



Agudath Achim
Shreveport
Est. 1902

9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA. 71115

Sivan - Tamuz 5781

June 2021

The Shul Shpiel

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.

Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein
rabbi@agudathshreveport.com

Robert Lachman, President
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afbob49@gmail.com

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Website: agudathshreveport.com

Phone: (318) 797-6401

Shabbat Services:

Friday evening services
in-person at 7:30 pm

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

Executive Message

On completing my first year as your President I've truly learned quite a few things about Judaism, keeping a small congregation running, and a bit about working as a human resources person. I have sincerely tried to be a transparent leader when it comes to our synagogue's finances and bringing important issues to the attention of all our members. While this past year has been educational, I hope my second year is a bit easier.

During this past year we have had to hold services online, have board meetings and classes on Zoom, discontinue in-person services twice due to CDC guidelines and then again as members became infected—including myself. Fortunately, nobody in our congregation became seriously ill from Covid. I thank everyone for being mask compliant and maintaining social distancing upon resuming our weekly services and when being in the building for whatever reasons. I truly believe adhering to these rules has kept us safer. Here we are a year later with added protection from vaccines that are working and getting us back to living with some normalcy again. We still have a way to go. I'd like to recommend to anybody who is still holding out on getting a vaccine to please get your shot.

And now a brief review of this past year. To begin with, we had to find a replacement office manager with hardly any notice and were lucky enough to find Michelle Brooks. In my opinion, she's been the best office manager we have had since Deena and I moved to Shreveport over 26 years ago. Our Treasurer, Allen Organick, recognized that we were in a difficult position with just one person in the front office responsible for both financial

transactions and administrative duties. Based on his recommendation, we split the financial responsibilities between our office manager, Michelle Brooks, and our CPA, Laura Huff. This arrangement makes us much less vulnerable to payroll and other financial transactions problems. It also allows Michelle to focus on administrative work. This is also one reason we are incorporating ShulCloud (more on that later). Since Michelle and her family are moving to New York at the beginning of August, we hope to get her replacement started by June 14th to permit adequate training of her successor.

Rabbi Sydni has already been with us for two years and has one more year on her current contract. She has asked to stay on with us. I think we can all agree this is wonderful news. I'll be looking for some help from the executive members to draw up a renewal contract for her very soon. During this past year we reduced Carnell's work hours to 32 hours per week since we have stopped having Onegs during the pandemic and there is less use of the kitchen in general. Hopefully, we will be returning to normalcy soon, so Carnell can return to his accustomed role.

As I am writing this, Michelle is building the member database on ShulCloud, our new software that will enable people to update their personal info quickly, pay dues online and keep accurate track of donations. This software will also provide us with an electronic Jewish community directory, keep track of yahrzeits, email other members easily, and send mass e-mail notices to everyone. This will make the jobs of both our Office Manager and Rabbi much easier. I want to mention our newest Committee led by Rabbi Feivel—The Garden/Pergola Committee. Thank you to Jennette Ginsburg for spearheading our project and buying the trees to make it happen. I take my hat off to members of this committee who worked very hard designing and arranging

Executive Message

construction of the pergola. Their work has materialized into a beautiful structure! Another benefit of this will be its dual use as a Sukkah. I should say that before Rabbi Feivel formed the committee, virtually no progress had been made. But it shows how our members can work together to get a project such as this accomplished. I encourage congregants who are sitting on the sidelines to become more involved in YOUR synagogue. We have had a few dedicated members who have carried the torch for dozens of years. We need new people to get involved in more than just coming to services.

Finally, during the past several months a new security camera system has been installed in the Shul, which was paid for with a grant from Homeland security. For this, we can thank David Ginsburg and David Brainis. The Homeland Security grant will also provide funds for new steel doors that will make both our building and ourselves more secure.

