

Congregation Ahavath Achim

FOUNDED 1898

An Affiliate Of

The United Synagogue Of Conservative Judaism



7 IYAR - 8 SIVAN 5780

3501 SOUTH DONNYBROOK, TYLER, TEXAS 75701

MAY 2020

From the Desk of the Rabbi

Are You Spiritually Charged?

What spiritually recharges you? When you ask the average Jewish person what spiritually recharges them, you may get a multitude of answers. Those answers may range from services on Shabbat, a holiday such as Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur, a Passover Seder, studying with the Rabbi and other fellow Jews, or communing with Hashem in your own special way. Maybe it only takes one or two of these things to spiritually recharge us or maybe it takes all of them and more. In the challenging time we are currently living in where social distancing has certainly separated us physically from each other, I certainly do not imply that these above things are the only thing that can connect us to Hashem to allow us to be spiritually recharged, but they are just a few of the good avenues to accomplish that goal.

In this period of time between Passover and Shavuot, one should attempt to spiritually recharge themselves and be prepared just like our ancestors were when receiving the Torah at Sinai some 3500 years ago by reexamining the words of our Torah: ***"Only guard yourself and guard your soul greatly lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen and lest they move from your heart all the days of your life; and you will make them known to your children and to your children's children, the day you stood before Hashem your G-d at Chorev..." (Devarim 4:9-10)***

The *Ramban* counts these verses of the Torah as one of the 613 Mitzvot: a prohibition against forgetting the Sinai experience. Even those authorities who do not count this as a separate mitzvah recognize that we are obligated to remember this event. There are two components to this command: a) teaching Torah to one's children – *"And you will make it known to your children and to your children's children;"* and b) actually remembering the event itself. It is therefore very important to examine and analyze what exactly took place at Sinai and how Am Yisrael received the Torah, especially as we continue to count the Omer and approach the festival of Shavuot commemorating the giving of the Torah.

If we examine the events at Sinai, we see where this event turned out to be very complex. On the verse, *"And you shall ascend, and Aaron with you, and the Kohanim and the nation shall not break through to ascend to the L-d"* (Shemot 19:24), *Rashi* offers this perspective in his commentary: *"Lest we understand this as meaning that Aaron and the Kohanim too should ascend with him, the Torah teaches, 'You (singular) shall ascend.' Thus, the verse means that you may ascend to one boundary, and Aaron to another, and the others to a third; i.e., Moses could approach nearer than Aaron, and Aaron could approach nearer than the Kohanim, and the nation could not ascend at all."*

From this perspective by *Rashi*, everyone experienced the revelation from a different place, and had a different point of view. How much does this concept parallel how Jewish people today view their level of observance? How can we all be spiritually charged on the same level if from the beginning of the formation of our religion at Sinai, we did not experience the spiritual connection on an equal footing with individuals such as Moses and Aaron or even the Kohanim?

How long did the revelation last for our ancestors at Sinai compared to an individual such as Moses? From the point of view of Am Yisrael it lasted only one day, while from Moses' perspective it lasted for forty days. Could this be the reason that Aaron did not have the strength to hold the people together while Moses was away up on Har Sinai? Did Aaron and some of Am Yisrael not spiritually recharge enough at the revelation to stay the course till Moses came back with the Torah? After all, are 40 days and nights a long time in anyone's life compared to eternity or even just a normal life span?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Co-President's Message

Dear Congregants and Friends:

Each year, Pesach reminds us of Hashem's eternal promise, shield and strength, lovingly protecting the emerging Hebrew nation in the beginning and, subsequently, the Jewish people to this very day. This year, the story of Pesach was especially meaningful to me in the midst of the terrible plague sweeping the globe, threatening not only our lives, but also the very existence of our vibrant nation's economic foundation. How was Pesach especially meaningful to me this year as Fran and I celebrated alone in our home? I found comfort in my faith that this will pass and we will emerge from this frightening nightmare to be stronger, wiser, and, hopefully, more appreciative and observant. In some ways, perhaps many ways, some of us, perhaps many of us, will experience deep sadness and anxiety, perhaps even personal tragedy. Yet, together we stand as one people, shouldering our collective and individual burdens together as one united people – the Jewish people.

