

# CONGREGATION AHAVATH ACHIM WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## Parsha Yitro

February 17-24, 2017 / 21-28 Shevat 5777

Schedule of Services:		
<b>Friday, February 17, 2017</b>		
Shacharit		6:45 AM
Mincha/Ma'ariv		5:10 PM
Candle Lighting		5:12 PM
<b>Shabbat, February 18, 2017</b>		
Shabbat Shacharit		9:15 AM
Latest Shema Time		9:25 AM
Mincha		12:35 PM
Shabbat Ends		6:13 PM
Ma'ariv		6:28 PM
<b>Sun-Thur, Feb 19-23, 2017</b>		
<b>Mincha 2:10pm at Kollel</b>		
	<b>Shacharit</b>	<b>Ma'ariv</b>
Sun	8:30 AM	7:40 PM <b>A</b>
<b>President's Day</b>		
Mon	6:30 AM	7:40 PM <b>K</b>
Tue	6:45 AM	7:40 PM <b>K</b>
Wed	6:45 AM	7:40 PM <b>B</b>
Thur	6:30 AM	7:40 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, February 24, 2017</b>		
Shacharit		6:45 AM
Mincha/Ma'ariv		5:15 PM
Candle Lighting		5:20 PM
<b>Page Numbers:</b>		
<b>Torah Reading</b>		
Shemos	18:1-20:23	394-415
<b>Haftorah</b>		
Isaiah	6:1-7:6,9:5-6	1154-1156

**Minyan for Guests:** Frequently we get guests at our Minyan. People passing through can find us on a variety of smart-phone apps. But for this to work, we need to be able to ensure a Minyan. Please come to Minyan (morning and/or evening) to ensure we have a Minyan for our members **and** for guests passing through. Show up. Sign up (there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board). Come early, come often, and **Help Keep Our Minyan Strong!**

**Early Shabbat Mincha:** Immediately after Kiddush, we will have a short Shiur by Rabbi Moldovan. The topic is "*Woman Rabbis - Orthodox or Not?*" (at approximately 12:00 pm), followed by Mincha (at 12:35 pm). We will return about 15 minutes after Shabbat ends (at 6:13 pm) for Ma'ariv (at 6:28 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.

### Torah Message from Rabbi Moldovan

Of all the Ten Commandments, perhaps the severity of taking Hashem's name in vain appears the most unusual. Killing, adultery, idol worship, and desecrating the Shabbos are all serious sins and fundamentals of our religion. Granted that one should not say Hashem's name in vain, but why is this prohibition given inordinate weight? The commentaries explain that the human mind has the ability to rationalize any type of wrong. We have the ability to fool ourselves into thinking an obvious misstep is really the right thing to do by way of our biased thought process. People have justified stealing and cheating with the claim that the money will go to worthy causes, a la Robin Hood. Some people who do not observe the laws of Shabbos claim that these laws are obsolete. Making a fire was prohibited due to the effort involved but pushing a button to turn on a light is not work. The real reason for these rationalization is that people wish to fulfill their desires - the rationalization serves to remove any intellectual obstacles to that goal. However, if we had to swear to the reason for a particular act, we would undoubtedly have second thoughts regarding the reason. This outlook might allow us to overcome our self-deception. Once the rationalization is eliminated, we would be discouraged from transgressing. The commandment to respect Hashem's name is what helps us do what we know to be the honest truth.

**Tu B'Shevat Shabbos Seudah:** The seudah this Shabbos was a great success. Everyone enjoyed the great Shabbos meal and spending a festival with the community. Thank you to everyone who helped with the event.

**February Women's Rosh Chodesh Get-Together:** The third installment of our highly successful Rosh Chodesh Women's Learning Program will take place on Sunday, February 26th at 10:15 am. at the home of Sharon & Harvey Risch, 255 Sky Top Terrace, Fairfield." *Who was the real Vashti?*" will be the discussion topic; an intriguing topic for our times. Come join us to gear up for Purim.

**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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**The Four Mitzvot of Purim:** As we have just enjoyed a special Tu B'Shevat celebration, we begin to plan for the next Congregation celebration. Purim is fast approaching and Rabbi Moldovan is seeking volunteers to help plan a very special Purim Seudah for us all. Please call (203-906-6296) or email ([rymoldovan@gmail.com](mailto:rymoldovan@gmail.com)) the Rabbi directly to volunteer your help. The Seudah is one of the four special Mitzvot of Purim and we hope to make this year's Seudah a truly special event. A brief summary of the four mitzvot follow:

**Matanot L'evyonim** – Money for those in need. Rabbi Moldovan will be collecting money to be distributed on Purim to worthy recipients. Please give your contribution directly to the Rabbi or to Arnell in the office at the earliest time for fellow needy Jews can enjoy Purim.

**Megillah** – Come to shul Motzei Shabbat, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 PM and Sunday morning, March 12<sup>th</sup> for Shacharit and Megillah readings. Bring friends and family to hear the Story of Esther read by our own Rabbi Moldovan.

**Mishloach Manot** – Renee Mizrahi is chairing the Mishloach Manot project again this year. You must complete the list and request form that Renee has prepared. You will also receive this in the mail. Return to the office with your check.

**Purim Seudah** - This year we invite you to join in the Congregation's Purim seudah being planned for Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. (see below).

**Congregation Purim Seudah:** On Sunday March 12th we will be having an Ahavath Achim Purim Seudah at our shul in Zimmer Hall. Come join the Ahavath Achim family in celebrating a festive Purim together and fulfilling the precious Mitzvah of a Purim meal. More details to follow about timing and RSVP information. Please contact Rabbi Moldovan if you wish to volunteer to help.

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

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**Yahrtzeits for the week:**

Saturday, February 18 – **Annie Gietel** (Grandmother to Bernard Goldberg)  
 Sunday, February 19 – **Zohar Peretz** (Aunt to Max Barnum)  
 Tuesday, February 21 – **Anne Mirer** (Aunt to Judy Lerner)  
 Tuesday, February 21 – **Regina Parker** (Mother to Charles Parker)  
 Wednesday, February 22 – **Isaac Basch** (Father to David Basch)

Wednesday, February 22 – **Philip Basch** (Brother to David Basch)  
 Wednesday, February 22 – **Molly Goldman** (Aunt to Bill Wolper)  
 Wednesday, February 22 – **Betty Taub** (Aunt to Terry Augenbraun)  
 Friday, February 24 – **Rose Kleinman** (Aunt to Howard Klein)

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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