

# The Agudagram

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December 2022 Volume 72, No. 4  
Kislev/Tevet 5783

## Agudas Israel Congregation

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### Officers:

Richard Kline, Ritual Leader

Debbie Walko, President

Marlene Leonard, Vice President

Richard Rockman, Secretary

Helene Kline, Treasurer

Al Rosen, Financial Advisor

Richard Kline, Financial Officer



### SHABBAT CANDLELIGHTING TIMES

December 2- Parshat Vayeitzei- 4:18pm candlelighting

December 9- Parshat Vayishlach- 4:18pm candlelighting

December 16- Parshat Vayeishev- 4:19pm candlelighting

December 23- Parshat Mikeitz- 4:22pm candlelighting

December 30- Parshat Vayigash- 4:27pm candlelighting



Join us for the next Leisure Lunch on  
December 20!!! Details on next page!

*SAVE THE DATE!*

June 3, 2023 Centennial Celebration!



Tuesday Dec 20, 2022  
@ 12:30 PM

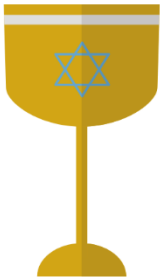


## JCC Leisure Lounge Lunch & Food Drive



AT **PERKINS RESTAURANT**  
50 STATE ROUTE 93,

We will have a white elephant gift exchange, trivia games & collect donations for the food bank. Latkes are being provided by Laurie Klemow.



Please **RSVP** to Christina  
by **DEC 18**  
570-764-4156  
hazleton.jcc@gmail.com



### [The History of Hanukkah](#)

*[How the festival of lights became a holiday, and how it has evolved in modern times.](#)*

[BY MY JEWISH LEARNING](#)

Hanukkah is one of the few Jewish holidays not mentioned in the Bible. The story of how Hanukkah came to be is contained in the books of 1 and 2 Maccabees, which are [not part of the Jewish canon](#) of the Hebrew Bible.

These books tell the story of the [Maccabees](#), a small band of Jewish fighters who liberated the Land of Israel from the Syrian Greeks who occupied it. Under the reign of Antiochus IV

Epiphanes, the Syrian Greeks sought to impose their Hellenistic culture, which many Jews found attractive. By 167 B.C.E, Antiochus intensified his campaign by defiling the Temple in Jerusalem and banning Jewish practice. The Maccabees – led by the five sons of the priest Mattathias, especially Judah – waged a three-year campaign that culminated in the cleaning and rededication of the Temple.

### **The Talmud and the Miracle of Oil**

By the early rabbinic period about a century later – at the time that [the Mishnah](#) (the first compilation of oral rabbinic law included in the Talmud) was redacted – the holiday had become known by the name of Hanukkah (“Dedication”). However, the Mishnah does not give us any details concerning the rules and customs associated with the holiday.

It is in [the Gemara](#) (a commentary on the Mishnah) of the [Babylonian Talmud](#) that we are given more details and can clearly see the development of both the holiday and the stories associated with it. The discussion of Hanukkah is mentioned in Tractate Shabbat. Only three lines are devoted to the events of Hanukkah while three pages detail when, where and how the [Hanukkah lights](#) should be lit.

Since they were unable to celebrate the holiday of [Sukkot](#) at its proper time in early autumn, the victorious Maccabees decided that Sukkot should be celebrated once they rededicated the Temple, which they did on the 25th of the month of Kislev in the year 164 B.C.E. Since Sukkot lasts seven days, this became the timeframe adopted for Hanukkah.

### **Josephus’ Account**

About 250 years after these events, the first-century Jewish historian [Flavius Josephus](#) wrote his account of the origins of the holiday. Josephus referred to the holiday as the Festival of Lights and not as Hanukkah. Josephus seems to be connecting the newfound liberty that resulted from the events with the image of light, and the holiday still is often referred to by the title Josephus gave it.

Completed approximately 600 years after the events of the Maccabees, the Talmud contains the extant version of the famous story of the miraculous jar of oil that burned for eight days. The Talmud relates this story in the context of a discussion about the fact that fasting and grieving are not allowed on Hanukkah. In order to understand why the observance of Hanukkah is so important, the Rabbis recount the story of the miraculous jar of oil.

Perhaps the [Amoraim](#) – the sages of the Talmud – were retelling an old oral legend in order to associate the holiday with what they believed to be a blatant, supernatural [miracle](#). Although the seemingly miraculous victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian Greeks was certainly part of the holiday narrative, this event still lies within the natural human realm. The Rabbis may have felt this to be insufficient justification for the holiday’s gaining legal stature that would prohibit fasting and include the saying of certain festival prayers. Therefore, the story of a

supernatural event centering on the oil – a miracle – would unquestionably answer any concerns about the legitimacy of celebrating the holiday.

### Hanukkah in Modern Times

Hanukkah gained new meaning with the rise of [Zionism](#). As the early pioneers in Israel found themselves fighting to defend against attacks, they began to connect with the ancient Jewish fighters who stood their ground in the same place. The holiday of Hanukkah, with its positive portrayal of the Jewish fighter, spoke to the reality of the early Zionists who felt particularly connected to the message of freedom and liberty.

