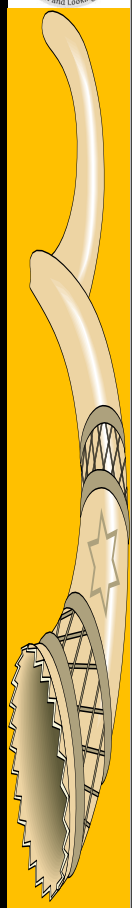
Sept/Oct 2020

ELUL/ TISHRI/ CHESHVAN 5780/5781



Congregation Agudath Achim

The Shofar

Student Rabbi Ben Freed

Shalom y'all,

Obviously "*The Shofar*" is the name of Agudath Achim's newsletter throughout the entire year, but it's especially appropriate now as we navigate our way through the month of Elul to the High Holidays. Traditionally, we hear a few notes of the shofar every morning during this month as we prepare for the 100 blasts we will hear on Rosh Hashanah.

But what are we supposed to hear in these shofar calls? What is the purpose of hearing the sound of the ram's horn blaring out over and over again. Rabbi Katie Greenberg, a rabbi at CSAIR—the synagogue in Riverdale where I serve as an intern—gave a sermon this week in which she addressed our need to hear the sounds of the shofar. "It's a time to remind us to simply be where we are and to feel what we feel," she said. "It's a time for a kind of meditation."

When the shofar is sounded in Elul and on Rosh Hashanah, we hear three different types of blasts: *tekiah, shevarim,* and *t'ruah*. According to the Torah and later commentaries, these different sounds have distinct meanings and learning about them can help each one play a different role in our lives. I would like to see how *this* "Shofar" can use each of the notes of *the* shofar to inspire the Agudath Achim community.

Tekiah: The most simple sound of the shofar is the one medium-long blast of the *tekiah*. This note appears at the beginning and end of each round of shofar blowing and also comes in between the other notes to provide a sense of balance and continuity. In the book of Numbers, this longer blast is sounded to gather the people of Israel together during their long march in the desert. When the people heard the sound of a *tekiah* they would know that it was time to draw close.

This message is crucial as we come to the High Holidays and beyond as an Agudath Achim community. The Coronavirus has made gathering in person impossible, so how will we hear the call of *tekiah* and ensure that our community comes together? When you hear this *tekiah*—as you read these words—think about who you will reach out to with a phone call, an email, a letter, a video chat, to let them know that even though we're physically far apart, we are still able to hear the blast of the *tekiah* and know to draw close.

Shevarim: The longer plaintive cry of *tekiah* begins to break apart in the sound of *shevarim*, the three shorter blasts sounded together. Rabbi Katie Greenberg taught that according to the early kabbalists, *shevarim* is the sobbing cry of a Jewish heart—yearning to connect, to grow, to achieve, to do better. When we hear *shevarim,* we hear the brokenness that is around us, and especially within us. If *tekiah* is a call to draw together, *shevarim* can be our call to draw inwards, to examine those parts of us that are broken and crying out.

Let this *shevarim*—these words—call you to contemplate both your own needs and your opportunities for growth as we approach Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. What is it that you need to feel more happy, healthy, and whole as we move into the year 5781? What are the parts of you that are crying out for attention and improvement? We likely cannot perfectly meet all of those needs or correct all of our flaws, but with *shevarim* we seek to begin the process by identifying them.

In my work as a hospital chaplain, I write an evaluation after every visit with a patient. One of the questions it asks me to reflect on is how the patient is handling their spiritual distress. Rev. Christiana Wright, my supervisor, told me on my first day, "there's an option where you can say there is no spiritual distress, but no one is actually without spiritual distress… some people just handle their distress better than others." It can be a difficult and painful experience to recognize our own distress—spiritual or otherwise. I know from my own experience that we as humans often push down the cries of our heart as a defense mechanism because they can be so painful to hear. For others, tapping into their own pain may be more natural but using it as a platform for growth can be still be challenging. Whatever your personal challenge to this may be, my hope for all of us is that we allow the cry of *shevarim* to echo within us and to give us the opportunity to fully feel our own pain and shortcomings so that we can begin the process of *t'shuvah*, of turning, healing, repentance, and growth.

