AHAVAT ACHIM
קהלת אהבת אחים
THE FAMILY SHUL

CANDLE LIGHTING 7:46 PM | 22 IYAR 5783 | MAY 13, 2023 | HAVDALA 8:50 PM

חזק חזק ונתחזק

שבת פרשת בהר-בחוקותי
SHABBAT PARSHAT BEHAR-BECHUKOTAI

Haftorah is Jeremiah 16:19-17:14.
Pirkei Avot Chapter 5.

FRIDAY EVENING	
MINCHA	6:23 PM
EARLIEST CANDLES	6:34 PM
SHKIA	8:04 PM
TZAIT HAKOCHAVIM	8:44 PM

SHABBAT	
HASHKAMA	8:00 AM
MAIN	9:00 AM
LAST KRIAT SHEMA	9:17 AM
EARLY SHIUR	10:00 AM
GEMARA SHIUR	7:00 PM
MINCHA	7:40 PM
MAARIV	8:50 PM

MAZEL TOV

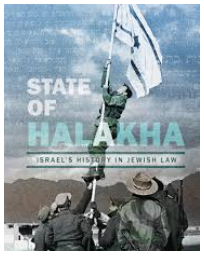
Kiddush is co-sponsored by the Jacob family in honor of Daniel's Bar Mitzvah. Mazel tov to all of his friends and family joining us this Shabbat.

יעלה מעלה מעלה במעלות התורה והיראה ומעשים טובים

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT DINNER

Tikkun Leil Shavuot Dairy Dinner is less than two weeks away. Click here to RSVP: Dairy Dinner

GEMARA SHIUR



In honor of Israel's 75th birthday, our gemara shiur (6:50 PM) will discuss "Eretz Yisrael as a Halachic State: The Conflicts and Resolutions of a Halachically Oriented Government in the Modern Age".

MAZEL TOV

Kiddush is co-sponsored by Evi, Michael, Rose & Ron Dworkis in honor of Danielle and Belana's B'not Mitzvah. Mazel tov to Danielle and Belana, and their family and friends who are joining us this Shabbat, with a special mazel tov to Aunt Sharon, Uncle Adam, and cousins Max and Emmy Brooks.

יעלה מעלה מעלה במעלות התורה והיראה ומעשים טובים

JOURNAL DINNER

The Journal Dinner is happening on Sunday, June 18, and we are honoring Lori & David Garfunkel. Some might argue that they should be honored every year, but regardless, at least we will honor them this year! More details to come.

TODAH RABAH

Thank you to Eli Zezon who removed the unused bulletin board that was on the shul's front lawn.

ORTHODOX UNION Enhancing Jewish Life	SUNDAY 5/14	MONDAY 5/15	TUESDAY 5/16	WEDNESDAY 5/17	THURSDAY 5/18	FRIDAY 5/19
WEEKDAY MINYANIM AT AHAVAT ACHIM						
SHACHARIT	8:00 AM	6:15 AM	6:25 AM	6:25 AM	6:15 AM	6:15 AM
MINCHA/MAARIV	7:54 PM	7:55 PM	7:56 PM	7:57 PM	7:58 PM	6:29 PM
ZMANIM						
Earliest Talit	4:36 AM	4:35 AM	4:34 AM	4:32 AM	4:31 AM	4:30 AM
Gedolah	1:29 PM	1:29 PM	1:29 PM	1:29 PM	1:30 PM	1:30 PM
Shkia	8:06 PM	8:07 PM	8:08 PM	8:09 PM	8:10 PM	
Tzait	8:46 PM	8:47 PM	8:48 PM	8:49 PM	8:50 PM	

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 25 - Tikkun Leil Shavuot Dinner - Click here to RSVP: Dairy Dinner
May 27 - Rut perek-by-perek shiur
May 28 - Memorial Day weekend softball - Click here to RSVP: Softball
June 11 - Hiking (rain date June 25)
June 18 - Journal Dinner
June 24 - Mental Health Awareness Discussion at Seudah Shlishit
July 29 - Prospective Family Shabbaton

