

*Pre-Pesach Community Luncheon Kiddush will be held on April 20. To Sponsor, to volunteer to make a crockpot dish, or to RSVP, click here: [Pesach Lunch](#)*



*Pre-Pesach Q&A This Tuesday night, 8:45 PM on Zoom, click here: [Q&A](#). Passcode is 112233.*

CANDLE LIGHTING 7:08 PM | 27 ADAR II | APRIL 6, 2024 | HAVDALA 8:12 PM

**שבת פרשת שמיני/פרשת החדש  
SHABBAT PARSHAT SHEMINI  
PARSHAT HACHODESH**

Two Sifrei Torah. Maftir reads from Parshat Bo (Exodus 12:1-20). Haftorah is Ezekiel 45:16-46:18. We bless the month of Nissan. Don't say הרחמים אב. Say צדקתך צדק at Mincha.

**FRIDAY EVENING**

MINCHA	7:10 PM
SHKIA	7:26 PM
TZAIT HAKOCHAVIM	8:06 PM
<b>SHABBAT</b>	
HASHKAMA	8:00 AM
MAIN	9:00 AM
LAST KRIAT SHEMA	9:45 AM
POST-HASHKAMA SHIUR	10:00 AM
FUNDAMENTALS SHIUR	11:30 AM
PRE-MINCHA SHIUR	6:20 PM
MINCHA	7:00 PM
MAARIV	8:12 PM



The Molad for Nissan is Monday, April 8, 10:57 PM & 7 Chalokim. ראש חדש ניסן יהיה ביום שלישי הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה

**SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE**

Scholar-in-Residence Rivka Herzfeld, will be speaking on "Bad Boys, Bad Boys: Nadav and Avihu" (after Mussaf), **followed by a sponsored kiddish**, "In the Midnight Hour (BaChatzot Halayla) I Will Feel Your Power" (6:20 PM), and "Accessibility in the Torah" (at Seudah Shlishit).



**SEUDAH SHLISHIT**

Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by the Safrens for the yahrzeits of Robert's parents, Mariam Zelda bas Zev Ari H'Levi (Selma Safren ע"ה), and Moshe ben Yisroel (Morris Safren ע"ה) and for the continued refuah shelayma of Jewel who is back home.

**SHIR HASHIRIM ROUND  
ROBIN PEREK-BY-PEREK SHIUR**

Only Chapter 7 is still open. Please sign up here: [SHIR HASHIRIM](#). So far we have Chapter 1 (Steve Plotnick), Chapter 2 (Shamai Bernstein), Chapter 3 (Aaron Czinn), Chapter 4 (Margo Heda), Chapter 5 (Eli Greenbaum), Chapter 6 (Ilana Schwitzer), and Chapter 8 (Dasi Vann).

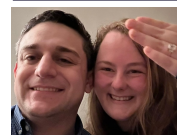
**MAZEL TOV**

Mazel tov to Amy & Stephen Agress on the birth of a granddaughter to Hilana & Max.



גדולה לתורה ולחופה ולמעשים טובים  
May they raise her to Torah, chuppah and good deeds.

**MAZEL TOV**

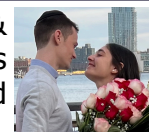


Mazel tov to Michelle & Zvi Dubin on Jon's engagement to Ruchie Gross!

יעלה הזיווג יפה ויבנו בית נאמן בישראל  
May the beautiful couple be elevated in the building of a faithful house of Israel

**MAZEL TOV**

Mazel tov to Andrea & Greg Riskin on Deborah's engagement to David Gononsky!



יעלה הזיווג יפה ויבנו בית נאמן בישראל  
May the beautiful couple be elevated in the building of a faithful house of Israel

**POST-KIDDUSH FUNDAMENTALS**

This Shabbat Chayim Goldberg will be speaking on the halachot related to an eclipse.

