



Agudath Achim
Shreveport
Est. 1902

9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA. 71115

Cheshvan - Kislev 5782

November 2021

The Shul Shpiel



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein
rabbi@agudathshreveport.com

Robert Lachman, President
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Website: agudathshreveport.com

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

[https://www.agudathshreveport.com/
live-stream](https://www.agudathshreveport.com/live-stream)

Executive Message

Dear Fellow Congregants,

I should title my message this month 'The Exodus.' We are losing so many highly engaged, committed members at one time, it is both alarming and sad. These are people who welcomed my family and me here 22 years ago when I was first stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base. Congregation Agudath Achim has always been a welcoming Jewish community—one of the warmest I've experienced while living in many places over a long career in the Air Force. The members I speak of have lived here for years and don't want to leave, but as the years catch up, so does the desire to be near children and grandchildren who mostly live out of state. We have a gem of a synagogue, but without a growing economy in a city that has had hardly any quality-of-life improvements during the 22 years I have lived here, I fully understand the math. The children grow up and leave, and later, the parents follow to be nearby.

We have now heard that Richard and Harriet Dechowitz will be leaving for New Jersey. They are our long-time friends who have contributed so much to our community. Richard was Gabbai for many years, helped build the Sukkah every year, and has been a member of the Board of Directors for decades. He was sports trainer and coach of our Men's Club softball team, the Agudath Achim Alephs, back in the day. Harriet has helped with Sisterhood events, and she and Rich have invited us into their home for so many Rosh HaShanah casual after-service gatherings. Life won't quite be the same without them.

We celebrated Dr. Richard Zweig receiving the Diebner Award over the weekend of October 16th, and his speech was very touching.

Richard and Sara will be leaving shortly for Fort Worth. It was a very special day to honor him, and long overdue. He deserved this award years ago. Also, Sara Zweig contributed many hours as past Secretary of our Executive Board and was very much involved in the Sisterhood.


Bethany Sorkey, Director of the North Louisiana Jewish Federation, recently announced that she and her family will be moving to Oakland, California. While principally involved at B'nai Zion, the Sorkey family's departure represents another significant loss to our Shreveport Jewish community.

On the other side of the coin, we have gained three new members: Tamara Collins, David Kaplovitz and Elisheva Cutter. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome each to Agudath Achim, and ask everyone in our congregation to do the same. In another positive development, Dr. Howard Lippton has offered to serve as a Board Member, taking Tyler Gage's place. As I mentioned last month, Tyler left in October for a new job position in Maryland.

Also positive, we started having our Onegs in the social hall again, and it has been a real pleasure to sit and nosh with friends after services. We provide tables outdoors for those who feel more comfortable eating outside, and since fall is finally here, the weather has been beautiful. If the COVID numbers continue to go down, we hope to be out of masks soon too.

Finally, I'd like to wish a speedy recovery to past President Howard Silberman.

Thanksgiving is coming up soon, and I hope everyone has an excellent holiday. I think one of the great things about Thanksgiving is that it's an American holiday for everyone to celebrate—no matter your faith or ethnicity. Oy Vey, and Hanukkah starts November 28th.


President, Agudath Achim

Message from Rabbi Sydni

Lately, I've been spending quite a lot of time reflecting on what makes Agudath Achim a Conservative synagogue and why I believe that identity is important to us. As I light each candle on each night of Hanukah, I strive to express one extra aspect of my life for which I am grateful. In the spirit of those eight nights of gratitude, I'd love to share eight reasons why I am grateful that Agudath Achim is part of the Conservative movement.

