



Agudath Achim
Shreveport
Est. 1902

9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA. 71115

Sivan - Tamuz 5782

June 2022

The Shul Shpiel



Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein
rabbi@agudathshreveport.com

Rebecca Austin, President
(318) 464-4926
r.m.b.austin@gmail.com

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

Just a few days ago, you selected me as the next President of Agudath Achim. I am overwhelmed and honored to be held in such esteem and trust and hope I can live up to the examples set by my predecessors. I'll be looking to our local Past Presidents: Bob Lachman, Dave Ginsburg, and Howard Silberman for guidance. Not only that, but the example of service I see from Sandra Ginsburg with her work in the kitchen and the garden, Barbara Joseph's work with education in our community, our Rabbi Sydni, and Rabbi Feivel, and the many other people who make our congregation everything that it is.

In *Gan Eden*, God mused that it was not good for Adam to be alone. That isn't just the case with romantic relationships, but with nearly everything we do. In just a few days, Lex will be called to the Torah for the first time—an event that wouldn't have happened without many of you reading this now. The same goes for everything that we do in our community. In the months to come, I hope to help us all find ways to participate in our congregation in and out of services.

Still, I can't come up with all the ideas myself, so I invite you to reach out to me with things you would like to do, or see done in our congregation. If you don't have my contact information, talk to the office about a community directory—my info is in there and up to date or if you aren't local, Tessa has the ok to share my info. Text or email works best during the work day, call in the evening, or feel free to catch my attention after a board meeting, Oneg, or Kiddush luncheon!

Rebecca Austin
President, Agudath Achim



Message from Rabbi Sydni

In June, we will hear a diverse set of *divrei Torah* (words of Torah, or colloquially, sermons). We'll start out the month with words from Lex at their *b'nei mitzvah*, and then, from Bella at her *bat mitzvah*. The following week, as Rabbi Feivel and I will be on vacation, you'll hear *divrei Torah* from two other community members. And of course, anytime you feel strongly about a particular Torah portion, you are welcome to teach your views to our congregation.

Everyone responds to and learns from *divrei Torah* (words of Torah) differently. Personally, I find it difficult to listen to even the most engaging speaker for more than five minutes; I much prefer engaging in discussion about the text at hand. My sister-in-law, on the other hand, would much rather listen to an hour-long lecture than participate in a ten-minute interactive discussion. Some people prefer *divrei Torah* that deal with the psychological, while some prefer *divrei Torah* that explore the social and historical. Just as we all have different learning styles, when we are in the teacher's seat, we all teach with different voices as well.

On Shavuot, sandwiched between a cheesecake break and an exploration of allegory in horror films, I'll teach a few basic guidelines to writing a *d'var Torah*. For those who would benefit from a visual text or who won't be able to make it to Agudath Achim or their computer screens on Saturday evening, June 4, I'd love to share some of my personal process here, as well.

Before I write a *d'var Torah*, I always read through the Torah portion and jot down my thoughts and questions throughout. Each year, I write my thoughts and questions in the margins of the same book, so that I can return to thoughts and

questions in the future. Sometimes, I'll write simple contextual questions, like, "Why is Noah commanded to take two of each type of animal here, and seven pairs of every *tahor* (pure, clean) animal here?" Other questions may address what happens in the blank space of a story or how a certain commandment could be seen as relevant today. When a Toraitic situation reminds me of a real-life issue, I write that down, too. After I've written all of my questions and thoughts, I review my list and pick a topic or two about which I know I could write something of significance. "Something of significance" means something that would move me to act or think differently if I were to listen. It is never chosen for its shock value alone, as it needs to be accessible to those who listen. That "something of significance" can either be based on one small word or phrase in the text or on themes that occur throughout the *parashah*.

