

### The Tree of Life Shooting, One Year Later



 $11\ worshipers$  were killed & several injured during an attack on Shabbat morning one year ago this week.

his week we commemorate the one year anniversary of the Tree of Life Synagogue massacre. It was a quiet Shabbat morning on October 27, 2018. It was

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CAS President Eric Freedman addresses the press during a interfaith vigil following the Tree of Live Massacre, Rabbi Rosenbach is in the rear.

a busy, yet peaceful morning, with multiple activities going on throughout the building. Suddenly a man wielding an AR-15-style assault rifle burst into the building and began shooting. He shot indiscriminately; spraying bullets everywhere, all the while hurling anti-Sematic slurs at his intended victims. By the end of the carnage 11 people were dead, seven had been wounded, the lives of all those present had been irreversibly altered, and the assailant, himself wounded, was in police custody. The suspect, Robert D. Bowers, 46, was charged with 29 criminal counts, including 11 counts of criminal homicide and six counts of aggravated assault. If, convicted, Bowers might face the death penalty. Like many lone wolf shooters, Bowers, a white supremacist, didn't have a police record; but had a history of making racist and anti-Sematic statements on various social media platforms.

But when hate rears its head so obviously, so viciously, and so shamelessly; people of good faith take notice...people of good faith take action. Only hours after the tragedy hundreds gathered at three separate interfaith vigils. Interfaith vigils were held all over the country, including our home, Congregation Ahavas Sholom. In one voice they called out for peace and tolerance and for an end to the violence that affects all those of good will. Over the next few weeks there was a concerted show of support for Jews throughout the interfaith community. Christians and Muslims sat side by side with Jews in the synagogue. As beautiful as this scene was; I, in my unfortunate cynicism, could only focus on the problem. While it was a beautiful gesture and a magical moment; promoting an inspiring message – we were preaching to the choir. While I am appreciative of the support given to us by our neighbors and I can see myself embracing them as they have embraced us in our time of need, still I must acknowledge; these are already people of good faith and good will. The people we need to fear or be leery of aren't listening to our message; throughout this entire year, they haven't heard a word.

### Congregation Ahavas Sholom

President – Eric Freedman
Rabbi Simon Rosenbach
Cantor – Fred Grabiner
Gabbai - Hooshmand Delshad
Webmaster – Jeff Haveson
Scroll Editor – Bezalel Tim Lee

Now, we can mar ourselves in an endless debate about whether or not Donald Trump is truly an Islamophobic racist; however, there is little doubt that his bombastic rhetoric has empowered hate groups and those who see racial/religious/cultural tolerance as a weakness. They all cheer his caustic disrespect of others, they have reveled in his attacks on African -Americans, Latinos, and Muslims, and they bask in the glory of his 'take no prisoners' bravado. Regardless of what his true beliefs might be; he is the poster boy for all who love to hate. That he has never truly addressed it or definitively distanced himself from these groups, or intolerance itself for that matter, has only exacerbated the problem. After the shooting Trump said, "It's a terrible, terrible thing what's going on with hate in our country and frankly all over the world, and something has to be done." However, he neglected to elaborate on what could be done or what could possibly have fueled the spike in hate crimes throughout the country.

But this is not about Trump, at least not entirely; he might have empowered them, the NRA continues to fight to arm them; but they're acting on their own. Slithering along the underbelly of American society, white supremacists lure in the lonely, the struggling, and the disenfranchised to do their dirty work.

A recent report by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) cited dark websites are a breeding ground for hate groups and trolls are exploiting vulnerabilities in social media platforms. The ADL conducted in-depth interviews with 15 individuals about their experiences with online hate and harassment. According to the

report, attackers not only exploit a platform's vulnerabilities; but its slow reporting, response time and removal process. ADL found that 37 percent of Americans have experienced severe online hate and harassment in 2018; including sexual harassment, stalking, physical threats, or sustained harassment.

Along with easily obtainable automatic weapons live-streaming murder is becoming as popular as making a fool of yourself on YouTube™. As reported, last week's Halle shooting was live-streamed by the assailant. It was live-streamed to Twitch where it remained for 30 minutes and was viewed by 2,200 of the platforms 15 million users before being taken down.

