



Agudath Achim
Shreveport
Est. 1902

9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA. 71115

Tevet - Shevat 5782

January 2022

The Shul Shpiel



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein
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Shabbat Services:

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

Saturday morning services
streaming & in-person
at 10:00 am
agudathshreveport.com/live-stream

Executive Message

Dear Fellow Congregants,

As I try to get started to write my message this month to the Congregation, as always, my biggest challenges are finding an idea to write about and dealing with a cat that won't stay off my keyboard as I attempt to type. I hope everyone had a nice break during the holidays. It's time to focus on the year ahead. We wrap up the Hebrew month of Tevet and start Shevat which begins January 3rd. Only one minor holiday is included in Shevat, Tu B' Shevat, aka The New Year of the Trees. It begins on January 16th at sundown, for one day only, but you can celebrate anytime by planting a tree any time of year. I do believe they survive better if you plant them in the winter. Our planet needs more trees. We all know they provide shade, noise abatement, reduce soil erosion, and create a habitat for animals and birds. Convert CO2 to oxygen, provide lumber to build homes, furniture and other durable goods. So those are six good reasons to plant a tree. I almost forgot to add that some trees are food sources (think fruits and nuts).

Seven good reasons and I'm probably missing other benefits from trees as well. Where would we be without them? Since Home Depot and Lowes like to clear everything out for spring inventory you can even find them on clearance at home improvement warehouses this time of year. Sounds like a win-win to me.

The Fig tree we planted about eight years ago in the now biblical garden has just gone wild and produced buckets of figs every year. It has done so well we had to trim it back. Thank you to David Ginsburg for trimming it back.

Please feel free to pick the figs when in season.


I hope I made my point about the value of trees. Here are some ways to help reduce the use of paper products that destroy trees:

First on my list has always been to buy reusable bags for groceries and other store purchases. Most places just use plastic bags now which is even worse for the environment, but some still will offer paper bags. I wish Louisiana would charge a fee for plastic or paper bags like some other states do to encourage people to be more environmentally friendly.

Try to recycle most of your paper and cardboard waste. There is a recycle center in Bossier off Hwy 80. 3301 Old Shed Rd. Open 7-4 Monday thru Friday. They take just about everything. We have a recycle center off Norris Ferry Rd. in Shreveport but I have my doubts they actually recycle anything but paper. Most of the time their bins are so stuffed I can't even get paper in the recycle bins. It's so overflowing. You can bring empty cans for recycling there, but whenever I have they tell me to throw them in a bin with common trash.

I'll close by saying plant a tree not for you but your grandchildren because most likely they will be the ones to enjoy them in fifty years from now. So will the squirrels, birds, and the bees.

Happy New Year to everyone.


President, Agudath Achim

Message from Rabbi Sydni

Rabbi Eliezer says: Let your fellow's honor be as dear to you as your own... (Pirkei Avot 2:10)

Over the past few months, a team of Agudath Achim members joined forces to imagine an even more welcoming and inclusive Agudath Achim. Our process has taken place in four parts so far - learning about how to have respectful, constructive discourse; studying the Jewish textual foundations of welcoming and inclusion; brainstorming practical methods for welcoming and inclusion in our congregation; and hosting a panel to gain even more wisdom about how to implement our ideas. Our last step, that step of following through with our vision, will hopefully be ongoing throughout our community's existence. During these few months, each and every conversation has been rooted in Rabbi Eliezer's principle of honoring our fellow, in every situation from logistical planning, to defining who and how people are welcomed, to that step of greeting newcomers and long-time members alike with a full, open heart.

While our Agudath Achim group began meeting in August, my formal learning to prepare for this specific project began in May, with the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies' Mahloket Matters Fellowship. Together, Conservative rabbis from across the country engaged in text study and conversation on constructive discourse, moral foundations, and more specific issues, like non-profit board disagreements and Israeli politics. From May until now, we have received financial and educational support from each other and from Pardes, as each rabbi started a different project rooted in civil discourse.

As a review of all that was written in our July 2021 bulletin, here are Pardes' four points of civil conversation between individuals and groups who disagree:

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.

Respect for one another's honor goes beyond the broad strokes of welcoming and inclusion and gets into the nitty gritty. Engaging with honor must mean acknowledging the sacred in each person's point of view, especially when we disagree.

