

Congregation Ahavath Achim

FOUNDED 1898

An Affiliate Of

The United Synagogue Of Conservative Judaism



17 TEVET - 18 SHEVAT 5781

3501 SOUTH DONNYBROOK, TYLER, TEXAS 75701

JANUARY 2021

From the Desk of the Rabbi **What is Power?**

As we transition from one administration to the next in our current election year, my thoughts turn to the concept of the transition of power that takes place in January following a presidential election year. This led me recently to pose the definition of power to my congregation during my Drash on Shabbas Mikeitz. When asked of my congregation, I received a few “definitions” of what “power” means. Some of the answers were as follows:

- Influencing control over others.
- Strength and might on a physical scale.
- Spiritual strength.
- Knowledge.

When you “Google” the definition of “power”, these are the various “definitions” that are offered: The ability to do something or act in a particular way; the power of speech for example. The power of propaganda as another example. The capacity of ability to direct or influence the behavior of others; exerting control, authority, dominance or mastery over others.

- Physical strength and force as exerted by something or someone.
- Energy that is produced by mechanical, electrical or other means used to operate a device.
- Physics; the time-rate of doing work as it is measured; in watts or horsepower.
- Mathematics; in the sense of multiplication of certain numbers by themselves.

While these are all valid definitions of the word “power”, there is one definition that is not found directly as these others offered above. That definition is “freedom”. Freedom is power. Without freedom, you do not have the power or ability to make decisions that will alter and shape your destiny. Without freedom, you are not in control of anything. Understand, freedom does not give you the right to act immorally. Freedom does not give you the right to act unethically. Freedom does not give you the right to act unrighteous. Freedom does not give you the right to trample the freedoms of others.

The story of Joseph in the Torah is a lesson on what happens to a nation that surrenders its freedoms to the government for the sake of survival. Joseph’s measures enacted during the famine, a time of national crisis, clearly teaches us that while a socialistic society during a time of national emergency may be necessary, it should be temporary. It cannot remain permanent when the crisis or emergency is over.

The Egyptian people in their desperation gave all they had to the government in exchange for food. The famine had devastated the land, destroyed the economy, and placed the majority of the population unemployed with no hope of relief for 7 years. Only the conservative measures enacted by Joseph offered any hope of saving Egypt. However, it came at a terrible price; that price being the forfeit of their freedom.

They became serfs to Pharaoh. Their wealth, their cattle, and their land became the property of the government. The people relied on the government to sustain them. While this may have been a life saving measure in the short term, we see later on in Parsha Shemot, the political climate changed. A new king (government) rose that quote: “did not know Joseph”. They looked to a people in their midst (The Hebrew nation) to blame all their problems on and galvanized an entire nation to justify enslaving the descendants of the very people who had saved the nation just two generations before.

RABBIS MESSAGE CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

President's Message

Good Morning, Congregants and Friends:

We are about to enter the diasporic year 2021, leaving behind the tumultuous year of 2020. Undoubtedly, the entire world will remember 2020 as one of the most infamous years on record for change, wanted and unwanted. We have endured and there are many reasons to be hopeful as we move forward, more aware and engaged than at any time in American and world history.

Only time will tell.

Yet, as the history of the Jewish people and the world attests, good things come for those who endure, putting their shoulders to the task with hearts full of faith, compassion, strength and perseverance. This year, it is my sincere prayer that we will see our synagogue regain strength and support as we are on the cusp of controlling Covid-19, while rebuilding communities, businesses and the hopes and dreams of our daily lives.

On that hopeful note, we are blessed as we reopen the synagogue to services, we are building new resources and planning to the future.

Some highlights of planning as we move into 2021 include:

>> We have found during services, we still have adequate room for more attendees, while functioning within the boundaries of our safety policy. We are open, if you are comfortable attending. We understand schedules are very hectic right now, so you do not need to make a reservation to attend. Please feel welcome to come to services this Saturday, even if you find you are only available at the last minute.

>> Covid-19 is more prevalent than at any time during the pandemic. It is important for precautions to remain in place, as defined in the revised safety policy poster attached to this bulletin for your convenience.