	SUNDAY 4/7	MONDAY 4/8	TUESDAY 4/9	WEDNESDAY 4/10	THURSDAY 4/11	FRIDAY 4/12
<b>WEEKDAY MINYANIM AT AHAVAT ACHIM</b>						
SHACHARIT	8:00 AM	6:15 AM	6:00 AM	6:25 AM	6:15 AM	6:25 AM
MINCHA/MAARIV	7:16 PM	7:17 PM	7:18 PM	7:19 PM	7:20 PM	7:20 PM
<b>ZMANIM</b>						
Earliest Talit	5:33 AM	5:31 AM	5:30 AM	5:28 AM	5:26 AM	5:44 AM
Gedolah	1:31 PM	1:31 PM	1:31 PM	1:31 PM	1:31 PM	1:30 PM
Shkia	7:28 PM	7:29 PM	7:30 PM	7:31 PM	7:33 PM	
Tzait	8:08 PM	8:09 PM	8:10 PM	8:11 PM	8:13 PM	

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 9** - Pre-Pesach Q&A, 8:45 PM  
**April 14** - Hagolas Kelim/Pesach Kashering, 9:00 - 11:00 AM, at the shul.  
**April 20** - Pre-Pesach Luncheon  
**April 20** - Shir Hashirim Round Robin  
**April 22** - Latest to eat Chometz: 10:39 AM  
**April 22** - Seraifat (Burning) Chometz, 8:00 AM to 11:47 AM (latest), at Norton residence, 20-11 Hunter Pl. No foil, plastic, paper, cardboard, pasta, sauces or liquids. Bread, cereal, crackers and dry items only.  
**May 11** - Prospective Family Shabbaton  
**May 18** - Mental Health Awareness Discussion at Seudah Shlishit.  
**May 26** - Lag B'Omer Community Event. Doors Open at Noon. BBQ at 12:30 PM, with special activities for youth.  
**June 8** - Rut Round Robin

## IN OUR FUTURE

- April 13** - Kiddush is sponsored by the Goldbergs in honor of Joan's birthday and Joan & Barry's 35th Anniversary.  
**April 27** - Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by the Sonnenblinks to commemorate the yahrzeit of Marty's father, Moshe Yehuda ben Yosef Dov Halevi<sup>נ"י</sup>.  
**May 25** - Kiddush is sponsored by the Mayers in honor of Sophie's Bat Mitzvah.

## CHAMETZ SALES



- April 11** - After Maariv.  
**April 14** - After Shacharit and after Maariv.  
**April 16** - 1:30 PM and after Maariv.  
**April 17** - After Maariv.  
**April 18** - After Maariv.  
**April 20** - 30 minutes after Shabbat ends.  
**April 21** - After Shacharit.

## KIDDUSH & SEUDAH SHLISHIT


- **THIS WEEK'S KIDDUSH IS MEAT.**
- To sponsor a Kiddush (prices start at \$318, plus a bottle of scotch) email David at [dmgarfunkel@gmail.com](mailto:dmgarfunkel@gmail.com) to coordinate details and budget.
- To sponsor for \$136 Seudah Shlishit (or in the case of multiple sponsors, \$100 per sponsor), email [dmgarfunkel@gmail.com](mailto:dmgarfunkel@gmail.com).

## SHIURIM



- SAMSON RAFAEL HIRSCH 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. To join email Rabbi Shestack at [rabbishestack@gmail.com](mailto:rabbishestack@gmail.com).
- SHABBAT SHIUR, 40 minutes before mincha.
- FUNDAMENTALS OF JEWISH THOUGHT, after Kiddush.
- MESORAH-IN-REVERSE lecture series at Seudah Shlishit. 
- Tzurba M'Rabanan on Shabbat, Wednesdays at 7:30 PM (to be adjusted as Maariv time changes), on Zoom with Shalom Brauser.

## CONTACTING THE RABBI

The Rabbi is always  available for halachic and pastoral issues. For less exigent matters, text, call, or drop by during the Rabbi's office hour, Tuesdays, 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, or feel free to reach out to the Rabbi to make other meeting arrangements.

## SHALOM BRAUSER



Middle school Chabura takes place every third shabbat: **April 19/20**

## FROM THE JOURNAL DINNER COMMITTEE

With all due haste, submit & solicit ads showing gratitude to Shirley & Avi Vann for all that they have done, and continue to do, for our shul and community, and to Kira and Andrew Wigod for all of the work they have done to reinvigorate our shul. To upload an ad blank, click here: [ShirleyAviKiraAndrew](#)


You can also honor our Rabbi, honor your children or grandchildren, memorialize a loved one and submit a memory, or message, to memorialize one of our founders, Norman Greenstein, and our longtime member Cary Reichardt, each of whom passed away this past year.

