

The Agudagram

January 2023 Volume 72, No. 5
Tebet/Shevat 5783

Agudas Israel Congregation

77 North Pine Street

Hazleton, PA 18201

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agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com

Officers:

Richard Kline, Ritual Leader

Debbie Walko, President

Marlene Leonard, Vice President

Richard Rockman, Secretary

Helene Kline, Treasurer

Richard Kline, Financial Officer



SHABBAT CANDLELIGHTING

January 6- Parshat Vayachi- 4:33pm candlelighting

January 13- Parshat Shemot- 4:40pm candlelighting

January 20- Parshat Va'Ayra- 4:48pm candlelighting

January 27- Parshat Bo- 4:57pm candlelighting



Upcoming Leisure Lounge Lunch at Vesuvio's on Wyoming St. Tuesday, January 24 at noon. Call Christina (570-764-4156) to inform her if you will be attending by November 20.

SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR CENTENNIAL EVENTS!

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 & JUNE 3.

More details to follow!

EVENTS IN OUR AIC COMMUNITY

Chanukah Kiddush December 17



Chanukah Leisure Lunch at Perkins December 20



City hosts annual menorah lighting ceremony

STAFF REPORT Dec 19, 2022 The city of Hazleton held a menorah lighting ceremony Monday in front of City Hall in celebration of Hanukkah. Participating, from left, are: Chris Pavlick, executive assistant to the mayor; Mayor Jeff Cusat; Dr. Carl Frankel, Temple Beth Israel; Rabbi Yosef Zylberberg, Temple Beth Israel; Richard Kline, spiritual leader for Agudas Israel; Helene Kline, Agudas Israel; Lenny Trattner, former president, Agudas Israel; Cindy Conahan, Agudas Israel; Debbie Walko, president, Agudas Israel; Larry Walko, Agudas Israel; Bob Supowit, Temple Beth Israel; Peter Walko, Agudas Israel; Melia Molinaro, representing the local office for state representative in the 116th District; and Christina Ferry, secretary of Jewish Community Council.



COLLEEN KRONE / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER The city of Hazleton held its annual menorah lighting ceremony Monday afternoon in front of City Hall. Agudas Israel Congregation and Beth Israel Temple organized the event, which was attended by Rabbi Yosef

Zylberberg, Temple Israel, and Richard Kline, spiritual leader for Agudas Israel. Hazleton Mayor Jeff Cusat and Chris Pavlick, executive assistant to the mayor, and Melia Molinaro, representing the local office for state representative in the 116th District, were also on hand. Participants braved the cold and gathered at the front sidewalk at City Hall at around noon on Monday for the ceremony.

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 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



2023 Calendar

Calendars have been printed and mailed. Should you want a calendar, please contact the shul office.

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.

I chose this article written by the rabbi at nearby Bait Shalom in State College. I feel his reflection of our ancestors moving from Canaan to Goshen in Egypt then returning to Canaan as the Holy Land to his own community's changes and return relate well to our beloved AIC story. Though written before Covid hit, the return of many members and members of families with long histories in Hazleton to us through virtual services relates our story, the rabbi's congregation, and our ancestors returning to the Promised Land.
Read on and enjoy! Sara Friedman

Redemption and Purpose: Beginning the Book of Exodus

January 13, 2020

Shemot

THIS WEEK IN THE TORAH

Rabbi David E. Ostrich

Jewish Tradition identifies three primary characteristics of our relationship with God. God is our Creator. God is the Revealer of Wisdom. God is our Redeemer. Creation happens, of course, at the beginning of the Book of Genesis, though mystics see it happening continually all the time.

As for the Revelation—the Giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai—and the Redemption from Egypt, they are the focus of the Book of Exodus which we begin this week. Exodus in summary may be expressed this way: God frees us from Egyptian slavery and reveals to us the Torah at Mount Sinai—giving us freedom and holy purpose in one dramatic process.

