

# CONGREGATION AHAVATH ACHIM WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



**Lag B' Omer**

**May 12-19, 2017 / 9-16 Iyar 5777**

**Parsha Emor**

### Light Our Minyan Fire

Sunday will be Lag B'Omer, the 33rd day in the Omer. On this day, the divinely-sent plague that killed 24,000 of Rabbi Akiva's students ended. While the Counting of the Omer is a semi-mourning period, all restrictions of mourning are lifted on this 33rd day of the Omer. As a result, weddings, parties, listening to music, and haircuts are commonly scheduled to coincide with this day among Ashkenazi Jews. Families go on picnics and outings. Children go out to the fields with their teachers with bows and rubber-tipped arrows. *Tachanun*, the prayer for special Divine mercy on one's behalf is not said, because when God is showing one a "smiling face," so to speak, as He does especially on the holidays, there is no need to ask for special mercy. We also celebrate with Bon Fires. So, let's light that fire, and keep the spirit of the day going. Join us for *Minyan* - morning and/or night. Show up! Sign up (there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board)! Come early! Come often! **Let's Keep Our Minyan Strong!**

### Torah Message from Rabbi Moldovan for Parsha Emor

The Parsha ends with the terrible story of the *Mekalel* – the son of an Egyptian man and Jewish woman, who blasphemed G-d's name. The commentaries strive to explain how a person who experienced the Giving of the Torah, and who wanted to be part of the Jewish people, could fall to such depths in such a short time. The events that led up to his sin can help to shed light on this question. He was in a tragically unique situation in that he was the only member of the Jewish people who had an Egyptian father. Moreover, each Jew was ascribed to his Tribe, and Tribe membership was determined by the father, yet his father was non-Jewish. He claimed membership of the Tribe of Dan which was his mother's Tribe, but they refused to accept him. They went to Moshe Rabbeinu's *Beis Din* who ruled against the *Mekalel*. Immediately after that he went out and blasphemed Hashem. How could this man have stooped so low in this instance? The explanation is anger - he was angry at the way he was treated and this anger caused him to do something so negative that was far beyond anything else that he had done in his lifetime. This is a reminder that anger can be so damaging in that it can bring a person to behave in a manner that would be totally incomprehensible for him in a time of calm. Anger can make a person act irrationally and cause irreparable damage. How can one overcome anger? Certainly, it is a lifelong process of self-development but the following story may provide an approach that can at least help a person realize how silly he is when he is taken over by anger. There was a man who was doing well in

<b>Schedule of Services:</b>		
<b>Friday, May 12, 2017</b>		
Shacharit		6:45 AM
Mincha/Ma'ariv		7:00 PM
Candle Lighting		7:43 PM
<b>Shabbat, May 13, 2017</b>		
Shabbat Shacharit		9:15 AM
Latest Shema Time		9:13 AM
Rabbi's Class		6:45 PM
Mincha/Ma'ariv		7:30 PM
Shabbat Ends		8:45 PM
<b>Sun-Thur, May 14-18, 2017</b>		
<b>Shacharit</b>	<b>Mincha/Ma'ariv</b>	
<b>Lag B'Omer - Mother's Day</b>		
Sun	8:30 AM	7:50 PM <b>A</b>
Mon	6:30 AM	7:50 PM <b>K</b>
Tue	6:45 AM	7:50 PM <b>K</b>
Wed	6:45 AM	7:50 PM <b>B</b>
Thur	6:30 AM	7:50 PM <b>A</b>
<b>A - Ahavath Achim</b>		
<b>B - Bikur Cholim on</b>		
<b>Park &amp; Capitol Ave., Bpt</b>		
<b>K - Kollel on Arlington St., Bpt</b>		
<b>Friday, May 19, 2017</b>		
Shacharit		6:45 AM
Mincha/Ma'ariv		7:00 PM
Candle Lighting		7:50 PM
<b>Page Numbers / Torah Reading</b>		
Vayikra	21:1-24:23	672-695
<b>Haftarah</b>		
Ezekiel	44:15-31	1176-1177

every aspect of life, with one exception – he had a terrible temper. It had reached the point where all of his relationships were in danger of being destroyed. After many failed attempts at rectifying this trait, he went to the great Torah sage known as the Steipler Gaon and told him about the problem. The Steipler told him that he could heal him of his anger, on one condition – that he stare at the Steipler for several minutes without turning away once. He acceded to this seemingly strange request without understanding how it would help. As soon as he started looking at the Steipler, the Sage started making bizarre facial expressions, reminiscent of those of someone who is in a fit of fury. Needless to say, the Steipler looked bizarre – at the end he told the man that he looked just as ridiculous when he flew into his fits of anger. If we carry this attitude then we may have the ability to extinguish the flames of anger from our lives.

