

Congregation Ahavas Achim

P.O. Box 334

Westfield, MA 01086

DEC / JAN / FEB 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun. 12/18 @ 6:30 pm – Community Chanukah
Menorah Lighting on Park Square

Sat. 1/14 @ 10 am –Shabbat Morning Service

Fri. 2/10 @ 7:00pm – Shabbat Evening Service

Please contact us at ahavasachiminquiry@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 December 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:*

2022-2023

Morris Pearl	Kislev 7	12/1
Herman Blumenthal	Kislev 9	12/3
Phyllis Mackler	Kislev 12	12/6
Lazare Temkin	Kislev 15	12/9
Paul Goldstein	Kislev 19	12/13
Richard Caplin	Kislev 29	12/23
Alvin Jacobs	Teveth 4	12/28
Ethel Levy	Teveth 5	12/29
Alan Tropp	Teveth 5	12/29
Irving Renninger	Teveth 12	1/5
Lillian Flax	Teveth 20	1/13
Abe Milstein	Teveth 24	1/17
Joseph Gubkin	Teveth 24	1/17
Milton Levy	Teveth 25	1/18
Herbert Silver	Teveth 26	1/19
Irving Stone	Shevat 2	1/24
Mildred Bowman	Shevat 8	1/30
Carl Stone	Shevat 9	1/31
Noah Nesin	Shevat 9	1/31
Samuel Garber	Shevat 15	2/6
Samuel Blumenthal	Shevat 16	2/7
Leah Brody	Shevat 20	2/11
Hilda Cooper	Shevat 24	2/15
Matthew L. Pearl	Shevat 27	2/18
Laura Rosenthal	Shevat 30	2/21
Honey Kaufman	Shevat 30	2/21
Shirley Goldstein	Adar II-1	2/22

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

Fran Eisenberg - in honor of the birth of my two grandchildren, Marley and Easton - General Fund

Mackler/Newman Family – in celebration of Marcia Kahn’s birthday - General Fund

Marjorie Cummins – in celebration of Marcia Kahn’s birthday - General Fund

Jan Waitz – in celebration of Marcia Kahn’s birthday - General Fund

Ed and Sue Kline – in celebration of Marcia Kahn’s birthday - General Fund

Barbara and Michael Davenport - General Fund

Wendy and Bob Blondin – General Fund

**Donations received as of 11/30/22*

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
Jason Blondin	March 2 nd

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.

Menorah Lighting Ceremony:

Mayor Mike McCabe and the City of Westfield are pleased to announce the Menorah Lighting Ceremony on Park Square to celebrate Chanukah. The lighting of the City’s Grand Menorah will take place on Sunday, December 18, at 6:30 pm. Rabbi Shahar Colt will lead the celebration of the first night of Chanukah with prayers, songs and the lighting of Westfield’s 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.

Soup Kitchen:

Congregation Ahavas Achim has continued to provide the meal on the first Thursday of every month. Since the onset of Covid-19, we have been preparing brown bag "grab and go" meals, and are looking for volunteers to provide sandwiches, snacks, or beverages. Please be aware that it is not necessary to enter the building. For further information regarding the monthly soup kitchen, please contact Sandy at sandra.mackler@comcast.net or 413-262-4564.

Also, in keeping with our tradition, we will be providing a take-out version of our usual Christmas dinner, and are looking for volunteers to cook (in your own home is fine) and assemble take-out containers. Judy and Bob Brown have once again volunteered to cook the big roast beef. Monetary contributions are also gratefully accepted. The meal will be served at 4:30pm on 12/25/2022.

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.

Soup Kitchen: (cont'd)

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 dinner meal: 3 large boxes 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; Cheese cuts and crackers, vegetable crudite such as carrot sticks, pepper slices, sliced cucumbers packaged into 70 small ziplock sandwich bags. Christmas cookies and mini candy canes. We will also need volunteers to assemble and hand out the dinner bags and gift bags, and assist with washing dishes and with clean-up.

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

For further information regarding the Christmas dinner, please contact Fran, who will once again be coordinating this event, at volleyfran@comcast.net or 413-575-8465.

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.

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/>

Reminder:

Dues payment plans end in February unless special arrangements have been made. All membership dues should be paid in full by February 15, 2023. If you are having difficulty, please contact someone on the board to discuss an alternative payment plan.