

Agudas Israel



Congregation

Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

100th Anniversary Celebration

1923 - 2023

77 North Pine Street - Hazleton, PA

AGUDAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

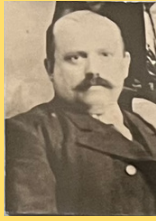
PRESIDENTS

Executive Committee
1893-1902

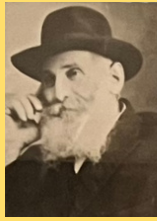
Louis Rosenbaum
1902-1904, 1908-1910

Max Leviton
1904-1906

Jacob Berlinsky
1910-1912



Jacob Cohn
1906-1907



Jacob Klein
1912-1914



Isaac Smulyan
1914-1915,
1920-1922



Abraham Levy
1915-1916



Morris Gold
1916-1918



Louis Auerbach
1918-1920



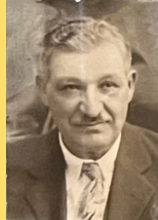
Morris Cooper
1922-1926,
1927-1928



Jacob Narrow
1926-1927



Isadore Kaplan
1928-1930
1932-1933



Sam Smulyan
1930-1932



Louis Kline
1933-1941



Samuel Cohn
1941-1946



Irving Taub
1946-1949



Arnold Sukenik
1949-1952



Israel Klapper
1952-1953



Isaac Figlin
1953-1955



Alvin Baum
1955-1957



Samuel Klapper
1957-1959



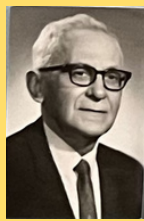
Bernard Kline
1959-1960



Hyman
Davidowitz
1960-1962



Martin Cohn,
1962-1965



Louis Kanel
1965-1967
1972-1973



Manuel Klemow
1967-1969



Leonard Deitch
1969-1972



Sidney Klemow
1973-1974



David Narrow
1975-1976,
2001-2002



Murray Director
1977-1979, 2001



Bernard Cury
1980-1981



Abe Starker
1981-1984



Al Rosen
1985-1988,
2000



David Klapper
1989-1991



Lawrence Klemow
1992-1993



Bernard Bergstein
1994-1995, 2000



Faye Director
1996-1997
2002

AGUDAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

PRESIDENTS, continued



Richard Kline
1998-1999



Robert Klemow
2003-2004



Jeffrey Gittleman
2005-2006



Lee Glassberg
2007-2010



Leonard Trattner
2011-2012



Adam Staffin
2013-2018



Debbie Walko
2019-present

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 Treasurer.....Helene Kline
 Financial AdvisorRichard Kline

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 Howard Narrow
 Marlene Leonard
 Leonard Brenner

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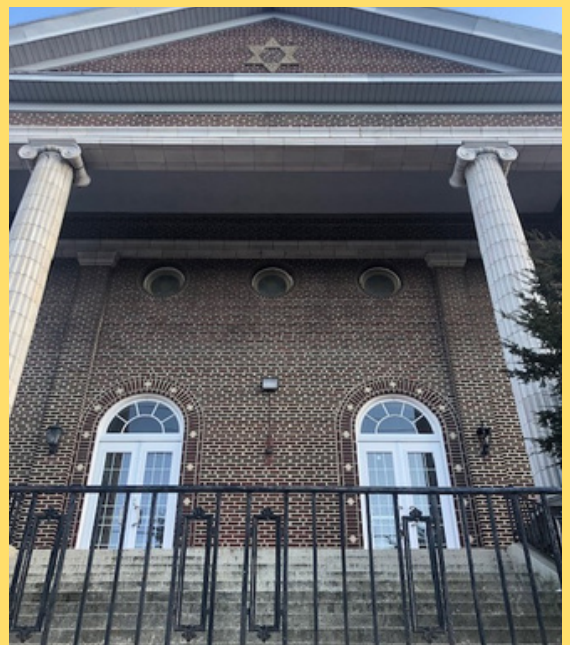
Shirley Berman	Sherri Klemow Shevlin
Max Berman	Arthur Kaplan
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SUNDAY APRIL 23, 2023
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AT AGUDAS ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE
75TH ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNIVERSARY

PROGRAM

Opening remarks.....Debbie Walko, President of the Board
Master of Ceremonies.....Howard Narrow, Centennial Committee
Blessing.....Richard Kline, Spiritual Leader
Special Guest.....The Honorable Jeff Cusat, Mayor of Hazleton
Presentation of Official Proclamation
Speaker.....Marlene Leonard, Vice President
Musical Entertainment.....Cantor Ramón Tasat
Providing Selections arranged for this occasion
Deli Luncheon.....Catered by Abe's Kosher Deli
Headline Entertainer.....Joel Chasnoff, Standup Comedian

DR. RAMÓN TASAT - Born in Buenos Aires, trained in five countries, received his doctorate in voice performance from the University of Texas, Austin. He is the musical Director of Kolot HaLev, a Jewish Community Choir in the greater Washington DC area. Dr. Tasat and his wife Roanne captivated and inspired us at last year's AIC High Holiday services.