Beginning in August, our Agudath Achim group began our conversations by setting rules and boundaries. We started from Pardes' four principles and then expanded upon them to include attention to body language, tone of voice, facial expressions, and the differing experiences that lead to each of our values. We also reminded ourselves that sometimes, walking away from a painful discussion can be the most respectful option. Throughout our discussions, we kept our awareness that attention to detail in our interactions can benefit our community in more ways than just in our welcoming—from conversations at Kiddush lunch, to board meetings, to any learning opportunity.

As we continued our discussions, we engaged in text study on welcoming and inclusion of current and future community members who identify as LGBTQ+, Jews of Color, are in an interfaith family, and who have various disabilities. One theme ran true within each of these learning sessions — *k'vod ha-briyot* —

the honor each of our fellow humans deserves, simply by being created by the same Creator.

Finally, we started to brainstorm ways we can start digging deeper into the welcoming we already know we do so well. In the coming months, we hope to make a welcome packet to hand out to visitors, to train a couple of individuals to be our designated greeters during services and events, to reevaluate our website language, and to deep clean and redecorate the single-stall restroom behind the kitchen, for anyone who needs something different than the restrooms in our hallway. If you would like to participate in any of these projects or have another to propose, please reach out.

Projects that focus on welcoming are nothing new to our community; just a couple years ago, we reevaluated our dues structure to attract new members, make our synagogue experience easier for existing members, and raise more funds for Agudath Achim. We know we are already unique in our tight-knit, yet open-armed community feel; and yet, we also know that improvement is always possible.

In December's panel, we learned from Rabbi Lauren Tuchman, Dr. Karen McGinity, and Anjelica Ruiz the importance of starting our work with low-hanging fruit. We start our efforts with actions that don't cost much and that we can all agree on. Our panelists also encouraged us to start with tasks that are tailored to the specific needs of our membership. The more we practice tangible respect for the people in our community now, the more we are ready to welcome visitors with open arms. Importantly, our panelists also advised us that different interests and needs may conflict with one another. If and when that happens, we will need to use our constructive discourse towards compassionate compromise.

Defining the how, why, and what of welcoming is a never-ending project and can come with some conflicting opinions. However, I believe that when we dig deeper into the practicalities of welcoming, we will realize that the benefits we receive from embracing these small actions can lead to more pronounced efforts in time to come. We will see the benefits of more people becoming involved in our community, as we have seen the benefits of new families joining and participating in recent months. Thank you to all who have been a part of our welcoming and inclusion committee, offering your diverse opinions and insights: Dr. Thomas Strain, Dr. Richard Zweig, Allen Organick, Rebecca Austin, Deena Lachman, Karen Gordon, Rosa Tirado, Candice Richardson, and Jason Oller.

[Ben Azzai] would say: Do not despise any person, and do not discriminate against anything, for there is no man that has not his hour, and there is no thing that has not its place (Pirkei Avot 4:3).

Rabbi Sydney Rubinstein

You may always set up a meeting (in person, phone, or Zoom) with Rabbi Sydney, at <https://calendly.com/rabbisydni>. As of September, Rabbi Sydney's day off is now on **Tuesdays**.

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 December 22, 2021 face masks are *strongly encouraged* 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, January 7, 7:30 pm

On the first Friday of each month, we'll experience 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, January 8, 11:00 am

We'll sing, play, and learn together! 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, January 28, 7:30 pm

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

Limudim - Learning

Turn it & Turn it Again

Saturday, January 8, 1:00 pm

Leading into the 929 project starting next month, explore different translations, printings, and editions of our Bible, the Tanach, and why thinking about these things can set us up for success in learning our texts. We will also discuss audio and video options if reading text is difficult for you. Have a favorite? Bring a copy if you want to share. Susan Gross with the gift shop is exploring how to order for us so we can also support our Sisterhood!

Hodesh Hadash - Women's Learning Group

Wednesday, January 12, 11:00 am

Jewish Views on Vegetarianism. We'll talk about pros and cons in the Tanakh, Talmud, and beyond.

Exploring Judasim 5782

Wednesday, January 12, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 19, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 26, 7:00 pm

Exploring Judaism will return to Agudath Achim on Wednesday nights in January! Together, we'll learn Jewish basics and beyond, with topics ranging from Torah to keeping kosher to raising a Jewish family. This class is geared towards learners of all backgrounds, whether you've been Jewish your whole life, are interested in becoming Jewish, or are confident in your current faith and just want to learn more. As learning changes with each group of people,

you're welcome to join the class, even if you attended some or all of our sessions last year.

Exploring Judaism will be divided into three sections. While Agudath Achim members may attend for free, we ask that friends and visitors contribute a \$60 donation per class section. That's \$10 per class or \$180 for the entire class. If the class fee is a hardship, please reach out to Rabbi Sydni (rabbi@agudathshreveport.com).

