

# The Agudagram

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Cheshvan/Kislev 5782

## Agudas Israel Congregation

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### Officers:

Debbie Walko, President

Marlene Leonard, Vice President

Richard Rockman, Secretary

Helene Kline, Treasurer

Al Rosen, Financial Advisor

Richard Kline, Financial Officer



### **Shabbat Candlelighting & Service Times**

November 5 Rosh Chodesh Kislev- Parshat Toldot- 5:37 PM candlelighting  
(DST November 7) November 12- Parshat Vayetzei- 4:30 PM candlelighting

November 19- Parshat Vayigash- 4:24 PM candlelighting

November 26- Parshat Vayeshev- 4:20 PM candlelighting

Chanukah begins November 28 with first candlelighting at sundown.

## Join us for a Shabbat Chanukah service and deli kiddush!

Enjoy a beautiful Shabbat service during Chanukah on Saturday,  
December 4 with our AIC family in person at our synagogue!

A scrumptious deli kiddush will be served following services in the  
social hall. Richard Kline and Cantor Barry will lead the service.  
Please email the shul or call to RSVP by November 24 so we  
ensure there is enough food for all.

We look forward to spending another holiday together as we  
continue to navigate our new normal.



# Happy Thanksgivukkah! Five Things Thanksgiving and Hanukkah Have in Common

Thanksgivukkah is just around the corner—and it won't be again for about 79,000 years (close but no cigar this year!)

By [Katy Steinmetz](#) Nov. 25, 2013 adapted for 2021



Kim DeMarco for ModernTribe.com

In a rare alignment of calendars, Thanksgiving and the first day of Hanukkah both fall on the same holiday weekend this year. And Americans planning to celebrate this double holiday have dubbed it [Thanksgivukkah](#) like in 2013. At first glance, the festivals might seem completely different. One is dreidels. One is pumpkins. One is kosher. One is pigskins. But here are five things the holidays have in common:

1. Both are a great excuse to stuff yourself silly. Yes, people eat hot dogs on the Fourth of July and sip eggnog on Christmas Eve, but there is no holiday on the American calendar that is more about food than Thanksgiving. Hanukkah, a time to eat latkes and brisket, kugel and challah, is also

celebrated by putting delicious things in bellies. “All Jewish holidays are about food,” says Dana Gitell, the Bostonian [credited with coining](#) *Thanksgivukkah*. “And that’s one of the reasons why American Jews love Thanksgiving so much. These are both feasts.” The convergence has set foodies atwitter, inspiring [fusion menus](#) and dishes like [turkey doughnuts](#). Who wouldn’t love turkey and latkes?

2. Both are rooted in religion.

Hanukkah, of course, is a Jewish holiday. Known as the Festival of Lights, the eight-day celebration commemorates a Jewish military victory and the miracle of [oil](#) that lasted eight days when it should have lasted one. As any fourth grader will tell you, Thanksgiving commemorates a harvest feast among Indians and Pilgrims that happened almost 400 years ago. While that might seem secular, those Pilgrims never would have been breaking bread with those Indians if they hadn’t first broken from the Church of England—and fled [Europe](#) in search of religious freedom.

3. Both were started by groups who found refuge in America.

Rabbi Mishael Zion, co-director of the Bronfman Fellowships, points out that Hanukkah and Thanksgiving were both started by people who found a haven in America and flourished there. "Thanksgiving really celebrates not so much America the country, but America the idea," says Zion. "It's a place of refuge. It's also a place of opportunity and mobility and success." Freedom from want, he says, quoting Franklin Roosevelt, "is what the Jews have found in America. It's what Pilgrims found in America."

4. Both are all about being thankful.

"They both are holidays of gratitude after facing adversity," says Zion. Two millennia ago, the Jewish people were thankful that their conflict with Greco-Syrian foes was at an end, he says, and today Hanukkah is a fine time to be grateful for religious freedom. Thanksgiving started as an appreciation of a bountiful harvest and has morphed into a day when people count any and all blessings, being it a lovely family or a day off from school.