So, it's been a year with many changes. I think mostly for the better, at least operationally. Would we have ever started streaming services without Covid? Probably not. But streaming has allowed members who live far from Shreveport to attend services. Some of these folks have occasionally sent in donations. Going forward, our biggest problem lies in increasing our membership. I should point out that we have had some new families join our congregation and I'd like to thank them. On a somber note, we are losing some of our stalwart members. The Luries are leaving us this summer to enjoy retirement and be near their grandkids in San Francisco. The Zweigs are also planning to move sometime in the future to Fort Worth and New

York City, and for the same reasons. Both families have been very involved in Agudath Achim for decades, and both Aubrey and Richard are past Presidents. We will miss them very much. Looking towards the future, I remain optimistic and, in fact, believe things will only get better. We have three more Bat Mitzvahs coming up in the next few years: Naomi Austin, Sophia Padin, and Cadence Dodson. Our Rabbi is committed to staying with us. As Covid becomes less and less a health factor, we can look forward to having meals and Onegs together again. Kids are going back to our camp: Camp Shalom. Lots of positive stuff happening. Stay tuned.

Bob Lachman,
Agudath Achim, President

The New Agudath Achim Garden Pergola



Message from Rabbi Sydni

Grow Your Daily Prayer Practice

Traditional Jewish prayer extends far beyond Shabbat and holidays! We have prayers for before and after meals, when we hear good and bad news, and after we use the restroom. We have a full prayer service structure for morning, afternoon, and evening, each and every day. Our liturgy is expansive, but often, can seem a bit overwhelming.

If you're looking to expand your daily prayer practice, I find that the easiest place to start is with blessings before meals and snacks. When we say different words of gratitude for different kinds of food - fruits, vegetables, bread, cakes and crackers, and other - we have the chance to be more observant about what goes into our bodies and where it comes from.

The next step to expanding prayer can be simple. Try reciting the Sh'ma morning and evening, as it is written, "when you lie down and when you rise up." If you have a siddur or Tanakh at home, you can even add the V'ahavta (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), along with Deuteronomy 11:13-21, and Numbers 15:37-41. Then, you can take a few minutes to talk to the God you just identified as ours, as one, and as an object of love.

One further step before fully diving into the daily liturgy can be setting aside time in the morning, afternoon, and evening (or even just one or two times a day) to recite the Amidah. As the traditional weekday Amidah liturgy is structured around praise, requests, and gratitude, a spontaneous Amidah can start with three personal statements to God - first, something you notice that's awe-inspiring; second, something you want or need in life; and third,

something for which you're grateful. Even if and when you dive into the full written Amidah, you can add those spontaneous statements of praise, request, and gratitude whenever the liturgy inspires personal reflection.

Daily prayer reminds us of our constant Jewishness and our constant connection to God, not just on Fridays or Saturdays. It gives us moments throughout the day to focus on our values, our goals, and our gratitude for the Creation of which we are privileged to be a part.

Here are some suggestions for siddurim to purchase for home:

Koren Ani Tefilah is a Modern Orthodox prayer book that was originally written for high school students. It's also great for adults who are jumping into prayer. Shabbat and weekday siddurim are sold separately, and there is no siddur for holidays. As it's Modern Orthodox, a couple of lines are a little different than we would say at Agudath Achim, usually having to do with gender or Jewish chosenness.

Koren Shalem is a Modern Orthodox prayer book with a beautiful commentary by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. It comes in different colors and sizes, and it covers weekdays, Shabbat, and all holidays except for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. I've been using this siddur every day since I started a regular prayer practice in 2012.

Siddur Eit Ratzon is a Conservative-style prayer book with a lovely translation and commentary. Its most unique feature is that all of its Hebrew is transliterated. This is the most expensive siddur on our list.

Siddur Sim Shalom is our standard, every-day Conservative prayer book. We use a version of this siddur on Shabbat at Agudath Achim.

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

Kids' Shabbat Shindig

Saturday, June 5, 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 Shalem

Friday, June 4, 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 Sydney.

Ask the Rabbi Shabbat

Friday, June 25, 7:30 p.m.

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

Learner's Morning Minyan

Sundays, June 6, 20, 27, 10:00 a.m.

Beginning on three Sunday mornings in June, we'll daven (pray) together in a weekday minyan, with lots of explanation. We'll go through the choreography, meaning, and structure of the service. We'll also learn how to apply our group prayer to our at-home practice.

Limudim - Learning

613? Relevant? Commandments

Thursdays, June 3, 17, 24, Zoom Only

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?

