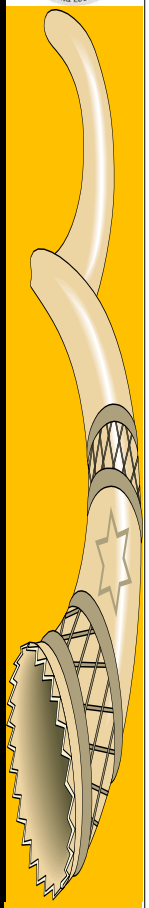
JULY/AUG
2020
TAMMUZ/
AV/ELUL
5720

Congregation Agudath Achim

The Shofar



Student Rabbi Ben Freed

Shalom y'all,

It seems that these days the news manages to somehow move at both a crawl and at lightning speed. On one hand, we have been stuck in a state that cannot be described as "normal" since the last time I visited Little Rock during Purim. On the other hand, it seems like anything I write now about the current situation could be obsolete by the time the Shofar arrives in your virtual or in-person mailboxes. There could be an increase of cases, a decrease, an order by a government official, or some other event that could upend the way we are all seeing the world.

Even with all of this upheaval, we have the gift of our texts and values that have been handed down through the generations. One of the amazing things about the Torah is that for a book that hasn't changed in thousands of years, it can still speak to us and teach us new things every day. Similarly, the values we hold as Jews can be a rock and an anchor for us as we navigate the turbulent waters of our present moment.

With this in mind, I would like to offer four values that I hope will guide us over the coming months as we figure out what our synagogue life will look like during the week, on shabbat, and on our holidays. I have been lucky enough to sit in on the discussions of the reopening taskforce and I assure you their meetings have been infused with these values and I hope that we will all keep them in mind as we move forward together.

The first value that we must hold is **Pikuach Nefesh**—the value of saving a life. In the Mishna we are reminded that someone who saves one life is as though they have saved an entire world. We take our responsibility as a synagogue to keep our community safe extremely seriously and we will have that responsibility in mind in any discussion of re-opening. There will not come a time when we weigh the desire for spiritual proximity against human life and are unsure of where we stand. The guidance of public health experts—including our thoughtful and insightful president Dr. Susan Weinstein—will guide us as we consider when and how we are able to gather in person.

The next values come together as a pair. In kabbalistic thinking, **Hesed** and **Gevurah**—Lovingkindness and Strength/Power. represent God's two arms and it is only by balancing them that the world remains intact. Gevurah represents the need to set boundaries, to have rules and strictures that we follow. We see this throughout the Torah and we will see this again when we are able to gather in person. As a community we must commit to honoring and respecting our fellow congregants by honoring and respecting the rules that are established to keep us safe. Gevurah will mean that if face masks are required for entry to the synagogue then we really mean face masks are required. Our Gevurah, however, must be tempered with Hesed, with loving-kindness. Whatever solutions we find to gather in person or remotely must be inclusive of as much of our community as possible.

Our Hesed must also extend to each other outside the real or virtual walls of the synagogue itself. This has been a time of loss for so many. Some people confronted illness or death. Others with loss of wages, curtailed independence, the end of in-person school, jobs, or senior programs, a shaken sense of security, and more. We must do our best to treat ourselves and one another gently. We need to be patient. We must think about what we say and how we say it. Emails and even zoom meetings can make it hard to understand and interpret the tone of a message. We need to be in touch with each other more often than before, when we could count on running into one another at shul or on the street.

It's amazing that so many of you have been a part of the phone tree that was put together by Valerie Steinberg, Polly Greenbaum and Karen Mackey. I encourage you all over the course of the summer to think about calling the people who sit near you in shul on Shabbat and on holidays. If that does not inspire you, ask us for the names of some people who could use a call or socially distant visit. We will need more initiatives to show our care and love for one another.

It is through this Gevurah and Hesed that we will reach our fourth value, **Tikvah**—Hope. Ours is an aspirational religion, one in which we are told to never be content with the way things are but to always be working and hoping for a better tomorrow. Even when confronted with challenging times, we must not lose hope.

During the months of July and August we will read the books of Numbers and Deuteronomy, the chronicling of our people's forty-year wandering in the desert and Moses' final address as they prepare to enter into the land of Israel. Each time we read these chapters it seems as though Moses is constantly on the verge of losing hope as the Israelites quarrel and bicker and God's temper flares. Despite the incredible obstacles, we know that Moses will deliver the people to the banks of the Jordan, to the ends of the promised land. In his address to my synagogue in Riverdale, my mentor Rabbi Barry Dov Katz wrote of his hope "that we can continue to respond to whatever happens with determination, a thoughtful spirit of experimentation, and an appreciation of the many needs that exist in our community." I echo his prayer and add that I dearly hope to be with you all soon, to see your smiles, to sing with you, and to celebrate shabbat and holidays with you once again.

