

The Agudagram

February 2023 Volume 72, No. 6
Shevat/Adar 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

February 3- Parshat Beshalach- 5:05pm candlelighting

Tu B'Shevat- February 6

February 10- Parshat Yitro- 5:14pm candlelighting

February 17- Parshat Mishpatim- 5:23pm candlelighting

February 25- Parshat Terumah- 5:31pm candlelighting



SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR
CENTENNIAL EVENTS!

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 & JUNE 3.

Look out for forthcoming details &
reservation instructions!



Tu B'Shevat is more than trees — it's about our link in the chain.

BY TAMAR ZAKEN

I was born in the Jewish month of [Shevat](#), the month in which we celebrate the new year for the trees. At one of my childhood birthday parties, maybe when I was 6 or 7, my mom bought small plants as party favors for my friends in attendance. There were mini-ferns, some succulents and other small plants.

I remember arguing with her about which plants we would give to my friends and which



we would keep. I loved them all. At that age like many other children, I was obsessed with all-things miniscule, from tiny mice dressed up in people clothes to mini-colored pencil sets.

My mom was adamant: Guests come first.

So I begrudgingly passed out those plants to my friends, very jealous and frustrated that I didn't get my way.

Kids usually don't realize when they are experiencing one of those "teachable moments" that parents provide. Thirty-plus years later, this moment of grievance with my mom stays with me, especially now that I also have a daughter with a winter birthday like me.

I am sure my mom didn't realize how much this short altercation with her daughter would stick and shape the ways I think about the world and the ways I teach. While I fully acknowledge that my mom thought she was teaching me about [hachnasat orchim](#), the Jewish value of welcoming in guests, I understand her message differently now.

At that moment, my mom was giving me a tool for life, a tool I use every day [as an educator](#).

Her actions taught me that there are times in life when we are not the center, times when we need to step back and give each person "their plant," a place to be themselves, to share their voice, the space to grow.

In order to support meaningful learning experiences, I, as an educator, need to step back and make space for the voices of those learning with me. Throughout my adolescence and early adulthood, I internally criticized my mom for always being selfless, for stepping back and giving space to others. I wanted to hear her voice. But, over time, I have learned about the power of this selflessness and how to use my voice while at the same time giving others a place to learn and develop.

Stepping back to allow for growth is a major theme of Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish birthday of the trees. We plant trees knowing that we might not enjoy their shade or their fruits. It is a selfless act that reminds us that there is more to the world than us.

We often quote the story of [Honi the Circle Maker](#), from tractate Taanit in the Babylonian Talmud, during this time of year.

In this story, Honi sees a man planting a carob tree and doesn't understand why he would plant a tree that will only bear fruit in 70 years, long after the man's lifetime. The man who plants the tree replies that he found a world full of carob trees, and just as his ancestors planted for him, he too, plants for his descendants.

[Hakham](#) (Rabbi) Avraham Shaul Amir, a 20th-century Cuban rabbi of Turkish descent, shares a wonderful take on Honi's story:

"Our ancestors planted for us more than carobs. Our entire history, values, morals, and hope for the future are all thanks to our ancestors ... [T]his story reminds us that we should credit our ancestors with all that we have, so that we will gain support from them and from their deeds.

And all their deeds are righteous, with everlasting merit for their descendants for generations to come.”

Hakham Avraham Shaul Amir inspires me to see my mom and myself as links in the chain of tradition, a tradition given to us over time by those who came before us: holy ancestors, performing righteous deeds.

When they gave us this tradition, they had to step back, to give a little space for us to claim our link in the chain.

We too, have to remember to step back in our role as descendants and teach our children to do so, as well.

This Tu B'Shevat, I think of this, and hope to share plants with my daughter's class when we celebrate her birthday this month.



**Next Leisure Lunch will be at noon on
Tuesday, February 24th at the Third Base
Luncheonette, 704 Garibaldi Ct, Hazleton.
We hope you can join us! Please RSVP with
Christina by Feb. 22nd at 570-764-4156.**

GET WELL WISHES ARE EXPRESSED TO: BRUCE
MILLER, BOBBIE KLEWOW, 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**

February (Shevat/Adar) 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.

