

Congregation Ahavas Achim

P.O. Box 334

Westfield, MA 01086

SEP / OCT / NOV 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

High Holy Days:

Wed. 10/2 @ 7:00 pm, Erev Rosh Hashanah

Thu. 10/3 @ 10:00 am, Rosh Hashanah Morning

Fri. 10/11 @ 7:00 pm, Kol Nidre

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

Sat. 9/21 @ 10:00am –Shabbat Morning Service

Fri. 10/18 @ 7:00pm - Shabbat Evening Service

Sat. 11/16 @ 10:00am –Shabbat Morning Service

Sat. 12/14 @ 10:00am –Shabbat Morning Service

Sun. 12/29 – Menorah Lighting on the Green and
Hanukah party (more details to follow)

Please contact us at ahavasachiminquiry@gmail.com or
leave a voicemail message at (413) 642-1434 if you want to
say Kaddish or have any suggestions for us.

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:*

2024

Freida Caplin	Av 29	Sep 2
Helen Cheskin	Elul 2	Sep 5
Evelyn Goldberg	Elul 7	Sep 10
Ruth Fisher	Elul 9	Sep 12
Norma Silver	Elul 16	Sep 19
Eugene Spiro	Elul 16	Sep 19
Irving Friedman	Elul 23	Sep 26
Stanley Wertel	Elul 28	Oct 1
Thornton Pava	Tishri 7	Oct 9
Dora Schachter	Tishri 13	Oct 15
Sarah Milstein	Tishri 14	Oct 16
Doris Beard	Tishri 15	Oct 17
Alvin Fields	Tishri 20	Oct 22
Solomon Karp	Tishri 21	Oct 23
Henriette Rosenak	Tishri 25	Oct 27
Allene Dressler	Cheshvan 6	Nov 7
Ida Bernstein	Cheshvan 7	Nov 8
Edna Newman	Cheshvan 9	Nov 10
Irene Hoffman	Cheshvan 10	Nov 11
Rebecca Pearl	Cheshvan 11	Nov 12
Hyman Bernstein	Cheshvan 12	Nov 13
Myrna Siegel	Cheshvan 12	Nov 13
Gussie Chernick	Cheshvan 17	Nov 18
Judith Schulman	Cheshvan 20	Nov 21
Harold Riklin	Cheshvan 23	Nov 24
Mary Bertrand	Cheshvan 25	Nov 25

Board Meeting: Meetings are held via conference
calls. Our next meeting is scheduled for October
9th. All are welcome to join. Please let us know if
you are interested so that we may include you in our
call: ablumenthal@congregationahavasachim.org

High Holy Days:

All are welcome to join us at the Interfaith Center. If you have a loved one that has passed and you would like us to read their name during Yizkor (Memorial Service), please feel free to let us know by sending an email request to ahavasachimquiry@gmail.com including their name and Yahrzeit.

Please note that for Non-Member Guests, we ask for a suggested donation of \$75, which includes all 5 High Holiday services. There is no fee for Children 12 and under.

On Yom Kippur, our Break-the-Fast Potluck will once again be held at the Social Hall of the Second Congregational Church, adjacent to WSC, following the Neilah/Closing service.

2024 Ride to Provide:

The Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts is sponsoring this fundraiser for the second year. Please join the Federation, Jewish organizations, and our Western Mass. community by supporting the event with a monetary donation or by signing up to participate. The event will be held on Sunday, September 29, 2024 at Sinai Temple, Springfield, MA. It will include multiple bike routes, a 5K walk/run and a 1K Family Walk.

For more information on this year's Ride to Provide, please click on the link below:

<https://jewishwesternmass.org/ridetoprovide24/>

Please consider joining or sponsoring our Congregation Ahavas Achim team by following the link below.

<https://jewishwesternmass.crowdchange.co/37516/team/55873>

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
Susan Mackler	November 28 th

Happy Anniversary!

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

Rabbi's Message:

Dear Ahavas Achim and Westfield Jewish Community,

It was a *m'chayeh*, a truly life-giving experience to be together at the end of June to celebrate Molly's bat mitzvah together. Experiencing a simcha in this community helped me appreciate more deeply the power of gathering together as Westfield's Jewish community. Though we may be small in numbers, we do powerful work to live real Jewish lives together - lives that radiate outwards and connect with so many others of all spiritual backgrounds.

I have been with this community for two and a half years now. As many of you know, I recently began a new full time position as the Assistant Director of Spiritual Life and Campus Rabbi at Amherst College. My family moved to Northampton - so much closer to Westfield than Boston! And so, in conversation with the CAA Board, we have decided that I will continue working with the community, though in a somewhat reduced capacity.

My Amherst schedule will conflict with CAA for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, so we have hired Yitzi Gittelsohn, a rabbinical student at Hebrew College, to lead these services. Yitzi has regularly impressed me with his thoughtfulness, his commitment to Jewish spirituality, his openness to learning, and his integration of music. I have already started working with him to help him prepare for leading these services, and we will introduce him more fully in the coming months.

Aside from high holidays, I will be leading one Shabbat service a month, as well as our Chanukah candle lighting, Passover Seder and Jewish learning programs during the year.

If you have any questions, or just want to talk, please feel free to be in touch.

Have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing the community again in September!

Rabbi Shahar

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