

# SIYYUM HATORAH



4 TEVET 5770

DECEMBER 20, 2009

AGUDAS ACHIM CONGREGATION





**Agudas Achim Congregation**

**Siyyum HaTorah**

7 Adar 5770

February 21, 2010

As a result of the rescheduling of our event, we regret that Shir Tze'ir will be unable to appear this evening.

The following honorees will participate in lieu of those listed in the program:

**Festive Dinner**

Motzi Doc Shantz

**New Mantles**

Gelilah Ellen Wayne

**Processional**

Torah Holders Sharon Rosenblatt, Nancy Hailpern

Chuppah Holder Doit Shotts

Lantern Holder Steve Kreiger

**Torah Service**

Gabbai Sidney Rabinowitz

Gelilah Paula Ringskog

Deuteronomy 33:2 Jack Berman

Deuteronomy 33:5 Klas Ringskog

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to help ensure the success of this rescheduled event. Special thanks to Janice Vega-Latker for her assistance with table decor, and to Alexander Perry, who joins the Photography and Videography Team.



**Agudas Achim Congregation**

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The Siyyum HaTorah Subcommittee has made a special effort to reduce the environmental impact of tonight's event:

- All disposable dinnerware is manufactured from plant starch and is fully compostable. Special thanks to Bates Trucking, Inc., which has donated collection service for this evening's compost material.
- The nametags and nametag holders will be reused for future events. They are made from recycled materials and can be recycled after they are no longer needed. Please return your nametag and holder to the check-in table on your way out this evening.
- The souvenir Siyyum HaTorah kippot were manufactured in Israel from recycled cardboard.
- This insert is printed on recycled paper. Please take it with you or recycle it.

**And the Lord took Adam  
and placed him in the Garden of Eden,  
to *work* it and *guard* it.**

Genesis 2:15

## Dear Congregational Friends,

One year of effort and inspiration — more than 600 letters completed — 304,805 holy words inscribed — and an experience for our community that transcends all measure.

Perhaps it's a cliché in circumstances like these to say we had no idea what we were getting into when we agreed to chair the *Eileh HaDevarim* initiative a year ago. It's true — we didn't know how much work it would be. But what we truly could not know was how much it would mean to each of us.

Together, we have watched hands trembling with youth, hands trembling with age, and hands trembling with awe touch ink to parchment radiant with meaning. And as we have facilitated this project, we have watched those hands not merely inscribe words on parchment but also bring them dancing to life in the way the Torah tells us matters most: in our lives, in our deeds, in our community.

In our own way, our congregation has experienced a small part of the incredible joy and reverence felt by our ancestors when they received the Torah at Mount Sinai. As it is written in Exodus 20:14, the first words of which adorn the cover of this program: "And all the people saw the thunder, and ... they trembled."

So it's fitting that the *mitzvah* we share together — the 613th — comes to official completion together, tonight. And it's why, from the beginning, we sought to make this project about far more than writing a scroll. In the events of the last year, we have learned and sung and celebrated together. The fact that

our congregants generously pledged hundreds of thousands of dollars — in excess of the scroll's cost — for the sustenance of our community in the coming years, and that they did so in the most difficult of economic circumstances, made the experience all the more rewarding.

We are grateful, and deeply so, for the efforts of so many who made all this possible. There are more to thank than we possibly could here. The names of those who helped us and inspired us would fill a scroll of its own. Instead, their spirit fills the one we dedicate together.

The first verse of its final book begins: “*Eileh HaDevarim* — These are the words that Moses spoke to Israel ...” They are the words we will recite together and rejoice in together, study together and seek to follow together, for the generations this scroll will bind our community. We complete this project with gratitude and joy — and with a wish for each of you and for our community that we express together as we dedicate a scroll that a year ago was only an aspiration: *Chazak, chazak v' nit' chazeik*. “Be strong, be strong — and let us strengthen one another.”

Through *Eileh HaDevarim*, we have done precisely that. May our Torah inspire us to continue strengthening each other for generations to come.