T'ruah: The *t'ruah* is the harshest note sounded by the shofar—a series of short staccato blasts that are arresting in their power and their sharpness. We read about these *t'ruah* blasts in the book of Numbers as well. Where *tekiah* was the call to draw together, *t'ruah* was the call to move—to march forward. In the Torah, Rosh Hashanah is referred to as *Yom T'ruah* the day of the blasts that move us forward. The *t'ruah* is the alarm clock, the motivator, the wake-up call telling us that coming together and looking inward is fine and good, but there is work to be done!

(Continued on page 3)

Presidents Message… Susan Weinstein

Hello congregants and friends. This will be my last Shofar President's letter, as my 2-year term as your president ends in October. It has been a challenge and an honor to serve in this position, especially during a pandemic.

SAVE THE DATE—Annual meeting will be held virtually on Oct. 18, 2020 at 3 PM.

Our board is open for nominations to serve on the board, including yourself, if you'd like to serve. This must be a Synagogue member in good standing. We also always need folks to serve on our committees and task forces. Soon we will be appointing a Rabbi Search Committee, so let me know if you'd be interested in serving. Contact Toni Roosth either by phone or email, TERoosth@gmail.com, if you want to suggest someone.

Our new Siddurim and Chumashim are on the way and we're excited to begin using them after the High Holidays. For the Shabbats between now and the High Holidays, we will continue to use our older books. We are shifting to the Conservative Lev Shalem Siddur and Etz Hayim Chumash, which will be available on our website as we will be continuing services virtually as long as it is unsafe to gather in person. We'll be mailing information for how you can dedicate a new book, as we honor those who have dedicated books in the past.

Prior o the High Holidays we will be distributing High Holiday gift bags, including our Conservative prayer books that we used last year. These will be on loan for you to use at home to be able to keep up with our virtual services but must be returned after the holidays. There also will be information on how to join our livestreaming services, and how to keep your computer 'awake' so you can set it prior to the holiday beginning and it will broadcast when someone is within the Shul so you don't have to press any buttons or actually work the electronics on the actual holiday. Our plan is to have folks drive by the Synagogue to pick up from Sunday September 13 through Wednesday September 16, between 10 AM through 2 PM, and also from 5 PM through 7 PM the same dates. There will be the opportunity to come into the sanctuary, one family/person at a time to do some reflection within the building, if desired.

It takes a village to keep the Synagogue operating and functioning, and many people have helped me along the way. There are too many to individually thank, but I appreciate any and all help I've received over the past two years. It's an honor to serve.

Sue

We mourn the passing of

Allan Mendel
Husband of Carol and father of Sarah & Naomi

William "Bill" Sachs
Uncle of Chuck (Charlene) Prousnitzer

Rabbi Shaya Klimnick
father of Tzipora Hornstein

May the Omnipresent comfort you among the mourners of Zion & Jerusalem.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Streaming Shabbat Services

beginning Saturday, August 29 at 10 AM

via live streaming.

The link is HERE: https://venue.streamspot.com/d4c81932

Please join us as we practice and get ready for the High Holidays.
If there are glitches, forgive me and we will correct them as we go along.

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING

October 18, 2020 | Sunday | 3 PM

Meeting will be virtual due to COVID 19

State of the Synagogue
Elect Officers & Board
2020-2021 Budget

Committee Reports
Old/New Business
Religious Services

Congregation Agudath Achim Board of Directors

President	Susan Weinstein
1st Vice President	Terri Cohen
2nd Vice President	Michael Kuperman
Treasurer	Mike Margolis
Secretary	Toni Roosth
Financial Secretary	Polly Greenbaum
1st Past President	David Greenbaum
2nd Past President	Karen Mackey
Men's Club	William Lulky
Sisterhood	Karen Mackey
At-Large Members:	Richard Steppach
	Dan Girone
	Valerie Steinberg
	Lirit Franks
	Jonathan Aronson
	Chuck Prousnitzer

Pre-Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Friday Evenings

with Student Rabbi Ben's NYC congregation.

