



Agudath Achim
Shreveport
Est. 1902

9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA. 71115

Shevat - Adar I 5782

February 2022

The Shul Shpiel



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein
rabbi@agudathshreveport.com

Robert Lachman, President
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Email: office@agudathshreveport.com

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
agudathshreveport.com/live-stream

Executive Message

Dear Fellow Congregants,

First and foremost, I'd like to thank the many people who helped organize Friday and Saturday services while Rabbi Sydni was out of town during the holidays: Allen Organick and Rebecca Austin, who helped get volunteers to stand in. Dr. Howard Lippton, Barbara Joseph, and Sandra Ginsburg for leading services. David Ginsburg served as Gabbi, Amanda and Cadence Dodson chanted Torah, and Jason Oller, Elliott Goldman, and Elisheva Cutter offered D'var Torahs. I hope I'm not missing anyone. Suffice it to say, everyone who attended services appreciated your contributions.

The Chinese dinner and Havdalah night out on Christmas day went great. We had nineteen people, some from B'nai Zion too. I think Ming Garden did a great job of serving us and let us perform our Havdalah service after dinner. Good comments from everyone on the fellowship and food.

A lot of people stepped up when we needed them to assist and that is where I want to take this conversation. As most of you sense, I have not been the most ritually observant President. I was asked by Howard Silberman to be President for a two year term which ends this May. As reluctant as I was, I accepted because I felt it was my obligation to serve our congregation. I'm proud I have done my part and will be involved in the future as former President Robert Lachman when my term comes to an end. It's time for new leadership and although it's three months away, I'd like to know who will take on this responsibility so I can help show them what's involved. It's really not as much as many people

may think. One to two hours a week, on average, the President needs to go to the synagogue for routine administrative duties like signing checks, confirming bills and timesheet hours, and discussing upcoming events with the office manager. Twice a year the President is expected to address the congregation—once during Kol Nidre and once during the annual meeting in May. Other responsibilities include:

- Write the monthly President's message for the bulletin
- Lead the monthly board meetings
- Read the weekly announcements at services
- Ensure that we have security for services—but that has become easier now that Laura (our accountant) communicates directly with the City Marshal's office.

So that's about 90 percent of the responsibilities. There are little things that pop up as in any position.

Some of the personality attributes that would be a big plus are:

- Attending services on a regular basis
- Enjoy speaking to people
- Enjoy writing
- Have good fiscal sense
- Being a team leader

I just listed a pretty good job description of the role as president for our synagogue. My hope is that someone will say "Hey, I'd like to do that." It's an honor as well as a mitzvah.

My biggest challenges so far while President have been to renew the Rabbi's contract, hire two new office managers, and deal with the constant disruption to our services and daily life due to COVID-19. Lucky for me, I've had David Ginsburg to help shoulder many responsibilities and give me good advice when I needed it. Dr. David Gross also is a big help proofreading the bulletin, editing and correcting errors in my monthly message. Others who have

helped in big ways include my wife, Deena, as board secretary, Tessa Miller as our office manager, and Allen Organick as treasurer and ritual committee leader. Last but not least, Rabbi Sydni and Rabbi Feivel have been fantastic in bringing and implementing so many great improvements to Agudath Achim. There are a lot of great people in our community that have your back and keep you from stumbling. Hopefully this month's message will find that person who is willing to carry the torch as our President for the next two years.

As I am writing this, news just broke about the hostage situation at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas. We are all thankful to law enforcement officers anti-terrorist teams that were able to free the hostages without harm. We should not forget to express gratitude to the police officers who provide us with security every week at Agudath Achim.

Bob Lachman
President, Agudath Achim



Message from Rabbi Sydni

On Sunday, February 6, Agudath Achim will begin our 929 journey, reading one chapter of Tanakh per day, five days a week, for three-and-a-half years, totaling 929 chapters total. Each week after Shabbat lunch, a different member of our congregation will lead our review of the chapters we have read. Ideally, those chapters will also inspire our conversations during prayer and learning throughout each week and in each bulletin. While the entire book of Tanakh—Torah, Prophets (N'vi'im), and Writings (Ketuvim)—may seem like a daunting task for a small congregation, we are blessed to be engaging in this project on the same timeline as thousands of Jews around the world.

In December 2014, 929 began as a project of the Israeli Education Ministry to engage all streams of Israeli Jews with our sacred text. Through 929.org.il, a diverse group of rabbis, teachers, artists, and public figures posted their commentaries on the daily chapter of Tanakh. By the first cycle's end in 2018, the English-speaking world wanted to join the learning, and 929 added content in English throughout its second cycle. Now, we have access to the 929 community through text, videos, audio, and discussion forums at 929.org.il. We can find additional content and discussions on social media by searching "929 English" on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Youtube.

