

B"H

ILLUMINATING

Akron

NEWSLETTER
NISSAN 5786
MARCH 2026



ANSHE SFARD SYNAGOGUE

Moshe Sasonkin
Rabbi

Mendy Sasonkin obm
Rabbi Emeritus

Kaila Sasonkin
Education Director

Mussie Sasonkin
Program Director

Carrie Markey
Office Manager

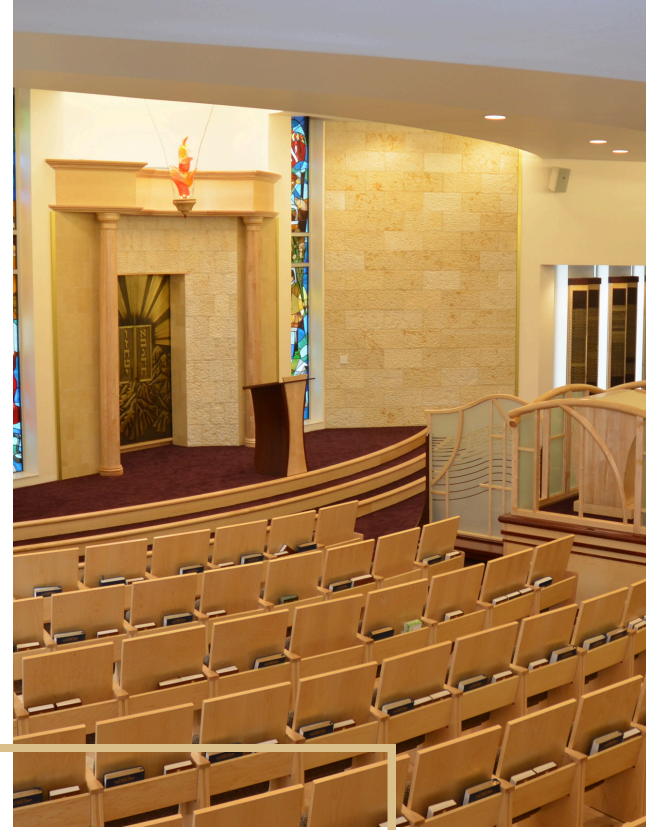
Joel Stile
President

Robert Taub
Membership Chair

Art Taub
Men's Club President

Arlene Miller
Chavurah Sisterhood

Keith Migdal
Free Loan President



Anshe Sfard

Revere Road Synagogue

646 N Revere Road, Akron, Ohio 44333
office@akronshul.com | akronshul.com



Weekly Services



MORNING SHACHARIS

Sunday.....8:00 am
Monday & Thursday.....7:30 am
Shabbat.....10:00 am

EVENING MINCHA & MAARIV

Sunday - Friday.....7:30 pm

RABBI'S MESSAGE



With Passover just around the corner, the number one question everyone hears these days is: "Where are you for the Seder?"

For over 3,000 years our people have been deciding where - and with whom - to have their Seders. Families negotiate, friends extend invitations, and traditions are gently (or not so gently) asserted.

The most famous Seder in Jewish history took place in the early second century in B'nei Brak, in the home of Rabbi Akiva. As we read in the Haggadah, this Seder was attended by some of our greatest Sages.

There is another account, recorded in the Tosefta, of a similar Seder. This Seder took place in the city of Lod (today near Ben-Gurion Airport) and was led by the Nasi, the leader of the generation, Rabban Gamliel.

Unlike Rabbi Akiva's Seder, Rabban Gamliel's Seder doesn't receive any mention in the Haggadah. Why? Were the Matzah balls really that much better in B'nei Brak?

The difference between these two Seders reflects something our Jewish nation is feeling today. Israel is at war. There have been recent attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions. In moments of pain and uncertainty, one can feel tempted to dial down the joyful spirit of the Seder.

Our people are struggling to find the right balance between pain and hope.

This was the very same tension felt at the time of these two Seders 2,000 years ago. In the aftermath of the destruction of the Second Temple, and during the cruel Hadrianic persecutions, our ancestors asked themselves: What message should define our Pesach?

