

Congregation Ahavas Achim

P.O. Box 334

Westfield, MA 01086

SEP / OCT / NOV 2022 NEWSLETTER

<http://www.congregationahavasachim.org/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fri. 9/16 @ 7:00pm - Shabbat Evening Service

High Holy Days:

Sunday, 9/25 @ 7:00 pm, Erev Rosh Hashanah

Monday, 9/26 @ 10:00 am, Rosh Hashanah Morning

Tuesday, 10/4 @ 7:00 pm, Kol Nidre

Wednesday, 10/5 @ 10:00 am, Yom Kippur Morning
Yizkor (Memorial Service) @ 12:30 pm
Neilah/Closing Service @ 5:00 pm
Break-the-Fast Potluck – Social Hall of the Second
Congregational Church, adjacent to WSC – details
to follow

Fri. 11/4 @ 7:00pm - Shabbat Evening Service

Sat. 11/19 @ 10:00am –Shabbat Morning Service

Fri. 12/2 @ 7:00pm - Shabbat Evening Service

Sun. 12/18 – Menorah Lighting on the Green (more
details to follow)

Please contact us at ahavasachimquiry@gmail.com or
leave a voicemail message at (413) 642-1797 if you want to
say Kaddish or have any suggestions for us.

Hebrew School:

Coordinator: Andy Blumenthal

(Please call him at (413) 569-1148 if you or another
member of our community has expressed interest.)

YAHRTZEIT

With great sadness, we remember the following
people on the Yahrzeit of their passing:

2022

Leah Ruth Chase	Sivan 5	June 4
Alfred Levy	Sivan 7	June 6
Joseph Goodman	Sivan 13	June 12
Mary Garber	Sivan 15	June 14
Maurice Goldstein	Sivan 15	June 14
Emily Wright	Sivan 17	June 16
Les Gubkin	Sivan 18	June 17
Alex Flatt	Sivan 24	June 23
Albert Shepard	Sivan 24	June 23
Carol Beckwith	Sivan 24	June 23
Seymour Newman	Sivan 25	June 24
Clara Goldberg	Sivan 25	June 24
Mary Libby	Sivan 27	June 26
H. Tucker	Sivan 28	June 27
Bertram Siegel	Sivan 29	June 28
Doris Levy	Tamuz 1	June 30
Leonard Levy	Tamuz 10	July 9
Adele K. Blumenthal	Tamuz 18	July 17
Abraham Rosenthal	Tamuz 19	July 18
Maude Lewin	Tamuz 20	July 19
Eva Caplin	Tamuz 21	July 20
Anna Grodzin	Tamuz 23	July 22
Michael Temkin	Tamuz 24	July 23
Edward Lewin	Tamuz 25	July 24
Seymour Greenberg	Tamuz 29	July 28
Mae Sharin	Av 2	July 30
Harold Bernson	Av 13	Aug 10
Freida Caplin	Av 29	Aug 26
Helen Cheskin	Elul 2	Aug 29
Evelyn Goldberg	Elul 7	Sep 3
Ruth Fisher	Elul 9	Sep 5
Norma Silver	Elul 16	Sep 12
Eugene Spiro	Elul 16	Sep 12
Irving Friedman	Elul 23	Sep 19
Stanley Wertel	Elul 28	Sep 24

(cont'd on next page)

Yahrzeit

With great sadness, we remember the following people on the Yahrzeit of their passing (cont'd):

2022

Thornton Pava	Tishri 7	Oct 2
Dora Schachter	Tishri 13	Oct 8
Sarah Milstein	Tishri 14	Oct 9
Doris Beard	Tishri 15	Oct 10
Alvin Fields	Tishri 20	Oct 15
Solomon Karp	Tishri 21	Oct 16
Henriette Rosenak	Tishri 25	Oct 20
Allene Dressler	Cheshvan 6	Oct 31
Ida Bernstein	Cheshvan 7	Nov 1
Edna Newman	Cheshvan 9	Nov 3
Irene Hoffman	Cheshvan 10	Nov 4
Rebecca Pearl	Cheshvan 11	Nov 5
Hyman Bernstein	Cheshvan 12	Nov 6
Myrna Siegel	Cheshvan 12	Nov 6
Gussie Chernick	Cheshvan 17	Nov 11
Judith Schulman	Cheshvan 20	Nov 14
Harold Riklin	Cheshvan 23	Nov 17
Ruth Krosnow	Kislev 3	Nov 27

Board Meeting: Meetings are held via conference calls. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 12th. All are welcome to join. Please let us know if you are interested so we can include you in our call.

High Holy Days:

All are welcome to join us at the Interfaith Center. We will wear masks, practice social distancing, and windows will be open (weather permitting).

