



Agudath Achim
Shreveport
Est. 1902

9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA. 71115

Iyar - Sivan 5781

May 2021

The Shul Shpiel



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein
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Shabbat Services:

Friday evening services
in-person—masked & social
distanced— at 7:30 pm

Saturday morning services
streaming & in-person—
masked and social
distanced—at 10:00 am

Executive Message

The season of learning is upon us. In May we celebrate Tikkun Leil Shavuot, the all-night study of Torah. What a great way to celebrate learning. This month is doubly celebratory for learning because we have the bat mitzvah of Ivy Joseph. She will demonstrate all that she has learned to become a Jewish adult. During this pandemic Ivy has studied in isolation and so we have not been able to see her grow in her studies, as much as we usually do, before a bat/bar mitzvah. I know she will dazzle us as we celebrate her wonderful accomplishments. I feel like Ivy will be showcased like a lily that pops up suddenly to produce a stunning flower. It seems magical when it happens, but you don't see all the energy that has been working underground to produce the magical display.

Congratulations to Ivy for helping to make learning possible for others as well. She has taken on a great bat mitzvah project to increase learning opportunities for others. Her project is to help with early childhood education through fundraising for the Community Foundation of North Louisiana's Early Childhood Education Fund. This project lets us know that she feels learning is important for all people. The future will be blessed if she chooses to carry on this theme throughout her life, which I believe she will.

As an educator myself, it warms my heart to see such a project acknowledge the fact that education should be shared with all people. I hope all of us in this community will be able to learn something new this season and reflect on our tradition of study and learning that the Jewish people hold so sacred.

I want to highlight one of Ivy's contributions to our community. She and her family have motivated us to put up a pergola that we have long wanted. This pergola will be used for multiple uses throughout the years. It will add beauty and utility to our congregation. I will be so excited to see it finished in time for her bat mitzvah.

Being a bat mitzvah means you are an adult in the eyes of Jewish law, and you are in charge of your Jewish learning. There is so much to learn Ivy; keep going—it will be a lifetime reward.

Deena Lachman,

Executive Board Secretary

Additionally: We hope for a large turnout; however, due to COVID, the Joseph family requests that you contact them or Rabbi Sydni so that they can plan accordingly for seating safety and other COVID precautions. You are also welcome to attend virtually through live streaming. Contacts are bjoseph318@gmail.com or rabbi@agudathshreveport.com



Message from Rabbi Sydni

Love and Awe of Shavuot

On Shavuot, we reenact the love and awe our ancestors experienced at the foot of Mount Sinai, hearing words of Torah for the very first time. Along with words of Torah, the people Israel experience thunder, lightning, and terrifyingly loud noises, and they tremble in fear. They're so frightened towards the end of their initial Sinai experience that they tell Moses that they'll do whatever God commands, but just don't let God come anywhere near them!

While it may seem counterintuitive to celebrate a moment in our collective memory so fueled by fear, I'm reminded of some of the reasons people join Jewish communities like ours. We come here to find comfort in Torah and each other when life is loud and bright and overwhelming. We come here to learn how to use our Torah to fight back against the fear generated by modern society and by the every-day pressures of human life. In a rabbinical school class about building sacred community, a rabbi of a vibrant Los Angeles synagogue advised us to ask our future congregants, "What keeps you up at night?" In order to figure out what our communities need to succeed, she taught, we need to know what the individuals in the community worry about, both to combat that worry and to provide shelter from it. With friends, music, and concrete values and laws amongst the chaos of the secular world, Jewish community can be a strong ally in the face of fear.

At the same time, throughout that same holiday during which we read the account of trembling at Sinai, we pray in a joyful musical mode. We eat cheesecake to show how sweet it is to study

Torah all night long. Rabbi Sharon Brous, who advised us to ask congregants what worries them, also advised us to ask, "What wakes you up in the morning?" What gets the Jews among us excited to live life? We are a tradition that holds love of God, ahavat Hashem, hand in hand with that fear, with yirat Hashem. Our ancestors chose to take on this tradition that balances excitement and fear and requires an embrace of both. As we continue to grow as Jews, both in the Agudath Achim community and out in the world, how can we infuse the greatest joys in our life with the Jewish tradition? And of course, in times of great fear, how can we use Judaism as a way to survive and thrive?

Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein

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, 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, May 1, 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, May 7, 7:30 p.m.

Beginning May 7, on the first Friday of each month, we'll sing 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.

Shavuot Shaharit 5781

Monday, May 17, 10:00 a.m.

On Shavuot morning, we'll sing Hallel, explore the book of Ruth, read from the Torah, and comfort each other during Yizkor. Please join us for our service on the first day of Shavuot.