Rabban Gamliel insisted that we hold the bitter herbs in hand and elaborate on how embittered our lives were in Egypt. There is pain in memory, and hope can sometimes feel bittersweet. Many gathered around his Seder in Lod to grieve - and to hope for better days.

Rabbi Akiva, on the other hand, is known as Judaism's great optimist - someone who could smile even in the face of destruction. At his Seder in B'nei Brak he insisted that we must recall the Exodus even "at night." Even in moments of darkness, we must celebrate the miracles and the innate freedom granted to us at the Exodus.

Rabbi Akiva saw redemption within persecution - the dawn that inevitably follows the darkest night. Just as the moon wanes before it waxes again.

This year, at our Seders, we must ask ourselves: What story will we tell?

Will hostility dominate? Will the discussion of antisemitism overshadow the evening? Will it feel as though hatred defines the moment?

Or perhaps we can tell another story.

Beneath the noise of the headlines, we are living in a time of extraordinary miracles - the flourishing of Jewish life, the unprecedented strength and resilience of our people, new global alliances being built with Israel, and the ability to gather openly around a Seder table as Jews, telling the story that has never stopped being told.

The same world can feel frightening or miraculous.

On Seder night, we train our eyes to see what our ancestors saw at the sea - that even when the world looks dark, redemption may already be unfolding before us.

So if anyone asks you where you'll be for the Seder - tell them you'll be with Rabbi Akiva.

Mussie & I wish you and your families a Kosher and happy Pesach!

- Rabbi Moshe Sasonkin

PESACH

HOLIDAY OF LIBERATION

APRIL 1 - APRIL 9



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Passover commemorates the anniversary of our miraculous Exodus from Egyptian slavery. The holiday lasts 8 days (7 in Israel). On the first two nights, we hold a Seder, a 15-step feast rich in rituals, including four cups of wine, dipping veggies in saltwater, children asking the Four Questions, eating Matzah and bitter herbs, and singing late into the night. During Passover, Jews may not own or eat Chametz - leavened grain products. Homes are cleaned beforehand, and any remaining Chametz is burned or sold.

HOW TO SELL CHAMETZ?

Rabbi Sasonkin takes care to sell the Chametz of the Akron community. Step 1: Store all your leavened products and utensils used to cook with them in a closed and marked off cabinet. Step 2: Fill out a form authorizing the Rabbi to sell those items for the duration of the holiday. The form can be found at: akronshul.com/chametz

SHMURAH MATZAH

"Shmurah" means "watched," referring to Matzah made from wheat guarded against water from harvest to prevent leavening. This special matzah is hand-kneaded and round, and resembles the matzah baked during the Exodus. Strictly supervised to ensure it remains unleavened, Shmurah Matzah is ideal for the three Seder plate matzahs. Enhance your Pesach by including it at your Seder table. Contact Rabbi Sasonkin to purchase some.

MA'OT CHITIM

We remind our congregants of the noble practice and great Mitzvah of contributing to the Passover Matzah Fund. Donations collected at this time help provide Passover food supplies to needy families in our community. You can donate online at akronshul.com/donate or send your contributions directly to our office. Thank you for your generosity and consideration.



COMMUNITY SEDER

Enjoy a meaningful and interactive Seder!
Save the date - and your seat - at our Community Seder!

RSVP AT AKRONSHUL.COM/SEDER

UPCOMING EVENTS:



YIZKOR REMINDER!

Honor the memory of your parents and loved ones. Join us in Shul to say the special memorial prayer as we pledge to keep their special memory alive through our Mitzvot.



LAG BA'OMER FAMILY PICNIC

Bring the whole family for a day of Jewish pride and unity! Featuring - a delicious BBQ Dinner, S'mores, Bonfire, Inflatables, entertainment, & more! akronshul.com/lag



SHAVUOT ICE CREAM SOCIAL & DINNER

Join the community as we celebrate the giving of the Torah! Hear the 10 Commandments, interactive kids program and of course a delicious dairy dinner! akronshul.com/shavuot




Ellen's Torah & Tea

Tuesdays, 9:30 AM | Anshe Sford

A Weekly Get-Together for Women with Torah, Tea & Inspiration
Coffee, tea and light breakfast served



