

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 1/20–

- Shacharit 6:45am
- Shabbat Candle Lighting **4:32pm**
- Mincha 4:35pm

Saturday- 1/21 -

- Shacharit 9:30am
- Mincha after kiddush
- Havdallah not before 5:33pm

Sunday 1/22

- Shacharit 9:00am

Monday - Tuesday 1/25

- Shacharit 6:45am

Wednesday 1/25 – Rosh Chodesh Shevat

- Shacharit 6:30am

Thursday 1/26

- Shacharit 6:45am

Friday 1/27

- Shacharit 6:45am
- Shabbat Candle Lighting **4:41pm**
- Mincha 4:40pm

This week the joint Agudas – Young Israel Mincha/Maariv service will be held at HHNE at 4:30PM

Rabbi Weiss's Classes

You don't want to miss these!

“Ein Yaakov”

Sundays after Shacharit, approximately 9:40

Ghosts? Angels? Dream interpretation?

Prophecy? Learn about the Aggadic literature of the Talmud.

Upcoming Events

**2/3 - Friday night dinner with Tu B'Shevat Theme!
Mincha 4:45, Dinner 5:45.**

2/12 – Living Room Limud: “Convicting Komisarjevsky: Would it and could it be possible in a Jewish court?” Using Talmudic case studies to analyze the challenges and solution of setting up a modern day Torah court.
Location: TBA

3/2 – Shabbat Across America! Hosted right here at Agudas Achim! Make sure you clear your schedule for a Friday night to remember! Invite a friend! More information coming.

Thank you to Real Art Ways for sponsoring our Art Contest. They have a number of interesting films www.realartways.org.

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Mordechai and Devorah Weiss on the engagement of their granddaughter, Sarit Klugerman, to Tuvia Newman!

Mazal Tov to Dr. Lenny and Susan Cohen on the birth and bris of their grandson!

Please start to bring in toys, jewelry and anything else that could sell for the next Rummage Sale.

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



**Agudas Achim
Weekly News**



**1/20/12-1/26/12
Weekly Calendar
Parshat Vaera
Hertz Chumash page
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Rabbi's Column

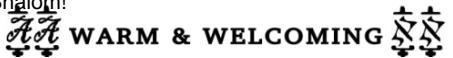
I was watching my children play with my cell phone and was struck by the fact that to them there was nothing extraordinary about what they were holding. The idea of a device that can communicate with anyone from anywhere at the touch of a button, can get television reception, and can take and display pictures and video was the stuff of science fiction when I was growing up. And yet here it is, and my children play with it as though it is nothing out of the ordinary. To me it's miraculous. To them it's commonplace.

In this week's Parsha, G-d confronts Pharaoh with plague after plague of the most supernatural and bizarre occurrences imaginable, in an effort to make him admit to G-d's existence and then release the Jews from bondage. As we know, after every plague Pharaoh "hardens his heart" and refuses to set the Jews free. Interestingly, after the sixth plague, Pharaoh no longer hardens his heart, but rather G-d does it for him. The commentators notice the change and offer some explanations. One, most famous explanation is that Pharaoh had his opportunity to repent during the first six plagues. Since he did not take advantage and repent then, he now has to suffer through the "long haul" as the last four plagues are to be meted out upon him and his country. In other words, Pharaoh's heart was hardened for him so that he would *not* repent.

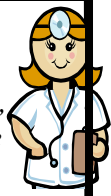
The Seforno, in his commentary on the Torah, suggests exactly the opposite. He explains that Pharaoh needed to come to a realization of G-d's supreme authority on his own and to only then release the Jews from slavery, thereby expressing his choice to believe in the existence of the Jewish G-d. However, there was no way he would have been able to do so given the fear and wonder he was experiencing because of the plagues. Only by seeing the plagues as part of the natural order and not as being caused by G-d could Pharaoh choose on his own to believe in G-d, and not have the choice "made for him", so to speak. Therefore, in order to allow Pharaoh the ability to make his own choice, G-d had to harden his heart to not be swayed by his fear or wonder. In other words, Pharaoh's heart was hardened so that he'd be *able* to repent.

The lesson to us is that there are miracles that are happening around us constantly, but we take no notice of them because we see it as commonplace or simply as nature. G-d will always portray His miracles in a fashion allowing us to pass them off as "natural occurrences" if we choose to. To those who choose to see them as events caused by Hashem, which they are, they become opportunities through which we can see G-d's existence based on our own choices. Just as I try to explain to my children the miracle of the technological wonder they are casually playing with, so too our sages point us in the direction of realizing G-d's hand in the natural order of creation, and thereby help us choose to see G-d in our otherwise mundane world.

Shabbat Shalom!



Refua Shlema / Get Well Soon!
*Bob Birnbaum, Jean Chameides, Fred Jacobs,
 Lillian Paskowitz, Paul Perlsweig, Linda Reichin,
 Sarah Rivkin, Sam Siegel, Frances Soltz, Bernice Veroff*



Eruv Update
 The status of the eruv can be checked on line every week on Friday afternoon on Twitter by accessing <http://twitter.com/WHartfordEruv> or by phone by calling the eruv hotline at (860)232-6417.

Be Alert!
 If you see cars or strangers loitering near the shul please inform the 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

* Support IDF troops
www.libi-fund.org.il/Libi/eng/

Please send/give us birthdays, anniversaries & other simchas so we can include them, thank you! Gary



Yahrzeits

Tevet 25
 Joseph Gutman
 Albert Goldfarb
 Edith Zitser
 Chaia Tema Feir
 Tevet 26
 George Katz
 Isaac Goldberg
 Tevet 27
 Bessie Gerl
 Tevet 29
 Chava
 Zylberman
 Rebecca
 Greenberg
 Mashie
 Guralnick
 Mendele Snyder
 Simon Rulnick
 Jacob Cohn

Shevat 2
 Edith Zieky
 David Zieky
 Shevat 4
 Mollie Berger
 Nettie Zachs
 Paul Spitz
 Harry Levy

Dry Bones UNFAIR