### Pre-Mincha Shabbat Shiur

Rabbi Moldovan will give the pre-Mincha Shabbat shiur at 6:45 pm. Everyone is invited to join in the discussion. Mincha/Ma'ariv will follow at 7:30 pm

### Mazel Tov

Warmest congratulations to Andrew and Sara Klein as they celebrate their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this week.

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### **Celebrate a Special Mother's Day**

How especially nice that Sunday is Lag B'Omer and we can have extra special celebrating to show our respect and appreciation to honor all the people in our lives who have taken care of us and provided us with loving care, whether it's been Mom, Sister, Grandmother, Aunt, Cousin, Friend or Relative, Female or Male. Thank you one and all as we celebrate your special and unique place in our lives.

### **Lag B'Omer Bon Fire Invitation**

Debbie and Steve Lozanov invite you to a Lag B'Omer Bon Fire at their home, 3404 Park Avenue (corner Thorme St.) on Saturday night, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 pm, weather permitting. Please RSVP directly to them by Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Keep the spirit of the Bon Fire blazing on Sunday. Make the morning minyan, 8:30 am and the afternoon minyan, 7:50 pm.

### **Shavuot Dairy Seudah**

Ahavath Achim will be hosting a sumptuous dairy Yom Tov dinner on the first night of Shavuot, Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to join with us to begin celebrating the Yom Tov together. Learning will commence following the seudah. Please RSVP to Arnell ([203-372-6529](tel:203-372-6529)) as soon as possible, that you will be with us for the Seudah. The cost will be \$20 per person with a \$40 family maximum.

### **Shavuot Night Learning with Hisoriri**

Ahavath Achim is pleased to partner with Hisoriri, an organization that sends students from Yeshiva Universities to teach and spread Torah around America. There will be a series of engaging classes on the night of Shavuot presented by a range of speakers. More details will follow.

### **Community Events**

#### **Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County "Book Talks"**

**Israeli Poetry and Songs** with Richard Schwartz and Yael Stolarsky. Wednesday, May 17, 10 am at the Jewish Community Center, 1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford. Free and Open to the Community.

**The Bridge Ladies**, a memoir by Betsy Lerner, A woman reconnects with her mother through her mother's Bridge Club. May 17<sup>th</sup> -light refreshments at 6:30 pm; program at 7:00 pm at the Harry Bennett Branch of the Ferguson Library, 115 Vine Rd., Stamford. Free and Open to the Community

#### **Honorable Alumni Evening – May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 pm**

Merkaz Community High School for Judaic Studies presents 1988 alumnus, Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO and National Director of the Anti-Defamation League. Topic: "Anti-Semitism in the Current Political Climate." Location: The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Campus, 4200 Park Ave., Bridgeport. Contact [margeryv@merkazct.org](mailto:margeryv@merkazct.org) or call (203) 450-5303 with any questions,

**Refuah Shelema to:** *Kenneth Epstein, Rabbi Moshe Epstein, David Gordon, Yitzy Hain, Fred Schwartz, Diane Shinbaum and Peter Tuckel.* May G-d grant each a speedy and complete recovery.

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### **Yahrzeits for the week:**

Sunday, May 14 – **Roz Fishman** (Mother's Family Kedoshim)

Sunday, May 14 – **Sanford N. Green** (Father to Stacy Mintz)

Monday, May 15 – **Yonah August** (Father- In-Law to Olga August)

Monday, May 15 – **Rose Kohn** (Grandmother to Monroe Kohn)

Monday, May 15- **Arlene Mantel** (Wife to Alex Mantel)

Thursday, May 18 – **Jack Goldman** (Uncle to Billy Wolper)

Thursday, May 18 – **Theodore Deutsch** (Brother to Andrew Deutsch)

Friday, May 19 – **Adolph Klein** (Grandfather to Monroe Kohn)

Yahrzeits begin at Ma'ariv the evening before. Please make an extra effort to ensure a minyan for those saying Kaddish. **Be there for others, and they'll be there for you.**

If you would like an Aliyah on the Shabbat before the Yahrzeit, please make sure you are in Shul before Torah Reading. If you arrive late, we cannot guarantee you an honor.




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

