



Agudath Achim
Shreveport
Est. 1902

9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA. 71115

Tamuz - Av 5781

July 2021

The Shul Shpiel



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein
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Shabbat Services:

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

Saturday morning services
streaming & in-person at
10:00 am

Executive Message

This month brings one of the saddest days on the Jewish calendar: the 9th of Av—Tisha B'Av. I'm not sure why it's called a holiday since holidays are usually happy occasions. It memorializes the destruction of both Holy Temples. The Babylonians destroyed the first temple with fire in 423 BCE, and the second temple was taken by the Romans in 70 CE. Many other tragic things have happened on the 9th of Av. In fact, the tragedies of the 9th of Av predate the destruction of the Temples: this was the date upon which the spies returned from the Promised Land with frightening reports and the Israelites balked at the prospect of entering the land.

In 133 CE, the Bar Kochba revolt against the Romans ended in defeat. The Jews of Betar were butchered on the 9th of Av, and the Temple Mount was plowed on the same date. Later in our history, many more catastrophic events happened on this day including the 1290 expulsion of England's Jews and the 1492 banishment of Jews from Spain. Pretty horrible stuff. (Ref: Chabad.Org)

It's observed with abstentions very similar to Yom Kippur. We are supposed to abstain from eating, drinking, wearing leather shoes, washing, shaving, applying cosmetics, having marital relations, and going to work. We will survive these hardships (it's only a day) just like our ancestors have survived the hardships that have happened on the 9th of Av.

In our synagogue we are constantly having to face challenges such as a shrinking Jewish community and budget issues (that have been going on for ages). It seems we always get

through them. I have to say that the Jewish people are a resilient group. We've been around for thousands of years and continue to thrive. It makes me proud to be Jewish. When I've been asked what church I go to by new acquaintances I never hesitate to say I'm Jewish and attend Agudath Achim Synagogue. I've never had a person walk away after hearing that from me. They sense that I am proud and honored to follow in the footsteps of hundreds of generations that came before me.

Maybe the current social movements in the media: LGBTQ+ Pride month and the Black Lives Matter movement brought me to write this message. I may not be the most observant Jew, as many of you know. I am, however, very proud to be another link in the chain of Jewish heritage.

Bob Lachman,
President, Agudath Achim



Message from Rabbi Sydni

Mishnah Avot, 5:17

Any disagreement (mahloket) that is for the sake of Heaven (le-shem shamayim) is destined to endure, and one that is not for the sake of Heaven is not destined to endure...

Meiri (13th century, France)

And which is the mahloket le-shem shamayim?

That of Hillel and Shammai, for one would rule on a matter and the other would disagree with him in order to understand the truth and not just for the sake of provocation or a desire to win.

I have spent the past few months studying in the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies' Mahloket Matters Fellowship, a program that trains Jewish community leaders and educators to facilitate vibrant, meaningful, often challenging conversation. Our first few sessions focused on texts like the ones above, exploring the fine lines between constructive conflict and toxic interaction. We explored our different moral foundations, acknowledging that each of us weighs our morals according to our own unique experiences. While some of us prioritize care or fairness, others see liberty or loyalty as higher priorities on the spectrum of moral values. Our political, social, and even personal decisions rely on these foundational priorities, priorities that we each share in different, sometimes conflicting measures.

We know that progress and healing cannot be achieved without acknowledgment of our differences in values and opinions, but we also know that disagreement can damage relationships if boundaries and goals are not set.

When we listen to one another, aiming towards mutual understanding and the higher goal of truth, constructive conflict has the potential to become transformative for our personal and communal relationships.

In later sessions, we practiced civil discourse, while discussing and debating current issues and scenarios. We questioned what makes the State of Israel important. From that, we asked whether Israel should withdraw and remove settlements from across the Green Line, or alternatively, should build more settlements across the Green Line. We asked the question, "When is fearing minorities xenophobia and when is it a question of national security?", discussing Biblical text, the historical example of Japanese internment, and current issues in the United States and Israel. We brought the conversation even closer to home, with case studies of moral decisions made by boards of Jewish organizations.

Now, the Mahloket Matters Fellowship enters its final stage, in which each participant brings her learning back to her Jewish community. One of the things I love most about our Agudath Achim community is our rich diversity of political and social views. At the same time, I find that we sometimes avoid talking about important issues so that we don't have to risk the conflict that a hard conversation often brings. For my Mahloket Matters project, then, I aim to bring some of these topics of conversation to light. While we have time and again demonstrated our welcoming and embrace of community members, students, and visitors, we have not often discussed the social and textual reasons for why that embrace is important or what it should look like.