Throughout the 40-year trek of the young Hebrew nation, the tumultuous years of the Temple history and beyond, including the twentieth century holocaust, the Jewish people, standing as one spiritual entity, have overcome every difficulty encountered, sometimes reluctantly, but always with the unerring love of Hashem. Emerging on the other side to flourish from fragile remaining twigs scattered across the Diaspora, we have triumphed together, shining with strength, creativity, knowledge and opportunity. Together, we overcome as one and carry the torch for all.

We will overcome this difficulty and will meet again one bright Shabbat morning in the warm sanctuary of our beloved synagogue. On that day, my appreciation and love for my congregation and my synagogue will be deeper and more meaningful than ever before.

May Hashem keep, protect and bless you, your loved ones and your friends; and may Hashem look across all the people of the world with compassion, mercy and an open heart for those who embrace kindness and love for all people.

Tim Birmingham CAA Co-President 2020

We are working on an infection control plan that will enable us to set some goals, but there is no confident date of reopening yet.

That said, we are considering the data, recommendations and numerous other considerations (e.g., feasible extent of services, physical distancing, janitorial cleaning, TPD security, phased return, etc.).

Please rest assured, the entire Board will have some recommendations for consideration in the near future. It is hoped that the recommendations will give us something more concrete to look at in the way of feasible reopening of some activities. Our priority will be resuming Shabbat morning services, in this new age of social distancing.

Best regards and please know that we are working on it with the necessary safety and health of our congregation as the priority.

Shalom,

Tim Birmingham and Ruth Elmakiss

Please check your email frequently as updated information and items of interest will be sent often.

What do congregations do today if they lose their Rabbi, find another religion, or find another Rabbi? Think of how much we have grown spiritually since Sinai! The question remains in how much spiritual recharging is required to stay connected to Hashem? The answer is that it is at different levels for everyone since no two people are the same. This is explained by another teaching offered by the *Ramban* which is: *"that Am Yisrael heard and comprehended directly from Hashem only the first two of the Ten Commandments and they heard the rest from Hashem but did not comprehend, and they only understood the remainder of the Decalogue after Moses had translated it for them"* which some Rabbinic scholars offer explanations on why there is the difference between the Ten Commandments found in Shemot and Devarim.

The *Rambam* offers this perspective: *"that the experience of the revelation at Sinai was not just necessarily to teach specific laws to Am Yisrael, but to visually validate Hashem's promise to our Patriarchs and establish Moses in three roles as teacher, leader and Prophet."* If we as Jews today wish to understand and remember this experience for the purpose of spiritually recharging ourselves, we shall need to clarify the manner in which Moses received the Torah so we may have a greater understanding on how we should receive it today in our lives. An examination of the event from the perspective of Am Yisrael and Moses provides a partial understanding.

One thing we can learn from Moses is that effort and initiative are needed in order to acquire the Torah. There is a beautiful Midrash story which teaches that the verse in Tehillim (68:19), *"You ascended on high and captured a captive,"* refers to Moses and the Torah. The verse teaches that he ascended to heaven and captured the Torah by force, after doing battle with the angels much like our Patriarch Jacob who struggled with the forces of Heaven for his true blessing. The Gemara (Shabbat 88b-89a) describes this battle and the argument between Moses and the angels, who refused to give the Torah to a mere mortal. Moses therefore needed to approach with effort and initiative in order to receive the Torah.

When Bnei Yisrael reached Har Sinai we are immediately told, *"And Moses ascended to G-d"* (Shemot 19:3) – G-d did not call him; he ascended of his own initiative. However, this is not the entire story. In Parsha Beha'alotecha, we read of how Miriam spoke badly of her brother, Moses. In the middle of the story we are told, *"And the man Moses was extremely humble, more than any person on the face of the earth"* (Bamidbar 12:3). What place does this verse have here? We may say that this explains why Moses did not answer Miriam's accusations, but it seems more reasonable that this verse explains Hashem's words later on regarding the difference between Moses and other prophets.

