

The Agudagram

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Nisan 5782

Agudas Israel Congregation

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Officers:

Debbie Walko, President

Marlene Leonard, Vice President

Richard Rockman, Secretary

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Al Rosen, Financial Advisor

Richard Kline, Financial Officer



Shabbat/ Pesach Candlelighting

4/15 Shabbat Pesach 7:27 pm candlelighting

4/16 Pesach 8:29 pm candlelighting

4/21 Pesach 7:33 pm candlelighting

4/22 Shabbat Pesach 7:34 pm candlelighting

4/28 Yom Ha'Shoah

4/29 Parshat Achrei Mot 7:41 pm candlelighting

**A separate email will be sent with access to additional information on services.*



Passover 2022: Finding redemption in the face of terror - opinion

The Talmud teaches that Nisan is the month of redemption for everyone just as it was for the Jews in Egypt in Exodus.

By KENNETH BRANDER Published: APRIL 7, 2022

The Talmud (Rosh Hashanah 10b) teaches that the month of Nisan is not only the time of year when our ancestors were redeemed from Egypt, but when we, too, will be redeemed. Yet this year, the feeling of miraculousness in the springtime air of Nisan has been tarnished by tragic acts of terrorism over the past few weeks. The violent murders of 11 innocent Israelis in such a short time don't feel redemptive, and many are entering the month of [Passover](#) with anxiety and fear.

Yet even in the face of an escalation, it is crucial that we amplify the voices of those who are making every effort to build bridges and celebrate common purpose. This begins by calling attention to those non-Jews living in Israel who are committed to standing shoulder to shoulder with the Jewish people, regardless of their heritage.

Two of the recent victims, Yazan Falah and Amir Khoury, of blessed memory, were both uniformed Arab guardians of the State of Israel at the time of their deaths, the former a Druze and the latter a Christian. It was remarkable to see the estimated 200 Orthodox Jews who made their way from Bnei Brak, where Khoury was killed, to Nof Hagalil (Upper Nazareth) for his funeral service. Yaakov, a haredi (ultra-Orthodox) man who attended the funeral, told Channel 13, "He's from another people, but we are brothers. He fought for us. We are obligated to come [to his funeral]. There is no other possibility."

By the same token, I was extremely moved when I received a question from Rabbi Yoni Hollander, the principal of Ohr Torah Stone's Derech Avot high school in Efrat. While on their annual trip in Galilee, the 10th-grade students insisted upon detouring from their trip in order to pay a condolence visit to the family of Yazan Falah. Was doing so permitted?

I responded in the affirmative and told him we are so blessed with students and faculty who wish to be involved in such a kiddush Hashem (sanctification of God's name). What began as the idea of just a small delegation quickly grew into a shared desire among the entire grade, and with Hollander's help, all 80 of them went to visit the family. The Falah family was extremely touched by the outpouring of love and spent time meeting with our students. "We all live in the same place, the same state," Yazan's uncle told the group, "and we have nowhere else to go. We have no other country and we are all destined for that same fate as partners in life."

The students were similarly moved by the experience, feeling a deep sense of unity with those who were different from them in belief and practice.” In the words of one attending student, “for a few brief moments, we were able to be a part of one extended family.”

And we would be remiss if we did not allow ourselves to hear the voices of Muslim leaders who, social and political challenges notwithstanding, have insisted upon condemning the acts of terror and calling for solidarity, dialogue and non-violence. Rabbi Dr. Yakov Nagen, who oversees Ohr Torah Stone’s Blickle Institute for Interfaith Dialogue, shared with me many, many denunciations and condemnations of the recent attacks from Muslim leaders in Israel

from a shared internal WhatsApp group.

“Friends, a somber night for all of us. Our hearts go out to the grieving families, whose loved ones were murdered in cold blood, and wishing a speedy recovery to the wounded. As religious leaders, we must call out these acts at every available opportunity.”

“Astounded by the tragedy



in [Hadera](#). Has no connection to the religion I learned from my parents and sheikhs, who taught me that Islam should be a source of peace in the world.”

“Murder by the hands of extremists only harms the possibility of a peaceful, shared life for all of us. We must keep fighting for peaceful coexistence.”

Hearing the sentiments of these religious leaders, finding and amplifying voices who desire partnership and solidarity, is an essential component of turning down the fire of rage and fear, transforming Nisan, once again, into the month of redemption.

As we make our way to Passover, let us remember this year the words of the Midrash Hagadol (Exodus 4:31), that the redemption from Egypt came bischar emunah, by the merit of the Jewish People’s faith. Even in the throes of servitude, the Jewish people maintained their capacity to envision a reality different from the one they saw before their eyes.