My concern is that once it gets out it's shared with other like-minded users. In short order thousands or millions may have seen, enjoyed, and possibly been inspired by watching such atrocities. When Brenton Tarrant went on his killing rampage in Christchurch New Zealand, he live-streamed his actions for 17 minutes, in that time it was seen by 200 Facebook users and viewed over 4,000 times. But the larger concern is that no one who viewed the live-stream reported it, the stream had been over nearly 10 minutes before anyone reported it. And we should never forget how these killers feed off of one another. The Christchurch New Zealand killings were inspired by the Tree of Life Killings; the Christchurch New Zealand killings inspired, via revenge, the Sri Lanka church bombings. When will it end? Ending on a high note, the Tree of Life has announced they will soon reopen their doors 🌣

### CAS Tzedakah Wonor Koll

We would like to thank and recognize those who gave so generously to support Congregation Ahavas

Sholom in its various efforts to foster Tikun Olam

### Donations to Ahavas Sholom August-September

Shira Hallel for kiddush Patricia Terry
Joan Podnos for kiddush Arkady Vizel

Helen Jenys and Peter Schvarcz to Rabbi's fund in Merle and Larry Lomrantz

memory of Sylvia Fendell Ray and Bonnie Nutkis

Dr. Alan and Francine Block in memory of Lois Harvey and Nancy Fruchter

Sanders Carol and Harris Nydick Rabbi Simon and Gayle Rosenbach Lois and Larry Horwitz

The Abelow Family Foundation William Josephson

Amy Sanders Stephen Gilbert and Geraldine Staadecker

Allan and Joan Podnos Alan Goldner
Evan and Debbie Schneider David Kott
Mark and Barbara Gerstein in memory of Martin Flora Sonners

Podnos Eli Alper

Barbara Drench Warren Grover

Linda Forgash Bernard and Martha Flashberg

Robert and Ann Ginsburg Rachel Schwarcz
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### CAS Tzedakah Honor Koll

#### **Continued**

Marvin Glazerman and Wendy Pamet

Toda Raba to you all







### Thought Provoking Insights from Rabbi Simon Rosenbach



Rabbi Simon Rosenbach

e are starting the Torah again, as we have done for literally thousands of years. We start with creation, and we end with the people of Israel fully formed and poised to inherit the promised land. It is re-

assuring to read the Torah cyclically. Every year that ends brings the promise of a new and better year. Some times the new year is not better, but the new year always has the potential to be a better year.

Sunday, October 27, is the first anniversary of the Pittsburgh shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue. Two weeks ago, on Yom Kippur, there was a shooting at the synagogue in Halle, Germany, about one hundred miles southwest of Berlin. On April 27, 2019 (the six-month anniversary of the Tree of Life shooting), the last day of Pesach, there was shooting at Chabad in Poway, California.

Let us pray that this year's Torah cycle brings less violence, and that includes fewer attacks on mosques and Black churches. As I have said since the Parkland shooting, prayer is nice, but money talks. There are organizations, such as Gabby Giffords' Americans for Responsible Solutions and Michael Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety, that aid candidates that are in favor of sensible, gun laws. As I say every time that mention prayer is nice, but money talks, I am not a shill for these organizations. But, if a million people donated \$50 a piece to these

organizations or other organizations like them, these organizations would have \$50 million to aid candidates. If ten million donated \$50 a piece, these organizations would \$500 million to aid candidates. That sum would dwarf the amounts that the NRA spends on campaigns (including direct contributions to candidates) to stop universal background checks, to stop campaigns to ban assault rifles, to stop campaigns to

ban firearms in the hands of people who are convicted of domestic violence, and to stop campaigns in favor of open-carry laws and expanding the areas in which (including university campuses, houses of worship, shopping malls) people may carry firearms.

Let us take advantage of the new Torah cycle to help reduce the violence. Otherwise, the lessons of the Torah will not be learned.



### Help us Remodel Our Kitchen

We need \$ 60,000, to remodel our kitchen properly.

