



# Agudas Achim Newsletter

## July 2022

E-mail: [agudasachim@hvc.rr.com](mailto:agudasachim@hvc.rr.com) or Telephone (845) 439-3600

### Save the date

July 1, 2022

Gather at 7:00

7:30 PM Services

Levins begin welcoming the Sabbath\*

\*LIVE SERVICES beginning at 7:30 PM\*

#### Rabbi's Message

Chèvre, I look forward to joining you in the sanctuary of our synagogue at our Shabbat service on July 1. It has been 2 years since we have been together in that holy space where memories and aspirations, hope and healing are intertwined with the sense of the sacred.

Kadosh, the Hebrew word for Holy, means "to sit apart" in a sanctuary. In our community praying place, we come away for a space of time from everyday pressures, concerns and duties. It is an opportunity to link, on a spiritual level, with the Holiness that transcends time and space. Each of us pursues our own understanding of God and has an opportunity to connect with the Divine in ourselves and in our world.

While God's presence is not limited to our Temple, the famous phrase from the Book of Leviticus, "let them establish for Me a sanctuary that I might dwell among them", teaches that we can especially encounter the Holy Spirit in our own sanctuary and then transfer and transport that encounter to our everyday world. "That I may dwell among them" means that we take the encounter with us from the synagogue into our everyday life. This is also true for those who access our sacred service via Zoom - the Spirit dwells among us.

Of course, a Jew can pray or meditate or feel the

Divine outside of the presence of Agudas Achim, but when we walk into our historic Shul we connect not only with a sense of Kadosh, but we also encounter the "K'lay Kodesh" - the holy objects of the Ark, the Torah scrolls, the eternal light, the names on the walls of loved ones lost and the pews where over time we have encountered Adonai Eloheinu, our Holy God. Further, we encounter the many loved ones and dear friends with whom we have shared our Sacred Service.

Yes, I have felt and will continue to feel the praying bond with those who join our worship service via Zoom. The community comprises those stained-glass windows in the Zoom gallery. There is holiness and connection in that electronic world. And yet, I intuit that entering our physical "House of Assembly" will allow us to move higher and even higher.

May we all stay well and healthy so that those who choose to drive to the synagogue to link with those in the pews and those on the screen, to hear the holy words of the service, to hear the Levins' beautiful renditions of our liturgy, to feel the historic Presence, may do so on July 1.

Be Well,  
Love,  
Rabbi Fred Pomerantz

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Agudas Achim means 'gathering of brothers (friends)' but in Livingston Manor it is that and so much more. What an incredible bunch of people make us who we are. All over the country synagogues are 'winding down' and shutting their doors due to lack of attendance. They have no one to serve. Yet this little schul, located on the last frontier of Sullivan County with such a beautiful community, stands. Thank you to everyone that, in your own way, helps make this true.

Here are a just a few ways that our community provides me with inspiration.

The Trout Parade; Livingston Manor held the annual fun; quirky trout parade June 11<sup>th</sup> and Agudas Achim had a booth. There were a slew of members that manned the booth introducing us to some that were unfamiliar and some who needed a little reminding. For those that could attend it was a fun, welcoming, safe and clean way for everyone to spend the day.

Second, there are so many more people that actively contribute to Agudas Achim than the group that worked at the trout parade! There are a variety of hands that make a difference; each member of the executive board (Michele Hemmer, Bob Freedman, Don Simkin, Lynne Skolnick and Gary Siegel) who actively work to get things done. They are the foundation of the congregation. Shelley Siegel Watson who volunteers her time to put the e-newsletter together every month, the Leadership board that includes Sarah Weber, Mike Uretsky, Lynne Freedman, Karen Blocker, Alan Blocker and Warren Blumenthal consistently provide invaluable support and guidance. And then there are so many others; Wendy Schwalb, Hope Blecher, Tobi Innerfield, Rabbi Pomerantz, Ira and Julia Levin, Mary Inghrim-they all contribute to our present and our future. We would not be able to do what we do without them.

Third, the Bar Mitzvah of Harlan Kuckelman and the Bat Mitzvah of Sasha Fairman. There was a period of about 20 years when there were no Bar

Mitzvahs held in Agudas Achim. Children are life.

Fourth, members like Les Kristt of Kristt Company or Irving Kaplan of Kaplan Custom Cabinets that provide their professional skills and knowledge. Les, thanks for the beautiful banner at the Trout Parade and Irving, thanks for taking hours to help make our building more secure.

