

The Agudagram

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Iyar 5782

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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 & Holidays

May 6 Parshat Kedoshim- 7:49PM candlelighting
May 13 Parshat Emor- 7:56PM candlelighting
May 20 Parshat Behar- 8:03PM candlelighting
May 27 Parshat Bechukotai- 8:09PM candlelighting
May 19 Lag B'Omer 33rd Day of the Counting of the Omer
May 29 Yom Yerushalayim

In the area? Check out our new safety fence that has been installed around the parking lot using the 2020 security grant.

An important message from LeAnne Trattner: If you have not yet visited Kingston Kosher, you should get there! It's quite impressive! All your kosher needs with a deli in one building!

Sad News: We regret to inform the congregation of the passing of Evelyn Graham.
May her memory serve as a blessing!

Yom Yerushalayim, Jerusalem Day

The newest holiday on the Jewish calendar celebrates the reunification of Israel's capital.

BY MY JEWISH LEARNING



the most [recent addition](#) to the [Hebrew calendar](#). It commemorates the reunification of Jerusalem under Jewish sovereignty in 1967. It is celebrated on the 28th day of Iyar (six weeks after the [Passover seder](#), one week before the eve of [Shavuot](#)).

Jerusalem became the capital city of the Jewish people in the time of [King David](#) who conquered it and made it the seat of his monarchy in approximately 1000 B.C.E. It was conquered twice in antiquity, the second time by the Romans in 70 C.E. The destruction of Jerusalem was a watershed event in Jewish history that began thousands of years of mourning for Jerusalem—including an official day of mourning every year on [Tisha B'Av](#). During the ensuing two millennia of exile, Jerusalem remained the Jews' spiritual capital. To this day, Jews face in the direction of Jerusalem for prayer and Jewish services are filled with references to Jerusalem. However, there has never been a special day in honor of the city until recent times.

Following the Israeli [War of Independence](#) in 1948, the city of Jerusalem was divided, with the older eastern side falling under Jordanian control, and the more recently-developed western side falling under Israeli control. On the third day of the [Six-Day War](#) in June 1967, the Israeli army captured the ancient, eastern part of the city. The 1967 victory marked the first time in thousands of years that all of Jerusalem came under Jewish control. It also allowed Jews access to the holiest parts of the city, especially the [Western Wall](#), a remnant of the ancient Temple.

A Young Holiday

Due to the young age of this holiday, there is still not much that makes it unique in terms of customs and traditions. It is gradually becoming a “pilgrimage” day, when thousands of Israelis



travel (some hike) to Jerusalem to demonstrate solidarity with the city. This show of solidarity is of special importance to the state of Israel, since the international community has never approved the “reunification” of the city under Israeli sovereignty, and many countries have not recognized Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state. (The [United Nations “partition plan”](#) of November 1947 assigned a status of “International

City” to Jerusalem.)

The Israeli education system devotes the week preceding this day to enhancing the knowledge of the history and geography of the city, with a special emphasis on the unique role that it played in [Jewish messianic aspirations](#) since Biblical times.

Reciting Hallel

The status of Yom Yerushalayim in Jewish religious life seems more ambiguous than the religious status of [Yom Ha’atzmaut](#) (Israel Independence Day). Following the model of Yom Ha’atzmaut, the Chief Rabbinate of Israel decided that this day should also be marked with the recitation of [Hallel](#) (psalms of praise), and with the lengthier version of [Psukei d’Zimra](#) (the psalms in the earlier part of the morning service). Israel’s Progressive ([Reform](#)) prayerbook notes that Hallel should be recited on Yom Yerushalayim, but not so the *Masorti* (Conservative) prayerbook, which does suggest a list of supplemental readings for this day. The American Conservative siddur, [Sim Shalom](#), mentions that Hallel is recited “in some congregations” on Yom Yerushalayim. The ambiguity of the religious status of this holiday is reflected in celebrations – or lack thereof – outside of Israel. While the city of Jerusalem has significant meaning for all Jews, Yom Yerushalayim has yet to attain the popularity of Yom Ha’atzmaut and is not observed extensively outside of Israel. In addition, unlike Yom Ha’atzmaut – which is a day to



celebrate the existence and successes of the modern Jewish state – Yom Yerushalayim can make some Jews outside of Israel uncomfortable, due to the continuing conflicts over the future of the city. Even some Jews who believe that the city should remain undivided and under Israel's control choose not to emphasize Yom Yerushalayim as a day of joy because of the deep conflicts surrounding the [Arab portions of Jerusalem](#). Others, however, believe that despite the current political conflicts, an undivided Jerusalem is something to be celebrated openly and unhesitatingly, a sign like Yom Ha'atzmaut of Jewish political independence.