If you have a loved one that has passed and you would like us to read their name during Yizkor (Memorial Service), please let us know. Send an email request to ahavasachiminquiry@gmail.com including their name and Yahrzeit.

We are attempting to secure space for a break-the-fast, and will send out an email announcement once the details are confirmed.

Farewell Ron'na

Sometimes change can make us both happy and sad, and this is one of those times. Ron'na and Tre are moving to California, for career and family considerations.

Anyone who has gotten to know Ron'na is familiar with her calm and gentle ways along with her "let's get it done" attitude. Ron'na is typically the first person to offer assistance. She is someone who sees what needs to be done and does it before she's asked. This holds true for both CAA and soup kitchen, where she has volunteered for many years. Ron'na and Tre were fixtures at Christmas Day soup kitchen, and were part of our post-dinner "time to unwind" get-together over Chinese food.

Ron'na's last gift to us was the rental of the pavilion in Stanley Park, where we held our last service and potluck luncheon.

We wish Ron'na and Tre only the best as they begin this next step in their journey.

Message from Rabbi Colt:

Dear Congregation Ahavas Achim,

I am excited to be returning to this community, and this time starting our year together.

Our year will begin with a Shabbat service focused on Slichot, the penitential prayers recited leading up to the High Holidays. Growing up, I experienced Slichot as a solemn late-night service the Saturday night before Rosh Hashana (our service will be the day before this traditional night of Slichot). This experience follows Ashkenazi tradition, inviting us into the posture of T'shuvah, repentance, with prayers that focus on acknowledging our sins, seek forgiveness and ask God to remember us for good.

When I arrived at rabbinical school, I was introduced to Sephardic Slichot. Although the Sephardic communities use much of the same texts, there are some key differences. The prayers are recited daily, and the tunes are more upbeat. I learned that the Sephardic orientation to Slichot takes a more joyful tone because there's a sense of certainty that we are doing the work of T'shuvah, doing our best to return to our best selves, so God will certainly forgive us! It's a cause for celebration that God is moved primarily by forgiveness.

There are truths to be found in both approaches to Slichot. We approach the New Year with a lot of work to do to become the people, and the community, that we wish we could be. There's a gravity to the project, and we recognize all the ways we have failed at this project in the past. At the same time, we will take heart from the joy of the New Year, the sense of potential and purpose.

As we enter the New Year, I look forward to exploring the work we have to do to become our best version of a community that we can be. Some of us are carrying heavy weights in our hearts, and we've all continued to struggle with the ongoing presence of COVID. Let's come together for connection, prayer and holding all that life brings us. If you would like to speak with me privately, please don't hesitate to email me, or reach out by phone (617 359 4871).

Wishing everyone a Shana Tova U'metuka, a sweet and good new year!

Rabbi Shahar Colt

RabbiColt@congregationahavasachim.org

Hebrew Free Loan Association:

The Hebrew Free Loan Association of Greater Springfield offers interest-free loans to Jewish individuals and families whose needs are urgent and who may not qualify for personal loans from a bank or other financial institution. For more information, go to:

<https://hebrewfreeloanassociation.org/>

Facebook:

Congregation Ahavas Achim is now on Facebook!

Please click on the following link to find us:

<https://www.facebook.com/AhavasAchimWestfield/>

Once you find us, please "Like" our page. Feel free to post comments or any pictures that you would like to share with us. You will also be able to find announcements and listings for our services and events. If you have any questions, or would like us to post any announcements, events or pictures for you, please email them to: Carol and Nate Rosenthal - ncrose@comcast.net

Fundraising:

Did you know that Congregation Ahavas Achim has a unique AmazonSmile link that makes it easier for people to find and support us? We ask that you consider using our link if you will be shopping on Amazon anyway.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0141633>

Click on the above link and you will be taken to smile.amazon.com where you are automatically asked if you want to support Congregation Ahavas Achim. In doing so, that allows us to receive 0.5% of the price of your purchases on smile.amazon.com . Please be sure to use our unique link in place of www.amazon.com as only purchases made at smile.amazon.com are eligible. Any items ordered via the Smile.Amazon website are at the same price as listed on the regular Amazon website.

Happy Birthday!

Birthday wishes go out to the following:

Charlie Newman	September 3 rd
Anna Blumenthal	September 5 th
Erica Rosenthal	September 11 th
Michael Davenport	September 27 th
Leslie O'Donnell	September 28 th
Zack Wright	October 7 th

Happy Anniversary!

Dave & Ellie Wright	September 4 th
Andy & Sue Blumenthal	October 9 th
Tim & Geri Johnson	October 10 th