

# CONGREGATION AHAVATH ACHIM WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



**April 15-22, 2016 / 7-14 Nisan-5776**

**Parshat Metzora / HaGadol**

**Passover is Almost Here:** A number of regular Minyan Makers will be out of town for Passover, starting this week. Please help ensure we have a minyan every day. Come early. Come often. Join the minyan. Come and **Help Make Our Minyan Strong!**

<b>Schedule of Services:</b>		
<b>Friday, April 15, 2016</b>		
Shacharit		6:45 AM
Mincha/Ma'ariv		7:15 PM
Candle Lighting		7:15 PM
<b>Shabbat, April 16, 2016</b>		
<b>Shabbat HaGadol</b>		
Shabbat Shacharit		9:00 AM
Latest Shema Time		9:32 AM
Shabbat HaGadol Drasha	App	10:30 AM
Mincha		7:05 PM
Shabbat Ends		8:09 PM
<b>Sun-Thur, Apr 17-21, 2016</b>		
	<b>Shacharit</b>	<b>+ - Mincha &amp; Ma'ariv</b>
Sun	8:30 AM	7:15 PM * <b>A</b>
Mon	6:30 AM	7:15 PM * <b>B</b>
Tue	6:45 AM	7:15 PM * <b>B</b>
Wed	6:45 AM	7:15 PM * <b>B</b>
Thur	6:30 AM	7:15 PM * <b>A</b>
Search for Chametz after 8:24pm		
<b>A - Ahavath Achim</b>		
<b>B - Bikur Cholim on</b>		
<b>Park &amp; Capitol Ave., Bpt</b>		
<b>Friday, April 22, 2016</b>		
<b>Fast of First Born</b>		
<b>First Seder</b>		
Shacharit		6:45 AM
Mincha/Ma'ariv		7:15 PM
Candle Lighting		7:15 PM
<b>Page Numbers:</b>		
<b>Torah Reading</b>		
Vayikra	14:1-15:33	620-635
<b>Haftarah</b>		
Malachi	3:4-24	1220-1221

**Torah Message from Rabbi Moldovan**

The Shabbos before Pesach is known as Shabbos Hagadol (the big Shabbos) due to the great miracle that occurred on this day. Hashem informed the Jewish people in Egypt that they were to sacrifice a sheep, revered as a god of Egypt, in broad daylight and visibly to the Egyptians on the night of the 15th of Nissan, which we now know as Pesach. This sheep was to be purchased on the 10th of Nissan and kept in the house for four days until the sacrifice. The commentaries ask why we were commanded to buy the sheep at all and why so far in advance. Would it not have been enough to be commanded to sacrifice the sheep and leave it to our own designs as to how and when we were to acquire the animal? The commentaries explain that on the night of Pesach the Jewish people were redeemed from being a nation of lowly, indentured slaves and elevated to be Hashem's chosen people and the centerpiece in the perfection of the world. Such a significant and noble responsibility requires its bearers to be a people of great stature and discipline. On the eve of the nation's great transformation, Hashem was beginning to train the Jewish people in the trait of discipline. To hold the god of the Egyptians for four days in front of their eyes must have been harrowing. The Egyptians would be ready to massacre the Jewish for forsaking their deity and the Jewish people were tempted to speed up the process and just sacrifice the sheep as soon as possible. Hashem wanted the Jewish people to feel a need to act and suppress their urge until the green light was given. The more one acts on controlling his urges in the present, the more control he wields over them in the future. Discipline was the first lesson given to the Jewish nation and a message for all generations.

**Shabbos Hagadol Drasha** Rabbi Moldovan will present the Shabbos Hagadol drasha before Mussaf on Shabbos at approximately 10:30 am. The drasha will be aimed at acquiring clarity regarding modern Pesach issues such as Pesach hotels, kitniyos and quinoa, hand and machine matzah, and the extent of cleaning necessary for Pesach.

**Baruch Dayan Emet:** With great sadness we announce the passing of Madeline Baena, mother of Regina Madwed and grandmother of Daniel and Jacob Madwed. Shiva is being observed at the home of Regina

Madwed, 105 London Terrace. May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

**Board Meeting:** There will be a board meeting on Tues. evening April 19 at 6:30pm in the Shul Library. Please advise Barbara if who will or will not be able to attend.

***In observance of Pesach the shul office will be closed from Monday April 25 to Monday May 2.***

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**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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<b>Personal Contact Info</b>	
Rabbi Yirmiyah Moldovan	203-906-6296
Barbara Tuckel PhD Pres.	203-581-2405
Find us on: Facebook, Twitter, & LinkedIn	

**Maos Chittin ("Money for Flour") Pesach** is a difficult time of the year financially for all of us and there are some who are in particular need of financial assistance at this time. It is customary for members of the community to help people for Pesach needs. The Rabbi will be collecting funds and distributing them to worthy recipients. Please contact Rabbi Moldovan if you would like to participate.

**Pesach Food Drive:** Support our local Kosher for Passover Food Drive. A collection box is in the shul entryway. All food will be distributed by the Jewish Family Service to local needy Jewish families. Eric Risch initiated this Mitzvah Project. Contact him at [erisch@sarhighool.org](mailto:erisch@sarhighool.org)

**Mechiras Chometz (sale of chometz)** Rabbi Moldovan is available for selling Chometz during the following hours.

- Friday - April 15 @ 9:30-11:30 am
- Sunday - April 17 @ 9-11 am and following Ma'ariv (approximately 7:45pm)
- Tuesday - April 19 @ 8-8:30 pm
- Wednesday - April 20 @ 8-8:30 pm

**Pre-Passover Schedule:**

- Thursday, April 21 – Search for Chametz – after 8:24 pm
- Friday, April 22 – Finish Eating Chametz – by 10:08 am
- Friday April 22 – Burn Chametz – by 11:28 am

The Rabbi is also available by appointment if these hours do not work. Everyone is encouraged to sell their chometz in order to fulfill the Mitzvot of Pesach as effectively as possible.

**Please Contact the Office If You Would Like to Pick Up the Leaf, Plaque, Rock You Donated to Hillel:** If you or your family has a leaf on the Tree of Life, a plaque, or a rock in the former Hillel Wing that you would like to keep, please contact the shul office (203-372-6529) to make arrangements to pick it up. Thank you, Sara Klein

**It's Time to Start Planning Our Annual Journal Event**

Yes, it is that time again, and we need to start early so that we can celebrate the selected honorees properly and make this a spectacularly successful fundraiser. We need volunteers willing to spend time organizing the ad collection and planning the event. Please email Barbara if you can serve at, [bktuckel1836@gmail.com](mailto:bktuckel1836@gmail.com).

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

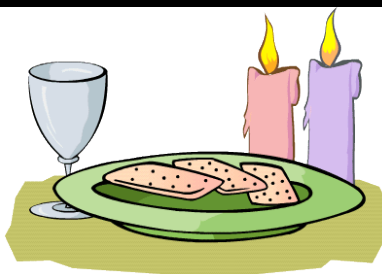
**Yahrtzeits for the week:**

Saturday, April 16 – **Steve Lozanov** (Father)

Wednesday, April 20 – **Hedy Augenbraun** (Mother)

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.



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