>> We understand and support that your health must be a priority during these challenging times. Obviously, in-person attendance is a voluntary option. While we want to see you and you are welcome, we strongly recommend that you weigh your risks carefully before attending, especially if you are in a high-risk group for Covid-19 complications. CAA requires safety precautions within the building, as reflected in the attached policy. However, CAA cannot assure and is not responsible for the health conditions of those who choose to attend.

>> If you are unable to attend in-person services safely, then we encourage you to use our other option, to begin or to continue attending virtual services on-line via our on-line YouTube channel. The following link opens the channel where you can view services every Saturday beginning at 9:00 a.m., or later you can view the archives of all services at your convenience:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCapnlzuDDx1N6dKn7o2LppQ>

>> In January, I will be introducing a twice-monthly email that contains key Jewish resource links and specific program updates for your convenience. Stay tuned for emails !

In closing, we sincerely appreciate all of our congregants and we are very excited to open our doors wider, extending our services to more congregants and other interested friends. Over the coming months, we hope to welcome new Jewish members, to reacquaint with our Jewish congregants who have not attended in recent months, and to meet new friends and supporters.

Best regards, to all, for a wonderful 2021. Tim Birmingham, CAA President 2020

Imagine what would have happen if after the famine, the land reverted back to their original owners? After all, according to our Sages, the land started coming back to life when Jacob and his family came down to Egypt. The seven years of famine were never fully fulfilled. When you really think about it, didn't the Egyptian people give a portion of their grain during the 7 years of plenty to Joseph for the purpose of sustaining the people during the 7 years of famine? Wouldn't that be the equivalent of "taxes"? If so, why were the Egyptian people "taxed" to the point of surrendering their wealth and freedom?

According to the Midrash (Sefer HaYashar), Joseph had instructed the people how to store their grain properly to prepare for the famine. In addition to the grain they were required to give to Joseph, they also built their own store houses for grain storage. However, they did not follow Joseph's instructions exactly in the building of these store houses and when the famine hit Egypt; they found all their grain spoiled, full of worms and unfit to eat.

Why they did not follow Joseph's instructions to the letter is subject for speculation. However, the xenophobic nature of the Egyptians could have easily played a part in their failure to store their grain properly. Joseph was a Hebrew and not one of them. Perhaps in their arrogance, they decided that they did not need to listen to Joseph and thought they knew better than this outsider who was set over them to rule and govern the country during the years of plenty. Regardless of the reason, the results were catastrophic nationwide.

It is at this point in the narrative that they go to Pharaoh and petition him (the government) for help. Pharaoh directs them to Joseph and as the Biblical narrative states; the rest is history. They sell everything, including their freedom for food to survive. By the third year of the famine, the government owns the wealth, the cattle, the land, and the people. Initially, the people are grateful. That gratitude does not last and it is easy to see how resentment built up in the Egyptian people over the following years.

As our country and our world continue to struggle with COVID-19, the American people and the rest of the world like Egypt in many ways are looking for relief and a cure to what has become a serious national/world crisis. Although not quite as devastating as a famine, we have seen food shortages, and basic staples which from time to time have been scarce leading people to panic, to hoard, and to not display the better side of their humanity. Our government may be trying to help the general population with the stimulus packages currently being passed but special interest groups and personal political agendas have and are still getting in the way of seriously helping the tax paying citizens of this country who are faced with losing their homes and apartments.

Don't be afraid to write to your Representatives and Senators about this and other issues. Government is supposed to represent and work for us! It is supposed to serve us! Not the other way around. Let us hope and pray that we will not have to sacrifice our freedoms to get through this current national and world crisis. History has taught us that the sacrifice of our freedom is a price that no one should have to pay and that no government has the right to demand.

May Hashem guide humanity to a complete healing for all those who are struggling in this current crisis. May it be speedily in our time.

With Torah Blessings,
Rabbi

JANUARY Bimah Schedule

- 2 Steve Roosth
- 9 Christie Osburn
- 16 Sean Hammel
- 23 Tim Birmingham
- 30 Dr. Michael Tobes

Remember, if you can't be on the Bimah when scheduled, you need to find a replacement.