Hodesh Hadash Women's Learning

Tuesday, June 15, 11:00 a.m.

At this month's session, we'll discuss what social and moral issues we would like to cover in coming meetings. Please bring articles or topics about which you want to learn from a Jewish perspective. Rabbi Sydney will also make space to talk about current events in Israel.

Prayer and Learning

Exploring Judaism (Updated Schedule)

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

June 1 - From Birth to B'nei Mitzvah: Raising a Mensch

Between the bris and the bar or bat mitzvah, a lot goes into raising a Jewish child. In this class, we'll discuss the joys and oys of Jewish parenting.

No Class June 8

June 15 - A Time to Mourn: Traditions for Death, Grief, and Healing

Judaism teaches us to approach life's hardest moments with compassion and community. In this class, we'll explore the sacred practices that help us navigate grief and heartache, and move from sadness to renewed life.

June 22 - Out of the Darkness: Stories from the Holocaust

The Holocaust is the darkest chapter of Jewish history, a time of unimaginable suffering and sorrow. In this class, we'll examine the history, hear testimony, and recommit to building a world in which, someday, such horrors will be impossible.

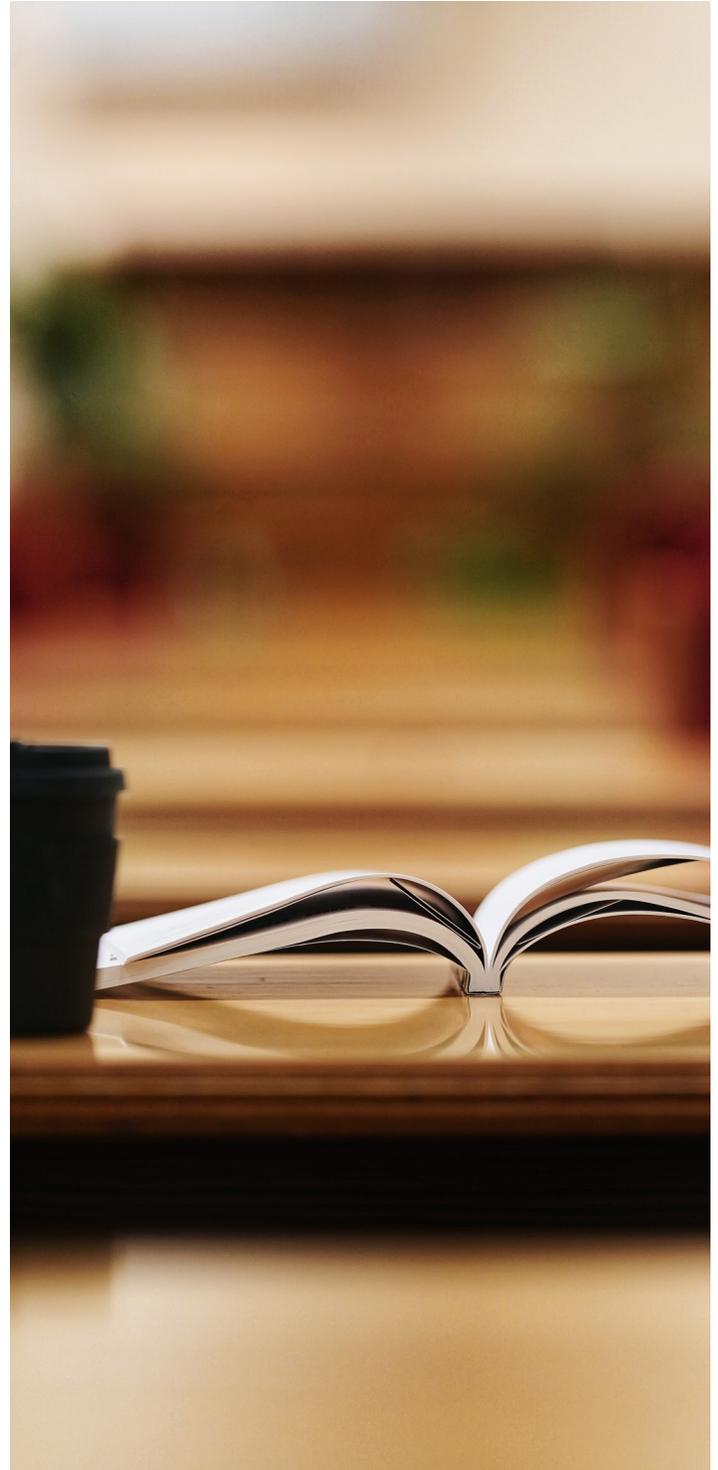
In preparation for this class, please read a memoir or watch a movie or documentary of your choice that recalls memories from the Holocaust.