JOEL CHASNOFF - American-Israeli stand-up comedian, TV and podcast host, and author of three books, including bestselling memoir The 188th Crybaby Brigade; has opened for Jon Stewart, Lewis Black, & performed his unique brand of clean, cutting-edge comedy at 1,000+ events in 10 countries.

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Mayor Cusat, Chris Pavlick, & friends at City of Hazleton

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AGUDAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

HIGHLIGHTS IN HISTORY

1893: Agudas Israel established Hazleton's first Jewish congregation, with Louis Rosenbaum as the first president. Services and activities were conducted in the Orthodox tradition. The congregation met in rented quarters until purchasing a small building on South Cedar Street in 1898.

1905: Rebbe Philip Rockoff was hired as the Hebrew School teacher, which was established for youth education.

1923: The Cornerstone was laid for a formal synagogue building at 77 North Pine Street in order to accommodate the growing congregation. Commissioned by Hazleton architect Harry Levy, and modeled in the Grecian style of architecture, it included a 600 seat sanctuary with a balcony and a lower level, consisting of a kitchen, social hall, classrooms, offices, and a mikvah ritual bath. In 1926, the Ark was installed as the focal point of the sanctuary.

1932: The Ladies Auxiliary, which became the Sisterhood, was created to organize social activities with Mrs. Charles Berger as president. It remains active today.

1937: Hazleton's Conservative Temple Israel merged with Agudas Israel. By the 1940s, the total Jewish population of Hazleton was approximately 1,200 men, women and children.

1942: Agudas Israel affiliated with the United Synagogue of America, officially becoming a Conservative congregation with a membership of 162. Rabbi Herman Glatt was the first Conservative spiritual leader of the congregation.

1946: A Mortgage Burning Celebration was held. The fundraiser was spearheaded by President Irving Taub, Abe Glassberg, Louis Kline and Hyman Davidowitz.

1964: Congregation membership peaked at 260. Jewish day camp, Camp Davidowitz, and the Hazleton Jewish Community Center flourished throughout the 60s and 70s.

1974: A United Hebrew School for all Jewish children of Hazleton was established. Major renovations were made to the AIC kitchen, social hall, classrooms, and offices; the mikvah was removed.