April Modlinger, a long time pillar of Ahavas Sholom, got us started with a generous pledge of \$10,000. Others have also pledged;

### but we need more!

With your help the congregation will soon have a kitchen that will serve us all for years to come.

# Please, Make your Pledge Today!



## Two Pianos: Playing for Life - Concert, exhibition, and discussion

#### The setting

Germany 1933: a beautiful spring marks Hitler's 100th day in power. His regime already is working through its kill list. Its targets include trade unions and German Communists. But the bulls-eye is Jews -- starting with cultural icons like conductors Otto Klemperer in Berlin and Bruno Walter at Leipzig's Gewandhaus Orchestra. Brown-shirts agitate everywhere, on streets and in audiences. Concert halls connected with Jewish conductors are padlocked or vandalized. Jewish musicians are attacked in print, even by mainstream newspapers that seek to please the new government. Klemperer and Walter leave Germany.

In Berlin a group of dismissed Jews petitions for a separate self-supporting organization that will allow unemployed Jewish artists to perform for Jewishonly audiences. The "Culture-League of German Jews" -- Kulturbund Deutscher Juden -- is approved. By 1935 it's the sole public access to culture for Jews in Germany. Goebbels' Ministry of Enlightenment oversees its administration, performers, audience and programs. Certain 'German' composers -- Wagner, Strauss, even Beethoven -- soon are off limits. Still,

dozens of Kulturbund chapters form, including Leipzig's. Its early members include three young Jewish concert pianists and their music-loving businessman husbands.

#### The performance

Two Pianos was developed with the Judische Kulturbund Project, whose collaboration and sponsorship helped create the show's vision and launch its premiere at Philadelphia's Settlement Music School in June 2018. Live classical music, narration and archival projections follow the long friendship and music careers of Jewish pianists Anna (Burstein) Bieler-Suwalski and Halina (Neuman) Schulsinger, who like their friend Tanya (Zunser) Ury performed concerts in Leipzig before Jewish-only audiences under the Third Reich. Selections from those Anna-Halina concerts are performed on two grand pianos by Stanislava Varshavsky and Diana Shapiro, artists-in-exile whose stories echo the characters'. A companion exhibit deepens these stories.

#### The story

Two Pianos highlights the tenacity, passion and devotion to craft shared by Anna and Halina. As

talented student "alien residents" in Leipzig they mastered new languages and cultures. As young Jewish mothers they maintained professional careers while juggling child-care and shrinking life-choices. As naturalized American citizens, teachers and performers Halina (1908-1999), Anna (1908-2003) and Tanya (1907-1988) shared their art while celebrating life. As the pianists who

Two Pianos Performance &
Discussion

Sunday October 27, 2019
Date and Time
Sun, October 27, 2019
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM EDT

Paul Robeson Campus Center 350 Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd Newark, NJ 07102 portray them in Two Pianos note in the Premiere highlights video, their story "reminds people that they need to appreciate being a human being and being allowed to breathe and lead a dignified life . . . Everyone has something that helps him or her to go through everything. In our case it's music. In somebody else's case, it could be literature, art, whatever, We need to know what keeps us alive."



Register Here



# Berggruen Prize For Philosophy a Culture Awarded To U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

In Recognition of Her Pioneering Gender Equality & Strengthening The Rule of Law



Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

he Berggruen Prize Jury today announced its selection of Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the Supreme Court of the United States as the winner of the 2019 Berggruen Prize for Philosophy & Culture. The \$1 million award is given annually to thinkers whose ideas have profoundly shaped human self-understanding and advancement in a rapidly changing world. Justice Ginsburg will direct the monetary prize to charitable or non-profit organizations that she designates.

Justice Ginsburg was selected from more than 500

nominees and a shortlist of five, which included some of the world's most renowned thinkers from various fields including social science, global justice, animal rights, and bioethics. Since its inception in 2016, the Berggruen Prize has been awarded to four outstanding thinkers, three of them women.