IN OUR FUTURE

May 20 - Kiddush is sponsored by Stacey & Yitz Finkelstein to celebrate Mikey's Aufruf and upcoming wedding to Leora Fischman.
May 27 - Seudah Shlishit sponsored by Eli Zezon in memory of שלמה בין אליהו
June 6 - Board Meeting
June 10 - Kiddush sponsored by Dina & Elliot Greene celebrating their 50th anniversary
June 10 - Seudah Shlishit sponsored by Eli Zezon in memory of ברוך מפציר בן שמואל
July 15 - Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by Steven Plotnick in honor of a siyum on Yerushalmi Masechet Demai

SHIURIM

- RAMBAN ON THE PARSHA, Tuesdays at 1:00 PM, in person and on zoom: https://zoom.us/j/7291311899 (PW: 112233).
- TORAH FOR YOUR COMMUTE, via a Whatsapp group, with 3-minute daily halacha insights and a weekly 5-minute parsha elucidation. To join email Rabbi Shestack at rabbishestack@gmail.com.
- SHABBAT GEMARA SHIUR, 40 minutes before Mincha.
- SHABBAT ONEG SERIES.
- FUNDAMENTALS OF JEWISH THOUGHT, after Shabbat kiddish.
- MESORAH-IN-REVERSE lecture series at Seudah Shlishit on Shabbat.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

May 9 - Anshei Lubavitch Lag B'Omer Family Fun Day, 5:30 - 7:30 PM, $5 per person, $20 Family Max.
May 15 -Strategies for Successful Parenting, 8:00 PM, Shomrei Torah.
May 31 - Fair Lawn Mikvah Rededication.

GITA COOPERWASSER ע"ה YOUTH EVENTS

May 27 - Stay & Play (2nd Day Shavuot) - 4:00 PM at Sharon & Adam Brook's home.
June 16 - Pre-Shabbat Ruach 5:00-5:45 PM
June 17 - Stay & Play
July 8 - Stay & Play, Borsuk home, 4:00 PM
July 28 - Pre-Shabbat Ruach 5:00-5:45 PM
July 29 - Stay & Play, Herman home, 4 PM
Aug. 18 - Pre-Shabbat Ruach 5:00-5:45 PM
August 19 - Stay & Play
Sept. 9 - Stay & Play, Wigod home, 4 PM
October 1 - Stay & Play (2nd Day Sukkot)

GITA COOPERWASSER ע"ה YOUTH PROGRAM

- Rabbi Meet & Greet, every Friday night, kids come over to the Rabbi after davening to receive a cup of grape juice and a ticket!
- Children earn tickets for coming to minyan (Friday night and/or Shabbat day), asking the rabbi questions or attending parent-child learning programs! Tickets can be redeemed for prizes!
- Shabbat Youth groups for children from Kindergarten to 2nd Grade starts at 9:00 AM in the Youth Room on the right upon entering the social hall. This group is run by our wonderful youth leaders. Parents are encouraged to drop their children off.
- Shabbat Youth groups for Children in Pre-K and younger starts at at 10:00 AM in the Youth Room on the left upon entering the social hall. Tefillah begins at 10:30 AM led by Perri Mayer.
- Shabbat Youth groups for Children 3rd Grade and up starts at 10:15 AM in the Beit Midrash.

Friday Evening, May 12

Saturday Evening, May 13

Sunday Evening, May 14

Monday Evening, May 15

Tuesday Evening, May 16

Wednesday Evening, May 17

Thursday Evening, May 18

18-25 Saddle River Road
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
201.797.0502
http://www.ahavatachim.org

Shirley Vann has dedicated the attached Covenant & Conversation (used with permission of The Rabbi Sacks Legacy Trust) in memory of her beloved mother Necha bat Yitzchok ע"ה.

AHAVAT ACHIM

קהלת אהבת אחים

THE FAMILY SHUL

April 23, 2023

Dear Friends and Members,

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Ahavat Achim Orthodox Congregation of Fair Lawn will hold its Annual Journal Dinner on June 18, 2023. This year, as our shul celebrates its 45th year, we are pleased to honor Lori and David Garfunkel, a family that has been an integral part of the shul for more than four decades since their arrival in Fair Lawn.

