

The Agudagram

July/August 2021 Volume 70, No. 11
Tammuz/Av/Elul 5781

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 Times

July 9- Matot-Mattei- 8:19PM	July 16- Devarim 8:16PM
July 23- Ve'etchanan 8:10PM	July 30- Eikev- 8:04PM
August 6- Re-eh 7:56PM	August 13- Shoftim- 7:47PM
August 20- Ki Teitzei 7:37PM	August 27- Ki Tavo 7:26PM

**Tisha B'Av begins after sundown on Shabbat July 17
at 8:34PM and ends Sunday at 9:23PM.**



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.

What Are Tisha B'Av & the Three Weeks?

by [Rabbi Shraga Simmons](#)

The "Three Weeks" between the 17th of Tammuz and the Tisha B'Av have historically been days of misfortune and calamity for the Jewish people. During this time, both the First and Second Temples were destroyed, amongst other tragedies.

These days are referred to as the period "within the straits" (*bein hametzarim*), in accordance with the verse: "All her oppressors have overtaken her within the straits" ([Lamentations 1:3](#)). During this time, various aspects of mourning are observed by the entire nation. We minimize joy and celebration – no weddings are held, we do not listen to music, nor are there haircuts or shaving. The expressions of mourning take on greater intensity as we approach the day of Tisha B'Av.

Since the attribute of Divine judgment ("din") is acutely felt, we [avoid potentially dangerous](#) or risky endeavors.

On Shabbat during the Three Weeks, the Haftorahs are taken from chapters in Isaiah and Jeremiah dealing with the Temple's destruction and the exile of the Jewish people.

Agonizing over these events is meant to help us conquer those spiritual deficiencies which brought about these tragic events. Through the process of "teshuvah" – self-introspection and a commitment to improve – we have the power to transform tragedy into joy. In fact, the Talmud says that after the future redemption of Israel and the rebuilding of the Temple, these days will be re-dedicated as days of rejoicing and festivity.

The story is told of Napoleon walking through the streets of Paris one Tisha B'Av. As he passed a synagogue he heard the sounds of mourning and crying. "What's this all about?" Napoleon asked. An aide explained that the Jews were in mourning the loss of their Temple. "When did this happen?" Napoleon asked. The aide replied, "About 1700 years ago." Napoleon said, "Certainly a people which has mourned the loss of their Temple for so long, will merit to see it rebuilt!"

Seventeenth of Tammuz

The beginning of a 3-week period of mourning is the 17th of Tammuz, a fast day commemorating the fall of Jerusalem, prior to the destruction of the Holy Temple.

On the 17th of Tammuz, no eating or drinking is permitted from the break of dawn until dusk. (Should the day coincide with Shabbat, the fast is delayed until Sunday.)

Five great catastrophes occurred in Jewish history on the 17th of Tammuz:

1. Moses broke the tablets at Mount Sinai – in response to the [sin of the Golden Calf](#).
The daily offerings in the First Temple were suspended during the [siege of Jerusalem](#), after the Kohanim could no longer obtain animals.
Jerusalem's walls were breached, prior to the [destruction of the Second Temple](#) in 70 CE.
Prior to the Great Revolt, the Roman general Apostamos burned a Torah scroll – setting a precedent for the horrifying burning of Jewish books throughout the centuries.
An idolatrous image was placed in the Sanctuary of the Holy Temple – a brazen act of blasphemy and desecration.

The Nine Days

The period commencing with Rosh Chodesh Av is called the "Nine Days." During this time, a stricter level of mourning is observed, in accordance with the Talmudic dictum ([Ta'anit 26](#)): "When the month of Av begins, we reduce our joy."

During this time the additional "signs of mourning" include abstaining from meat and wine (except on Shabbat) and from doing laundry or wearing freshly laundered clothes (except on Shabbat). We also do not bathe for pleasure, though it is permitted to bathe in cool water in order to remove dirt or perspiration. For more details, see ["The Three Weeks."](#)

Tisha B'Av – Ninth of Av

The intensity of mourning reaches a peak on Tisha B'Av, five national calamities occurred:

1. During the time of Moses, Jews in the desert accepted the [slandorous report of the 12 Spies](#), and the decree was issued forbidding them from entering the Land of Israel. (1312 BCE)
The [First Temple was destroyed](#) by the Babylonians and Nebuchadnezzar. (586 BCE)
The [Second Temple was destroyed](#) by the Romans. (70 CE)
[The Bar Kochba revolt](#) was crushed by Roman Emperor Hadrian. (135 CE)

2. The Temple Mount was plowed under, and Jerusalem was rebuilt as a pagan city.
Other grave misfortunes throughout Jewish history coincided with the Ninth of Av, including the [expulsion from Spain in 1492](#), the outbreak of World War One in 1914, and the mass deportation of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto in 1942.