Ivy Joseph's Bat Mitzvah

Friday, May 28, 6:00 p.m., at B'nai Zion

Saturday, May 29, 9:30 a.m., at Agudath Achim

Celebrate Ivy Joseph's Bat Mitzvah with the entire Shreveport Jewish community, at B'nai Zion on Friday night and Agudath Achim on Saturday morning. Due to COVID, the Joseph family requests that anyone planning to attend Agudath Achim's service in person please email them (bjoseph318@gmail.com) or Rabbi Sydni (rabbi@agudathshreveport.com) **by May 21** so that they can plan accordingly. The Joseph family is grateful for live streaming at both synagogues and for those who choose to attend virtually.

Limudim - Learning

Learn From the Experts: A Shavuot Celebration

Sunday, May 16, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

To bring in Shavuot, we'll celebrate the giving of the Torah with learning each other's Torah. If you are an expert at anything - medicine, baking, gardening, or a favorite Jewish text, you are invited to give a 15 minute presentation on the topic of your choice. And of course, feel free to share how your expertise and your Judaism affect one another. We will also join together in an evening service, led by Caleb Joseph. While you are welcome to stay for the full three hours, you may come and go at any time during our learning.

Prayer and Learning

613? Relevant? Commandments

Thursdays, May 6, 13, 20, 7:00 p.m., **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, May 25, 11:00 a.m.

Topic TBD

Exploring Judaism

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

May 4 - Mid-Term Review and the Jewish Middle Ages

In this class, we'll meet some of the most colorful and important characters in Jewish history: From the mystics who probed the hidden world of Kabbalah to the Sultan's physician who taught that science and religion could be reconciled and the French winemaker who forever revolutionized Jewish study.

May 11 - Love, Marriage, and Kosher Sex

Does God belong in the bedroom? How about under the wedding canopy? In this class, we'll learn what Judaism has to say about love, marriage, and intimacy.

No class on May 18.

May 25 - 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.



Congregational Meeting

May 30th - in person at
Agudath Achim

2:00 pm - Board Members

3:00 pm - Congregation Members

Shabbat Shalom



May Schedule of Readings

Saturday	May 1	Torah Reading Haftarah	Emor Leviticus 21:1 - 24:23 Ezekiel 44:15 - 31
Saturday	May 8	Torah Reading Haftarah	Behar/Bechukotai Leviticus 25:1 - 27:34 Jeremiah 16:19 - 17:14
Saturday	May 15	Torah Reading Haftarah	Bamidbar Numbers 1:1 - 4:20 Hosea 2:1 - 22
Sunday	May 16	Torah Reading Haftarah	Shavuot Day 1 Exodus 19:1 - 20:22 Numbers 28:26 - 31 Ezekiel 1:1 - 28; 3:12
Saturday	May 22	Torah Reading Haftarah	Nasso Numbers 4:21 - 7:89 Judges 13:2 - 25
Saturday	May 29	Torah Reading Haftarah	Beha'alotecha Numbers 8:1 - 12:16 Zechariah 2:14 - 4:7

North Louisiana Jewish Federation News

May 2021 Summer is Here!

Thank you so much for supporting our April Programming. We hope you enjoyed some of the Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) celebrations online. Of course, there's no better way to celebrate Israel than by visiting! Check out more information about our Community Trip to Israel below along with some other great summer programming headed your way.

Get Ready for These Amazing Programs



This year's dates for Camp Chai are M-F July 26th - August 6th, 2021

Camp Chai is our annual summer day camp for children ages 3-13. Registration coming soon, check out our website for more details.

NOW HIRING CAMP TZEVEET (STAFF)!

The tzevet (staff) at Camp Chai is the heart and soul of our program. All tzevet(staff) members are carefully selected for their maturity, creativity, and sense of responsibility. All are required

to attend a pre-camp training and orientation program. Our tzevet (staff) participate with a variety of backgrounds. While we are a Jewish summer camp, our tzevet (staff) are not required to be Jewish themselves. However, all must be willing to learn a little (or a little more) about Judaism throughout their camp experience, and be comfortable in a room where t'filah (Jewish prayer) is being offered. If this description sounds like it matches you, consider joining us this summer!

This year we have three different types of positions available:

Menahel/et (Director) - Age 21+

Madrichim (Counselors) - Ages 14-21

Mumchim (Specialists) - Ages 14+

Each position comes with training, a competitive salary, and a chance to make a difference in the lives of the Jewish youth of North Louisiana!

Apply today!



BaShanah Haba'ah Birushalayim!

Next Year in Jerusalem!

We hope you'll join us as the North Louisiana Jewish Community heads to Israel! Whether this is your first trip to Israel, or you'd like to return, this incredible 10 day trip (February 14th - 24th, 2022) has been created with our community in mind.

More than 20 people have already let us know they are interested in joining. This trip will fill up, so let us know today if you'd like to learn more!