- 1. We are part of a national organization, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ),** that offers us a whole lot of resources to assist with the spiritual, physical, and financial needs of our congregation. With the USCJ, we have access to webinars about everything from holiday programming to budgetary planning, advisors ready to assist by phone or in person, interest groups of like-minded congregations, and discounts on products and services common to congregations like ours.
- 2. We are an egalitarian congregation.** Each and every member of our synagogue, regardless of gender, can participate in our services with their full selves, can help to lead our community, and can wear the prayer clothing — kippah, tallit, tefillin (on weekdays), etc. — in which they find the most comfort.
- 3. We use a communal set liturgy** as a jumping-off point for personal reflection and prayer. We pray with the same Hebrew words as our fellow Jews across the globe. With a mixture of vocal and silent prayer, we remind ourselves of both the communal and personal natures of our Judaism. The words on the page offer us language to speak to God when we have trouble finding our words and inspiration for further conversations with God outside of the synagogue space.
- 4. We take *halakhah*, Jewish law, seriously,** taking pride in the knowledge that our tradition is not just one of words and beliefs, but of every-day action. By embracing ritual and moral commandments alike in this synagogue space, we show our commitment to striving for our best world through our concrete Jewish practice.
- 5. Our interpretations of *halakhah* shift as times shift.** Just as the Rabbis of the Talmud reinterpreted words of Torah after the destruction of our Holy Temple, we show respect to our tradition by reevaluating our tradition with every reading. While we never throw away aspects of our tradition because of a simple feeling or opinion, we read ancient and modern Jewish texts to make sure that we, as a community, still believe that our practice is in line with what God expects from us.
- 6. We keep a kosher kitchen.** In line with our adherence to *halakhah*, we make sure that our food is prepared with separate dishes for meat and milk and that all ingredients have the appropriate certification. With a kosher kitchen, we respect the diversity of practice among those who eat with us, and we encourage ourselves to practice a certain standard of mindfulness around what we eat outside of this building, as well.
- 7. We keep Shabbat.** In this building, from Friday evening to Saturday evening, we refrain from using electronic devices, cooking, fixing, handling money, and even writing on Shabbat. Together, we practice accepting the world as it is, with all of its beauty and all of its flaws. Together, we celebrate what we have and who we are right now. We remind ourselves the importance of taking a break from creation for just one day.
- 8. We pursue good in the world because we are commanded to do so.** Along with a commitment to ritual deeds, we hold a commitment to those deeds that are more obviously ethical and moral. We love the other as ourselves, we refuse to place a stumbling block before the blind, and we strive towards no needy

in our midst because we are commanded to do so. We revere and honor our parents, not simply because those are nice things to do, but because we are obligated by God to take on those tasks.

Personally, this last point is the pinnacle of my gratitude that I am part of a Conservative Jewish community. With Conservative Judaism, we see the world through a halakhic lens. We practice our rituals because we know that they help us practice the gratitude and mindfulness that we need to strive towards our best selves and our best world. We cling to a God who wants that best world and who commands us to strive towards it, not just through our beliefs, but through our actions. Ultimately, we believe and we practice in community so that we can learn from one another's strengths and knowledge how to best enact Judaism's balance of obligation and human flexibility.

I look forward to learning what inspires you to be a part of this Conservative Jewish community and how you think we can even better embody our Conservative Jewish values at Agudath Achim.

Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein

You may always set up a meeting (in person, phone, or Zoom) with Rabbi Sydni, at:

<https://calendly.com/rabbisydni>.

As of September, Rabbi Sydni's day off is now on **Tuesday**.



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 live-streamed 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

Kabbalat Shabbat Shalem

Friday, November 5, 7:30 pm

On the first Friday of each month, we embrace a fuller 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, November 6, 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. Thank you to Milena Murov for leading this month's Shindig!

Kabbalat Shabbat – Ask the Rabbi

Friday, November 26, 7:30 pm

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

Limudim - Learning

Learn to Read Hebrew 5782

Wednesday, November 3, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, November 10, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, November 17, 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, November 4, 7:00 pm

Thursday, November 11, 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?

Turn it & Turn it Again

Saturday, November 6, 1:00 pm

The first Shabbat of each month, we'll learn Torah with Rebecca Austin after a delicious Kiddush lunch. This month, we will look at how different rabbis and scholars approach Parashat Toldot, which just happens to be Rebecca's son's bar mitzvah portion!