Moses reached such a high level of spiritual awareness and a greater level of prophecy thanks to his trait of humility. The Midrash (Shemot Rabbah 41:6) furthermore teaches: *"All forty days that Moses spent on high, he learned Torah and then forgot. He said, 'Master of the Universe, I have been here for forty days and I know nothing.' What did the Holy One do? Once he had completed forty days, He gave him the Torah as a gift, as it is written, 'And He gave it to Moses.'"*

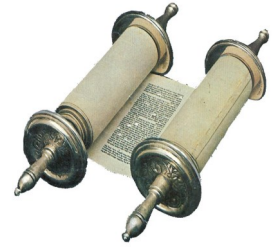
Moses' determination to acquire the Torah was not enough for him to be able to learn it by memory and because of his daily zeal to learn it Hashem had to give the Torah to him as a gift. In order to receive the Torah, we must feel that same humility and self-effacement before Hashem; we must approach as lowly people who are sustained by Hashem's gift of the Torah. At Pesach we should strip ourselves of our arrogance, our puffed up concepts of being superior and realize that the verse from Tehillim quoted above refers to not only Moses, but to us as well and likewise concludes with the words, *"You have taken GIFTS for man."*

As we count these days up until Shavuot and hopefully be able to come together as a Congregation soon, may we all work on bringing our lives to a new level of understanding on how we are not to just receive this *Gift* from Hashem, but to treasure it and hold on to it. May this time between Pesach and Shavuot offer the chance to spiritually recharge you to a higher level and may the Torah everyday of your life be a gift that you personally feel comes from Hashem just as it did for Moses and our people 3500 years ago.

With Torah Blessings, Rabbi



shabbat shalom



MAY SCHEDULE OF READINGS Triennial Readings/Holiday Readings

Friday	May	1	Evening	
Saturday	May	2	Morning	ACHREI MOT-KEDOSHIM
			Torah Reading	Leviticus 16:1 - 17:7
			Haftorah	Amos 9:7 - 15
Friday	May	8	Evening	
Saturday	May	9	Morning	EMOR
			Torah Reading	Leviticus 21:1 - 22:16
			Haftorah	Ezekiel 44:15 - 31
Friday	May	15	Evening	
Saturday	May	16	Morning	BEHAR-BECKHUKOTAI
			Torah Reading	Leviticus 25:1 - 25:38
			Haftorah	Jeremiah 16:19 - 17:14
Friday	May	22	Evening	Shabbat Machar Kodesh
Saturday	May	23	Morning	BAMIDBAR
			Torah Reading	Numbers 1:1 - 1:54
			Haftorah	I Samuel 20:18 - 42
Thursday	May	28	Evening	EREV SHAVUOT
Friday	May	29	Morning	1ST DAY SHAVUOT
			Torah Reading	Exodus 19:1 - 20:23
			Maftir	Numbers 28:26 - 31
			Evening	
Saturday	May	30	Morning	2ND DAY SHAVUOT
			Torah Reading	Deuteronomy 14:22 - 16:17
			Maftir	Numbers 28:26 - 31
			Haftorah	Habuakuk 3:1 - 19