## GITA COOPERWASSER<sup>נ"י</sup> YOUTH EVENTS

**April 13** - Playdate in the Park! 3:30 PM, Godwin Park. All ages welcome! We will have snacks.

## GITA COOPERWASSER<sup>נ"י</sup> YOUTH PROGRAM



- **SHABBAT YOUTH LEADERS, 1ST - 4TH GRADE: LETIZIA & ARIELLA; 3 YRS - K: TBA**
- Youth group for children in 1st to 4th Grades starts at 9:00 AM (Drop Off) in the Youth Room on the left upon entering the social hall.
- Youth group for children 3 years old through Kindergarten starts at 9:30 AM (Drop Off) in the Youth Room on the right upon entering the social hall.
- Parent & Me room opens at 9:30 AM in the Beit Midrash.
- 5th through 9th graders will meet for Torah and games at 10:00 AM in the David Schwitzer<sup>נ"י</sup> Social Hall.
- Rabbi Meet & Greet, every Friday night, kids can come over to the Rabbi after davening to receive a cup of grape juice and a ticket!
- Children's corner at Seudah Shlishit, 1st to 4th graders will get 10 Torah questions in 10 minutes from Rabbi Shestack, with special snacks, tickets and more. 
- 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.

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



NAME	HEBREW DATE	CANDLE EVENING OF	DEDICATOR	RELATIONSHIP
Ruth Lerner	1	April 8	Laurie Phipps	Mother
Joseph Bickel	2	April 9	Jack Bickel	Father
Herbert Sturm	2	April 9	Robyn Safier	Father
Ben Chass	3	April 10	Murray Chass	Father
Aaron Goldstein	3	April 10	Mitchell Goldstein	Father
Limor Adler	4	April 11	Oren Adler	Sister
Edith Garfunkel	4	April 11	David Garfunkel	Mother
Margot Flora Rothschild	5	April 12	Audrey Bickel	Mother
Rachel (Risha) Adler	6	April 13	Oren Adler	Grandmother
Phyllis Chuback Weiner	7	April 14	Randi Spier	Mother
Hania Kirschenbaum	8	April 15	Hyman Kirschenbaum	Mother
Estelle Smedresman	9	April 16	Steve Smedresman	Mother
Daniel Mittelpunkt	13	April 20	Eita Latkin	Cousin
Yetta Mittelpunkt	14	April 21	Eita Latkin	Grandmother
Edith Lazarovici Fontaine	17	April 24	Fred Fontaine	Mother
Bernard Greenbaum	21	April 28	Eli Greenbaum	Father
Leah Schwartz	29	May 6	Kenny Levine	Grandmother

**DAVID SCHWITZER<sup>ד"ר</sup> SOCIAL HALL**

Please contact Lori Garfunkel at [garfmom@gmail.com](mailto:garfmom@gmail.com) to book the David Schwitzer<sup>ד"ר</sup> Social Hall for an event or special occasion. \$250 per simcha (members)/\$325 for Associates/\$400 paid in advance for non-members, plus the cost of additional clean up (and a \$150 security/cleaning deposit refunded when the social hall is returned in its original condition). Private caterers must be approved in by the Rabbi.

**DONATE A SEFER, ETC.**

Siddurim & Machzorim (\$40), and Chumashim (\$60), are available for donation. Please contact Jeff Safier at [jeff.Safier@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.Safier@gmail.com) for details.

**SCRIP**

Men's Club scrip is available. Email [dmgarfunkel@gmail.com](mailto:dmgarfunkel@gmail.com) for details.

**HONORARIA**

The available Honoraria list will be provided upon request by contacting Steven Plotnick at [seplotnick@gmail.com](mailto:seplotnick@gmail.com).

**MISHEBAYRACH**

With a Mishebayrach you've pledged to give Tzedakah on behalf of those for whom you asked Hashem's blessing. Contributions to the shul can be made using Paypal's Giving Fund (with 100% of the proceeds going to the Shul), by clicking here: [Ahavat Achim Donations](#). If by check, please indicate on its face "Aliyah Donation."

