

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- 1/29

- Candle Lighting 4:43pm
- Mincha/Maariv 4:45pm

Saturday- 1/30

- Shacharit 9:30am
- Mincha following Kiddush
- Havdallah not before 5:44pm

Sunday 1/31

- Shacharit 8:30am
- Mincha/Maariv 4:50pm (at Agudas)

Weekdays M-TH

- Shacharit 6:45am
- Mincha/Maariv 4:50pm (at Agudas)

Friday– 2/5

- Shacharit 6:45am
- Candle Lighting 4:52pm
- Mincha/Maariv 4:50pm

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://bostonupportsrael.org/>

www.afmda.org/content/our%20work/mda%20in%20israel.aspx

* Support IDF troops

www.libi-fund.org.il/Libi/eng/



Don't Miss

Upcoming Events

- During the month of January, high school **winner of the Art Contest** will be able to see one movie for free at **Real Artways** in Hartford
- Sat. Jan 30th special Kiddush! Mazal Tov to Asher F.
- Sat. Jan 30th 7:30 **Israeli Sing Along**
- Living Room Limud Sun. Jan 31 7:30 pm, showing & discussing the movie "A Secret" at **Margulis's**
- Feb. 1st at 7pm **Board Meeting**
- Feb 5th Next **Friday dinner** services 4:55, dinner at 6:15pm
- Sun. 21 Feb. 2010 7:30 **Living Room Limud** with **Rick Sirvint** - "Major Farran's Hat" at **Chameides's**
- Sat. March 27th special **Megilla** reading w/**Rabbi Mordechai Weiss** at Agudas
- Sat. March 27th joint **Purim Party** at **Beth David**
- Sun. March 28th joint **Purim Seuda** and program at **Agudas, Western Theme**

Rabbi Weiss 's Classes

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 and Tantalizing Topics"

Monday 8pm rotating between homes –

Feb. 1st Adelsteins 107 Hilldale

Feb. 8th location TBA

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**



1/29/10-2/5/10

Weekly Calendar

Beshalach

Hertz Chumash

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WARM & WELCOMING

Rabbi's Column

This shabbat, besides being Shabbat Shirah, is also Tu B'shevat, the Jewish new year for trees. The importance of trees in Jewish life is expressed in many areas, not the least of which is in this week's parsha, B'Shalach. In it we read how Moshe used a tree to sweeten the waters at Marah, and how the Jews found seventy date palms waiting for them in the oasis of Elim.

Interestingly, the Talmud makes the statement that one who is studying Torah and stops to admire a tree, is worthy of death (although not literally punishable by death). Additionally, we read that no trees were allowed to be planted or cultivated anywhere on the Temple mount in Jerusalem. From these sources, one might question the perspective the sages had regarding trees and their importance, but in truth these statements relate the depth of their understanding regarding the specialness of trees.

Throughout the Torah and Talmud, trees have profound mystical symbolism. The Torah itself is referred to as the "Etz Chaim" – the tree of life. The righteous are likened to the date palm and the mighty cedar, while the book of Shir HaShirim is replete with metaphoric representations of the nation of Israel as trees. Indeed, the connection that a tree has with the ground, while constantly reaching skyward with its limbs is symbolic of the human condition: grounded in the physical, yet striving for the spiritual. In trees we see not only a model of our own spiritual growth, but in fact a representation of our connectedness to our history and G-d Himself.

The meaning, therefore, of the previously mentioned sources, is not, G-d forbid, that our sages didn't appreciate the importance and necessity of the trees. Rather, they understood that our appreciation of plant life needs to be utilized as a method of connecting with the Divine, not as an end in itself. One who loses that connection between G-d's creations and G-d Himself, Heaven forbid, is referred to as a "kotzetz B'nitiyot" – one who severs a tree from that which sustains it. In a similar way, the idolatrous religion of Asheira, involving the worship of trees, evolved when people began to disassociate the trees with G-d, and worshipped the trees as an end in itself. Therefore, on the temple mount, the location of the ultimate connection with G-d, it is not appropriate for there to be representations and symbols. Why notice a tree as a symbol of the connection with the Divine, when you can partake in the real thing? The same is true with Torah study; one who is connecting with G-d through Torah, but then stops to focus instead on a metaphor of that connection, is missing the proverbial point.

So this Shabbat, on Tu B'Shevat, please take the time to appreciate the beautiful and vital role trees play in our world, but then be sure to thank Hashem for creating them. Indulge in the delicious and nutritious fruits and vegetables with which we've been blessed, but be sure to begin and end with the appropriate blessings, giving praise and thanks to the Creator who saw fit to grace us with His abundance. Use the wonderful creations of this world as stepping stones to bring us even closer to our loving and caring G-d, and our appreciation of those creations will be that much more profound.



תודה רבה!

To all those offering to donate a color printer!

Sunday, **Hadar M.** spoke about her Israel experience (kibbutz, tsabar program, volunteering and army). She also spoke at the Academy, Kehilat Chaverim and Yachad, thanks for including us! In addition we enjoyed the delicious Israeli & Mexican food

Talya M. spoke about her China Experience, more than 30 people of all ages participated. Thank-you to Anat and Etan for the great quiches and brunch.

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

Refua Shlema / Get Well Soon!
Regina Jacobs, Gladys Abel, Regina Lubka



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

The "Kosher Computer"



- 1) The 'Start' button has been replaced with a 'Let's go! I'm not getting any younger!' button.
- 2) You hear 'Hava Nagila' during startup.
- 3) The cursor moves from right to left.
- 4) When Spell-checker finds an error it prompts, 'Is this the best you can do?'
- 5) If you download something inappropriate, your computer says, 'If your mother knew you did this, she would die..'
- 6) It comes with a 'monitor cleaning solution' from Manischewitz that gets rid of all the 'schmutz'
- 7) When running 'Scan Disk' it prompts you with a 'You want I should fix this?' message.
- 8) After 20 minutes of no activity, your PC goes, 'Schloffen.'
- 9) The PC shuts down automatically at sundown on Friday evenings.
- 10) It comes with two hard drives - one for fleishedik (business software) and one for milchedik (games).
- 11) Instead of getting a 'General Protection Fault' error, your PC now gets 'Ferklemt.'
- 12) The multimedia player has been renamed to 'Nu, so play my music already!'
- 13) When your PC is working too hard, you occasionally hear a loud 'Oy Gevalt!'
- 14) Computer viruses can now be cured with matzo ball soup.
- 15) When disconnecting external devices from the PC, you are instructed to 'Remove the cable from the PC's tuchus.'
- 16) After your computer dies, you have to dispose of it within 24 hours.
- 17) But best of all, if you have a kosher computer, you can't get SPAM...

Harry P.
Have some good jokes? email them to Renana at
kaddenr@comcast.net

Best wishes to this year's participants in the

2010 March of the Living

Mimi F., Gavriella F. & Jonathan M.