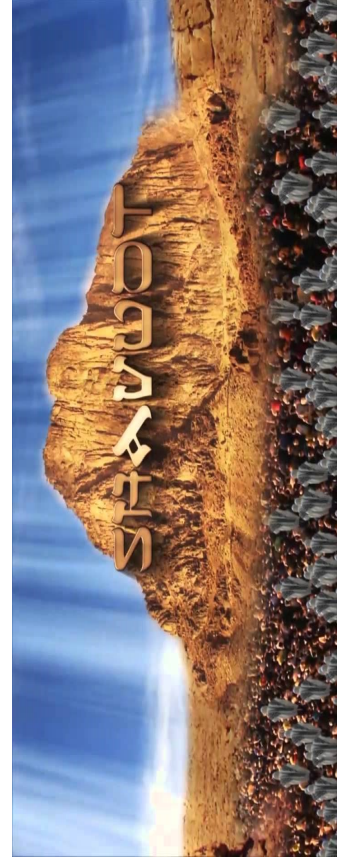


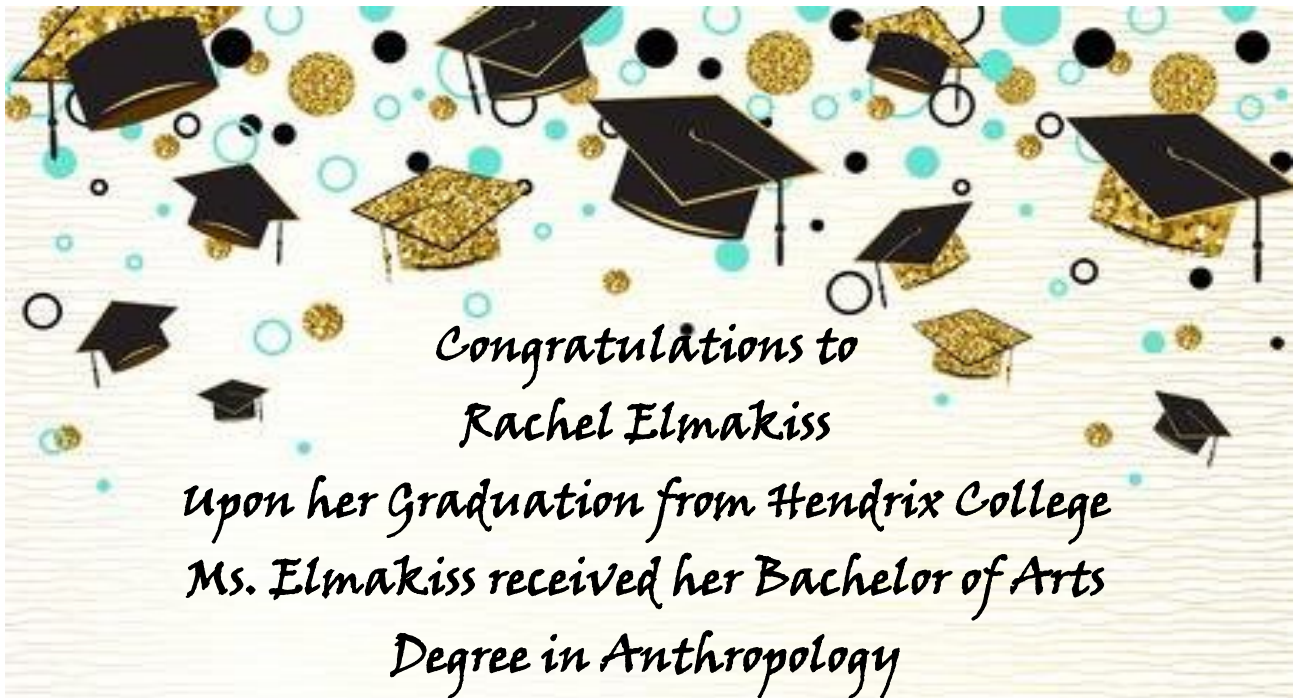
BULLETIN DEADLINE:
MAY 18
 for
Bulletin
 Submit articles to:
caasecretary@suddenlinkmail.com
 Thank you !

MAY BOARD MEETING
 Will be held but date and location is to be determined.
 If you have an item for the agenda, please call or e-mail
Ruth Elmakiss or Tim Birmingham