B'shalom,
Student Rabbi Ben Freed

Presidents Message… Susan Weinstein

Hello congregants and friends. Covid is still with us and impacting our religious community. Many of us are getting tired of staring at our computer or notebook screens, and Zoom fatigue has set in. I am eager to get back to in-person services but know this isn't possible yet.

There are several Jewish principals that are important during these times.

Pikuah Nefesh – "Safeguarding Life" is a bedrock principle of Jewish law and supersedes most other obligations or *mitzvot*. To that end, our Synagogue must ensure that any steps towards restoring physical proximity place preserving life first and foremost.

She'at Hadehak – "Extraordinary Moment" – Jewish life has always made adjustments in times of emergency and crisis. We will need to come to terms with the fact that this crisis may last for well over a year, and that we will need to continue to change our expectations and operations. We will need continued flexibility in Jewish practice informed by our commitment to authentic modes of interpretation of our tradition.

Hesed – "Profound Love and Kindness" – Decisions around our operations and the risks involved create uncertainty, grief, and anxiety, and we must act with tremendous love and kindness towards the members of our families.

Our Board of Trustees has begun discussing in earnest how to offer services, whether virtually or in-person, or a hybrid of the two. We have a Task Force working on this as well as how to handle High Holiday services. Elsewhere in this Shofar you'll find a list of the requirements and protocols for when/if we can begin services. Any input from congregants is very welcome.

Our Visioning Task Force is planning for meetings with all congregants to move us forward on several levels. This began before Covid, and has been on hold, but we will have meetings soon either virtually or socially distanced in the Social Hall. Please look for and respond to invitations when you see them.

Planning and cleaning are ongoing, whether we have a pandemic or not. In order to keep our wonderful Synagogue custodian, Lidia Allereno, we have continued to pay her, and she is doing some amazing deep cleaning and organizing of the Shul. Toni Roosth works with her and they have made the building shine! Our administrator Laura continues to work half days and keeps the office running as smoothly as possible.

A small group has been working to clean out the storage room next to the Rabbi's office. This is where a lot of old Sunday School books and materials are stored, as well as an unbelievable number of old books of all kinds. We have created a stack of boxes for any materials that must be buried, plus have thrown out the very old things that no one has looked at for 30-40 years. Should we restart our Sunday School, what we have discarded would never be used for our modern children. If anyone has prayer books that need to be buried, please bring them to Synagogue to add to what we have.

Our board has decided to purchase new Siddurim and Chumashim. We haven't had new books in many, many years and we are shifting to the Conservative Lev Shalem Siddur and Etz Hayim Chumash. We will be retiring our older books and will be doing some sort of event to commemorate those who have donated books in honor or memory of someone in the past, as well as offering the opportunity to do so for the new books. Naturally this may have to wait until we can be together physically, but the plans are in place.

Sue

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

Reopening Planning for Congregation Agudath Achim

Because Pikuah Nefesh, or 'Safeguarding Life' is a bedrock principle of Jewish law, and supersedes most other obligations or mitzvot, we will not be open for in-person services until this pandemic slows up enough for it to be safe.

These are the requirements we are considering. This is still a work in progress, so any input is welcome.

Face coverings will be required for everyone (except reader on Bema) and at all times when in the building. Must be worn properly covering nose and mouth.
No kiddush or social hall/kitchen use.
Bathrooms only one person at a time.
Books will be left at seat for use next time.
Kippahs: bring from home. Synagogue has them available if someone forgets, but please then keep it.
Tallit: use your own, if must use Synagogue's, leave at seat for next time.
Ladies' doilies: take one and leave it at seat for use next time.
Torah Reading
- **No** walking around with the Torah
- **Aliyot** can be done from your seat OR distanced on the Bema.
- **Hagbah** and Gelilah, you must wear a mask. Hand sanitizer usage both on the way up to the Bimah and on the way back down.

