

Congregation Ahavas Achim

P.O. Box 334

Westfield, MA 01086

DEC / JAN / FEB 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fri. 12/1 @ 7:00pm – Shabbat Evening Service

Sun. 12/10 @ 6:30 pm – Community Chanukah Menorah Lighting on Park Square

Sun. 12/17 @ 10:30am – Adult Ed - reading rabbinic stories for building hope. Program will be led by Rabbi Colt on Google Meet.

Fri. 1/19 @ 7:00pm – Shabbat Evening Service via Google Meet

Sat. 2/10 @ 10 am –Shabbat Morning Service via Google Meet

Sat. 3/9 @ 10 am –Shabbat Morning Service via Google Meet

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

Board Meeting: Meetings are held via conference calls. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 14th. All are welcome to join. Please let us know if you are interested so that we may include you in our call by emailing ablumenthal@congregationahavasachim.org

Hebrew School:

Coordinator: Andy Blumenthal

(Please call him at (413)569-8399 if you or another member of our community has expressed interest.)

Yahrzeit

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

2023-2024

Paul Goldstein	Kislev 19	12/2
Richard Caplin	Kislev 29	12/12
Alvin Jacobs	Teveth 4	12/16
Ethel Levy	Teveth 5	12/17
Alan Tropp	Teveth 5	12/17
Irving Renninger	Teveth 12	12/24
Lillian Flax	Teveth 20	1/1
Abe Milstein	Teveth 24	1/5
Joseph Gubkin	Teveth 24	1/5
Milton Levy	Teveth 25	1/6
Herbert Silver	Teveth 26	1/7
Irving Stone	Shevat 2	1/12
Mildred Bowman	Shevat 8	1/18
Carl Stone	Shevat 9	1/19
Noah Nesin	Shevat 9	1/19
Samuel Garber	Shevat 15	1/25
Samuel Blumenthal	Shevat 16	1/26
Leah Brody	Shevat 20	1/30
Hilda Cooper	Shevat 24	2/3
Matthew L. Pearl	Shevat 27	2/6
Laura Rosenthal	Shevat 30	2/9
Honey Kaufman	Shevat 30	2/9

Congregation Ahavas Achim wishes to thank all its friends and members for their generous donations:

Susan Beckwith – in memory of her mother, Edith Levin
- General Fund

Barbara and Michael Davenport – in memory of Judith Schulman - General Fund

Wendy and Bob Blondin – in honor of Faith’s graduation from UMaine and landing her first career employment as an Engineer - General Fund

Rissa and Neil Larsen – in honor of our Soup Kitchen volunteer staff, led by Sandy Mackler – General Fund

Geri Johnson – Torah Fund, Prayer Book Fund and General Fund

Carol and Nate Rosenthal – General Fund

Linda and Larry Friedman - General Fund

Marcia Kahn – General Fund

**Donations received as of 11/30/23*

High Holidays:

Thank you to all who contributed to the High Holiday services: special thanks to Rabbi Shahar Colt for leading a wonderful and engaging service. Thanks to our many congregants who participated with Aliyah’s and readings. Thank you also to Fran Eisenberg for coordinating the break-the-fast supper; and to all the adults and children who contributed to our services and helped make these services meaningful for us all.

2023 Ride to Provide:

On October 15, CAA participated in Ride to Provide, a fundraiser sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts. This event is designed to raise money for Federation members and its non-profit partners. 30% of the money raised by CAA walkers, runners, and cyclists returns to CAA for our unrestricted use. Participants included Nancy, Fran, Rissa, Sandy and Max. Art was there to represent the Hebrew Free Loan Association.

Congratulations to Max Newman on his first place finish in the 5K running event. Many thanks to our Team Captain Nancy for her organizational talents and to our members and friends who supported the CAA Team.

Menorah Lighting Ceremony:

Congregation Ahavas Achim, together with Mayor Michael McCabe, and with the help of Westfield on Weekends, invite community members of all faiths and traditions to an evening of “Latkes and Lights.” The festivities will begin at Park Square on Sunday, December 10th at 6:30 PM on the fourth night of Chanukah. Rabbi Shahar Colt will lead attendees in prayer and song, and light the candle of the community menorah. A special free Latkes and Lights party for all attendees, will be held after the lighting at the First United Methodist Church, 16 Court Street. The menorah will be lit each evening of Chanukah, which begins at sundown on Thursday, December 7, and continues through to nightfall of December 15. Any residents who wish to volunteer to light the evening’s candle on the community menorah on any day of the holiday may call the mayor’s office at (413) 572-6201 for a schedule.

Soup Kitchen:

In keeping with our longtime tradition, CAA will be serving Christmas dinner at Our Community Table Soup Kitchen in Westfield on Monday, December 25th. We are looking for volunteers to help cook the meal (in your own home is fine and then delivered), prepare, serve, and clean-up. Judy and Bob Brown have once again volunteered to cook the beef roast. The meal will be served at 5:00 pm and volunteers are asked to arrive at the soup kitchen (101 Meadow St. Westfield) at 4:00 pm on 12/25/23.

We will be putting together gift bags, as we have done in previous years. Items most needed include socks, hats, soap, shampoo, toothpaste and various toiletries. To donate items, contact Sandy at 413-262-4564.

In addition to monetary donations for the purchase of the meat, cheesecakes, hats/gloves/socks, and toiletries for the gift bags; the following food items are needed to prepare the Christmas meal:

3 large boxes (24-26 oz) of unflavored instant mashed potatoes prepared in disposable aluminum pans; 10 one pound bags of frozen green beans; 8 jars or cans of beef gravy; blocks of cheese or cuts and crackers, vegetable crudite such as carrot sticks, pepper slices, sliced cucumbers (to serve approx 70.); blueberry and cherry canned pie filling, Christmas cookies, clementines(70) and mini candy canes. Please contact Fran at volleyfran@comcast.net with what you can bring and/or availability to volunteer.

Please mail donation checks payable to Congregation Ahavas Achim to Fran Eisenberg, 110 Big Wood Dr., Westfield, MA 01085.

From Rabbi James Greene at Jewish Family Services in Springfield:

Friends,

The state has reached capacity in the shelter system to support Haitian entrants. We had our first family arrive yesterday without housing. We are sharing this document with specific requests for housing and support. If you have the ability to share this with members of your communities and circles of connection, we would certainly appreciate it. In short, we are looking to bolster housing options for shorter terms for these families and individuals, while also gathering resources that can be used for emergency housing (like sleeping bags that can be used for people sleeping in larger open spaces like gymnasiums while awaiting entrance into the sheltering system.

Thanks so much for considering how you might be able to show up to support these new entrants into our community.

Rabbi James Greene
rabbijames@gmail.com
413-886-9957

Happy Birthday!

Birthday wishes go out to the following:

Wendy Blondin	December 23 rd
Barbara Davenport	December 26 th
Rich O'Donnell	December 26 th
Jacob Blumenthal	January 3 rd
Ellie Wright	January 7 th
Susan Blumenthal	January 9 th
Faith Blondin	January 13 th
Andy Rosenthal	January 19 th
Sarah Eisenberg	January 30 th
Andrew Blumenthal	February 21 st

Reminder:

Dues payment plans end in February unless special arrangements have been made. All membership dues should be paid in full by February 15, 2024. If you are having difficulty, please contact someone on the board to discuss an alternative payment plan.

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

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/>