Starting this month, I would like to form a learning and working committee to draft a statement about Agudath Achim's approach to welcoming and inclusion, including the

Message from Rabbi Sydni

welcoming and inclusion of LGBTQ individuals, people experiencing disability, and anyone who walks into our building. Such a statement would be included on our website and anywhere else our mission statement is displayed. Our committee would meet for several sessions, the first two learning the Mahloket Matters curriculum and practicing civil conversation, the next few focusing on Jewish textual reasons for inclusion, and the final one or two writing a statement about how to act on what we have learned together. Ultimately, our policy would be presented to the board for confirmation.

Ideally, this committee will consist of Agudath Achim members and supporters from across the ideological spectrum. If you are excited to dig deeper into constructive conversation and Jewish text, and ultimately, to put those deep dives into action, please let me know your interest.

Regardless, I look forward to putting the following pillars for civil conversation that I have learned through my fellowship into practice at Agudath Achim:

1. **Listen to the other side, and be open to admitting you're wrong.**
2. **Check your motivation. Are you trying to win or understand? Are you trying to win or solve problems?**
3. **Debate the issues without attacking people or harming relationships.**
4. **Consider that you might both be right, despite holding opposite positions.**

Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein



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 now at 7:30 pm, and Saturday morning services are at 10:00 a.m.**

For attending in person, if you are not vaccinated please wear a face mask in our building, and keep a distance of six feet from others present. Please avoid handshakes and hugs. Waves, nods, and elbow bumps are great substitutes!

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

Tefilah - Prayer

Kabbalat Shabbat Shalem

Friday, July 2, 7:30 p.m.

On the first Friday of each month, we're trying out 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, July 3, 11:00 a.m.

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.

Kabbalat Shabbat – Ask the Rabbi

Friday, July 30, 7:30 p.m.

Along with our typical Kabbalat Shabbat service, Rabbi Sydni will answer your burning Jewish questions of any type!

Limudim - Learning

Exploring Judaism

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

July 6 – The Jewish Mission to Heal the World

In our final class, we'll ask the question: "Does Judaism have an essential teaching?" as we explore key concepts like tzedakah (righteous giving), tzelem Elohim (the image of God), and tikkun olam (healing the world).

July 13 – Review & Final Class

We'll take this day to review and to answer any lingering questions.

Tisha B'Av in Mosaic

Sunday, July 11, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, July 17, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 18, 10:00 a.m.

Two thousand years ago, our Jewish community relied on each other to rebuild their Judaism after unimaginable brokenness. This Tisha B'Av, we commemorate that brokenness and rebuilding through creating a piece of art we hope to display and cherish for years to come. Thank you to Kathryn Brodnax and Deena Lachman for helping to coordinate our project.

Hodesh Hadash Women's Learning

Tuesday, July 13, 11:00 a.m.

This month, we'll begin to explore Biblical notions of slavery, how we read these ideas in the modern day, and what we can do to eradicate

Prayer and Learning

slavery from our world today.

Men's Club Breakfast – A Blast from the Past Sunday, July 25, 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast will include scrambled eggs, lox, bagels, cream cheese, assorted fruit, cheese grits, coffee, juice, and milk. A donation of \$6 is suggested. We will be showing a recorded video from 1998 of Star Trek's Leonard Nimoy visit to Agudath Achim. It's been 23 years since Mr. Spock visited us. Many weren't here but some still remember the day he came to daven with us and tell his story of growing up Jewish in Boston and how being Jewish helped him become one of the most popular Star Trek characters.

Thank You

Thank you to Deena Lachman, Susan Gross, and Rosa Tirado for helping clean and organize the office and classrooms.

From The Ginsburg/Joseph Family
Thank you to all who helped make Ivy's Bat Mitzvah memorable –
Rabbis Sydni, Jana and Feivel; Andy Shehee & Rose Neath for the tents;
Mark Wilson for helping Carnell;
Maureen Lustberg & Karen Gordon for helping weeding the flower beds; Gary Yellen for the pinestraw; Lindy Alberts for helping with the tablecloths; Bob Lachman & Allen Organick for helping with tables & chairs; Elliott Goldman for ushering & welcoming; Jason Brady, Andrew Crawford & their staff for the delicious brown bag lunches; and most of all – everyone who attended either in person or via streaming (and hopefully, we didn't inadvertently omit anyone).