During the late afternoon prior to Tisha B'Av, it is customary to eat *Seudah Hamaf-seket* – a meal consisting only of bread, water and a hard-boiled egg. The food is dipped in ashes, symbolic of mourning, and eaten while seated on the ground. (The rules are somewhat different when Tisha B'Av falls on Shabbat or Sunday.)

Sundown marks the commencement of Tisha B'Av, where no eating or drinking is permitted until nightfall the following evening. It is also forbidden to bathe or wash, wear leather shoes, or engage in marital relations. We also do not learn Torah, except for texts relevant to Tisha B'Av and mourning – e.g. the book of Lamentations and Job, and certain sections of the Talmud (including the story of Kamtza and Bar Kamtza).

The Book of Eicha (Lamentations), Jeremiah's poetic lament over the destruction of Jerusalem and the First Temple, is read in the synagogue as part of the evening service. Special “Kinot” (elegies) are also recited, both at night and during the day.

Other mourning practices include sitting on a low chair (after midday, a regular chair permitted; see “Laws of Shoes and Chairs”). We also minimize business and leisure activities. Following Tisha B'Av, all normal activities may be resumed, except for the following which are delayed until midday of the 10th of Av, because the burning of the Temple continued through the 10th of Av: haircuts, washing clothes, bathing, listening to music, and eating meat and wine.



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

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

July/August (Tamuz/Av/Elul) 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.

Tamuz (July):

21 Joseph Burkat 1
21 Jerome Syken 1
21 Emanuel Greif 1
22 David Tulin 2
23 Trudy Buchbinder 3
25 Ruth Glassberg 5
26 Hyman Adler 6
27 Mollie Rockman 7
27 Rosalind Spiegel 7
27 Henry Small 7
27 Leontyn Lorbeer 7
29 Samuel Franklin 9
29 Manuel J. Harris 9
29 Rose Dubinsky 9
29 Ronald Schwabe 9

Av (July/August):

1 Ruth Schwartz 10
2 Sarah Goldberg 11
6 Sara Cohn 15
6 Selma Levine 15
6 Harry Heller 15
8 Norman Rosen 17
9 Abraham Solomon 18
10 M.S. Frumkin 19
11 David Klemow 20

11 Mark Kaminoff 20
14 Rachel Weisman 23
16 Joanne Cherrin 25
17 Dora Sugarman 26
19 Morris Barsky 28
19 Myra Griffith 28
19 Mary Mednitsky 28
21 Abel Levine 30
22 Emanuel Greenwald 31
23 Samuel Moldoff 1
26 Tillie Berman 4
26 Ruth Refowich 4
27 Evelyn H. Greif 5
28 Rose Dymond 6
28 Samuel Miller 6
30 Fannie Figlin 8
30 Samuel Mitchneck 8
30 Lena Trattner 8

Elul (August):

1 Sidney Klemow 9
1 Anna Kaplan 9
4 Hillel H. Sukenik 12
5 Jane Hurwitz 12
9 Mollie Adler 17
11 Birdie Richter 19
11 Lillian Cury 19
15 Bernard Chaskin 23
17 Anna Hoffman 25
17 Clara Cenower 25
17 Morris J. Siegel 25
18 Jacob Trattner 26
19 Joshua Figlin 27
19 Rose Spector 27
20 Max Brenner 28
20 Max Besbris 28
21 Ruth Bayarsky 29
21 Isadore Kline 29
22 Morris Feller 30
22 Elaine Burkat 30
22 Bernard Cury 30
23 Goldie Scharf 31
23 Max Lorbeer 31

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.