Once I have decided on something to write, I begin my outline, marking six major sections:

1. **Intro/Hook:** Although this comes first, I usually write it last, once I know what my main point or thesis will be. Here is where I introduce examples from media, literature, or every-day life that will help place an ancient Torah text into a modern context. An introduction can also be in the form of a question anyone in the room can answer. For example, "What was the last thing that made you smile?"
2. **Context:** Here, I briefly explain the story or quote in question. I start with the broader story and then zero in on the exact verses that are relevant for the topic I am about to introduce.
3. **Big Question/Big Idea:** Here is the place for a one-sentence explanation of the big question or idea that initially inspired me to write.
4. **The Rabbis' Answers:** Most of the time, a *d'var Torah* should include insights from

other Jewish thinkers throughout history. We don't study Torah in a vacuum, but rather, we study Torah alongside the inspiration of ancient, medieval, and modern teachers. This section often requires research, whether from books and blogs written in the 2010s or from Talmudic texts written two thousand years earlier.

5. **My Answer:** Here, I explain my answer to the question posed or my reason for presenting the big idea, making sure that my thesis is stated concisely in at least one prominent place.
6. **Conclusion/How/Why:** As any *d'var Torah* I write has to be about something of significance, the conclusion must explain why this big idea or answer matters and what, practically, we can do about it. I'll often end with a charge or a blessing, an inspiration to move forward with the wisdom of the Torah portion.

After I have outlined my *d'var Torah*, I may or may not adhere to the structure of my outline in the final draft. Sections may swap, and information that I previously thought was interesting may get set aside for a future *d'var Torah*. Once I have written, I practice reading my last draft out loud a couple of times to see if there are tongue twisters, shocking statements, or irrelevant bits of information that need to be removed, altered, or explained. As someone who likes words a bit too much, I also check to see the places where I can communicate my ideas more briefly. Whenever I read out loud, whether practicing or on the day of the *d'var Torah*, I make sure to enunciate as much as possible, especially when saying short words like "and," "if," and "the." Finally, if I have any doubts about the efficacy of my words or have extra time, I hand my *d'var Torah* to a trusted friend or two to make sure my central ideas come across clearly and confidently.

Each of us has the ability to write and deliver a *d'var Torah*, regardless of previous experience with Hebrew or Jewish text. The more of us share our views on Torah, the more we can learn from each other's experience, wisdom, and unique teaching styles. With the commentary in *Etz Hayim*, throughout our extensive synagogue library, and online resources such as sefaria.org, myjewishlearning.com, and 929.org.il, we have more Jewish text and interpretation at our fingertips than we ever had before. At any time throughout the year, especially in the three months I will be on parental leave, I and the rest of the community would love to hear the insights that you glean from famous, infamous, and obscure sections of the Torah. Ahead of time, I welcome you to let me know what Torah stories and statements have always given you pause or excited you, so that we can start planning your *d'var Torah* for the months to come.

Here's another wonderful resource on divrei Torah from Congregation B'nei Tikvah-Beth Israel of Sewell, New Jersey: <https://www.cbtbi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Preparing-a-Dvar-Torah.pdf>

Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein

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

Rabbi Sydni will be out of town from Tuesday, June 14 through Tuesday, June 21.

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 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, June 3, 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.

Lex Austin's B'nai Mitzvah
Saturday, June 4, 10:00 am

Rebecca & Andy Austin invite you to celebrate as our child, Naomi Alexandra, is called to the Torah as a B'nai Mitzvah.

Shavuot I Shahrith with Yizkor
Sunday, June 5, 10:00 am

Maxine Levine's Unveiling
Sunday, June 12, 2:00 pm

Jody Levine invites family, friends, and the Jewish community to remember her mother, Maxine Levine, at an unveiling ceremony at the Hebrew Agudath Achim Cemetery (on Yale and Walnut in Shreveport).

Kabbalat Shabbat – Ask the Rabbi
Friday, June 25, 7:30 pm

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

Limudim - Learning

613? Relevant? Commandments
Thursday, June 2, 7:00 pm
Thursday, June 23, 7:00 pm
Thursday, June 30, 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?

Learn from the Experts
Saturday, June 4, 7:00 pm

We'll begin the evening with the week's 929 learning and continue learning from you, the community. At around 9:30pm, we'll light candles and celebrate with an evening service. Feel free to come for one, some, or all of our presenters! Cheesecake will be provided.