Shabbat Shalom



July Schedule of Readings

Saturday	July 3	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Pinchas</i> Numbers 25:10 - 30:1 Jeremiah 1:1 - 2:3
Saturday	July 10	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Matot-Masei</i> Numbers 30:2 - 36:13 Numbers 28:9 - 15 Jeremiah 2:4 - 28; 3:4
Saturday	July 17	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Devarim</i> Deuteronomy 1:1 - 3:22 Isaiah 1:1 - 27
Saturday	July 24	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Vaetchanan</i> Deuteronomy 3:23 - 7:11 Isaiah 40:1 - 26
Saturday	July 31	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Eikev</i> Deuteronomy 7:12 - 11:25 Isaiah 49:14 - 51:3

North Louisiana Jewish Federation News

**NLJF Annual Meeting
Sunday, August 1st**

How did Federation
weather the pandemic
in 2020? What's new
for 2021-2022?



New partnerships, new programs, new
donations, new members, and so much more!
Learn about it all, ask your questions, and have
your voice heard at this year's Annual Meeting!
This meeting will take place at Agudath Achim,
and is open to all Federation members.

Not a member? Join today! Membership is
available to any Jewish adult (18+) who has
made a donation of \$25 or more to the annual
Federation campaign.



**Next Year in
Jerusalem
Community Trip to
Israel
February 14th - 24th,
2022
Registration is Open!**

Whether this is your
first trip to Israel, or
you'd like to return,

this incredible 10 day trip has been created
with our community in mind.

Spots are limited - reserve yours today!
See the website for more pricing, itinerary,
and general information.

Summer Time is Here!

There is still time to
sign up for Camp
Chai 2021! Make
sure to sign up before
**registration closes on
July 9th!**



This year's dates for
Camp Chai are
**Monday-Friday, July
26th - August 6th, 2021.** Camp Chai is our
annual summer **day camp** for children **ages 3-13.**



**JYC Gala Concert Watch Party
September 12th, 2021
11:30am Watch Party Begins
12:00pm Gala Start Time**

We are proud to be sponsoring this year's JYC
Gala Concert, live from Israel! The Jerusalem
Youth Chorus is a choral and dialogue program
for Palestinian and Israeli youth in Jerusalem. We
will be gathering in-person as a community to
participate in this incredible event together!

"Through pandemic and war, our Israeli and
Palestinian young singers have not stopped
meeting—they have continued engaging in deep
dialogue and writing original songs that lift up
their realities in this time and their dreams for the
future. On September 12th, join us—and special
guest stars—for the world premiere of these songs
and the stories behind them."

For more information visit us at jewishnla.org

July Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Paula Cornelious	July 1	Mark Slutsky	July 15
Cheryl Drazin	July 1	Bernice Lurie	July 18
Alfred Leonard Barrow	July 5	Susan Segall Robison	July 20
Alexander Asra Arnov	July 6	Bridgie Ann LaCour	July 23
Carla Herniter	July 6	Tanisha Henderson	July 25
Barbara Novak	July 8	Randi Shiffman	July 25
Lauren Goodman	July 10	Gina Sheryl Arnold	July 28
Ana Murov	July 10	Judy Leblang	July 29
Jerry Sheehan	July 10	Melissa Gendason	July 30
Debby Dlin	July 14		

Happy Anniversary

Stephen & Patricia Parker	July 3
Janice Epstein	July 27

Sisterhood

As travel opportunities are opening up, I'm reminded of the Burt Bacharach song "Trains and Boats and Planes." However you travel this summer please remember to donate your complimentary toiletries to Project Celebration, donation basket is in our foyer.

Thank you.

Sandra Ginsburg,
Sisterhood President

Oneg Shabbat

September 2021 –
August 2022

Dear Friends,

We are continuing our Oneg Shabbat policy of requesting members to host Onegs during the forthcoming year as this enhances our Congregational Shabbat.

Because of our membership numbers, we request members to host at least two Onegs. Please let us know the dates of your choice for hosting. If you have an anniversary, birthday, Bar/Bat Mitzvah or any other special occasion and would like to host a specific Oneg, please indicate this as well.

Requests will be assigned on a first come basis. **If we do not hear from you by July 30, 2021 we will assign a date for you.**

Please return the completed form below to:
Agudath Achim Attn.: Sisterhood.

If you are providing your own refreshments, these will be in the form of desserts and snacks for an Oneg and a light lunch for Kiddush. We will send Kashrut and food safety information in a follow-up letter.