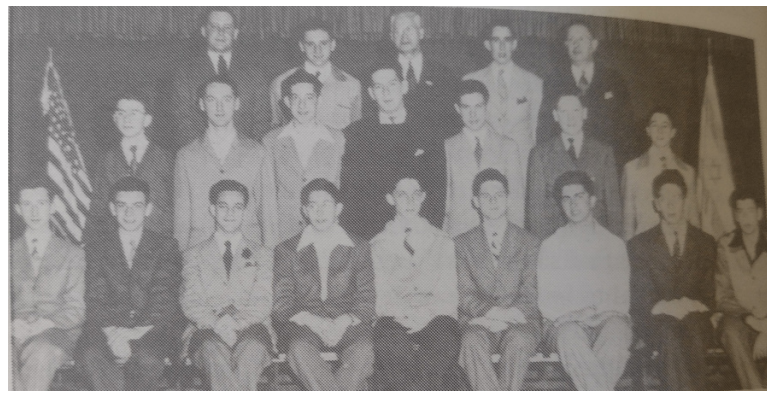
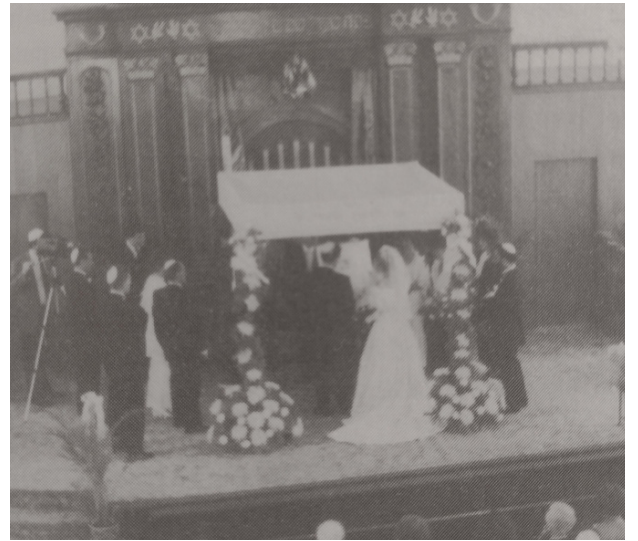
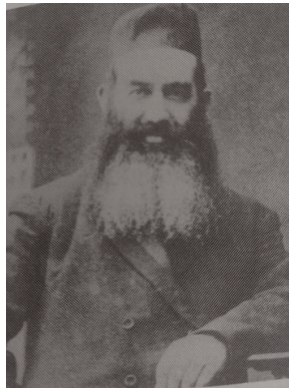
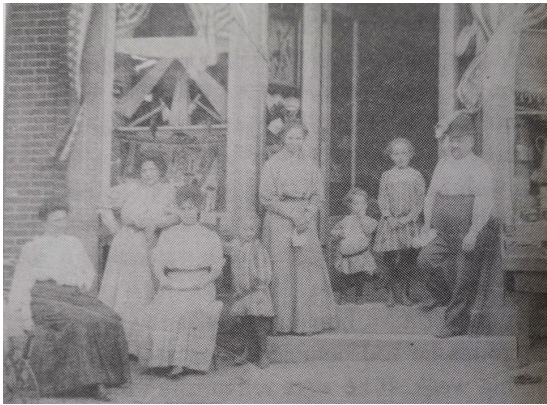
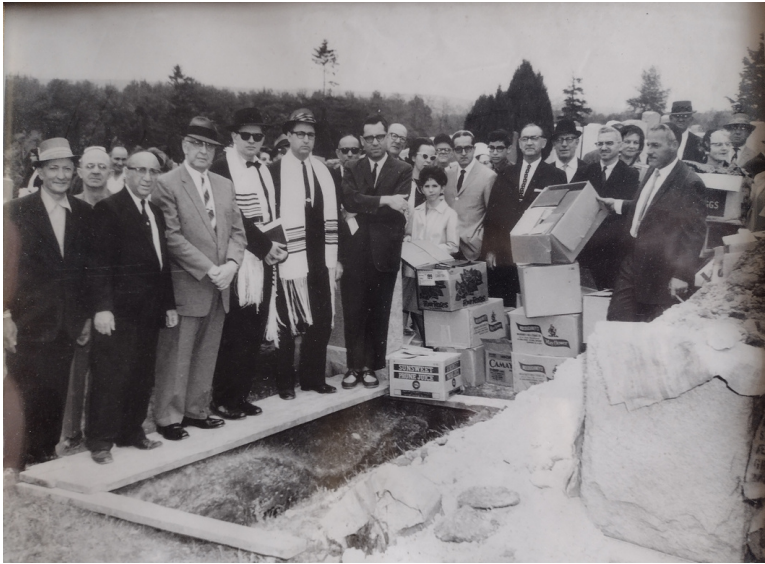
1972: Faye Director was elected as the first female President.

1993: Under the leadership of Rabbi Raphael Miller, women assumed full rights and responsibilities in the Congregation, including being counted as part of a minyan quorum.

2019: A state security grant was awarded that funded building upgrades including a perimeter fence, cameras, alarm and intercom system upgrades.

2021: Resulting from the COVID pandemic, services began broadcasting online via Zoom, which has enabled participation with congregants and friends near and far who would not otherwise be able to attend. A second security grant was awarded to the congregation.

2023: Celebrating 100 years at 77 North Pine, where many weddings, funerals, bar/bat mitzvahs, bris and baby naming ceremonies have been hosted; Hebrew School programs have provided for youth and adult education; Shabbat, holidays & festivals continue to be celebrated; Scholar in Residence programs and Leisure Lounge activities continue to flourish through the JCC. God willing, may we continue to unite, pray and educate to make the Hazleton community and world at large a better place through tolerance, charity, cooperation, and good will toward all.



I am so honored to congratulate Agudas Israel Congregation and happy to recognize Israel Independence Day. In honor of the individuals 100 years ago, who had the immense foresight and mission to build this beautiful sanctuary and to have persevered so hard along the way to get us to this amazing celebration. Lets reflect on the firsts in 100 years:

In January 1923, a contract was signed to construct the new synagogue at the corner of Pine and Oak Street. On May 20, 1926, the beautiful arc was erected in the sanctuary. In October 1933, an update was made to record the minutes and activities in English instead of Yiddish. The first memorial Yahrzeit tablet was erected and dedicated in September 1937. We now have hundreds of tablets. In 1942, Agudas Israel was affiliated with the United Synagogue of America, officially becoming a Conservative Congregation with a membership of 162.