Tragedy and violence may be today's headlines, but against all odds, we maintain our faith that they need not be tomorrow's headlines, and we must work with all willing partners to make that possible.

We must work to usher in a time when, in the words of the prophet Isaiah (56:7), "my house will be a house of prayer for all nations." Rather than be paralyzed by fear – even as we take steps to ensure our own safety and security – it is incumbent upon all of us to pursue the Torah's vision of peace and solidarity.

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! LAURIE TEVLIN KLEMOW VISITS SHEILA WEEKLY. PLEASE EMAIL HER AT LTEVLIN@PTD.NET WITH ANY MESSAGES YOU'D LIKE TO PASS ON TO SHEILA OR 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**

Dayenu — Always Enough to Say Thank You!

By Rabbi Berel Wein

At the great seder night of Pesach when we read and discuss the immortal words of the Pesach Hagada, my family has always enthusiastically sung the portion of the Hagada that we know as "Dayenu." By the grace of G-d, I have been able to witness a number of my generations singing this meaningful poem of praise to the Almighty for the bountiful goodness that he has bestowed upon us.

Since I am leading the singing that always accompanies this poem, the melody may be somewhat out of tune but what it lacks in pitch it makes up for in enthusiasm and volume. I have always thought about the words that make up this poem and the entire concept that "Dayenu" communicates to us. The poem deals with half measures, so to speak, of goodness that were bestowed upon us. As one of my grandchildren one intuitively remarks to me: "Zeydie, it is like proclaiming victory when only half the game has been played and your team is winning. But the game is not over yet, so is our cheering not a bit premature?"

That same question troubled me for quite some time. How can we say that it was sufficient for us to be delivered from Egyptian bondage even if later we would've been destroyed at the Red Sea? Or what advantage would have accrued to us had we come to the Mountain of Sinai but

never received the Torah or experienced the revelation that took place there? Why would we say that all these half measures would have been more than enough for us?

The answer to all of this lies in the Jewish attitude towards the holy attribute of gratitude. Gratitude is the basis of all moral law and decent human conduct. It underpins all the beliefs and behavioral aspects of Judaism, Jewish values and lifestyle. And Judaism declares that gratitude must be shown every step of the way during a person's life.

We are to be grateful and thankful for our opportunities even if they did not yet lead to any positive results and accomplishments. The Talmud admonished us not to complain too loudly or too often about the difficulties of life "for is it not sufficient that one is still living?" If one expresses gratitude simply for opportunity, then how much more is that person likely to be truly grateful for positive results in one's life?

This is not only the message of the "Dayenu" poem in the Hagada, it is really the message of the entire recitation of the Hagada itself. Gratitude for everything in life is the message of Pesach, for the matzo and even for the maror as well. And perhaps this is why the poem of "Dayenu" is usually put to melody, for it is meant to be a poem of joy, a realistic appraisal to life and not a sad dirge. Like everything else in Jewish life, it is meant to be a song of eternity.



GET WELL WISHES ARE EXPRESSED TO: BOBBIE KLEWOW, LEANNE TRATTNER, SHIRLEY BRENNER, SHERRI KLEWOW SHELVIN, & 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!

April (Nisan) Yahrzeits

16 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.

NISAN

1 Robert Kanel 4/2

1 Esther Cimet 4/2

2 Sadie Rabinovitz 4/3

4 Dora Yust 4/5

4 Bonnie Klemow 4/5

5 William Burkat 4/6

5 Ira Goldberg 4/6

6 Murray Glassberg 4/7

8 Bertha Rifkin 4/9

10 Louis Ruttenberg 4/11

11 Rabbi Haim Kemelman 4/12

12 Fannie Greisberg 4/13

13 Elaine Miller 4/14

15 Ruth V. Brenner 4/16

15 Mollie Feller 4/16

15 Henry Bayarsky 4/16

16 Herman Lintz 4/17

16 Louis D. Kanel 4/17

16 Golda Brenner 4/17

17 Frances Lande Trout 4/18

21 Isadore J. Kline 4/22

21 Nathan Rosen 4/22

23 Betty Cohen 4/23

23 Getha Edelstein 4/24

24 Rose Shapiro 4/25

25 Phyllis Rosen 4/26

25 Emmanuel Cimet 4/26

28 Ellis Supowit 4/29

28 Emma Finkel 4/29

28 Rose Narow 4/29

28 Jean Sugarman 4/29

29 Barry Klemow 4/30

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 Ratson 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

A special thank you to Craig Schwabe for his generous donation that will be used for the cemetery and the general fund. We are so grateful for your kindness.