North Louisiana Jewish Federation News

The cost of the trip includes:

2 Nights accommodation at Kibbutz Hagoshrim
Guest House

6 Nights accommodation at the Dan Panorama
Hotel, Jerusalem

2 Nights accommodation at the Renaissance
Hotel, Tel Aviv

Full Israeli breakfast daily the hotels, plus 5
dinners and 3 lunches (many lunches and dinners
you are free to eat where you'd like).

10 days with an English-speaking private tour
guide

Transportation in a luxury bus during the 10-days
(excluding Shabbat)

Transfer from Tel Aviv to Ben Gurion Airport on
the day of departure

Entrance fees on all activities based on the
itinerary

Bottles of water, daily (to keep you hydrated)

Porterage at all hotels

Flight NOT included

Other Community Programs



Annual ISJL Education Conference Sunday, June 13th - FREE

Nancy Parkes will be giving the keynote address
on Social Emotional Learning at 10:10am central
on Sunday, June 13.

The greatest benefit of an online conference
is how easy it is for even more folks to attend,
joining in as we support, connect, and celebrate
Jewish life and learning!



Many other organizations, including our
wonderful local congregations are constantly
putting on new and exciting programs for the
greater community. You can visit any of their
websites, or take a look at our community
calendar where we try to highlight some of these
incredible programs.

For more information, visit us at jewishnla.org

May Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Alexander Murov	May 2	Nora Serkin	May 16
Michelle Brooks	May 3	Ivy Joseph	May 19
Justin Dodson	May 5	Wendy D. Imany	May 22
Richard Murov	May 6	Rabbi Feivel Ya'akov Rubinstein	May 23
LaCoura Danielle Ivory	May 8	Sofya Rubinchik	May 23
Kim Cornelious Wynn	May 8	Jeffrey Leblang	May 26
Dr. Faye Serkin	May 12	Lisa B. Dayan	May 27
Amia Henderson	May 14	Naomi Alexandria Austin	May 28
David Schwartz	May 14	Yosef Henderson	May 28
Moriah Herniter	May 15	Bruce Herniter	May 30

Happy Anniversary

Carolyn & Jerry Sheehan	May 1
Rabbi Foster & Vivian Kawaler	May 24
James & Kari Dicken	May 28

Sisterhood

Oneg's are coming back! 😊 But we really don't know when. 😞 When they do, they will be different due to abundance of caution. Initially we would like to have a list of persons available to host on short notice. Your cakes, cupcakes, brownies/fudge and cooking—in single-serve packaging—either by you or Carnell. (At this time NO punch, chips, or dip.)

As travel opportunities are opening up, please remember to bring your toiletries to synagogue—basket in the foyer for Project Celebration's domestic violence shelters. If you are still cleaning out closets, they are also accepting gently used and clean clothing for women and children. Call me or their office at 221-8003 for drop-off information.
Shalom,

Sandra Ginsburg,
Sisterhood President

Community Religious School Director

After a year of Religious School classes primarily over Zoom, it was wonderful to be back in person starting April 11. With the support of the ISJL, our curriculum for each class was maintained whether we met virtually or in person. Kindergarten focused on holidays, and the first and second grade covered holidays and mitzvot. Third and fourth dove into stories from the Torah, while fifth and sixth covered life cycle events and Israel and the seventh grade studied the Holocaust. Thank you to the teachers for their continued creativity and commitment, as well as enthusiasm.

Best of luck to madricha Sophie Wiener as she graduates from high school, and safe travels to the Brooks family as they prepare for their move this summer. We will miss all of you!

Barbara G. Joseph





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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 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)



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.**

Donations

In Beloved Memory of

Maxine Levine
Paul Greenberg
Nathan Carrol
Maxine Levine
Betty Organick
Betty Organick
Betty Organick
Betty Organick
Betty Organick
Betty Organick
Betty Organick
Betty Organick
Betty Organick
Wolf Gelikman
Matilde Hemsani

By

Tammy Willson
Tammy Greenberg Duple
Sam Carroll
Dr. Richard & Sara Zweig
Geraldine Zelinsky
Dorothy & Bernard Lobel
Dr. Aubrey & Joan Lurie
Jody Levine
Richard & Harriet Dechowitz
David & Sandra Ginsburg
Laura Huff
Richard & Sara Zweig
Rachel & Reuben Cristol
Gary, Harvey, & Marla Yellen
Annemarie Ain
Sara Tebele