In 1946 a mortgage burning ceremony took place and Abe Glassberg, chairman of the mortgage liquidation fund, said, "let's go on to make it the strong, vital important institution that it's so well deserves to be." Irving Taub, President, who 30 years later, married my grandmother, stated, "we all strive to go ever forward to hand over to our children a house of worship that shall extend brotherhood and goodwill in the worship of God, and love of our American way of life." Samuel Cohen, Chairman of the Board said, "Money alone, will not do it. History has already proved to us that material wealth is not permanent, but the intangible things that man creates by his worthwhile activities, and unselfish effort lives on and on. Israel has survived not because of his material wealth, but by the blood and sweat and tears of its people through the generations."

In 1960, congregation membership was 260. Camp Davidowitz, Jewish day camp and Hazleton's Jewish Community Center flourished throughout the 60s and 70s. In 1973, Sidney Klemow stated, "Without attendance, the synagogue is very cold, but a sanctuary filled with people and filled with God can be a very warm and meaningful experience. This purpose must remain paramount in our thinking and planning for the future. Let us build on our strengths and face the future with determination that Agudas Israel shall remain a vital force in our spiritual and communal life."

During 1974-1975 the shul redesigned the Chapel, kitchen, social hall, classrooms, offices, and the mikvah was removed. Subsequently, the Jewish population of Hazleton began to shrink as members moved away. I totally agree with the words of the late Larry Klemow, President in 1993, who stated, "all of what we now have came from the dreams of our parents, grandparents and great grandparents who came to Hazleton during the last century to continue their lives in the freedom and equality of America. We should not forget that it was their bravery and sacrifice." This still rings true today.

Also, under the leadership of Rabbi Raphael Miller in 1993, women assumed full rights and responsibilities in the congregation, including being counted as part of a minyan quorum. Then Faye Director was elected, the first female president in 1972. I was elected as the 2nd female president in 2019. As President we survived the COVID pandemic. We were awarded two state grants for security issues. One positive outcome was that we instituted zoom services for our members and friends, near and far to attend, who otherwise could not.

So, throughout the years in this building, even with a dwindling membership we have flourished partaking in many wonderful activities, celebrations and spiritual experiences. We are small but mighty and we continue to hope for the best for our Jewish religious future here in Hazleton! The Board of Directors and I are grateful for and pay tribute to the past and present members of this congregation. We also want to thank those who moved away but still consider this building their home. Many have helped us throughout the years with their support. Please recall the memories of our ancestors who persevered through history marking the way for us to reach this amazing celebration.

Debbie Walko, President of the Board

“It is a tree of life to those who grasp her and whoever holds onto her is fulfilled with wisdom” -Proverbs/Torah

The history of Agudas Israel Synagogue is the story of men and women who had a grounded vision, passion, insight and foresight. This revered Synagogue lays squarely on the shoulders of these dedicated giants. They steered our Synagogue through prosperous times and challenging years. The vibrancy was palatable through filled seats and generations of Hebrew School attendees. Although, the truth be told, it was Bessie Glickman’s parlor candy store that kept Hebrew School students motivated.

The years of vibrancy has turned into “The Little Engine That Could.” Our longevity is due to the foresight of our founders in providing a financial endowment and the exceptional hard work of our current leaders. The Cohn Chapel and Main Sanctuary provides spiritual solace and is a touchstone of gratitude to generations who gave thanks for Hashem’s blessings.

Folks from far and wide return as a stop along their journey to see the Synagogue of their youth. Their memories are validated as they reminisce in the sanctuary in awe of its old world beauty. Today, we have modernized our method of honoring the Sabbath by reaching out beyond our city through Zoom. I can’t help but feel our founders would have enjoyed our ingenuity. As Sisterhood president, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention my predecessor and matriarchal stalwart Elsie Cohn OBM. Lois Sugarman, my treasurer, and I have adopted her guidelines in all that we do.

Enter our House of Torah and unlock the code to the meaning of life! As Hebrew is recited, read the English, therein lies our moral compass. That Is The Tree Of Life.

Mazel Tov on 100 Incredible Years!
Shirley Berman, Sisterhood President

Dear Mom and Dad,

I can hardly believe that the synagogue where you sent me to Hebrew School so many decades ago is about to celebrate its hundredth year on the corner of Pine and Oak Streets. Mom, I remember you handing me quarters every week to exchange in Sunday School for stamps to paste in my Jewish National Fund booklet.

When each booklet was filled, I would hand it in to our teacher Ida Miller to be redeemed for a tree to be planted in the Children’s Forest of Israel. How tall those trees must now be!

On Shabbos morning you would drop me off in the downstairs chapel where Mrs. Miller conducted services for the youngsters while you, dad, and the rest of the adults went upstairs to the main Sanctuary to pray. We students learned to sing and chant our prayers in our own private Junior Congregation. And after services I would walk two blocks down Pine Street to my Aunt Flo Kashinitz’s house on the corner of Green Street to be warmly welcomed by her, Uncle Aaron, and their dog Ginger while I waited for you to join us after the adult services and Kiddush were completed.

