

Congregation Ahavas Achim

P.O. Box 334

Westfield, MA 01086

MAR / APR / MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Sun. 3/27 @ 10:30am to noon - Adult Ed via Google Meet (see details of topic on page 3)

Sat. 4/9 @ 10:00am –Shabbat Morning Service*

Wed. 4/20 @ 6:00-7:15 pm – Abridged Non-traditional Passover Seder via Google Meet

Fri. 4/29 @ 7:15pm – Shabbat Evening Service*

Sat. 5/14 @ 10:00am –Shabbat Morning Service*

Fri. 5/20 @ 7:15pm – Shabbat Evening Service*

***With the exception of the Seder, services beginning on 4/9 will be held at the Interfaith Center.**

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 during the pandemic. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 13th. 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.)

YAHARZEIT

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

		<u>2022</u>
Lauren Rosenthal	Adar 30	3/3
Irwin Rosenak	Adar II 12	3/15
Howard Mackler	Nisan 9	4/10
Wally Goldstein	Nisan 11	4/12
Irene Bernstein	Nisan 14	4/15
Richard Lee Kaufman	Nisan 15	4/16
Blanche Schachter	Nisan 16	4/17
Phyllis Brody	Nisan 21	4/22
Pauline Tucker	Nisan 21	4/22
Hyman Schachter	Nisan 29	4/30
Janice Bowman	Iyar 5	5/6
Abraham Haselkorn	Iyar 14	5/15
Don Riddle	Iyar 14	5/15
Alda Haselkorn	Iyar 17	5/18
Esther Goldstein	Iyar 18	5/19
Stanley Lewin	Iyar 28	5/29

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

Blondin Family – in memory of Rabbi Joyce Galaski - General Fund

**Donations received as of 2/28/22*

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
Arthur Haselkorn
Bob and Judy Brown
Ron'na Lytle and Tre
Carol and Nate Rosenthal
Wendy Blondin
Lynne Goldberg
Elsa Rosenak
Rissa Larsen
Nancy Rapisarda
Susan Mackler
Peggy McLennan
Jill Podell
Geri Johnson
Jasmin Harper

**Donations received as of 2/28/22*

Invitation from Rabbi Colt:

I don't know most of you yet, and right now we're meeting by zoom rather than in person. To work on developing a stronger connection with this community, I am inviting any interested community members to [sign up for a time to meet with me 1:1](#) on googlemeets. You can sign up for a timeslot on a Friday afternoon, or contact me at RabbiColt@congregationahavasachim.org or 617-359-4871.

Message from Rabbi Colt:

I imagine that, like me, many of you are following the news from Ukraine with grave concern. Some of us may be feeling a personal connection to this unfolding tragedy - many American Jews trace their ancestry to Ukraine and many Jews still live in Ukraine. Although many of our communal ancestors fled Ukraine to live peaceful Jewish lives here in America, it is a place with rich Jewish heritage. As a people who has historically needed to flee

from oppression, we must recognize the horror of this moment, and act in solidarity with those who are senselessly under attack.

I want to share a prayer with you (below). This prayer is interpreted by my colleague Rabbi Arielle Lekach-Rosenberg. May it be a liturgical container to guide our longings for a more just and peaceful world.

אחינו כל בית ישראל וכל יושבי תבל
- *acheinu kol beit yisrael v'khol yoshvei tevel*

Our family, our kin - bound together in this web of creation

הנתונים בצרה ובשביה - *hanetunim betzarah uvashivyah*

We pray for all those who are caught in struggle and oppression

העומדים בין בים ובין ביבשה - *ha'omdim bein bayam uvein bayabashah*

We hold close those who stand in the narrow place between the dry land and the sea, unsure of whether we're moving towards liberation or back to *mitzrayim*. We pray for safety. We pray for dignity. We pray for our family.

המקום ירחם עליהם - *hamakom yirachem aleihem*

May the Source of Life be hamakom, the Place, from which all those who suffer, all those who seek refuge, might find safe haven and new possibilities.

ויוציאם מצרה לרוחה - *veyotziem mitzarah lirvachah*

May the structures of state violence that harm our trans siblings
May the machinery of war that rains fire

on Ukraine

Be dismantled and transformed into tools of peace,
Seeds of redemption.

מֵאֲפֵלָה לְאוֹרָה - *umeafelah leorah*

May we move from disorientation to organization.

וּמִשְׁעִבּוֹד לְגְאֻלָּה - *umishi'ebud ligulah*

May we move from implication in structures of
oppression to knowing with whole hearts that we are held
in - and accountable to - our ecosystem.

הַשָּׂמָיִם בְּעֵגְלָא וּבְזִמָּן קָרִיב - *hashta b'agala uvizman kariv*

Not next year, not next month, but today.

Adult Ed discussion

(3/27/2022):

Why is antisemitism so hard to address?

Incidences of antisemitism have been increasing in the United States, though some of us are able to point to its presence throughout their lives. At the same time, it can be hard to define antisemitism, and many find it tricky to figure out how to respond. In this session we will study excerpts from "A Very Brief Guide to Anti-Semitism," published this January by T'ruah: the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights. This resource provides historical background, clarifying definitions, and suggestions for how to respond. We will brainstorm together how these ideas are relevant for the Westfield Jewish community.

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

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.

Christmas Day Soup Kitchen

(December 25, 2021):

We wish to thank all those who had a hand in providing a very special Christmas meal on Saturday, December 25th at Our Community Table Soup Kitchen. For the second consecutive Christmas, our volunteers prepared and packaged individual to-go meals for folks to pick up and bring back to their homes. We gave out approximately 70 meals. Everyone said the meal was really great, and much different than the usual soup kitchen dinners. They also greatly appreciated their gifts, which were mostly socks and personal care items.

A special thank you to Little Georges for supplying 13 assorted pies this year to add to our dessert assortment.

Our group of volunteers really stepped up to meet the needs of the community. Their generosity and willingness to share their time and talents brightened this Christmas for us all. Putting this together is truly a community effort. Bob and Judy once again cooked the meat to perfection and delivered it sliced and ready to be packaged.

Special thanks to Fran and Sandy for organizing this event and to everyone who provided their time, food, and monetary contributions to make this meal possible.

Reminder:

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

Happy Birthday!

Birthday wishes go out to the following:

Jason Blondin March 2nd

Nate Rosenthal March 14th

Fran Eisenberg April 6th

Carol Rosenthal April 7th

Nancy Rapisarda April 15th

Bob Blondin April 18th

Lynne Goldberg April 21st

Happy Anniversary!

Anniversary wishes go out to the following:

Nancy & Bill Rapisarda May 26th

Leslie & Rich O'Donnell May 26th