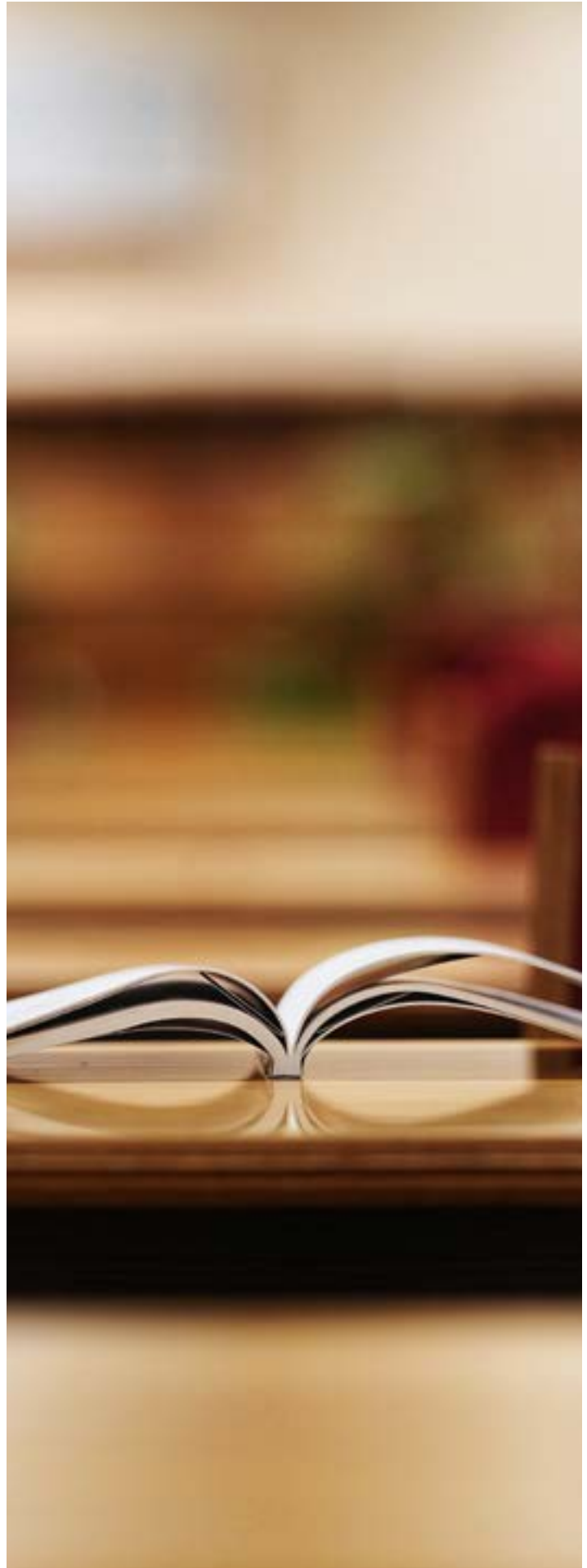
Hodesh Hadash - Women's Learning

Thursday, November 18, 11:00 am

Eight Mitzvot for Eight Nights

Saturday, November 20, 1:00 pm

As we prepare for the upcoming eight nights of Hanukah, we'll brainstorm eight mitzvot to try over the holiday. Each person will take home a set of cards signifying which mitzvot they are excited to take on for eight days, in the hopes that a few will stick around above and beyond the month of Tevet.



USCJ

Zoom Event with Rabbi Sydni

Please visit here for more information: <https://crm.uscj.org/civicrm/event/info?id=424&reset=1>

Please visit here to register for the event:
<https://crm.uscj.org/civicrm/event/register?id=424&reset=1>

*Zoom log in information will be provided after registration



9 November, 2021
8:00 PM ET/7:00 CT/5:00 PM PT
Register below for the Zoom link

DECEMBER DELIGHTS:

HISTORICAL INSIGHTS AND STRATEGIES FOR INTERFAITH INCLUSION

What is the meaning of the "December Dilemma" and where did it come from? How has Chanukah changed over time in America in relation to Christmas?

