



# Agudas Achim Announcer

Winter edition 2009-2010

## ***Rabbi's Message: Rabbi Ari Weiss***

### **Chanukah message**

As I am writing this, it is almost exactly three months since Agudas Achim has opened its warm and welcoming arms to me and my family, and we are so grateful to everyone in the shul for the way they've taken us in and made us feel so at home. The holiday of Chanukah, as expressed by Rav Nachman of Breslov and others, is a holiday entirely about expressing thanks. This theme is echoed at the end of the *Al Hanissim* prayer, "and they established these eight days of Chanukah to thank and praise to Your great name."

According to Rav Hutner, when one thanks another person, he is essentially admitting to his own personal shortcomings. In other words, if it were not for the graciousness of the other person, the first person would never have been able to carry out what he did. It is not easy to make such a statement because it requires us to admit a lack of control and our own lack of perfection. We are indebted to the other person for something we were unable to do ourselves. This is why in Hebrew the same word for thanks – *modeh* – is also the same word for "admit". Any time we give thanks, we admit to the fact that we could not have done it alone. This theme is echoed in the holiday of Chanukah, for although the victory over the Syrian Greeks was brought about through the hands of the *Maccabees*, the credit for the victory is given to G-d. This idea is expressed in the *Al Hanissim* prayer, which is placed in our *Shmoneh Esreh* and *Bircat Hamazon* in the blessing of *Modim* – thanks.

The first time the word "thanks" is used in the Torah is when Leah named her son Yehudah after saying, "*Hapaam odeh et Hashem*" – "Now I will thank Hashem." It is not surprising that we are called "*Yehudim*" after Yehudah, who was named in an act of giving thanks to G-d. After all, in everything we do, we acknowledge G-d's hand in it as the cause for its success.

So as we enter into the winter months and approach the holiday of Chanukah, on behalf of my family and myself, I thank the members and officers of Agudas Achim, and, most of all, I thank Almighty G-d for His guidance and help in all we do. I look forward to the learning, growth and connection that we will all experience together and again I say, thank you.

## **The Lights of Chanukah (Courtesy of the OU)**

The Jewish tradition is that on the first night of Chanukah one flame is lit, on the second night, and so on until the eighth night when eight flames are lit.

Who should do the lighting? EVERYBODY! As with all Jewish holidays, Chanukah is a festival best shared with family. All members of the family should gather and be present at the kindling of the Chanukah lights. Each member of the family, all generations and all genders, should be encouraged to purchase, prepare and light their own Menorah.

### **A Word from Smokey the Bear**

Students and singles who live in dormitories or their own apartments should kindle Menorahs in their own rooms unless otherwise instructed by the security services of their respective institutions.

### **How do we prepare the lights?**

The preferred way to perform the 'mitzvah,' or commandment, of lighting the Chanukah lamps is with pure olive oil and cotton wicks, since their light is pure, and it recalls the light of the Golden Menorah in the Temple which was lit with pure olive oil. All other oils and wicks are also permissible; purity of the light and lack of flickering are the most important characteristics. Candles made of wax or paraffin are also permitted. Each Menorah should be owned and prepared by the person who will light it, children too. Every evening of the holiday, the proper number of candles, or wicks suspended in oil, preferably olive oil, as was used in the Temple, are prepared and placed in the Menorah from right to left - with today's flame being the last one set up. The candles or wicks should be placed in a straight row, and even; that is, none being higher or lower than the others, none receding or protruding, and none in a circle. There should also be sufficient space between one flame and the other, so that the flame of one might not be joined to that of the other; and so that the heat of one candle, if candles are used, might not melt the wax of another.

### **How do we light the flames?**

On the first night of Chanukah we light the first flame, and each night after, we add an additional light until the eighth night, when eight lights are lit. The flames are lit from left to right, with today's flame being lit first. By doing this each night, we remember that it is that additional flame that represents the "growth" of the miracle.

On the first night of Chanukah, three 'brachot' (blessings) are said before the lights are kindled:

1. "Baruch ata Hashem, Elokenu melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah."

(Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments, and has commanded us to light the Chanukah lamps.)

2. "Baruch ata Hashem, Elokenu melech ha'olam, she'asah nisim la'avotenu, bayamim hahem bazeman hazeh."

(Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who has done miracles for our fathers in bygone days, at this time.)

3. "Baruch ata Hashem, Elokenu melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu, vekiyemanu vehigi'anu lazeman hazeh."

(Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who has given us life, and has sustained us, and has brought us to this time.)





## DAVENING AND CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES



Week of:	Parsha	Weekday Shacharit	Weekday Mincha	Friday Evening Service	Candle Lighting Time	Shabbat Ends
11/30-12/5	VaYishlach	6:45	4:05	4:05	4:03	5:02
12/7-12/12	VaYeshev	6:45	4:05	4:00	4:02	5:02
12/14-12/19	Miketz	6:30	4:05	4:05	4:04	5:04
12/21-12/26	Vayigash	6:45	4:10	4:10	4:07	5:07
12/27	Asarah B'Tevet – Fast begins 6:05, Fast ends 5:08					
12/28-1/2	Vayechi	6:45	4:15	4:15	4:12	5:13
1/4-1/9	Shemot	6:45	4:20	4:20	4:19	5:20
1/11-1/16	Vaeira	6:45	4:25	4:25	4:26	5:27
1/18-1/23	Bo	6:45	4:35	4:35	4:34	5:36
1/25-1/30	Beshalach	6:45	4:45	4:45	4:43	5:44
2/1-2/6	Yitro	6:45	4:50	4:50	4:52	5:53
2/8-2/13	Mishpatim	6:45	5:00	5:00	5:01	6:02
2/15-2/20	Terumah	6:45 Mon-6:30 (Rosh Chodesh)	5:10	5:10	5:10	6:11
2/22-2/27	Tetzaveh	6:45 Thurs-6:30 (Taanit Esther)	5:20	5:20	5:18	6:20 (Megillah Reading)
2/25	Taanit Esther – Fast begins 5:22, Fast ends 6:17					
3/1-3/6	Ki-Tisah	6:45	5:25	5:25	5:27	6:28
3/8-3/13	Vayakhel-Pekudei	6:45	5:35	5:35	5:35	6:36

### Shacharit:

6:45 weekdays

6:30 Weekday Rosh Chodesh

8:30 Sundays

9:30 Shabbat

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PLEASE SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS  
TO: [AGUDAS@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:AGUDAS@SBCGLOBAL.NET)**



מזל טוב

רפואה שלמה

# Thank You

## Kiddish Sponsors

10/17 Perlsweig in honor of their sons  
10/24 in honor of Eva Pick's Birthday  
11/7 in honor of their Birnbaums 61st  
Anniversary  
11/21 Wolpaws in honor of Eliana Wolpaw's  
Birthday

## Kiddish Preparers

Esia Friedman  
Abbie Perlsweig  
Simon Perlsweig  
Ellie Young

## Breakfast Sponsors

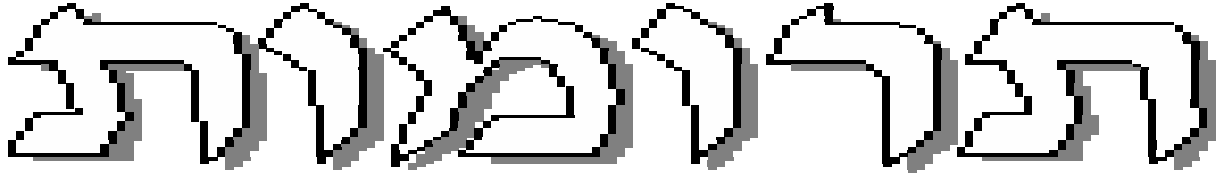
11/22 Ellie Young In Memory of her Father Jacob  
Safem

## Breakfast Preparers

Mike Belzer  
Bob Birnbaum

## Shabbos Dinner Preparers

Mike Belzer  
Gil Fried  
Anat Markus  
Etan Markus  
Harry Pick  
Deena Weiss  
Rob Zinkerman



### **Yahrzeits**

**Rabbi AvRutick, Father**  
Judy and Meyer Berkowitz

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**Esther Cooper, Mother**  
Larry Cooper

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**Irene Kronick, Mother**  
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**Irving Landerman, Husband**  
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Albert and Linda Reichin