Dad, on Tuesdays and Thursdays you and Dorothy Taub would often car-pool to drive her daughter Judy, Rona Finkelstein, and myself to classes where Rabbi Samuel Burstein and Cantor Norman Singer tried their best to teach us and the other students, including Sandra Frumkin and Roseanne Bishop, Jewish customs & ceremonies, and as much Hebrew grammar as our growing brains could tolerate. And on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur you, mom, and I would join Rita and D. B. “Bernie” Levin and their daughters Ilene, Paula, and my classmate Leah on a pleasant walk home through the fallen and often rain-soaked autumn leaves after services, because my mother and Rita shared an Orthodox background and wouldn’t dream of riding in a car on those holy days. Our route led us past the home of my classmate Howard Brown who lived in a pink house on Green Street and who spent cheder recess flipping baseball cards with some other classmates: Nathan Katz, Garry Orkin, Aaron Schiller, Martin Elkind, and Ira Blecker.

(Continued...)

(Continued...)

Many things were different then, but many remain the same. It is so easy to recall members of Agudas Israel Congregation filling the warmly cushioned wooden seats in every row of all three sections of the main Sanctuary during the High Holy Days, with a little crowd in the balcony as well! Gazing upon the majestic and mysterious Aron Kodesh rising high behind the bimah, feeling an overwhelming awe as the ark was opened to reveal the resplendent Torah scrolls to a true multitude of faithful worshippers—I remember experiencing this with you.

Dad, I recall you telling me that decades earlier the *bimah* was located in the center of the Sanctuary, not at the Eastern wall where it has stood since that seating was changed. I remember sitting sandwiched between you and mom on Simchas Torah when every single congregant was asked to read a line of Hebrew from the *hakafot*. Mom, you always reminded me about that year when it was my turn to read and Rabbi Burstein called out my name with a special instruction, “Richard Rockman, *loud and clear!*” So shy and meek was I, that a resounding command was necessary to be directed at me. At the sound of our rabbi’s authoritarian voice, like a *golem* inscribed with *emet* I was instantly activated! I stood up at my seat and my child’s voice rang out clearly, chanting the appropriate verse in Hebrew. I looked up to see Rabbi Burstein smiling broadly—a rarity—and you and dad were smiling, too!

I respected what my religious teachers could teach me. I extended my love of what I was being taught within the classrooms of Agudas Israel outside its walls. To A.D. Thomas elementary school I brought one day my blue-covered Hebrew notebooks, filled with pages of my cursive writing lessons, to “Show and Tell.” When it was my turn to speak, our teacher beckoned me to the front of the class and I proudly displayed my handwritten pages of ancient symbols, proclaiming, “This is Hebrew! I know how to read and pronounce it and I know how to write it!” I wasn’t interested in impressing any of my oblivious classmates. It was simply an achievement that made me feel so proud! And, mom and dad, I wouldn’t have felt that way if not for the values you instilled in me at home, helping me at our kitchen table with my Hebrew School homework and encouraging me to understand the meanings of our religion and our holy days. And mom, the importance of my Jewish identity wouldn’t have been impressed upon me if it weren’t for you writing in your beautiful script those many notes that I brought to school all those years, each declaring a statement like unto, “Please excuse Richard from school on Monday and Tuesday, it is the Jewish holiday of Succos.”

Mom, I know you wished I could attend Hebrew Day School with my Scranton cousins who lived back in your home town. Even Rabbi Burstein’s daughters received their education there, not at the Hazleton shul where he taught. But, perhaps it was meant to be. Perhaps I was meant to feel that Hazleton was my home, and what I learned here was to stay here. Perhaps that feeling of awe as I sat with you in the main Sanctuary on Shabbos and holidays, that feeling of being connected to my relatives and loved ones, even that silent ache of a shy boy’s unrequited Hebrew School crushes . . . perhaps this was all meant to be in order to form me into the individual I have become. Could you ever have imagined I would eventually serve on the shul Board as Secretary (having declined offers to run for president) and that I would also accept an invitation to serve as Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center? How did that reticent boy of yours finally find his voice? Could it have been through the written word?

I wonder if you felt then what I can only now express, which is that the feeling of awe and mystery and majesty in the main Sanctuary of Agudas Israel Congregation is not simply the result of a combination of history and nostalgia, of stained glass windows and the Ten Commandments flanked by the Lion of Judah above the ark, of the siddurim and mahzorim whose pages we tenderly turn with prayer, but is, in truth, the result of that light! That special light which fills the Sanctuary during those hours when we fill it. That soft, gentle, ever-shining light from above which seems to illuminate not just the pages of our prayer books, but our dearest memories and our hidden hearts.

