

## Times of Services

If you don't already do so, come to at least one Shacharit and one Minchah each week – you'll love it and you will be supporting our minyan

### Friday- 11/20

- Candle Lighting 4:09pm
- Mincha/Maariv 4:10pm

### Saturday- 11/21

- Shacharit 9:30am
- Mincha 3:55pm
- Havdallah not before 5:09pm

### Sunday 11/22

- Shacharit 8:30am
- Mincha/Maariv 4:05pm (at Agudas)

### Weekdays M-W

- Shacharit 6:45am
- Mincha/Maariv 4:05pm (at Agudas)
- TH Shacharit 8:30 AM
- Mincha 4:05 PM

### Friday- 11/27

- Candle Lighting 4:05pm
- Mincha/Maariv 4:05pm

***This month the joint Agudas – Young Israel Mincha/Maariv service will be held at Agudas Be Alert***

If you see cars or strangers loitering near the shul please inform the HHNE or Agudas office. If it is "after hours" please call the police. Last one out please verify the doors are locked.

### **Be Active!**

(Links on our web page)



- \* Support victims of terror

<http://bostonsupportsisrael.org/>

[www.afmda.org/content/our%20work/mda%20in%20israel.aspx](http://www.afmda.org/content/our%20work/mda%20in%20israel.aspx)

- \* Support IDF troops

<http://www.libi-fund.org.il/Libi/eng/>



WARM & WELCOMING



## Upcoming Events

- Saturday Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> special Kiddush for **Eliana's Birthday!** sponsor Wolpaw Family 
- Sunday Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:30pm at the **Kadden's**, first of new **Living Room Limud** series examining what the Germans really knew... by **Rick S.**
- Friday Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, monthly **Friday dinner: Italian**
- Sat Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, **Israel Sing Along**
- Sunday Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 11am, **Memoir Writing Workshop and Brunch** – by **Alexis M.** 
- Our annual **Chanukah Art Contest**
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December **Chanukah dinner and party** 
- Sunday Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11am **China experience** by **Talya**

### ***Refua Shlema / Get Well Soon!***

*Eva P. Fred, Regina Jacobs, Gladys Abel, Regina Lubka*



### **Rabbi Weiss 's Cl asses**

*You don't want to miss these!*

#### **"Purely Parsha"**

**Saturday after Kiddush (about 12:30pm)**

*Learn about the ponderables hiding in the weekly Torah portion.*

#### **"Ein Yaakov"**

**Sunday during breakfast (about 9:45am)**

*Ghosts? Angels? Dream interpretation? Prophecy? Learn about the Aggadic literature of the Talmud.*

#### **"Totally Tefillah"**

**Wednesday 8pm rotating between homes –**

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> Margulis 44 Huntington Dr  
Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> No class.

*Novice and experienced daveners alike will grow in understanding of the Divine Connection.*

**Agudas Achim  
1244 N. Main St.  
West Hartford, CT 06117**



**Agudas Achim  
Weekly News**



**11/20/09-11/26/09  
Weekly Calendar**

**Toldot  
Hertz Chumash pg 93**

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## Rabbi's Column



One of the famous events of this week's sidrah is the purchase of the birthright by Yaakov for a bowl of lentil soup. While there is much to derive from the episode itself, one aspect of the sale worthy of examining is the rationale of Esav. When presented with the trade by Yaakov (the birthright for the soup) Esav thinks, "*Hiney anochi holech lamut, v'lamah zeh li becorah.*" "Behold I am going to die, what (use) is this birthright to me?"

The simple explanation of Esav's words is that he was dying of thirst, and he felt that the birthright was worthless to him if he were to die, and therefore it made sense to trade it for the soup. Our Rabbis read more into his words, though. They explain that the true benefit of the birthright would only be appreciated when there is a Temple at which time the first born were to be the ones who would perform the services there. As Esav reasoned, "Behold I am going to die," meaning that he would not be alive to see the building of the Temple, so therefore of what use to him is the birthright.

A third interpretation of Esav's words provides us with a timeless message and lesson for our own lives. In the Temple, sacrifices were affected by the thoughts of the one offering them. If someone's thoughts were not true to the actions being performed, the sacrifice was invalid ("pigul"), and a person offering such a sacrifice would be punishable by heaven. Esav therefore thought, "Behold I am going to die," meaning, my lifestyle of lying and misleading others will not work in the Temple, and if I am to try to work there I will surely not survive. Therefore, he reasoned, of what use is the birthright to me.

