



Agudath Achim  
Shreveport  
Est. 1902

9401 Village Green Drive, Shreveport, LA 71115  
[agudathshreveport.com](http://agudathshreveport.com)

Adar 5783 - Nisan 5783

March 2023

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# The Shul Spiel



**Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein**  
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**Rebecca Austin, President**  
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[office@agudathshreveport.com](mailto:office@agudathshreveport.com)

## Shabbat Services:

Friday Evening Services  
Streaming and In-Person  
at 7:30pm

**Saturday Morning Services**  
Streaming and In-Person at 10:00am

**Streaming at**  
<http://agudathshreveport.com/live-stream>

## Message from our President

As I write this we are getting ready to end the month of Shevat and move into Adar, and from February to March. This year, it struck me how often things mirror each other in our calendar and the secular one, and in our every-day life. Before we are able to celebrate Purim, we pass the yahrzeit of Moses, which this year will fall on February 28th. Moses's yahrzeit is a date we also tend to talk about the chevra kadisha, the burial society.

These are the people from our community who help prepare our loved ones for burial, and sit with them, usually in the synagogue library until the burial. I've served on our women's chevra kadisha for a number of years, and every single time I'm awed by our tiny community's ability to come together and care for each other. Another way we show our care for each other happened earlier this month when a number of congregants (including myself and Rabbi Sydni) were ill or had illness in their homes, letting us know that they wouldn't be at services. I want to reassure everyone that we don't anticipate having to cancel services on any kind of a regular basis, and that I appreciate the number of people who are concerned about keeping our congregation healthy. Even so, we're always happy to see your faces in the building. We're coming into a time of seeing a lot of each other. We have Purim just a few days after this message comes out, and then we start getting ready for Passover. Please talk to the office if you would like to help with kashering our kitchen or preparing meals for Passover. If you are going out of town and would be willing to pick up food marked for Passover for the synagogue or other congregants, please let me or Rabbi Sydni know. The night we meet in our social hall for seder second night we start counting up to the date we received the Torah, and somewhere during that count, it will be a year since I became your president. I thank you all for the opportunity to serve this community and as always, would love to hear your ideas for programming or fundraising.

*Rebecca Austin,*  
President

## From our Rabbi.....

### Revealing the Hidden - Costumes on Purim

Will you choose to dress up as Esther or Haman? Freddy Mercury or a pirate? The possibilities for dressing up on Purim are endless! But why dress up at all on the holiday of Purim? The possible answers to that question are endless, too!

One answer lies in the Purim *mitzvah* of *matanot la-evyonim*, gifts to the poor. When everyone dresses up, identities are hidden, and people can anonymously give and ask for assistance. For another perspective on the practice of dressing up, Purim, like Hanukah, is a holiday focused on *pirsumei nisa*, publicizing the miracle. We publicize the miracle of surviving Haman's decree against us with a public reading of the book of Esther, with a *raucous*, hard-to-miss celebration, and with lavish costumes. Dressing up also mirrors the moment in the book of Esther in which Mordekhai dresses up in the King's royal garments (Esther 6:11), a moment highlighted with a special tune when we read the Megillah. It has also been suggested (see articles below) that costume wearing was originally inspired, in part, by the Mardi Gras celebrations that have happened at this same time of year for centuries!

For a more spiritual take on wearing costumes on Purim, we turn to the book of Esther's motif of hiding. Esther's name contains the Hebrew root that means "to hide," *samekh - tav - resh*. Throughout the story, she hides her Jewish identity, only to save the Jewish people by revealing that identity to her husband, the King. So, too, God's identity is hidden throughout the book of Esther. Even though God's name never shows up, praying and fasting occur throughout the book, and we can see God's invisible hand guiding Esther and Mordekhai through their rescue of the Jewish people. Even with God's seeming absence, one Talmudic midrash (Shabbat 88a) claims that the moment when the Jews "upheld and accepted" the holiday of Purim (Esther 9:27) is also the moment the Jews truly upheld and accepted the Torah as given by God at Mount Sinai. Just as we wear costumes to hide our own identities, the book of Esther acts as a mask for God's Presence throughout the great span of history. By wearing costumes on Purim, we remind ourselves to watch for the hidden Presence of God in our every relationship and experience.