MARCH DONATIONS RECEIVED

Cemetery Tree Fund

In memory of Rhoda and Abe Starker

Susan Starker & Ellen Starker Minicucci

Yahrzeit Fund

From:

Marion Klemow

Gail Bloch

Lee & Marsha Glassberg

Sondra P. Levinson

Jay & Harriet Harowitz

Steven Russek

Susan Starker

Rosanne Druian & Family

Carol S. Steuer

Jeffrey & Joyce Cutler

Mark & Charlotte Greenstein

Lois Sugarman

Anita Deitch

Anita Deitch

Maxine Yeager

In memory of:

Mother in Law, Grace Klemow

Brother, Jeffrey D. Bloch

Sister, Lorrie Sue Glassberg

Uncle, Benjamin Rabinowitz

Mother, Jeanette Mason

Mother, Lillian Kline

Father, Abraham Starker

Father, Louis Druian

Father, Joseph Spector

Father, John Miller

Father, Louis Druian

Mother, Jeanette Mason

Cousin, Bertha Castro

Father, Sam Goldberg

Father, Charles Schlesinger

Endowment Fund

In memory of BOB LEVY

Micki Auerbach

Steven & Patricia Levine

In Memory of DANNY FRIEDMAN

The Family of Shirley Brenner

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 donating, please email us at agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com or call the shul.

A Prayer for Ukraine shared by Art Kaplan

Holy One, Source of Strength,
War has begun, and innocent people are dying.
We ask Your protection for Ukraine and its citizens.
We pray for their safety and the security of the country,
and for the neighboring countries—Hungary, Poland, and Rumania, among others—
that have opened their borders to provide humanitarian corridors
and safe passage for all those who wish to evacuate.
We seek the comfort of believing that everything will be all right,
even in the face of insurmountable odds.
Quiet the fears that threaten to deafen us; grant us Shleimut—
the inner peace we so desperately seek. Help us remain calm and reach out to those in need.
May this horrific situation be diffused swiftly with minimal casualties.
Bless our world leaders with the ability to work together for the greater good,
and the wisdom to make wise decisions during this turbulent time.
Bless the people of all nations with the desire, strength and courage
to create a world based on justice and filled with peace.
May the words of [Isaiah 2:4](#):
“Nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war anymore”
become true in our day—in this very hour.
Source of Goodness, shine Your healing light on us
and all those in the Ukraine we hold in our hearts.
Shelter us, shield us, show us the path to peace.
May we each be inspired to use our unique gifts to usher in an era of enduring peace.
And let us say: Amen.

Please visit our newly designed website for more photos from the amazing
Purim Deli Dinner we shared together on March 20 at agudasisrael.us.



APRIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I'm looking forward to a beautiful springtime with lots of warm weather, colorful flowers and green grass instead of the cold, snow and ice we have recently experienced in northeast PA.

Also, I wish for peace in the Ukraine. Donations from our Shul's calendar fund were sent to the Joint Distribution Community who assists with the needs of Jewish people in the Ukraine, and to our local St. Mary's Ukrainian Church in McAdoo, Pa. for assistance to Ukrainians in need. We pray for peace and hope for an end to this war very soon.

We had a wonderful night of entertainment and delicious deli food and hamantaschen in our Social Hall for our Purim Celebration last week. I would like to thank Marlene Leonard, for her hard work and beautiful decor, in organizing this event. Also, I want to thank Christina Ferry, Richard Kline, Jimmy Leonard and Lois Sugarman for their assistance. We also want to thank our Sisterhood for their generous contribution. Noreen Gregory serenaded us with beautiful music in memory of everyone's friend, Alan Berg. We are looking forward to many enjoyable gatherings together in the Shul.

Construction on the new fence around our parking lot will begin directly after we celebrate Passover this month. This work will complete the 2020/21 state grant we received. We are hoping to be awarded additional future grants.

Marlene and I will be traveling to the Kosher Kitchen store and to Price Choppers in Kingston, if anyone local would like us to pick up Passover food for them, please contact us.

I recently had a very nice telephone conversation with my old neighbor who moved out of Hazleton many years ago. Craig Schwabe and I reminisced about our beautiful synagogue, our families, growing up with our family pets, and passing on these wonderful memories to our children. I would like to thank Craig for his generous donation made to our shul and for the walk down memory lane on Harding Street!

So many people consider our, one-of-a-kind, Shul so special even years after leaving the area. Agudas Israel lives on all over the country, and we are delighted to have our Zoom link which enables weekly connections to our Shabbat & Holiday Services. We are grateful to all near and far who interact to keep our Agudas Israel family moving forward. Please join us on Zoom whenever possible.

All the best,

Debbie Walker