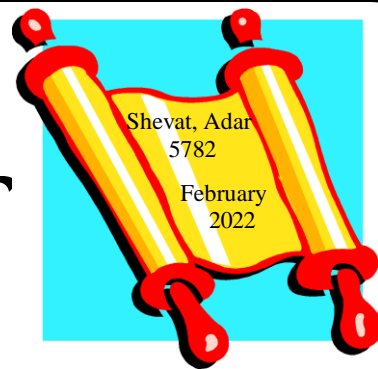




CONGREGATION
AGUDAS
ACHIM *NEWS*



Issue # 145
Monthly

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LaDona Fishkin – Past President

Harry Morgenstern – Religious Vice President

Ed Kach - Treasurer

Dina Lunken - Secretary

Candle Lighting Times

February

February 4 – 5:00 p.m.

February 11 – 5:09 p.m.

February 18 – 5:17 p.m.

February 25 – 5:25 p.m.



Candle Lighting Times

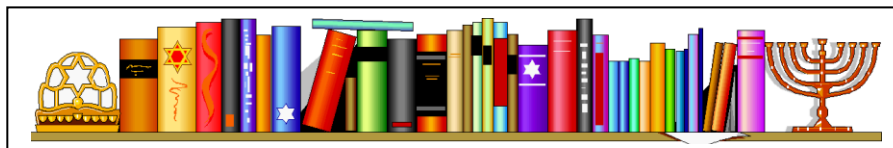
March

March 4 – 5:33 p.m.

March 11 – 5:41 p.m.

March 18 – 6:48 p.m.

March 25 – 6:56 p.m.



February

Iris Decker
Diane Kach
Charlene Steinberg
Ira Pritzker



February

Marie and Bruce Schindles
Charlene and Charles Steinberg

Calendar of Events

Saturday, February 5

9:30 a.m. – Service
Parsha: Terumah

Saturday, February 12

9:30 a.m. – Service
Parsha: Tetzaveh

Sunday, February 13 and 27

10 a.m. – Talmud Study via Zoom
Zoom link will be sent via email

Saturday, February 19

9:30 a.m. – Service
Parsha: Ki Tisa

Sunday, February 20

9:30 a.m. – Agudas Achim
Board meeting

Saturday, February 26

9:30 a.m. – Service
Parsha: Vayakhel

Let's Study Talmud

Join Rabbi Arsers for an in-depth study of the Shemoneh Esre – the Prayer at the center of the Jewish liturgy. We are reading and discussing sections from the Talmud that gives insights into its history and its meaning.

The sessions will be on ZOOM on January 30, February 13, and 27.

All sessions are at 10:00 AM.

It will be helpful to have a siddur available to refer to for all of these sessions.

From our Rabbi, Michael Arsers

The Torah portion that contains the Decalogue, the giving of the Torah, the agreement of the Israelites to abide by the covenant with G-d that obligates us to observe the mitzvot, that Torah portion is called Yitro (Jethro). Who was Yitro? He was the father-in-law of Moses, a priest of Midian, and, obviously, a non-Jew. Why would this all-important portion of the Torah be named for Yitro?

The Torah was given on a mountain in the middle of the Sinai Peninsula somewhere between Egypt and the Land of Israel. It was not the highest mountain, nor the lowest. It was not distinguished by any particular feature. We really do not know the location of this site where the Torah was revealed. The location where there is a Christian monastery in the Sinai which some claim to be Mount Sinai is uncertain at best. And wherever the actual Mount Sinai is, one thing is for sure – it is not located in any identifiable country. Why was the Torah given in the middle of nowhere?

So, now we can combine these two questions. The Torah was given in a non-descript place and the Torah portion that contains the narrative of the revelation bears the name of a non-Jew. What is the meaning?

I believe that the Torah was given for the benefit of all humankind. Its message is for all people, all times, and all places. The Jewish People play a special role. Having entered into the covenant with the G-d who created the world, we are to be a model. As the prophet Isaiah says, “A light to the nations.” The purpose of the Jewish People receiving the Torah was so that we could create a society that would be an exemplar of justice and righteousness. Other nations should look at the example of the Jews and see a model worthy of following. Moses states this objective quite explicitly to the people: “See, I have imparted to you laws and rules as the Lord my G-d has commanded me, for you to abide by in the land which you are about to occupy. Observe them faithfully, for that will be proof of your wisdom and discernment to other peoples, who on hearing of all these laws, will say, ‘Surely that great nation is a wise and discerning people.’” (Deut. 4:5-6)

Yitro, according to the Talmud, after hearing of all that had happened to the Jewish People in Egypt and that G-d had taken them out from there, converted to Judaism. This explains

why this *parsha* was called Yitro. It holds open the possibility for anyone who chooses to attach themselves to the Jewish People and enter into the covenant.

The best-known convert in the Bible is Ruth. A Moabite woman who made a decision to join herself to the People of Israel and commit herself to Judaism. She is the great-grandmother of King David. The Messiah will be her direct descendant.

Too often, Judaism is described as a particularistic faith that is inaccessible to anyone not already within the fold. The Jewish People are portrayed as a closed group, only looking inward. Many Jewish laws do have the express purpose of maintaining a separation between Jews and non-Jews. One might explain that this is one of the reasons for the dietary laws. But what is the purpose of this separation except to ensure Jewish continuity. Jews cannot serve as a model if we cease to exist.