MAY

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 ii7:47PM	2 PARSHA: ACHREI MOT-KEDOSHIM \$8:51PM
3	9 Iyar/24 L'Omer	10 Iyar/25 L'Omer	11 Iyar/26 L'Omer	12 Iyar/27 L'Omer	13 Iyar/28 L'Omer	14 Iyar/29 L'Omer	15 Iyar/30 L'Omer
10	16 Iyar/31 L'Omer	17 Iyar/32 L'Omer	18 Iyar/33 L'Omer	19 Iyar/34 L'Omer	20 Iyar/35 L'Omer	21 Iyar/36 L'Omer	22 Iyar/37 L'Omer
17						22 Yom Yerushalayim \$9:05PM/ii8:02PM	23 PARSHA: BAMIDBAR \$9:06PM
24	23 Iyar/38 L'Omer	24 Iyar/39 L'Omer	25 Iyar/40 L'Omer	26 Iyar/41 L'Omer	27 Iyar/42 L'Omer	28 Iyar/43 L'Omer	29 Iyar/44 L'Omer
						29 Shavuot \$9:09PM/ii8:06PM	30 Shavuot II (Yizkor) PARSHA: 2ND DAY SHAVUOT \$9:10PM
31	1 Sivan/45 L'Omer	2 Sivan/46 L'Omer	3 Sivan/47 L'Omer	4 Sivan/48 L'Omer	5 Sivan/49 L'Omer	6 Sivan	7 Sivan
	8 Sivan						





*Congratulations to
Rachel Elmakiss*

*Upon her Graduation from Hendrix College
Ms. Elmakiss received her Bachelor of Arts
Degree in Anthropology*

**Mazel
Tov!**

**Samantha and Seth Clark are proud new parents
of a beautiful baby girl.**

**Lilybeth Michaela Clark was born 4:33 p.m.
Wednesday April 15th.
Weighing 7 lbs 7 oz.**

Samantha said she is "perfect and healthy."

Congratulations to the growing Clark Family!

BLUEBERRY BLINTZES

For the blintzes:

3 eggs
1 cup milk
½ cup water
1 cup all-purpose flour
unsalted butter, for frying
sour cream, for serving

For the blueberry filling:

2 pints blueberries
½ Tbsp. all-purpose flour
1-2 Tbsp. granulated sugar
2 tsp. lemon zest
lemon juice (about 1 tsp.)



Blitz all the blintz ingredients in a blender (consistency of the batter should be smooth with no lumps).

Heat a nonstick skillet on medium heat until hot, and lightly grease with butter.

Pour about 1/8 cup (or 2 Tbsp.) batter into the pan and tilt the pan in a circular motion until the batter coats the entire bottom of the pan in a large, thin circular shape.

Cook 60-75 seconds until the edges of the blintz are brown and the bottom is lightly golden. (You can tell it's ready by touching the center of the pancake's surface — it should be dry and slightly tacky to the touch.) Do not flip the blintz to cook the other side.

Place the blintz on a plate lined with parchment or wax paper. Repeat the process until all batter is cooked — this should yield around 18 blintzes. (Keep the blintzes separated by pieces of parchment paper, wax paper, or paper towel. This will help keep them from sticking together.)

Combine all ingredients for the blueberry filling.

To wrap blintzes, place 1 Tbsp. blueberry filling just off center.

Fold the top down and the sides up over the filling, then roll down to the bottom (because the blueberries are lumpy, go slow and try and to stretch the dough over them without tearing it).

You can either serve the blintzes at this point or freeze them for later use. When you're ready to eat them, fry them on all sides in butter in a nonstick pan until golden. Serve with sour cream.

** Yes, you can substitute other seasonal berries or fruit!

Sisterhood members are hoping to be able to gather soon to get back in the kitchen, to plan for future events, and to just spend time together.

The officers concurred to postpone our meeting scheduled for May 4th into June, looking at June 14th.



TODAH RABAH



Brunches scheduled and paid for the month of May will be rescheduled as soon as services resume. Leanne will be in contact with sponsors to chose new dates to reschedule the brunches. Thank you for your support of our brunches!