Lori and David joined our shul in 1982. Through the years, they have both diligently worked to better our synagogue and have served our community in many capacities. In addition to being one of our resident kohanim, David is a Past President, Vice president, Treasurer, Bulletin Editor, and has served on multiple Rabbi search committees. He has maintained the Members' database and Yahrzeit database, and has produced the annual Journal Book for many years. But David is best known as "The Kiddush Man". As our in-house caterer, David arranges the food for, sets up, and cleans up after every kiddush and seuda shlishit. David's kitchen, his sacred domain, provides the warmth, family feeling, and sustenance we have all come to appreciate.

Lori has served as Sisterhood President, Synagogue Treasurer, Financial Secretary, House Committee Chairperson, Shiva Committee Chairperson, Journal Dinner Chairperson and was one of the founding board members of the Fair Lawn Mikvah Association. Lori sends out the synagogue's robocall messages, and she prepares the welcome gift bags for families who move into our side of Fair Lawn. She helped obtain a Homeland Security Grant and is currently working on its implementation. Basically, whenever someone wants something (anything) done, they call Lori.

Lori and David are the proud parents of Alyssa (and Daniel), Jonathan z"l, Debra (and Haim), and Uri. They currently have eight adorable grandchildren: Aharon, Leah, Ezra, Yehoshua, Yehuda, Eliana, Nava, and Avigail.

As important as it is to honor and thank our dedicated members, please remember that our Annual Dinner is our largest single fundraiser. This Annual Journal Dinner is critical to our budget. To attend the dinner, you can either solicit ads from your local merchants and family members or you can place your personal ads totaling $400. This evening should be a celebration with 100% participation. It will be a fun night with laughter, good food and drink where we celebrate our community while honoring Lori and David.

Attached is an ad blank for your solicitations and personal use. If you prefer printed ad blanks, they will be available in the shul lobby, or feel free to contact us at AhavatAchimDinner@gmail.com. The dinner is less than 2 months away, so we need to start soliciting immediately. A separate mailing of the dinner invitation will be forthcoming.

Please start soliciting ads and submit them to us (AhavatAchimDinner@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

Richie Mayer, President

Please check appropriate box:

- ☐ PLATINUM PAGE $1800
- ☐ GOLD PAGE $1000
- ☐ SILVER PAGE $750
- ☐ FULL PAGE $400**
- ☐ HALF PAGE $250
- ☐ QUARTER PAGE $125
- ☐ EIGHTH PAGE (business card) $75
- ☐ LISTING $50

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

PHONE (___) _____

SOLICITED BY: _____

****$400 donation entitles you to 2 reservations for the dinner****

YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW

Payment Options:

Check: Payable to Ahavat Achim

PAYPAL: paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1444321

Visa or Mastercard: Please fill in below

Name on Card: _____

Amount: $_____; Card #: _____; Exp. Date: _____ Sec Code: _____

Billing Address: _____; Phone #: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Please return this ad blank with your payment to:

AHAVAT ACHIM, 18-25 SADDLE RIVER ROAD, FAIR LAWN, NJ 07410 AhavatAchimDinner@gmail.com

THE FINAL AD DEADLINE IS JUNE 4, 2023

Ad copy (JPG, PDF, Word, etc…) can be emailed to AhavatAchimDinner@gmail.com
For hard-copy submissions, please print ad clearly or attach business card *(use a separate ad blank for each ad)*

Special Recognition Pages:

Rabbi's page ($18 per family)

_____

Dr. Richard Latkin Memorial page ($18)

_____

Memorial Listing ($10 per name)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Children's Listing ($5 per child)

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

Grandchildren's Listing ($5 per grandchild)

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

בס״ד

AHAVAT ACHIM

קהלת אהבת אחים

THE FAMILY SHUL

Orthodox Congregation of Fair Lawn

2023 Journal Dinner

Honoring

Lori & David Garfunkel

Sunday, June 18, 2023 **29 Sivan 5783**

Community Baseball Game

AHAVAT ACHIM
קהלת אהבת אחים
THE FAMILY SHUL

PLAY BALL

WATCH & CHEER

SUNDAY, MAY 28 2023

EDISON PARK AT 3PM

YOUTH & TEEN SPORTS COMPETITION TOO!

