



Our Sister Synagogue in Uganda Needs Our Help



ear Friends and Community:

The Abayudaya are Ugandans whose ancestors adopted Judaism a century ago.

On October 3, 2016 Ahavas Sholom and Namutumba Synagogue, the Abayudaya synagogue in Namutumba, Uganda, signed a Ketuba, a sister synagogue agreement in which the two communities pledged to respect, love, and learn from each other.

Recently, Namutumba Synagogue's spiritual leader, Rabbi Mugoya Shadrach Levi, wrote to Ahavas Sholom:

Shavua tov:

We are again facing challenge with famine in our community. We have been with severe drought. Rain is just starting now and people



are just starting to plant the crops which will take about 3 or 4 months. I am extending our sincere request to our sister synagogue brothers and sisters to offer some help. Your positive response will be highly appreciated,
Rabbi Shadrach


You can see the Ketuba marking our

relationship here, on our website.

It is not just pretty words, but a pledge of commitment from one Jew to another.

The Jews of Namutumba need our help.

Read more about the Abayudaya here and consider making a tax-deductible contribution here.

If you have any questions, please call Jeff at 973-207-3095. 

Congregation Ahavas Sholom

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New York State ends religious exemptions for vaccinations

 In a heated session, the New York State Senate passed a bill this week, banning religious exemption to the states vaccination requirements. The ban will require parents to have their children vaccinated for school. Parents can still get a medical exemption, provided they can obtain a letter from their doctor outlining how getting vaccinated might potentially imperil the child's health. Measles infection cases are at its highest point in decades in the United States, and the orthodox Jewish community is ground zero. NYC has been hit with 588 cases of measles since September 2018, with an additional 266 cases reported in Rockland County New York.

In an effort to contain the spread of measles in ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods, Mayor



Bill de Blasio declared a public health emergency in parts of Brooklyn in April; however, so far it has failed to stem the spread of the disease.

Though seemingly the orthodox Jewish community, is by far, the hardest hit, it's also among the most fervent opponents of

the vaccines.

While publicly many residents and religious leaders contend to understand and support the city's efforts to get more children vaccinated, the numbers don't support those claims.

There is a disturbing pattern of misinformation being distributed throughout orthodox Jewish communities, for example, The Vaccine Safety Handbook, which is readily available in the orthodox community. This professionally published, magazine style manual looks innocent enough and is promoted as a guide for raising healthy children; but within its pages are old wives' tales, shameless distortions, and antiquated theories, that have been debunked for decades. According to the publication, vaccines include some of the following ingredients; human cells acquired from aborted fetuses, pig blood, horse blood, rabbit brain, guinea pig, dog kidney, cow heart, duck egg, calf sternum, and sheep's blood.

One claim contends that Autism rates have increased since vaccination requirements were increased in 1991, affectively ignoring the probability that the increase is mainly due to improved screening and advanced autism detection methods developed over the last few years.

In 1997, British surgeon, Andrew Wakefield, published a paper in The Lancet, one of the country's most prestigious medical journals. He suggested vaccines for the measles, mumps, and rubella was responsible for the rise of autism in British children.

Subsequently, his findings were completely discredited; his paper was retracted from the Lancet and Wakefield was stripped of his medical license. Several major studies have since been conducted; none of them have found the link to autism Wakefield claimed was so obviously there, yet his flawed research and faulty conclusions live on.

Withstanding a myriad of shouts, The bill passed the Senate, 36-26 and Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat signed the bill moments later.

Upon signing, Governor Cuomo said, "This administration has taken aggressive action to contain the measles outbreak, but given its scale, additional steps are needed to end this public health crisis." Cuomo went on to say, though he respected everyone's Freedom of religion, "Our first job is to protect the public health."

New York becomes the latest state to ban a religious exemption to vaccination requirements, the other states are California, Maine, Mississippi, Arizona, and West Virginia. New Jersey still allows a religious exemption.

A dangerous precedent is set when unqualified opinion is considered more reliable than scientific fact. Whether a person ultimately decides to have their child vaccinated is one thing; but, the summary disregard of scientific findings simply because it is uncomfortable or inconvenient is something else entirely. ☆


Jon Stewart Weeps as 9/11 First Responders Gift Him a Coat of a Late Friend, Then Rips into Congress



Comedian Jon Stewart waits to address Congress with a group of NYC first responders.

Comedian, social activist, Jon Stewart was gifted a bunker coat, last week, that was once worn by an NYFD first responder. The former star of Comedy Central's iconic *The Daily Show* was on Capitol Hill to address Congress on the need to extend the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010, aka the 9/11 first responders bill. The bill is designed to provide health monitoring and financial aid to first responders, volunteers, and survivors of the 9/11 terror attacks. Prior to his addressing Congress he was presented with the bunker coat once worn by the late FDNY firefighter, Ray

Pfeifer, a first responder who at age 59, succumbed to WTC 9/11 related cancer, on May 28, 2017. Stewart teared up when gifted the coat by other first responders present for the Congressional session.

Once before congress, Stewart chastised the legislative body for its slow response on this issue, pointing out; Engine 40/Ladder 35 in Manhattan, responded within 5 seconds of being called on that fateful day; but 18 years later Congress is still kicking the can. They(NYFD) responded in 5 seconds...they did their jobs... it's 18 years later; Do Yours! 