In Honor of

Ivy Joseph's Bat Mitzvah

By

Gary, Harvey, & Marla Yellen

Biblical Orchard

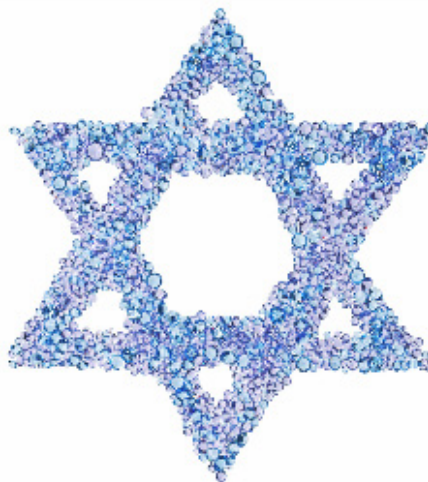
Rosa Tirado

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Charles Weaver
David & Sandra Ginsburg
Richard & Sara Zweig

General Fund

Doug Stegall



May Yahrzeits

Week of May 1 - 8

Nossen Nathan Shapiro
Robert L. Diebner
Lynne Goldberg
Eva Rubenstein
Joe Anisman
Frieda Kottle
Abraham Shepsel Lieber
Herbert Diebner
Sylvia Goldstein Rubenstein
Jake Chapman
Edith G. Benson

Week of May 9 - 15

Abe Diebner
Nathan Meisel
Sarah Kottle Wilson
Freeda Wanger Ritman
Hannah Gilinsky
Mayme Selber
Harry Muslow
Mildred Rubin
Samuel J. Sugar
Nathan Fox
Mildred Werner
Alec Michel Rosen
Jared C. Simmons

Week of May 16 - 22

Norma Safren Waltman
Sylvia Dyne
Ida Eisen Kutcher
Abe J. Katz
Miles Sugar
Ronald Bruce Grossman
Steven Harris Slutsky
Matilde Hemsani
Ida F. Levine
Herta Saphier

Week of May 23 - 29

Philip Lieber
Zelig Wanger
Wolf Gelikman
Ely Kaminsky
Sarah Witriol
Nathan Kottle
Rubin Shavin

Week of May 30 - 31

Libby Abramson
Jacob Ober
H. Leo Greengus

*May Their
Memory
be for a
Blessing*

May 2021

Iyar - Sivan 5781

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Iyar 19 Omer - Day 34 Parshat Emor Shabbat Shahrith 10 am Kids Shabbat Shindig 11 am Candle Lighting 8:38 pm
2 Iyar 20 Omer - Day 35	3 Iyar 21 Omer - Day 36	4 Iyar 22 Omer - Day 37 Exploring Judaism 7 pm	5 Iyar 23 Omer - Day 38	6 Iyar 24 Omer - Day 39 613? Relevant? Commandments Zoom - 7 pm	7 Iyar 25 Omer - Day 40 Kabbalat Shabbat @ Agudath Achim 7:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:42 pm	8 Iyar 26 Omer - Day 41 Parshat Behar- Bechukotai Shabbat Shahrith 10 am Havdalah 8:43 pm
9 Iyar 27 Omer - Day 42	10 Iyar 28 Omer - Day 43 Yom Yerushalayim	11 Iyar 29 Omer - Day 44 Exploring Judaism 7 pm	12 Sivan 1 Omer - Day 45 Rosh Chodesh Sivan	13 Sivan 2 Omer - Day 46 613? Relevant? Commandments Zoom - 7 pm	14 Sivan 3 Omer - Day 47 Confirmation @ Bnai Zion 6 pm Kabbalat Shabbat @ Agudath Achim 7:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:47 pm	15 Sivan 4 Omer - Day 48 Parshat Bamidbar Shabbat Shahrith 10 am Havdalah 8:48 pm
16 Sivan 5 Omer - Day 49 Erev Shavuot Learn from the Experts - A Shavuot Celebration 7pm Candle Lighting 7:48 pm	17 Sivan 6 Omer - Day 50 Shavuot I Shavuot 1 Shahrith 10 am Candle Lighting 8:49 pm	18 Sivan 7 Omer - Day 51 Shavuot II Havdalah 8:50 pm	19 Sivan 8	20 Sivan 9 613? Relevant? Commandments Zoom - 7 pm	21 Sivan 10 Kabbalat Shabbat @ Agudath Achim 7:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:52 pm	22 Sivan 11 Parshat Nasso Shabbat Shahrith 10 am Havdalah 8:52 pm
23 Sivan 12	24 Sivan 13	25 Sivan 14 Hodesh Hadash Women's Learning 11 am Exploring Judaism 7 pm	26 Sivan 15	27 Sivan 16	28 Sivan 17 Ivy Joseph Bat Mitzvah @ Bnai Zion 6 pm Candle Lighting 7:56 pm	29 Sivan 17 Parshat Beha'alotcha Ivy Joseph Bat Mitzvah @ Agudath Achim 9:30 am Havdalah 8:57 pm
30 Sivan 19 Board Meeting 2 pm Annual Meeting 3 pm	31 Sivan 20					



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