Hanukkah began to find new expression in the years leading up to the founding of the modern State of Israel. In the post-[Holocaust](#) world, Jews are acutely aware of the issues raised by Hanukkah: oppression, identity, religious freedom and expression, and the need to fight for national independence. Hanukkah has developed into a holiday rich with historical significance, physical and supernatural miracle narratives, and a dialogue with Jewish history.



GET WELL WISHES ARE EXPRESSED TO: BRUCE MILLER, BOBBIE KLEMOW, LEANNE TRATTNER, SHIRLEY BRENNER, & 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!

**SHEILA IS RESIDING AT ST. LUKE'S PAVILION.  
VISITATION AT ST. LUKE'S IS NOW OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEND HER A CARD OR  
VISIT, YOU MAY FIND HER AT:  
SHEILA MOYER  
C/O ST. LUKE'S PAVILION  
1000 STACIE DR. ROOM 202  
HAZLETON, PA 18201**

### **How to Light the Hanukkah Menorah**

*The traditional blessings and procedures for lighting the Hanukkah candles.*

Getting ready to celebrate Hanukkah? We will guide you through lighting your menorah: where to place it, how and when to light it, and what to say.



### **Positioning Your Menorah**

The ancient rabbis felt it was important to [publicize the miracle of Hanukkah](#). Therefore, many Jewish organizations erect large outdoor menorahs in their towns. You can also publicize the miracle by placing your menorah in a window facing the street. In most places, passers-by enjoying seeing the candles through the window. In moments when [antisemitism](#) has endangered Jewish lives, some Jews have chosen to light the menorah in a window as an act of defiance and bravery.

### **Placing Your Candles**

Your menorah should have eight spots for candles – one for each night – and an extra ninth spot that is at a different elevation. This ninth spot is for the *shamash*, or helper candle, that is used to light the others.



On the first of Hanukkah's [eight nights](#), only two candles are placed in the [Hanukkah menorah](#): the shamash, or “helper” candle, which has its own designated spot (usually in the center), and another candle that designates it is the first night. The first night's candle is placed in the right-most spot. Each night, another candle is added so that on the eighth and final night of Hanukkah, all nine candles (the shamash plus eight others) are lit. To complete the ritual on all eight nights with one menorah, you will need a total of 44 candles per menorah. Most boxes of Hanukkah candles contain 45.

The candles are placed in the menorah from right to left (just as [Hebrew is written from right to left](#)), but are lit from left to right. The shamash candle is always the first one lit, and is used to light the others, starting with the left-most one. (Think of it as lighting the candle representing the newest night first.)



### When to Light

Hanukkah candles are lit after sundown, when it is dark. But there is one exception. Since Hanukkah lasts for eight nights, the holiday will inevitably overlap with Shabbat at least once. [Lighting a fire during Shabbat is forbidden](#) according to Jewish law, so there are slight adjustments to Hanukkah candle lighting on both Friday and Saturday nights. According to Jewish law, the menorah should be lit [before the Shabbat candles](#) on Friday evening while it is still light out. As for Saturday night, the candles are lit after the sun goes down and Shabbat has ended, but there are differing opinions regarding whether the menorah should be lit before or after [the havdalah rituals](#) are completed. There is no consensus among Ashkenazi rabbis, and the most widespread Sephardic custom is to recite havdalah first.

### Blessings to Say

Before lighting the candles (but after placing them in the menorah), it is traditional to recite three blessings on the first night and then two on every night thereafter.

#### Blessing #1

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוֵּינוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.*

Praised are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who made us holy through your commandments and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

## Blessing #2

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הַהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה

*Baruch atah, Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, she-asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim hahem bazman hazeh.*

Praised are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in those ancient days at this season.

## Blessing #3: Shehechyanu (First Night Only)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהֵחַיֵנוּ, וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה

*Baruch atah Adonai, elohenu melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu, v'kiyimanu, v'higiyanu lazman hazeh*

Praised are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has given us life and sustained us and enabled us to reach this season.

## Other Candle-Lighting Rituals

Many families follow candle lighting with [traditional Hanukkah songs](#), [playing dreidel](#), [eating gelt or sufganiyot or latkes](#), or opening gifts. Happy Hanukkah!