Your loving son,
Richie

What is a "miracle"? What is "faith"?

When I was a youth, a religious teacher of mine elaborated a belief that affected my outlook to this very day. He contended that there were no "miracles" that could not be explained in natural (scientific) terms. Although events might require incredible "coincidences" or occur despite astronomical odds, there'd be no concrete evidence to suggest divine intervention.

For instance, it is documented that the Red Sea/Dead Sea can be so shallow in a specific area as to allow someone to wade across. This occurrence would require a rare alignment of geographic, gravitational, and atmospheric conditions. So what if the miracle of the parting of the Red Sea had concluded prior to the Israeli slaves completing their crossing? If so, it would have been the Egyptian militia celebrating the "miracle".

Throughout history and Bible, there are "miracles". Yet could all those miracles be explained in rational, scientific terms? My teacher claimed "indeed." The story of Noah, Jonah, the Walls of Jericho, the story of Chanukah, the 10 plagues, etc., etc. - all can be explained without being attributed to divine intervention. However, it would take a spectacular amount of "suspension of disbelief", i.e., "faith", to accept this.

So what is a "miracle"? A miracle, my teacher explained, was "the right thing, happening at the right time, in the right place, to the right person/people." (Note - he believed if a miracle did not meet that criteria, it was misinterpreted or enhanced throughout time.)

I recall an evening in the summer of 1992. I closed work early that evening and debated stopping for a "nightcap" before turning in for the day. I contemplated my decision until I found myself at my destination. I made an abrupt maneuver to claim a perfect available parking spot. Entering the establishment, I spotted a young woman whom I had lost touch with for years. She "just happened" to be in town that weekend, "just happened" to decide to go out with friends, and "just happened" to choose that establishment at that precise time. Astronomical odds against ever occurring - but meant to be - a "miracle". Twenty eight years later, we still reminisce about that night. (Because of course, that woman became my wonderful wife.)

What I learned is that life is full of miracles. What if I turned left instead of right? What if I picked red instead of blue? What if I slept in instead of leaving early? It's all a matter of FAITH, belief. IF YOU BELIEVE SOMETHING, IT IS TRUE.

Whether you attend a synagogue, temple, mosque, church, etc., it is a sanctuary where your faith is reinforced. It's that faith that allows us free will - to choose what we believe is important in life and what we deem to interpret as miracles.

Happy 100th birthday Agudas Israel! For uniting us in faith and fortifying the miracles we choose to accept - giving meaning to our lives and compassion to mankind.

Wishing you a miraculous lifetime,

Howard Narrow
Agudas Israel Congregation Board of Directors





In memory of my Beloved
Parents & Grandparents,

Mildred Gildenberg Jaye,
Dr. William Jaye,
Elizabeth & Edward
Gildenberg

-Herma Jaye Aiken

Congratulations to
our friends on
celebrating your
100 year
anniversary

Lorraine & Victor
Baran & Family

*Congratulations
on your 100th
anniversary!*

Renee Barson

In memory of

**Benjamin Glass
Edna Glass
Joseph Brenner
Betty Brenner
Phyllis Kallick
Arnie Glass**

**From Lenny & Annie
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*Mazel Tov to Agudas Israel for 100
wonderful and beautiful years.
Thank you for all the great memories.*

Tama Lee Barsky

**AGUDAS ISRAEL HAS BEEN A CENTRAL PART
OF OUR FAMILY'S LIFE FOR OVER 100 YEARS**

WE HONOR OUR FAMILY'S GENERATIONS OF PAST PRESIDENTS:

JACOB COHN

SAMUEL COHN

MARTIN COHN

BERNARD BERGSTEIN

PLUS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE BY OUR FAMILY TO THE COMMUNITY
INCLUDING SISTERHOOD, CHEVRA KADISHA, COMMITTEES, BBYO,
USY, JCC, FEDERATION, AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AT LARGE

MARILYN BERGSTEIN

RANDI FREEDMAN AND STEVEN FREEDMAN

NANCI GOLDMAN AND STEVEN BERGSTEIN

**MAZEL TOV ON 100TH ANNIVERSARY
AND THANK YOU FOR MAINTAINING
THE HISTORIC CONGREGATION
AND ITS BEAUTIFUL SYNAGOGUE**

FAYE & RICHARD BISHOP



Congratulations on 100 years!

Beulah Bishop (101 years old!)



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR GRANDPARENTS,
MOLLY & MORRIS FELLER
and OUR PARENTS,
LILLIAN and IRVING BROWN, RUTH and HY FELLER
and RUTH and SAM LITHWACK:**

Congratulations to the Agudas Israel Congregation on their 100th anniversary celebration. We are grateful for the spiritual guidance and support that the community has provided to the family, as well as to each of us individually. May the community continue to thrive for another hundred years, and more!