As you wear a costume on Purim this year, I challenge you to ask yourself two questions. First, where has God been hidden in your life? Perhaps you're missing a blessing or two underneath the mundane. Second, what are you hiding that longs to be revealed? As Esther's reveal of her Judaism frees the Jewish people from their prescribed death, perhaps your reveal will make way for some new freedom in your life. For whatever reason you choose to dress up, *Hag Purim Sameah*.

I look forward to celebrating with you at our **Covered Dish Dinner and Megillah Reading on Monday, March 6, at 6:30pm!**

Note: Three articles helped to round out this teaching. I hope they interest you, too!

[Sasha Rogelberg, "Unmasking the Origins of Purim Costumes," \*The Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle\*](#)

["Why Do Jews Wear Costumes on Purim?", \*My Jewish Learning\*](#)

[Dovid Zaklikowski, "Why Wear Purim Costumes?", \*chabad.org\*](#)

Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein

## **The Religious School calendar for March is not typical!**

- We will not have classes on March 5 since everyone will be enjoying the Purim Carnival. The Carnival will begin with a family friendly concert at 11, followed by beloved traditions including pastry promenade, face painting, balloon animals and lots of games!
- There will not be classes on the 12th or the 19th since it will be Caddo and Bossier Spring Breaks.
- We will resume the regular schedule on March 26.

For 8th through 12th graders, the NFTY Southern Kallah is right around the corner, the weekend of March 31st - April 2nd. Interested teens or parents can register at <http://jacobscamp.org/nftyso>, or call or email me with questions.

Looking ahead to the summer, please let me know how I can help with day camp, overnight camp, or Israel plans. Scholarships abound for all these opportunities, but time is of the essence. Students finishing 10th, 11th, or 12th grade can receive at least \$3000 off the price of a trip to Israel.

Religious School Director  
*Barbara Joseph*

**Save the date** for a Family Concert with Judy Caplan Ginsburgh on April 2 at 11:30 a.m. at B'nai Zion, co-hosted by The North Louisiana Jewish Federation and JCRS/PJ Library.



**Hadassah Shabbat,  
March 10th, 7:30 pm**

It's Agudath Achim's turn!

Members of Shreveport Chapter of Hadassah will participate in the services. Oneg following services hosted by Shreveport Chapter of Hadassah.

Queen Esther was born with the name Hadassah but her name was changed to hide her identity upon becoming Queen.

Hadassah fundraises for community programs and health initiatives in Israel and in the U.S. advocates on behalf of women's rights and religious autonomy.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## News from the North Louisiana Jewish Federation

Happy Adar from the North Louisiana Jewish Federation! I and members of the NLJF Board hope to see many of you at the upcoming Purim Carnival on March 5 and PJ Library Family Concert on April 2.

This year's Purim Carnival should appeal to all ages. While the bouncy house might not be for everyone, the music by Saul Kaye will be! Known as the "Pioneer of Jewish Blues," Saul's music is accessible, thought-provoking, originally beautiful and just plain FUN! The Carnival will kick off at 11 a.m. with a family-focused set of Saul's music, then kids and kids at heart can enjoy jumping, face painting, games and more. Lunch will be served around 12:30, with another set of music beginning at 1:00.

Know that amid the celebrations, the Federation is also focusing on more serious issues: from assistance for basic needs in our region to support for Jews in Ukraine, and from camp scholarships to community relationships to help fight anti-Semitism. We welcome your thoughts, questions, and concerns on any of these issues, and any other topics that affect the Jewish people of North Louisiana. Visit the website at [www.jewishnla.org](http://www.jewishnla.org).

A poster for the 2023 Purim Carnival. It features a large orange guitar on the left. The text is on a dark blue background. It lists activities: Games, Lunch, Concert, Mimosas, Bloody Marys, Face Painting, Hamantaschen, Balloon Creations, and Pastry Promenade. It mentions featuring Saul Kaye, the "Pioneer of Jewish Blues". It also says "in partnership with the ISJL". The date and time are March 5, 2023, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at 245 Southfield Road. RSVP is at [jewishnla.org/purim-rsvp/](http://jewishnla.org/purim-rsvp/). Costumes are encouraged.