Join Dr. McGinity and Rabbi Rubinstein as they address these and other timely questions.

Q&A to follow the presentation.



Dr. Keren R. McGinity
INTERFAITH SPECIALIST
USCJ



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein
SPIRITUAL LEADER
AGUDATH ACHIM
SHREVEPORT, LA

REGISTER HERE

QUESTIONS CONTACT:
KAPUSTA@USCJ.ORG



Limmud New Orleans Global Day of Jewish Learning

November 7, 2021

In just two weeks, thousands of Jews in communities large and small will join together for one day of intercontinental Jewish learning, powered by Limmud.

Launched in 2010 as an effort to connect Jews around the world in mutual appreciation of Jewish wisdom, the Global Day of Jewish Learning is inspired by the vision and leadership of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz z"l.

This year's study theme - **THE BONDS BETWEEN US** - explores the centrality of community and connection within the Jewish tradition.

Visit here for more information & to register for this event:

https://limmudna.org/globalday/?mc_cid=6778aa4d25&mc_eid=2d4fcb6983&mc_cid=7b441a531e&mc_eid=c2f821a903



Shabbat Shalom



November Schedule of Readings

Saturday

November 6

Torah Reading
Haftarah

Toldot

Genesis 25:19 - 28:9
Malachi 1:1 - 2:7

Saturday

November 13

Torah Reading
Haftarah

Vayetzei

Genesis 28:10 - 32:3
Hosea 11:7 - 12:12

Saturday

November 20

Torah Reading
Haftarah

Vayishlach

Genesis 32:4 - 36:43
Obadiah 1:1-21

Saturday

November 27

Torah Reading
Haftarah

Vayeshev

Genesis 37:1 - 40:23
Amos 2:6 - 3:8

North Louisiana Jewish Federation News

UPDATE: Kosher Food in Shreveport

December 1st
- Mark your
calendars, because
that's when

Shreveport receives 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 the distributor, Osem, out of New York, and their first shipment arrives on December 1st.

Once it arrives, Rabbi Feivel will be provided a list of everything kosher they carry and will pass that along to you.



time for a Q&A with Rabbi Feivel, who will be your trip-leader in Israel.

The informational session will take place at Agudath Achim and will also be available on Zoom. Zoom details to follow.

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!](#)

Annual Hanukah Party 5782 (2021)
Sunday, December 5, 2021 at Agudath Achim
Time 5:00 pm - Doors Open
5:30 pm - Candle Lighting
6:00 pm - Concert

Featuring: Concert by Noah Aronson!
*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 - 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 on the [Federation Website](#).

**For more information visit
us at jewishnla.org**



**Israel Trip Information
Session**
Thursday, November
18, 7:00 pm at Agudath
Achim

Already signed up to join?
Want more information
before you decide? Join us
on Thursday, November
18 at 7pm for a 1-hour
informational session
about our trip. We'll

discuss the itinerary, review all the flight options, learn some helpful Hebrew phrases, and leave



Announcements

Sisterhood

Jewish Community Directory Update:

Our last edition was in 2018, and we know there have been changes since then. So, please advise Karen (B'nai Zion - bnaizionoffice@gmail.com) or Tessa (Agudath Achim - office@agudathshreveport.com) of corrections and additions. And, you folks living out of town, please stay connected with us with your updated information.