While each of us are familiar with a different collection of stories in Tanakh, most of us have some gaps in our knowledge or memory of our central Jewish text. Yes, we will reread the classic stories of Noah and the flood, of Sampson's powerful hair, and of Daniel in the lion's den. Through our reading, we will have the opportunity to learn details and new lessons from those stories we already know and love. At the same time, we are each bound to learn a new tale or two.

Right before Noah's story, we will read about divine beings called "Nephilim," who are described as our "heroes of old, men of renown" (Genesis 6:4), and whose descendants the Israelite spies will later fear enough to dissuade them from entering the land of Israel (Numbers 13:33). Much later, among all the beautiful stories of the prophet Elisha's miracles, we will also learn of forty-two children who call him bald and are then attacked by two she-bears (II Kings 2:24). We will read about the prophet Ezekiel's psychedelic visions (Ezekiel 1), that one instance that David danced in a way that his wife Michal thought was too revealing (I Sameul 2), and the depressing book of Job, in which Ha-Satan convinces God to torture a pious man for the sake of a theological argument. In two years or so, we will be comforted, inspired, and perhaps even angered by the poetry and wisdom of Psalms and Proverbs.

Most importantly, we will learn both parables and straightforward commandments about how to (and how not to) act in our world. Hopefully, we will encounter texts that will put our thoughts into concrete words, along with texts that we can carry with us throughout our daily lives. On Saturday, February 5, Rebecca Austin will teach us how we can approach the ancient text of Tanakh, along with how we can each lead an engaging, accessible conversation about our text. To sign up for one weekend of leading our discussion, both summarizing five chapters and picking a theme or quote on which to focus, **please email Tessa Miller** (office@agudathshreveport.com).

Thank you to Rebecca Austin for pushing this learning forward, and thank you to Dr. Bruce Herniter, for inspiring Agudath Achim's practice of weekly Shabbat learning.

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 **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 January 10, 2022 face masks are *required* 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, February 4, 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, February 5, 11:00 am

We'll sing, pray, and learn together! Please ask your child to wear a mask and accompany them if they are too young to do so.

Kabbalat Shabbat – Ask the Rabbi

Friday, February 25, 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, February 5, 1:00 pm

Next week we start the 929 project. Join us this week as we discuss ways to explore the text as we go. While just reading the text is always welcome, before we start, we will discuss ways to catch more meaning and relevance as you go. We will also discuss leading discussions on the chapters.

613? Relevant? Commandments*

Thursday, February 3, 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 10, 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 17, 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 24, 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?

**Only on Zoom*

Meeting ID: 642-827-616

password: kosher613

929: Age Old Text, New Perspectives

Saturday, February 12, 1:15 pm

Saturday, February 19, 1:15 pm

Saturday, February 26, 1:15 pm

Each week, we learn through five chapters of Tanakh, with the goal of completing all 929. After Shabbat lunch, a different teacher each week will present some of the ideas they found most interesting from this portion. Contact Rabbi Sydni (rabbi@agudathshreveport.com), Rebecca Austin, or Tessa (office@agudathshreveport.com) in the office if you'd like to lead one of those teachings!

You can also find a form on our website:

agudathshreveport.com/929-class-leading.

The current schedule is as follows:

Genesis 1-5: February 12

Genesis 6-10: February 19

Genesis 11-15: February 26

Hodesh Hadash - Women's Learning Group

Wednesday, February 16, 11:00 am

Exploring Judaism

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 six weeks. 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).

Sacred Days: The Festivals of the Year

Wednesday, February 2, 7:00 pm

Jews live by the rhythms of two calendars: one secular and the other sacred. In this class, we'll dig into the Jewish calendar, with its seasons of celebration and reflection, to discover the transformative and timeless themes encoded in our holy days.

Shabbat: A Cathedral in Time

Wednesday, February 9, 7:00 pm

Shabbat is the greatest Jewish invention: a weekly vacation from ordinary time, a chance to unplug from our distractions and reconnect with ourselves and each other. In this class, we'll explore the most essential holiday of the Jewish calendar, a day that Rabbi Abraham Joshua Hechel called "a cathedral in time."