In loving memory of Ellen Migdal OBM
Elka Chava bat Velvel

WOMEN'S CHAVURAH SISTERHOOD

JOIN TODAY AT: AKRONSHUL.COM/CHAVURAH



2026 Members

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Sharon Apple | Shaine Lipton | Diana Rakhkin |
| Ellen Botnick | Leslie Littman | Jody Schweiger |
| Wendy Cooley | Debra Migdal | Stacy Shulan |
| Bracha Fraser | Emma Michaels | Judy Subotin |
| Deanna Friedman | Arlene Miller | Robyn Tobias |
| Marilyn Groden | Rachel Minkin | Renee Washko |
| Paula Gross | Hedda Morton | Karen Weinberger |
| Julie Katz | Julie Nations | Magita Willen |
| Shelley Kimberly | Amy Nebel-Gould | Shirley Workman |
| Shelley Koch | Meghan Newman | Stephanie York |
| Carol Leibowitz | Laurie Nusbaum | Penny Zell |
| Pam Levinson | Efrat Ohayon | |

Lifetime Members

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Trish Crane | Jenny Saferstein |
| Robin Freedman | Mallory Shwab |
| Debbie Saferstein | Kathy Giller |



FIESTA DE PURIM!

Welcome to Purim in España!

It was joy and fun as we celebrated our 29th annual “Purim Around the World” event, and what a wonderful evening it was! This year’s theme, “Purim in Spain – Fiesta de Purim,” brought the energy, color, and flavor of Spain to our Purim celebration.

Close to 250 members of our community joined together to hear the Megillah, reliving the powerful story of Queen Esther and the miracle of Purim. The room was filled with families, friends, and plenty of festive spirit as people of all ages gathered to celebrate together.

After the Megillah reading, everyone enjoyed a delicious Spanish-inspired dinner, with the decorations and atmosphere giving the evening a true “fiesta” feel. One of the highlights of the night was the giant mechanical bull, which had both kids and adults lining up for a turn and brought plenty of laughter to the room.

If you’ve participated, you’ll know how Purim is always a special time at our Shul and is a great way to bring the community together to celebrate. We are grateful to everyone who came out to be part of the evening and to the many volunteers who helped make this year’s Fiesta de Purim such a memorable celebration.



Scan QR code
to view the full
Purim album



MISHLOACH MANOT

500 Purim gift bags packed & delivered

This Purim, our community came together to spread joy and connection through the Mitzvah of Mishloach Manot. Thanks to the generosity and involvement of so many, we distributed over 500 Purim gift bags to families throughout the Akron area, making this tradition accessible to all.

We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who made this project possible. A special thank you to the Lippman Kanfer Family Foundation, our sponsor families, and each person who purchased a bag. Thank you for allowing us to unite the community with this Mitzvah. We are also incredibly grateful to our dedicated volunteers, who put in the time and effort to carefully pack and personally deliver each Mishloach Manot package.



HAMANTASH BAKE SALE

3,000 hand-baked holiday cookies!!

This year's Hamantash Bake Sale was a huge success, with 3,000 of these classic Purim treats baked and sold throughout the community. From poppyseed and jelly to the chocolate favorite, every batch was hand-baked with care. A special thank you to the many volunteers who rolled, filled, pinched, and baked each hamantash.

All proceeds from the sale benefit our Women's Chavurah Sisterhood, supporting programs and initiatives for our community.

Hamantash fun fact: the filling inside a hamantash is hidden within the dough, just like the miracle of Purim was hidden within natural events - reminding us that even when we don't see it, Hashem is always guiding our story.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Where being Jewish is fun!

LIVING JUDAISM

Our Sunday School is filled with energy, creativity, and hands-on learning that brings Judaism to life for our students. Recently, the children rolled up their sleeves to learn how to make their own challah, explored the Jewish daily routine - from saying Modeh Ani in the morning to Shema before going to sleep - and discovered the special gift of their neshama, learning how their soul guides them to do good and perform mitzvot. Through engaging activities, discussions, and experiences, our students don't just learn about Judaism - they truly live it in a fun, meaningful, and interactive way.