5. Both are a reason to go home.

People aren't flooding public parks or places of religious worship on either of these holidays. People aren't reciting long Hebrew prayers or poring over the Mayflower manifests either. These are both celebrations that involve sitting at home, catching up with Gram-Gram. "Thanksgiving and Hanukkah don't belabor the point," Zion says. "They are both home holidays." Gitell says that Thanksgiving should be a day for fun and a day for unity. She, for one, will be with her family like she is for every Thanksgiving and Hanukkah. "We're just going to have more food," she says.

A great shopping and food weekend to be with family and preparing for all the buying and giving and food consumption filled most importantly with love!



GET WELL WISHES ARE EXPRESSED TO: BOBBIE KLEMOW, LEANNE TRATTNER, SHERRI KLEMOW SHELVIN, DOTTY TAUB, & EILEEN BRENNER.

SHOULD ANYONE HAVE ANY NEWS TO SHARE WITH THE AIC FAMILY, PLEASE EMAIL IT TO [AGUDASISRAELHAZLETON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AGUDASISRAELHAZLETON@GMAIL.COM) TO RUN IN THE NEXT AGUDAGRAM!



## How an ancient revolt sparked the Festival of Lights

Celebrated over eight days and nights, Hanukkah commemorates a people's uprising and holy miracle from more than 2,000 years ago.

BY AMY BRIGGS

PUBLISHED DECEMBER 9, 2020

It's time to celebrate Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights that lasts for eight days and nights. This year Hanukkah starts on Thursday, December 10, and ends Friday, December 18. The holiday's popularity has surged in modern times, but its origins date back to the turbulent centuries following the death of [Alexander the Great](#), the ancient Macedonian leader who conquered the Persian Empire.

The origins of Hanukkah

After Alexander's death in 323 B.C., a power struggle broke out among his generals that lasted for more than century. The Greco-Syrian Seleucid kings would emerge victorious and rule many of Alexander's former territories, including Judea (located in central, present-day Israel). The Seleucids exerted their influence through Hellenization, the spread of Greek art, architecture, and religion. Local communities, especially in Judea, resisted it. (See also: [The plots and conspiracies that ended Alexander's empire.](#))

In 175 B.C. the Seleucid king Antiochus IV Epiphanes came into power and tried to force Judeans to assimilate. The Seleucids captured the holy Temple of Jerusalem and defiled it by erecting an altar to the Greek god Zeus inside. Antiochus outlawed the Jewish faith and mandated the worship of Greek gods. Some scholars think he believed that establishing one common religion might unify his fractured empire, but his brutal methods undid those intentions.

Writing in the first century A.D., Jewish historian Josephus recorded the brutal [plundering](#) of Jerusalem and treatment of Jewish dissidents who were "whipped with rods, and their bodies torn to pieces, and were crucified, while they were still alive, and breathed. . . . And if there were any sacred book, or the law found, it was destroyed: and those



with whom they were found miserably perished also.”



An illuminated 15th-century manuscript of Josephus's *The Jewish War* features colorful illustrations of the Maccabees' revolt against Antiochus.

JOSEPHUS FLAVIUS, "JEWISH WAR," ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Horried by the Temple desecration and cruelty toward the Jewish people, a priest named Mattathias and his sons rose up in rebellion. After Mattathias's death in 166 B.C., his son Judah the Maccabee (the "Hammer") took his father's place in the fight and led the Jewish people in many victories over the Seleucids. In 164, Judah won back Jerusalem and restored the Temple, cleansing and rededicating it. The revolt of the Maccabees, as it came to be known, continued on and ultimately drove the Seleucids from Judea in 160.

Hanukkah, which means "dedication," commemorates the miracle of light that occurred when Judah rededicated the Temple to the Hebrew god. According to the Talmud (one of Judaism's holy texts), the Seleucids left only one intact vial of oil, just enough to light the Temple's candelabrum for one day. But it burned for eight days—enough time for the victorious Judeans to secure more oil—and the miracle became the foundation of a beloved holiday to thank God and celebrate the victory of light over darkness.