# NOVEMBER DONATIONS RECEIVED

## Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

<u>From</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>
Lois Sugarman	Ben Mason, Father
Lenore, Alan & Karen Levy	Benjamin Levy, Grandfather
Leonard Brenner	Betty Brenner, Mother
Tammy Houser	Charles Chenetz, Father
Gary Mednitsky	Esther Mednitsky, Mother
Jeffrey Cutler	Eva Cutler, Mother
Ronald & Nancy Feller	Hy Feller, Father
Honey Minkin	Irving Brown, Father
Howard & Kathy Brown	Irving Brown, Father

Richard & Faye Bishop	Irving Brown, Father of friend
Mable Brown	Irving Brown, Husband
Lewis Litwack	Irving Brown, Uncle
Lenore Levy	Jan M. Levy, Nephew
Kenneth & Bernardine Frumkin	Joseph Mason, Father
Janet L. Keich	Julia Baum Bloomberg, Aunt
Wayne Orkin	LeRoy Orkin, Father
Mark Levine	Mary Levine, Mother
Micki Auerbach	Milton Auerbach, Husband
Barry & Karen Chaskin	Minnie Chaskin, Mother
Lenore Levy	Morris Levine, Brother
Ronald & Nancy Feller	Pauline Lander, Grandmother
Marilyn Bergstein	Rachel Cohn, Grandmother
Jacqueline Cohn Matlow	Reuben Cohn, Father
Richard & Faye Bishop	Rochelle Spizer, Friend
Barry & Karen Chaskin	Rochelle Spizer, Sister
Faye Klemow	Simon Klemow, Brother-in-Law
Rhona & Howard Narrow	Thelma Sebrans, Aunt

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 donating, please email us at [agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com](mailto:agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com) or call the shul.



## December Kislev/Tevet) 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.

### KISLEV

7 Ida Deitch 12/1  
7 Miriam Chana Rosen 12/1  
8 Gloria Tevlin 12/2  
9 Lillian Brown 12/3  
9 Martin Elkind 12/3  
10 Sedell Bloch 12/4  
10 Rita Baiderman 12/4  
10 Aaron Kashinitz 12/4  
10 Kurt Seuss 12/4  
12 Frances H. Miller 12/6  
13 Lottie Chenetz 12/7  
14 Esther Bea Quint 12/8  
15 Manuel Klemow 12/9  
16 Isadore Rothbart 12/10  
17 Jacob Sherman 12/11  
19 Leonard Narrow 12/13  
21 Rachel Suess 12/15  
21 Hyman Gold 12/15

22 Howard Koller 12/16  
22 Harry Rabinowitz 12/16  
23 Levi Bohard 12/17  
23 Lester Rosenberg 12/17  
24 Dora Jaffe 12/18  
24 Elaine Linz 12/18  
25 Alan Berg 12/19  
25 Evelyn Hollander 12/19  
26 Albert Aronoff 12/20  
28 Dorothee Lande 12/22  
29 Nathan Adler 12/23  
29 Henry Rockman 12/23

5 Joseph Smulyan 12/29  
6 William Chaskin 12/30  
6 Jean Skyken 12/30  
6 Phillip Klemow 12/30  
7 Samuel Gildenburg 12/31  
7 Abe Dymond 12/31

### TEVET

1 Rosa Brenner 12/25  
1 Herman Schwabe 12/25  
1 Samuel Trattner 12/25  
2 Jacob Buchbinder 12/26  
3 Ida Klemow 12/27

## 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*

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.

## DECEMBER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Friends,  
Happy Hanukkah to all!

We have a full calendar of events this month. Along with Marlene Leonard's decorating and library organizational skills, she is now our new kitchen person and will have an extra special holiday Kiddish on December 17th. Please come and enjoy the special cuisine. Marlene made a really tasty kugel for services two weeks ago. We had a wonderful time dining with our Leisure Lounge group for the first time in a few years since Covid. Thirteen of us met and conversed at Tom's Kitchen in Conyngham where Christina collected canned food items to be distributed to a local food bank. It felt great to break bread, talk, and kibbutz around with the group. Please join our Leisure Lounge when you are available. Even if you do not use our Zoom link for Shabbat services, please click on the link since Sara is sending out a host of information to keep everyone informed of events which this past week included leisure lounge attendee pictures. Hope to see more of you at our next event on December 20th at Perkins for our Hanukkah party. Also, bring along canned food items to help those in need. Join us for the Hanukkah candle lighting event at City Hall on Monday, December 19th at noon with Richard Kline and Rabbi Yossi leading us in the festivities. Save the date of June 3rd, 2023 for our 100th year Centennial Celebration of the Agudas Israel Synagogue building. The Centennial Committee is planning a special Kiddish Service in the morning followed by an evening of phenomenal entertainment at the Valley Country Club. More details to follow.

I am glad to introduce our newest synagogue member Rob Steinberg from Jim Thorpe. We are delighted to have him join us at Shabbat Services. We also have a new guest, Gabriel Pimentel from Freeland who has joined us at services and has been very engaging and shared new songs with us. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We have a great deal to be thankful for. My son Peter came home from college for the first time since August and we spent a wonderful day on the golf course watching a youthful golfer with an awesome swing. We also had the pleasure of our 90-year-old friend, Richard, join us on the links, where he proceeded to beat both Larry and me with his amazing consistency. Lesson learned - age has no limits - as long as you are enjoying yourself! I just realized this will be the last Agudagram of 2022. We've had a unique past year and my wish for the upcoming year is to be filled with good health and more community gatherings to keep us happy and praying together in the prosperous year of 2023!

All the best,

*Debbie Walker*