**Yahrzeit Plaques**

Memorialize a loved one with a plaque, \$300 for members/\$450 for nonmembers. We will strive to send you written notice of upcoming yearzeit and announce name during public Yizkor. Email Amy at [aagress@gmail.com](mailto:aagress@gmail.com) to arrange.

**MEN'S CLUB**

Please contact Elliot Greene at [MensClub@AhavatAchim.Org](mailto:MensClub@AhavatAchim.Org) to join the Men's Club.

**SPONSORSHIPS**

Sponsorships opportunities for Yahrzeits, Refuahs, and Hodahs (thanks), are available for regular shiurim, youth events and similar activities (but not for established honorariums or sponsorship funded events). Cost of sponsorship (shiur or youth event) is \$100 per sponsor. Multiple sponsors for an event will be accepted. Sponsorships will be listed in the bulletin and announced at the event (and, if possible, a placard with the sponsorship will be prepared and displayed at the event).

Sponsorships do not include any extra amenities (such as food). Please contact either Stephen Agress or Steve Plotnick for questions or clarifications.

## MAOT CHITIM



Donate "wheat monies" for the poor before Pesach here: [Maot Chitmitim](#).

## SHUL CLOSET CLEAN-OUT

Pesach clean-up! Reclaim your jackets, hats, books, diaper bags, etc. from the closet/coat room. Unclaimed items will be donated.

## PARSHAT HACHODESH

"This month shall be for you the beginning of the months, it shall be for you the first of the months of the year." (Shemot 12:2)

On the Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh Nissan, or on Rosh Chodesh if it falls on the Shabbat, two Torah Scrolls are removed from the Ark (three if on Rosh Chodesh). From the first, the Sidrah of the week is read, and from the second (or third on Rosh Chodesh), the Maftir reads the passage giving the commandments associated with the very first Rosh Chodesh Nissan in Egypt.

The first day of Nissan was and always remains a historic day for the Jewish nation. It was the day when the people received their first commandment as a nation: Sanctify the New Moon.

This ritual has a profound spiritual and historic significance. It is noteworthy that it was one of three commandments that the Syrian Greeks, in the time before the Chanukah miracle, attempted to nullify by force. The other two were the Observance of Shabbat and Circumcision. Clearly, therefore, Israel's enemies understood that the sanctification of the New Moon was basic to the existence of Israel as a nation of Torah.

Commentators explain that, by virtue of this Commandment, G-d gave the Jewish people mastery over time. From that moment onward, the calendar with its cycle of festivals could exist only when the Sages of Israel declared the New Month. This signifies more than control over the reckoning of time, the dating of legal documents, and all the banalities to which man is subject in his everyday life. It represents the potential for renewal.

The Jewish people is symbolized by the moon because, although the moon wanes, it waxes as well. It stands for hope, for the confidence that there is a future as well as a past. This vibrancy assures that any conquest of the Jewish people can never be more than temporary. Israel may seem to disappear from the panorama of history - but so does the moon.

The moon returns - and Israel, by means of the power vested in it by the Torah, sanctifies the New Month. So, too, the nation constantly renews its vigor, constantly defies the laws of history that insist it should have long since become extinct, constantly demonstrates its ability to make itself the vehicle for the prophecies of redemption and a greater spiritual world.

## AHAVAT ACHIM MEMBERSHIP/HOSPITALITY

Email Sara at [membership@ahavatachim.org](mailto:membership@ahavatachim.org) for membership details or Shabbat hospitality.

## PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Various life cycle events related to members are announced in the bulletin (e.g., births and weddings of children/grandchildren, bar/bat mitzvahs of children, deaths requiring shiva observance, as well as travel to/from Israel to study). Other personal announcements are not appropriate except as part of the bulletin's dedication (\$36 cost - \$54 with photo).

## NUMBERS & INFO

**ERUV:** To subscribe for updates, email [fairlawneruv@groups.io](mailto:fairlawneruv@groups.io). Check status at <https://groups.io/g/fairlawneruv> or call 201-254-9190.