Look for Rabbi Ben's weekly email message for that link.

Sip & Schmooze

Sip your favorite beverage!

Wednesday Evenings at 5 PM.

We've had so many friends join & welcome more. Folks no longer living in Little Rock are joining & it's fun to see and share news.

Meeting ID: 862 9578 1488
Password: 069875

SEPT BIRTHDAYS

1-Sep	Sam	Storthz
3-Sep	Clive	Zent
9-Sep	Terri	Cohen
13-Sep	Dr. Larry	Miller
14-Sep	Max	Lulky
16-Sep	Anne	Miller
18-Sep	Jeff	Brown
21-Sep	Leah	Greenbaum-Atkins
21-Sep	Jan	Alman
23-Sep	Rose	Schwartz
23-Sep	Scott	Schlesinger
23-Sep	Mark	Griffin
24-Sep	Nathan	Steinberg
26-Sep	Morris	Ehrenberg
27-Sep	Katherin	Ehrenberg
27-Sep	Chuck	Prousnitzer
28-Sep	Mark	Hasson
28-Sep	Michael	Kaiser

OCT BIRTHDAYS

1-Oct	Steven	Kuperman
2-Oct	Ruth	Kaplan
2-Oct	Nicole	Mackey
5-Oct	Karen	Mackey
5-Oct	Bryana	Griffin
6-Oct	Victor	Biton
6-Oct	Adva	Biton
7-Oct	Michelle	Deininger
8-Oct	Monica	Lulky
9-Oct	Verona	Franks
10-Oct	Becky	Blass
10-Oct	Steven	Koenig
12-Oct	Zachary	Lehr
12-Oct	Chuck	Schulman
16-Oct	James	Greene
16-Oct	Simeon	Garon-Wolf
17-Oct	James	Aronson
19-Oct	Melanie	Pilcher
19-Oct	Sheri	Simon
20-Oct	Elizabeth	Cohen
20-Oct	Joseph	Rosen
21-Oct	Richard	Steppach
24-Oct	Ellen	Kirsch
26-Oct	Mitchel	Brown
26-Oct	Anna	Marks
31-Oct	Steve	Bauman
31-Oct	Vikki	Girone

Anniversaries

2-Sep Steve & Jill Bauman

3-Sep Larry & Anne Miller

10-Sep Michelle & Neil Deininger

15-Sep Seth & Maureen Berney

19-Sep Noel & Lirit Franks

20-Oct Gus & Becky Blass

22-Oct William & Monica Lulky

26-Oct Herbert & Pat Dicker

28-Oct Abe & Susan Martinez

Join us for our lovely Havdalah Services

Saturday Evenings 9:00PM

JOIN WITH ZOOM

Meeting ID: 828 9877 4634

Password: 458800

Phone only: 312-626-6799

WEEKLY PARASHA STUDY

Learn about the Torah Portion

with

Student Rabbi Ben

Every Sunday @ 11:00AM

Join with ZOOM

http://US)@WEB.ZOOM.US/J/81116330421

Password: LRTorah

(Continued from front page)

The challenge of *t'ruah* is urgent. The work to be done is not hypothetical, but is real and at hand. Let this *t'ruah* challenge you with three questions and with three tasks between now and Yom Kippur:

1) What is one thing about myself that I want to improve? How can I use this period in which we stand in judgement before God to be come a better person? This might include eating more healthy foods, speaking more kindly to your friends and family members, or (for me) answering emails more promptly.
2) What is one thing I can do for my Agudath Achim community between now and Yom Kippur? What skills or resources do I have that I can give to my community right now that will show how much I care? This could include making phone calls to community members to check in with them, contacting the board to offer help with Machzor hand-outs, or any other way that you feel comfortable contributing to the synagogue.
3) What is one thing I can do to make Little Rock a better place? What is one discreet action I can promise to do for the next year that will improve our corner of the world? Maybe you'll promise to be a better recycler, to volunteer more with a service organization, or to make a more concerted effort to patronize local businesses.
4) Okay, I had to sneak in a bonus task. Making sure you and all of your eligible friends and family members are registered to vote. Voting in America is one of our most sacred civic duties, and I want to encourage everyone—regardless of political affiliation—to take part in this November's election. Our democracy can only function when we all take an active role in its processes. The deadline for registering to vote in Arkansas is Oct. 5. You can find more information on voter registration (including registration forms) here: https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information
You can find more information on obtaining an absentee ballot here: https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/absentee-voting