Door screener will be in place to ask Covid exposure questions, to ensure physical distancing and face coverings, and to monitor bathroom usage.
Usher in the sanctuary to ensure families can sit together but separated by at least 6 feet from others. If you live together, you can sit together.
Extra hand sanitizer available at door as well as in sanctuary.
Every other row of seats will be taped off.
Tape on sidewalk outside and inside to keep spacing of at least 6 feet.
On Bema only Torah reader/leader and gabbai with tape marking 6 feet separation.
Exiting Synagogue keeping 6 ft. distancing. No gathering in vestibule.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1-Jul	Kyle Berney
2-Jul	Valerie Steinberg
5-Jul	Sy Niksefat
5-Jul	Sue Weinstein
7-Jul	David Butturff
7-Jul	Mike Geller
9-Jul	Michael Margolis
9-Jul	Karen Schulman
9-Jul	Rabbi Eugene Levy
10-Jul	Brian Kaufman
11-Jul	Barrie B. Silverman
12-Jul	Rivka Kuperman
12-Jul	Daniel Pearlstein
12-Jul	Cecilia Ryan
12-Jul	Marcia Safirstein
14-Jul	Debi Steppach
15-Jul	Annabelle Clinton Imber Tuck
18-Jul	Eddy Zeno
21-Jul	Bobbye Levy
24-Jul	Toby Hoos
25-Jul	Michael Zeno
26-Jul	Tivan Hoos
26-Jul	Lori Vesole
27-Jul	Helen Miller
27-Jul	Karen Sherman
29-Jul	Kenneth Besser
29-Jul	Allan Mendel
29-Jul	Laura Dowling
30-Jul	Elizabeth Helton

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3-Aug	Jillian Deininger
4-Aug	Alan Sherman
4-Aug	Eric Steven Simon
5-Aug	Sharona Niksefat
5-Aug	Max AsherKirsch
5-Aug	Carol Mendel
6-Aug	Marinetta Dicker
7-Aug	William Lulky
8-Aug	Cecile Schweig
9-Aug	Marc Levin
12-Aug	Joshua Zent
12-Aug	Rebecca Ivanovsky
13-Aug	Susan Cohen
14-Aug	Brook Besser
14-Aug	Dr. Jerry Sherman
17-Aug	Jeremy Levy
19-Aug	Eli Frenkel Kirsch
20-Aug	Quinton Cohen
22-Aug	Janet Aronson
22-Aug	William Ariel Clinton
23-Aug	Adam Besser
24-Aug	Joseph Miles
24-Aug	Ari Levy
25-Aug	Esolph Hoos
26-Aug	Jay M. Bauman
26-Aug	Dina Epstein
28-Aug	George Mumford
28-Aug	Paula Schweig
31-Aug	Sophie Lulky

Anniversaries

4-Jul Chuck & Jennifer Kaufman
22-Jul Susan & Michael Schmitz
23-Jul Gary & Carole Weisbly
8-Aug Mikhail & Marina Ivanovsky
11-Aug Victor & Esther Biton
14-Aug David & Kathy Bauman
17-Aug Bruce & Andrea Cohen
17-Aug Michael & Sheri Simon
18-Aug Bart & Adva Taylor
26-Aug Mark & Sheila Griffin
29-Aug Ithay & Mary Biton

Mazel Tov to

Dr. Jim (Betsy) Aronson,
and also to *Janet Aronson,*
who welcomed two newborn grandchildren!

Meyer Rufus Aronson
was born to
Joshua Aronson & Ellen Davis.

And

Isaac Matthew Aronson
was born to
Drs. Jonathan Aronson & Lauren Appell.

We mourn the passing of

Maurice Besser
father of Vikki (Dan) Girone & Ken (Brenda) Besser
&
Mary Pearlstein
wife of David Pearlstein &
mother of Melissa (Art) Rodriguez & Jenny Davis.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

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

Annual Members Meeting

Sunday, October 18, 3:00 PM

Tree Of Life

A Leaf was added to the Tree of Life
In Honor of
Gary Weisbly's 75th Birthday.
Your Friends, Karla & Larry
and
Miriam & Leonard Hasson
5/15/2020

Synagogue Office Hours

Mon, Wed & Fri 9:00AM-1:00PM
Tue & Thu 11:00AM-3:00PM
Telephone - 501-225-1683
Email - office@LRsynagogue.org
7901 W. Capitol Avenue, LR AR 72205

JOIN US FOR THIS LOVELY SERVICE

HAVDALAH
SATURDAY
EVENINGS AT 9 PM

JOIN WITH ZOOM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82898774634?pwd=ZStERUlsZGhDeit3bEZiQ0lhZUx4Zz09

Meeting ID: 828 9877 4634
Password: 458800
Phone only: 312-626-6799

WEEKLY PARASHA STUDY

Every Sunday @ 11:00 A.M.

Meeting ID: 862 9578 1488
Password: 069875

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86295781488?pwd=RG9TSThOK2l3RnNVNEhtSotUQjFMUT09
This is a Zoom and the same link is used every week.

Sip your favorite beverage!

Let's visit, catch up and have fun!

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.