Schedule:

7:00pm Rabbi Feivel - Calculating the Jewish Calendar
7:20pm Elliott Goldman - Songwriting
7:40pm Dr. David Gross - Gene Editing: What Will the Future Bring?
8:00pm Cheesecake Break
8:20pm Rabbi Sydni - You Can Write a D'Var Torah
8:40pm Devin Gardner - The Secret to Marketing (and How Most Marketers Get It Wrong)
9:00pm Candice Richardson - Allegory in Horror Films
9:20pm Rebecca Austin - 929 Learning (Exodus chapters 31-35)
9:40pm Ma'ariv

For those who would like to continue learning after Maariv, bring your favorite Jewish text, and we'll study together until we can no longer keep our eyes open!

Gabbai: A Torah Guide on the Bimah

Sunday, June 12, 11:00 am

This summer, we begin a series of classes on how to lead different aspects of our Shabbat services. Our Gabbai class does require proficiency in Hebrew reading. Every Shabbat, we invite two Gabbaim to the bimah to help the Torah reader with their task. Both Gabbaim prompt the Torah reader if they lose their place or say a word incorrectly. Both Gabbaim also assist those who come up for aliyot with blessings and choreography. Most actively, Gabbai Rishon (the First Gabbai) calls each honoree to the bimah, according to a simple Hebrew formula. In this class, we'll learn both about the liturgy behind calling honorees and some tips for assisting with Torah reading.

Exploring Judaism

Israel: A Great Dream

Wednesday, June 1, 7:00 pm

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.

The Jewish Mission to Heal the World

Wednesday, June 8, 7:00 pm

In our final class, we'll ask the question: "Does Judaism have an essential teaching?" as we explore key concepts like tzedakah (righteous giving), tzelem Elohim (the image of God), and tikkun olam (healing the world).

Wrap Up Session

Wednesday, June 22, 7:00 pm

929 Learning

929: Age Old Text, New Perspectives

Saturday, June 18, 1:15 pm

Saturday, June 25, 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:

Leviticus 1-5: June 18

Leviticus 6-10: June 25

Shabbat Shalom



June Schedule of Readings

Saturday	June 4	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Bamidbar</i> Numbers 1:1 - 4:20 Hosea 2:1-22
Sunday	June 5	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Shavuot I</i> Exodus 19:1 - 20:23 Ezekiel 1:1-28; 3:12
Monday	June 6	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Shavuot II</i> Deuteronomy 15:19 - 16:17 Habakkuk 3:1-19
Saturday	June 11	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Nasso</i> Numbers 4:21 - 7:89 Judges 13:2-25
Saturday	June 18	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Beha'alotcha</i> Numbers 8:1 - 12:16 Zechariah 2:14 - 4:7
Saturday	June 25	Torah Reading Haftarah	<i>Sh'lach</i> Numbers 13:1 - 15:41 Joshua 2:1-24

Announcements



Rabbi Natasha Mann will be joining us for the High Holy Days in September - October this year to help lead services with Rabbi Sydni. Learn more about Rabbi Natasha below.

If you'd like to donate to help offset the synagogue's cost for Rabbi Natasha, you can make a donation to the General Fund via our website or by check either by mail or in person.

Rabbi Natasha Mann joined New London Synagogue by herself as a teenager. She was born in Hertfordshire to a lively interreligious and intercultural family. Rabbi Natasha fell in love with Jewish practice and ideas in her youth, at which point she joined New London Synagogue and studied with Rabbi Jeremy Gordon.

After achieving her first class honours degree in Theology from Heythrop College, University of London, Rabbi Natasha moved from London to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, she studied in the Conservative Yeshiva, and began to work in the non-profit world with Atzum – Justice Works, where she promoted better education and legislation on human trafficking issues.

Rabbi Natasha then moved to Los Angeles to study at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, American Jewish University. During her time in California, she worked at several West Coast synagogues (including rabbinic internships at Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation on Mercer Island, and Temple Beth Abraham in Oakland), and worked as the Mashgiah (kashrut supervisor) at the American Jewish University. She also committed herself to evening classes in order to achieve a Certificate in Jewish Education.