The fundamental ideas of Judaism stand as the building blocks for a better world. The sanctity of each individual human life, the responsibility to care for the weak and the defenseless, the potential of every human being to achieve a higher, more worthy life – these ideas have been the foundation for much progress in human history and they will continue to be the inspiration for the betterment of humanity.



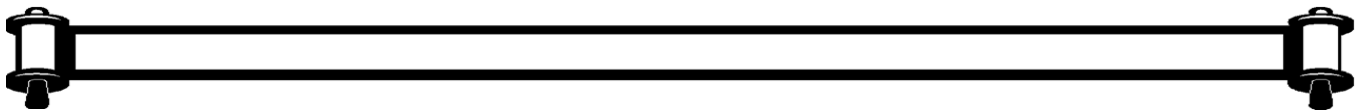
To Susan and Sheldon Katz on the birth of their granddaughter, Lydia Anne Sams. Congratulations to the parents, Rachel and Martin Sams

To err is Human, To forgive is Divine

The donation made in the January bulletin under charity fund should read as follows:

Honor of Rabbi Arsers for providing me with a weekly derasha on my computer

CHAI – Marilyn Propp



Kiddush Fund Donations

Honor of Trude Reiser on the birth of her grandson, Judah Alexander Reiser. Congratulations to the parents, Michelle and Jeffrey Reiser

CHAI – Marcy and Michael Kennelly

Honor of Susan and Sheldon Katz on the birth of their granddaughter, Lydia Anne Sams. Congratulations to the parents, Rachel and Martin Sams

CHAI+ – Marcy and Michael Kennelly

Honor of Gladys Awada's recuperation and her many years of managing our Agudas Achim office

CHAI+ – Marcy and Michael Kennelly

Memory of the yahrzeit of my dear, beloved step-father, Harry Royack

CHAI – Marilyn Propp

Memory of the yahrzeit of our dear, beloved friend, Ed Pritzker

CHAI+ – Marie and Bruce Schindles

Memory of the yahrzeit of our dear, beloved father, and grandfather, Bernard Season

Sharon, Michele, Stefanie, and Hunter

Memory of the yahrzeit of our dear, beloved father, and zayde, Jack Ruvinsky

The Williams families and the Klapperich family



Torah Fund Donations

Memory of the yahrzeit of our dear, beloved father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Stanley Bernstein

CHAI – Marcia and Carl Inselberg and family

Memory of the yahrzeit of my dear, beloved father-in-law, Julius Propp

CHAI – Marilyn Propp

Memory of the yahrzeit of our dear, beloved wife and mother

CHAI – Norman Bork and Michael Bork

Freyda Fredman Hospitality Fund

Honor of Susan and Sheldon Katz on the birth of their granddaughter, Lydia Anne Sams. Congratulations to the parents, Rachel and Martin Sams

CHAI – Betty Congress

Memory of the yahrzeit of my dear, beloved mother, Clara Fredman

CHAI – Yos Fredman

Memory of the yahrzeit of my dear, beloved father, Neil Fredman

CHAI – Yos Fredman

Memory of the yahrzeit of my dear, beloved mother, Rose Royack Steinberg

CHAI – Marilyn Propp

Peoria Hebrew Day School News

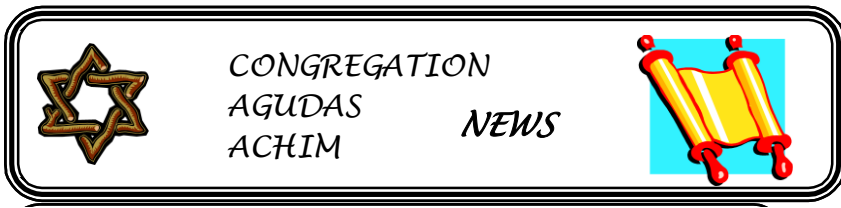
The students at PHDS love that they get to still have recess even though there is snow on the ground. We have had a great time having snow ball fights and even sledding down our little hill in baby swimming pools that we had from last year. The older kids are enjoying learning coding with Lego and the younger students are living their Dino unit.

At PHDS for the end of January, we have our drawing for our 50/50 raffle on January 27th. Make sure to purchase tickets before 1/27 for your chance to win! Also, we have our 50th anniversary celebration coming up in May. More details to come. We will be including a memory book for Alumni to share words of encouragement or stories. Make sure to participate and leave a legacy. For more information, please contact Yona Lunken



February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Rosh Chodesh	2 Rosh Chodesh	3	4 Candles @ 5:00	5 9:30 am – Service Parsha: Terumah
6	7	8	9	10	11 Candles @ 5:09	12 9:30 am – Service Parsha: Tetzaveh
13 10 am –Talmud Study	14	15	16	17	18 Candles @ 5:17	19 9:30 am – Service Parsha: Ki Tisa
20 9:30 am – A.A. Board meeting	21	22	23	24	25 Candles @ 5:25	26 9:30 am – Service Parsha: Vayakhel
27 10 am –Talmud Study	28	1	2	3	4 Candles @ 5:33	5 9:30 am – Service Parsha: Pekudei



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