A common citation in Yom Yerushalayim celebrations in Israel is a quote from [Psalm 122:3](#): *Ir shehubrah lah yahdaiv* – “a city uniting all.”

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 202
HAZLETON, PA 18201**



GET WELL WISHES ARE EXPRESSED TO: BOBBIE KLEMOW, LEANNE TRATTNER, SHIRLEY BRENNER, SHERRI KLEMOW 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!

May (Iyar) 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.

IYAR

1 Elsie B. Cohn 5/1
1 Bessie Edelstein 5/1
1 Joseph Lander 5/1
1 Mollie Cohn 5/1
2 Joseph Brenner 5/2
6 Alan Klemow 5/6
7 Mollie Glassberg 5/7
7 Bessie Klemow 5/7
7 David Tumarkin 5/7
8 Kalman Sugarman 5/8
9 Marshall Steiner 5/9
10 Rudolph Seuss 5/10
10 Nathan Gersteen 5/10
11 Jerry Brownstein 5/11
11 Nathan Cenower 5/11
11 Anna Shupack 5/11
11 Annabelle Trattner 5/11
12 Edith Wagner 5/12

13 Carrie Mandelberg 5/13
15 Esther Williams 5/15
16 Cecelia Miller 5/16
17 Samuel Gandell 5/17
17 Thelma Tybie Cohen 5/17
17 Ethel Clark 5/17
19 Anna Shlesinger 5/19
21 Naomi Jaffe 5/21
21 David Grossman 5/21
22 Israel T. Klapper 5/22
23 Ruth Klemow 5/23
23 Sarah Goldstein 5/23
24 Herbert Clark 5/24
24 Isaac Figlin 5/24
24 Joseph Soller 5/24
25 Hal Goldstein 5/25
28 Hannah Cohn 5/28
28 Stella Gold 5/28
28 Isaac Jaffe 5/28
29 Sidney Schwartz 5/29

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

APRIL DONATIONS RECEIVED

YAHREZEIT FUND

From:

Israel Miller
Sherri Klemow-Shevlin
Robert & Estelle Harris
Micki Auerbach
Gail Burger
Sondra P Levinson
Lee & Marsha Glassberg
Judi & Don Feldman
Helen Minkin
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Louise & David Goldberg
Lois Kline Bailey
Richard & Faye Bishop
Richard & Faye Bishop
Richard & Faye Bishop
Beryl Brown
Phyllis Cohen Deitch
Israel Miller
Kaplan & Yanuskiewicz
Steve Rosen

In Memory of:

"My beloved wife Elaine Miller"
Jack Klemow, Father
Marilyn Harris, Mother
Louis Ruttenberg, Father
Henry Bayarsky, Father
Sadie Rabinowitz, Grandmother
Murray Glassberg, Father
Gertrude Wagner, Mother
Mollie Feller, Grandmother
Mollie Feller, Grandmother
Ira Goldberg, Husband and Father
Isadore J. Kline, Father
Bonnie Klemow, Friend
Ira Goldberg, Friend
Murray Glassberg, Father of Friend
Mollie Feller, Grandmother
Betty Cohen, Mother
Elaine Miller, Wife
Francis Lande Trout, Aunt
Phyllis Rosen, Mother

Endowment Fund

In Honor of BEULAH BISHOP'S 100th Birthday

Richard & Faye Bishop
Hank Narrow
Barry & Karen Chaskin

In Honor of the Birthday of JANIS BLOCK

Richard & Faye Bishop

Thank
you!

In Memory of DANNY FREEDMAN
Sherri Klemow-Shevlin

In Memory of BOB LEVY
Sherri Klemow-Shevlin

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.