If you are unable to provide refreshments, your donation of \$36.00 per oneg, \$72 for two, \$108 for three will cover your hosting and the committee will use the money to provide for the Oneg in your name. To sponsor a Kiddush Luncheon, please add an additional \$18 per date. Please make out your check to Sisterhood and enclose with this form. Thank you.

Oneg Shabbat
2021 -2022

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Onegs I would like to host:

Date/Season

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

In Honor/Memory of _____

In Honor/Memory of _____

In Honor/Memory of _____

Community Religious School Director

Rav Kook said: “Man cannot live with intellect alone, nor with emotion alone; intellect and emotion must forever be joined together. If he wishes to burst beyond his own level, he will lose his ability to feel, and his flaws and deficiencies will be myriad despite the strength of his intellect. And needless to say, if he sinks into unmitigated emotion, he will fall to the depths of foolishness, which leads to all weakness and sin. Only the quality of equilibrium, which balances intellect with emotion, can deliver him completely.”
Scholem, Devarim be-Go, 326-327

The keynote speaker at this year’s ISJL Education Conference, Nancy Parkes of JTeachNOW, used the above text to discuss the importance of social, emotional and spiritual learning. Social Emotional Learning, or SEL for short, is a process used in education, as opposed to a separate subject. Nancy focused on two SEL competencies—Self Management and Self Awareness, and gave participants some ideas of ways to integrate these in the Religious School.

Other news from the ISJL Conference included details of their recent strategic plan:

- Education Fellows are now referred to as Program Associates, and we will learn soon who ours is! In the past this person would visit three times during the year, but this year they will not do a summer visit, and will plan for at least one visit for every community, with additional visits prioritized for smaller communities without paid clergy.

- Programs in the ISJL Program Bank will be more accessible, and promoted more often throughout the year.

- Training Videos will be provided for Education Partners.

- Instead of one large in-person conference, there will be “collective enrichment,” several offerings throughout the year. The next one will be August 29 – please see the information below and let me know if you’re interested! You may recognize Dr. Wolfson’s name from his books, including Relational Judaism.

- The Education Department and the Community Engagement Department have merged to become one service area, resulting in the integration of more social justice into the education programs.

In June, I met with each teacher to reflect on the past year and plan for the next one. We are excited to use the ISJL resources as we get ready for 2021-2022.

Please mark your calendars for a kickoff event for all Religious School families on August 29. With September filled with so many holidays, there will be several holiday-themed events on the 12th, 19th and 26th. Please watch your email for details about registration and the holiday programming in September. We will wait until October to begin our regular classroom schedule and Hebrew classes. When classes do begin in October, there may be some trial and error and we resume in person operations. Please communicate any concerns or ideas you have about this! And let me know if you would like to be connected to other families in your area to arrange carpooling.

Happy summer!

Barbara J. Joseph

ISJL PRESENTS

WORKSHOP ON RAISING A+ HUMAN BEINGS

GOLDRING
WOLDENBERG
INSTITUTE OF
SOUTHERN
JEWISH LIFE

Sunday, August 29, 2021

1:00 pm CDT

\$36 per person for ISJL Ed Partners

\$45 per person for General Admission

Registration includes a free copy of the
book shipped to your door!



DR. RON WOLFSON



DR. BRUCE POWELL

Shalom Summer Camp

Monday - Friday

July 19 - 23

9:00

through

2:00

A week of Jewish theater, arts, crafts, music, culture, food, and movement.

Congregation Agudath Achim, 9401 Village Green Dr., Shreveport

Ages 4 - 12 | \$80 per camper, 10% discount for each additional camper, Camperships available by request.

Donations

In Beloved Memory of

Marvin Rubinstein
Betty Organick
Marvin Rubinstein
Pearl & Sam Toys
Marvin Rubinstein
Betty Duprest
Andrew Kawaler
Charles Tebele
Isaac Ain
Ms. Margaret Elizabeth Strain
Sonny Isidore Dyne

In Honor of

Bob Lachman & Allen Organick
David Ginsburg & Curtis Joseph
Elliott Goldman

Biblical Orchard

Barbara & Curtis Joseph
Jennette Ginsburg

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Ellen Soffer & Allen Organick
Barbara & Curtis Joseph

Torah Repair

Alex Rubenstein

General Fund

Norman Witriol

By

Dr. David & Susan Gross
Bob & Rozann Frey
Ellen Soffer & Allen Organick
Peggy Evensky
Marla & Perry Hyman
David & Sandra Ginsburg
Rabbi Foster Kawaler
Sara Tebele
Annemarie Ain
Dr. Thomas Strain
Joan Lurie