JEWISH MALL ADVENTURE

Our Sunday School joined together with Beth El and Temple Israel for a special collaborative program called "The Ultimate Jewish Mall Adventure." The event transformed familiar stores into creative Jewish-themed experiences, where students "shopped" their way through hands-on activities inspired by places like Target, Starbucks, Home Depot, Pandora, and Apple - each reimagined with Jewish learning and values. Through games, creativity, and interactive stations, the children explored what it means to live Jewishly in everyday life.



PHOTO TAKEN BEFORE SHABBAT

SOCIAL EVENTS

GATHER. CONNECT. CELEBRATE.



CTEEN SHABBATON IN NEW YORK CITY!

A group of our Akron teens had an incredible time in NYC for the international CTTeen Shabbaton! They joined 4,000(!) Jewish teens from around the world for a weekend filled with fun, pride, and inspiration. From sightseeing, to an emmersive Shabbat experience, workshops, and of course, great food! A major highlight of the weekend was the 'Times Square Takeover' for a grand Havdalah concert.



SPAGHETTI DINNER & AUCTION

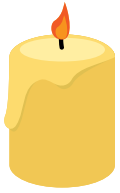
Our recent Spaghetti Dinner and Auction Night was a wonderful evening of community and fun, with about 150 adults and children joining together to enjoy a delicious dinner. Guests had the chance to browse a wide selection of beautifully arranged prize baskets and purchase tickets for the auction.

We are grateful to everyone who came out to participate and help make the night such a success, and we extend a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who helped organize the event and to the many generous donors who contributed the prize baskets.

MONTHLY SHABBAT AT VITALIA

Each month, we bring the warmth and spirit of Shabbat to the residents of Vitalia Senior Living through a special community Shabbat gathering. Together we light the Shabbat candles, sing traditional Shabbat prayers and melodies, and make Kiddush as everyone joins in the familiar songs that we all cherish. The program also includes the traditional Shabbat tastes of challah and gefilte fish, creating a meaningful and nostalgic experience that connects residents to the beauty of Shabbat.