As we parepare to gather together—remotely and in person—for the high holidays, I look forward to sounding the shofar and hearing its blasts of *tekiah, shevarim,* and *t'ruah* reverberate around the Agudath Achim sanctuary echoed by the reverberations in all of our hearts. I pray that in years to come we will all be able to gather and do so together.

Shanah Tovah,

Student Rabbi Ben Freed

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

This year is obviously unusual, and our High Holiday services will not be the same as always either.

We will be holding services virtually via livestreaming and will also have a small number of congregants (as well as our service leaders) inside and in person. Here is the schedule of services.

• Erev Rosh Hashana	Sept. 18	5:45 PM	Service prior to sundown
• Rosh Hashanah I	Sept. 19	10 AM	
• Rosh Hashanah II	Sept. 20	10 AM	
• Shabbat Shuvah	Sept. 26	10 AM	
• Erev Yom Kippur	Sept. 27	5:30 PM	Service prior to sundown
• Yom Kippur	Sept. 28	10 AM	Shacharit and Musaf
		~ 11:30 AM	Yizkor
		3 PM – 4 PM	Class/meditation TBD
		5:30 PM	Mincha, Ne'ilah, Maariv, Havdalah
• Sukkot I	Oct. 3	10 AM	
• Shmini Atzeret	Oct. 10	10 AM	
• Simchat Torah	Oct. 11	TBA	

Reservations will be required for anyone attending services in person so we can ensure appropriate spacing and capacity. In person attendance will be limited to 20 congregants.

- Masks will be required the entire time inside the Synagogue. Neck gaiters and/or valve masks are not acceptable. There will be screening at the door and floor markings to follow.
- If you wish to attend in person, please call the Synagogue office at **501-225-1683** or email **Office@lrsynagogue.org.** We will need to know how many seats are being requested.

Synagogue is Getting New Conservative Prayer Books!

and we need your help . . .

Support the cost of the books:
Dedicate a Book in Memory/Honor of a Loved One
and
Help Us Honor Those Who Donated Books in the Past

Siddur Lev Shalem:
Prayer Book for Shabbat and Festivals

Standard Dedication: $36
Custom (up to 200 characters): $54

Etz Hayim:
Torah and Commentary

Standard Dedication: $72
Custom (up to 200 characters): $90

Booklet Honoring Previous Donors:
All donors and dedications from the old books will be listed in the booklet.

Make an additional donation to support the cost of the printing.

Yes! I would love to dedicate a new prayer book in honor/memory of someone.

Standard Dedications will read: Donated in honor/memory of [insert name(s)] by [insert name(s)]
Custom Dedications include your choice of wording up to 200 characters.

	# books
Lev Shalem Prayer Book Standard Dedication	$36.00 x _____ = $_____
Lev Shalem Prayer Book Custom Dedication	$54.00 x _____ = $_____
Etz Hayim Chumash Standard Dedication:	$72.00 x _____ = $_____
Etz Hayim Chumash Custom Dedication:	$90.00 x _____ = $_____

Donation Toward Booklet Honoring Previous Donors: $_____

TOTAL:

$_____

Lev Shalem Prayer Books
In honor/memory of

_____
_____

OR. **Custom wording:**

_____
_____
_____
_____

Etz Hayim Chumashim
In honor/memory of

_____
_____

OR. **Custom wording:**

_____
_____
_____
_____

By: Please include your name(s) ***exactly*** as you would like it printed:

_____

Please make checks payable to: Congregation Agudath Achim

AGUDATH ACHIM SISTERHOOD
NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS & MEMORIALS

Dear Friends:

As the New Year approaches, Sisterhood will again be publishing a New Year's Greetings and Memorials Book, however, this year, since we most likely will not be meeting fully in person, you will receive a PDF copy by email to browse through at home. A few copies will be printed for those who do not have internet access. This allows us to continue this important fundraiser and will also save several hundred dollars (*and maybe even a few trees!)* in the process. Our prices have not increased in many years and remain the same as in previous years.