By

Barbara & Curtis Joseph
Jennette Ginsburg
Barbara & Curtis Joseph



July Yahrzeits

Week of July 1 - 3

Hannah Nossek
Charles Tebele
Elaine Toys
Tommy Chapell
Solomon Kesilman
Sylvia Muslow
Florence G. Goldberg

Week of July 4 - 10

Sam Rubenstein
Ivan Lustberg
Rose Sachs
Fay Barsky
Shirley Ann Strain-Vaz
Isaac Ain
Lena Meyers
Brian Barrow
Tzipa Rubenstein
Mendel Abramson

Week of July 11 - 17

Sarah Goodman
Alisa Ginsburg
Bertha Kottle
Max Rosenbloom
Jack Flicker
Carolyn Murov
Larry Sussman
Rebecca Temin

Week of July 18 - 24

Clifford Bayer
Rabbi Leo Brener
Barnett Browstein
Larry Freeman
Sonny Isidore Dyne
Hazel Diebner
Clara Canter Fish
Max Schorr
Chashke Wanger
Morris Thirman
Charles Murov
Dr. Raymond Murov
Jerome David Herniter
Morris Beychok
Irving Selber
Sarah Yellen
Nicholas L. Brody
Solomon Rubenstein
Rabbi Charles Mantinband
Sidney Rochelson
Bessie K. Herold

Week of July 25 - 31

Irvin Cohen
Gussye B. Schwartz
Louis Rosen
Carol Ginsburg
Ethel Zelinsky
Daniel Lincove
Nathan Weis
Gussie Zelinsky
Jimmy Rosenbloom
Isadore Saphier

*May Their
Memory
be for a
Blessing*

Condolences

We are saddened to share the passing of:
Olivia Hendricks, great-great niece of Dr. Thomas Strain
Betty Duprest, grandmother of Rebecca Austin

***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.

July 2021

Tamuz - Av 5781

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	New Jewish calendars are available in the office and the foyer for 2021-2022/5781-5782.			1 Tamuz 21	2 Tamuz 22 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Candle Lighting 8:07 pm	3 Tamuz 23 Parshat Pinchas Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am Kids' Shabbat Shindig 11:00 am Candle Lighting 9:07 pm
4 Tamuz 24	5 Tamuz 25 Office Closed	6 Tamuz 26 Exploring Judaism 7:00 pm	7 Tamuz 27	8 Tamuz 28	9 Tamuz 29 Registration Deadline for Camp Chai Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Candle Lighting 8:06 pm	10 Av 1 Parshat Matot-Masei Rosh Chodesh Av Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am Havdalah 9:15 pm
11 Av 2 Rosh Chodesh Av Tisha B'Av in Mosaic - Part 1 11:00 am	12 Av 3 July Board Meeting 7:00 pm	13 Av 4 Hodesh Hadash - Women's Learning 11:00 am Exploring Judaism 7:00 pm	14 Av 5	15 Av 6	16 Av 7 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Candle Lighting 8:03 pm	17 Av 8 Parshat Devarim Erev Tish'a B'Av Shabbat Chazon Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am Tisha B'Av in Mosaic - Part 2 8:00pm Shabbat Havdalah 9:03 pm
18 Av 9 Tish'a B'Av Fast of Tish'a B'Av Tisha B'Av in Mosaic - Part 3 10:00 am Tish'a B'Av Havdalah 9:12 pm	19 Av 10 Camp Shalom 9:00 am	20 Av 11 Camp Shalom 9:00 am	21 Av 12 Camp Shalom 9:00 am	22 Av 13 Camp Shalom 9:00 am	23 Av 14 Camp Shalom 9:00 am Candle Lighting 7:59 pm	24 Av 15 Parshat Vaetchanan Shabbat Nachamu Tu B'Av Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am Havdalah 8:59 pm
25 Av 16 Men's Club Breakfast 9:00 am	26 Av 17 Camp Chai 9:00 am	27 Av 18 Camp Chai 9:00 am	28 Av 19 Camp Chai 9:00 am	29 Av 20 Camp Chai 9:00 am	30 Av 21 Camp Chai 9:00 am Kabbalat Shabbat - Ask the Rabbi 7:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:54 pm	31 Av 22 Parshat Eikev Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am Havdalah 8:54 pm



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Congregation Agudath Achim

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