Yahrzeit

THE FOLLOWING WILL OBSERVE YAHRZEIT IN MEMORY OF THEIR LOVED ONES

MARCH

2 Jerry Macher
Victor Meles

3 Vera Ida
Leon Neiman

4 Julie Geller

6 Ronit Torem

7 Steven J. Katz
Barbara Shapiro

9 Stuart Glauberman

10 Joseph Kanfer
Julie Katz

12 Estabelle Landau

13 Marsha Rockitter
Carmie Stein

14 Stanley Apple

15 Regina Dorman

18 Lynn Efron
Barbara Shapiro
Carol Ann Leibowitz

19 Teddi Kay

21 Teddi Kay
Harvey Post
Marla Gordon
Samuel Reiss

22 Andrew Kurman
& Sharon Shapiro

24 Douglas Weintraub

26 Arthur & Phyllis Taub

27 Larry Levine

28 Estabelle Landau

29 Arlene Markey

30 Susan Lichten
Bob Cooper

31 Ellen Friedman
Marjorie Recht

APRIL

1 Valerie Becker

2 I. Mark Lazbin
Howard Lazbin
Arlene Markey

4 I. Mark Lazbin
Howard Lazbin

5 Estabelle Landau

6 Linda Lyons

7 Barbara Miller
William Zell

8 Paula Gross
Marjorie Recht
Debbie Saferstein
Sharon Saferstein
Sharlene Manes

9 Michal Levine
Stacy Shulan

11 Harvey Groden

12 Carmie Stein

13 Brian Sass

15 Harvey Lipton
Joel Recht
Linda Stile
Samuel Reiss

16 Linda Lyons

17 Keith Migdal

18 Arlene Markey

21 Carol Ann Leibowitz

24 David Kloner

25 Jodi Morris

26 Michael & Kanjana Clar

27 Judy Ekus Subotin
Shirley Katz

28 Robert Godshall
Teddi Kay
Judith Neiman

29 Beth Sugerman
Mark Weinberger
Michael A. Weinberger

MAY

3 Nancy Potter

5 Wendy Cooley
Stanley Apple

6 Marjorie Recht
Estabelle Landau

11 Debbie Saferstein
Sharon Saferstein

12 Moshe Torem

14 Penny Zell

16 Jerry & Linda Groden
Harvey & Marilyn Groden

17 Meir Ohayon

18 Leo Katz
Stephen Winer

19 Leo Katz

20 Estabelle Landau
Orli Rodriguez
Carmie Stein

23 Bernard Schneier

24 Harvey Groden
Scott Gross

25 Mark Weinberger
Michael A. Weinberger

26 Mark Weinberger
Michael A. Weinberger

27 Diana Rakhkin

28 Arlene Markey

30 I. Mark Lazbin
Howard Lazbin
Barry Miller
Harvey Groden
Arthur Taub
Robert M. Taub



IN MEMORIAM

Robert "Bob" Parker
Beloved husband of Shellie
Levine Parker

Marc Gertz
Beloved husband of Pamela
Beloved father of Braden
and Leia

Livia Joan Kades
Beloved wife of Phillip
Beloved mother of Josh
(Stefanie) Kades and Beth
(Brian) Newman

Carolyn Portman
Beloved Mother of Alys,
Lauren, and Stuart

Mort Sobel
Beloved father of Eric (Lynne)
Sobel, Lawrence (Ann) Sobel,
and Rochelle (Steve) Palay

Arthur Ash
Beloved father of Diane and
Dave (Sheri)
Beloved Grandfather
& Great-grandfather

Sally Ekus
Beloved mother of Robin
(Steven) Genshaft and Betsy
(Marvin) Droz
Beloved Grandmother
& Great-grandmother

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Daniel M. Pasternak
Sarah Pasternak



The 'Yahrzeit' - the anniversary of the date of passing is very significant in Judaism. It is the time of year when the soul is at its greatest strength and in its fullest glory. With each ensuing year, this radiance again shines forth in the world and in the Heavens, as the soul is elevated to a higher spiritual level and drawn even closer to G-d. On this day, every Mitzvah performed and every effort to improve one's spiritual life brings great merit to the deceased.



MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU!



THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

♥ THESE MOMENTS HAPPEN BECAUSE OF YOU! ♥

**THE
HELEN BENES
MEMORIAL FUND**

In Memory of
Mark Lazbin
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Lazbin
Nuhem Sholom Gitelmaker
Mr. & Dr. Yuriy Dorman

**THE
MARK BOROVSKY
CHILDREN'S BOOK FUND**

In Honor of
L'Dor Va'dor
Mr & Mrs. Daniel Dorna
In Memory of
Civia Gitelmaker
Fima Dorman
Lisa Reznik
Mark Borovsky
Moisei Reznik
Our Parents & Grandparents
Rebecca Drapkin
Mr. & Dr. Yuriy Dorman

**THE
CEMETERY FUND**

In Memory of
Benjamin Schall
Dr. & Mrs. Perry Schall

**THE
CHILDREN'S FUND**

In Honor of
Rosie Green
Mr. & Mrs. Avi Green
In Honor of
Mort Sobel
Mr. & Mrs. John Smeltzer
Ruth Bricklin
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Sharrock

**THE
HYMAN M. & MARTHA
EKUS MEMORIAL FUND**

In Honor of
Avremel's Upshernish
Ms. Judy Subotin
In Memory of
Arthur Ash
Carolyn Portman
Ettie Ekus
Ms. Judy Subotin

**THE
CHARLES & ROSE GLASS
EDUCATION FUND**

In Memory of
Claire Greenbaum
Mr. Avi Greenbaum

**THE
NATHAN & ROSE KATZ
KITCHEN FUND**

In Memory of
Kenneth Miller
Mr. Barry Miller

**THE
PRAYER BOOK FUND**

In Honor of
Avremel's Upshernish
Dr. & Mrs. Joel Miller
In Memory of
Hannah Miller
Pauline Kramer
Dr. & Mrs. Joel Miller
Morton Sobel
Mr. & Mrs. Sid Zetzer
Richard Miller
Mr. Barry Miller
Ruthe Becker
Ms. Valerie Becker