Rabbi Natasha was ordained at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in 2019, and was honoured to be presented for ordination by Rabbi Jeremy. She has now returned home to New London Synagogue to serve as a rabbi. Rabbi Natasha also spends one Shabbat a month with Mosaic Masorti (formerly known as Hatch End Masorti Synagogue) and has a deep connection with Noam Masorti Youth.

Sisterhood

Thank you to all who donate to the joint Sisterhood Special Service Projects: the aluminum can pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charities and toiletries for the Project Celebration's domestic violence shelter. So much appreciated.

Please fill out the Oneg request form. If you read the May bulletin, beginning in September, Sandra will **no** longer be preparing kiddush lunches. Do not panic - one of Rabbi's summer Sunday education topics will be cooking in the synagogue kitchen and there will be opportunities for "make ahead and freeze" get togethers (make it a party!). Think about some of your favorites from our covered dish dinners - perfect for luncheon ideas!

Sandra Ginsburg
Sisterhood President



Oneg Shabbat

August 2022 – 2023

Dear Friends,

We are continuing our Oneg Shabbat policy of requesting members to host Onegs during the forthcoming year as this enhances our Congregational Shabbat.

Because of our membership numbers, we request members to host at least two Onegs. Please let us know the dates of your choice for hosting. If you have an anniversary, birthday, Bar/Bat Mitzvah or any other special occasion and would like to host a specific Oneg, please indicate this as well.

Requests will be assigned on a first come basis. If you do not have a preference in dates, please indicate that and dates will be assigned for you. **If we do not hear from you by July 30, 2022 we will assign a date for you.**

If you are providing your own refreshments, these will be in the form of desserts and snacks for an Oneg and a light lunch for Kiddush. We will send Kashrut and food safety information in a follow-up letter.

If you are unable to provide refreshments, your donation of \$36.00 per oneg (\$72 for two, \$108 for three) will cover your hosting and the committee will use the money to provide for the Oneg in your name.

To sponsor a Kiddush Luncheon, please add an additional \$18 per date.

Please make out your check to Sisterhood and enclose with this form, or you may fill out the form & pay online by going to: <https://www.agudathshreveport.com/form/oneg>

Thank you.

Oneg Shabbat
2022-2023

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Onegs I would like to host:

Date

1. _____ In Honor/In Memory of _____
2. _____ In Honor/In Memory of _____
3. _____ In Honor/In Memory of _____

Community Religious School



ISJL Education Conference

June 26 & 27, 2022

Online

Based on input from community partners, the ISJL Education Conference will be held online this year, enabling more partners to participate in the dynamic two-day conference experience. There is no registration cost for ISJL community partners (although out-of-region attendees are able to attend for a modest donation). Please register as many community members as are able to attend, and we look forward to learning with you!

Register at <https://www.isjl.org/2022-conference—register.html>

REGISTER
for the
CONFERENCE
—
JUNE 26 & 27

June Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Randy Campbell	June 3
James Dicken	June 4
Rebecca Shreiar	June 10
Dr. Lewis Reisman	June 10
Orlando Henderson	June 13
Caleb Joseph	June 16
Sarah Feoli	June 18
Michael Diebner	June 20

Devin Gardner	June 23
Kevin Marrus	June 24
Stephen Parker	June 24
Janice Epstein	June 24
Joshea Rouben	June 28
Eric Kawaler	June 28
Jacob Donaldson	June 29
Alexandra Bayer	June 29
Melissa Rubenstein Gendason	June 30

Happy Anniversary

Carla & Bruce Herniter	June 2
Charli & Howard Silberman	June 5
Deena & Robert Lachman	June 6
Harriet & Richard Dechowitz	June 7
Dr. Karen & Bob Gordon	June 10

Mazal Tov

Mazal Tov to Lex Austin who will be called to the Torah as a B'nai Mitzvah on June 3 & 4.

Mazal Tov on the birth of Simona Micaella Feoli, granddaughter of Dr. David & Susan Gross.