JUNE DONATIONS RECEIVED

June Yahrzeit Donations

Name

In Honor Of

Name Corrections from May Agudagram

Doris Sugarman

Kalman Sugarman, Father

Doris Sugarman

Barry Sugarman, Husband

Doris Sugarman

Jean Sugarman, Mother

Ariel Grunberg

Blanche Schwartz, Mother

Esther Karpe

Sidney Schwartz, Father

Michele Banker

Bessie Brenner, Grandmother

Name

In Honor Of

Blossom Klemow

Alan Klemow, Son

Beryl Brown

Joseph Brown, Grandfather

Helen Minkin

Joseph Brown, Grandfather

Richard Bishop

Saul Baiderman, Friend of Richard's

Richard Bishop

Gerald Cohn, Friend of Richard's

Richard Bishop

Harold Baum, Friend of Richard's

Richard Bishop

Renay Ziff Berman, Friend of Richard's

Israel Miller

Minnie Miller, Mother

Bonnie & Michael Yanuskiewicz

Morris Kaplan, Grandfather

Bonnie & Michael Yanuskiewicz

Richard Simon Lande, Grandfather

Bonnie & Michael Yanuskiewicz

Goldie Kaplan, Grandmother

Bonnie & Michael Yanuskiewicz

Max Kaplan, Father

Harold Refowich

Irving Refowich, Father

Richard Rockman

Harriet Walit, Cousin

Richard Rockman

Leonard Walit, in-law

Michele Banker

Renay Ziff Berman, Cousin

Leonard & Leanne Trattner

Leontyn Lorbeer, Grandmother

John, Dara, & Matthew Belak

Maryann Belak, Mother

Lee Glassberg

Ruth Glassberg, Mother

Shayna & Edward Geller

Naomi S Jaffe, Mother

Barbara Montague

Emanuel Greif, Father

Rosalind Burkat

Joseph Burkat, Father

Carlos Buchbinder

Trudy Buchbinder, Mother

Terry & Marvin Chercass

Jerome Syken, Brother

Phyllis Landau

Harold Landau, Husband

June Yahrzeit Donations - Continued

Name

Phyllis Landau
Esther B Davidowitz
Judith Feldman
Florence Cohn
Marilyn Bergstein
Marilyn Bergstein
David Matlow

In Honor Of

Louis Moskowitz, Father
Alvan E Baum, Father
Hyman H Wagner, Father
Gerald L Cohn, Husband
Gerald L Cohn, Brother
Samuel A Cohn, Father
Ruth Schwartz, Sister

Endowment Donations

Name

Richard Rockman
Richard Rockman
Richard Rockman
Richard Rockman
Richard Rockman
Richard Rockman
Debbie Walko

In Honor Of

Andrea Domskey
Robert Klemow
Sherri Klemow Shevlin
Barbara Strudler
Dorothy Taub
LeAnne Trattner
Sherri Klemow Shevlin

Thank
You

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

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.



WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE
BAT MITZVAH OF GIA RAINEY ON
BEHALF OF HER FAMILY!



**WE INVITE YOU TO SHARE IN OUR
HAPPINESS AS WE CELEBRATE THE
BAT MITZVAH SERVICE OF OUR
DAUGHTER**

Giavanna Maria

**SATURDAY AUGUST 21, 2021
VIA ZOOM**

**WHILE WE ARE UNABLE TO CELEBRATE AS
PLANNED, WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US
VIRTUALLY.**

MORE DETAILS AND LINK TO FOLLOW.

THE RAINEY FAMILY

Tu B'Av, the fifteenth
day of the month of Av,
is a Day of Love in
Judaism.

Tu B'Av, the 15th Day of Av, is both an ancient and modern holiday. Originally a post-biblical day of joy, it served as a matchmaking day for unmarried women in the second Temple period (before the



fall of Jerusalem in 70 C.E.). Tu B'Av was almost unnoticed in the Jewish calendar for many centuries but it has been rejuvenated in recent decades, especially in the modern state of Israel. In its modern incarnation it is gradually becoming a Hebrew-Jewish Day of Love, slightly resembling Valentine's Day in English-speaking countries.