"It is a true honor to have Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as the recipient of this year's Berggruen Prize," stated Institute Founder and Chairman Nicolas Berggruen. "I am delighted the Jury has chosen to honor such a prolific leader in the field of jurisprudence. Throughout her career, Ginsburg has used the law to advance ethical and philosophical principles of equality and human rights as basic tenets of the USA. Her contributions have shaped our way of life and way of thinking and have demonstrated to the world the importance of the rule of law in disabling discrimination."

Ginsburg is a lifelong trailblazer for human rights and gender equality. For more than 26 years, as the second woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, she has authored several notable opinions, including United States v. Virginia, Olmstead v. L.C. and Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Environmental Services, Inc. She has also penned notable dissents, among them, in Shelby County v. Holder, and Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. Justice Ginsburg has been a constant voice for justice, equal and

accessible to all.

"By grit and determination, brains, courage, compassion and a fiery commitment to justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg rose from modest beginnings to become one of the most respected, and most beloved, jurists of our time. She inspires women and men of all ages to realize that a democracy thrives to the extent that it provides every citizen equal footing to achieve their dreams," remarked Amy Gutmann, President of the University of Pennsylvania and Berggruen Prize Juror. "Justice Ginsburg has few peers in advancing the cause of human equality through the law."

Ruth Bader Ginsburg has received numerous awards, including the American Bar Association's highest honor, the ABA Medal, also the Thurgood Marshall Award, as well as the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. Additional honors include the Genesis Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Jewish Culture in Sweden's Gilel Storch Award, in recognition for her contributions to gender equality and civil rights. In 1971, she co-founded the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, and served as the ACLU's General Counsel, 1973–1980, and on the National Board of Directors, 1974–1980. Ginsburg was appointed a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1980. Together with Herma Hill Kay and Kenneth

Davidson, she authored the first law school textbook on sex-based discrimination. In 2018, Ginsburg was the subject of two critically acclaimed films, the documentary, RBG, and the biopic, On the Basis of Sex. My Own Words, a collection of her writings dating back to her grade school years, was published in 2016.

"Few in our era have done more to bring vital philosophical ideas to fruition in practical affairs than Ruth Bader Ginsburg," stated Kwame Anthony Appiah, Chair of the Berggruen Prize and Professor of Philosophy and Law at New York University. "She has been both a visionary and a strategic leader in securing equality, fairness, and the rule of law not only in the realm of theory, but in social institutions and the lives of individuals."

Established by philanthropist Nicolas Berggruen, the Berggruen Prize for Philosophy & Culture was first awarded in 2016 to Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor for his impact on the humanities, social sciences and public affairs in deepening understanding among different intellectual traditions and civilization. Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve was the 2017 Berggruen Prize laureate for her work as a citizen philosopher who has elevated the quality of public life and improved the very vocabulary of public discourse. Last year, public and moral philosopher Martha C. Nussbaum received the award for her framework for thinking about human capabilities, and exploring vulnerability, fear and anger in moral and political life. \(\documeq\)

### The Jewish Museum of New Jersey

### **ED BERGER: JAZZ PHOTOGRAPHER**

November 3, 2019 to January 12, 2020

Co-sponsored by











Ed Berger was a world-class scholar, researcher, photographer, producer, author, administrator, and tireless jazz detective. But all of this is surpassed by his qualities as a person. In his work as an author and photographer, he seemed to gravitate toward subjects who were, like him, quiet giants who shared Ed's passion for the music and the life - David Demsey

### Special Opening for the Newark Arts Festival Sunday, October 13th, 1-5 pm

Jewish Museum of New Jersey, 145 Broadway in Newark Free off-site parking / donations welcomed / jewishmuseumnj.org

## Aleph-Bits

News from around the Jewish World

#### Former concentration camp guard on trial in Germany

A former guard at Poland's Stutthof Concentration Camp, is accused of aiding and abetting in thousands of murders during WWII. The accused (known as Bruno D) reputedly took part in 5,230 murders as a member of the force that guarded and abused Jewish Prisoners during WWII. Because Bruno D, now 93, was only 17 or 18 at the time of the alleged atrocities, he is being tried in a youth court. The Stutthof concentration camp was established in 1939 in Stutthof (Sztutowo) Poland. Originally, Stutthof was a civilian internment camp, it was later used as a labor camp, and finally as a Nazi concentration camp. Approximately 65,000 people, including 28,000 Jews, were killed at the camp. Stutthof was one of the last of the camps liberated by the allies in 1945.