Phil Lurie, *Chair*

Jerry Friedman, *Vice Chair*

Julia Pitkin-Shantz, *Vice Chair*

[Eileh HaDevarim Committee](#)

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Larry Shuman	<i>Artistic Enhancements Subcommittee Chair</i>
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David Weingart	<i>Events Subcommittee &amp; Torah Fair Co-Chair</i>

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**Co-Chairs: Craig Fifer, Libby Anne Russler**

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**Robin Braverman, Lynne Sandler, Julia Pitkin-Shantz**

## **Dinner Team**

**David Weingart, Katherine Allen, Alyssa Cohen Sherman, Rob Sherman**

## **Processional Team**

**Libby Anne Russler, Robin Maline**

## **Honors Team**

**Jerry Friedman, Jack Berman, Rebekah Hersch, Phil Lurie, Miriam Perlberg, Julia Pitkin-Shantz, Nicole Yakatan**

## **Photography and Videography Team**

**Sam Backman, Cliff Braverman, Jerry Friedman, Lloyd Wolf**

## **Ritual Team**

**Jack Berman, Jerry Friedman, Phil Lurie**

## **Artistic Enhancements Subcommittee**

**Chair: Larry Shuman; Co-Chair: Ellen Wayne**

**Tanya Bodzin, Judy Bernanke, Dene Garbow, Rachel Albert, Judy Bregman**

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Welcome to an event that few people ever have the privilege of experiencing — the celebration of the completion of a new Torah scroll.

Nearly two years ago, we began to explore the possibility of commissioning a new scroll. Today, it is a blessing to witness a dream come true. We realized this dream through the generosity and joint effort of our whole congregation, and together we have accomplished a great mitzvah.

I want to particularly recognize the many volunteers — both those who were members of various leadership committees and those who served individually — for the tremendous effort they gave to make this project possible. We are truly fortunate to have so many members who are willing to give of their time and talents.

Our project would not have been the same without the passion, charisma, and dedication of our sofer, Rabbi Menachem Youlus. More than simply a scribe, he has been our teacher and advocate. His dynamic personality and joyous devotion to Torah have enhanced each encounter, whether individual or group. We are indeed grateful to have had Rabbi Youlus with us during this journey.

Today, as we march with our new scroll, dressed in its beautiful new mantle, into its new home in our Sanctuary, we remember that we are part of the eternal march of the Jewish people. We are privileged to transmit our heritage — the living Torah — to the generations that will come after us.

Don Perkal, *President*  
Agudas Achim Congregation

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## FROM THE RABBI

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What is the metaphor to describe the moment at which we have arrived? The temptation is draw on the familiar symbols of patience leading to joyous reward — pregnancy, running a marathon, saving to buy a home. But the fact of the matter is they all fall short; nothing really compares to the accomplishment we celebrate today.

The remarkable work done by Rabbi Youlus and his scribal artists has given us a sacred result. The tireless work done by our committee of volunteers has produced a sacred accomplishment. They have done the heaviest lifting and deserve our deepest gratitude.

But our scroll would not have been complete without the individual drops of ink that helped to fill the ocean of revelation that Torah represents. Those drops, from every corner of our community, were placed by hands trembling with the power of the act to help bring God’s eternal words to this newest iteration. We will certainly proclaim the words of the Psalm, “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be happy in it.” But I hope you hear echoing beneath it, “I had the privilege to be God’s partner in this day,” and that you will carry the happiness and rejoicing with you whenever you encounter Torah.

And may you always encounter Torah.

Jack Moline, *Rabbi*  
Agudas Achim Congregation



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## TORAH MANTLES

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My charge was to design five Torah mantles based around the theme Na'aseh V'nishma (Do and Understand — Exodus 24:7). They will live in a sanctuary already filled with beautiful Jewish symbolism and need to complement but not compete with what is already there. The mantles must be cohesive, yet each able to stand alone, and be simple but elegant.

The Israelites gathered at the base of Mount Sinai, as Moses ascended to receive God's words. In three separate biblical verses, we learn that the Israelites committed to following the obligations that the Torah imposed on them. God instructed Moses to tell the people "...if you will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then you shall be my own treasure from among all peoples: for all the earth is mine: and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation." (Exodus 19:5-6). The answer from the Israelites was "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." (Exodus 19: 8)

The verses that follow give the Ten Commandments, as well as other laws. When the people heard these laws they responded, "All that the Lord has said will we do." (Exodus 24: 3)

Moses then made a sacrifice to the Lord and read the laws again to the people, who responded with the most powerful phrase, "Na'aseh V'nishma" ("All the Lord has said will we do and understand." — Exodus 24:7), thus expanding the earlier promises to simply just "do."

While all this was happening, the people could see, hear and feel the presence of God. The mountain was trembling with

thunder and lightening. Clouds swirled with the wind; trumpets and shofarot filled the air with music and song. The people stood at the base of the mountain in great expectation.

