

Congregation Ahavas Achim

P.O. Box 334

Westfield, MA 01086

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fri. Jan 10 @ 7:15pm - Erev Shabbat Service

Sat. Feb 8 @ 10am - Shabbat Morning Service

Fri. Mar 13 @ 6pm - Purim Service/Celebration

Sat. Mar 28 @ 10am - Shabbat Morning Service

Note: All Services take place at the Interfaith Center at Westfield State University unless otherwise noted.

PASSOVER COMMUNITY SEDER: TBA

Board Meeting: February 12th @ 6:30 PM
Wendy Blondin's – 59 Forest Glen Drive, Westfield
Call Wendy for directions 413-568-5347
All Members Invited to Participate

Soup Kitchen (First Thursday of the month) at Our Community Table, 101 Meadow St., Westfield 4:00 – 5:45 pm. Contact Sandy at 413-262-4564. February 6th, March 5th

Hebrew School:

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

YAHZRZEIT

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

		<u>2020</u>
Alvin Jacobs	Teveth 4	1/1
Ethel Levy	Teveth 5	1/2
Alan Tropp	Teveth 5	1/2
Irving Renninger	Teveth 12	1/9
Lillian Flax	Teveth 20	1/17
Abe Milstein	Teveth 24	1/21
Joseph Gubkin	Teveth 24	1/21
Milton Levy	Teveth 25	1/22
Herbert Silver	Teveth 26	1/23
Irving Stone	Shevat 2	1/28
Mildred Bowman	Shevat 8	2/3
Carl Stone	Shevat 9	2/4
Noah Nesin	Shevat 9	2/4
Samuel Garber	Shevat 15	2/10
Samuel Blumenthal	Shevat 16	2/11
Leah Brody	Shevat 20	2/15
Hilda Cooper	Shevat 24	2/19
Matthew L. Pearl	Shevat 27	2/22
Laura Rosenthal	Shevat 30	2/25
Honey Kaufman	Shevat 30	2/25
Shirley Goldstein	Adar 1	2/26
Murray Sanders	Adar 9	3/5
Irwin Rosenak	Adar II 12	3/8

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

Blondin Family – in memory of Barbara Davenport's mother, Judy Schulman - General Fund

Fran Eisenberg – in memory of Barbara Davenport's mother, Judy Schulman - General Fund

Barbara Kronfeld - in loving memory of Sam Blumenthal – General Fund

Jill Podell – General Fund

**Donations received as of 12/31/19*

Congregation Ahavas Achim wishes to thank all its friends and members for their generous donations (cont'd):

Time, monetary and/or food donations made toward Christmas day dinner at the soup kitchen:

Sandy Mackler

Fran Eisenberg and Arthur Haselkorn

Barbara and Michael Davenport

Elsa Rosenak

Ron'na Lytle and Tre

Nancy Rapisarda

Wendy and Bob Blondin

Miriam and Shlomo Steinberg

Marcia Kahn

Lynne Goldberg and Simon

Bob and Judy Brown

Ellie Wright

Scott Alexander

Bill Cloutier and Heidi

Rissa Larsen

Susan Mackler

Grisha Gudima

Cindy

Anonymous

**Donations received as of 12/31/19*

Reminder:

Dues payment plans end in February unless special arrangements have been made. All membership dues should be paid in full by February 15, 2020. If you are having difficulty, please contact someone on the board to discuss an alternative payment plan.

Onegs & Kiddushes: If you would like to provide the nosh and/or beverage for a Friday night or Saturday morning Service, please send an email to ahavasachiminquiry@gmail.com or leave a voicemail message at (413) 642-1797

If you will be attending Shabbat services, please let us know, if possible, by that Wednesday (email ahavasachiminquiry@gmail.com or call (413) 642-1797). Sometimes there is a congregant who especially needs a minyan for reciting the Kaddish, and on Saturdays, we would like to have a minyan so we can read from the Torah.

Chanukah in Westfield:

The 9th city-wide Menorah Lighting Ceremony in Westfield took place at 6:30pm on Monday, December 23rd at Park Square in downtown Westfield. Thank you to Acting Mayor Ralph James Figy for having the outdoor Menorah, honoring the wonderful Jewish community of Westfield and hosting the Community Menorah Lighting. Thank you also to Cantor Reaboi who gave us a history of Chanukah and led us in prayer and songs. The ceremony was attended by many members of our Jewish community, as well as other people from Westfield and other surrounding areas. We certainly look forward to seeing the Menorah lights for many years to come. After the ceremony, everyone was invited back to the Greater Westfield Boys and Girls Club for latkes and other Chanukah treats.

Christmas Day Soup Kitchen

(December 25, 2019):

We wish to thank all those who had a hand in providing a very special Christmas meal at Our Community Table Soup Kitchen on December 25th. We served approximately 50 people and Bob and Judy once again cooked the meat to perfection. Putting on this meal is truly a community effort. Special thanks to Fran and Sandy for organizing this event and to all those who provided their time, food, and monetary contributions to make this meal possible: Sandy Mackler, Fran Eisenberg, Arthur Haselkorn, Bob & Judy Brown, Elsa Rosenak, Scott Alexander, Miriam & Shlomo Steinberg, Ron'na Lytle & Trea, Lynn Goldberg & Simon, Rissa Larson, Barbara & Michael Davenport, Wendy & Bob Blondin, Marcia Kahn, Susan Mackler, Nancy Rapisarda, Ellie Wright, Grisha Gudima, Bill Cloutier & Heidi, Cindy and Anonymous.

We also want to thank those who donated items for the gift bags that were given to our guests. They were very well received.

After serving the Christmas meal at the soup kitchen, many of the volunteers participated in the tradition of coming together for an Asian meal at a local Westfield restaurant to socialize and celebrate Jewish community together.

Additionally, Sandy Mackler reflected on the day:

“People ask me why I do this every year. Here's why:

A young woman with her 3 young daughters joined us for the Christmas meal. I saw one of our "regulars" pull 4 \$10 bills out of his pocket and insisted that she take it for her girls. She resisted accepting his gift, but he was persistent. He finally succeeded in changing her mind when he said, "please take this, I have more than I need".

Every year at Christmas, I am moved by someone or something that happens during our meal. This year was no exception.”

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 directly to smile.amazon.com where you are then 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 smile.amazon.com purchases. Please be sure to use our unique link in place of www.amazon.com as only purchases made at smile.amazon.com are eligible.

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

Happy Birthday!

Birthday wishes go out to the following:

Jacob Blumenthal	January 3rd
Ellie Wright	January 7th
Susan Blumenthal	January 9th
Faith Blondin	January 13th
Andy Rosenthal	January 19th
Sarah Eisenberg	January 30th
Andrew Blumenthal	February 21st
Jason Blondin	March 2nd