

The Agudagram

October 2021 Volume 71, No. 2
Tishrei/ Cheshvan 5782

Agudas Israel Congregation
77 North Pine Street
Hazleton, PA 18201
570-455-2851

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

October 8- Parshat Noach- 6:16 PM candlelighting
October 15- Parshat Lech Lecha- 6:05 PM candlelighting
October 22- Parshat Vayera- 5:55 PM candlelighting
October 29- Parshat Chayai Sarah- 5:45 PM candlelighting

WELCOME CHRISTINA!

Please join our board with a warm welcome for our new office manager, Christina Ferry! Christina brings a skillset that includes online marketing, web, and graphic design as well as experience with management and administration. She graduated from Penn State University in 2012 with a degree in biochemistry and has worked in the fields of biomedical research and more recently, organic farming. She is fascinated by the beautiful culture and traditions of Judaism and thrilled to be a part of this community.



We are thrilled to have her join our community; she will surely be an asset to us! Please feel free to use our email address AgudasIsraelHazleton@gmail.com to reach out and say hello! Christina will be in the Agudas Israel office Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10am-3pm.

MarCheshvan or Cheshvan?

By Harvey Bock

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, we mark the arrival of the month that is usually referred to as either **חֶשְׁוֹן** or **מַרְחֶשְׁוֹן**. It is common knowledge that the second name developed from the first: the word **מַר**, which means “bitter,” was added to **חֶשְׁוֹן** because it is the only month in the Jewish calendar with absolutely no holidays or other out-of-the-ordinary days — not even a fast day.

But sometimes common knowledge is wrong.

When the linguistic facts are examined, the popular explanation of the name **מַרְחֶשְׁוֹן** turns out to be nothing but a charming folk etymology. But the true origin of the name is at least as interesting. The following is a translated paraphrase of a discussion of **מַרְחֶשְׁוֹן** by N. H. Tur-Sinai, a major Israeli scholar of Hebrew and the Bible (1886–1973):

It is a well-known fact, mentioned even in the Talmud, that the names of the months that we use today in Jewish life came from Babylon with the returning exiles in the days of Ezra. We can see from the Bible that different names were used before that. Akkadian texts confirm the provenance of the current names, as these names were in use in Assyria and Babylon during the Judean exile; and from Akkadian we can establish the original meaning of those names. For example, the name of the month **תַּשְׁרִי** is *tašritu* in Akkadian, which means “beginning.” (The same word is found in the Aramaic *piyyut*, *Aqdamut*, which is read on Shavuot: The first line, **אֶקְדָּמוֹת מַלְיָן וְשָׂרִיּוֹת שׁוֹתָא**, means “an introduction of words and a beginning [שָׂרִיּוֹת] of conversation.”) **תַּשְׁרִי** was so named because it was viewed at the time as the beginning of the year, even though an alternate Israelite calendric system treated Nisan as the first month of the year.

It is this alternative system that accounts for the name **מַרְחֶשְׁוֹן**. First, a pronunciation issue: In Babylon the pronunciation of the letter *mem* and *vav* (which was at the time still pronounced like the English letter “w”) was reversed; both letters are pronounced with the two lips, and this evidently accounts for their reversal in Babylon. The name that gave rise, through this

pronunciation, to מְרַחֵשׁוֹן, was originally *warḥu šamanu* – i.e., in Hebrew, יָרַח שְׁמִינִי, “eight month.” מְרַחֵשׁוֹן thus means the eighth month (counting from Nisan).

So in fact, it is מְרַחֵשׁוֹן that is the month’s original name, and חֶשֶׁן is just a shortened version. May your חֶשֶׁן be a sweet one!



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

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

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

2022 Agudas Israel Calendar

We are gathering information, ads, and orders for the next AIC calendar. If you have not already given the information you would like to appear in it, please contact Sherri Klemow Shevlin soon. Be sure to include birthdates, anniversaries, and yahrzeits you wish to include. Please reach out to Sherri with any questions, comments, or concerns. Her email address is sklemowshev@gmail.com.



October (Tishrei/Cheshvan) 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.