EVENTS@AHAVATACHIM.ORG | RSVP BY MAY 22

AHAVAT ACHIM

קהלת אהבת אחים

THE FAMILY SHUL

tikkun leil Shavuot dinner

Join us as we kick off Shavuot 5783 with a delicious dairy meal after davening on Thursday, May 25th, followed by shiurim all-night, given by Rabbi Shestack, Chana Shestack, and others, on the topic of "Mitzvot in Competition". The first shiur will start immediately after dinner. Keep the learning going with an extravagant dessert table and coffee!

rsvp by 5/19

Adults (12 years old+) - $25

Children Ages 6 - 11 - $13

Children Ages 3 - 5 - $5

Family Max - $72

events@ahavatachim.org

CHANUKAS HABAYIS

REDEDICATION OF THE FAIR LAWN MIKVAH

WEDNESDAY
MAY 31, 2023

INGE AND FREDY
HEISER SIMCHA HALL
SHOMREI TORAH

FAIR LAWN MIKVAH ASSOCIATION

Men and women invited
Formal invitation to follow

Mikvah USA

Inspired by Ilona

THE OUT-OF-THE-BOX CHILD

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFUL PARENTING

MONDAY • MAY 15TH, 2023 • 8:00 PM

Mental Health Program providing parents with skills to help children with challenges successfully navigate social and educational systems: ADHD, Anxiety, Sensory Motor Issues, Learning Challenges and Behavioral Concerns

Featuring

Dr. Rebecca Eliason, Psy.D. MS, is a licensed clinical psychologist and consults with schools and families to support optimal student growth. Dr. Eliason served as Head of School and previously as the Director of Psychological Services at Barnstable Academy.

Shulamit Roth, M.S., CCC-SLP, is the Head of School at Yeshivat Shalshelet, a Yeshiva day school in Bergen County, NJ for students with language based learning disabilities.

Michelle Goodman is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) specializing in parent coaching for parents of children with developmental disabilities and behavior challenges. She maintains a private practice in Teaneck, NJ.

For questions: inspiredbyilona@outlook.com • Livestream at: www.inspiredbyilona.com

The Bravman family is honoring Ilona's blessed memory with this educational series.

At Shomrei Torah, 19-10 Morlot Avenue, Fair Lawn, NJ / **LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE**

שומרי תורה
SHOMREI TORAH

Find your future in Northeast Fair Lawn.

May 5-6, 2023 AND

July 28-29, 2023

Join **Ahavat Achim** for one of our upcoming **Prospective Family Shabbatons** and experience our **come-as-you-are, multi-generational, inspiring** Modern Orthodox community