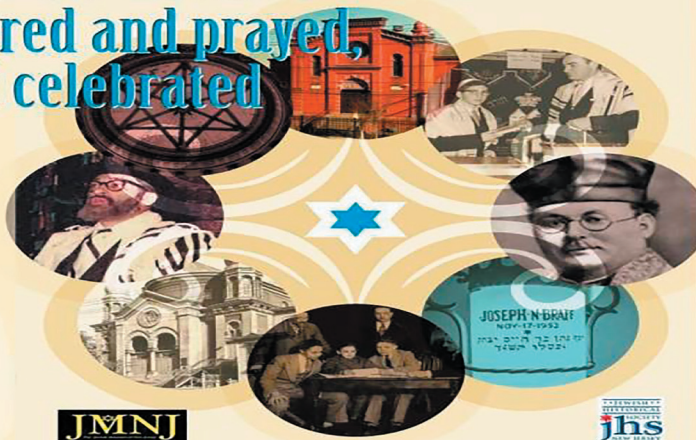
THE SYNAGOGUES OF NEWARK

JUNE 2 to JULY 31, 2019

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(JCC) METROWEST**

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Join us on June 2nd
at the JCC MetroWest
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Opening Reception
and Program
Sunday - June 2nd
at 11 am

Gaelen Gallery East
Tepper Room

Slide Show Presentation with
Phil Yourish and Mark Gordon

Refreshments will be served
Free parking

For More Information Call

Lisa Suss, JCC curator, (973) 530-3413

Phil Yourish, JMNJ, (973)- 280-3097

Rabbi Sherre Hirsch Named American Jewish University's Chief Innovation Officer

Earlier this month, American Jewish University (AJU) announced the appointment of Rabbi Sherre Hirsch as its new Chief Innovation Officer. Hirsch will join the storied Los Angeles based institution tasked with a broad mandate to reimagine Jewish education, outreach and engagement by leveraging AJU's wide-ranging platform, which includes two campuses, a nationally acclaimed rabbinical school, and a slate of community and public educational programs. She will also provide intellectual leadership for AJU's Whizin Center for Continuing Education, which offers classes, lectures, author events, concerts and performances.

"We are thrilled to bring Rabbi Hirsch onto our senior leadership team to help drive AJU's development of a new paradigm for education that meets the needs of our rapidly evolving community in Los Angeles and beyond," said Dr. Jeffrey Herbst, President of American Jewish University. "At a time when people are increasingly searching for spirituality and educational options beyond traditional institutions, AJU is uniquely positioned to deliver a new model for



Rabbi Sherre Hirsch

programming that engages and enlightens communities locally, nationally, and globally – both inside and outside of the Jewish world. Rabbi Hirsch's extraordinary experience, wisdom, and insight will be invaluable in developing this new model." Often described as a "soul entrepreneur," Hirsch brings a unique combination of experience as a pulpit rabbi, a senior executive at national Jewish institutions, a published

author, and a leading public intellectual who frequently provides commentary on issues of spirituality and religion in national media. “I am honored to return to my alma mater, American Jewish University, as it charts an exciting new course to tackle the greatest challenges facing the Jewish community and the world,” said Rabbi Sherre Hirsch. “My career has been focused around cultivating disruptive innovation that can advance the great project of Jewish peoplehood. I look forward to continuing this work at AJU, where there is a unique opportunity to leverage Jewish innovation and values to empower Jews and non-Jews alike.” Rabbi Hirsch, first made headlines as the first female rabbi at Sinai Temple, the largest Conservative congregation on the west coast. Rabbi Hirsch has appeared on the Today Show, ABC News, Extra, PBS, and other media outlets, ☆

Our congregant, and friend, Herb Oppenheimer is still feeling under the weather. Please pay him a visit or give him a call. His phone number is 973-634-1902 . It is a mitzvah to visit the sick, even by telephone. Simon



Help Us Remodel Our Kitchen

It's been estimated it will take \$60, 000 to properly renovate our kitchen.

April Modlinger, who has always been a pillar at Congregation Ahavas Sholom, has generously pledged \$10, 000 to making this happen.

We have recently received another pledge for \$2,200, bringing the total to 12, 200.

With your help Congregation Ahavas Sholom will soon have a kitchen we all deserve.

Make your pledge today!



Give a Student the gift of music

**Donate to
the Russell Moy/Ahavas Sholom NJPAC
Jazz for Teens Scholarship Fund**

In honor of Russell Moy. Musician and teacher

closing date for donations is June 30, 2019

Make Your Donation Today!

Kiddush Sponsorship

Kiddush is \$150, which barely covers the cost of the lunch. Our goal is to have every Kiddush sponsored. To sponsor a Kiddush, email Rabbi Rosenbach or contact Alla Eicheldinger at Alla7815@yahoo.com. You can also help us by shopping, which doesn't cost any money, just a little time. We'll give you a list of items, you shop and we'll reimburse you.

With the return of our cantor extraordinaire, Fred Grabiner, Congregation Ahavas Sholom is now ready to embark on a mission to develop our own choir. To join or get more information, speak to Fred after Kiddush or send him an email at fgrabiner@comcast.net

Shabbat Services

Join us this Saturday for Shabbat services. Strangers, visitors, friends, old and new; our doors are open to you. Looking for a new home? New members are always welcome at Congregation Ahavas Sholom services starts at 9:00AM. Our congregation is open and welcoming, so feel free to pay us a visit.



***Please Help Us
Make Minyan
this Saturday, June 22
2019, 9am
Congregation Ahavas
Sholom
145 Broadway,
Newark***