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Helen Rosenholtz

**Harold Veroff, Husband**  
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Bernice Veroff

### **In Honor of**

**Al Kadden Birthday**  
Constance Rudy

**Cohen Grandson's Birth**  
Jean and Leon Chameides

**Yoni Kadden Davening**  
Jean and Leon Chameides

**Gary Sigal's Birthday**  
Larry Cooper

**Perlsweig's Mazel Tov**  
Larry Cooper

**Eva Pick's Birthday**  
Jean and Leon Chameides  
Larry Cooper  
Deb and Ira Feigenbaum  
Fenmore and Gladys Feigenbaum  
Esia Friedman  
Shuli Graham  
Sarah Katz  
Jean and Michael Selinger  
Gary Sigal  
Ellie Young

# Contributions

## **In Honor of**

### **Birnbaum 61st Anniversary**

Jean and Leon Chameides  
Larry Cooper  
Deb and Ira Feigenbaum  
Fenmore and Gladys Feigenbaum  
Esia Friedman  
Ron and Renana Kadden  
Sarah Katz  
Anita Kaplowitz  
Harry and Eva Pick  
Fred and Gloria Rosenbush  
Gary Sigal  
Ellie Young

## **Speedy Recovery To**

### **Ann Belzer**

Alan and Diane Schuman  
Harry and Eva Pick  
**Debbie Freedman**  
Lynn Talit

### **Robert Zinkerman**

Shuli Graham

### **Eva Pick**

Feigenbaum Family  
Shuli Graham  
Bob and Burnette Birnbaum

### **John Graham**

Shuli Graham

### **Minia Rafalowicz**

Shuli Graham

### **Len Margulis' Mother**

Feigenbaum Family

### **Irina Margulis**

Feigenbaum Family

### **Burnette Birnbaum**

Ira and Deb Feigenbaum  
Fenmore and Gladys Feigenbaum  
Esia Friedman  
Eva and Harry Pick  
Gary Sigal  
Ellie Young

### **Jeffrey Gaster**

Ron and Renana Kadden

# Contributions

## In Memory of

### In Memory of

#### Leah Brownstein

Bob and Burnette Birnbaum  
 Jean and Leon Chameides  
 Marilyn and Mel Cohen  
 Larry Cooper  
 Edith Epstein  
 Esther Fichman  
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#### Harry Lille

Ida Strouch

#### Herb Sable

Ron and Renana Kadden

#### Yiskor

Len and Susan Cohen  
 Ceil Finman

### Renana Kadden's Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother

Jean and Leon Chameides

#### Yom Kippur Appeal

Sheldon Agdens  
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 Gary Bykoff  
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 Diane and Robert Cohen  
 Larry Cooper  
 Albert Davis and Adele Gaster  
 Walter and Roslyn Eichelman  
 Edith Epstein  
 Ira and Deb Feigenbaum  
 Feldman Family  
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 Hy and Marilyn Gluck  
 Allen Goldsher  
 Roberta Gordonstein and Rick Sirvint  
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 Deb and George Levine  
 Etan and Anat Markus  
 Lillian Paskowitz  
 Harry and Eva Pick  
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 Gary Sigal  
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 Sol Zylberman

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**Rome Fund**  
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**Edith and David Zieky, Aunt and Uncle**  
Fay Clymer

**CEMETERY FUND**  
**In Honor of**

**Birnbaum Anniversary**  
Lynn Talit

**In Appreciation of**

**Mike Belzer for his great Sunday breakfast**  
Lynn Talit

**Friends who attended Lynn Talit's Nov. 1st Presentation**  
Lynn Talit

**Weinbaum Fund**  
**In Memory of**  
**Melvin Medwick, Father**  
Jenny and Ed Cramer

**Aliyahs**

Joseph Deutsch  
Asher Feigenbaum  
Fenmore Feigenbaum  
Ira Feigenbaum  
Ron Kadden  
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Harry Pick  
Alan Schuman  
Rick Sirvint  
Rabbi Weiss  
Jason Wolfe

**Sukkot Kiddish Sponsors**

Bob and Burnette Birnbaum  
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Albert Davis and Adele Gaster  
Len Holtz

## GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR GROCERIES

**G**ift certificates and grocery scrip for your regular use are on sale in the Agudas Achim office. Please support Agudas Achim's ongoing fundraiser. The sale of these gift certificates/scrip generate extra income for the synagogue at no cost to participating congregants. Since we all buy groceries anyway, please purchase gift certificates through the synagogue for Waldbaum's Supermarket.

