

The Agudagram

March 2023 Volume 72, No. 7
Adar/Nisan 5783

Agudas Israel Congregation

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Hazleton, PA 18201

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Officers:

Richard Kline, Ritual Leader

Debbie Walko, President

Marlene Leonard, Vice President

Richard Rockman, Secretary

Helene Kline, Treasurer

Richard Kline, Financial Officer



SHABBAT CANDLELIGHTING & HOLIDAYS

March 3- Shabbat Zachor- Parshat Tetzaveh- 5:39pm candlelighting

March 6- Fast of Esther

March 6-7- Purim

March 10- Shabbat Parah- Parshat Ki Tisa- 5:47pm candlelighting

March 12- Daylight Savings Time Ends

March 17- Shabbat HaChodesh- Parshat Vayakhel-Pekudei- 6:54pm
candlelighting

March 24- Parshat Vayikra- 7:02pm candlelighting



SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR
CENTENNIAL EVENTS!

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 & JUNE 3.

Flyer and more information included in this
Agudagram!

Queen Esther's Love Letter to Her People Is Just What We Need

by [Slovie Jungreis-Wolff](#)

March 14, 2022 (A message of hope for Jews all over the globe as the world continues this year to be a messy place- Enjoy! ~Sara Friedman)

With everything going on in the world, we need to inculcate her message now more than ever.

Death is in the air.

Images of atrocities in the Ukraine, millions of refugees seeking safety and shelter, talk of weapons that vaporize human bodies and a new world order – they make us shudder.

And they all come on the heels of a year that has brought us vicious antisemitic attacks, a terrible pandemic, and world upheaval.

Some may wonder, where is God? We feel distant and alone.

Queen Esther, who risked her life for her people, left us with a letter of faith and love. She knew that we, her children, would battle hatred and unspeakable suffering throughout our long wanderings on this earth. The Scroll of Esther, *Megillat Esther*, would infuse us, her children, with hope.

“Esther requested that these words of Purim should be accepted and it was written in a scroll” (*Megillat [Esther 9:32](#)*).

It is as if Esther is whispering to us, “My dear children, you think that you are standing all alone? You think that you are going through dark times? Look at me! Every man, woman and child, in every land, I ask that you hear my words and read my scroll, until the end of time. Because my story is your story. We have been here before. You are never abandoned. You must never lose faith.”

The name of God is hidden, unmentioned in the entire Megillah, exactly for these darkest moments that we are facing right now.



Esther understood that our exile would bring us to the depths of hopelessness.

Esther understood that our exile would bring us to the depths of hopelessness. Shoved into cattle cars, left in ditches to die alone in the forest of Babi Yar, gassed, beaten, reviled, and told that we will be pushed into the sea. The earth's soil is stained with the blood of our nation. Our very right to exist has been questioned. Millions of haters surround our land and the threat of Iranian nukes is looming. The world is on fire. What is there for us to hold onto?

Esther calls out to us on these days of Purim.

The [Purim](#) story describes Esther as an orphan. Her father died before she was born and her mother breathed her last breaths as Esther entered the world. Who can imagine her aloneness? Who can understand how vulnerable Esther felt? Yes, she had her beloved uncle, Mordechai who raised her from birth. But to be an orphan means that one is missing the two people who could possibly love you most in this world. Where do you go when your heart is broken and life seems too heavy to bear?

We, too, can feel as if we are an orphan nation. We feel helpless when the world seems to stand against us.

And there are times, in our private lives, that we feel the same as well. Alone. Hopeless. Shattered into a million pieces. Wondering what will be.

Esther's scroll is testimony to the hidden hand of God in our lives. She beckons us to look deeper.

"See me? Who could imagine that an orphaned girl, bereft of her parents, all alone, would rise to become the queen who would save her people? There is a Master Plan guiding each and every one of us. Never lose hope."

When Esther is confronted by Mordechai and asked to stand up for her nation as she speaks to King Achashverosh, she agrees on one condition.

"Go **gather all the Jews** and fast for me." Esther is revealing to us a hidden truth.

If you want to successfully fight this battle, you must come together. These divisions and conflicts you have must stop. Jew against Jew. Neighbor against neighbor. Family against family. There is no strength when you are fragmented. Gather together as one and know that you are *mishpacha*, a family of Jews. You are more alike than you are different. You share roots. Be kind to one another.

Stop judging. Start loving. Extend yourself and bring light into a dark world.

Esther asked that we celebrate Purim by sending gifts of food baskets, *mishloach manot*, that we give charity, and share a festive meal. She directed us with the ability to reach out to one another in friendship and love. It's not about the food and pretty packages. Esther is requesting that we provide food for the soul. Reach out and open your heart to someone who is not in your usual atmosphere...just because. Rejoice together in the miracle of our being. This is the key to our redemption. Stop judging. Start loving. Extend yourself and bring light into a dark world. If we can rise to Esther's challenge, we too can transform our days from "sorrow to gladness, and from sadness to a holiday." Hold onto the hope of Queen Esther. Feel her love. Live with her courage as your guide. Discover the power of Purim.

**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**

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!



