

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 2/3–

- Shacharit 6:45am
- Shabbat Candle Lighting **4:49pm**
- Mincha 4:45pm
- Dinner 5:45pm

Saturday- 2/4 -

- Shacharit 9:30am
- Mincha after kiddush
- Havdallah not before 5:51pm

Sunday 2/5

- Shacharit 9:00am

Monday - Thursday 2/6—2/9

- Shacharit 6:45am

Friday 2/10

- Shacharit 6:45am
- Shabbat Candle Lighting **4:58pm**
- Mincha 5:00pm

This week the joint Agudas – Young Israel Mincha/Maariv service will be held at HHNE at 5:00PM

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: Kadden home 27 West Ridge 7:30PM

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!

This Month's Birthdays
Ann Belzer 2/15
Robert Zinkerman 2/21
Esther Adelstein 2/21

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

Agudas Achim
1244 N. Main St.
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Agudas Achim
Weekly News



2/3/12-2/9/12
Weekly Calendar
Parshat Beshalach
Hertz Chumash page 265

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 **WARM & WELCOMING** 

Rabbi's Column

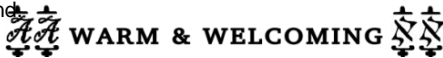
This shabbat, besides being Shabbat Shirah, is also the Shabbat which precedes Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish new year for trees. The importance of trees in Jewish life is expressed in many areas, not the least of which is in this week's parsha, B'Shalach. In it we read how Moshe used a tree to sweeten the 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'nituyot" – 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, before 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.



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.

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



Dry Bones A BRIEF GUIDE TO ISRAELI TRAFFIC SIGNS

Yahrzeits

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Shevat 10 | Shevat 14 |
| Joseph Chandler | Tillie Laschever |
| Jacob Bernstein | Anna Soloway |
| Shevat 11 | William Neidis |
| Claire Whitestone | Shevat 15 |
| Sarah Marcus | Joe Zablotover |
| Esther Landerman | George Gillespie |
| Solomon Sinick | Israel J Weise |
| Shevat 12 | Shevat 16 |
| Mary Fleisher | Donna SaulTillie Gatner |
| Rachel Steinman | Helen Lillie |
| Minnie Bland | Frank AvRutick |
| Rebecca Altman | |
| Shevat 13 | |
| Israel Wolberg | |
| Mollie Siegel | |
| Harry Ben Maor | |
| Rose Bell | |
| Harold Tollin | |
| Helen Kotofsky | |
| Irving Lerner | |

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/m da%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! Gan