**THE
RABBI MENDY LEGACY
FUND**

In Honor of
Avremel's Upshernish
Dr. & Mrs. Michael
Lishnevski
Mr. & Mrs. Michael
Vasserman
Mr. Stephen Winer
Mr. Steven Katz
Ms. Marilyn Tapper
Rabbi Moshe Sasonkin
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Sable
The Sasonkin Family
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce
Freedman
Shabbat in Akron
Mr. & Mrs. Noah Katz
In Memory of
Annette Geller
Harry Geller
Dr. & Mrs. Larry Geller

Arthur Ash
Carolyn Portman
Livia Kades
Marc Gertz
Cheryl A. Kelley
Igor Sher
Mrs. Julia Sher
Katie Gruber
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Sutter
Marc Gertz
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Groden
Mort Sobel
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Marks
Neal Sausen
Mr. Jack Bennett
Phyllis Sugerman
Mr. & Mrs. Irv Sugerman
Simone & Elwood Nestvold
Mr. Paul Nestvold

**THE
RABBI LIEBTAG
EDUCATION FUND**

In honor of
Paula Gross's Special
Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Recht
In Memory of
Arthur Ash
Mrs. Herb Moss
Irving Recht
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Recht
Ruthe Becker
Ms. Valerie Becker
For the Recovery of
Devorah Alevsky
Mrs. Herb Moss

**THE
JACK SAFERSTEIN
BUILDING FUND**

In Memory of
Randy Richard Recht
Mrs. Dave Recht

**THE
LOU & FREDA STILE
MITZVAH FUND**

In Memory of
Chaim Ben Yochanon
Mr & Mrs. Daniel Dorman

Irving Recht
Livia Kades
Marc Gertz
Ruth Galter Bricklin
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Stile
Minnie Haberman
Mrs. Dave Recht

**THE
TORAH FUND**

In Honor of
Barry Miller's Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Denholm
Leslie Ungar & Moise Zarouk
Mr. Daniel Blain & Mrs.
Miriam Rosenberg
In Memory of
The Rebbe
Ruben Ouazana & Nicole
Noff
Ben and Anna Paskal
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Colker
Carla Kodish
Ms. Joan Allyn Kodish &
Mr. Steven Beres
Carolyn Portman
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Cohen
Esther & Jack Manes
Ms. Penny Manes
Frieda Taub
Pamela S. Taub
Mr. Robert M. Taub & Mrs.
Teddi Kay
Jeff, Max, Joe, Isador,
Evelyn, Nathan and Rose
Katz
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Colker
Juan Jose Geradino Luchesi
Ms. Orli Rodriguez
Mort Sobel
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Gotlieb
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Shafron
Mr. Lawrence Apple
Mr. Robert Zetzer
Rose Jaslovitz
Mr. Alan Jaslow
For the Recovery of
Troy Dean Foster
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Sharrock



Anshe Sfard

Revere Road Synagogue
646 N. Revere Rd.
Akron, OH 44333

Address Services Requested

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No.
1419
Akron, Ohio



LEAVE A LEGACY!

Consider including Anshe Sfard in your will

With a simple act today, you can make an eternal impact!
Contact our office at: office@akronshul.com or 330.867.7292

RMD = Required Mitzvah Distribution

Did you know: Giving a donation directly from your IRA can count toward your Required Minimum Distribution? For those who take an annual RMD, consider directing part of that distribution to support the Shul and the mitzvah of tzedakah.

Making the donation is easy. Simply contact your financial institution and ask them to issue a Charitable Distribution directly to the synagogue using the information below:

Anshe Sfard – Revere Rd Synagogue

646 N Revere Rd.
Akron, OH 44333
EIN: 34-6003712



MAZAL TOV

Shirley & Leo Katz

on the birth of a
Great Grandson
Yitzchok Shlomo Aryeh

**Debbie & Sheldon, obm
Saferstein**

on the engagement of their
daughter
Sarah to Michael Desantis

Stacey Fish

on her engagement to
Andrew Holub

Brian Aronson

on the marriage of his son
Moshe Chaim Leib to Zahava
Golda

Efrat & Meir Ohayon

On the engagement of their
daughter Rone to Brian Gass

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE: AKRONSHUL.COM