

# CONGREGATION AHAVATH ACHIM WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



**December 9-16, 2016 / 9-16 Kislev 5777**

**Parsha Vayetzei**

## Schedule of Services:

### Friday, December 9, 2016

Shacharit	6:45 AM
Mincha/Ma'ariv	4:05 PM
Candle Lighting	4:06 PM

### Shabbat, December 10, 2016

Shabbat Shacharit	9:15 AM
Latest Shema Time	9:27 AM
Mincha	12:15 PM
Shabbat Ends	5:06 PM
Ma'ariv	5:21 PM

### Sun-Thur, December 11-15, 2016

#### Mincha 2:10pm at Kollel

	Shacharit	Ma'ariv	
Sun	8:30 AM	7:40 PM	A
Mon	6:30 AM	7:40 PM	K
Tue	6:45 AM	7:40 PM	K
Wed	6:45 AM	7:40 PM	B
Thur	6:30 AM	7:40 PM	A

**A - Ahavath Achim**  
**B - Bikur Cholim on**  
**Park & Capitol Ave., Bpt**  
**K - Kollel on Arlington St., Bpt**

### Friday, December 16, 2016

Shacharit	6:45 AM
Mincha/Ma'ariv	4:05 PM
Candle Lighting	4:07 PM

#### Page Numbers

#### Torah Reading

Bereishit 28:10-32:3	144-169
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#### Haftorah

Hosea 12:13-14:10	1140-1141
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### Baby It's Cold Outside

It's getting colder outside, but the Minyan is warm and friendly. Come early, come often, and **Help Keep Our Minyan Strong!**

### Shabbat Pre Mincha Shiur

Rabbi Moldovan will give his Shabbat Shiur immediately following Kiddush (at approximately 11:45 am), followed by Mincha (at 12:15 pm). We will return about 15 minutes after Shabbat ends (at 5:06 pm) for Ma'ariv (at 5:21 pm). Please remember to recite "**Baruch hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol**" in order to end Shabbat before driving or doing other work that is prohibited on Shabbat.

### Shabbat Kiddush will Honor Eric Risch

Kiddush is being sponsored by the Congregation to honor Eric Risch for his service to the shul as Gabbai over the past year. Eric has shown tremendous dedication to our shul in his role as Gabbai. He has always been enthusiastic and has taken on the many responsibilities involved in this important job. Please come and join us for this Kiddush so that we can thank this special and deserving young man.

### Torah Message from Rabbi Moldovan

Yaakov is on the run from his wild brother Esav, who is on a mission to take revenge upon his sibling. Yaakov spends the night in an open field as Hashem appears to him in a dream and assures him that he will be safe and successful in escaping the clutches of Esav. Upon waking, Yaakov realizes that the innocent field that he had chosen as a bed was actually a very holy place (it was eventually the place of the Beis Hamikdash) such that it warranted a vision of Hashem. He immediately regrets profaning a holy place by sleeping on it. Picture this - Yaakov is fleeing for his life, penniless, and lacking basic food and clothing. Hashem comes to him in a dream and guarantees that he will watch over him and that all will be well. Wouldn't you think he would wake up a happy man with extreme joy and gratitude on his face with this monumental assurance? All of his problems will be taken care of! But, what was Yaakov's initial thought? He censured himself for sleeping at a sacred site! Why? The Alter of Novardok explains that one whose focus is on self-improvement and growth, will constantly check over their behavior to see what needs correction. The only way to resolve issues is to identify them in the first place. The path of growth is littered with consistent analysis of what we have done

and where we are headed. Yaakov was clearly happy with the great news he had received from Hashem. But his first thoughts were designated for how he can improve himself and grow as a person. This does not taint the joy of the moment but rather adds to it with the pleasure of knowing that one is going up on the ladder of improvement.

### Ahavath Achim Winter Lecture Series

A new 3-part series will begin on Motzei Shabbat, December 17th. The topic of the series will be "Why do bad things happen to good people?" We will investigate different approaches to this age-old question from classical sources. Everyone is invited to join in this discussion.

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## Community Events

### Judaic Studies at UConn

A new major in Judaic Studies is now officially part of the UConn Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life curriculum. The Bachelor of Arts in Judaic Studies may be obtained in general or classical Judaic Studies. The general Judaic Studies major provides a broader perspective and includes a course concentration in the modern period. The classical track focuses on the pre-modern experience, especially in the biblical and rabbinic periods. Visit the UConn website for details and to download a plan of study form

### Jewish Senior Services Hospice Volunteer Training

The goal is to have trained Hospice volunteers in clusters all over Fairfield County so that when the need presents itself, volunteers do not have to travel far. Chaifetz

Family Hospice will be holding a two-day Hospice Volunteer Training Program. Training will be held at Jewish Senior Services on Park Avenue, Bridgeport on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> and February 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-4:30pm. Training materials and meals will be provided free of charge. If you would like to sign up or to learn more about hospice training, please contact Ellen Ashkins at [\(203\) 365-6417](tel:2033656417) or [eashkins@jseniors.org](mailto:eashkins@jseniors.org).

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

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### Yahrtzeits for the week:

Monday, December 12 – **Dr. Louis Scheinberg** (Father to Judy Lerner)

Wednesday, December 14 – **Esther Barnum** (Mother to Max Barnum)

Yahrtzeits 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 Yahrtzeit, please make sure you are in Shul before Torah Reading. If you arrive late, we cannot guarantee you an honor.

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