This year, *in addition* to your greeting, we have added a full page memorial option where you can list the names of your loved ones on a single page ~as many as you would like~ for a flat $36, to be placed at the beginning of the Memorial section.

FULL PAGE	$36.00	1/2 PAGE	$25.00
1/4 PAGE	$20.00	1/8 PAGE	$10.00

MEMORIALS: $5.00 EACH PER LINE

NEW ~ FULL PAGE MEMORIAL: $36.00
(Names will be listed on a separate full page at the beginning of the Memorials section)

Please fill out and return the portion below to the synagogue office as soon as possible. Or, If you would like the same ad and memorial as last year, simply check the **"SALY"** box below. You can also email your orders or questions, either to the synagogue office@lrsynagogue.org or to Valerie valeriesteinberg72@gmail.com

PLEASE ADVISE OF ANY CORRECTIONS THAT NEED TO BE MADE FROM LAST YEAR!!!!!

ALL GREETINGS & MEMORIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY September 11, 2020

NAME(s): _____

SAME AS LAST YEAR (SALY) _____

AD SIZE: FULL (36.00) _____ 1/2 (25.00) _____ $ _____
1/4 (20.00) _____ 1/8 (10.00) _____

FULL PAGE MEMORIAL (list names below): _____ @ $36.00 $_____

MEMORIALS: _____ @ 5.00 EACH $_____

_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____

If additional space is needed, please use back of form

Make checks payable to Agudath Achim Sisterhood **TOTAL: $_____**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS ANNUAL SISTERHOOD PROJECT

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

Yahrzeit - יאָרצײַט

SEPT	ELUL	
1	12	Rose Hamburger
2	13	Jacob Margolis
2	13	Hans Hamburger
2	13	Stanley Kaufman
2	13	Norah Frais
3	14	Rosalyn Snyderman
3	14	Jeff Baskin
3	14	Max Snyderman
4	15	Jenny Nussbaum
4	15	Carolyn Tenenbaum
5	16	Sam Gordon
9	20	Yosef Mansour
12	23	Sam Nussbaum
12	23	Joe Itzkowitz
13	24	Carl Gross
16	27	Bess Lee Sanders Greenstein
17	28	Bertha Mosrow Lowitz
18	29	Harry Reich
SEPT	**TISHRI**	
19	1	Hanna Kluglose
19	1	Victor Schoenberger
22	4	Layke Love
23	5	Jake Sklar
24	6	Herb Frenkel
24	6	Helma Strauss Besser
24	6	Louis Benjamin Goldberg
25	7	Pauline Kuperman
26	8	Sally Binder
27	9	Leonard Levine
28	10	Joseph Love
28	10	Rebecca Spector
30	12	Isadore Besser

OCT	TISHRI	
1	13	Della Levin
2	14	Irvin (Buddy) Schweig
2	14	Meyer Cohn
2	14	Alvin Jerry Greenstein
3	15	Renee Rothenstein Leff
6	18	Arnold Zeno
6	18	Joe Bernhard
10	22	Rosalie Schweig Forman
15	27	Seymour Treitman
15	27	Marvin "Sonny" Cohen
16	28	Bernard Resnick
16	28	Evelyn Bernhard
17	29	Ike Cohen
17	29	Pearl Geller
18	30	Morris Lulky
OCT	**CHESHVAN**	
19	1	Nellie Irene Gross
19	1	Lottie Goodman
21	3	Dr. Glenn Lowitz
22	4	Maxie Itzkowitz
24	6	Abram Greenbaum
24	6	Joseph Zinn
25	7	Philip Bress
27	9	Harry Kramer
27	9	Mike Kiel
28	10	Beatrice Sherman
28	10	Samuel Gross
29	11	Elsie Phillips
30	12	Dorothy Goldberg

It is a Tree of Life

to Those Who

Up Hold It.