March (Adar/Nisan) 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.

ADAR I

8 Morris Chenetz 3/1
9 Reuben Zimet 3/2
10 Martha Buchbinder 3/3
10 Henry H. Cohn 3/3
12 Grace Klemow 3/5
12 David Kaminoff 3/5
12 Bernie Staffin 3/5
14 Harry Brenner 3/7
15 Bernard Bergstein 3/8
15 Rebecca Chaskin 3/8
15 Beatrice Miller 3/8
15 Murray Spiegel 3/8
16 Lillian Frumkin 3/9
17 Jeffrey Bloch 3/10
17 Goldie Kaplan 3/10
17 Isadore Schwartz 3/10
18 Jacob Narrow 3/11
19 Esther Smulyan 3/12
19 Joseph Spector 3/12
19 Sadie Shaiman 3/12
20 Stella Kauffman 3/13
20 Dov Weidenfeld 3/13
21 Sidney Jacob Scharf 3/14
21 Bradford Stuart Kline 3/14
21 Sol Rockman 3/14
21 Ruth Albright 3/14
22 Max Burkat 3/15
22 Goldie Lande 3/15
22 Lillian Cohn 3/15

23 May Chercass 3/16
23 Florence Kashinitz 3/16
24 Frank Bowman 3/17
26 Martin Blau 3/19
27 Milton Ziff 3/20
27 Edward Kanner 3/20
28 Bessie Kanel 3/21
29 Bella Aronoff 3/22

ADAR II

9 John Miller 3/2
10 Charles Schlesinger 3/3
11 Lillian Kline 3/4
13 Louis Druian 3/6
15 Isaac Singer 3/8
17 Robert Gildenberg 3/10
20 Minnie Small 3/13
21 Gertrude Wagner 3/14
21 Jeanette Mason 3/14

NISAN

1 Robert Kanel 3/23
1 Esther Cimmet 3/23
2 Sadie Rabinovitz 3/24
4 Dora Yust 3/26
4 Bonnie Klemow 3/26
5 William Burkat 3/27
5 Ira Goldberg 3/27
6 Murray Glassberg 3/28
8 Bertha Rifkin 3/30

****NOTE** ADAR I AND ADAR II ARE BOTH OBSERVED IN ADAR AS ONE MONTH 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

FEBRUARY DONATIONS RECEIVED

Yahrzeit
Memorial
Fund

From

Susan Starker
Bruce S. Miller
Carlos & Sharon Buchbinder
David Matlow
Florence Dmitrovsky
Annie, Florence & Isaac
Witkowski
Sondra Levinson
Martin Cohn
Maxine Yeager
Felice Zeitzew
Deborah & Russ Palmer
Eric Sugarman
Lois Sugarman
Elliot & Toby Eisenberg
Roseanne Druian & Family,
Charlotte & Mark Greenstein
Barbara Wagner & David Stern

In Memory of

Abe Starker, father
Beatrice Miller, mother
Beatrice Miller, mother
Beatrice Miller, mother
Ben Singer, uncle
Ben Singer, uncle
Benjamin Rabinowitz, uncle
Betty Bohard, mother-in-law
Charles Schlesinger, father
David B. Levin, brother
David Sugarman, father
David Sugarman, father
David Sugarman, husband
Dora Yust, mother
Dorothy & Louis Druian,
parents
Dr. David Wagner, father

Tama Lee Barsky
Faye & Richard Bishop
Honey Minkin
Martin Cohn
Elliot & Toby Eisenberg
Sherri Klemow Shevlin
Felice Zeitzew
Jacqueline Matlow
Gail Bloch
Gail Bloch
Israel Miller
Felice Zeitzew
Kenneth Frumkin
Myra Kline & Steven Russek &
Family
Elliot & Toby Eisenberg
Barry & Karen Chaskin
Lenore Levy, Alan & Karen
Levy
Elliot & Toby Eisenberg
Gail Bloch

Ethel Koplin, mother
Grace Klemow, aunt
Hannah Brown, grandmother
Hannah Sarah Cohn, daughter
Harold Eisenberg, father
Jacob Klemow, father
Jacob S. Levin, father
Jeffrey D. Bloch, nephew
Jeffrey D. Bloch, brother
Jennie B. Matlow, grandmother
John Miller, father
Lena Levin, mother
Lillian Frumkin, mother
Lillian Kline, mother
Milton Yust, father
Rebecca Chaskin, aunt
Robert Levy, husband, father
Ruth Eisenberg, mother
Sedell Bloch, Father

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
or call the shul.

Upcoming Events:



Purim

Purim is coming!!! AIC is invited to a Purim party March 5 at 2pm at Beth Israel Temple.

Purim will be celebrated March 6-7. Richard Kline will be chanting the Megillah of Esther for us all to enjoy at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 6 via Zoom.

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.

JCC Leisure Lunch – Tuesday, March 21 at noon at Booty's Place Italian Restaurant - 1087 N. Church St. Hazleton. RSVP with Christina by the 19th at 570-764-4156 or email.



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.



MARCH 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

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 agudaisraelhazleton@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