



Agudas Achim Newsletter

October 2023

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

Friday 7:00 PM Gather In person at Agudas Achim or on zoom
October 6 7:30 PM Levins begin welcoming the Sabbath* live and via zoom*

Rabbi's Message

Chèvre

Simchat Torah means celebration of the Torah. As we read the very last words at the end of torah, we begin another scroll rolled to the beginning. And we celebrate the moment with song and dance.

Have you ever carried a Torah scroll around the congregation, along with other Torahs from the ark? The visual of many Scrolls in the parade, along with the singing of folk songs we all know, compromise the bulk of this shortened service.

Those years when we have enough congregants in the pews, we open an entire torah, encircling it around the congregation. There's great power and solemnity in this ritual, as not only are the first and last verses read, but I have a chance to show where the various stories and epochs exist in the outstretched parchments sown together to constitute the whole.

The Jewish mystics taught that Simchat Torah is symbolic of the marriage of The Jewish People and Torah. Because of this, we and other congregations have adopted an eastern European wedding custom of offering an alcoholic drink to those who had dances with the "bride."

Simchat Torah brings together, in joy and celebration the High Holyday- Sukkot cycle that began with Rosh ha Shanah.

It provides us with a joyous opportunity to end the most attended gatherings of the Jewish Year.

Finally, we utilize the ancient lulav and etrog, the combination of palm, myrtle, and willow leaves, and the fragrant bright yellow citron to mark the end of the sukkot cycle in personal and communal thanksgiving.

Our Zoom community, which attended our High Holyday services in great number, are of course invited to Simchat torah services as well. The lyrics of many of the songs will be available for you to sing along with the Levins as well.

The cycle of torah is Renewed for the Jewish People, just as it is for each individual congregation.

In person or on Zoom, join us as we, together, mark the end of our Holyday period.

Once more, we were delighted that we could host so many full or part time residents of Sullivan and Delaware county to our historic synagogue for the Jewish new year and day of atonement.

Our thanks to all who made these days possible.

Love,
Rabbi Fredric S. Pomerantz

Thank you for the donation

Annual Appeal

Belmay Family Foundation, Inc

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Diane Stein

Jack Tocker

Building fund

Dayra & Michael Lederer

Tedda Lindeman

Sarah Weber

In honor of Bob Freedman
and in recognition of the Torah

Temple Beth Shira

In memory of Joseph Brenig

Avril Brenig

In memory of Rose B. Brown

Les Mattis

In memory of Elliott & Ann Pearl

Johanna Clarke

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Agudas Achim is a special place. We are blessed with an esteemed Rabbi, professional musicians who share their incredible skills with us (Ira and Julia Levin, Sarah Weber, Richie Chiger, Gary Siegel, and an occasional member of the Pomerantz family!) an army of volunteers and a beautiful spirit that is hard to describe. Unlike many congregations, we are not an established community of families who come together after generations of services and events. Instead, those new to the area and those that have lived here for many years join together to share prayer, warmth and simply being Jewish together. We have created a community.

To those that attended live or virtually during the High Holidays, thank you for being a part of this unique congregation. We are very lucky that you participated. It matters. You matter. Your presence matters. It's why the "army of volunteers" do what we do...so that we are all able to be part of a community of Jews who share a history that spans thousands of years.

Yet here today in 2023 life is so full of changes, it's grounding to know that in one corner of a small rural county there is a foundation that we can all call home. Thank you for being part of the Agudas Achim family.