How Hanukkah is celebrated

Although it is traditionally a fairly minor religious holiday, Hanukkah grew popular in the 20<sup>th</sup> century due to its proximity to Christmas.

Hanukkah, writes [Tatjana Lichtenstein](#), director of the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, "offered an opportunity for Jews to participate in the holiday celebrations complete with gift-giving and merry-making without giving up their distinct religious and cultural identities." (Why Judaism's holiest day is actually Yom Kippur, the day of atonement.)



Every night of Hanukkah, one more candle is lit in the menorah. Some may celebrate at home, while others, like these children in Colorado Springs, may light the menorah during Hanukkah services at their local synagogue.

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Today Hanukkah is celebrated on the 25th day of Kislev (the ninth month of the Hebrew calendar), which typically falls in late November to mid-December. For eight nights, candles are lit in a menorah, a candelabrum with spaces for nine candles—one for each night plus a “servant” candle called the shamash (shammes in Yiddish). On each successive night, one more candle is added and lit. During the lighting, people recite special blessings and prayers. Songs are sung, and gifts are exchanged to commemorate the miracle in the Temple more than 2,000 years ago.

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to disrupt Hanukkah celebrations across the world as health officials discourage families and communities from gathering, but not even a pandemic can extinguish this festival dedicated to the miracle of light. Instead, much of the merriment will take place from a distance, from virtual menorah lightings to drive-thru reenactments of the Hanukkah story.



**SHEILA IS RESIDING AT ST. LUKE'S PAVILION. VISITATION AT ST. LUKE'S IS NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. PLEASE WEAR A MASK SHOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT AND REFRESH HER MEMORY OF HER LIFE WITH US!**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEND HER A CARD, YOU MAY SEND IT TO:**

**SHEILA MOYER  
C/O ST. LUKE'S PAVILION  
1000 STACIE DR. ROOM 227A  
HAZLETON, PA 18201**

**If anyone has current mailing and/or email addresses for: Gertrude Hoffman, Al Rosen, or Marilyn Bergstein, please send any update to our email [agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com](mailto:agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com) as the info we have was returned for being insufficient. Thank you!**



## November (Cheshvan/Kislev) Yahrzeits

*May the memory of the righteous endure as a blessing.*

The yahrzeit plaque lights are on in the sanctuary in memory of our departed loved ones.

\*Numbers before each name correspond to the Hebrew date of their passing. The date after each name is the secular day of the yahrzeit. Yahrzeit candles should be lit the evening before this date burning through the day of their passing. Kaddish should be said the evening before and the day of the date of passing.

### CHESHVAN

26 Rochelle Solomon 11/1  
27 Mayer Haas 11/2  
27 Etta Brownstein 11/2  
27 Ruth Eisenberg 11/2  
27 Isaac Kline 11/  
28 Lillian Bohorad 11/3  
28 Minnie Miller 11/3  
28 Milton Miller 11/3

10 Rita Baiderman 11/14  
10 Aaron Kashinitz 11/14  
10 Kurt Seuss 11/14  
12 Frances H. Miller 11/16  
13 Lottie Chenetz 11/17  
15 Manuel Klemow 11/19  
16 Isadore Rothbart 11/20  
17 Jacob Sherman 11/21  
19 Leonard Narrow 11/23  
21 Rachel Suess 11/25  
21 Hyman Gold 11/25  
22 Howard Koller 11/26  
22 Harry Rabinowitz 11/26  
23 Levi Bohard 11/27  
23 Lester Rosenberg 11/27  
24 Dora Jaffe 11/28  
24 Elaine Linz 11/28  
25 Alan Berg 11/29  
25 Evelyn Hollander 11/29  
26 Albert Aronoff 11/30