The North Louisiana Jewish Federation presents:  
the 2023  
**PURIM CARNIVAL!**

Games  
Lunch  
Concert  
Mimosas  
Bloody Marys  
Face Painting  
Hamantaschen  
Balloon Creations  
Pastry Promenade

featuring the  
"Pioneer of Jewish Blues"  
Saul Kaye

in partnership with the **ISJL**

March 5, 2023  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
245 Southfield Road

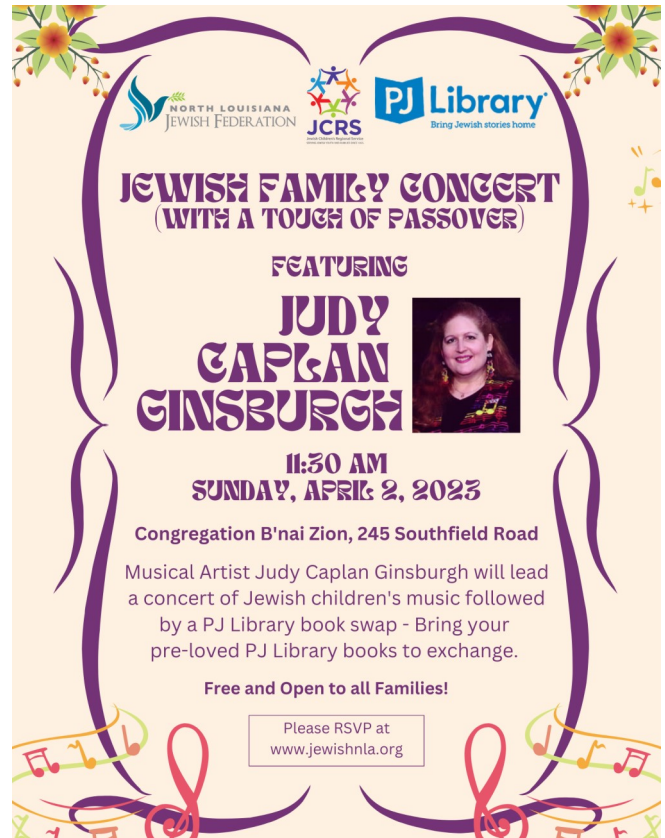
RSVP at:  
[jewishnla.org/purim-rsvp/](http://jewishnla.org/purim-rsvp/)  
Costumes Encouraged!

musical sets at  
11:00 (family focused)  
& 1:00 (all ages)

Links to the event page

(<https://jewishnla.org/connect/>)

and the RSVP form (<https://jewishnla.org/purim-rsvp/>)

A poster for the Jewish Family Concert. It has a light yellow background with purple decorative borders. It features the logos for North Louisiana Jewish Federation, JCRC, and PJ Library. The title is "JEWISH FAMILY CONCERT (WITH A TOUCH OF PASSOVER)". It features Judy Caplan Ginsburgh, with a photo of her. The date and time are Sunday, April 2, 2023, 11:30 AM. The location is Congregation B'nai Zion, 245 Southfield Road. It mentions a musical artist Judy Caplan Ginsburgh leading a concert of Jewish children's music followed by a PJ Library book swap. It says "Free and Open to all Families!". RSVP is at [www.jewishnla.org](http://www.jewishnla.org).

**THE NORTH LOUISIANA JEWISH FEDERATION**  
**JCRC**  
**PJ Library**  
Bring Jewish stories home

**JEWISH FAMILY CONCERT**  
(WITH A TOUCH OF PASSOVER)

FEATURING  
**JUDY CAPLAN GINSBURGH**

**11:30 AM**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023**

Congregation B'nai Zion, 245 Southfield Road

Musical Artist Judy Caplan Ginsburgh will lead a concert of Jewish children's music followed by a PJ Library book swap - Bring your pre-loved PJ Library books to exchange.