AIC NEWS

Rhoda Starker's unveiling will take place June 12 at 1PM at the Agudas Israel Cemetery. A kiddush in the shul's social hall will immediately follow. All are welcome to attend in Rhoda's memory.

Agudas Israel Congregation - 1 of 3 organizations in Luzerne County to be awarded funding through the 2022 Non-Profit Security Grant program.

Agudas Israel Congregation has successfully secured an additional \$17,788 in state funding through the 2022 NPSG program as part of more than \$5 million that was awarded to protect diverse communities throughout the state. Click [here](#) to read the full article from PCCD.

Working with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, we donated \$1000 To Ukrainian relief efforts.

We also donated \$200 through St. Mary's Ukrainian Church in McAdoo. They have raised nearly \$27,000 in Humanitarian Aid for the people of Ukraine through several initiatives supporting refugees involving transport of humanitarian convoys and supplies.

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 enjoy reading through the first place winning Holocaust essay for this year. Second place winners will be printed next month. Thank you to Richard Rockman and Rabbi Yossi for keeping this important community program running.](#)

The Masked Loophole

By Jacob Marinock

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me.” I vehemently disagree with this adage because names can be degrading and derogatory.

Neo-Nazi, white supremacist, and similar extremists should be labeled as the creators of a doctrine of hatred. This misinformation is a contagion in society, a method to spread ill will. Because many of these extremists groups are not easily identifiable, one may refer to them as mask wearers who avoid laws of discrimination by reverting to unlimited free speech, a definite non-intentional purpose of the First Amendment when drafted by our forefathers.

The solution to the problem is not quick nor easy but is something I would like to call filling in the Masked Loophole. Without banning hate speech while simultaneously not instigating anger toward these groups, a strong leader needs to use dialogue effectively, “mean what you say and say what you mean.” Provided that the leader is positive with one’s rhetoric, the outcome will be beneficial. There

must be no trepidation whatsoever of retaliation or persecution. The undoing of all the hurt from the Holocaust must begin with spreading the good word in opposition to those who spread the bad word. In general, people are innately human and sometimes it is difficult to stand up or speak out against hatred toward someone else for fear that they might be the next target of hate. Therefore, a leader should be able to educate our younger generations of this misinformation deemed as hatred so that they become adults who lack such hatred in their vocabulary.

Society needs to return to those moments of helping the elderly across the street without worrying about their ethnicity. As a scout would say, “be a leader, be a friend, be of service!”

Selena Novotny MMI 8th Grade

Celebrating our Differences

“Yet I cling to them because I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart.” As Anne Frank famously said, people are still good at heart, but just misled. The devastating mass murder of six million Jews and five million other populations was caused by Hitler’s propaganda and persuasiveness in hating people based on religion, appearances, and customs. I believe if people knew more about the Jewish culture, the religion would not get as much hate speech.

Some ways to prevent being misled about the Jewish population might be to educate children about the religion in school so they will already develop their own point of view rather than to listen to people who know little to nothing about them. This way, people will already have a familiarization with the religion and learn about it that is not from someone’s point of view who dislikes people for their differences.

Another way would be to publicly celebrate the Jewish holidays. This will make it so events such as Bar Mitzvahs, Bat Mitzvahs, Passover, Hanukah, and Rosh Hashanah will be common things to enjoy and celebrate. In this way, they are not events that are rare or foreign, and people will begin to become familiar with the concept. Jewish holidays should be something that everyone can celebrate and enjoy, not just strictly Jewish people.

Without banning hate speech, we can teach others to accept the Jewish culture and avoid events like the one that took place on October 27, 2018. The Pittsburgh synagogue shooting was an anti-Semitic hate crime due to intolerance at the Tree of Life Congregation. This is an example of irrational hatred, but just like Anne Frank, I, too, believe people can change and are good at heart.

Andrew Blasko MMI 12th Grade

Why Education is Necessary for Free Speech

The United States prides itself on its free speech, but our country needs to use this right properly, and be sure not to abuse it. Since we have freedom of expression, it is easy for antisemitic speech to develop and grow. The best way to combat this kind of irrational and dangerous behavior is by learning the proper history of where it originated. If people knew the number of innocent victims killed and the demented motives behind the Holocaust, the United States would be rid of its hate speech.