Prayer: Keva and Kavanna

Wednesday, February 16, 7:00 pm

One famous mystic taught that just as important as the black letters on the page are the white spaces that surround them. In this class, we'll explore the meaning and depth behind Jewish spiritual language, as well as the sometimes confusing choreography and customs of the synagogue.

Passover: Exodus and Us

Wednesday, February 23, 7:00 pm

Once we were slaves, so we know the importance of freedom for all people. In this class, we'll examine our history, retell our story of liberation, and learn why Jews have, since our earliest beginnings, been at the forefront of the struggle for human dignity.

929 Project

How to Choose a Tanakh

from Rebecca Austin

Choosing a book for studying:

The priority is supporting your own study. Choosing a book based on other people's criteria can lead to a book that is dusted on a shelf, not read and discussed. Don't let not finding the perfect text stop you from learning at all. Just be aware of the downfalls of the text available to you, and you can always change if the opportunity presents.

The following are being considered alphabetically, not by order of importance. Only you can decide which are most important in your use.

- Commentary
- Font Choice
- Hebrew
- Language
- Maps
- Margin size
- Page thickness
- Pictures
- Price
- Text Size
- Translator
- Weight

Non-text texts*

- Audiobooks
- [Sefaria](https://sefaria.org) app/sefaria.org
- Ereaders
- Phone apps

Sadly, Shreve Memorial Library/Green Gold Consortium does not have a Jewish version in their electronic catalog, either in audio or ebook.

**Note these options are not usable during Saturday afternoon classes due to the laws of Shabbat, but the*

929 reading dates are weekdays.

A note on non-Jewish Sources

If all you have available is a non-Jewish source, please watch the translation and book transitions carefully. Some non-Jewish sources use a different book order, and the translators may have been biased in their translation.

For the daily chapter and lots of resources, visit <https://929.org.il>. (If the site somehow shows up in Hebrew, click the top right corner of the screen to change to English.) We'll be reviewing the past week's readings each week after Shabbat lunch.

Contact Tessa at office@agudathshreveport.com to lead one of our weekly discussions, or fill out the form on our website: agudathshreveport.com/929-class-leading. The current schedule is as follows:

Genesis 1-5: Class on February 12

Genesis 6-10: Class on February 19

Genesis 11-15: Class on February 26

Genesis 16-20: Class on March 5



Shabbat Shalom



February Schedule of Readings

Saturday	February 5	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Terumah</i> Exodus 25:1 - 27:19 I Kings 5:26 - 6:13
Saturday	February 12	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Tetzaveh</i> Exodus 27:20 - 30:10 Ezekiel 43:10-27
Saturday	February 19	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Ki Tisa</i> Exodus 30:11 - 34:35 I Kings 18:20-29
Saturday	February 26	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Vayakhel</i> <i>Shabbat Shekalim</i> <i>Shabbat Mevarekhim</i> <i>Hahodesh</i> Exodus 35:1 - 38:20 II Kings 12:1-17

North Louisiana Jewish Federation News

Save the (rescheduled) Date!
Scholar in Residence: Benzy
Kogen
Friday, April 8 - Sunday, April
10, 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.

For more information visit us at jewishnla.org

Announcements Sisterhood

February though a short month is important: it's Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month, Valentine's Day, and look at all our February birthdays!

Like a Pledge Drive Challenge - my challenge to y'all is to up the ante, to be more involved in showing love and respect for all our family members, friends and synagogue, not only this month but also year long.

Some suggestions - donations, communication, attendance, etc.

Sandra Ginsburg
Sisterhood President



February Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Cameron Barnett	February 2
Jackie Fleschman	February 2
Daniel Lachman	February 3
Wendi Bretner Marrus	February 4
Patricia Parker	February 4
Josiah Yoshi Brooks	February 5
Tammy Willson	February 6
Tamara Collins	February 7
Jonathan Zweig	February 8
Bernard Lobel	February 10
Les Alan Lobel	February 11

Elisa Campbell	February 11
Dr. Antolio Wasserman	February 15
Adam Schwartz	February 17
Alex LeBlang	February 18
Barbara Joseph	February 19
Caleb Orillion	February 23
Amy G. Turner	February 25
Curtis Staib	February 26
Richard Dechowicz	February 27
Leon Tchinkindas	February 27
Anne Kawaler	February 28

Oneg Shabbat Yasher Koach to our Oneg sponsors

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

January 22: Agudath Achim Men's Club,
Dr. Karen & Bob Gordon, Deena & Bob
Lachman

