



CONGREGATION  
AGUDAS  
ACHIM *NEWS*



Issue # 142  
Monthly

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Michael Arsers – Rabbi

LaDona Fishkin – Past President

Harry Morgenstern – Religious Vice President

Ed Kach - Treasurer

Dina Lunken - Secretary

**Candle Lighting Times**

**November**

November 5 – 5:32 p.m.

November 12 – 4:25 p.m.

November 19 – 4:19 p.m.

November 26 – 4:15 p.m.



**Candle Lighting Times**

**December**

December 3 – 4:13 p.m.

December 10 – 4:13 p.m.

December 17 – 4:14 p.m.

December 24 – 4:18 p.m.

December 31 – 4:23 p.m.



**November**

Cindy Goldberg

Paul Fishkin

Emily Halperin

Harry Morgenstern

Steve Vogel

Doris Shasha

Jonathan Halperin

Joel Schwartz

Janet Steinberg

Larry Williams



**November**

Donna and Leonard Kaufman

Janet and Lewis Steinberg

**Speedy Recovery to:**

Charlie Steinberg

**Calendar of Events**

**Saturday, November 6**

10:30 a.m. – Service

Parsha: Toldot

**Saturday, November 13**

9:30 a.m. – Service with Rabbi Arsers

Parsha: Vayetzei

**Sunday, November 14**

10 a.m. – Agudas Achim Board meeting

**Saturday, November 20**

10:30 a.m. – Service

Parsha: Vayishlach

**Sunday, November 21**

10 a.m. – Talmud Study via Zoom

Zoom link will be sent via email

**Saturday, November 27**

10:30 a.m. – Service

Parsha: Vayeshev

*The Board of Directors and members  
of Congregation Agudas Achim wish*

*to express their sympathy to*

*The family of Linda Schwabacher*



***From our Rabbi, Michael Arsers***

The Latke -Hamantasch Debate.

In 1946, at the University of Chicago, there was held the first Latke-Hamantasch Debate which has since become a popular custom. The debate is meant to be a humorous event, parodying a kind of Talmudic discussion about which is the more important of these Jewish foods. Clever arguments are brought forward in support of why the symbolism of each food item is of greater significance. Lying behind the argument is also the question of which of these two minor festivals is the more significant.

There are, of course, a number of similarities and differences between Hanukkah and Purim. Both commemorate miracles. Purim – the fact that G-d saved the Jews of Persia from a plot to annihilate them. And Hanukkah – the fact that a single cruse of oil lasted for eight days. This occurred when the Hasmoneans defeated the Hellenized Syrians and rededicated the Temple. Purim has several *mitzvot* associated with it; reading the Megillah, which tells the story of the events which we commemorate; having a festive meal; giving gifts to our friends; and giving portions to the poor. When we read the Megillah, it is customary to make noise and boo every time the name of Haman is mentioned. There is even a noise-making device that became common – a *grager*. Besides the festive meal, which is obligatory, strong drink is partaken of by many. It should be noted that it is Purim, not Hanukkah, that is really the gift giving holiday. It is a *mitzvah* on Purim. Hanukkah only has one *mitzvah* – lighting the menorah.

When we examine the observances of both holidays, it becomes clear that Purim is celebrated by doing physical things. We eat, we drink, we make noise, we give gifts. We read a Megillah which is folded in such a way as to make it appear like the reader is reading a letter. The observance of Hanukkah involves the lighting of a candle. Fire is perhaps the best symbol we have for spirituality. Remember that Moses first encountered G-d at the burning bush. Fire represents spiritual power since we cannot

touch it. It doesn't seem to have any substance. You can practically see through it. However, we can certainly see and feel its effects. We see the light it produces and feel the heat. We know the power of fire. It can destroy. Thousands of square-miles of forest are ravaged every year by fire. We also use fire for creative purposes. It is one of the basic technologies of civilization. Many religions use candles in their rituals precisely because of the unique qualities of fire that make it a powerful symbol of the spiritual aspect of life.

What was the threat on Purim? It was annihilation. Haman meant to kill all the Jews, men, women, and children. What was the threat on Hanukkah? It was, as we read in the siddur, "to make us forget the Torah and to cause us to transgress G-d's laws." During the time of the Hasmoneans, many Jews had been lured by the attractions of Greek culture to abandon Jewish practices. The threat was that we might simply assimilate and become like all the other peoples who had become Hellenized. It makes sense, therefore, that the *mitzvahs* of Purim are physical in nature and the lone *mitzvah* of Hanukkah is spiritual. It sounds trite, but nonetheless is true, the message on Hannukah is "keep the candle burning!"