May Celebrations
Anniversaries

3 Kesleigh & William Terry
5 Debbie & Steve Roosth
16 Dee & Chuck Wapner
22 Debbie & Dr. Jon Markowitz
27 Mona & Dr. Steve Karten
30 Joanne & Dr. Arthur Frank



May Celebrations **Birthdays**

- 2 Robert (Bob) T. Yates
Carly Maia Karten
- 5 Adira Liat Clark
Fred Schumer
Caryn Jill Green
- 10 Dr. Joseph Roosth
Elaina Rey
Ellen Roosth
Hannah Diane Roosth
Elinor Roosth
- 11 Lev Stenigart
- 14 Toni Roosth
- 15 Sara Tobes
Sam Learner
- 17 Adrienne Taxon Indianer
- 18 Vivian Schumer
- 19 Ellen Learner
Gabriel Moyal
- 23 Mona Green Karten
- 27 Gamaliel Escamilla-Perez
- 30 Sam Roosth

CONGREGATION AHAVATH ACHIM DONATION FORM - Thank You For Your Donation!!!!!!

Please use this form to make your donations and send to:
Congregation Ahavath Achim 3501 South Donnybrook, Tyler, TX 75701

Thank you for printing!!!

Attached is my check in the amount of \$ _____

.....
This donation is being made:
IN HONOR / MEMORY / OTHER OF: _____

Send acknowledgment to:
Name _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

.....
IN HONOR / MEMORY / OTHER OF: _____

Send acknowledgment to:
Name _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

.....
This donation is made by:
Name _____
Address _____

INDICATE THE FUND OF YOUR CHOICE BELOW AND IN THE MEMO AREA OF YOUR CHECK. MINIMUM DONATION \$5 PER REMEMBRANCE.

- Breakfast Fund
- Maintenance Fund
- Hebrew School Fund
- Adult Education Fund
- Safety Fund
- General Fund
- Rabbinic Fund
- Book Fund

THE FUNDS BELOW REQUIRE A SEPARATE CHECK

- Sylvan Mellinger Maintenance Fund
- Rabbi Discretionary Fund
- Sisterhood Flower Fund - **CAA SISTERHOOD**
- Cemetery Fund - **CAA CEMETERY**

Yahrzeits

MAY 1 - MAY 7

- 1 Otto Hellfer
Eva Offricht
5 Max Chodorow
Sarah Golenternek
6 Celia Roosth
Joe Roth
7 Fannie Greenwald

MAY 8 - MAY 14

- 8 Charles Greenwald
9 Dr. Hyman P. Roosth
10 Goodman M. Irving
Abraham Offricht
11 William Kelfer
Rebecca Tuck
12 Simcha Bigus
Leibel Bigus
Moshe Bigus
Chanah Bigus
Malkah Bigus
Aaron Bigus
Avram Bigus
Ester Bigus
David Bigus
Yaakov Mordechai Bigus
Pinchas Bigus
Rae Forman
Ruth Mastbaum
Haim Mastbaum
Nathan Mastbaum
Aaron Mastbaum
Hillary Mastbaum
Jacob Mastbaum

MAY 15 - MAY 21

- 19 Michael Schumer
20 Rosa Krumholtz
21 Paul Forchheimer
Louis Glasser

MAY 22 - MAY 28

- 23 Jacob Fridkin
Mollie Sherman
Bessie Spero
24 David Gross
25 Thelma Sobel
26 Sam Gross
27 Sadie (Babe) Weintraub
Tanchum Meir Roosth
Myer Kline

MAY 29 - JUNE 4

- 29 Florence Strum
30 Isadore Mellinger
31 Freida Schumer
1 Henry Berry
Doris Ginsberg Diamond
3 Sadie Wapner
4 George Vainer
Isaac Benedict Heffler

JUNE 5 - JUNE 11

- 5 Feiga Ginsberg
Israel Sutton
8 Louis Sherman
9 James Harold Hill
10 Harry P. Goldberg
11 Samuel Cohn

JUNE 12 - JUNE 18

- 13 Rose Rudman
14 Dorothy Cohen Smith
16 Etta Golenternek Gross
Thomas Werbner
17 Robert Muntz
Sam Sable
Bill Werbner
18 Sol Ginsberg