The slavery which begins the Book of Exodus is, in some ways, a surprise. Things have been good in the Goshen section of Egypt for many generations. Joseph's good offices for the sake of Pharaoh earn him honor and his Canaanite relatives a safe haven from the famine afflicting their land. But, as we read in Exodus 1.8-11: *"A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. And, he said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are much too numerous for us. Let us deal shrewdly with them, so that they may not increase; otherwise, in the event of war, they may join our enemies in fighting against us and rise from the ground.' So they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor..."*

There is some foreshadowing, however. In Genesis 15.13, God appears to Abram in a dream: *"Know well that your offspring shall be strangers in a land not theirs, and they shall be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years; but I will execute judgment on the nation they shall serve, and in the end they shall go free with great wealth."*

There is also Joseph's prophetic statement which we studied just last week, in Genesis 50: *"God will surely take notice of you and bring you up from this land to the land promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."* Joseph even arranges to be embalmed and taken with the Israelites when that future redemption comes.

Egypt ends up being a very bad place for the Israelites, but only after many years of good life there. This is, unfortunately, a pattern of Jewish history—and of human history in general. Life is not permanent, and the places we find good to live are not good permanently. The only thing permanent is God—and God’s call, and we are left to be flexible and innovative as we negotiate the temporary nature of everything.

Many of us have visited archeological sites in the Middle East—or read about them in books like James Michener’s *The Source*, and we have learned about the curious phenomenon of *tel*’s. Hebrew for *hill*, a *tel* is a hill formed by numerous layers of civilization. People choose a place to live for a variety of reasons—fresh water, fertile land, good hunting, defensive topography, and they live there, sometimes for many generations. Something happens, however, and the city dies: the



survivors move away, and dust settles on the site, sometimes for hundreds of years. Later, another group finds the site desirable and builds their city there. They live on the site for many generations, but something happens, and they abandon the site. More dust collects, and their city too is buried. When this process happens over and over again—over a several thousand year history, the site gets progressively higher as city is built over city again and again. Digging into these *tel*’s found throughout the Middle East reveals layer upon layer of ancient civilization and give us all the benefits of archaeology. It also reminds us of the impermanence of our existence on earth—and of our resilience in adapting to new and different situations.

Though America is a comparatively *new country* in Jewish history, we have been here long enough to have made many moves. The history of our own congregation is indicative of that mobility. The original Jews in Central Pennsylvania settled in places like Lock Haven, Altoona, Lewistown, and Bellefonte. Just 100 years ago, Jewish students at Penn State attended mandatory chapel led by a rabbi who traveled weekly from Williamsport. Demographics have changed things, and now we are the most thriving Jewish congregation between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh—with many of the other congregations dwindling or out of operation.

Fortunately, our Jewish value of respecting our ancestors and our past has manifested itself in taking over the legacies of previous Central Pennsylvania congregations. We have the Torah scrolls from the Philipsburg and Clearfield congregations—and include their former members in our congregation. We also have the Yahrtzeit Plaques from Clearfield and include those

names in our weekly Yahrzeits. We have taken responsibility for the Jewish cemetery in Philipsburg and a Civil-War era Jewish cemetery in Bellefonte.

Fortunately, other congregations have taken up the same mantle, remembering the original Jewish communities that served our people in their sojourning in many small towns throughout America. I remember with particular fondness visiting Temple Emanu-el in Birmingham and seeing the *Jasper Room*, a meeting room filled with the sacred artifacts of the little congregation in Jasper, Alabama, where I served for two years. One can find similar remembrances in the Museum of the South Jewish Experience in Utica, Mississippi. The Ark is from the old Temple in Vicksburg; the chandeliers are from the old Temple in Canton, Mississippi. Windows and pews and Torahs reflect the many places where our people sojourned and where they sought God's Presence.

Egypt was a fine place for many generations, but things changed, and we journeyed back to the Land of Israel. It was a fine place for many centuries, but things changed—in 586 BCE and again in 70 CE. Then, with God's help and our own faith, we sought other places to live and pursue our holy mission—striving to be *“a kingdom of priests and a holy nation”* (Exodus 19) and a *“light unto the nations”* (Isaiah 49.6 and 42.6). Now, some of us are back in the Land of Israel, and others pursue our lives in other places, but the mission remains the same: to bring God's wisdom to all the world and to show how life can be holy. In a world of impermanence, the only permanent things are God and God's call to holiness.

REFLECTION WHICH MAY BE READ WHEN LIGHTING A Yahrzeit Candle for your loved one:

“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*

Yahrzeit Fund

January (Tevet/Shevat) 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.