***Peoria Hebrew Day School News***

The students at PHDS are working hard this year on learning new skills while also having a good time at school. We added a graphic design class for the upper elementary students, and they look forward to their teacher coming every week. The students are so proud of their graphic design work, and the students are excited to design the project every week. The students are currently designing personal business cards for their future business. The younger students may not have a graphic design class, but they do enjoy designing their own play dough creations. The younger students are learning about Africa and the Amazon Rainforest and they are so engaged in their learning. They can't wait until they get to make their own diorama of the Amazon Rainforest.



***Kiddush Fund Donations***

***Honor of Susan Katz for receiving the Woman in Leadership Award***

CHAI+ – Marcy and Michael Kennelly

***Memory of Linda Schwabacher***

Debbie and Harry Morgenstern

2 X CHAI – Jumna and Norman Nathan

2 X CHAI – Stella and Larry Griminger

CHAI – Janet and Lew Steinberg

5 X CHAI+ – Carol and Jeff Secord



***Torah Fund Donations***

***Memory of the yahrzeit of our dear, beloved brother, Charles Feldman***

CHAI – Bari and Steve Blumhof

***Memory of the yahrzeit of my dear, beloved mother, Adele Hester***

2 X CHAI – Phillip Hester

***Memory of the yahrzeit of our dear, beloved grandmother, and great-grandmother, Rose Dennison***

CHAI – Vicki Cooley and family; Mitchell Dennison and family

***Memory of the yahrzeit of our dear, beloved mother, Freda Finkelstein***

Debbie and Lester Liby

***General Fund***

***Memory of the yahrzeit of our dear, beloved parents and grandparents, Joseph and Dora Kleiner***

10 X CHAI – Morris and Sally Kleiner and family

***Anshai Emeth News***

The Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia

***Nov 4<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon on zoom***

Please call Gladys 309.692.4848

for zoom information.



***Freyda Fredman Hospitality Fund***

***Honor of the recovery of Charlene Steinberg***

CHAI – Diane and Ed Kach

***Memory of Linda Schwabacher***

10 X CHAI – Diane and Ed Kach

Judy and Dave Michelson

2 X CHAI – Cindy and Eric Goldberg

CHAI – Doris Shasha

CHAI – Betty Congress

2 X CHAI – Evelyn Harrison and family

2 X CHAI – Jennifer and Ben Dolin

CHAI – Yos Fredman

***Memory of the yahrzeit of my dear, beloved wife, Freyda Fredman***

2 X CHAI – Yos Fredman



***Charity Fund Donations***

***Memor of Alan Finkelstein***

Joan and Tom Halperin

***Memory of Myron Tepper***

Joan and Tom Halperin

***Memory of Linda Schwabacher***

Joan and Tom Halperin

***Mazel Tov To:***

Susan Katz for receiving

The Woman in Leadership Award

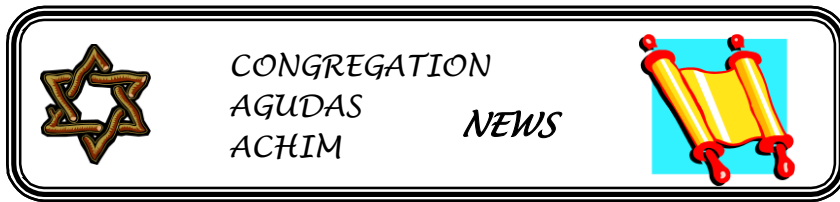
Hanukkah is not mentioned in the Bible, while Purim has an entire book, the Scroll of Esther, which tells its story. Unlike Purim, Hanukkah does not have a tractate devoted to it in the Mishnah or Talmud.

But what does the Talmud say about Hanukkah?

***Join Rabbi Arsers on November 21 at 10:00 on Zoom to find out.***

# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Candles @ 5:32 Rosh Chodesh	6 10:30 am – Service Parsha: Toldot
7 Daylight Savings Time Ends	8	9	10	11	12 Candles @ 4:25	13 9:30 am – Service With Rabbi Arsers Parsha: Vayetzei
14 10 am – AA Board meeting	15	16	17	18	19 Candles @ 4:19	20 10:30 am – Service Parsha: Vayishlach
21 10 am Talmud Study via Zoom	22 Office Closed	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25 Thanksgiving Office Closed	26 Candles @ 4:15 Office Closed	27 10:30 am – Service Parsha: Vayeshev
28 Erev Chanukah	29 Chanukkah	30 Chanukkah	1 Chanukkah	2 Chanukkah	3 Candles @ 4:13 Chanukkah	4 10:30 am – Service Parsha: Miketz Rosh Chodesh Chanukkah



5614 North University Street

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