**MIKVAH:** 201-796-0350. At Shomrei Torah. Go to <http://www.fairlawnmikvah.org/> for online booking.

**TWITTER:** AhavatAchimFL

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091322384429](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091322384429)

**INSTAGRAM:** [www.instagram.com/ahavatachim/](http://www.instagram.com/ahavatachim/)

**FLICKR:** [flickr.com/photos/ahavatachim/albums](http://flickr.com/photos/ahavatachim/albums)

## BULLETIN DEDICATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND SHUL CALENDAR

Email [seplotnick@gmail.com](mailto:seplotnick@gmail.com) to request an announcement of a simcha, refuah or life cycle event in the bulletin or to dedicate a bulletin for \$36 (\$54 w/ Photo).

## COMMUNITY SECURITY

To volunteer and become part of our community security service, email Margo at [security@ahavatachim.org](mailto:security@ahavatachim.org).





בס"ד

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 May 19, 2024 at 6PM at Rinat Yisroel. This year, our shul is proud to honor Shirley E. and Avrom R. Vann, a couple that has supported Ahavat Achim and the Fair Lawn Jewish community for more than 43 years. Shirley and Avi joined Ahavat Achim immediately upon moving into Fair Lawn in 1980. They are the proud parents of Yitzchak, Yosef, Bluma, and Yaakov and they are blessed with beautiful grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Shirley and Avi have never shied away from facing a challenge, stepping up year after year wherever there was a need. In addition to being a repeated member on the shul board, Avi has served as shul President, Gabbai, and Baal Shacharit on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur since 1981. Shirley has served on the shul board as well as on the Sisterhood board. Shirley oversaw one set of renovations on the Rabbi's house and maintenance in the shul. She has served as editor for our shul bulletin, the Bronx House News in Pelham Parkway and of the Friends of Lubavitch of Bergen County Newsletter. Outside of our shul, Shirley has been a certified hospice volunteer, a Reach to Recovery Coordinator and a Counsellor for Breast Cancer patients for the American Cancer Society. She is currently the manager of the Fair Lawn Gown Gemach and she partners with Bella Grinberg in the Fair Lawn Clothing and Furniture Gemach.

Together, Shirley and Avi have been Master Builders within Ahavat Achim, they dedicated the Yeshivat Bet Hillel campus in Passaic, and they funded DNA testing for bone marrow matches through Ezer Mitzion which resulted in saving 3 lives, to date.

Ahavat Achim's first annual Young Leadership Award will be honoring Kira and Andrew Wigod. Shortly after Kira and Andrew moved to Fair Lawn, 7 years ago, they had their first child, Cayleb. They have since welcomed Charley and Cooper to their beautiful family. The Wigods have thoroughly enjoyed co-chairing the Youth Committee for the past 6 years. They initiated the Child Protection & Policy Committee and put in place our shul's first policy.

Andrew is a member of the programming and the playground committees, as well as an active CSS member. Kira has also served on the playground committee and has run successful diaper, school supply, and Chanukah toy drives. Kira has also headed programming that highlighted the importance of mental health.

One of the most special aspects of Ahavat Achim is that we are a very hands-on community, where every member is truly invested in our success. As important as it is to honor and thank our dedicated members, please remember that our Annual Dinner is our largest single fundraising event. This event 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 \$200 per person. 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 and honorees. Attached is an ad blank for your solicitations and personal use. Printed ad blanks are available in the shul lobby or by emailing [AhavatAchimDinner@gmail.com](mailto:AhavatAchimDinner@gmail.com). Alternatively, you can also place an ad or download the ad blank from the shul website by [clicking here](#). The dinner is less than 2 months away, so we need to start soliciting immediately.

Robert Safren, President



# Scholar in Residence

## Rivka Herzfeld



5-6  
April

Parshat  
Shemini



Shabbat morning before kiddish:  
"Bad Boys, Bad Boys": Nadav & Avihu

Pre-mincha shiur: "In the Midnight Hour (BaChatzot Halayla)  
I Will Feel Your Power"

Seudah Shlishit: Accessibility in the Torah

Rivka has always loved learning Torah culminating in her earning a M.A. in Tanach from Yeshiva University's Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies. She enjoys teaching all sifrei Tanach, both formally and informally, to all age groups and levels of Judaic studies background. She is the founder and CEO of PASHUT solutions, a nonprofit that focuses on making Jewish communal spaces accessible. Rivka is personable, easygoing, has a terrific sense of humor, and never misses an opportunity to share a pun. She enjoys engaging in conversations of any kind, (never during davening, of course), especially on Torah topics.