Oneg Shabbat

Yasher Koach to our Oneg Sponsors

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

May 6-7: Larry Goodman, in honor of the wedding of Jonathan Goodman & Sami Slovy

May 13-14: Dorothy & Bernard Lobel

May 20-21: Tammy & Paul Willson

May 27-28: Caleb Orillion & Caitlyn Bethany

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

June 3-4: Rebecca & Andy Austin, in honor of Lex Austin's B'nai Mitzvah

June 24-25: Deena & Bob Lachman, in honor of their 41st anniversary



Donations

In Beloved Memory of

Benjamin Witriol
Steven Harris Slutsky
Matilde Hemsani
Sylvia Dyne
Mildren Rubin
Edith Gardsbane

By

Dr. Norman Witriol
Mark Slutsky
Sarah Tebele
Dr. Aubrey & Joan Lurie
Rabbi Foster & Vivian Kawaler
Susan Cross

For the Recovery of

Howard Silberman

By

Dr. David & Susan Gross

Sisterhood

Jennette Ginsburg

Biblical Orchard Fund

Doug Stegall

General Fund

Sandra & David Ginsburg

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Leo Laventhal

Shabbat Lunch Fund

Ellen Soffer & Allen Organick



June Yahrzeits

Week of May 29 - June 4

Hannah Gilinsky
Mildred Rubin

Week of June 5 - 11

Sylvia Dyne
Abe J. Katz
Pearl Becker
Steven Harris Slutsky
Marvin Rubinstein
Matilde Hemsani
Ida F. Levine

Week of June 12 - 18

Sarah Witriol
Nathan Kottle
Jacob Ober
Libby Abramson

Week of June 19 - 25

H Leo Greengus
Jerome Ross
Morris Strausman

Week of June 26 - July 2

Samuel Laventhal
Donald Belen
Edith Gardsbane
Louis Lobel
Joe Barsky
Morris Hyman

*May their
Memory
be for a
Blessing*

June 2022

Sivan - Tamuz 5782

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 Sivan 2 Omer Day 46	2 Sivan 3 Omer Day 47	3 Sivan 4 Omer Day 48	4 Sivan 5 Omer Day 49 Parashat Bamidbar Erev Shavuot Lex Austin's B'nai Mitzvah 10:00am Learn from the Experts 7:00pm Candle Lighting 9:01pm
5 Sivan 6 Shavuot - Day 1 Shavuot I Shahrith with Yizkor 10:00am Candle Lighting 9:01pm	6 Sivan 7 Office Closed Shavuot - Day 2 Yizkor Havdalah 9:10pm	7 Sivan 8	8 Sivan 9 Exploring Judaism 7:00pm	9 Sivan 10 613? Relevant? Commandments 7:00pm	10 Sivan 11 Lex Austin's B'nai Mitzvah 7:30pm Candle Lighting 8:00pm	11 Sivan 12 Parashat Nasso Bella's Bat Mitzvah @ B'nai Zion 10:00 am Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm Candle Lighting 8:03pm Havdalah 9:12pm
12 Sivan 13 Gabbai: A Torah Guide on the Bimah 11:00am Maxine Levine's Unveiling at Hebrew Agudath Achim Cemetery 2:00pm	13 Sivan 14	14 Sivan 15	15 Sivan 16	16 Sivan 17	17 Sivan 18 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm Candle Lighting 8:06pm	18 Sivan 19 Parashat Beha'alotcha Shabbat Shahrith 10:00am 929 Learning 1:15pm Havdalah 9:14pm
19 Sivan 20	20 Sivan 21	21 Sivan 22	22 Sivan 23 Exploring Judaism 7:00pm	23 Sivan 24 613? Relevant? Commandments 7:00pm	24 Sivan 25 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm Candle Lighting 8:08pm	25 Sivan 26 Parashat Sh'lach Shabbat Mevarchim Shabbat Shahrith 10:00am 929 Learning 1:15pm Havdalah 9:16pm
26 Sivan 27 ISJL Conference	27 Sivan 28 ISJL Conference	28 Sivan 29	29 Sivan 30 Rosh Chodesh Tammuz	30 Tammuz 1 Rosh Chodesh Tammuz 613? Relevant? Commandments 7:00pm		



Congregation Agudath Achim

9401 Village Green Dr.
Shreveport, LA 71115

Phone: 318.797.6401

www.agudathshreveport.com

General inquiries:
office@agudathshreveport.com