

CONGREGATION AHAVATH ACHIM WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Rosh Chodesh Nisan

Parshat Tazria / HaChodesh

April 8-15, 2016 / 29 Adar II-7 Nisan - 5776

Schedule of Services:

Friday, April 8, 2016

Shacharit	6:45 AM
Mincha/Ma'ariv	7:05 PM
Candle Lighting	7:08 PM

Shabbat, April 9, 2016 Rosh Chodesh Nisan Shabbat HaChodesh

Shabbat Shacharit	9:00 AM
Latest Shema Time	9:39 AM
Rabbi's Class	6:00 PM
Mincha	6:55 PM
Shabbat Ends	8:09 PM

Sun-Thur, Apr 10-14, 2016

		Mincha @ Ma'ariv
Sun	8:30 AM	7:10 PM + A
Mon	6:30 AM	7:10 PM + B
Tue	6:45 AM	7:10 PM + B
Wed	6:45 AM	7:10 PM + B
Thur	6:30 AM	7:10 PM + A

A - Ahavath Achim
B - Bikur Cholim on
Park & Capitol Ave., Bpt

Friday, April 15, 2016

Shacharit	6:45 AM
Mincha/Ma'ariv	7:15 PM
Candle Lighting	7:15 PM

Page Numbers:

Torah Reading

Vayikra	12:1-13:58	608-619
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Rosh Chodesh

Bamidbar 28:9-15	Pages 890-893
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Maftir – Parsha HaChodesh

Shemos 12:1-20	Pages: 348-355
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Haftarah

Ezekiel	45:16-46:18	1218-1219
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Be a Minyan-Maker: On a number of days recently we have been short 1 person to make a minyan. That could have been you. Please commit to at least one day a week. Come early. Come often. Join the minyan. Come and **Help Make Our Minyan Strong!**

Shabbat Shiur & Mincha: We invite you to join us for the Rabbi's Shabbat shiur in the late afternoon, followed by Mincha services at approximately 6:55 pm. (see the sidebar for times). The topic will be "Perfume and Playdough - Are they Chametz?" Come early and join in the interesting discussion.

Shabbat Kiddush: This Shabbat, Parsha Tazria, kiddush is being sponsored by Malka Serkin and Amit Heimann in memory of their parents, Leah and Yosef Heimann.

MAZEL TOV - to Joel and Ellen Rothwax on the marriage of their son, Jason, to Shoshana Wilner this coming Sunday, April 10 and to Bernard Goldberg on the recent engagement of his son, Evan. The Congregation extends our warmest wishes to the Rothwax and Goldberg families as they celebrate these happy occasions.

Rabbi's Torah Message: Tzaraas is a physical ailment that besets one who commits a number of sins, the most notable being speaking lashon hora. A "leprous" mark sprouts on the skin, hair, clothing, or even the home of one who speaks improperly about another. A common misconception is that lashon hora is only when one speaks slanderously and falsely about another behind their back, but the truth is that lashon hora is any type of negative talk about another Jew, even if it is true. To simply "point out" that another person had a checkered past or that he has character flaws is included in the category of lashon hora unless there is a specific constructive purpose in relaying the information e.g. to protect someone who is unaware of relevant facts in business. Gossip-mongering is looked down upon by the Torah. A Kohen must inspect the tzaraas mark and verbally proclaim it as tzaraas before the person is considered tamei (ritually impure). If no Kohen is present, no tumah is conferred, even if the obvious diagnosis to all observers is that it looks like a tzaraas mark. Even if the Kohen sees a clear tzaraas mark, tumah is only conferred upon his verbal declaration "this is tzaraas." The commentaries ask why we need a proclamation

of tzaraas. It is a physical ailment and should be recognized, whether there has been a proclamation or not! The commentaries explain that the words of the Kohen give the tzaraas its potency. One who speaks lashon hora may surmise that words are harmless - the facts of the matter are true whether they are verbalized or not. The Torah is teaching us that words have power. The reality of the tzaraas is irrelevant and only the powerful words of the Kohen can confer a state of tumah on the person. It is a lesson for the person who disregards the power and damage that "mere" words can cause

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Baruch Dayan Emet We are so terribly saddened to report the tragic news of the sudden passing of Rafi (Randy) Novick in Israel. Yeshara Novick informed us last night that Rafi had a heart attack and passed away yesterday. The funeral is at 4pm today (Thursday). This is all we know at this moment.

Community Mincha/Ma'ariv - With the Kollel is on recess for the month of Nisan, the Community Minyan will transition to Mincha & Ma'ariv starting this Sunday, April 10. While the Kollel is on recess we will be davening at Bikur Cholim. Our schedule during this period is: Sunday @ Ahavath Achim; Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday @ Bikur Cholim; Thursday @ Ahavath Achim.

Pesach Food Drive: Please join in supporting our local Kosher for Passover Food Drive. A collection box has been located in the shul entryway. All food will be distributed by the Jewish Family Service to local needy Jewish families. Our own Eric Risch initiated this Mitzvah Project. Contact Eric Risch at erisch@sarhighschool.org for more information.

Shul Passover Cleaning Schedule: Jose will begin Passover cleaning on Tuesday, April 12. **Please remove** all your clothing and any miscellaneous items (water bottles, books, toys) so that the coat room and seats in the shul can be thoroughly and properly cleaned for Passover. Any items left over by Thursday, April 15, will be considered abandoned property and will be given to the Tag Sale. Also, this coming Shabbat will be the last kiddush before Passover, so that the dairy kitchen can be cleaned and locked until after Passover. Please help us to get our shul in good order by removing your belongings as quickly as possible this week. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this request.

Rabbi's ShopRite Pesach Information Desk - Rabbi Moldovan will be available for the broader community in ShopRite at Black Rock Turnpike in the lead-up to Pesach. At various times throughout the day, Rabbi Moldovan will have a stand in the Kosher section and will welcome any holiday questions and provide advice.

Sale of Chametz before Pesach - Rabbi Moldovan will be available for selling Chametz in the lead up to Pesach. He will be available at the following times

Thursday, April 7 @ 8-8:30pm

Monday, April 11 @ 7-7:30pm

Thursday, April 14 @ 8-8:30pm

Friday, April 15 @ 9:30-11:30am

Sunday, April 17 @ 9-11am

The rabbi will also be available by appointment. You can reach Rabbi Moldovan at 203-906-6296. All members of the community are encouraged and recommended to sell their chametz. The authorization letter is being sent in a separate email to everyone and there are copies available in the shul office, on the table in the front hall and in the Beit Midresh.

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County April Book Talk will be on Wednesday, April 20 at 10 am at the Judaica Library at the Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford. Bob Abrams will present "*The Seven Good Years*," a memoir by Etgar Keret. The program is free and open to the public.

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

Yahrtzeits for this week:

Sunday, April 10 – Malka Serkin (Father)

Sunday, April 10 – Billy Wolper –(mother)

Tuesday, April 12 – Terry Augenbraun (Grandmother)

Friday, April 15 – Diana Rich (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.