Please check appropriate box:

- PLATINUM PAGE.....\$1800
- GOLD PAGE.....\$1000
- SILVER PAGE.....\$800
- FULL PAGE.....\$400\*\*
- HALF PAGE.....\$300
- QUARTER PAGE.....\$150
- 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:**

**PAYPAL:**

**Visa or Mastercard:**

Payable to Ahavat Achim

[paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1444321](https://paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1444321)

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](mailto:AhavatAchimDinner@gmail.com)

**THE FINAL AD DEADLINE IS MAY 5, 2024**

Ad copy (JPG, PDF, Word, etc...) can be emailed to [AhavatAchimDinner@gmail.com](mailto: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)

\_\_\_\_\_

Memorial pages for Cary Reichardt & Norman Greenstein (\$18)- Provide text and images for your listings to be added to the pages.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Listing (\$10 per name)

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Children's Listing (\$10 per child)

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Grandchildren's Listing (\$10 per grandchild)

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בס"ד



2024 Journal Dinner Honoring

**Shirley & Avrom Vann**

Youth Award Honoring

**Kira & Andrew Wigod**

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**Sunday, May 19, 2024**

**11 Iyar 5784**





AHAVAT ACHIM  
— קהלת אהבת אחים —  
THE FAMILY SHUL

# Ahavat Achim Journal Dinner

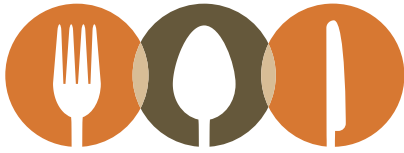
*Honoring  
Shirley & Avrom Vann*

**May 19, 2024**

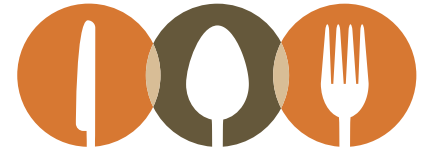
*With a special  
Young Leadership Award  
to*

*Kira & Andrew  
Wigod*





AHAVAT ACHIM  
קהלת אהבת אחים  
THE FAMILY SHUL



**CABINETS BARE BEFORE PESACH?  
JOIN US FOR ONE LAST KIDDUSH!**

# PRE-PESACH COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

**IT'LL BE  
CHAMETZ-ING!**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20**

SIGN UP TO SPONSOR OR VOLUNTEER TO  
MAKE A CROCKPOT DISH!

## **SPONSORSHIPS:**

KADESH: \$54

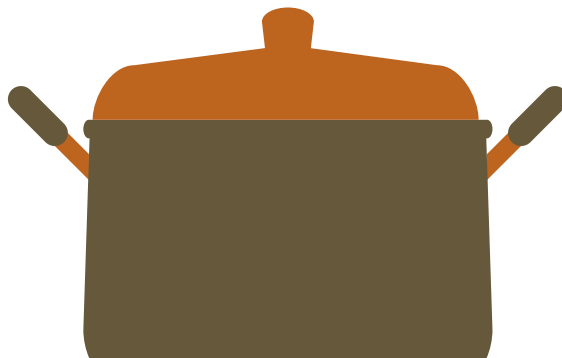
KARPAS: \$72

MAGGID: \$118

TZAFUN: \$180

**SIGN UP BY 4/16!**

[EVENTS@AHAVATACHIM.ORG](mailto:EVENTS@AHAVATACHIM.ORG)



### Authorization

I, the undersigned, fully empower and permit Rabbi Ely Shestack or his designee to act in my place and stead, and on my behalf to sell all chametz possessed by me knowingly or unknowingly, as defined by Torah and rabbinic law, except for chametz designated for burning after the sale, and except for chametz designated for consumption on the upcoming Sabbath meals, and to lease all places in which chametz owned by me may be found, especially at:

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

(Auxiliary Address\*: work, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

The chametz I possess includes the following: (note chametz in aux. location with '\*'). If you will be away for **all** of Pesach, write "all of the above", "home", in the first line.

