

# Congregation Ahavas Achim

P.O. Box 334

Westfield, MA 01086

DEC / JAN / FEB 2022 NEWSLETTER

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun. 12/5 @ 6:00 pm – Community Chanukah Menorah Lighting on the Green

Sat. 12/18 @ 10:30 am to noon - Adult Ed via Google Meet (more details to follow)

Fri. 1/14 @ 7:15pm – Shabbat Evening Service via Google Meet

Sat. 2/12 @ 10 am –Shabbat Morning Service via Google Meet

Fri. 3/18 @ 7:15pm – Shabbat and Purim Evening Service via Google Meet

Please contact us at [ahavasachiminquiry@gmail.com](mailto: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 during the pandemic. Our next meeting is scheduled for December 8th. All are welcome to join. Please let us know if you are interested so we can include you in our call.

## Hebrew School:

Coordinator: Andy Blumenthal

(Please call him at (413) 569-1148 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:*

2021-2022

Richard Caplin	Kislev 29	12/3
Alvin Jacobs	Teveth 4	12/8
Ethel Levy	Teveth 5	12/9
Alan Tropp	Teveth 5	12/9
Irving Renninger	Teveth 12	12/16
Lillian Flax	Teveth 20	12/24
Abe Milstein	Teveth 24	12/28
Joseph Gubkin	Teveth 24	12/28
Milton Levy	Teveth 25	12/29
Herbert Silver	Teveth 26	12/30
Irving Stone	Shevat 2	1/4
Mildred Bowman	Shevat 8	1/10
Carl Stone	Shevat 9	1/10
Noah Nesin	Shevat 9	1/10
Samuel Garber	Shevat 15	1/17
Samuel Blumenthal	Shevat 16	1/18
Leah Brody	Shevat 20	1/22
Hilda Cooper	Shevat 24	1/26
Matthew L. Pearl	Shevat 27	1/29
Laura Rosenthal	Shevat 30	2/1
Honey Kaufman	Shevat 30	2/1
Shirley Goldstein	Adar 1	2/2
Murray Sanders	Adar 9	2/10
Betty Grodzen	Adar 17	2/18
Doris Goldberg	Adar 18	2/19
Miriam Shepard	Adar 20	2/21
Harvey Roazen	Adar 22	2/23
Max Flax	Adar 27	2/28

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

**Mackler/Newman Family – in celebration of Gail Wertel’s birthday - General Fund**

**Elsa Rosenak – General Fund**

**Dr. Robert Wool and Lynne Goldberg - General Fund**

**Marcia Kahn –General Fund**

**Myrna Butler –General Fund**

*\*Donations received as of 11/30/21*

**High Holidays:**

**Thank you to all who contributed to the High Holiday services: special thanks to Rabbi Dawn Rose for leading a wonderful and engaging service, despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. The services were hybrid this year whereby congregants could choose between attending in person or watching and listening to the service on Google Meet. Thanks to our many congregants who participated with Aliyah’s and readings. Special thanks to Andy Blumenthal for making sure our services were available, and for monitoring them, on Google Meet.**

**Menorah Lighting Ceremony:**

**Mayor Don Humason and the City of Westfield are pleased to announce the Menorah Lighting Ceremony on Park Square Green to celebrate Chanukah. In conjunction with Congregation Ahavas Achim, the lighting of the City’s Grand Menorah will take place on Sunday, December 5, at 6:00 pm. The community is welcome to come and enjoy this event including small gifts for children.**

**Reminder:**

**Dues payment plans end in February unless special arrangements have been made. All membership dues should be paid in full by February 15, 2022. If you are having difficulty, please contact someone on the board to discuss an alternative payment plan.**

**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](mailto: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. Monetary contributions are gratefully accepted.**

**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.**

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

**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/>**

## Fall Cleaning Project

Congregation Ahavas Achim sponsored a project that provided basic household cleaning kits to local families.

Cleaning supplies were given out to 100 families, on a first come, first served basis.

Congregation Ahavas Achim has volunteered at the Westfield Soup Kitchen for the past 30 years, and recognizes that many families in our community have little or no money left for basic cleaning supplies after purchasing food, medications, and paying the rent.

Ocean State Job Lot assisted us in the purchasing of the cleaning products.

Funding for this program was provided by the Harold Grinspoon and Diane Troderman Tzedakah Fund of the Jewish Endowment Foundation, a division of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts.

## In Memory Of:

It is with a heavy heart that we convey the sad news that our beloved Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Joyce Galaski, passed away peacefully at home. She had Alzheimer's for several years and her death followed a significant decline in the last several months. Please click on this [link](#) for her obituary. May her memory be a blessing to all the lives she touched.

## Happy Birthday!

Birthday wishes go out to the following:

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

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://smile.amazon.com). Please be sure to use our unique link in place of [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) as only purchases made at [smile.amazon.com](http://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.