's potential and empowerment. With the light at the end of the Covid tunnel getting brighter and brighter, think about possible Sisterhood events and programming. And send in your \$36.00 dues {Lagniappe always welcomed} if you haven't already.

Looking forward to being in person,  
Sandra Ginsburg, Sisterhood President

Shalom,  
Sandra Ginsburg, *Sisterhood President*



# Community Religious School Director

tender loving care from members and Religious School families.



Barbara G. Joseph

There is a new children's book out by Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso. It is called "Judy Led the Way," and it is about Judith Kaplan, daughter of Rabbi Mordechia Kaplan, becoming a Bat Mitzvah—one of the first in the world—in the 1920s. I participated in a webinar with the author, and was fascinated to hear about her research, including interviews with the Kaplan family and the many other achievements for women around the time. This month's in-person activity for the fifth-grade students will focus on this book, and Judy's many questions about her Judaism.

As we prepare for a Purim quite different from previous years, I was reminded recently of the four mitzvot of Purim:

- Read the Megillah, the Purim story
- Give gifts – Mishloach Manot
- Enjoy a festive meal – Seudah
- Practice Tzedakah - Matanot L'Evyonim

Even with our present challenges, it is helpful to remember these goals, and look for ways to achieve them in new ways. Please let me know which one is important to your family, and how I can help!

I am grateful to the Federation for again sponsoring a virtual Carnival on Sunday February 28. There will not be any Religious School or Hebrew classes that day.

Thank you to all who came out to help Tend to the Trees for Tu BiSh'vat! Trees and other plants at both synagogues received some







**Agudath Achim**  
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Miller Introduction to  
Judaism Program  
OF AMERICAN JEWISH UNIVERSITY

## 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.*

**TUESDAYS, STARTING FEBRUARY 16  
ON ZOOM  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

Call Rabbi Sydni at (318)-797-6401 or email  
[rabbi@agudathshreveport.com](mailto: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: February 16 - March 23  
Beginnings, The World of the Bible, Exploring Jewish Diversity, Holidays, Shabbat, Prayer

Module 2: March 30 - May 4  
Passover, God, Talmud, High Holy Days, Keeping Kosher, Medieval Judaism and Mid-Course Review

Module 3: May 11 - June 22  
Love and Marriage, Birth to B'nei Mitzvah, A Time to Mourn, Stories from the Holocaust, Israel, Healing the World

June 29: Course Review (for all students)

# Updated Service Information

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

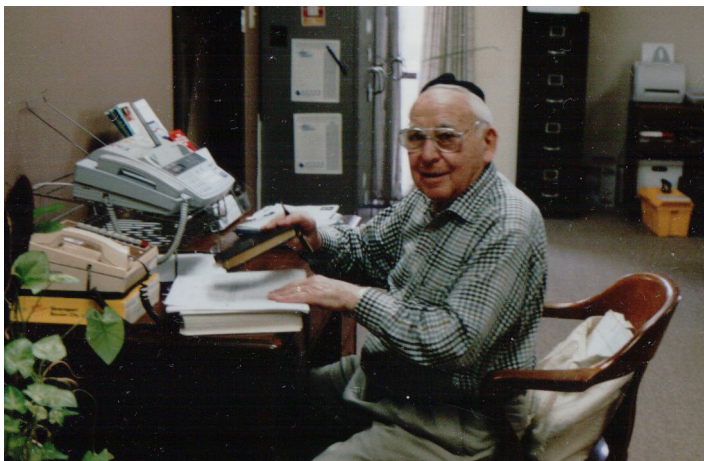
Likrat Shabbat will be **Friday afternoons at 5 p.m.** on Zoom.us with meeting ID **642-827-616**, password **kosher613**. While quality is better when joining Zoom online, you may join by phone at (312)-626-6799, meeting ID 642-827-616, password 256510

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

**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.**

# Blast from the past at Agudath Achim

Photos submitted by Rabbi Foster Kawaler



# Upcoming Architectural & Artistic Changes

It was announced last year that Agudath Achim had been awarded a grant from Homeland Security to make our home a more secure and comfortable place to be. As part of that grant, the following items are going to be incorporated:

1. A new video surveillance system.
2. An electronic pass key system for access to the building for members.
3. Forty-year old doors will be replaced with steel components.
4. Expenses for security guards during services reimbursed.

The most noticeable and concerning to most members might be the glass doors at the front and back of the foyer that will be going away. Steel doors that are not transparent and less inviting may be an issue to some. Conversations have started to make a plain steel door into a canvas for inviting and welcoming art. Jonathan Goodman is working with us to create such an entry. We have all seen his work in the library and been pleased with the results. We believe there will be sufficient funds in the grant and donated to make these new doors inviting and welcoming to the general public. The time frame for completion of this project will take us into the summer months when we hope to be back in our building and the pandemic threat lessened.