FRIDAY

Pre-Shabbat Ruach

Family Hosted Dinners

SHABBAT

Uplifting Davening

Tot Shabbat & Youth Groups

Community Luncheon

Backyard Stay & Play

RSVP

https://tinyurl.com/NFLShabbaton2023

QUESTIONS

membership@ahavatachim.org

AHAVAT ACHIM

קהלת אהבת אחים

THE FAMILY SHUL

Ahavat Achim Youth Department Presents

Pre-Shabbat Ruach

Join us for music, kiddush & hamotzi

Led by Jay Herman

May 5
June 16
July 28
August 18

From 5:00-5:45 PM

18-25 Saddle River Road

RSVP to youth@ahavatachim.org by 1 week prior to each event

AHAVAT ACHIM
קהלת אהבת אחים
THE FAMILY SHUL

Covenant & Conversation

THE RABBI SACKS LEGACY

BEHAR-BECHUKOTAI • בהר־בחקתי STUDIES IN SPIRITUALITY

FROM THE TEACHINGS AND WRITINGS OF RABBI LORD JONATHAN SACKS זצ"ל

With thanks to the Schimmel Family for their generous sponsorship of Covenant & Conversation, dedicated in loving memory of Harry (Chaim) Schimmel.
"I have loved the Torah of R' Chaim Schimmel ever since I first encountered it. It strives to be not just about truth on the surface but also its connection to a deeper truth beneath. Together with Anna, his remarkable wife of 60 years, they built a life dedicated to love of family, community, and Torah. An extraordinary couple who have moved me beyond measure by the example of their lives." — Rabbi Sacks

Family Feeling

I argued in my *Covenant & Conversation* for *parshat Kedoshim* that Judaism is more than an ethnicity. It is a call to holiness. In one sense, however, there is an important ethnic dimension to Judaism.

It is best captured in the 1980s joke about an advertising campaign in New York. Throughout the city there were giant posters with the slogan, "You have a friend in the Chase Manhattan Bank." Underneath one, an Israeli had scribbled the words, "But in Bank Leumi you have *mishpacha*." Jews are, and are conscious of being, a single extended family.

This is particularly evident in this week's *parsha*. Repeatedly we read of social legislation couched in the language of family:

> When you buy or sell to your neighbour, let no one wrong *his brother*. *(Lev. 25:14)*
>
> If your brother becomes impoverished and sells some of his property, his near redeemer is to come to you and redeem what *his brother* sold. *(Lev. 25:25)*
>
> If *your brother* is impoverished and indebted to you, you must support him; he must live with you like a foreign resident. Do not take interest or profit from him, but fear your God and let *your brother* live with you. *(Lev. 25:35-36)*
>
> If *your brother* becomes impoverished and is sold to you, do not work him like a slave. *(Lev. 25:39)*

"Your brother" in these verses is not meant literally. At times it means "your relative", but mostly it means "your fellow Jew". This is a distinctive way of thinking about society and our obligations to others. Jews are not just citizens of the same nation or adherents of the same faith. We are members of the same extended family. We are – biologically or electively – children of Abraham and Sarah. For the most part, we share the same history. On the festivals we relive the same memories. We were forged in the same crucible of suffering. We are more than friends. We are *mishpacha*, family.

The concept of family is absolutely fundamental to Judaism. Consider the book of Genesis, the Torah's starting-point. It is not primarily about theology, doctrine, dogma. It is not a polemic against idolatry. It is about families: husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters.

At key moments in the Torah, God Himself defines His relationship with the Israelites in terms of family. He tells Moses to say to Pharaoh in His name: "My child, My firstborn, Israel" (Ex. 4:22). When Moses wants to explain to the Israelites why they have a duty to be holy, He answers, "You are children of the Lord your God" (Deut. 14:1). If God is our

parent, then we are all brothers and sisters. We are related by bonds that go to the very heart of who we are.

The prophets continued the metaphor. There is a lovely passage in Hosea in which the prophet describes God as a parent teaching a young child how to take its first faltering steps: "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son… It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms… To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them." (Hosea 11:1-4).

The same image is continued in rabbinic Judaism. In one of the most famous phrases of prayer, Rabbi Akiva used the words *Avinu Malkeinu*, "Our Father, our King". That is a precise and deliberate expression. God is indeed our sovereign, our lawgiver and our judge, but before He is any of these things He is our parent and we are His children. That is why we believe Divine compassion will always override strict justice.