SHEVAT

10 Bernard Cohen 2/1
11 David B. Levin 2/2
11 Abraham Perkins 2/2
11 Paul Spiegel 2/2
15 Morris Cohn 2/6
15 Sylvia Director 2/6
15 Ruth Feller 2/6
15 Lazur Rabinowitz 2/6
16 Phyllis Putter 2/7
16 Isadore Kaufman 2/7
17 Gussie Rutenberg 2/8
18 Kurt Adler 2/9
18 Hanna Sarah Cohn 2/9
18 David Klapper 2/9
18 Libby Eklind 2/9
19 Shirley Berg 2/10
19 Sarah Siegel 2/10
20 Jennie Matlow 2/11
21 Max Aronoff 2/12
21 Harold A. Taub 2/12
21 Isaac Weisman 2/12
23 Edward Gildenberg 2/14
23 Mildred Gildenberg Jaye 2/14
24 Rose Davidowitz 2/15
25 Jacob Klemow 2/16
25 Sandra Palermo 2/16
26 Viola Levine 2/17
26 Morris Narrow 2/17

27 Abe Aronoff 2/18
27 Harry Bohorad 2/18
28 Irving Cohen 2/19
29 Dr. David Wagner 2/20

Adar I

2 Bertha Casuto 2/23
2 Sam Goldberg 2/23
2 Ben Singer 2/23
2 Douglas Silver 2/23
2 Esther Snyder 2/23
3 David Sugarman 2/24
3 Maurice Williams 2/24
4 Ethel Koplin 2/25
4 Hannah Brown 2/25
4 Marilyn Harris 2/25
4 Gretl Schwabe 2/25
7 William Chercass 2/28
7 Morton Cohn 2/28

Adar II

1 Abraham Starker 2/22
2 Shayna Sukenik 2/23
2 Benjamin Rabinowitz 2/23

****NOTE** ADAR I AND ADAR II ARE BOTH OBSERVED IN ADAR IN A NON - LEAP YEAR SUCH AS THIS ONE**

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.

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

JANUARY DONATIONS RECEIVED

Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Donated by In Memory of

Madeline Collins & Victor Cohn Adele Cohn, mother

Miriam Weidenfeld Anna Moskowitz, mother

Michele & James Banker Arnold Sukenik, father

Judy Gundling David Gundling, husband

Judy Gundling Dorothy Taub, mother

Herma Aiken Edward Gildenberg, grandfather

Alan & Maryann Becker Eli Becker, father

Ruthie Goldstein George Hoffman, uncle

Micki Auerbach Gussie Ruttenberg, mother

Judi & Don Feldman Hyman Gold, uncle

Beryl Brown Irving Brown, father

Phyllis Cohen Deitch Irving Cohen, father

Rhoda Smulyan Wolff Isadore Kaplan, grandfather

Terry Chercass Jean Syken, mother

Susan Starker Jean Warshofsky, grandmother

Lenore Levy Jean Warshofsky, mother

Mr. & Mrs. David Matlow Jennie Matlow, mother

Jackie Matlow Jennie Matlow, mother-in-law

Michele & James Banker Larry Klemow, cousin

Marion Klemow Larry Klemow, husband

Sondra Levinson Lazur Rabinowitz, grandfather

Beryl Brown Lillian Brown, mother

Carolyn Schwartz	Max Schwartz, father
Herma Aiken	Mildred Gilderberg Jaye, mother
Terry Chercass	Millie Syken, sister-in-law
Jacqueline C. Matlow	Morris Cohn, grandfather
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Narrow, Rhona Narrow, David Narrow	Morris Narrow, father & grandfather
Michele & James Banker	Phyllis Sukenik Putter, sister
Faye Klemow	Reba Klemow, mother-in-law
Shayna & Edward Geller	Rebecca Jaffe, aunt
Bob & Ilene Levin-Dando	Rita Levin, mother
Beryl Brown	Ruth Litwack, aunt
Madeline Collins & Victor Cohn	Samuel L. Cohn, father
Lenore Levy	Sophie Levy, mother-in-law

Endowment Donations

In memory of Rabbi Michael
Michlin

Irving & Harriet Michlin

In memory of Samuel & Adele
Cohn
Victor Cohn

In Memory of Max Schwartz,
father

Aleta & Ariel Grunberg

In memory of my mother, Faye
G. Director
Richard Koller

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.

Upcoming Events Other Shul Information:



JCC Happenings

The next JCC Leisure Lunch will be at noon, Tuesday, February 24th at the Third Base Luncheonette, 704 Garibaldi Ct, Hazleton. We hope you can join us! Please RSVP with Christina by Feb. 22nd at 570-764-4156.

Tu B'Shevat

Tu B'Shevat will be celebrated after services with a special kiddush for the traditional Tu B'shevat seder on February 11. Please RSVP to Christina if you will be in attendance so we have

enough food and drink for everyone to participate in the seder.

Purim

Purim is coming!!! Purim will be celebrated March 6-7. Richard Kline will be chanting the Megillah of Esther for us all to enjoy. Date and time to be announced closer to Purim.

Synagogue Security & Awareness Training

Sunday March 19th, 2023, 1-2:30pm @ Agudas Israel Synagogue

Please join us for an informative & practical session with security expert Dave Coffman (Hazleton PD & Prevail Tactical) to learn the necessary mindset and strategies to prevail in the event of a terrorism or security related synagogue incident. Followed by light refreshments in the social hall.