**Beryl Brown and Honey Minkin, Robert and Howard Brown
Ron and Nancy Feller and Sheila Durishin
Lewis Jay Litwack**

In memory of
Ruth and Max Brenner
with good wishes

Susan & Paul Brenner



In loving memory of...

Myron Brenner who taught us to stand strong
and work together to enrich the synagogue,

Michael & Stanley Brenner, along with grandparents &
relatives of the Brenner & Brownstein families.

-Shirley Brenner, Cindy Conahan,
Debbie, Larry, Lindsey & Peter Walko

**Congratulations to
Agudas Israel on
your 100th
anniversary!**



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**In memory of my parents
Henry & Ruth Bayarsky.**

Congratulations on 100 years.

Robert & Gail Burger

Congratulations on 100 years!

Janet & John Degenhart



Mazal Tov to Agudas Israel - the beloved
synagogue of my childhood, during the time
of Rabbi Samuel Burstein, z"l, my father.
Yasher Koach to all those who continue to
sustain Agudas Israel in these challenging
times.

Ilana Burstein Benson

*For four generations, the life of the Cohn family centered
around Agudas Israel.*

*Although we have moved away, the shul still holds a
special place in our hearts.*

*We honor our history with Agudas Israel
and we remember*

*Elsie Cohn - who worked tirelessly for the shul and the
community and was an inspiration to so many*

and

*Hanna Cohn - whose love of Judaism and dedication to
Tikkun Olom, seeded at Agudas Israel, guided her life.*

*Mazal Tov on the Centennial. May Agudas Israel go from
strength to strength*

Martin Cohn

Larry Cohn and Robin Evans

Sandy and Rick Thau

Judy and David Gilberg

Joe Cohn and Amy Chosky

David Cohn and Eve Collen

The history of the Cohn Family and Agudas Israel
has been intertwined
for more than 100 years
and our roots within the community are deep.

Our ancestors Rae and Jacob Cohn
were founders of the shul and leaders in the community
and inspired Samuel and Hannah,
and their children Martin, Gerald & Marilyn
to continue and deepen their dedication to the shul.

The Hannah S. and Samuel A. Cohn Memorial Foundation
honors and celebrates Agudas Israel Congregation
and the Jewish Community of Hazleton

Mazel Tov on the Centennial



In loving memory of Gerald L. Cohn
from his children and their families
Mazel Tov Agudas Israel on 100 years!



*Congratulations
on 100 years*

*Terry & Marvin Chercass
& Family*

Congratulations on
100 years!

Love,

The Dessen and Duffy
families

Our fathers, Nate and Sam
Geltzer told many great
stories about time with
Rebbe Rockoff.

Best Wishes,
Howie Geltzer,
hgeltzer@geltzerco.com
David Geltzer,
duvO33O@verizon.net

Congratulations

**Marlene & Jim
Leonard**



Alvin & Ethyl Baum
Of Blessed Memory





Hyman & Rose Davidowitz
Of Blessed Memory



William & Esther Davidowitz
Of Blessed Memory

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Congratulations on 100 years!

In loving memory

Hyman & Gertrude Wagner

Samuel & Sarah Wagner

Stella & Hyman Gold

Leba (Libby) Wagner

Dora & Abraham Wagner

Mary & Abraham Mednitsky

Judy & Don Feldman & Family



In Memory of our loved ones.

Congratulations to Agudas Israel on 100 years of
serving Hazleton's Jewish Community.

Lisa Gordon Matyas & Gerard Matyas



When I enter the sanctuary I can almost hear the voices of
my father and grandfather singing "Eitz chayim hee
la'machazikim ba". Its a wonderful memory. Congratulations
to all of the congregants and supporters of Agudas Israel
Congregation.

Bob and Estelle Harris

**In loving memory of
Joseph and Lillian Frumkin**



-Kenneth Frumkin



In Loving Memory of My Mother:
Carol Shupeck Gould
& My Hazleton Relatives

Jonathan Gould
GouldisJonathan@gmail.com

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In loving memory of:

**Our parents
Jane & Leonard Hurwitz**

**Our grandparents
Bertha & Philip Abrams**

Susan Fitzgerald
(Las Curces, NM)

Mark Hurwitz & Wendy Leeds-Hurwitz
(Burlington, VT)



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Congratulations
on 100 years!



-Steve & Debbie Jordan

The Butera Jordan Bender Hendricks Group
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***In memory of Ann Gerstein, Marilyn Katz, Harry Katz,
Faye Director & Murray Director***

***Congratulations to my synagogue, Agudas Israel!
100 years Strong!***

-Ilene Katz

Magnificent!
Congratulations

Nathan & Laura Katz
& Family

Dedicated to

*Rose & Hyman Davidowitz
David & Ida Klemow*

From all their many descendants





In memory of Larry Klemow

We love you, we miss you.