This concept of Jews as an extended family is powerfully expressed in Maimonides' *Laws of Charity*:

> The entire Jewish people and all those who attach themselves to them are like brothers, as it states: "You are children of the Lord your God" [Deuteronomy 14:1]. And if a brother will not show mercy to a brother, who will show mercy to them? To whom do the poor of Israel lift up their eyes? To the Gentiles who hate them and pursue them? Their eyes are turned to their brethren alone. (Mishneh Torah, Laws of Gifts to the Poor, 10:2)

This sense of kinship, fraternity and the family bond, is at the heart of the idea of *Kol Yisrael arevin zeh bazeh*, "All Jews are responsible for one another." Or as Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai put it, "When one Jew is injured, all Jews feel the pain."[1]

Why is Judaism built on this model of the family? Partly to tell us that God did not choose an elite of the righteous or a sect of the likeminded. He chose a family – Abraham and Sarah's descendants — extended through time. The family is the most powerful vehicle of continuity, and the kinds of changes Jews were expected to make to the world could not be achieved in a single generation. Hence the importance of the family as a place of education ("You shall teach these things repeatedly to your children…" [Deut. 6:7]) and of handing the story on, especially on Pesach through the Seder service.

Another reason is that family feeling is the most primal and powerful moral bond. The scientist J. B. S. Haldane famously said, when asked whether he would jump into a river and risk his life to save his drowning brother, "No, but I would do so to save two brothers or eight cousins." The point he was making was that we share 50 per cent of our genes with our siblings, and an eighth with our cousins. Taking a risk to save them is a way of ensuring that our genes are passed on to the next generation. This principle, known as "kin selection", is the most basic form of human altruism. It is where the moral sense is born.

That is a key insight, not only of biology but also of political theory. Edmund Burke famously said that "To be attached to the subdivision, to love the little platoon we belong to in society, is the first principle (the germ as it were) of public affections. It is the first link in the series by which we proceed towards a love to our country, and to mankind."[2] Likewise Alexis de Tocqueville said, "As long as family feeling was kept alive, the opponent of oppression was never alone."[3]

Strong families are essential to free societies. Where families are strong, a sense of altruism exists that

[1] Mechilta de-Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai on Exodus 19:6.

[2] Edmund Burke (1729–1797), Reflections on the French Revolution: The Harvard Classics, 1909–14.

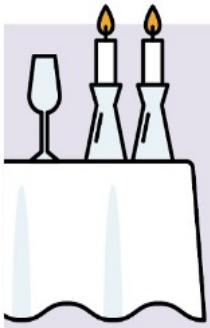
[3] Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Chapter XVII, "Principal Causes Which Tend to Maintain the Democratic Republic in the United States."

can be extended outward, from family to friends to neighbours to community and from there to the nation as a whole.

It was the sense of family that kept Jews linked in a web of mutual obligation despite the fact that they were scattered across the world. Does it still exist? Sometimes the divisions in the Jewish world go so deep, and the insults hurled by one group against another are so brutal that one could almost be persuaded that it does not. In the 1950s Martin Buber expressed the belief that the Jewish people in the traditional sense no longer existed. *Knesset Yisrael*, the covenantal people as a single entity before God, was no more. The divisions between Jews, religious and secular, orthodox and non-orthodox, Zionist and non-Zionist, had, he thought, fragmented the people beyond hope of repair.

Yet that conclusion is premature for precisely the reason that makes family so elemental a bond. Argue with your friend and tomorrow he may no longer be your friend, but argue with your brother and tomorrow he is still your brother. The book of Genesis is full of sibling rivalries but they do not all end the same way. The story of Cain and Abel ends with Abel dead. The story of Isaac and Ishmael ends with their standing together at Abraham's grave. The story of Esau and Jacob reaches a climax when, after a long separation, they meet, embrace and go their separate ways. The story of Joseph and his brothers begins with animosity but ends with forgiveness and reconciliation. Even the most dysfunctional families can eventually come together.

The Jewish people remains a family, often divided, always argumentative, but bound in a common bond of fate nonetheless. As our *parsha* reminds us, that person who has fallen is our brother or sister, and ours must be the hand that helps them rise again.



Around the Shabbat Table

1. Why do you think families so often argue?
2. Can you join a family you are not born into? Can you join the Jewish people even if you were not born a Jew?
3. Do you feel related to Jews from other parts of the world?

- These questions come from this week's **Family Edition** to Rabbi Sacks' Covenant & Conversation. For an interactive, multi-generational study, check out the full edition at **www.RabbiSacks.org/covenant-conversation-family-edition/behar/family-feeling/**.