There is no way to know exactly how early Tu B'Av began. The first mention of this date is in the Mishnah (compiled and edited in the end of the second century), where Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel is quoted saying, There were no better (i.e. happier) days for the people of Israel than the Fifteenth of Av and Yom Kippur, since on these days the daughters of Israel/Jerusalem go out dressed in white and dance in the vineyards. What were they saying: Young man, consider whom you choose (to be your wife)? (Ta'anit, Chapter 4).

Origins of the Date

The Gemara (the later, interpretive layer of the Talmud) attempts to find the origin of this date as a special joyous day, and offers several explanations. One of them is that on this day the Biblical "tribes of Israel were permitted to mingle with each other," namely: to marry women from other tribes (Talmud, Ta'anit 30b). This explanation is somewhat surprising, since nowhere in the Bible is there a prohibition on "intermarriage" among the 12 tribes of Israel. This Talmudic source probably is alluding to a story in the book of Judges (chapter 21): After a civil war between the tribe of Benjamin and other Israelite tribes, the tribes vowed not to intermarry with men of the tribe of Benjamin.

It should be noted that Tu B'Av, like several Jewish holidays (Passover, Sukkot, Tu B'shvat) begins on the night between the 14th and 15th day of the Hebrew month, since this is the night of a full moon in our lunar calendar. Linking the night of a full moon with romance, love, and fertility is not uncommon in ancient cultures. In recent decades Israeli civil culture promotes festivals of singing and dancing on the night of Tu B'Av.

Tu B'Av falls on the evening of July 24 through July 25 this year.

Enjoy this special day of LOVE!



YOM KIPPUR
MEMORY BOOK



In Memoriam

This year we will once again be publishing our Yom Kippur Memorial Book in conjunction with the forthcoming High Holy Days. Listing the names of your dearly departed in the memory book at this season of the year is the traditional way that we perpetuate their memories.

The 2021 Agudas Israel Memorial Book will contain the names of the deceased together with the names of the family members who have submitted their names and made a donation in their memory. The minimum donation is \$7.00 per name memorialized. If you make an additional thanksgiving offering you will also be listed on a separate page of the memorial book.

We earnestly request that you email the names to agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com and make your donation via the PayPal link referencing the donation details. You may also send a check if desired. We request that you do so as soon as possible. If you wish to list the same names as last year just indicate on your card, "same as last year."

All listings must be in our synagogue office by August 9th.

SHEILA IS RESIDING AT ST. LUKE'S PAVILION. MARLENE LEONARD AND DEBBIE WALKO RECENTLY VISITED HER, AND SHE WAS VERY HAPPY TO SEE THEIR FAMILIAR FACES. SHE MISSES WORKING AT THE SYNAGOGUE AND INTERACTING WITH ALL OUR FAMILIES. 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**



JCC NEWS FROM RICHARD ROCKMAN

Every year, the JCC helps organize and rewards the Hazleton Holocaust Memorial Program and Essay Contest Winners. We will feature the winning essays in the Agudagram over the summer months.

The Hazleton Jewish Community Council in conjunction with the Greater Hazleton Ministerium have announced the winners of the 25th and 26th annual Israel T. and Mildred Klapper Memorial Essay Contest. Completion

of the 2020 contest was delayed due to the COVID-19 situation. The combined 2020 and 2021 Holocaust Memorial Program took place this year via Zoom, with prize winners reading their essays online. The community was invited to view the presentations on Thursday, April 29 (eve of Lag B'Omer).

The question asked to 2021's essay contest participants was, "When people say, 'A lot of people have suffered in history. What is so special about what Hitler did to the Jews?' What is your response?"

The winners in the 2021 High School division are: Peter Walko, a 12th grade student at MMI Preparatory School (First Place) and Daniella Vasquez, an 11th grade student at MMI Preparatory School (Second Place). The winner in the Middle School division is: Serena Novotney, a 7th grade student at MMI Preparatory School (First Place).

The winners in the 2020 High School division are: Paige Machulsky, a 12th grade student (in 2020) at MMI Preparatory School (First Place) and Darren Zheng, an 11th grade student (in 2020) at MMI Preparatory School (Second Place). The winners in the Middle School division are: Nathan Sissick, an 8th grade student (in 2020) at MMI Preparatory School (First Place) and Bobby Orbin, an 8th grade student (in 2020) at MMI Preparatory School (Second Place).