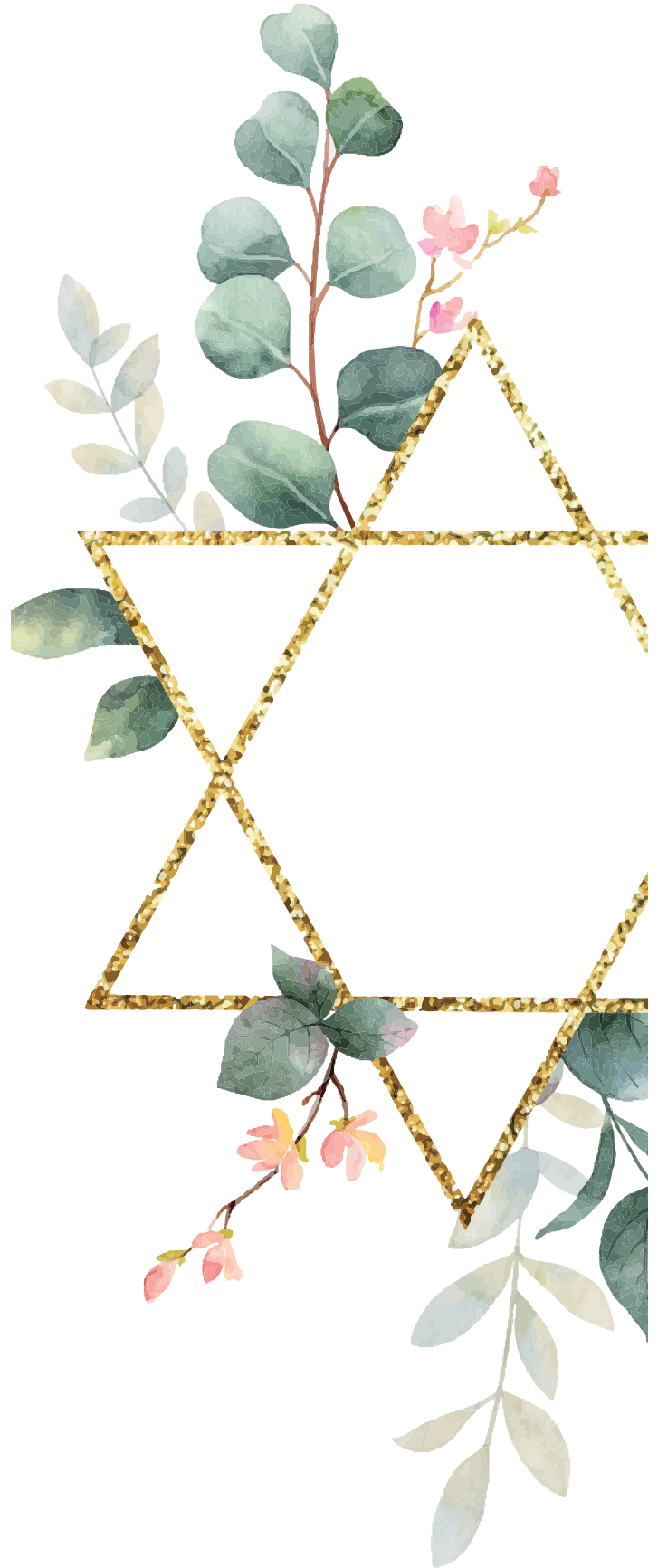
The sooner y'all respond, the sooner we can print a new edition. Let's use Hanukkah (Hanukkah begins on November 28) as our target deadline. Since the 2018 cover was distinctive and durable, we're thinking of continuing with those until they're gone. For an updated edition if you reuse your 2018 cover it will be \$1.00 to cover paper and ink and \$5.00 for a new cover and directory.

Please bring in your aluminum can pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities - there is a container to collect pull tabs in the foyer.

As you travel this season, don't forget to bring in your complimentary toiletries for Project Celebration Inc. There is a basket located in the foyer to collect your donations.

