

CONGREGATION AHAVATH ACHIM

October 2020 Newsletter

13 Tishri-1 Cheshvan 5781

	October 3	October 10	October 17	October 24	October 31
Torah Reading	Sukkot	Shemini Atzeret	Bereshit (Machar Chodesh)	Noach	Lech-Lecha
	Leviticus 22:26 - 23:44 Numbers 29:12 - 29:16	Deuteronomy 14:22 - 16:17 Numbers 29:35 - 30:1	Genesis 1:1 - 6:8	Genesis 6:9 - 11:32	Genesis 12:1 - 17:27
Pages	518-525, 697	810-818, 698	2-20	26-40	45-60
Haftorah	Zechariah 14:1-21	I Kings 8:54 - 8:66	I Samuel 20:18 - 20:42	Isaiah 54:1 - 55:5	Isaiah 40:27 - 41:16
Pages	972-976	982-983	948-950	41-44	60-62

Minyan Times are in the monthly calendar and on the Ahavath Achim web site, www.ahavathachim.org

Rabbi Peretz Robinson's Torah Message

Dear Friends:

As we transition from September, and the holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, to October, and the holidays of Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, we begin to think about the day after. Sukkot will pass, Shemini Atzeret will pass, Simchat Torah will pass, and the imminent joy that is inherent on these days will no longer be with us in its most immediate sense. Of course, we can do our best to schlep some of the simcha that we feel during this holiday season with us through the long winter. But the imminent intensity of this joy that we can feel only in the moment as we traverse the holiday season will no longer be with us. A post-holiday comedown is the reality for many, as we look at a Jewish calendar that, for several months throughout the cold winter season, is bereft of holidays, save for Hanukkah.

How can we combat this jarring conflict of emotions, between a few short weeks in the fall that are jam-packed with simchat Yom Tov, and the barren winter months, with the joy of celebrating Purim and Pesach far off in the distant horizon?

On the Shabbat of Saturday, October 17th, we will read Parashat Bereshit. In that sedra, after learning about how the Almighty created the world in six days and designated the seventh day as a day of rest, we read how He blessed this Sabbath day: "And the Almighty blessed the seventh day and sanctified it", in Hebrew, "vayekadesh oto." This word, "to sanctify", "vayekadesh", stems from the Hebrew root form "kodesh", commonly translated as "holy." The Almighty sanctified the seventh day and instilled it with holiness.

The great Jewish thinker and sage, Rabbi Tzadok Hakohen of Lublin (1823-1900) posits that if you ever want to know the truest, most pristine definition of a particular word, then you should look at where that word appears for the first time in the Torah. This particular usage of the word will always represent the word in its essence, and in its most basic definition. The term holiness, kedushah, appears for the first time in the Torah in this verse. "Vayekadesh oto", the Almighty sanctified the Shabbat day. Kedushat Shabbat, the sanctity of the Sabbath, explains Reb Tzadok, is the most basic and pristine form of holiness that exists, and all other forms of holiness merely stem from it.

As the holiday season draws to an end, we give thanks to Hashem for giving us the gift of the weekly Shabbat. Let us take advantage of this gift as we attempt to cultivate the joy that may flow from kedushat Shabbat. The holidays may be ending, and with them their attendant simcha, but the sublime joy that we can experience if we properly observe the Shabbat can surely help to fill the void.

Wishing you a wonderful month of October,

Rabbi Peretz Robinson

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Refuah Shelema to David Gordon, Arlene Moidel, and Diane Sheinbaum. May G-d grant each a speedy and complete recovery.

Golden Book- If you would like to send a card to the family or friend. for a happy time or a sad time. Please contact Sara Klein at 203-374-9365 or you can e-mail Sara at sakl31@aol.com.

Yahrzeits for October

Thursday, October 1- Benjamin Kovensky (Uncle to Renee Mizrahi, Vivian Perez and Jeff Guttman)	Monday, October 12- Adolph Klein (Father to Howard Klein)
Friday, October 2- George Silver (Grandfather to Alan Willig)	Tuesday, October 13- Joseph Katz (Uncle to Terry Augenbraun)
Monday, October 5- Shirley Zwecker (Mother to Charles Zwecker)	Friday, October 16- Miriam Zabol (Mother to Peggy Schwarzmer)
Wednesday, October 7- George Loeser (Father to Doron Loeser)	Monday, October 19- Rabbi Avraham Lieberman (Rabbi to Avi Schwarzmer)
Thursday, October 8- David Stein (Grandfather to Peggy Schwarzmer)	Monday, October 19- Friedda Wolper (Grandmother to William Wolper)
Sunday, October 11- Samuel Klein (Father to Sara Klein)	Wednesday, October 21- Abraham Zimmer (Uncle to Pamela Zimmer)
Sunday, October 11- Claire Silver (Grandmother to Allan Willig)	October, October 24- Eva Klein (Mother to Howard Klein)