	Type of Chametz (groceries, liquor, medicine, toiletries, etc.)	Where Stored	Approximate Value
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*If you or your Chametz will be in **Europe/Israel** for Pesach, please initial here \_\_\_\_\_ for an earlier sale time.*

*If you or your Chametz will be on the **west coast** for Pesach, please initial here \_\_\_\_\_ for a later buy-back time.*

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*Also complete this part **only** if you will be away for all Pesach:*

I specifically authorize Rabbi Ely Shestack or person designated by him to sell all chametz located anywhere in my home at the above address, and to lease my entire home (except for \_\_\_\_\_). The keys to my home can be found with:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Residing at (address): \_\_\_\_\_

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### Concise Document of Sale

I, the undersigned hereby sell all my chametz via Rabbi Ely Shestack or his designee. I also lease the place where such chametz is found at the above address(es) for a period of 10 days. This sale and rental are to take effect on April, 2024 corresponding to     Nissan 5784, before       . Further details concerning all of the above are recorded in the above power of attorney form and lengthier document for authorization of sale.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Covenant & Conversation

Jonathan Sacks  
THE RABBI SACKS LEGACY

SHEMINI • שמיני

FROM THE TEACHINGS AND WRITINGS OF **RABBI LORD JONATHAN SACKS** ר"צ

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

This year's series of essays and videos were originally written and recorded by Rabbi Sacks zt"l in 5771 (2010–2011).

These timeless messages are accompanied by a new [Family Edition](#) (2023–2024), created to inspire intergenerational learning on the parsha.

## Spontaneity: Good or Bad?

Shemini tells the tragic story of how the great inauguration of the Tabernacle, a day about which the Sages said that God rejoiced as much as He had at the creation of the universe, was overshadowed by the death of two of Aaron's sons, Nadav and Avihu:

This refers to when Moses] took the liberty of shattering the tablets before their eyes, as it is said, "I shattered them before your eyes." The Holy One, Blessed be He, consented to his opinion, as it is said, "which you shattered" - 'More power to you for shattering them!'

Lev. 10:1-2

Many explanations were given by the Sages and later commentators as to what Nadav and Avihu's sin actually was. But the simplest answer, given by the Torah itself here and elsewhere (Num. 3:4, 26:61), is that they acted on their own initiative. They did what they had not been commanded. They acted spontaneously, perhaps out of sheer enthusiasm in the mood of the moment, offering "unauthorised fire". Evidently it is dangerous to act spontaneously in matters of the spirit.

But is it? Moses acted spontaneously in far more fraught circumstances when he shattered the Tablets of Stone upon seeing the Israelites cavorting around the Golden Calf. The tablets - hewn and engraved by God Himself - were perhaps the holiest objects there have ever been. Yet Moses was not punished for his act. The Sages said that though he acted of his own accord without first consulting God, God assented to this act. Rashi refers to this moment in his very last comment on the Torah, whose last verse (Deut. 34:12) speaks about "all the strong hand, and all the great awe, which Moses performed before the eyes of all Israel":

This refers to when Moses] took the liberty of shattering the tablets before their eyes, as it is said, "I shattered them before your eyes." The Holy One, Blessed be He, consented to his opinion, as it is said, "which you shattered" - 'More power to you for shattering them!'

Why then was spontaneity wrong for Nadav and Avihu yet right for Moshe Rabbeinu? The answer is that Nadav and Avihu were Kohanim, Priests. Moses was a Navi, a Prophet. These are two

different forms of religious leadership. They involve different tasks, different sensibilities, indeed different approaches to time itself.

The Kohen serves God in a way that never changes over time (except, of course, when the Temple was destroyed and its service, presided over by the Kohanim, came to an end). The Prophet serves God in a way that is constantly changing over time. When people are at ease the Prophet warns of forthcoming catastrophe. When they suffer catastrophe and are in the depths of despair, the Prophet brings consolation and hope.

The words said by the Kohen are always the same. The priestly blessing uses the same words today as it did in the days of Moses and Aaron. But the words used by a Prophet are never the same. As it is noted:

No two Prophets use the same style.