613? Relevant? Commandments

Thursday, January 20, 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?

Announcements Sisterhood

Although January 1st, New Year's Day, is a secular holiday, nonetheless, it's a time for reflections...

So, thank you to all who are contributing via with Kroger Community Rewards (If you need assistance signing up, ask Tessa or Sandra).

Thank you to all who have signed up for Onegs, we still have some available dates left in 2022.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Joint Sisterhood Social Service Projects - toiletries for Project Celebration, Inc. and aluminum can pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Best wishes for a Healthy, Happy New Year!

Sandra Ginsburg
Sisterhood President

Community Religious School

Family Programming for MLK Weekend and Tu B'Shevat: There will not be class (or any Religious School activity) on Sunday, January 16th. On Monday, January 17th, there will be tree tending and other garden work (weather permitting) at both congregations. Come to either synagogue to help with weeding, pruning and mulching: 10:00 a.m. at B'nai Zion and 3:00 p.m. at Agudath Achim.

Shabbat Shalom



January Schedule of Readings

Saturday	January 1	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Va'era</i> Exodus 6:2 - 9:35 Ezekiel 28:25 - 29:21
Saturday	January 8	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Bo</i> Exodus 10:1 - 13:16 Jeremiah 46:13-28
Saturday	January 15	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Beshalach</i> Exodus 13:17 - 17:16 Judges 5:1-31
Saturday	January 22	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Yitro</i> Exodus 18:1 - 20:23 Isaiah 6:1-13
Saturday	January 22	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Mishpatim</i> Exodus 21:1 - 24:18 Jeremiah 34:8-22 Jeremiah 33:25-26

North Louisiana Jewish Federation News



Save the Date!
Scholar in
Residence
Weekend:
Benzy Kogen
Friday, January 21
through
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.

Benzy serves as a faculty member of the Melton School for Adult Jewish Studies (of the Hebrew University). His course offering includes both Undergraduate and Graduate students in the areas of Jewish History, Jews and Islam, Jewish Ethics, Samuel 2, and Beyond Borders.

Founder and creator of “Your Shabbat Guest,” a program of enhanced Shabbat celebration, learning, and growth, Benzy is a master educator who has devoted himself to the building of communities and the enhancement of Jewish life. Read more about Benzy [here](#).



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!](#)



For more information visit us
at jewishnla.org

January Celebrations Happy Birthday

Gabriele Kappers	January 1
Lauren Bayer	January 1
Cantor Neil Schwartz	January 2
Rachel Jennifer Roubein	January 4
Sharon Goldman	January 5
Natayla Murov	January 5
Vivian Kawaler	January 8
Lindy Alberts	January 14

David Ginsburg	January 14
Yehudit Platt	January 14
Lynne Perler	January 17
Bryan Adris Robinson	January 19
Yitzi Dowd	January 19
Jon Todd Arnold	January 22
Peggy Smith	January 25
Emily Brooks	January 27
Margalit Murov	January 30

Happy Anniversary

Dr. Richard & Sara Zweig	January 1
Sandra & David Ginsburg	January 7
Dr. Aubrey & Joan Lurie	January 15

Oneg Shabbat Yasher Koach to our Oneg sponsors

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

January 7: Dr. Karen & Bob Gordon

January 14: Sandra & David Ginsburg, in honor of David's 70th birthday

January 28: Ellen Soffer & Allen Organick

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

December 3: Patti & Steve Parker

December 10: Deena & Bob Lachman

December 17: Rosa Tirado & Rafael Padin, in honor of Miguel's birthday

December 24: Dr. Thomas Strain, in honor of his son's birthday

Donations

In Beloved Memory of

Ruth Kopew Slutsky
Dorothy Rosenfeld
Rabbi H.D. Uriel Smith
Dorothy Rosenfeld
Dorothy Rosenfeld
Dorothy Rosenfeld
Dorothy Rosenfeld
Allen Rubin
Dorothy Rosenfeld
Samuel Owen Strain
Dr. Myron Gordon
Arnold Lincove
Dorothy Rosenfeld
Annette Serman Schwartz
Dorothy Rosenfeld
Jacob H. Groner
Rachel Groner
Dorothy Rosenfeld
Chaya Blimah bat Yitzchak
Dorothy Rosenfeld
Paul Gardsbane

