



November 24, 2019 / 26 Cheshvan 5780

Dearest Agudas Achim Congregants,

Agudas Achim has benefitted from Rabbi Mitch Levine's steady leadership and teaching for the last seven years, a fitting number in Jewish life as it designates a full cycle of time. The Agudas leadership has determined that it is time for our congregation to rethink our rabbinic leadership, and so we have come to a mutual agreement with Rabbi Levine to part ways over the coming months. We remain grateful to him for his dedication to the shul. The Rabbi clearly helped us with a strategic planning process, in making Shabbat our beating heart, by teaching us Talmud which has enlightened us about Jewish history and practice, in affirming our priorities. We wish the Rabbi and his family well as he moves into a new chapter, and will help him however we can in navigating that transition. In an act of appreciation for his service he will be given a partial sabbatical over the next 7 months. During that time we are thankful that he will make himself available as an officiant at some life cycle events, for teaching classes and providing guidance as needed.

This crossroads presents a wonderful opportunity for volunteer and lay leaders to step up in many ways. We have seen how capable and inspiring our members are during summer guest sermons and throughout the year every Shabbat, and in living-room limmud study sessions. We will be convening a small cadre of volunteer coordinators organized by our dedicated and experienced office staff. If you are interested in volunteering for leading services, please let the office know. We will also look forward to seeing many local Jewish professionals, some who regularly pray at Agudas Achim and others we will welcome as guests, to join us on Shabbat to share Divrei Torah. Jewish tradition teaches that the Torah has "70 faces" and in the next half year Agudas Achim will embrace the opportunity to explore and learn from many new voices! We hope you will come to Shul ready to embrace the devoted and spirited lay leadership that makes our Agudas community so dear, especially at this time. We view this as a "Season of Exploration."

Of course, in the coming months, we will be launching a rabbinic search. I am currently in the process of appointing a group of members who will serve on the search committee. We are determined to provide many opportunities for congregants to participate in the process through parlor meetings and round tables where you can share your priorities for the search. I believe fully, as does the Agudas Achim board, in how important and exciting this decision will be to our future. We are a beautiful and buzzing congregation filled with potential. We know this is a wonderful placement for a new rabbi!

RABBI
Rabbi Mitchell Levine

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS
Ari Y. Goldberg

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MEMBER SERVICES
Naomi Kurland

ENGAGEMENT MANAGER
Ron Rudolph

MEMBER RELATIONS SPECIALIST
Nancy Kaunitz

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Neal Shapiro

We will keep you informed as the search for our new leader begins, with the appointment of a Search Committee and Chair. We hope you will take interest in attending shul, participating in synagogue activities in the coming months, and reading updates that provide ongoing information about the quest for the next rabbi.

Please know you can contact me with concerns at
President@agudasachim.org

Change is always challenging, and Agudas Achim's leadership invites you to embrace it as an opportunity for growth. We move, as does the story of the Jewish People, from strength to strength.

Julie S. Saar, President
The Board of Agudas Achim