I chose to take these images and abstract them by using color, form, and motion to represent the essence of that powerful day. The Israelites are represented at the base of each mantle by columns moving together towards the mountain in solidarity. The colors for the people are fleshy-earthy tones, which flow into greens, teals and more earth tones that represent the world where man lives under God's commandments. The upper part of each mantle represents the words of God moving about in the wind, air currents, clouds, fire, and lightning bolts that surrounded Sinai and are in blues, purples, reds, and teals.

“Na’aseh V’nishma” (Do and Understand) was placed on the center mantle for the new scroll. On the other four mantles, I used phrases that come from the paragraph immediately preceding the Shema in the Siddur:

“Open our eyes”

“To understand and to discern”

“To study and to teach”

“To safeguard and to perform”

These phrases show how we carry out “Na’aseh V’nishma” in our spiritual life.

N. Amanda Ford

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# PROGRAM

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A unique chapter in the life of a congregation inspires a concluding celebration that combines elements of our community's most joyous occasions. Tonight, we seek to inspire feelings ranging from a wedding (as our new scroll joins its senior partners and our congregation) to Simchat Torah (as we mark the completion of our scroll and the start of our regular readings from it).

This evening's program features participation by nearly 100 honorees, who have distinguished themselves through leadership or financial support of the Eileh HaDevarim project, or long-time service to our congregation.

## Festive Dinner

Blessing Over Wine	Don Sandler
Motzi	Madeline Richer

Slideshow Produced by Sam Backman

## Opening Ceremony

"Eilu D'varim" (Lyrics on Inside Back Cover)  
Performed by Ein Lanu Z'man

Craig Fifer	Siyyum HaTorah Co-Chair
Don Perkal	President, Agudas Achim Cong.
Rabbi Jack Moline	Rabbi, Agudas Achim Cong.
Rabbi Menachem Youlus	Sofer (Torah Scribe)

## Final Fill-Ins

The last five letters of the Torah will be filled in by the honorees below. During this very holy time, our tradition teaches that the person filling in a letter has a special connection to God and a unique opportunity for prayer. To afford each honoree the full potential of this moment, please refrain from any unnecessary sound or movement and ask that those under your care do the same.



And there hath not arisen a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face; in all the signs and the wonders, which the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh, and to all his servants, and to all his land; and in all the mighty hand, and in all the great terror, which Moses wrought in the sight of all



Phil  
Lurie



Libby Anne  
Russler



Jonathan  
Saiger



Miriam  
Perlberg



Helene  
Schrott

(Deuteronomy 34:10-12)



When the last letter has been filled in,  
the Congregation joins in exclaiming:

**חַזַּק חַזַּק וְנִתְחַזְּקוּ!**

Chazak, chazak, v' nit-chazayk!  
Be strong, be strong, and let us strengthen one another!

## Celebration in Video and Song

Eileh HaDevarim Video

Produced and Directed by Cliff Braverman

“Hamalakh Hagoel Oti,” “Nachamu,” “Zamru”

Performed by Shir Tze’ir



After Rabbi Youlus determines that our new Torah scroll is complete and kosher, he will lead the Congregation — especially those who completed a letter — in reciting:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

שֶׁהֵחַיָנוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִגַּעְנוּ לְזִמַּן הַזֶּה

Baruch atah Adonai, Elohenu melech ha-olam,  
she-hecheyanu, ve-kiyemanu,  
ve-higiyanu laz-man ha-zeh.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe,  
who has kept us alive, and has sustained us, and has  
enabled us to reach this season.



New Mantles    Larry Shuman,  
*Artistic Enhancements Subcommittee Chair*

Hagbah            Jerry Friedman  
Gelilah            Larry Shuman

## Processional

### Torah Holders

Mel Garbow, Paul Kimmel, Doc Shantz, Jane Pollner, Arnold Rosenblatt, Don Melman, David Yaffe

### Chuppah Holders

Rev. Larry Hayward, Nancy Hall Berens, Greg Weiner, Sue Finger, Dina Rotklein, Janice Vega-Latker, Mirza Lopez, Rachel Albert, Sue Auerhan, Amy Perlman Gura, Mindi Maline, Barry Yatt, Stacy Zuckerman, Harvey Stoler, Ed Newberger, David Bernanke, Veda Engel, Rob Weiss, Joan Edelman, Bob Meyers, Andrew Cohen, Jeff Goldstein, Sheryl Landau, Al Barke, Scott Littky, Ken Barnett, Sam Backman, Leib Kaminsky