The education system is a direct way to combat hateful views. If our education focused more on the dangers of WWII and Hitler's ideology, we would see a decline in antisemitic propaganda. The WWII/Holocaust unit should be taught with more emphasis, and it should cover the fallacies in Hitler's beliefs. We cannot expect this country to use its free speech properly if we are not educated on the topics about which we are allowed to speak freely.

Museums, memorials, and other historical landmarks also play a role in keeping our population informed. If our education system incorporated more field trips to places such as the Holocaust Memorial Center or the Museum of Jewish Heritage, our students would be exposed to facts about the atrocities of the Holocaust. Plato said that "The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future in life", which shows the importance of education. Providing our population with facts about the Holocaust during their schooling will give them a clear perspective of the disaster that it truly was, and it will raise a country with significantly less hate speech while still maintaining freedom of expression.

Jillian McGeehin MMI 11th Grade

As Lawrence Krauss once said, "the purpose of education is not to validate ignorance, but to overcome it." The education system in America is set up in a way that perpetuates the idea of "us vs them." We see it time and time again in our history classes about slavery and the civil rights movement, wars, and, especially, the Holocaust. If we are to end this mindset and promote acceptance and inclusion across all races, religions, and sexes, we must start in the place that propagated these feelings in the first place: our schools.

I have never had a history class that wasn't Christian-centric, nor have I attended one that correctly addresses critical race theory or the nature of discrimination and inclusion. In order to combat bigotry, specifically anti-Semitism, we must implement topics of learning that correctly address them. Courses that address world religions and past instances of horrible mistreatment based on religion, race, etc, could easily combat ignorance and bigotry by shining a light on these topics in the first place.

We don't necessarily need to ban or impose on the first amendment to combat hate speech and anti-Semitism, but we need not condone it either. By implementing proper education for American citizens, bigotry, or ignorance, can be combated by the enlightenment of knowledge. Proper education about Judaism, the horrors of the Holocaust, and the overarching theme of tolerance will ultimately result in fewer Holocaust deniers, white supremacists, and anti-Semitic ideas.

Through the vilification of anti-Semitism and proper education in our schools about the Holocaust and different races and religions, people will begin to realize that they are misinformed about events, denominations, and peoples as a whole. This education is how we can condemn anti-Semitism and bigotry, and will hopefully lead to an overall upswing of tolerance and acceptance.

MAY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Shalom,

It has been a very busy and productive time for us.

Our new fence surrounding the Synagogue parking lot is completed. This expense is covered from our 2020-21 security grant. We are very grateful for recently being awarded a second security grant in 2022 from the state of Pennsylvania. Thank you and congratulations to those who assisted me in preparing for this grant.

The shul roof sustained windstorm damage and we are in the process of getting the roof repaired. The next step will then be to plaster and to paint damaged sections of the sanctuary.

Spring cleanup began at the Agudas Israel Cemetery, and I am happy to report that the city of Hazleton street cleaned and repaired potholes on Cemetery Lane.

Christina Ferry, Office Manager, Richard Kline, Ritual Director, and I have been working diligently to begin in-house Shabbat Services this month. We are in the process of setting up workable Zoom equipment to have all attendees visible through multiple screens. The only positive outreach that came from Covid is the ability to use Zoom at our services. Please join us for two hours of inspirational weekly prayer services and to continue having our necessary 10-person minyan. You will be notified of our in-house start date by email.

Thank you to Richard Rockman, Executive Director, JCC, Rabbi Yosef Zylberberg, Beth Israel Temple and the Hazleton Ministerium for hosting the Holocaust Memorial Essay Zoom Presentation. Thank you to the students who participated. Please enjoy reading the essays of the first-place winners. Next month's Agudagram will list the second-place winning essays.
We Will Never Forget!

Prayer's to the family of Evelyn Graham who recently passed away. May her memory be a blessing.

We wish Lois Sugarman all the best when she relocates to a warmer climate with her family. I am grateful that Lois will remain on the Board of Directors and with the Sisterhood committee.

Please join the family of Rhoda Starker for her unveiling on June 12 at 1:00pm at Agudas Israel Cemetery.

All the best,