Thank you,

Sandra Ginsburg
Sisterhood President



November Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Caitlyn Bethany	November 5
Paul Willson	November 11
Jennette Ginsburg	November 15
Josue Padin	November 17
Tera Berry	November 17

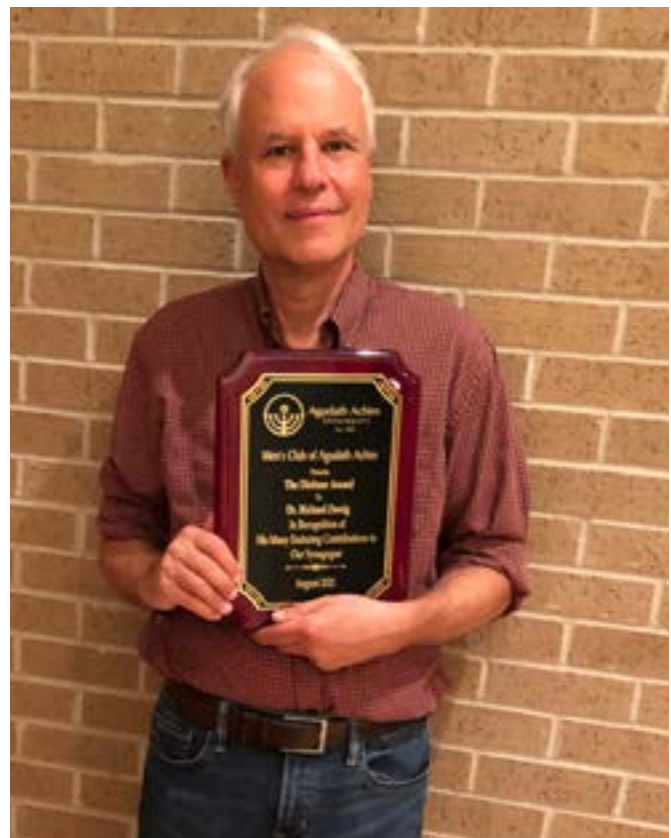
Alex Rubenstein	November 20
Curtis Joseph	November 21
Sara Zweig	November 21
Charlotte Silberman	November 23
Dominic Dodson	November 25
Dorothy Lobel	November 30

Happy Anniversary

Barbara & Curtis Joseph	November 17
Dr. Jeffrey & Judy LeBlang	November 22

Mazel Tov

The Agudath Achim Men's Club awarded Dr. Richard Zweig with the Diebner Award on October 16, 2021. Mazel Tov to Dr. Richard Zweig and thank you, Richard & Sara for your years of service to Congregation Agudath Achim.



Oneg Shabbat

Yasher Koach to our Oneg sponsors

We are back to sharing a fuller Oneg Shabbat and Kiddush lunch after services with your choice of indoor, socially distanced seating or outdoor seating. Masks are now optional at Agudath Achim. Please join us however you feel comfortable.

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

October 1: Dr. Richard & Sara Zweig

October 8: Sharon & Elliott Goldman,
in honor of Elliott's birthday

October 15: Agudath Achim Men's Club,
in honor of Dr. Richard Zweig

October 22: Deena & Bob Lachman

October 29: Rosa Tirado & Rafael Padin,
in honor of Rosa's birthday

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

November 5: Dr. Howard Lipton

November 12: Candice Richardson

November 19: Barbara & Curtis Joseph

November 26: Candice Richardson



Hanukkah Shopping

The AA Carolyn Rubenstein Gift Shop has fresh supplies for Hanukkah! Check out the new candles, menorahs, chocolate gelt, and plastic dreidels. Also take a look at bright new mezuzot, tallitot, kiddush cups, candlesticks, and housewares.