And fifth, Mary-Jane Schneider. Mary Jane and her husband Allan have been members of Agudas Achim for decades. Unfortunately, Allan passed away in 2019 and through covid Mary Jane has endured challenges and tremendous loss including the passing of her son Joseph. With that, her generosity to Agudas Achim, her strength and her spirit have endured with kindness and dignity. We'll be honoring her husband Allan and her son Joseph at our services in August with a dedication of the stage area downstairs but Mary Jane is worthy of an honor in her own right for the inspiration she provides.

I could go on but I'll end with the thought that there is inspiration all around us. If you find yourself wondering, just stop and think about Agudas Achim; a tiny schul in a community with almost no Jews that continues to defy the odds providing a strong thread of Judaism on Sullivan County's Western frontier.

L' Shalom,

Judy Siegel, President  
Jsiegel523@gmail.com  
845-798-0783

## Do you want to help us preserve this history?

Do you have a story to share now? Some knowledge or memories of these and other Livingston Manor families? Please send me an email and share your piece(s) of history. Send the request on to family and friends. Be a part of preserving our history for the future.

## Jewish Education News

Summer is now upon us, and it is beautiful in the Catskills. All around us is life. The trees are in full bloom, the fragrance of flowers fill the air, people come out and mingle once again. Our snowbirds fly back to be in our gorgeous surroundings. Last week I met someone who used to live locally, but now lives in Texas. He returns at this time of year, every year, to be here.

Summer has become a period of sacred time for many. A few short months during the year that calls to us. Come home. Be here. For some Sullivan County is an area for hiking, fishing, camping. A place for a multitude of outdoor activities. For others this area is for peaceful rest, rejuvenation, and spiritual connection.

As Abraham Joshua Heschel reminds us, "We must not forget that it is not a thing that lends significance to a moment; it is the moments that lend significance to things." These moments are sacred points in time. And Judaism teaches us to be "attached to holiness in time, to be attached to sacred events." For us as Jews holiness in time is Shabbat. Shabbat is time within time. It is when we set aside time. Torah says, "On six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there shall be a Sabbath of complete rest, a sacred occasion." We are marking time that is different from the rest of the week.

On the first Friday evening of the month, we gather at our historic Congregation Agudas Achim to celebrate Shabbat both in person in our building, and on our zoom link. It is our sacred moment in time to be together, to sing, pray and have our joyous voices raise to the heavens.

Join us on July 1st, August 5th and September 2nd at 7:15 for pre-Oneg, and music with The Levins and services with Rabbi Pomerantz at 7:30 pm as we celebrate Shabbat together with our Agudas Achim Community. Come home. Be here. Bring a friend, to join us as part of our Kehillah Kedushah, our sacred community. I'm looking forward to seeing you.

I will be working with the teachers over the summer to prepare for the upcoming school year. Come September, we will again be having our Hebrew School via zoom. Our families are scattered around the region, and this is the best way for us to join for class. If you have an idea about school you would like to share with me, please reach out to me. I welcome input and feedback. [tinnerfield@gmail.com](mailto:tinnerfield@gmail.com) Watch for upcoming information, and school registration materials.

Have a wonderful summer.

Shalom u'Verachah, Peach and Blessings

Tobi Innerfield, Director of Education

## HIGH HOLIDAYS

Rosh Hashanah begins September Sunday evening September 25<sup>th</sup>. As per our tradition we will hold services that evening and the next morning. We expect to have those services in person and via zoom.

Yom Kippur begins Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. As per our tradition we will begin the services with Kol Nidre on Tuesday evening and will hold services the next morning and afternoon. We expect to have those services in person and via zoom.

Happy Anniversary

Henry & Michelle Ordynans 7/2  
Jacques & Debra Fuchs-Nadeau 7/4  
Richard & Wendy Schwalb 7/12  
Ronald & Susan Elinoff 7/16

Happy Birthday

Diane Stein 7/1  
Alex Schwalb 7/3  
Marlene Wertheim 7/3  
Rachel Schmitt 7/5  
Joseph M Galli 7/9  
Dayra Lederer 7/9  
Simon Hirschhorn 7/12  
Carl Tishler 7/12  
Marian Kleinman 7/21  
Heidi Leunisen-Rivera 7/24  
Daniel Hemmer 7/28  
Jacques Nadeau 7/28  
Sarah Nadeau 7/28  
Amy Lavine 7/30

Message from the Levins

It has been wonderful to see our Agudas Achim community in person again! Hearing voices and music fill the sacred space, fills our souls. We have been very grateful to the leadership and support team for taking the time and effort to provide a successful hybrid experience for our community. We are highly aware that the technical prowess and ingenuity is no small feat, so thank you to those who have and are continuing to make these services available to all.

We were recently honored to be asked to sing on a new "Or Zarua" choral piece written by Billy Dreskin, Rabbi Emeritus. It is a beautiful arrangement that is very uplifting to the heart and can be found on the Jonah Maccabee Foundation website for free or donation. Hear it here:

<https://jonahmac.org/product/or-zarua/> As "Or Zarua" suggests, "every kindness radiates holiness."

