



CONGREGATION AHAVATH ACHIM
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
December 2017
13 Kislev – 13 Tevet 5778

Torah & Haftorah Readings and Page Numbers					
Torah Reading	December 2 Vayishlach Bereshis 32:4-36:43 Pages 170-197	December 9 Vayeshev Bereshis 37:1-40:23 Pages 198-221	December 16 Miketz Bereshis 41:1-44:17 Pages 222-249	December 23 Vayigash Bereshis 44:18-47:27 Pages 250-267	December 30 Vayechi Chazak Bereshis 47:28-50:26 Pages 268-289
Maftir			Chanukah – 4th Day Numbers 7:30-35 Page 768		
Haftorah	Obadiah 1:1-21 Pages 1141-1142	Amos 2:6-3:8 Pages 1142-1143	Shabbat Chanukah Zecharia 2:14-4:7 Pages 1210-1211	Ezekiel 37:15-28 Pages 1144-1145	Kings I 2:1-12 Pages 1145-1146

NOTE: Times for Services can be found in the calendar and on the Ahavath Achim web site, www.ahavathachim.org

Rabbi Moldovan's Shabbat Message

With the winter months upon us, we will be missing a few regulars from our Shabbat minyanim, as they travel interstate to warmer climates. Getting a minyan of ten men willing to brave the weather for the entire winter will be tough, but as I was studying this week I came across a brilliant idea! The Gemara says that Rav Zeira, one of the great sages mentioned in the Talmud, made a golem, a manlike creature, from scratch. He used Kabbalistic methods found in a book called Sefer Yetzira, the Book of Creation, authored by our forefather Abraham thousands of years ago. A parchment with certain names of Hashem are inserted into the mouth of a clay statue which immediately becomes animated and able to perform tasks like a regular human being! Maybe I can make a golem to help the minyan. Unfortunately for us, this issue has already been raised by the great Chacham Tzvi, the 17th Century leader of the Portugese Jewish community who queries if a golem can count towards a minyan. He explains that even though a golem looks and acts like a human being, he is unable to talk. Says the Chacham Tzvi, that since a golem intrinsically lacks the faculty of speech, he cannot be included in a minyan. So it turns out that the golem plan is not a viable one. Since we can't use a golem, I call on all those potential minyanaires to please make a special effort and help contribute to the tefillos of our Shul – rain, hail or shine.

Pre-Mincha Shabbat Shiur

Rabbi Moldovan will give the pre-Mincha shiur immediately following Kiddush and Mincha will follow the rabbi's class. **Please know that we depend on you to complete Shabbat with a minyan, so please remember to return to the American Legion building fifteen (15) minutes after Shabbat ends for Ma'ariv with a minyan. Thank you for keeping our minyan strong and reliable.**

Mazel Tov to

Hedy and Terry Augenbraun on the engagement of their granddaughter Carmi in Israel to Yonatan Ben David. Warmest wishes to all the family.

Special Thank You to

Shalom Mizrahi for the wonderful new Bimah he has built for us to use for Torah Reading at the American Legion Building.

Happy Chanukah Celebration to Everyone Coming Soon! Watch your email for the announcement of this year's joyful Chanukah party. Time, date and location are being finalized as we go to print. So get your dreidel spinning fingers ready, your latke palate sizzling, your jelly donut anticipation in high gear, and your singing voice in tune. Celebrate with your friends and family at Ahavath Achim.

Congregation Ahavath Achim on Social Media: Don't forget to check the Ahavath Achim website for current updates. You can also read and post to the shul's Facebook page or Twitter.

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Find us on: Facebook, Twitter, & LinkedIn		



Rabbi Moldovan is planning a **Education Series** for the coming winter months which will excite and educate us through the winter cold. Watch your emails for all the news as to topics, time, place and registration. Let it snow, , , words of Torah will keep us warm!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Starting Friday, Dec. 1st, 10 AM - "A Bissel Yiddish"

A new class in classic sections of "*Bintel Brief*," The Forward's original advice column, sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County and presented by Judy Altman. At the Harry Rosenbaum JHS Judaica Library at the Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Avenue, Stamford. Fee: \$5 for the *pushke*. Questions: 203-321-1373 x150 (leave message) or email info@jhsfc-ct.org

Staged Reading - Fiddler on the Roof - Sunday, Dec. 3rd, 4 PM

Federation of Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County presents an All-Star Community Staged Reading of ***Fiddler on the Roof***, performed by Rabbis, Cantors, Community Leaders and many others at Rodeph Sholom, 2385 Park Ave., Bridgeport. The show is a script-in-hand reading with singing of *Fiddler's* most popular songs, accompanied by a volunteer community orchestra and choral ensemble. All tickets \$10 with net proceeds to benefit the Federation's efforts to support our extended Jewish family in the former Soviet Union.