### Lantern Escorts

Nan Berman, Gayle Weiss, Judy Bernanke, Louis Marcus, Judy Bregman, Jen Halpern, Barbara Brenman, Rob Sherman, Lynne Rosenblum, Nicole Yakatan, Barbara Elkin, Miriam Kreiger, Ellen Katzer, Lauryn Beltz

## Mantle Exchange

### Petichot

Don Perkal, Evelina Moulder, Elizabeth Margosches

### Torah Holders

David Weingart, Deborah Yaffe, Stephen Bodzin, Jonathan Ratner, Cliff Braverman, David Blumenstein

### Gelilot

Szeina Lurie, Tanya Bodzin, Dene Garbow, Robin Braverman

## Torah Service

Rabbi Jack Moline  
Hazzan Elisheva Dienstfrey

Gabbai Jack Berman  
Gabbai Nancy Hailpern

Gelilah Ellen Wayne



**Torah Reader:** Deuteronomy 33:1 Elisheva Dienstfrey

וְזֹאת הַבְּרָכָה, אֲשֶׁר בֵּרַךְ מֹשֶׁה אִישׁ הָאֱלֹהִים –  
אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: לְפָנָיו, מוֹתוֹ.

And this is the blessing wherewith Moses the man of God  
blessed the children of Israel before his death.

**Torah Reader:** Deuteronomy 33:2 Jeff Eisenberg

וַיֹּאמֶר, ה' מְסִינֵי בָּא וְזָרַח מִשְׁעִיר לָמוֹ – הוֹפִיעַ מֵהַר  
פָּאָרָן, וְאָתָּה מִרְבַּבַת קִדְשׁ; מִיְמִינוֹ, אֵשׁ דָּת לָמוֹ.

And he said: The Lord came from Sinai, and rose from Seir  
unto them; He shined forth from Mount Paran, and He came  
from the myriads holy, at His right hand was a fiery law unto  
them.

Torah Reader: Deuteronomy 33:3

Arielle Green

אֵף חָבַב עַמִּים, כָּל-קִדְשָׁיו בְּיַדְךָ; וְהֵם תָּכֹף לְרַגְלְךָ,  
יֵשָׂא מִדְּבַרְתֶּיךָ.

Yea, He loveth the peoples, all His holy ones—they are in Thy hand; and they sit down at Thy feet, receiving of Thy words.

Torah Reader: Deuteronomy 33:4

Jonah Gilman

תּוֹרָה צְוָה-לָנוּ, מִשָּׁה: מוֹרָשָׁה, קְהֵלֵת יַעֲקֹב.

Moses commanded us a law, an inheritance of the congregation of Jacob.

Torah Reader: Deuteronomy 33:5

Katherine Allen

וַיְהִי בִישֻׁרוּן, מֶלֶךְ, בְּהַתְּאַסֵּף רְאִשֵׁי עָם,  
יַחַד שְׁבֵטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

And there was a king in Jeshurun, when the heads of the people were gathered, all the tribes of Israel together.



Hagbah	Julia Pitkin-Shantz
Gelilah	Lynne Sandler
Petichah	Barbara Klestzick
Torah Holder	Craig Fifer
Petichah	Joan Hartman Moore
Petichah	Arnold Moore

## Conclusion

Ba'al Tekiah      Rabbi Jack Moline





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## Song at the Sea, Exodus 15: 1-19

Jonathan Ratner

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Leib Kaminsky

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Marilyn Levine	and Yehudit Quigley
Michael J. Levitin	Hazzan Sidney and Sandra
Kenneth and Linda Lichtman	Rabinowitz
Phyllis Liebman, Judith Liebman	Lester and Susan Ravitz
Slatkin, and Martha Liebman	Mark and Diane Richer,
Neil Lindenbaum and	Madeline and Benjamin Richer
Esther Miller, Ari and Yona	James and Elizabeth Robbins
Lindenbaum	Rachel Robbins