#### Jewish woman astronaut walks in space

Jessica Meir made history last week on several fronts. Ms. Meir was a member of the first all-female space team when she and fellow NASA astronaut, Christina Koch spent approximately seven hours performing maintenance on the International Space Station. Meir (42,) who has dual citizenship, was born in Caribou Maine to an Iraqi-born Jewish father and a Swedish mother. The youngest of five children, Meir became interested in space early in life. She attended her first space camp before high school and entered a Kennedy Space Center training program in her junior year at Brown University. Meir is the forth Jewish woman; but, the first Swedish woman to participate in a space mission. Though she conceded she's not a very religious person; Meir said being Jewish is a big part of her identity.

#### Netanyahu fails to form new government

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to form a government. This clears the way for his political rival, former army chief, Benny Gantz, to strike a deal that will enable him to form a coalition government and avoid yet another election. Gantz's Blue and White party gained more parliament seats than Netanyahu's Likud (National Liberal Movement) party in last month's election; but, failed to garner the 61 seats necessary to form a new government. Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister finds himself not only in the fight of his political life; but, his indictment on corruption charges may lie in the balance. Gantz, a political novice has 28 days to negotiate a deal that will give him the required seats. If unsuccessful, Israel will have to endure more uncertainty and face another election.

### Israel seeks the release of a Jewish woman imprisoned in a Russian Jail

In April, Naama Issachar was arrested and charged with possession when marijuana was found in her luggage. Issachar was flying from India to Israel; but had to change planes in Moscow. Though she was only changing planes Issachar was charged with possession. Then, the government changed the charge to drug smuggling and sentenced her to 7-½ years in prison.

On Monday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss the possibility of a reduced sentence or a pardon for the former IDF soldier. Russia has been dangling the release of Russian hacker, Aleksey Burkov as the price for Issachar's release. Unsurprisingly, Aleksey Burkov is currently in Israeli custody slated to be extradited to the U.S. On Tuesday, Aleksey Burkov's extradition request to the U.S. was extended until December 3rd.

### The Kosher Kitchen

### **Garlic Roasted Duck Breast**



Prep time -10 min Cook time - 13 min Ready in 28 Min

#### **Ingredients**

- 1 (6 ounce) skin-on duck breast
- 2 cloves garlic, cut into 1/8-inch strips
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 sprig fresh rosemary

### **Directions**

- 1. Place duck breast skin side-down on a cutting board. Cut a small slit from top to bottom, 2/3 of the way through the duck breast. Season with salt and pepper.
- 2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).

- 3. Heat a skillet over medium-high heat. Place duck breast skin side-down in the hot skillet; cook until browned, about 30 seconds. Flip and repeat on the other side.
- 4. Transfer duck breast to a clean work surface, skinside down. Place 3 or 4 garlic strips inside the slit.

  Place rosemary sprig over garlic; top with remaining garlic strips. Place skin side-up in a baking pan.
- 5. Bake in the preheated oven until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the center reads 120 degrees F (50 degrees C), about 10 minutes. Cover with aluminum foil. Let rest for 5 minutes before slicing.

If you would like to contribute to the Kosher Kitchen column and share one of your favorite recipes with us or if you would like to recommend a particular recipe send me an email at, <u>The Kosher Kitchen</u>.

# The Book shelf

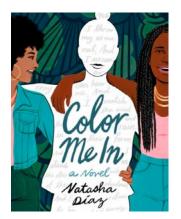
This week we feature three books written by Jewish women authors, courtesy of the Jewish Book Council and the Jewish Women's Archive. These books give voice to the trials, tribulations, challenges, and joys of being a Jewish female.

#### Naamah , by Sarah Blake, 304 pages, hard cover

A dreamy and transgressive feminist retelling of the Great Flood from the perspective of Noah's wife as she wrestles with the mysterious metaphysics of womanhood at the end of the world."—O, The Oprah Magazine.