Free and Open to all Families!

Please RSVP at  
[www.jewishnla.org](http://www.jewishnla.org)

# Congregational Second Night Seder 2023

Agudath Achim will host a Second Night Passover Seder on April 6, 2023 at 6:00pm.

**Reservation deadline: March 23, 2023.**

We would appreciate your timely reservation so that sufficient Passover supplies can be ordered for our Seder. Please note: payment must be made prior to the Seder, not at the door.

Price per person: \$36 for ages 18+, \$18 for ages 5-17. Free for ages 4 and under.

To reserve: Please fill out the form below and return to the office along with your check or complete the form on our website with payment at:

<https://agudathshreveport.com/form/passover-second-night-seder.html>

Please call the office with any questions. Make checks payable to: Congregation Agudath Achim.

If you wish to pay by card, please pay online or call or visit the office during office hours (Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm).

If you would like to donate extra to offset the cost for others, please note that in your donation amount.

Dinner: \_\_\_\_\_ Adults (18+) \_\_\_\_\_ Youths (5-17) \_\_\_\_\_ Children (4 and under) \_\_\_\_\_

Please note if there are any vegetarians in your group by listing that number here: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note any food allergies below:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) (Please list all names of those who plan to attend):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please email: [office@agudathshreveport.com](mailto:office@agudathshreveport.com)

Or you may call during office hours at: 318-797-6401

# Wanted!

## Oneg/Kiddush Hosts

If you enjoy the camaraderie after the Friday night and Saturday morning services, Sign up to be a host (form readily available). See below.

You can either provide your own food or you can sponsor an oneg for \$36 and luncheon for another \$18.

If you're not able to prepare the luncheon in the synagogue kitchen during the week (M-F - 9am - 1pm), drop off the ingredients and recipe for Julie. She's a gem!!

Cookies and crackers with hekhshers are available even in the dollar stores. Feel free to use items in the refrigerator, such as salad dressings. Folders with all the "how to" menu suggestions, etc. are in the kitchen and office.

Our tummies thank you!

If you would like to sign up for sponsoring or hosting an Oneg and Kiddush Lunch on our website, go to:

<https://www.agudathshreveport.com/form/oneg.html>

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### ONEG SHABBAT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Onegs I would like to host:

Date/Season 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_



## Gift Shop

Watch for new items arriving at our Gift Shop.  
We have items for every occasion.



## Community Directory



The directory information is regularly updated with information that is provided to AA and BZ. So rather than a big production every other year, when your directory becomes frayed, call either office for an updated version.

**Please call the office for any changes in your phone number, address, email addresses, etc.**



## **Agudath Achim Life**

### **Sisterhood**

Thank you to all who use their Kroger community rewards for Sisterhood.

Thank you to all who donate toiletries for the Project Celebration Inc's Domestic Violence Shelter.

Thank you to all who put your canned drink pull tabs in the Ronald McDonald House Charity jar.

### **People of the Book Club**

After a hiatus (something else to blame on COVID) the book club will be meeting in person again in the BZ parlor at 7:00 pm on:

Tuesday, March 14 - The Escape Artist: The Man who Broke out of Auschwitz to Warn the World by Jonathan Freedland - nonfiction

Tuesday, April 11 - City of Thieves by David Benioff - historical fiction

Tuesday, May 9 - Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabriella Zevi - fiction

All books are available in all formats.

Email Helaine Braunig [braunigw@aol.com](mailto:braunigw@aol.com) if you have any questions.

Happy Reading!



### **BABY BOOMER USY REUNION THIS SUMMER**

High school friends from Southwest Region USY (United Synagogue Youth) will reunite in Houston the weekend of June 9-11, 2023, at Congregation Brith Shalom. This marks the fourth reunion for the USY region, and plans are underway for a dynamic weekend and numerous opportunities to reconnect with SWUSY members from the mid-sixties through the mid-seventies. The weekend will include a Sunday Zoom reunion with SWUSY alumni living in Israel.