JUNE 19 - JUNE 25

- 19 Eugenia Levite
22 Herman Jay Shafts
24 Frances Fridkin
25 Fannie Mosier

JUNE 26 - JULY 2

- 26 Nora Modisett
1 Arnette Sutton
2 Bella Rosenberg
Berma Dean Levine

JULY 3 - JULY 9

- 3 Ida Kessler
4 Harold Samuel Sulsky
Rabbi Kalman B. Taxon
Sylvia Wolf
7 Nathan Harold Roosth
8 Bernard Krasner

JULY 10 - JULY 16

- 11 Rachel Krasner
12 Tillie Falk
Sandra Greenberg Sharpe
14 Abe Laves
Rena Tobes
15 David Edward Berlin
Rose Kapner
Bessie Luskey Krasner

JULY 17 - JULY 23

- 19 Rose Greenwald
Ester Levine
Rhonda Jackson
20 David Abramsky
21 Marvin Miller
Isadore Roosth
22 Harry Block
Lillian Roberts

JULY 24 - JULY 30

- 24 Merrill Cason
25 Morris Rosenberg
Marvin Waghalter
27 Aleck S. Geneco
30 David Levy
Sam M. Cohen
Rebecca Lulky



May Their Memory Be For A Blessing

Congregation Ahavath Achim
3501 S, Donnybrook Ave.
Tyler, TX 75701

(903) 561-4284
(903) 561-5040 FAX
rabbialan@suddenlinkmail.com
caasecretary@suddenlinkmail.com
caatylertx.org

If you are moving or changing an email address
Please let us know so we can stay in touch!

Call (903) 561-4284, email:

caasecretary @ suddenlinkmail.com

Or write to: CAA 3501 S. Donnybrook Ave.
Tyler, TX 75701

OFFICE HOURS
FOR SECRETARY
MONDAY-FRIDAY
10:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
FOR RABBI LEARNER
TUESDAY- THURSDAY
4:15 -7:15 P.M.
PLEASE CALL FIRST!

.....
• **Congregation Ahavath Achim**
• will not permit the open carry of
• firearms on synagogue property.
• This includes the Synagogue
• building, grounds, and ceme-
• tery. Pursuant to Section 30.07,
• Penal Code (trespass by license
• holder with an openly carried
• handgun), a person licensed un-
• der Subchapter H, Chapter 411,
• Government Code (handgun li-
• censing law), may not enter the
• property with a handgun that is
• carried openly.
•
•

Remember A Loved One

Memorial Plaque Order Form

Honor your departed loved ones with a fitting remembrance.

ORDERED BY:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

FOR:

English Name of Loved One _____

Hebrew Name _____

Date of Death _____

Hebrew Date of Death _____

Plaques - \$250 each

Make checks payable to Congregation Ahavath Achim
and send to 3501 South Donnybrook, Tyler, Texas
75701. If you need help with any part of this order
form, contact the synagogue at:
903-561-4284 or rabbialan@suddenlinkmail.com

SISTERHOOD FLOWER FUND

Interested in ordering flowers for the Bimah?
Contact Charlene Goodman 903-894-7488
After you order, send your check, made out to:
Congregation Ahavath Achim Sisterhood to
The Synagogue

OUR TREE OF LIFE - A SISTERHOOD FUNDRAISER

Upon entering the synagogue, one is welcomed by a beautiful, wooden tree, with golden leaves. This tree is our Tree Of Life and is a way to honor, thank, congratulate, show love, and/or appreciation for a living person in your life. Let's fill our Tree of Life with lots of joy and happiness.

To help you with your wording, please look at the leaves currently on the tree. You will notice that the fewer words, the better, as the letters are larger and can be seen more clearly. We encourage you to follow this formula when you plan the wording for your leaf. If there are too many words, you will be asked to revise the wording and I will give you suggestions for changes. Remember.....simple is better!!

Each leaf is \$100.00 and should take about 3 weeks from order, to receipt, to placement on the tree. You may choose the placement of your leaf. Please consider these things when you are placing an order. If you are interested in a leaf, please contact Leanne the secretary and I will be more than happy to help you!

Thank you, Leanne