L'Shana Tova

Judy Siegel, President
845-798-0783

Zoom Congregation Report

By Steve Innerfield

Last winter it was decided there was a real need to enhance the Zoom experience for our Remote Congregants, so a project was started to make sure that we would be ready for this year's High Holidays. With the full support of our Board, Advisory Committee, and several generous congregants the work was done ourselves without the need for an outside vendor. Much was done, including:

- Relocating the Internet Router from downstairs to the Balcony
- Running ethernet cable to the Levins and to the new Zoom control station on the balcony
- Adding a camera to the balcony which can zoom, pan, and tilt
- Replacing one of the Temple laptops
- Replacing the sound system
- Adding the new rolling widescreen monitor to the side of the Bima, so that people in the Sanctuary can follow the same slides being shown the Zoom Congregation and so congregants in the Sanctuary can see all the windows of the Zoom participants

I'm happy to report that our virtual High Holiday Services were a complete success! We estimate about 50 people worshipped remotely with us on Rosh Hashanah, about 60 virtual participants joined for Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur morning, and we probably had about 40 people logging back in for the Yom Kippur Afternoon Service and N'eilah. We heard back from many people that the sound was great, and they loved that we could share a closeup of the Rabbi when he was speaking from the Bima. As people join us from home, they can choose between watching 3 different views of the live Services.

As we move to all-virtual services for the winter, we will continue to work to enhance the Zoom experience. Special thanks go out to everyone who helped with this project!

SIMCHAT TORAH

We hope you will be able to attend our last live service for the year on October 6th. It's always a nice celebration and, if enough attend, we'll unroll and, with the scroll wrapped around the room Rabbi Pomerantz will share various sections with us. It's a very moving service-hope you can be there!

UPCOMING SERVICES

email virtualshabbat@gmail.com for zoom link.

HINT: It's the same every month

Friday, Oct 6 7:00 PM Gather In person at Agudas Achim or on zoom
7:30 PM Levins begin welcoming the Sabbath* live and via zoom*

**** THIS WILL BE OUR LAST LIVE SERVICE UNTIL THE SPRING!**

Friday, Nov 3 7:00 PM Social Time with your beverage of choice
7:30 PM Services
Post services zoom gathering with Levins and congregants attending

Friday, Dec 1 7:00 PM Social Time with your beverage of choice
7:30 PM Services
Post services zoom gathering with Levins and congregants attending

DAFFODIL GARDEN/DOVE-DAFFODIL-DASH/COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT

Commemorating Children's Lives Lost in Holocaust. Joining our communities through a garden, a walk, and the arts. For more information [click here](https://gofund.me/ac57266c) (<https://gofund.me/ac57266c>) for a gofundme page and a YouTube video.

Daffodil Planting: Thursday, October 12th and Friday, October 13th
3:00 pm -5:00 pm Creekside Park, Liberty

Dove-Daffodil-Dash Sunday, October 15th
Meet at noon, Start 12:30 Arthur's Acres Animal Sanctuary
89 Ahrens Rd., Parksville and concludes at Creekside Park, Liberty, NY.
You can email Hope at hopedoc1@gmail.com for more information

LAST CHANCE

Join CD Trips for a fabulous trip to Iconic Israel! A number of us will be departing on December 5th for an incredible 10-day journey. Reach out to cdtripsllc@gmail.com for more information

YOUR PATIENCE IS SO APPRECIATED

We are, mostly, volunteers and there are many of us doing our best to get it all right—the life event notifications, the dues notices, the acknowledgements, the zoom services the Onegs and much more. Your patience is appreciated when we miss. Many of you let us know gently, some not so much. Just keep in mind that a lot of effort goes into making it right. We appreciate your gentle understanding.

HELP PRESERVE YOUR STORY AS PART OF OUR HISTORY!!!!

Do you have a story to share now? Some photos of the synagogue or people that attended Agudas Achim. 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.

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 We would love to hear from you.

Happy Anniversary

Joshua & Marta Pomerantz 10/9

Randy & Eileen Katz 10/16

Happy Birthday

Joe Rivera 10/6

Teddy Jaffe 10/8

Kenneth Schmitt 10/9

Richard Schwalb 10/12

Rosa Kleinman 10/13

Diane Foster 10/19

Jonathan Resnick 10/20

Steven Innerfield 10/26

**2nd
Year!**

Havdalah Service

If you haven't been to Rabbi Tobi's Zoom Havdalah,
you don't know what you are missing. Warm, spiritual, welcoming and musical.