TISHREI

25 Hannah Florence Lefkowitz 10/1
25 Sadie Goldberg 10/1
25 Ben Mason 10/1
26 Minnie Chaskin 10/2
26 Pauline Lander 10/2
26 Joseph B. Frumkin 10/2
26 Simon Klemow 10/2
27 Julia B. Blumberg 10/3
27 Rachel Cohn 10/3
27 Rose Bishop 10/3
28 Rita Wiepert 10/4
28 Meyer Deitch 10/4
28 Larry Chaskin 10/4
28 Meyer Sullum 10/4
29 Molly Rosen 10/5

CHESVAN

3 Mildred Weiss 10/9
3 Sosya Zamyatin 10/9
3 Samuel Koplín 10/9
4 Sophie Richter 10/10
4 Lillian Klemow 10/10
4 Miriam Kuss 10/10
5 Myron Brenner 10/11

8 Benjamin Levy 10/14
8 Sidney Klemow 10/14
10 Meril Frucht 10/16
10 Fay Gold 10/16
10 Arnold Thalenfeld 10/16
11 Rochelle Spizer 10/17
11 Hy Feller 10/17
11 Ethel B. Tulin 10/17
11 Anna F. Oberson 10/17
14 Irving Brown 10/20
17 Abe Bloch 10/23
17 Gary David Taub 10/23
19 Joseph Abramson 10/25
19 Milton Yust 10/25
19 David Rosen 10/25
20 Esther Mednitsky 10/26
20 Rose Shamieh 10/26
23 Sarah G. Aronoff 10/29
23 Reuben Cohn 10/29



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.

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 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 to be directed to send

donations right to the shul! You may also use our specific PayPal link sent in emails.



DONATIONS RECEIVED

September Yahrzeit Donations

Name	In Honor Of
Mark Levine	Mary Levine, Mother
Mark Bogdany	Muriel Bogdany
Robert Brown	Morris Feller, Grandfather
Howard & Kathy Brown	Morris Feller, Grandfather
Richard & Faye Bishop	Fannie Gandell, Grandmother
Richard & Faye Bishop	Bernard Chaskin, Former Neighbor
Richard & Faye Bishop	Altheda Ziff, Mother of Good Friend
Elliot Eisenberg	Harold Eisenberg, Father
Anita Deicth	Sarah Goldberg, Mother

September Endowment Donation

Name	In Memory of
Shirley Brenner	Rhoda Starker
Cindy Conahan	
Debbie Walko	
Shirley Brenner	Norma Tapper
Cindy Conahan	
Debbie Walko	



President's Message- October 2021

Shalom,

I want to thank everyone who assisted in making it possible for us to join together in person and on Zoom for our tremendously amazing, and moving, yet traditional, High Holiday services. Cantor Barry Butensky has a beautiful voice, meaningful sermons, and a wonderful personality along with his lovely wife, Illisa. Richard Kline is our lifeline to the shul; he organized the Aliyahs and assisted with the services. Thank

you to Richard and Justin Shafritz for sharing in blowing the shofar during our services. Thank you to Richard and Howard Narrow for performing beautiful Haftorahs. Thank you to Sherri and Barry Shevlin for the amazing break the fast display and all the work that went behind bringing in the delicious food for our congregation. Thank you to Jimmy and Marlene Leonard for helping to prepare in reopening our beautiful building and sanctuary. Thank you to Richard Rockman, Alice Coffman, and Steve and Sara Friedman for getting the Zoom up and running; we all learned together how to work out the glitches. We are very fortunate to carry on this beautiful tradition at Agudas Israel Synagogue.

It is with great pleasure that I would like to introduce our new office manager Christina Ferry who is currently training with Alice at the Shul. Please feel free to come in or contact the Shul office and introduce yourself to Christina. She has experience in web design, online marketing and computer software. She will be improving our web site and moving forward with what Bobbie Klemow started for us. Thank you to Bobbie Klemow for taking care of this for so many years. Also, thank you to Bobbie and Lori Klemow for preparing pictures of our members and taking them to show Sheila Moyer to brighten her day at St. Luke's Pavilion. Thank you to Alice who spent the last six months bringing our office up to date in the tech world. We really appreciate all of your efforts and we will miss you.

Our next endeavor to conquer is to hire a rabbi/spiritual Director. Thank you to Sherri, who is assisting with this and for her wonderful sermon. Our vision to move forward is getting clearer for the New Year.

May God bless us all.

Best wishes,

Della Walker