Proverbs 3:16-18

Leaves may be inscribed to highlight or commemorate such joyous events as birth, weddings, anniversaries, graduations or to honor or remember family and friends.

For more information call Marc Sherman at 831-4462.

Yizkor - Remember!

There are many ways to honor the living or the memory of the departed :

- Donate to Tzedaka
- Study or sponsor Jewish Learning
- Do an act of kindness
- Pray or lead prayers

May their souls be bound in the souls of the living

Cemetery Fund

Elaine Luber
In memory of Sheldon Luber
Ken Besser
In memory of Elsie Strauss
Charles & Martha Alman
In memory of Lily Schlosberg
Ruth Itzkowitz
In memory of Mary Silberg
Edgar Schweig
Rose Itzkowitz
Judy Greenbaum
In memory of Teltza Binshtok
Mary L. Cohn
In memory of William Cohn
Sophie Cohn
Mary Silberg
Edgar Schweig
Arleen Gordon
In memory of Eva Gordon
Arleen Margolis
In memory of Jennie Gordon
Mark & Karen Mackey
In Memory of William "Bill" Sachs
Allan Mendel
Cecile, Paula & Lynn Schweig
In memory of Allan Mendel
Arlene Margolis
In honor of Rabbi Gene Levy
Michael Margolis

Endowment Fund

John & Ellen Moore
In memory of Allan Mendel
Rose Schwartz
In memory of Mary & Harold Zubkoff
Isaac Schwartz
Rose Schwartz
In honor of Jerry Cohn
Ruth Frenkel

Kiddsh Fund

Rabbi Gene & Bobbye Levy
In memory of Maurice Besser
Carolyn Waltzer
Victor & Esther Biton
In memory of Badra Mansour
Rabbi Gene & Bobbye Levy
In honor of Becky Sherman
Michael Margolis

General Fund

Chuck & Jennifer Kaufman
In memory of Rabbi Shaya Klimnick
Robert & Marcia Safirstein
In memory of Mortimer Goldberger
Sidney Safirstein
Chuck & Charlene Prousnitzer
In memory of Allan Mendel
Laurence & Anne Miller
In memory of Sophie Knopping
Chuck & Karen Schulman
In memory of Allan Mendel
Marilyn Sorrells
In memory of Monte Goodman
Larry & Anne Miller
In memory of David Knopping
Leonard & Miriam Hasson
In memory of Maurice Besser
Mark & Karen Mackey
In honor of Polly Greenbaum
Ellen Polsky
In honor of Rabbi Ben Freed & Ariane Barrie-Stern

Thank You for your Donations!

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE IN MAKING DONATIONS

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF $_____

Please send acknowledgement to:

_____

_____

_____

From:_____

_____

_____

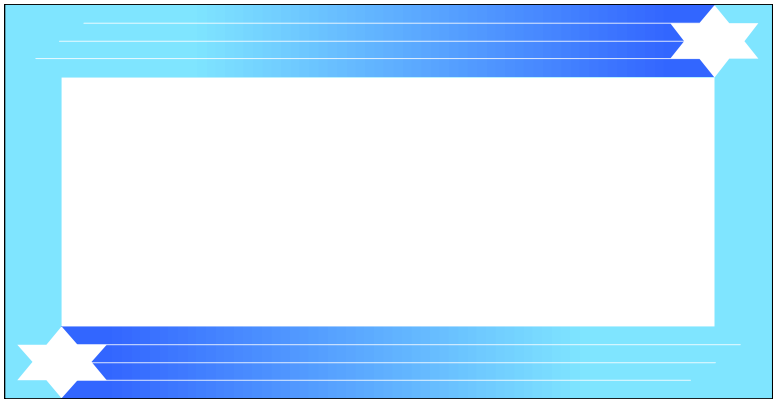
Please apply the donation to: ☐ General

☐ Cemetery ☐ Endowment ☐ Kiddush

☐ Beautification ☐ Education ☐ Kol Nidre

Congregation Agudath Achim
7901 West Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72205
(501) 225-1683

Email: office@LRsynagogue.org



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beginning Saturday, August 29 at 10 AM

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