What a wonderful way to spend 15 minutes.

Havdalah is the Jewish ceremony held at the end of Shabbat.

Join us and be part of our growing Zoom community.

Save the date!

Saturday, Oct. 21st @ 8 pm

Use this Zoom Link to come into the Havdalah.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71950737639?pwd=yDFMo4a1KYbcnHNgZSr1BUQRmrU621.1>

Meeting ID: 719 5073 7639 Passcode: OveXyi

By phone: 1-646-931-3860

Or use this abbreviated link: <http://bit.ly/3XWsL2I> or this QR Code:



(Note: This is a unique Zoom link and is NOT the link that we use for Shabbat services.)

To heighten your personal Havdalah experience, you may choose to have sweet-smelling spices with you...cinnamon, cloves, or allspice. Some people will take an orange and stick whole cloves into it.

LEADERSHIP BOARD

Judy Siegel, President	jsiegel523@gmail.com
Michele Hemmer, Vice President	hemmerMD@yahoo.com
Bob Freedman, Immediate Past President	mrffreed@aol.com
Gary Siegel, Treasurer	cdtripsllc@gmail.com
Lynn Skolnick, Secretary	lynnskolnick@gmail.com
Don Simkin, Member at Large	dsimkin@hvc.rr.com
Alan Blocker	msnaab@aol.com
Karen Blocker	msnaab@aol.com
Sarah Weber	swkloria@gmail.com
Lynne Freedman	mrffreed@aol.com
Hope Blecher	hopedoc1@gmail.com
Rabbi Tobi Innerfield (director of education)	tinnerfield@gmail.com
Bonnie Katz	katz.75@gmail.com

Jewish Education News

What does “The Lion King” have in common with Judaism? In the early part of the story, Mufasa takes young Simba on patrol with him. They start off standing on Pride Rock, overlooking the land, when Mufasa tells Simba that his job as king is to protect the land, and that everything lives in a delicate balance. Thus begins Mufasa’s lesson on the circle of life.

Judaism is cyclical, we experience circles throughout our life, and within time. Throughout our life, Judaism marks events in time with sanctification and ceremony. From the time we are born, to Bar/ Bat Mitzvah, to the wedding chuppah, and even to death, and all the moments in-between. Each year of our life, we celebrate with a birthday, or mark an anniversary of an event. In Jewish time, we count the cycle of the year on Rosh Hashanah, and in our reflection, we think back over the year from the previous High Holy Days assessing what have we done well, what we did not and for what we need to ask forgiveness. The cycle of our Jewish year has many festivals and celebrations. Following on the heels of Yom Kippur is Sukkot and Simchat Torah. It is a mitzvah, a commandment (the true meaning of mitzvah) to begin building your Sukkah immediately following the end of Yom Kippur, and not wait the start of Sukkot, the 7-day Torah-based harvest festival, to do so.

At the end of Sukkot, we celebrate Simchat Torah. What a celebration it is! We rejoice with music, singing and dancing...with the Torahs! Traditionally there are 7 Hakafot, dancing in a circle around the synagogue. At the end of the 7 circles, we read out loud the last line of Torah, and then immediately we read the first line of Torah. Our reading of Torah does not end, it too is cyclical. The Torah portion following Simchat Torah is Bereishit, starting with Genesis 1:1, we again read the narrative of the creation story.

Our children learn about our circles through their experiences in their Jewish homes, the temple and in Hebrew School. Like Mufasa saw the importance of teaching his son, so that when he is older, he will know the way to be king, we too teach our children to learn the ways of our people for when they get older, they will know and understand, and it will become part of them. This is our circle of life, centered on Torah, love and relationships with God and one another.

Hebrew school classes for this school year are just beginning. Have your child as part of our school. Contact me for more information.

Shalom u’Verachah ~ Peace and Blessings
Rabbi Tobi Innerfield
Director of Education