TEVET

8 Ruth Litwack 1/1
9 Ethel Baum 1/2
9 Morris Lefkowitz 1/2
9 Rose Steiner 1/2
10 Simon Faltz 1/3
10 Louis L. Steinhart 1/3
11 Rebecca Jaffe 1/4
12 Sol Goldberg 1/5
12 Abraham Levy 1/5
14 Larry Klemow 1/7
14 Bernard H. Kline 1/7
14 Howard Goldberg 1/7
15 Abe Bishop 1/8
15 Max Schwartz 1/8
16 Betty Bohard 1/9
16 Israel Walkin 1/9
17 Hope Gorin 1/10
17 Beatrice Kline 1/10
17 Sondra Wells 1/10
18 Faye Director 1/11
19 Pauline Frumkin 1/12
20 Arnold Sukenik 1/13
20 George Hoffman 1/13
21 Marion Feldman 1/14
21 Adele Cohn 1/14
21 Samuel L. Cohn 1/14

21 Sophie Levy 1/14
22 Fanny Rabinowitz Klemow 1/15
23 Jean Warshofsky 1/16
26 Ida Goldenberg Kline 1/19
27 Eli Becker 1/20
28 Bernard H. Cenower 1/21
28 Rita Levine 1/21
28 Joseph Frucht 1/21
29 Irving Abrams 1/22
29 Nathan Kline 1/22
29 Louis Kaminoff 1/22

SHEVAT

1 Henry Klapper 1/23
1 Anna Moskowitz 1/23
3 Florence Mitchneck 1/25
3 Barbara Marcus Kolton 1/25
3 Edward Albright 1/25
4 Benjamin Dubinsky 1/26
4 Jacob Samuel Levin 1/26
6 Rebecca Sherman 1/28
7 David Gundling 1/29
7 Jess Kashinitz 1/29
8 Esther Perkins 1/30
9 Reba Klemow 1/31

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.

DECEMBER DONATIONS RECEIVED

<u>From</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>
Howard Rockman	~ Aaron Kashnitz, uncle
Richard Rockman	~ Aaron Kashnitz, Uncle
Faye & Richard Bishop	~ Abraham Bishop, father
Renee Barson	~ Albert Barson, husband
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Narrow & Rhona Narrow	~ Benjamin Mullin, grandfather
Ed & Shayna Geller	~ Dora Jaffe, aunt
Yanuszkiewicz & Kaplan Families	~ Dorothee Lande Kaplan, mother
Richard & Faye Bishop	~ Esther Bea Quint, Friend and wife of friend
Martin Cohn	~ Ethel Pegalis, aunt
Shirley Brenner & Family	~ Etta Brownstein, Grandmother & Mother
Faye Klemow	~ Harold Klemow, Husband
Ruth Goldstein	~ Harry Phillips, uncle
Sondra Levinson	~ Harry Rabinowitz, Uncle
Richard Rockman	~ Henry Rockman, father
Barry & Joan Gorin	~ Hope Gorin, mother
Carol Steuer	~ Israel Zager, Great Uncle
Carlos Buchbinder	~ Jacob Buchbinder, Grandfather
Renee Barson	~ Judy Gershman, sister
Carlos Buchbinder	~ Kurt Suess, Uncle
Faye & Richard Bishop	~ Larry Klemow, cousin
Laura Klemow Wright & Curt Wright	~ Larry Klemow, father
Garry & Terrie Orkin	~ Leroy Orkin, Father
Martin Cohn	~ Levi Bohard, father-in-law
Lewis Litwack	~ Lillian Brown, aunt
Kathy & Howard Brown	~ Lillian Brown, Mother
Helen Minkin	~ Lillian Brown, mother
Richard & Faye Bishop	~ Lillian Brown, Mother of Friend
Faye Klemow	~ Manuel Klemow, Father in law
Irv Michlin	~ Michael Michlin, brother
Karyn & Sal Contino	~ Phillip Klemow, Father
Richard & Faye Bishop	~ Phillip Klemow, Uncle
Lenny & Ann Louise Brenner	~ Phyllis Kallick, Aunt
Carlos Buchbinder	~ Rachel Suess, Grandmother
Karen Chaskin	~ Rita Baiderman, Mother
Richard & Faye Bishop	~ Rita Baiderman, Mother of Friend
Helen Minkin	~ Ruth Litwack, aunt
Lewis Litwack	~ Ruth Litwack, mother
David Matlow	~ Sedell Bloch, Sister
Jackie Matlow	~ Sedell Bloch, Sister-in-law
Blossom & Steven Klemow	~ Simon Klemow, husband & father
Barry & Karen Chaskin	~ William Chaskin, Uncle
<u>Endowment Donations</u>	
David & Sharon Shafritz	~ In memory of Ruth and Jack Klemow
Richard Koller	~ In memory of my Father, Howard A. Koller
Mark Z. Bogdany	

JANUARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – also published in the 2023 calendar



Shalom to all,

“Birthed at the turn of the 21st century by Dr. Martin Seligman, professor at the University of Pennsylvania, positive psychology has, from its inception, been unabashedly influenced by ancient philosophical and religious wisdom, embracing teachings and values found in Judaism. Timeless Jewish virtues and values such as justice and fairness, love and compassion, prudence and temperance, forgiveness and wisdom, spirituality and hope are all integral to positive psychology,” quoted by Rabbi Rick Schechter, a graduate of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, who is the spiritual leader of Temple Sinai of Glendale, Ca. Scientific research confirms much of what Judaism has been doing and saying all along. The importance of giving thanks and expressing appreciation through daily blessings for food, beauty in nature, and all the joys of life are meant to cultivate our gratitude to God. Studies show that positive interventions create to build one’s sense of gratitude and that a daily practice of gratitude can increase happiness and decrease depression.

Judaism and positive psychology both are focused on living a life of meaning and achieving higher levels of well-being.

By using the traits and values of Positive Judaism, it teaches us that gratitude will come from being thankful. Hope will come with an optimistic mindset. Humor is necessary for laughter and a joyful heart makes for good health. Spirituality comes from having the faith and connection to the unknown. And all of this equates to Jewish TRADITION. So continuing in this thought process.....

We are very fortunate to have the dedication from Richard Kline and his family which encapsulates four generations of the same devotion. We are pleased to have him as our Ritual Leader who diligently leads us in prayer for Shabbat and holiday services. We also recently enjoyed dining with him in our new and improved cozy Sukkah, which was a nice addition to our enclosed parking lot this past year.

Marlene Leonard, along with being the Vice President of the Board, Events Decorator, Library Organizer, and now is also our Cuisine Kitchen Artist. Marlene has begun creating delicious food for our weekly kiddushes. Please come and be a part of our Shabbat services; enjoy the mitzvah of being that 10th Minyan person; enjoy indulging in Marlene’s delicious food creations! She prepared a mouth-watering Hanukkah spread after our recent holiday service.

We are thankful for Sara Friedman who has gifted us with her innovative journalistic creativity as she provides us with our monthly Agudagram bulletin. Sara graciously furnishes us with our weekly news correspondence, Facebook messages, and Zoom service links. Please indulge in reading and enjoy!

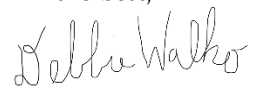
We are grateful for Christina Ferry, our Office Manager, and her technical talents. Not only does she hold everything together in the office and with building issues, she has now taken on the task of overseeing our Jewish Community Center and recently organized a wonderful Hanukkah luncheon party at Perkins for our Leisure Lounge attendees. She has also done a wonderful job designing this year's calendar.

Jimmy Leonard is the craftiest building maintenance person we've had. He definitely reminds me of how skillful my father, Myron Brenner, was with his ideas and creativity in fixing things.

We are so grateful to have such wonderful staff members at Agudas Israel to take us into the next centennial! In this upcoming year of 2023, we are looking forward to our 100th centennial year celebration of the Agudas Israel building. The members of our committee are excited to be planning two very entertaining events- one located at our beautiful synagogue and the second one at the newly, elegantly renovated Valley Country Club in Conyngham. More details to come. We are so thrilled to carry on the AIC torch into the future.

The Board and I wish you all a year filled with gratitude, hope, humor, good health, and spirituality. Happy New Year!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Walker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed text "All the best,".