

Congregation Ahavas Achim

P.O. Box 334

Westfield, MA 01086

JUN / JUL / AUG 2022 NEWSLETTER

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat. 7/16 @ 10:00am – Shabbat Morning Service and pot luck picnic gathering – Stanley Park Pavilion

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 June 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:

2022

Leah Ruth Chase	Sivan 5	6/4
Alfred Levy	Sivan 7	6/6
Emily Wright	Sivan 17	6/16

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

Blondin Family – in memory of Fran Eisenberg’s mother, Gail Wertel - General Fund

Blumenthal Family – in memory of Fran Eisenberg’s mother, Gail Wertel - General Fund

Nancy Rapisarda - in memory of Fran Eisenberg’s mother, Gail Wertel - General Fund

Sandra Mackler and Marty Newman - in memory of Fran Eisenberg’s mother, Gail Wertel - General Fund

Barbara and Michael Davenport - in memory of Fran Eisenberg’s mother, Gail Wertel - General Fund

Marcia Kahn - in memory of her late husband, Elliot Kahn and Fran Eisenberg’s mother, Gail Wertel - General Fund

Jane Mellor - In memory of Fran Eisenberg's mother, Gail Wertel – General Fund

Claire Premo - In memory of Fran Eisenberg's mother, Gail Wertel – General Fund

**Donations received as of 5/31/22*

Message from Rabbi Colt:

June 2022

June brings us the holiday of Shavuot, traditionally the celebration of Jews receiving Torah at Mt. Sinai. One intriguing aspect of Shavuot is the tradition to read the book of Ruth. It's a short story, really, just four chapters long. Though the title is "Ruth," it's really about the relationships between two women, Naomi an Israelite woman, and her Moabite daughter in law, Ruth. The story starts in Moab, after the death of both women's husbands, when Naomi decides to return to her homeland. With poetic, powerful language, Ruth promises to stick with her, even joining her people and her religion. Once back in Naomi's home community, Ruth gleanes in the fields of Naomi's kinsman, Boaz, who takes an interest in her because of her dedication to Naomi. Eventually, Ruth proposes that Boaz should marry her, based on the Israelite practice of levirate marriages, where men are responsible for marrying their deceased male relatives' widows, to perpetuate dead man's family name. Boaz is willing, and they produce a son who is the great grandfather of King David.

Many commentators lean into celebrating Ruth as the paradigmatic convert to Judaism. She as an individual can be compared to the whole Israelite community at the point when they received Torah at Mt. Sinai, officially entering into a covenant with God as a people. Just as the Israelites said at Mt. Sinai, "na'aseh v'nishma"- we will do and we will listen!- Ruth leans into Naomi's religion, family and community, with deep faith and commitment, saying, "where you go, I will go... your people will be my people, your God, my God." Ruth didn't know what would await her as she followed Naomi back to Bethlehem. The Israelites didn't know what this Torah would involve- they just followed God and Moses, and trusted that they would eventually reach a land with more promise than the lives they knew in Egypt. Both the Israelites and Ruth were making commitments to a God and Jewish life that they couldn't fully anticipate.

I appreciate the confluence of these stories, especially since Ruth didn't start out as an Israelite. It suggests that someone of any background- Jewish or otherwise- should be able to find their way into Jewish life and feel welcomed, can make valuable contributions to the community, and find meaning in the traditions. As we approach shavuot this year, I invite us to think about Ruth's experience entering the Jewish community.

I wonder, what traditions feel most meaningful to you?

How are we inviting others in to appreciate them?

How have you been welcomed, like Ruth?

What has drawn you in?

What Torah would you like to learn more deeply this year?

As always, I love hearing from you.

I'll be periodically on email this summer, and will be joining the community mid-July for a summer service and potluck (as our late May service was cancelled.)

If I don't see you, have a wonderful summer!

Invitation from Rabbi Colt:

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 goglemeets.

You can sign up for a timeslot on a Friday afternoon, or contact me at RabbiColt@congregationhavasachim.org or 617-359-4871.

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:

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.

Happy Birthday!

Birthday wishes go out to the following:

Dave Wright	June 4 th
Alyssa Eisenberg	June 23 rd
Robert Wool	July 12 th
Arthur Haselorn	July 30 th

Happy Anniversary!

Anniversary wishes go out to the following:

Michael & Barbara Davenport	July 7 th
Robert Wool & Lynne Goldberg	July 9 th
Bob & Wendy Blondin	Aug 6 th
Nate & Carol Rosenthal	Aug 12 th

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.