### KISLEV

1 George Shupack 11/5  
1 Menachem Glassberg 11/5  
3 Ethel Pegalis 11/7  
3 Leroy Orkin 11/7  
3 Morris Starker 11/7  
4 Rose Edelstein 11/8  
6 Fannie Aranoff 11/10  
6 Lena Levine 11/10  
7 Ida Deitch 11/11  
7 Miriam Chana Rosen 11/11  
8 Gloria Tevlin 11/12  
9 Lillian Brown 11/13  
9 Martin Elkind 11/13  
10 Sedell Bloch 11/14

PLEASE REMEMBER THE MITZVAH OF GIVING TZEDUKAH  
TO YOUR SHUL OR THE SHUL OF YOUR LOVED ONE WHO  
HAS PASSED, ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR YAHRZEIT IN  
THEIR MEMORY.

### Prayers To Recite When Lighting the Yahrzeit Candle

"I light this candle to bring peace to the soul of \_\_\_\_\_ (insert Jewish name) ben/bat (son  
of/daughter of) \_\_\_\_\_ (insert father's Jewish name)."

The human soul is a light from God. May it be your will that the soul of (*insert name*) enjoy eternal life, along with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah, and the rest of the righteous that are in Gan Eden. Amen.

*Neir Adonai Nishmat Adam. Yehi Ratzon Milfanecha, Adonai Eloheinu Veilohei Avoteinu, Shetehei Nishmat (insert name) Tzerurah betzeror hachayim, im nishmot Avraham Yitzchak ve'Ya'akov, Sarah, Rivkah, Rachel VeLeah. Tehi Menutchatah kavod, Selah.*

# DONATIONS RECEIVED

## October 2021 Yahrzeits

### Name

Beryl Brown

Richard & Faye Bishop

Theodore Matlow, Jacqueline  
Matlow

Mable Brown

Ronald Feller, Nancy Feller

Helen Minkin

Barry and Karen Chaskin

Elliot and Toby Eisenberg

Robert Brown

Lewis Litwack

Robert Levy

Howard and Kathryn Brown

### In Honor Of

Morris Feller, Grandfather

Rose Bishop, Grandmother

Minnie Chaskin, Neighbor and friend of parents

Miriam Kuss, Mother of Friend

Sidney Klemow, Friend of parents

Rochelle Spizer, close friend

Irving Brown, father of friend

Gary David Taub, friend

Hy Feller, Friend of parents

Father, Reuben Cohn

Husband, Irving Brown (20 year anniversary of  
his passing)

Hy Feller, Father

Father, Irvin Brown

Sister, Rochelle Spizer

Milton Yust

Irving Brown

Uncle, Irving Brown

Father, Benjamin Levy

Father, Irving Brown

We greatly appreciate donations for yahrzeits, life events, and other celebrations!

**Thank**

**You**

They truly keep the shul running and show how strong our congregation is.

If you'd like information about making a donation, please email us at [agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com](mailto:agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com) or call the shul.

Don't forget about our PayPal link for making donations! Simply go to

PayPal.com and enter our email address

[agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com](mailto:agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com) to be directed to send donations right to the shul! You may also use our specific PayPal link sent in emails.







## **President's Message- November 2021**

Our beautiful change of fall foliage scenery is taking us into Thanksgiving explained in the great article that Sara provided for us. We are looking forward to family gatherings and our In-house and Zoom Shabbat Hanukkah service with the assistance of Richard Kline and Cantor Barry Butensky followed by a delicious deli kiddish. We are asking you please respond to Christina as early as possible if you will be attending since planning depends on the number of people in attendance. Thank you to all who are assisting in planning this get together. If you would like to assist, please let Christina know. I am elated that we are moving into our new norm after a long time apart.

I am asking our members and friends to tune in, when available, on Zoom with us for Shabbat Services on Saturdays from 9:30am to 11:30am to assist those of us who are in need of a minyan to say Kaddish for our loved ones. Unfortunately, for the past few weeks, we have not had 10 people participating.

Our complete 2022 calendar is in the process of being put together which is another step in the right direction; we appreciate your responses and participation in this as well. Happy holidays to all.

Best wishes for a  
beautiful holiday season,

*Debbie Walker*