In Honor of

Dorothy & Bernard Lobel

For the Recovery of

Howard Silberman

General Fund

Laura Huff
Charlotte Levy
Dr. Thomas Strain

Cemetery Fund

Jan & Warren Epstein
Jackie Shaprio Fleschman

By

Mark Slutsky
James Kaufman
Ellen Soffer & Allen Organick
Irene & Alex Wolchansky
The Rosenfeld Family
Gloria Rosen
Janet Ritman & Family
Rabbi Foster & Mrs. Vivian Kawaler
Terry & Jeff Levinger
Dr. Thomas Strain
Dr. Thomas Strain
Jan Epstein
Sara Tebele
Sara Tebele
Sandra & David Ginsburg
Jackie Shapiro Fleschman
Jackie Shapiro Fleschman
Alex Rubenstein
Rabbi Foster & Mrs. Vivian Kawaler
Rabbi Foster & Mrs. Vivian Kawaler
Susan G. Cross

By

Sandra & David Ginsburg

By

Ellen Soffer & Allen Organick

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Jan & Warren Epstein
Sara & Jacob Goodman

Biblical Orchard

Jan & Warren Epstein

Torah Repair

Dr. Howard Lippton

January Yahrzeits

*May their Memory be for
a Blessing*

Week of Dec. 26 - January 1

Pincus Gardsbane
Florence Shiffman
Max Carroll
Carol Goodman

Week of January 2 - 8

Arnold Lincove
Bernard Fox
Samuel Reisman
Nathan Rubenstein
Ruth Kopew Slutsky
Milton Shiffman
Harry Sternberg
Rabbi Noah Gamze
Jacob H. Groner

Week of January 9 - 15

Alex Goldstein
Marge Lurie Santop
Rae Schreiber
Michael Lazarus
Harold Strausman
Ray Marks Gilbert
Paul Gardsbane
Clara Schnurr
Ethel May Miller

Week of January 16 - 22

Leslie Gross
Glen Kramer
Rachel Nottage
Sarah Lee Levinson

Week of January 23 - 29

Chana Fehler Lurie
Gertrude Rubinstein
Rachel H. Groner
Betty Rae Lipson Segall
Dewanna Montgomery Brown
Victor Kolanko
Kurt Strauss

Week of Jan. 30 - Feb. 5

Ralph Simon Segall
Mollie Rose Gelfand
Goldie Sternberg
Libby Goodman Bloom
Ann Gamze
Joey Tebele
Rebecca Murov
Frieda Wilenzick
Barry G. Provisor

Condolences

We are saddened to share the passing of:
Dorothy Schwartzberg Rosenfeld

***HaMakom y'nahem 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.

January 2022

Tevet - Shevat 5782

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Tevet 28 New Year's Day Shabbat Mevarchim Parshat Va'era Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am Havdalah 6:11 pm
2 Tevet 29	3 Shevat 1 Rosh Hodesh Shevat	4 Shevat 2	5 Shevat 3	6 Shevat 4	7 Shevat 5 Candle Lighting 5:07 pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Havdalah 6:16 pm	8 Shevat 6 Parshat Bo Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am Kids' Shabbat Shindig 11:00 am Turn It & Turn It Again 1:00 pm Havdalah 6:16 pm
9 Shevat 7	10 Shevat 8 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	11 Shevat 9	12 Shevat 10 Hodesh Hadash - Women's Learning 11:00 am Exploring Judaism 7:00 pm	13 Shevat 11	14 Shevat 12 Candle Lighting 5:13 pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Havdalah 6:22 pm	15 Shevat 13 Parshat Beshalach Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am
16 Shevat 14	17 Shevat 15 Office Closed Tu B'Shevat MLK Day Garden Work at B'nai Zion 10:00 am Garden Work at Agudath Achim 3:00 pm	18 Shevat 16	19 Shevat 17 Exploring Judaism 7:00 pm	20 Shevat 18 613? Relevant? Commandments 7:00 pm	21 Shevat 19 Candle Lighting 5:20 pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Havdalah 6:29 pm	22 Shevat 20 Parshat Yitro Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am
23 Shevat 21	24 Shevat 22	25 Shevat 23	26 Shevat 24	27 Shevat 25	28 Shevat 26 Candle Lighting 5:26 pm Kabbalat Shabbat — Ask the Rabbi 7:30 pm Havdalah 6:35 pm	29 Shevat 27 Shabbat Mevarchim Parshat Mishpatim Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am
30 Shevat 28	31 Shevat 29		Exploring Judaism 7:00 pm			



Congregation Agudath Achim

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General inquiries:
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