May we all receive illumination from our continued love and interaction with one another. We look forward to being with you again soon!

Love and Shalom, Ira and Julia

### UPCOMING SHABBAT SERVICES

\*Due to ongoing covid concerns the decision regarding live attendance of Rabbi Pomerantz and our Cantorial Duo will remain fluid.

July 1, 2022

**Gather at 7:00**

7:30 PM Services

**Levins begin welcoming the Sabbath\***

**\*LIVE SERVICES beginning at 7:30 PM\***

A zoom link will be provided for anyone that prefers not to attend in person. HINT: it is the same every month

August 5, 2022

**Gather at 7:00**

7:30 PM Services

**Levins begin welcoming the Sabbath**

**LIVE SERVICES beginning at 7:30 PM**

A zoom link will be provided for anyone that cannot or Prefers not to attend in person. HINT: it is the same every month

**POST SERVICE DEDICATION:** please join us as we honor the Schneider family and dedicate the stage downstairs in honor of Allan and Joseph Schneider.

September 2, 2022

**Gather at 7:00**

7:30 PM Services

**Levins begin welcoming the Sabbath\***

**\*LIVE SERVICES beginning at 7:30 PM\***

A zoom link will be provided for anyone that prefers not to attend in person. HINT: it is the same every month

### COVID PROTOCOLS

Covid concerns change regularly and the necessary protocols need to change with them. While not required, we ask that those attending services in person be considerate of those that have health concerns and be vaccinated.

We will require that everyone wear a mask during services. NOTE: Due to ongoing covid concerns the decision regarding live attendance of Rabbi Pomerantz and our Cantorial Duo will remain fluid.

Thank you for the Donation

Les Mattis & Rose Brown

Karen and Alan Blocker to purchase a prayer book "in honor of our grandson Alex Schwalb's graduation from Cornell University's Dyson/SC Johnson College of Business Cum Laude and our granddaughter Jessica Schwalb's admission to Columbia University"

## CANTORIAL NEWS

We are excited to learn that Ira and Julia Levin will be leading services at Monticello's Temple Shalom in song and prayer beginning in July. They will continue at Agudas Achim on the first Friday of the month for Shabbat services, for Rosh Hashanah and for Yom Kippur. We're so glad Temple Shalom was able to make that happen and we're very happy to know that Ira and Julia will be close by during the weeks that we are not able to enjoy their musical inspirations at Agudas Achim.

## DONATIONS

Our in-person contact (and thus our fundraising efforts) is limited. Our philosophy has always been to maintain low dues and keep an open-door policy so that anyone can join us in person when available or now virtually. But that philosophy depends on generous donations from people like you. Please consider donating to Congregation Agudas Achim ... no amount is too large or too small! You can donate and designate it to one of the following:

Security  
Building fund  
Cemetery fund  
Endowment fund  
Mailing costs  
Mitzvah fund  
Tzedakah fund

or consider making a donation in honor or memory of a friend, a loved one or someone you care about with a lasting memorial donation by purchasing an honorary:

Chair \$36  
Rosh Hashanah Prayer Book \$36  
Yom Kippur Prayer Book \$36

## BEST WAY TO DONATE:

By Check: mail to PO Box 714, Livingston Manor, NY 12758

By Credit Card website ([congregationagudasachim.org](http://congregationagudasachim.org)) and click donate now

## MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to those of you that have become members or maintained your membership this year. We have a number of new members and most members have renewed. Every one of you is valued and treasured.

## WANT TO BE INVOLVED ?

Are you interested in becoming involved in the direction of Agudas Achim? We really don't ask too much of your time but anything you want to give will be appreciated. Just let us know! Send me an email or text or write to [virtualshabbat@gmail.com](mailto:virtualshabbat@gmail.com) We would love to hear from you.



### Congregation Agudas Achim – appearance at Trout Parade

Congregation Agudas Achim makes an appearance at Livingston Manor's Trout Parade! After a two-year hiatus, the Trout Parade came back to Livingston Manor complete with booths, a BBQ and a very 'fishy' parade. A huge 'thank you' goes out to everyone who helped make our information booth come to life. Judy and Gary, Lynne and Bob, Karen and Alan, Michele, Hope and Tobi and Steven all had a hand in truly making this opportunity a success. With many new families/individuals signing up to receive information about our congregation, we are truly excited about welcoming them into our Agudas Achim family. This was a fantastic day to be a part of the Livingston Manor community and such a wonderful time to inform others about our amazing synagogue. We can't wait to join in again next year. Maybe we can create a gefilte fish float for the parade!!