June 29 - Israel: Dreaming of Deliverance

From the beaches of Tel Aviv to Jerusalem's "Western Wall," and from the sands of the Negev

Desert to the snowy peaks and vineyards of the Golan, in this class, we'll explore the complicated and beautiful story of the re-birth of the Jewish State.

Along with exploration of Israel's past this will be a safe space for constructive disagreement about Israel's present and future.



Shabbat Shalom



June Schedule of Readings

Saturday	June 5	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Shelach</i> Numbers 13:1 - 15:41 Joshua 2:1 - 24
Saturday	June 12	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Korach</i> Numbers 16:1 - 18:32 1 Samuel 11:14 - 12:22
Saturday	June 19	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Chukat</i> Numbers 19:1 - 22:1 Judges 11:1 - 22:1
Sunday	June 26	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Balak</i> Numbers 22:2 - 25:9 Micah 5:6 - 6:8

June Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Randy Campbell	June 3	Michael Diebner	June 20
James Dicken	June 4	Janice Epstein	June 24
Rebecca Shreiar	June 6	Kevin Marrus	June 24
Milena Murov	June 10	Stephen Parker	June 24
Lewis Reisman	June 10	Eric Kawaler	June 28
Orlando Henderson	June 13	Joshea Roubein	June 28
Caleb Joseph	June 16	Alexander Bayer	June 29
Aaron Sheehan	June 16	Jacob Donaldson	June 29
Sarah Feoli	June 18		

Happy Anniversary

Bruce & Carla Herniter	June 2
Bob & Deena Lachman	June 5
Howard & Charlotte Silberman	June 6
Richard & Harriet Dechowitz	June 7

Sisterhood

The bulletin will have been put together before the annual meeting. So, as of this writing, the date for resuming onegs is not certain. Assuming sometime this summer, oneg request letters will go out very soon. If you paid for an oneg before the Covid shutdown, we still have that information and will honor those requests. If you haven't already paid your dues, please do so as there will probably be a wish list for when we get back in the kitchen.

If you have any suggestions for Sisterhood programs, please advise me. Lots of volunteer opportunities! As always, thank you for supporting Sisterhood via Kroger Community Rewards and for your toiletry contributions for Project Celebration, Inc.

Sandra Ginsburg,
Sisterhood President

Donations

In Beloved Memory of

Betty Organick
Betty Organick
Betty Organick
Betty Organick
Louis Lobel
Sylvia Dyne
Betty Organick
Marvin Rubinstein
Betty Organick
Mildren Rubin
Marvin Rubinstein
Marvin Rubinstein

By

Dr. David & Susan Gross
Steve & Patti Parker
Alex Rubenstein
Tammy & Paul Willson
Bernard & Dorothy Lobel
Dr. Aubrey & Joan Lurie
Larry & Lory Evensky
Laura Huff
Berte Muslow
Rabbi Foster & Vivian Kawaler
David & Sandra Ginsburg
Dr. Karen & Bob Gordon

In Honor of

Dr. Aubrey and Joan Lurie's grandson, Matthew Sklar's, graduation from Georgia Tech.