Patti Groll Rosenberg, Glen Rosenberg	Michael Spatz and Doris Parker, Oraly and Andres Spatz
Norman and Jane Rosenthal	Ronald and Dianne Spector
Dina Rotklein	David, Justine, Olivia and Logan Springberg
Molly Rubin	Rachel Stenzel
Faith Russler	Molly Sternberg
Gwynneth Russler	Steve Sternberg and Claudia Kalb
Jacqueline Russler	Susan Stone
Irwin Samet	Stanley and Rhoda Sulak
David Sattler and Margaret Feinstein, Benjamin and Ethan Sattler	Andrew and Michele Swers, Alexander and Lisa Swers
Charlene Schiff	Jacob Tolle
Zvi Schoenburg	Peter and Rachel Townsend
Charles Schonberger	Laurence, Paula, and Philip Tropp
Grace Schonberger	Jeffrey and Sharyn Tureck
Lester Schonberger	Andrew Unger
Ann Seidenberg, Jessica, Kaitlin, Samuel and Virginia Seidenberg	Frank and Paula Walter
Judy and Rose Seidman	Greg and Rebecca Weiner, Hannah and Jacob Weiner
Jaime Servianski	Shawn and Sarah Wilson
Robert Sherman and Alyssa Cohen Sherman	Weingast, Adin, Kadie, Rebecca, and Wilson Weingast
Lisa Shimberg	Seymour and Judith Wengrovitz
Nancy Siegal	David and Melynda Wilcox
Ruth Sievers	Gary, Stacy, and Brianna Zuckerman
Jennifer Silber	
Jonathan Silver and Lisa Shuman, Elyssa and Shana Silver	
Tracy, Sharon, Jessica, and Rebecca Soforenko	
David Soussana	

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## MUSIC

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**EIN LANU Z'MAN** (We Have No Time) is a group of talented congregants from Agudas Achim who are professionally occupied elsewhere, but who generously make the time to create innovative, interesting, inspiring music. Look forward to many more opportunities to hear this fabulous group of musicians here at Agudas Achim.

Rich Albert: Guitar

Dan Gordon: Violin

Deborah Lipnick: Vocals

Julia Moline: Piano; Viola

Randy Stein: English Concertina

Vic Tynes: Bass Guitar



**SHIR TZE'IR** (Song of Youth) is an a cappella group comprised of Jewish teens from the Northern Virginia area, including members from both Agudas Achim Congregation and Beth El Hebrew Congregation of Alexandria, Va. The group performs throughout the year at Agudas and Beth El, as well as special programs at other venues. This year, they will be performing at Alexandria City Hall, Temple Rodef Shalom, and at the annual NoVA Shir event. The goal of the group is to sing, arrange, and conduct Jewish music themselves, while having a good time. Shir Tze'ir is honored to have been invited to perform at tonight's festivities, and is especially excited to share the stage with alumni from the group spanning the nine years it has been a part of Agudas Achim Congregation.

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# EILU D'VARIM LYRICS

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Music by Jeff Klepper & Dan Frelander

Text from Peah 1:1 & Shabbat 127a

אֵלוֹ דְבָרִים שְׂאִין לָהֶם שְׁעוֹר וְאֵלוֹ הֵן:  
כְּבוֹד אָב וְאִם, וּגְמִילוֹת חֲסָדִים  
וְהַשְׂפָּמַת בֵּית הַמִּדְרָשׁ שְׁחָרִית וְעֶרְבִית  
וְהַכְּנָסַת אוֹרְחִים, וּבִקּוּר חוֹלִים, וְהַכְּנָסַת פְּלֵה, וּלְנִית  
הַיֵּת, וְעִיּוֹן תְּפִלָּה, וְהַבָּאָת שְׁלוֹם בֵּין אָדָם לְחֵבְרוֹ  
וְתַלְמוּד תּוֹרָה כְּנֶגֶד כָּלָם

Eilu d'varim she-ein la-hem shi-ur

Eilu d'varim she-ein la-hem shi-ur

Eilu d'varim she-ein la-hem shi-ur, v'eilu hein:

Ki-vud av va-eim ug'milut chasadim

v'hashkamat beit ha-midrash shacharit v'arvit.

V'hachnasat orchim uvikur cholim v'hachnasat kalah ul'vayat  
hameit v'iyun t'filah, v'havat shalom bein adam lachaveiro.

V'talmud Torah k'neged kulam.



These are things without measure, namely:

To honor father and mother, to do acts of lovingkindness,  
to attend the House of Study daily. To welcome the stranger,  
to visit the sick, to rejoice with the bride, and comfort the  
mourner; to pray with sincerity, to make peace among people.  
And the study of Torah is equal to them all.





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