NAAMAH SARAH BLAKE

With the coming of the Great Flood—the mother of all disasters—only one family was spared, drifting on an endless sea, waiting for the waters to subside. We know the story of Noah, moved by divine vision to launch their escape. Now, in a work of astounding invention, acclaimed writer Sarah Blake reclaims the story of his wife, Naamah, the matriarch who kept them alive. Here is the woman torn between faith and fury, lending her strength to her sons and their wives, caring for an unruly menagerie of restless creatures, silently mourning the lover she left behind. Here is the woman escaping into the unreceded waters, where a seductive angel tempts her to join a strange and haunted world. Here is the woman tormented by dreams and questions of her own—questions of service and self-determination, of history and memory, of the kindness or cruelty of fate.



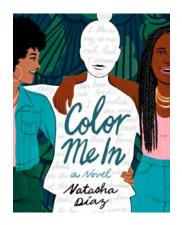
In fresh and modern language, Blake revisits the story of the Ark that rescued life on earth, and rediscovers the agonizing burdens endured by the woman at the heart of the story. Naamah is a parable for our time: a provocative fable of body, spirit, and resilience.

#### Color Me In, by Natasha Diaz, 384 pages, hardcover

A powerful coming-of-age novel pulled from personal experience about the meaning of friendship, the joyful beginnings of romance, and the racism and religious intolerance that can both strain a family to the breaking point and strengthen its bonds.

Growing up in an affluent suburb of New York City, sixteen-year-old Nevaeh Levitz never thought much about her biracial roots. When her Black mom and Jewish dad

split up, she relocates to her mom's family home in Harlem and is forced to confront her identity for the first time.

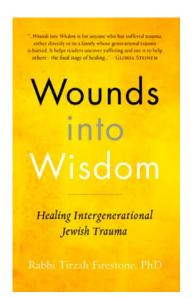


Nevaeh wants to get to know her extended family, but because she inadvertently passes as white, her cousin thinks she's too privileged, pampered, and selfish to relate to the injustices African Americans face on a daily basis. In the meantime, Nevaeh's dad decides that she should have a belated bat mitzvah instead of a sweet sixteen, which guarantees social humiliation at her posh private school. But rather than take a stand, Nevaeh does what she's always done when life gets complicated: she stays silent.

Only when Nevaeh stumbles upon a secret from her mom's past, finds herself falling in love, and sees firsthand the prejudice her family faces that she begins to realize she has her own voice, and choices. Will she continue to let circumstances dictate her path? Or will she decide once and for all to take control of her life, and her identity.

Wounds into Wisdom: Healing Intergenerational Jewish Trauma

by Tirzah Firestone, 240 pages, hardcover



Our past does not simply disappear. The painful history of our ancestors and their rich cultural wisdom intertwine within us to create the patterns of our future. Even when past trauma remains unspoken or has long been forgotten, it becomes part of us and our children—a legacy of both strength and woundedness that shapes our lives.

In this book, Tirzah Firestone brings to life the profound impact of protracted historical trauma through the compelling narratives of Israeli terror victims, Holocaust survivors, and those whose lives were marred by racial persecution and displacement. The tragicstory of Firestone's own family lays the groundwork for these revealing testimonies of recovery, forgiveness, and moral leadership. Throughout, Firestone interweaves their voices with neuroscientific and psychological findings, as well as relevant and inspiring Jewish teachings.

Seven principles emerge from these wise narratives—powerful prescriptive tools that speak to anyone dealing with the effects of past injury. At the broadest level, these principles are directives for staying morally awake in a world rife with terror.

### Kiddush Sponsorship Shabbat Services

ponsoring Kiddush is \$150.00, 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 Allah Eicheldinger at alla7815@yahoo.com. You can also help by shopping; which doesn't cost money, just a little time. We'll give you a list of items, you shop and we'll reimburse you. Whatever you can do will be appreciated, greatly.

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



## Join us at Congregation Ahavas Sholom this Shabbat and help us make minyon