If you are a SWUSY member from this era, we look forward to seeing you this June. For further details, contact Ronni Colbert Cohen at [ronni@universallightsinc.com](mailto:ronni@universallightsinc.com), or Rabbi Danny Horwitz at [rabbidanny@aol.com](mailto:rabbidanny@aol.com).

## March Celebrations



Lawrence Goodman	March 1
Robert Gordon	March 2
Rabbi Sydni Rubinstein	March 11
Trent Waller	March 17
Mark Cornelious	March 24
Uri Jeanmard	March 24
Guss Ginsburg	March 24

## Yasher Koach to our Oneg and Kiddush Sponsors

March 3/4	Lindy Alberts	
March 10	Hadassah	
March 11	Bob and Deena Lachman	
March 17/18	Pam Hebert <b>Shabbat B'ruchim HaBa'im</b>	For recovery of Bob Lachman
March 24/25	David and Sandra Ginsburg	In Memory of Mamie Lustberg, Morris Lustberg and Abram Ginsburg

**Oneg/Kiddush lunch hosts are still needed on  
March 31/April 1, and April 28th!**

# Shabbat Shalom

## March Schedule of Readings



Saturday	March 4	Torah Haftarah	Shabbat Zachor <i>Tetzavveh</i> Exodus 27:20-30:10 1 Samuel 15:2-34
Saturday	March 11	Torah Maftir Haftarah	Shabbat Parashat <i>Ki Tissa</i> Exodus 30:11-34:35 Numbers 19:1-22 Ezekiel 36:16-38
Saturday	March 18	Torah Maftir Haftarah	Shabbat Hachodesh <i>Vayakhel-Pekudey</i> Exodus 35:1-40:38 Exodus 12:1-20 Ezekiel 45:18-46:15
Saturday	March 25	Torah Haftarah	Shabbat Parashat <b><i>Vayikra</i></b> Leviticus 1:1-5:26 Isaiah 43:21-44:23

## Exploring Judaism (on Zoom)

**Thursdays at noon, starting March 23**

Exploring Judaism is a course for people of all backgrounds - Jews who want to learn more about their religion and heritage, community members who want to learn more about their Jewish friends and family, and people who want to walk on the path towards Jewish conversion.

This year, we'll meet on Zoom only, Thursdays at noon, beginning March 23. As in past years, we'll learn with the Miller Intro to Judaism (American Jewish University) curriculum. Agudath Achim members may attend the course for free. Non-members will pay \$180 for the full 19 weeks and a print textbook or \$60 per 6-week section. Please contact Rabbi Sydni (rabbi@agudathshreveport.com) to sign up or learn more information! Cost should not be a barrier, so please join us, whether or not these numbers are within your ability.

## **929 Learning : Age Old Text, New Perspectives** **Saturdays, 1:30 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.

The schedule for March will be:

March 4	II Samuel 13-17	Rebecca Austin
March 11	II Samuel 18-22	
March 18	II Samuel 23 - I Kings 3	Jason Oller
March 25	I Kings 4-8	

## **We need 929 Learning Leaders!**

We still need leaders for March 11 (II Samuel 18-22) and March 25 (I Kings 4-8), and all but the first week in April. If you would like to sign up using the website, go to:  
<https://agudathshreveport.com/929-class-leading.html>

## **Shabbat *B'rukhim HaBa'im*** **Saturday, March 18, 10:00am**

On Saturday, March 18, we'll say "welcome" (*b'rukhim haba'im*) to those in our congregation who are affirming their Judaism earlier in the week, through *mikvah* and *beit din*. Thank you to Mark Albritton, Emma Dahmer, Curtis Brown, and Deirdre Thornton, for all you do for our community. We are looking forward to celebrating you!

If you have previously gone through the conversion process and would like to offer reflections or words of encouragement, please contact Rabbi Sydni.