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

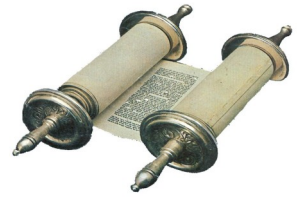
JANUARY BOARD MEETING

**Sunday, JANUARY 10, 2021
9:00 a.m. at the Synagogue**

**If you have an item for the agenda,
please call or e-mail
Tim Birmingham or
Dr. Michael Tobes**



shabbat shalom

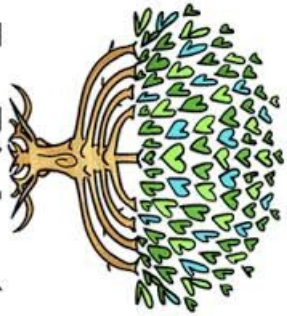


JANUARY SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Triennial Readings/Holiday Readings

Saturday	January	2	Morning Service	VAYECHI	9:00 A.M.
			Torah Reading	Genesis 49:1 - 49:26	
			Haftorah	I Kings 2:1 - 12	
Saturday	January	8	Morning Service	SHEMOT Birchat HaChodesh	9:00 A.M.
			Torah Reading	Exodus 3:1 - 4:17	
			Haftorah	Jeremiah 27:6 - 28:13; 29:22 - 23	
Saturday	January	15	Morning Service	VAERA	9:00 A.M.
			Torah Reading	Exodus 7:8 - 8:15	
			Haftorah	Ezekiel 28:25 - 29:21	
Saturday	January	23	Morning Service	BO	9:00 A.M.
			Torah Reading	Exodus 11:4 - 12:28	
			Haftorah	Jeremiah 46:13 - 28	
Saturday	January	30	Morning Service	BESHALACH	9:00 A.M.
			Torah Reading	Exodus 14:15 - 16:10	
			Haftorah	Judges 4:4 - 5:31	





Tu Bishvat

JANUARY

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1 !!:5:12PM	2 Service: 9:00 a.m. Parsha: VAYECHI Bimah: Steve Roosth	\$6:15PM
3	4	5	6	7	8	17 Tevet	18 Tevet	
19 Tevet	20 Tevet	21 Tevet	22 Tevet	23 Tevet	24 Tevet	!!:5:17PM	25 Tevet	\$6:21PM
10 CAA Board of Trustees Meeting 9:00 a.m.	11	12	13	14 Rosh Hodesh	15	!!:5:23PM	16 Service: 9:00 a.m. Parsha: VAERA Bimah: Sean Hammel	\$6:27PM
26 Tevet	27 Tevet	28 Tevet	29 Tevet	1 Shevat	2 Shevat	!!:5:30PM	3 Shevat	\$6:34PM
17	18	19	20	21	22	!!:5:36PM	23 Service: 9:00 a.m. Parsha: BO Bimah: Tim Birmingham	\$6:40PM
4 Shevat	5 Shevat	6 Shevat	7 Shevat	8 Shevat	9 Shevat	!!:5:36PM	10 Shevat	
24	25	26	27	28 Tu B'Shevat	29	!!:5:36PM	30 Service: 9:00 a.m. Parsha: BESHALACH Bimah: Dr. Michael Tobes	\$6:40PM
11 Shevat	12 Shevat	13 Shevat	14 Shevat	15 Shevat	16 Shevat		17 Shevat	
31								
18 Shevat								

**NO TORAH STUDY
AFTER SERVICES**

Hello, Book Club Enthusiasts,

Who would have known when we began our book club, we would be faced with a global pandemic, lock-downs and remote virtual computer meetings.

While we have had to put our book club on hold for a while I am happy to be able to share some news.

Mercaz Reads Israel is a virtual book club in connection with Israel Forever (israelforever.org) and Mercaz USA (mercaz.org). This book club is online with a discussion on a selected book with people around the world. Please visit the listed website for more information.

The reading list with tentative dates for book club meetings for 2021 is as follows:

January 24 The Huntress by Kate Quinn

March 7 Adon Olam by Rabbi Zalman Weiss

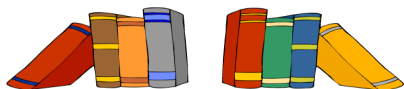
May 2 Maybe You Should Talk to Someone by Lori Gottlieb

July 11 Mother of Kings by Rabbi Eliezer Ginsburg

November 7 An Army at Dawn by Rick Atkinson

It is my hope that we can meet in person, or if not, virtually through a computer format. Please contact me if you plan to attend the meetings, or if you need an invitation to a virtual meeting.