At a time when the world sadly needs to be educated about anti-Semitism and hate, this project serves an important purpose in educating our youth. Please enjoy reading this year's winning essays.

The Holocaust: Archived in Stone

The Holocaust claimed the innocent lives of millions of men, women, boys, and girls, of Jewish ethnicity, the physically disabled, the mentally handicapped, homosexuals and more who were mercilessly slaughtered. All of those who don't believe in the Holocaust, could learn the truth from a witness, a history book, or a family account. While this would be evidence enough for most those who disbelieve this evidence might want something even more concrete. This is where the Arolsen Archives - International Center on Nazi Persecution comes in.

The Arolsen Archives is based in Bad Arolsen in northern Hesse, Germany and was created after World War 2 by the Allies to trace missing people. There are more than 17.5 million names recorded in their library on victims of Nazi persecution, and it holds a total of over 30 million documents, spanning a great 16 miles of shelving, and is the world's largest archive of material relating to Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. Ancestry.com teamed up with them to publish all of this information online and now there are over 14 million documents published online. Since 2016 they have been tracking down relatives of victims to return personal possessions found from concentration camps. To top it all off the Federal Republic of Germany is so guilt-ridden that they finance the Arolsen Archives to help individuals come to terms with the consequences of Nazi persecution.

There is no shortage of documentation here, no fraud could have produced this much evidence. If I were charged with the task of providing iron-clad evidence of the Holocaust the Arolsen Archives would provide overwhelming documentation.

Did the Holocaust Really Exist?

It's hard to believe some people claim this brutal event never happened. I know for a fact the Holocaust truly had happened. My great grandmother, Stefania Bozentka, who lived in Poland at the time, was put to work in the camps. After the Nazis invaded Poland, they took some of the



“normal people” and forced them to work in the camps. My great grandmother was chosen and had to use the hair from the prisoner’s heads to make pillows for the Nazi soldiers. All workers were branded with a number for identification. If you refused the job you were assigned, you were killed. Thankfully, my great grandmother survived!

“I hope the world will remember what I cannot forget,” says Stefi Altman. Stefi Altman was a Jew who lived in Poland with her family. After the Nazi invasion, she was separated from her family, luckily, she found a teacher and a Catholic priest who gave her a false identity. After being put in the camps, the Nazis later found out she was a Jew and imprisoned her in many camps



over the years. Stefi eventually escaped from camp Dorohucza by hiding amongst a group of travelling civilians and then dashing into the wilderness. After fleeing the camp, a farmer let her stay in a manmade cave and barn with another family. Barely surviving, the Soviet liberators freed the area. By the end of the war, six million Jews were killed and eleven million other victims were subject to Nazi persecution. Thankfully, the people who survived never gave up hope. They kept fighting and prevailing until the end.



President's Message- Summer 2021

Shalom, I would like to share one of my favorite writings from Harold Kushner in our Siddur.

We can all use some form of natural healing in our lives these days and this certainly inspires me! Recently in NEPA we have been getting some much-needed rain and love seeing beautiful

rainbows afterwards.

We are looking forward to coming together in our beautiful sanctuary for the upcoming High Holidays. We are working out the kinks to have Zoom available for those out of town or uncomfortable with an in-person service. There will be security at the shul as well. Please refer to information in the Agudagram and in the email it came in about this year's Yom Kippur Memory Book. Let us know if you would like to pick up a book or have it sent to you. Please contact Alice in the shul office by email or phone to reserve your high holiday seats and to arrange pick up for your tickets.

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and look forward to seeing or hearing from everyone soon!

Sincerely,

Debbie Walker

A Prayer for the World
Let the rain come and
wash away
the ancient grudges,
the bitter hatreds
held and nurtured over
generations.
Let the rain wash away
the memory
of the hurt, the neglect.
Then let the sun come
out and
fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun
heal us
wherever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog
so that
we can see each other
clearly.
Let the warmth and
brightness
of the sun melt our
selfishness.
So that we can share the
joys and
feel the sorrows of our
neighbors.
And let the light of the sun
be so strong that we will
see all
people as our neighbors.
Let the earth, nourished
by rain,
bring forth flowers
to surround us with
beauty.
And let the mountains
teach our hearts
to reach upward to
heaven. *Amen.*

—HAROLD KUSHNER