# Donations

## In Beloved Memory of

Paul Gardsbane  
Eden Imani  
DeSean Terrance Howe-Strain  
Jeri Stern  
Beatrice Lippton  
Helen Charski  
Gary Colley  
Joseph Urman  
Abraham Charski  
Pincus Gardsbane  
Brian Ardis Robison II  
Joey Tebele  
Florence & Irving Selber  
Harry Steinberg  
Rae Schreiber  
Goldie Steinberg  
Sara Lee Levinson  
Helen Arnold  
George Rothkopf

## In Honor of

The birth of Jakob Clare Dicken  
Rabbis Sydni & Feivel Rubinstein  
The birth of Hanna Cecilia Marsala  
The birth of Hanna Cecilia Marsala  
Dr. David Gross' grant from NIH  
Dr. Richard Zweig, Allen Organick, Caleb Orillion,  
Elliott Goldman, Rebecca Austin, and Bob  
Lachman

## Biblical Orchard

Sara & Dr. Richard Zweig  
Barbara & Curtis Joseph

## General Fund

Sharon & Elliott Goldman

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Barbara & Curtis Joseph

## Cemetery Fund

Dr. Jere & Louis Cravens

## By

Susan & Michael Cross  
Barbara & Curtis Joseph  
Barbara & Curtis Joseph  
Barbara & Curtis Joseph  
Howard Lippton  
Marcia Spielberger  
Gary Yellen & Jerry & Carolyn Sheehan  
Abie Charski  
Abie Charski  
Dr. Louis & Janice Stern  
Sara Tebele  
Sara Tebele  
Dr. Jere & Louis Cravens  
Stuart & Faye Tobin  
Stuart & Faye Tobin  
Stuart & Faye Tobin  
Stuart & Faye Tobin  
Stuart & Faye Tobin  
Helene Prokesch

## By

Sandra & David Ginsburg  
Ellen Soffer & Allen Organick  
Sara & Dr. Richard Zweig  
Barbara & Curtis Joseph  
Barbara & Curtis Joseph  
Helene Prokesch



**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.

# February Yahrzeits

## Week of Feb 1 - Feb 6

Rachel Nottage  
Ida Newstadt  
Sam Gold  
Sara Lee Levinson  
Chana Fehler Lurie  
Rachel H. Groner  
Betty Rae Lipson Segall  
Etta Yago Friedfeld  
Morris R. Rosen

## Week of Feb 21 - 27

David Goodman  
Jacob K. Bauman  
Roy Robertson  
Isaac Chapman  
Sadie Tidovsky  
Ernest Braun  
Sarah Greenberg  
Rachel Berson  
Abie Werth  
Helen Sternberg Arnold  
Sam Abrams  
Enrico De Benedetti  
Alma L. Holz

## Week of Feb 7 - Feb 13

Dewanna Montgomery Brown  
Leon Abramson  
Victor Kolanko  
Bessie Schwartz  
Bessie Fish Murov  
Kurt Strauss  
Beckie Abrams  
William Bath  
Ralph Simon Segall  
Mollie Rose Gelfand  
Goldie Sternberg  
Ann Gamze  
Joey Tebele

## Week of Feb 28

Fannie Rubenstein  
Coleman Williams

## Week of Feb 14 - 20

Rebecca Murov  
Barry G. Provisor  
Frieda Wilenzick  
Jack Cole  
Hyman Sanders  
Sol Abramson  
Lena Gold Renov  
Stanley Schwartzberg  
Goldie Fox  
Rosabel L. Shavin

*May Their  
Memory  
be for a  
Blessing*

## Condolences

We are saddened to share the passing of George Rothkopf

*HaMakom y'naheh 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.

# February 2021

# Shevat - Adar 5781

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Shevat 19	2 Shevat 20 Celebrity Chef Series: Chef Danielle Renov 7 pm	3 Shevat 21	4 Shevat 22 613? Relevant? Commandments 7 pm	5 Shevat 23 Likrat Shabbat 5 pm Candle Lighting 5:34 pm	6 Shevat 24 Parshat Yitro Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Havdalah 6:35 pm
7 Shevat 25	8 Shevat 26	9 Shevat 27 Hodesh Hadash - Women's Learning 11 am Celebrity Chef Series: Chef Adeena Sussman 7 pm	10 Shevat 28 Board Training with USCJ 7 pm	11 Shevat 29 613? Relevant? Commandments 7 pm	12 Shevat 30 Rosh Chodesh Adar Likrat Shabbat 5 pm Candle Lighting 5:40 pm	13 Adar 1 Parshat Mishpatim Rosh Chodesh Adar Shabbat Shekalim Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Havdalah 6:41 pm
14 Adar 2	15 Adar 3 Board Meeting 7 pm	16 Adar 4 Exploring Judaism 7 pm	17 Adar 5	18 Adar 6 613? Relevant? Commandments 7 pm	19 Adar 7 Likrat Shabbat 5 pm Candle Lighting 5:46 pm	20 Adar 8 Parshat Terumah Shabbat Zachor Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Family Havdalah 7 pm Havdalah 6:47 pm
21 Adar 9 Hamentashen with Bethany 3 pm	22 Adar 10	23 Adar 11 Exploring Judaism 7 pm	24 Adar 12	25 Adar 13 Erev Purim Ta'anit Esther Purim Megillah read 6:15 pm	26 Adar 14 Purim Purim Shaharit & Megillah read 10am Likrat Shabbat - Ask the Rabbi 5 pm Candle Lighting 5:52 pm	27 Adar 15 Parshat Tetzaveh Shabbat Shaharit 10 am Havdalah 6:53 pm
28 Adar 16 Shushan Purim Annual Purim Carnival 10:30 am						





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