Christie Osburn



GENERAL FUND

Charlene Goodman In Memory of Evelyn Muntz
Charlene Goodman in Memory of Michelle Sobel
Charlene Goodman in Memory of Sean Benson

January Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Nathaniel Tov Walls
- 11 Elsie M. Beaver
Faith Elizabeth Melamed
- 13 Christie Osburn
- 23 Victoria Hammel
- 24 Susan Israel Cason-Parks
- 27 Ann Roosth Melamed
- 30 Marleen Roosth Swerdlow
- 31 Shannon Hammel
John Zimmerman

Anniversaries

- 4 Tim & Fran Birmingham
- 12 Robert & LeeAnn Yates
- 21 Dr. Larry & Jan Rosenfield
- 27 Seth & Samantha Clark

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

- 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

JANUARY 1 - JANUARY 7

- 1 David Mayerson
- 2 Sherry Lynn Roosth
Charlie Cohen
- 3 Carl Green
- 4 Celia Levine
Oscar Mastbaum
- 5 Rose Frankel
Joe Golenternek
- 6 Mindel Katz
Mickey Memelstein
Max Rubin
- 7 Max Antonoff
Mildred Sable

JANUARY 8 - JANUARY 14

- 8 William Beleck
Rose Carst Mirsky
Sam Roosth
- 9 Max Mellinger
- 10 Monroe Mirsky
Elizabeth Levy Sherman
Eugene (Sandy) Katz
- 11 Murray Kravitz
- 12 Rose Carter
Sarah Hertzfeld
Morris Leaman
Joe Levy
Jesseo Tubat
Louis Sobel
- 14 Mollie Acenberg

JANUARY 15 - JANUARY 21

- 16 Winifred Heringhi
Milton Joel Kapner
- 17 Dr. Dan Golenternek
Aaron Joseph Levy
Harris Zuckerman
- 18 Frayde Mastbaum
Minnie Beatrice Waghalter
- 21 Robert Beaver
Ellinore S. Learner

JANUARY 22 - JANUARY 28

- 22 Dorothy E. (Leon) Jacobs
- 23 Morris Sherman
- 24 Emmanuel (Manny) Smith
Samuel Genecov
- 25 Joseph Aranow
Manuel (Manny Smith)
Marlene Mandell
Rebecca Miller
- 26 Jennie Haltzman
- 27 Mollie Mirsky
Ike Rudman

JANUARY 22 - JANUARY 28 CONT..

- 27 Sidney C. Kahn
Minnie Kahn
Selma Kahn
- 28 Frances Soltes Sobel

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4

- 29 Rose Beaver
- 31 Isaac Block
Raymond Kahn
Jane Pearl Suarez
Sidney M. Wolf
- 1 Ida Kurtz
- 2 Barnett Wolf
- 3 Eva Levy
Sam Krasner
Sarah Kline
Sol Katz
Jeanette Levy Lemson

FEBRUARY 5 - FEBRUARY 11

- 5 Fannie Abramsky
Millie Heffler
Mike Levine
- 6 Morris Engle
- 7 Sarah Lee Lulky
Minnie Nathan
- 8 Israel Katz
Laura W. Muntz
- 9 Harry Freedman
Sam Vogel

FEBRUARY 12 - FEBRUARY 18

- 12 Mayer Lulky
- 14 Leo Frank
Sara Krumholtz
- 15 Ernestine Berlin
- 16 Boris Shtenshleifer
- 17 Melvin Rubin
Frances Vogel
Mary R. Golenternek
Richard Hale Jeffers
Freda Serkes
- 18 Hattie Freeman
Dr. Harold Roosth
Celia Goldstucker

FEBRUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 23

- 19 Harry Mermelstein
- 20 Rabbi Morris Nathan Taxon
Alexander Golenternek
Miriam Seiderman
- 21 Mary Cohen Golenternek
- 22 Jake Roosth
- 23 Morris Jarett
- 24 Ida Goldberg
- 25 Abraham Eisen
Isadore Golenternek

FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 4

- 27 Ruby Hayman Kahn
Helen Levy
- 28 Marcus Leon Strum
Helen Nathan Caro
- 2 Dr. Wiley Roosth
Mynette Rochelle Goldberg
Sol Smith
Nate Ginsberg
Bert Jacobs
- 3 Grace Luskey Laves
- 4 Jean Katz

MARCH 5 - MARCH 11

- 6 Annie Rabinowitz Edelman
Hannah Ruth Frank
- 7 Fred Davidoff
Jake Lusky
- 8 Edna Greenberg
Jack L. Berry
- 9 Hannah Jarett
Nelson Kendall Jeffers
Hortense Cohn Israel
Anna Leaman
Charles Rosenthal
- 10 Hannah Florence (Flo) Berkman
Annie Levine
- 11 Sylvia Gaylin

MARCH 12 - MARCH 18

- 12 Isadore Sulsky
- 17 Rosa Lee Roosth Mellinger
Eva Zuckerman
Maurine Muntz
- 18 Sidney Manuel Kahn
Mike Cohen

MARCH 19 - MARCH 25

- 19 Thomas Dula
Louis Schafts
- 20 Ida Hannah Lazarus
Jacob Meyer
- 21 Beatrice Goldfeder
Bennie Roosth
Bob Benjamin Taylor
- 23 Jerry Lee Jeffers
- 24 Manuel Zimmerman
Sarah Zuckerman
- 25 Pearl Krumholtz

MARCH 26 - APRIL 1

- 30 Sam Levine
- 31 Clara Levine





**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE for YOUR PERSONAL HEALTH
CAREFULLY WEIGH RISKS BEFORE CHOOSING TO ATTEND SERVICES IN-PERSON**

- Do not plan to attend services in-person if:
 - You currently have COVID-19
 - You know you have been exposed to COVID-19 within the last 14 days
 - You have fever or have had fever within the last 14 days
 - You have health conditions that put you at increased risk for COVID-19 infection/complications
 - You are unwilling, as a matter of personal choice, to wear a face mask or face shield in the building
- All persons ten years of age and older are required to wear a mask at all times when in the synagogue. Wearing a face shield that wraps around the sides of the wearer's face and extends below the chin is acceptable for those persons who have personal medical or physical difficulties that prevent them from safely wearing a mask. However, either a mask or a shield is required at all times in all locations, including the sanctuary, all hallways, and other rooms within the synagogue building. Our services are on-line for those who cannot wear either.
- To reduce droplet spray effectively – sneeze/cough into your elbow, even when wearing a mask.
- Check your temperature at home just before you come to the synagogue to assure it is within the normal range.
- Use hand sanitizer immediately when you enter the synagogue.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Maintain at least six feet between you and other congregants.
- Family members may sit in seats beside each other but must socially distance six feet from other individuals.
- Seating arrangements require one empty row between occupied rows.
- Three empty seats are required between individuals and between individuals and family groups.
- Parents are responsible to supervise their children at all times and to assure the children comply with social distancing requirements when around other congregants who are not members of their family.
- The total number of seats and seating arrangements are necessarily limited to approximately 35 adults and their accompanying children due to distancing requirements. So long as we can maintain one row and three seats between family groups and individuals, we will gladly seat additional attendees as they arrive, so please arrive at 9:00 AM for services to assure your seat and to be present to help us make minyan for Torah services.

NOTICE – You are responsible for your own health. The synagogue is not responsible for and cannot assure your health and safety relative to COVID-19 exposure. COVID-19 can be totally without symptoms in some people (asymptomatic). An asymptomatic person carrying active COVID-19 may be completely unaware that they have the virus, which is why everyone is required to wear a mask or face shield when inside the synagogue to protect themselves AND others. Additionally, if you are in a high-risk group or have health issues, we strongly recommend that you weigh your specific risks very carefully before choosing to attend services or other group activities.

CAA Covid-19 Plan Poster [Rev. 2020-10-19; TB]

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 Syna-
- gogue building, grounds, and ceme-
- tery. Pursuant to Section 30.07, Pe-
- nal Code (trespass by license holder
- with an openly carried handgun), a
- person licensed under Subchapter
- H, Chapter 411, Government Code
- (handgun licensing 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