Donations

In Beloved Memory of

Bettie C. Alcus Levy
Samuel Rubin
Louise Gomolsky
Tracey Sharon Lurie-Sklar
Isaac Cullick
Sam Toys
Mary Toys
Mary Toys
Bessie Carroll
Goldie Gelfand

By

Berte Muslow
Rabbi Foster & Vivian Kawaler
Elaine Hartley & Rachelle Gomolsky
Dr. Aubrey & Joan Lurie
Jonathan Cullick
Peggy Evensky
Irma Binder
Sharon & Elliott Goldman and Goldy Marrus
Samuel Carroll
Yetta Gilbert

In Honor of

Dr. Richard Zweig - Congratulations on your retirement and your Diebner Award

By

Dr. David & Susan Gross

For the Recovery of

Howard Silberman
Howard Silberman

By

Sandra & David Ginsburg
Dr. David & Susan Gross

General Fund

Dr. Alex Funicello
Dr. Howard Lipton
Ben Sour

High Holy Days

Barbara & Curtis Joseph
Sandra & David Ginsburg



November Yahrzeits

Week of Oct. 31 - November 6

Louis Biscoe
Morris Lewis Roos
Esther Kaminsky
Joseph Schwartzberg
Bettie C. Alcus Levy
Carl Byron Arnold
Maemarye Wolf Parker
Katherine Michalak

Week of November 7 - 13

Norman Norris Kesilman
Mary M. Toys
Nathan Murov
Isaac Cullick
Eric Wiener

Week of November 14 - 20

Louis Bayer
Jay Goldberg
Irvin Levine
Sam Toys
Irvin Kassof
Goldie S. Gelfand
Samuel Lachman
Ida Gross
Paul Shapiro
Jake Rubenstein
Harry Yellen

Week of November 21 - 27

Mary Cohen
Carly Adler
Sam Kottle
Jean Druker
Louise McClendon

Week of Nov. 28 - Dec. 4

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

May their
Memory
be for a
Blessing

Condolences

We are saddened to share the passing of:
Ashley Goodman, cousin of Larry Goodman
Paula Taylor, mother of Elisheva Cutter

***HaMakom y'naheh etkhem b'tokh sha'ar aveilei Tzion
virushalayim.***

May the Omnipresent bring comfort to their family and friends
among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

November 2021 Cheshvan - Kislev 5782

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Cheshvan 26	2 Cheshvan 27	3 Cheshvan 28	4 Cheshvan 29	5 Kislev 1	6 Kislev 2 Parshat Toldot Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am Kids' Shabbat Shindig 11:00 am Turn it & Turn it Again 1:00 pm Havdalah 7:10 pm
7 Kislev 3	8 Kislev 4	9 Kislev 5	10 Kislev 6 Learn to Read Hebrew 7:00 pm	11 Kislev 7 613? Relevant? Commandments 7:00 pm	12 Kislev 8 Candle Lighting 6:03 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Shalem 7:30 pm	13 Kislev 9 Parshat Vayetzei Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am Havdalah 6:06 pm
14 Kislev 10	15 Kislev 11 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	16 Kislev 12	17 Kislev 13 Learn to Read Hebrew 7:00 pm	18 Kislev 14 Hodesh Hadash - Women's Learning 11:00 am Israel Trip Informational Session 7:00 pm	19 Kislev 15 Candle Lighting 4:54 pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm	20 Kislev 16 Parshat Vayishlach Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am Eight Mitzvot for Eight Nights 1:00 pm Havdalah 6:02 pm
21 Kislev 17	22 Kislev 18	23 Kislev 19	24 Kislev 20	25 Kislev 21 Office Closed Thanksgiving	26 Kislev 22 Office Closed Candle Lighting 4:52 pm Kabbalat Shabbat – Ask the Rabbi 7:30 pm	27 Kislev 23 Parshat Vayeshev Shabbat Mevarekhim Hahodesh Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am Havdalah 6:00 pm
28 Kislev 24 Erev Hanukkah Candle Lighting (1 Candle) 5:48 pm	29 Kislev 25 Hanukkah Candle Lighting (2 Candles) 5:48 pm	30 Kislev 26 Hanukkah Candle Lighting (3 Candles) 5:48 pm				



Congregation Agudath Achim

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www.agudathshreveport.com

General inquiries:
office@agudathshreveport.com