The certificates are available in \$100.00 denominations. The Synagogue receives 5% of every dollar spent this way. If you spend \$50 a week for groceries using the scrip, you provide \$125 each year in extra charity to the synagogue. Call the synagogue office at 233-6241 for details. *Please Note:* money spent on gift certificates is NOT tax deductible, but it really helps Agudas Achim.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To my Agudas family,

Well, the fall is over and we are gearing up for the winter. This has been a very active few months at Agudas and I am looking forward to the year ahead.

The High Holiday services and sermons were moving and thought provoking. A big thank you to Yoni Kadden and Rabbi Weiss for leading the services. Thank you also to the lay Hazzanim, women Dvar Tora presenters and Torah readers. Your participation made it a truly enriching experience.

Our other big event was our Rabbi AvRutick Memorial Lecture on November 15<sup>th</sup> featuring Rabbi Haskel Lookstein. It was cosponsored with Beth David, United and Young Israel, we had excellent introductions and a fabulous talk. Having approximately 100 people from the greater Hartford community come together to learn and enjoy a mouthwatering brunch was exhilarating. We hope this experience will facilitate future joint community endeavors. A big yishar coach to Renana Kadden for spearheading this event, to Mike Belzer for the great spread, and to the many helpers from all the sponsoring shuls!

We had many other events these past few months. In addition to our great kiddushim, regular Sunday hot breakfasts and monthly Friday dinners, we had a Sukka Hop, spirited Simchat Tora with guests from Yeshiva University; a Sunday "Armchair Safari", the Yiddish Club; an "Israeli Sing Along", and the new Living Room Limud series providing unique perspectives on the Holocaust. Thank you, Renana, for organizing these, and to all the cooks, hosts and presenters. The high percentage of members involved in making these events happen is truly phenomenal!

Having the Weiss family here has been wonderful. We enjoy their kids, Deena's warm personality (and fish making skills!), and Rabbi Ari's many contributions enhancing our services. In addition, the Rabbi Ari's classes are enlightening, interesting and going quite well, especially the one right after Kiddush on Shabbat. We may need to find a larger room! If you haven't gone to one of the classes yet, you are missing out.

It looks like the Hebrew High School of New England has overcome its last major hurdle and will be moving this fall or next to their new campus. We will miss having them around. They were wonderful tenants and we were happy to do what we could to support the education of our Jewish youth. Yishar coach to Ted Zablotsky, Rabbi Loew and all the rest that worked tirelessly to make this happen. Behatslacha!

Having HHNE leave is the end of a 14 year chapter in our long history. We are looking ahead to the future and will be weighing different options for leasing the lower level. As part of the process we are also moving forward with our plans to renovate the upstairs sanctuary.

As this Announcer goes to press we have a number of exciting events coming up. We will have an Italian Friday dinner on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, a special Sunday Memoir Writing Workshop on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>; a Chanukah dinner on December 13<sup>th</sup> with music, special programming for the kids and our third annual Art Contest; the new Living Room Limud series will continue; and before she goes to Israel, my daughter Talya will be speaking about her summer in Beijing. So many things for such a little shul!!!!

It has turned cold, so keep warm, drive safely and for our "snow birds", follow the Connecticut weather reports, think of us and appreciate the beach!

Etan  
etanagudas@yahoo.com



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YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL AT AGUDAS ACHIM

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We welcome Gerald and Karen Goldberg  
to our shul as our newest members.

To reach Rabbi Weiss During Office Hours  
Call the Synagogue office: (860) 233-6241

Mondays: 9-1 p.m.  
Tuesdays: 9-1p.m.  
Wednesday: 9-1p.m.  
Thursday: 9-1p.m.  
Friday: 9-1p.m.

At other times the Rabbi can be reached at:

Home phone: (860) 461-0547

Via E-Mail: [rabiari613@gmail.com](mailto:rabiari613@gmail.com)