Ivy Joseph's Bat Mitzvah

By

Dr. Aubrey & Joan Lurie

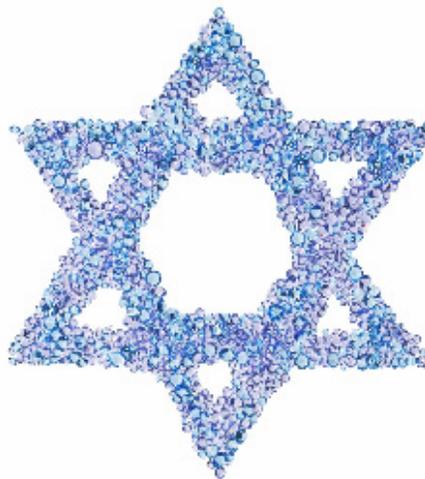
David & Sandra Ginsburg

Biblical Orchard

David & Sandra Ginsburg

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Leo Levanthal



June Yahrzeits

Week of June 1 - 5

Harry Wilson
Irving Schwartz
Anna Feurstein
Louis Sugar
Lillian Edith Williams
Jerome Ross
Ernest Saphier
Morris Strausman
Henie Miller

Week of June 6 - 12

Harry Brandt
Samuel Laventhal
Barney Siegel
Edith Gardsbane
Donald Belen
Kurt Braun
Azela Helbach
Joe Barsky
Louis Lobel
Mayer Lazer Offer

Week of June 13 - 19

Goldie Schwitzer
Maurice Scheinberg
Bud Harmon Shiffman
Brian Shiffman
Sam Dechowitz
Andrew Kawaler
Solomon Abramson
Norman Dlin
Moshe Margulis

Week of June 20 - 26

Libby Chapman
Herman Goldenberg
Emanuel James Robinson
Esther Malka Offer
Anna Kest Mantinband
Celia Falk
Rose Van Thyn
Alte Karshe Blum
Mary Gold Kesilman
Vivian Leblang

Week of June 27 - 30

Samuel Meltzer
Margaret Elizabeth Strain
George Ablon
Freda Williams
Lottie P. Ginsburg
Harry Lipson

*May Their
Memory
be for a
Blessing*

Condolences

We are saddened to share the passing of Marvin Rubinstein.

HaMakom y'nahem etkhem b'tokh sha'ar aveilei Tzion virushalayim.
May the Omnipresent bring comfort to his family and friends among all the mourners
of Zion and Jerusalem.

June 2021

Sivan - Tamuz 5781

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Sivan 21 Exploring Judaism 7 pm	2 Sivan 22	3 Sivan 23 613? Relevant? Commandments Zoom - 7 pm	4 Sivan 24 Kabbalat Shabbat @ Agudath Achim 7:30 pm Candle Lighting 8:00 pm	5 Sivan 25 Parshat Sh'lach Shabbat Shahrith 10 am Kids Shabbat Shindig 11 am Candle Lighting 9:00 pm
6 Sivan 26 Learner's Morning Minyan 10:00	7 Sivan 27	8 Sivan 28	9 Sivan 29	10 Sivan 30 Rosh Chodesh Tamuz	11 Tamuz 1 Rosh Chodesh Tamuz Kabbalat Shabbat @ Agudath Achim 7:30 pm Candle Lighting 8:03 pm	12 Tamuz 2 Parshat Korach Shabbat Shahrith 10 am Havdalah 9:04 pm
13 Tamuz 3	14 Tamuz 4	15 Tamuz 5 Hodesh Hadash Women's Learning 11 am Exploring Judaism 7 pm	16 Tamuz 6	17 Tamuz 7 613? Relevant? Commandments Zoom - 7 pm	18 Tamuz 8 Kabbalat Shabbat @ Agudath Achim 7:30 pm Candle Lighting 8:05 pm	19 Tamuz 9 Parshat Chukat Shabbat Shahrith 10 am Havdalah 9:06 pm
20 Tamuz 10 Learner's Morning Minyan 10:00	21 Tamuz 11	22 Tamuz 12 Exploring Judaism 7 pm	23 Tamuz 13	24 Tamuz 14 613? Relevant? Commandments Zoom - 7 pm	25 Tamuz 15 Kabbalat Shabbat @ Agudath Achim 7:30 pm Candle Lighting 8:07 pm	26 Tamuz 16 Parshat Balak Shabbat Shahrith 10 am Havdalah 9:07 pm
27 Tamuz 17 Tzom Tamuz Learner's Morning Minyan 10:00	28 Tamuz 18	29 Tamuz 19 Exploring Judaism 7 pm	30 Tamuz 20			



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