Sip & Schmooze

Yahrzeit - יאָרצייט

JULY	TAMMUZ	
1	9	Lt. Harold Tenenbaum
2	10	Leah Treitman
3	11	Louis Snyderman
4	12	Mildred Filion
5	13	Esther Ehrenwerth Aronson Levine
9	17	David Knopping
10	18	Charles Cohen
11	19	Jennie Gordon
11	19	Morton Aronson
12	20	Emanuel Manny Greenstein
13	21	Rebecca Schlosberg
17	25	Eva Gordon
19	27	Arnold Jack Rudolph
19	27	Joseph Spector
20	28	Tillie Samuelson
20	28	Harold Frost
21	29	Isadore Roosth

JULY	AV	
23	2	Edgar Schweig
24	3	Myer Kaplan
24	3	Rose Itzkowitz
25	4	William Cohn
25	4	Zwia Weiss
27	6	Sidney Safirstein
27	6	Sarah Francis Zinn
28	7	Charlotte Nussbaum
29	8	Daniel Leigh Steppach
29	8	Dina Epstein

AUG	AV	
1	11	Sophie Cohn
2	12	Mary Silberg
3	13	Elsie Rhein
4	14	Phyllis Treitman
4	14	Mary Zubkoff
8	18	Rose S. Waldman
9	19	Lily Schlosberg
10	20	Sheldon Luber
11	21	Anita Simon
13	23	Badra Mansour
17	27	Elsie Strauss
18	28	Meredith Rose Baskin
19	29	Harold Zubkoff
20	30	Isaac Schwartz
20	30	Fred Kann

AUG	ELUL	
22	2	Teltza Binshtok
22	2	Sophie Knopping
24	4	Harry Phillips
25	5	Yetta Koenig
25	5	Geline Lulky
27	7	Natalie Ross
28	8	Renee Darlene Goodman
28	8	Joseph Livingston
28	8	Ralph Lowitz
30	10	Dr Melvin Schwartz
31	11	Sandra Kluglose

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

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.

General Fund

Nanci Goldman & Bob Rivner
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Gary & Carole Weisbly
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Robert & Joy Marble
In Memory of Maurice Besser
David Kaplan
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Marilyn Sorrells
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Norman & Linda Pledger
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Karen Schulman
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Christina Bohannon
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Ricki Callen
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Betty Nussbaum
Charles & Martha Alman
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Philip Kaplan
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Janet Aronson
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Steve & Jill Bauman
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Kevin Kordsmeier
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Eva Zeno
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Steve Lane
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Laura Wehner
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Bettye Yakoubian & Family
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Doris Krain
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Chuck & Jennifer Kaufman
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Nanci Goldman & Bob Rivner
Speedy Recovery Phil Kaplan
Sandra Schwartz
In Honor of Valerie Steinberg
Steve Koenig

Thank You for your Donations!

Cemetery Fund

Sam & Bonnie Nickol
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Michael & Arlene Margolis
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Cecile, Paula, Lynn & Jan Schweig
In Memory of Mary Pearlstein
Maurice Besser
David & Polly Greenbaum
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Joshua Greenbaum
Nella Greenbaum
Ben Greenbaum
In Memory of Joshua Greenbaum
Nella Greenbaum
Abram Greenbaum
Maurice Besser
John & Ellen Moore
In Memory of Maurice Besser

Endowment Fund

Toni Roosth & Fred Gray
In Memory of Maurice Besser
Rose Schwartz
In Memory of Maurice Besser

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE IN MAKING DONATIONS

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF $_____

Please send acknowledgement to:

_____

_____

_____

From:_____

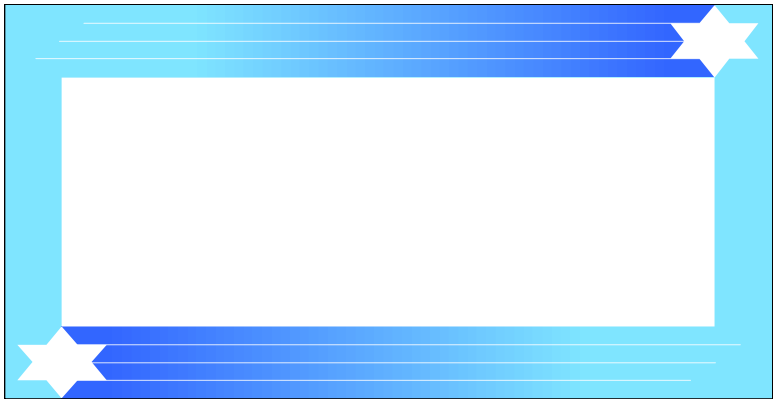
_____

_____

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

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