January 28: Ellen Soffer & Allen Organick

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

February 4: Rebecca & Andy Austin

February 11: Dorothy & Bernard Lobel, in
honor of Bernard's birthday

February 18: Jason Oller

February 25: Tessa Miller & Curtis Staib, in
honor of Curtis's birthday

Donations

In Beloved Memory of

Carol Goodman
Paul Shapiro
Selma Moskowitz
Nathan Levine
Rachel Frumer
Dorothy Rosenfeld
David Goodman

Beatrice Lippton
Irving Lippton
Ronnie Schorr
Herman and Helen Charski
Rachel Nottage
Sam & Esther Fox
George & Rosa Ablon
Arnold Black
Abie Wirth

In Honor of

Dr. Howard Lippton
Barbara Ginsburg Joseph
David Ginsburg

For the Recovery of

Paula & Bill Cornelious
Carolyn Sheehan

Cemetery Fund

Elaine Hartley & Rachelle Gomolsky
Jackie Fleschman
Cheryl Shirley
Dr. David & Susan Gross

By

Lawrence, Jonathan, & Lauren Goodman
Jackie Fleschman
Sandra & David Ginsburg
Susan Levine & Family
Susan Levine & Family
Yetta Gilbert
Jacob, Lawrence, Sara, Jonathan, & Lauren Goodman
Dr. Howard Lippton
Dr. Howard Lippton
Abie & Sharon Charski
Abie & Sharon Charski
Dr. Thomas Strain
Jack & Judith Fox
Jack & Judith Fox
Jack & Judith Fox
Jack & Judith Fox

By

Rebecca & Andy Austin
Sandra & David Ginsburg
Dr. David & Susan Gross

By

Sandra & David Ginsburg
Sandra & David Ginsburg

General Fund

The Rothkopf Greenberg Family Foundation

Torah Repair

Dr. Howard Lippton

February Yahrzeits

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

Week of February 6 - 12

Jack Cole
David Goodman
Roy Robertson

Week of February 13 - 19

Rachel Bersin
Abie Werth
Helen Sternberg Arnold
Enrico De Benedetti
Maxine Levine
Coleman Williams
Fannie Rubenstein
Louis Schorr
Irving Lipton
Janice G. Gross
Bernard Rosenfeld

Week of February 20 - 26

Mary Yellen
Darlene Swift
Isaac Tebele
Franca De Benedetti

Week of Feb. 27 - March 5

Patricia Siegel
Daniel Dechowitz

May their
Memory
be for a
Blessing

Condolences

We are saddened to share the passing of:
Ronnie Schorr

***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.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Shevat 30 Rosh Hodesh Adar I	2 Adar I 1 Rosh Hodesh Adar I	3 Adar I 2	4 Adar I 3	5 Adar I 4 Parshat Terumah Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am Kids' Shabbat Shindig 11:00 am Turn It & Turn It Again 1:00 pm Candle Lighting 5:33 pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Havdalah 6:42 pm
6 Adar I 5	7 Adar I 6	8 Adar I 7	9 Adar I 8 Exploring Judaism 7:00 pm	10 Adar I 9 613? Relevant? Commandments 7:00 pm	11 Adar I 10 Candle Lighting 5:39 pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm	12 Adar I 11 Parshat Tetzaveh Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am 929: Age Old Text, New Perspectives 1:15 pm Candle Lighting 5:39 pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Havdalah 6:48 pm
13 Adar I 12	14 Adar I 13	15 Adar I 14 Purim Katan	16 Adar I 15 Board Meeting 7:00 pm Exploring Judaism 7:00 pm	17 Adar I 16 613? Relevant? Commandments 7:00 pm	18 Adar I 17 Candle Lighting 5:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm	19 Adar I 18 Parshat Ki Tisa Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am 929: Age Old Text, New Perspectives 1:15 pm Candle Lighting 5:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Havdalah 6:54 pm
20 Adar I 19	21 Adar I 20 Office Closed President's Day	22 Adar I 21	23 Adar I 22 Exploring Judaism 7:00 pm	24 Adar I 23 613? Relevant? Commandments 7:00 pm	25 Adar I 24 Candle Lighting 5:51 pm Kabbalat Shabbat - Ask the Rabbi 7:30 pm	26 Adar I 25 Shabbat Mevarchim Shabbat Shekalim Parshat Vayakhel Shabbat Shaharit 10:00 am 929: Age Old Text, New Perspectives 1:15 pm Candle Lighting 5:51 pm Kabbalat Shabbat - Ask the Rabbi 7:30 pm Havdalah 7:00 pm
27 Adar I 26	28 Adar I 27					



Congregation Agudath Achim

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