Notes from the office:

*Thank you to those who have already submitted payments for 2023 Membership dues. Statements went out Jan 15th.

*Year end donation summaries are being mailed out for tax purposes. Please contact Christina with any questions.

AGUDAS ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Celebrating 100 years!

77 N. Pine St. Hazleton PA 18201
(570) 455-2851 | Agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com

Mark your calendars for two AIC centennial events this spring!
Advanced tickets required for both events.

SUN
APR. 23
10-2pm

Centennial & Israeli Independence Day Commemoration at Agudas Israel Synagogue

Featuring musical performances by Dr. Ramon Tasat & Roanne Pitluk, AIC speakers & centennial tributes; followed by touring comedian Joel Chasnoff & Kosher deli luncheon in our social hall.



SAT
JUNE 3
7-11 pm

Centennial Celebration at Valley Country Club

Enjoy an evening of fun at the Valley Country Club in Sugarloaf, with entertainment from NYC comedian Carie Karavas and Motown/Soul dance band EPICSOUL. Tickets include hors d'oeuvres & a drink. Cash bar available.



FEBRUARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – also published in Centennial Celebrations' Mailings



Dear Friends,

The Congregation of Agudas Israel is proud to announce the **100th anniversary** of our beautiful synagogue this spring, 2023. This milestone achievement is quite remarkable. Despite changing demographics and shifts in ideologies, we have continued to keep our doors open to the Jewish Community. In recognition of this accomplishment, the Hazleton Mayor's office has confirmed an official proclamation will be issued. Agudas Israel will be hosting two Centennial events in 2023. Mark your calendars!

On **Sunday, April 23rd**, there will be a **Centennial / Israel Independence Day Celebration** at the synagogue. This event will include a performance of prayers and songs in our sanctuary by our talented Cantor Dr. Ramón Tasat and his wife, Roanne Pitluk will be featured. We will also relate interesting historical facts and amusing anecdotes. Afterwards, we will enjoy our annual deli luncheon and be entertained with world class comedian Joel Chasnoff.

Then on **Saturday, June 3rd**, we continue our celebration with a **Centennial Gala Event** will be held at the **Valley Country Club**. We will enjoy top-rated entertainment from New York comedian Carie Karavas along with a performance by the phenomenal EPICSOUL Band. Your ticket includes hors d'oeuvres and a drink. Both events are open to synagogue members and the public. A large response is anticipated.

A commemorative booklet will be distributed at both events and at other city-wide venues. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to express your support via an ad in this booklet. Certainly, Agudas Israel evokes special memories and strong emotions. We remember Sunday school, Junior Congregation, JCC, BBYO and AZA activities, magnificent High-Holiday services and the sanctity and unity in our regular Sabbath services. We reflect on education, weddings, brisses bar/bat mitzvahs, celebrations, etc. We pay homage to our beloved departed and pray our future is bright for the sake of our posterity.

We are in need of sponsors. Your demonstration of support will convey the commitment you maintain in efforts to enhance a united community, where tolerance, understanding, and cooperation excel. Please complete the enclosed form for booklet or sponsorship participation. We look forward to seeing you at our events and wish to express our sincere appreciation for your support.

Sincerely,

Agudas Israel Congregation
Debbie Walko, President
Marlene Leonard, Vice President
Leonard Brenner, Centennial Committee
Howard Narrow, Centennial Committee
Christina Ferry, Office Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Walko".

Agudas Israel Congregation

2023 Centennial Donation

Name: _____
Street: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Deadline for 2023 Centennial Ads and Sponsorships is March 24th, 2023.

Make your personal or business check payable to: "Agudas Israel Congregation" & include "Centennial Donation" in the memo field.

A direct bank transfer can be made online through Zelle (our ID is agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com).
If you have any questions, please contact Christina Ferry, Synagogue Office Manager, at 570-455-2851.

Commemorative Booklet Pricing

Friend – 1 Line Personal or Business
Name listing – \$5.00/ea.
1/4 page ad. – \$25.00
1/2 page ad. – \$50.00
Full page ad. – \$100.00

Sponsorship Pricing

Bronze – \$101.00 - \$499.00
*Silver – \$500.00 - \$999.00
*Gold – \$1000.00 - \$4999.00
*Platinum – \$5000.00 +

*Receives (2) complimentary tickets to both events

Your ad copy below:

Ad Examples:

Congratulations on 100 years!
Bill & Dolly Sieman

Our office extends its best wishes,
Atty. Robert J. Simbon &
Associates

In memory of my beloved parents,
The Gluckman Family

est wishes and continued success,
Your friends at Tasty Markets

Thanks for the memories,
The Helmsey Family