The message to us, though, is the importance of being honest and not thinking one thing while doing another. This is the character trait by which Yaakov merited his birthright to which we, as Yaakov's descendents, are the proud heirs. Shabbat Shalom.

## תודה רבה!

The **R. AvRutick** talk with **R. Lookkstein** was informative, inspiring and a real community event. Yishar Koach to **Renana** for putting this together, to **Mike** for the delicious spread, the other speakers, donors and the many, many people that helped both from Agudas and the other 3 shuls. We look forward to many future community programs

We had a wonderful shabbat dinner. Thank you to **Deena**, for the fish; **Bob** for the challa, **Harry** for the Jerusalem kugel, **Anat, Etan, & Rob** for the rest of the food. Also to **Ariella, Talia, Sima** and the **Rabbi** for their words of wisdom!

Mazal tov to **Bob & Burnette B** on their 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary Thank you to **Abby, Esia, Eli & Simon** for setting up the scrumptious kiddush.

We **earned more than \$300!** and are currently earning about **\$6-8 each month!** from goodsearch.com keep on clicking and routing your Amazon, Expedia, Barnes&Noble etc on-line shopping through them! (just **start from our home page**) there is no cost to you and the shul makes a little money

Buy Mah Jongg Cards!!! \$7 small; \$8 large  
Call Linda R. at 243-1163

### Lots of ways to help our shul...

- *Be "warm and welcoming"!*
- *Come to services*
- *Read torah*
- *Buy Script*
- *Send in jokes!*
- *Shop through goodsearch.com*
- *Help with cooking or cleaning*
- *Sponsor all/part of the renovations of the new upstairs chapel \$50,000*

🕎 WARM & WELCOMING 🕎

## Smile of the Week



After months of negotiation with the authorities, a Talmudist from Odessa was finally granted permission to visit Moscow. He boarded the train and found an empty seat. At the next stop, a young man got on and sat next to him. The scholar looked at the young man and he thought: This fellow doesn't look like a peasant, so if he is no peasant he probably comes from this district. If he comes from this district, then he must be Jewish because this is, after all, a Jewish district.

But on the other hand, since he is a Jew, where could he be going? I'm the only Jew in our district who has permission to travel to Moscow.

Ahh, wait! Just outside Moscow there is a little village called Samvet, and Jews don't need special permission to go to Samvet. But why would he travel to Samvet? He is surely going to visit one of the Jewish families there. But how many Jewish families are there in Samvet? Aha, only two - the Bernsteins and the Steinbergs. But the Bernsteins are a terrible family, so such a nice looking fellow like him, he must be visiting the Steinbergs.

But why is he going to the Steinbergs in Samvet? The Steinbergs have only daughters, two of them, so maybe he's their son-in-law. But if he is, then which daughter did he marry? They say that Sarah Steinberg married a nice lawyer from Budapest, and Esther married a businessman from Zhitomer, so it must be Sarah's husband. Which means that his name is Alexander Cohen, if I'm not mistaken.

But if he came from Budapest, with all the anti-Semitism they have there, he must have changed his name.

What's the Hungarian equivalent of Cohen? It is Kovacs. But since they allowed him to change his name, he must have special status to change it. What could it be? Must be a doctorate from the University. Nothing less would do.

At this point, therefore, the scholar of Talmud turns to the young man and says, "And how do you do, Dr. Kovacs?"

"Very well, thank you, sir, for asking," answered the startled co-passenger. "But how is it that you know my name although we have never met, or so it seems to me?"

Replied the Talmudist, "it was obvious." Renana K

**Hirshfield-Pick family scholarships** available for Agudas member youth participating in the

### **2010 March of the Living**

Details at <http://www.motl.org/> and the Federation's Trager (236-5611 [trager@yachad.net](mailto:trager@yachad.net)) Also from program veterans **Tamar & Talya**. Request for scholarship by e-mail/post by **Nov 30<sup>th</sup> Att Etan**.

**Applications due at the Federation Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Scholarship conditional on Federation program acceptance