Sanhedrin 89a

So for a Prophet spontaneity is of the essence. But for the Kohen engaged in Divine service it is completely out of place.

Why the difference? After all, the Priest and the Prophet were serving the same God. The Torah uses a kind of device we have only recently re-invented in a somewhat different form. Stereophonic sound - sound coming from two different speakers - was developed in the 1930s to give the impression of audible perspective. In the 1950s 3D film was developed to do for sight what stereo had done for sound. From the work of Pierre Broca in the 1860s to today, using MRI and PET scans, neuroscientists have striven to understand how our bicameral brain allows us to respond more intelligently to our environment than would otherwise have been possible. Twin perspectives are needed fully to experience reality.

The twin perspectives of the Priest and Prophet correspond to the twin perspectives on creation represented, respectively, by Genesis 1:1-2:3 (spoken in the priestly voice, with an emphasis on order, structure, divisions and boundaries), and Genesis 2:4-3:24 (spoken in the prophetic voice, with an emphasis on the nuances and dynamics of interpersonal relationships).

Now let us consider one other area in which there was an ongoing argument between structure and spontaneity, namely *tefillah*, prayer, specifically the Amidah. We know that after the destruction of the Temple, Rabban Gamliel and his court at Yavneh established a standard text for the weekday Amidah, comprising eighteen or later nineteen blessings in a precise order (Mishnah Brachot 4:3).

Not everyone, however, agreed. Rabbi Joshua held that individuals could say an abridged form of the Amidah. According to some interpretations, Rabbi Eliezer was opposed to a fixed text altogether and held that one should, each day, say something new (Talmud Yerushalmi Brachot 4).

It seems that this disagreement is precisely parallel to another one about the source of the daily prayers:

It has been stated: R. Jose, son of R. Hanina said: The prayers were instituted by the Patriarchs. R. Joshua b. Levi says: The prayers were instituted to replace the daily sacrifices.

Brachot 26b

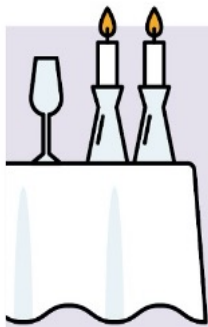
According to R. Jose, son of R. Hanina, Shacharit was established by Abraham, Minchah by Isaac, and Maariv by Jacob. According to R. Joshua b. Levi, Shacharit corresponds to the daily morning sacrifice, and Minchah to the afternoon sacrifice. On the face of it, the disagreement has no practical consequences, but in fact it does.

If the prayers were instituted by the patriarchs, then their origin is prophetic. If they were established to replace the sacrifices, then their provenance is priestly. Priests were forbidden to act spontaneously, but Prophets did so as a matter of course. Someone who saw prayer as priestly would, like Rabban Gamliel, emphasize the importance of a precise text. One who saw it as prophetic would, like Rabbi Eliezer as understood by the Talmud Yerushalmi, value spontaneity and each day try to say something new.

Tradition eventually resolved the matter in a most remarkable way. We say each Amidah twice, once privately and silently in the tradition of the Prophets, then a second time publicly and collectively by the *shaliach tzibbur*, the “reader’s repetition”, in the tradition of a Priest offering a

sacrifice at the Temple. (It is easy to understand why there is no reader’s repetition in the Maariv service: there was no sacrifice at night-time). During the silent Amidah we are permitted to add extra words of our own. During the repetition we are not. That is because Prophets acted spontaneously, but Priests did not.

The tragedy of Nadav and Avihu is that they made the mistake of acting like Prophets when they were, in fact, Priests. But we have inherited both traditions, and wisely so, for without structure, Judaism would have no continuity, but without spontaneity it would have no fresh life. The challenge is to maintain the balance without ever confusing the place of each.



## Around the Shabbat Table

1. Can you think of a time where spontaneity is important in your life?
2. Considering Nadav and Avihu's misplaced 'enthusiasm, is there ever a time where we should hold back on our expressions of excitement?
3. What are some other examples of "korbanot gone bad" in the Torah?

● 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/shemini/spontaneity-good-or-bad/](http://www.RabbiSacks.org/covenant-conversation-family-edition/shemini/spontaneity-good-or-bad/)