# March Yahrzeits

## Week of

February 26 - March 4

Phil Gilinsky  
Jack Cole  
Aisic Hirsch  
David Goodman  
Mark Nicholson  
Roy Robertson

## Week of

March 5 - 11

Rachel Bersin  
Helen Sternberg Arnold  
Abie Werth  
Maxine Levine  
Enrico De Benedetti  
Pearl Toys  
Coleman Williams  
Fannie Rubenstein  
Janice Hyman  
Louis Schorr  
Frances Wolchansky  
Irving Lipton  
Janice Gross  
Bernard Rosenfeld

## Week of

March 12-18

Mary Yellen  
Lenore Leavitt  
Darlene Swift  
Isaac Tebele  
Mamie Lustberg  
Stephen Suckle  
Franca De Benedetti

## Week of

March 19-25

Patricia Siegel  
Daniel Dechowitz  
Herman Yellen  
David Brandt  
Samuel Edward Strain Sr.  
Ethel Schnitt  
Gertrud Wiener  
Alvania W. LaCour

## Week of

March 26-April 1

Abram Ginsburg  
Freada Wolchansky  
Rose G. Lincove Vogel  
Morris Lustberg  
Ida F. Goodman  
Esther Meisel  
I.Z. Williams  
Nathan Carroll  
Salome Heiman Gardsbane  
Robert J. Fickel

## Donations

### In Beloved Memory of:

Shirley Sperling  
Howard Silberman

Goldie Brandt Stomberg  
Harry Stomberg  
Helen Stomberg Arnold  
Rae Stomberg Schneiber  
Sara Lee Wolchansky Levison

Rachel Groner

Mamie and Morris Lustberg  
Abram Ginsburg

### **By:**

Rachelle Gomolsky  
Rachelle Gomolsky  
Laura Gusba

Faye B. Tobin

Jackie S. Fleschman

David & Sandra Ginsburg

### In Honor of:

David & Sandra Ginsburg's  
50th Wedding Anniversary

### **By:**

Richard and Maureen Murov

### **Zikhrone Livrakhah**

We are saddened to share the passing of : Jonathan Thompson,  
father of Terrence Thompson.

HaMakom y'nachem etkhem  
B'tokh shaar aveilei tzion  
virushalayim

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

While every effort is made to provide accurate and current information, if there are any omissions or errors, please advise the office so that corrections can be made. Thank you.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8 Adar	2 9 Adar	3 10 Adar	4 <div>Parshat ZachorTetzaveh</div>
			6pm Federation Board Mtg.			10:00am Shabbat Shaharit 11:00am Kids' Shabbat Shindig 1:30pm 929 Learning
5	12 Adar	7	8 15 Adar	9 16 Adar	10 17 Adar	11 18 Adar
	6 Taanit Esther Erev Purim					<div>Parshat Parah Ki Tisa</div>
11:00 am Jewish Federation Purim Carnival at BZ	6:30pm Purim Covered Dish & Megillah Reading	Purim			5:56pm Candle Lighting 7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat	10:00am Shabbat Shaharit 1:30pm 929 Learning
12	13 20 Adar	14 21 Adar	15 22 Adar	16 23 Adar	17 24 Adar	18 25 Adar
	19 Adar					<div>Parshat Hachodesh Vayakhel-Pekudei</div>
		7:00pm People of the Book Club at BZ parlor			6:01pm Candle Lighting 7:30 pm Hadassan Shabbat	10:00am Shabbat B'ruchim HaBa'im 1:30pm 929 Learning
19	20 26 Adar	21 28 Adar	22 29 Adar	23 1 Nisan	24 2 Nisan	25 3 Nisan
		11:00am Dorothy Rosenfeld Unveiling	11:00am Hodesh Hadash Women's Learning	12:00pm Exploring Judaism (on Zoom)		<div>Parshat Vayikra</div>
				Seder reservation deadline	7:06pm Candle Lighting 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	10:00am Shabbat Shaharit 1:30pm 929 Learning
	7pm Board Meeting				7:11pm Candle Lighting 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	8:20pm Havdalah
26	27 4 Nisan	28 6 Nisan	29 7 Nisan	30 8 Nisan	31 9 Nisan	1 April 10 Nisan
				12:00pm Exploring Judaism (on Zoom)		<div>Parshat Tzav</div>
						10:00am Shabbat Shaharit 11:00am Kids' Shabbat Shindig
						1:30pm 929 Learning
						8:25pm Havdalah