Special Guest Speaker, Anat Hoffman - Monday, Dec. 4th, 7:30-9:30 PM

Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) and director and founding member of Neshot HaKotel, also known as Women of the Wall. In 2013, the Israeli newspaper, Haaretz, Named her "Person of the Year" and The Jerusalem Post listed her 5th among its list of 50 most influential Jews. The program will be at B'nai Israel, Park Avenue, Bridgeport and is co-sponsored by Temple Israel of Westport and the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County.

Meet author David Dalin - Tuesday, Dec. 5th, 7:30-9:30 PM

Author of *Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court: From Brandeis to Kagan, Their Lives and Legacies*. Presented by the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy Cardozo Society with thanks to community partners, Jewish Book Council, Temple Israel, The Westport Library. Event Location: Temple Israel 14 Coleytown Road Westport.

Book Talks - Israeli Poetry and Songs

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 10:30 am at the Stamford JCC. Presented by Richard Schwartz and Yael Stolarsky. Sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society. Free and open to the public. To register call 203-359-2196 or email info@jhsfc-ct.org.

Fast of Tevet - Thursday, Dec. 28th

Fast begins at 6:05 am, Shacharit at 6:20 am, Mincha at 2:45 pm, Ma'ariv at 4:55 pm, Fast ends at 5:21 pm. We wish everyone an easy Fast. Please speak with Rabbi Moldovan if you have any questions regarding fasting.



Refuah Shelema to

Kenneth Epstein, Rabbi Moshe Epstein, David Gordon, Andrew Klein, Fred Schwartz, and Diane Shinbaum. May G-d May grant each a speedy and complete recovery.

Please remember that Golden Book greeting cards are a great way to honor someone or remember a loved one.

Yahrzeits for December 2017:

Saturday, December 2 – **Esther Barnum** (Mother to Max Barnum)

Sunday, December 3 - **John J. Kohn** (Grandfather to Monroe Kohn)

Monday, December 4 – **Benjamin Egri** (Father to Elizabeth Deutsch)

Wednesday, December 6 – **Bertha Gross** (Aunt to David Gordon)

Wednesday, December 6 – **Isadore Moidel** (Husband to Rose Moidel)

Thursday, December 7 – (Grandmother to Peggy Sue Schwarzmer)

Monday, December 11 – **Harold Berkowitz** (Father to David, Louis and Robert Berkowitz.

Monday, December 11 – **Elizabeth Deutsch** (Mother to Andrew Deutsch)

Tuesday, December 12 – **Julia Magid** (Aunt to Mark Fishman)

Wednesday, December 13 – **Hersh Augenbraun** (Grandfather to Terry Augenbraun)

Wednesday, December 13 – **Malvin Klein** (Mother to Andrew Klein)

Thursday, December 14 – **Audrey Lowen Klein** (Mother to Sara Klein)

Saturday, December 16 – **Chayim Allen** (Grandfather to Joel Allen)

Saturday, December 16 – **Steven Madwed** (Husband to Regina Madwed)

Saturday, December 16 – **Kuna Brown** (Grandfather to Deborah Kraut- Shear)

Sunday, December 17 – **Catherine Mandel** (Mother to Lisa Rappoport)

Tuesday, December 19 – **Harold Goldman** (Uncle to William Wolper)

Wednesday, December 20 – **Helen Katz** (Aunt to Terry Augenbraun)

Thursday, December 21 – **Julia Macy** (Mother to Toby Schaffer & Barbara Friedman)

Friday, December 22- **Rev. Abraham Frankel** (Father to Rose Moidel)

Friday, December 22 – **Terez Weintraub** (Grandmother to Cathy Velenchik)

Saturday, December 23 – **Bertha Goldman** (Grandmother to William Wolper)

Saturday, December 23- **Marton Lax** (Father to Erica Cohen)

Saturday, December 23 – **Frieda Wolper** (Grandmother to William Wolper)

Sunday, December 24 – **Nettie Rothwax** (Mother to Joel Rothwax)

Monday, December 25 – **Rebecca Zabol** (Grandmother to Peggy Sue Schwarzmer)

Tuesday, December 26 – **Matilda Baena** (Grandmother to Ellen Rothwax)

Tuesday, December 26 – **Sylvia Levine** (Aunt to David Gordon)

Wednesday, December 27 – **Mitchell Dimand** (Father to Jay Dimand)

Friday, December 29 – **Hyman Elstein** (Uncle to Seymour Kosowsky)

Saturday, December 30 – **Ellen Lemberger** (Mother to Lee Dickens)

Sunday, December 31 - **Joyce Goldberg** (Wife to Bernard Goldberg)



Happy Hanukkah