Bubbe,

Laura & Curt

Danielle & Josh,

Sydney, Hudson & Alex

The Majestic Spiritual Synagogue stands tall and proud: A Centennial Celebration

It is a foremost task of this beautiful synagogue
to remind us of those values which the world makes us forget.



Within its sacred walls it is where we
learned of the basic teaching of Torah

*“That which is hateful unto
you, do not do to your neighbor”*

Rav Hillel Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 31a

Its doors must always be open wide,
so that those who require sanctuary will feel free to enter
Its windows must never be shut so tight that
humanity’s weeping will go unheard.

The Talmud calls the Synagogue the place “where heaven and earth kiss,”
The Zohar called it “an earthly copy of the heavenly original.”
And, us, we simply wish to call it home...

The Children, Grandchildren, and Great-Grandchildren
of Jack and Ruth Klemow

**In honor and memory of my
grandparents and parents who were
stalwart members of Agudas Israel.**

Tom Kline



We have memories of many years of wonderful experiences at the Agudas Israel Synagogue. We look forward to many more in the future.

Richard & Helene Kline

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Mazal Tov Agudas Israel Congregation on your Centennial!

I would like to dedicate this page to

Those I Remember

My beloved grandparents, my Zaide, Samuel Smulyan, one of the founders of Agudas Israel Congregation, and my Bubbie, Cecelia Smulyan.

My beloved parents Louis and Anna Moskowitz who filled our home with much love for my sister Miriam and me and much Yiddishkeit, and taught Miriam and me love of our Jewish community, love of our people and love of Israel.

My beloved husband, Harold Landau, with whom I shared a beautiful and fulfilling life.

My beloved Hebrew teacher and Principal of Agudas Israel in the 1940's, Mr. Philip Romanov. Mr. Romanov taught each one of us individually. Here was his system: he had a deck of index cards with each of our names on them. He shuffled the cards, and when it was your turn, he would come over to your desk and teach you. For example, if you were a beginning student, he would teach you to read one letter of the Hebrew alphabet with two or three vowel sounds. It was then your assignment to read a page with that letter and the vowel sounds. When it was your turn again, you would read him the page. If you made one mistake, you had to do the page over again your next turn. When you got it right, you got one point, which he recorded on your index card. At the end of the month, you got a candy bar for the first 50 points and one more candy bar for every five points thereafter. At the end of the month, if you got 50 points or more you were on the Honor Roll. In this way we learned to read, write and translate Hebrew. The children of Agudas Israel in the 1940's should all have been able to enter any synagogue and participate in any service for the rest of their lives.

Add to this the before Hebrew School visits to Bessie Glickman's Grocery store right next door, for a snack of chocolate milk and a big pretzel with a group of friends. There was a lot of camaraderie, as we entered Hebrew School.

My beloved Rabbi, Rabbi Herbert Ribner, who was very involved with the school and taught us many songs of Israel.

My beloved Cantor, Cantor Herman Marx, who taught us melodies to the Siddur prayers as we sat on the side aisles of the main sanctuary.

Thank you Agudas Israel for the great Jewish education and for all the beautiful memories of the Shul and the Hebrew School.

And thank you, today's members of Agudas Israel, for continuing to keep the torch lit and passing it on to the next generation.

Phyllis Landau

Happy Centennial
Celebration! So many
wonderful memories
here.

The Levin Family

**In memory of our
beloved parents, Bernie
& Rita Levin**

**Bob, Ilene & Laura
Levin-Dando**

*Congratulations Agudas
Israel on your 100th
anniversary*

*Wally & Stella
Pawlowski*

In memory of Bess
Edelstein

Roslynn Rubin
David & Irene Rubin

Congratulations on 100 years!

*Lenore Levy
Alan & Karen Levy*

In memory of

*Bob Levy
Abe Starker*

They really loved "The Shul"

Congratulations on 100 years!

Atty Edward & Florence McNelis

Congratulations on 100 years!
Thank you for so many wonderful
memories...

Bruce & Kate Miller





MMI
Preparatory School

Congratulations
to the
Congregation!

MMI Preparatory School is proud of its relationship with the **Agudas Israel Congregation**. Not only are many of our students, alumni, and families affiliated with the Congregation, but our histories are intertwined dating back to the late 1800's.

Even before the Hazleton Jewish community organized a synagogue, it established a cemetery on land donated by **MMI founder Mrs. Sophia Coxe**, also known as the "Angel of the Anthracite."

Almost 20 years later in 1913, the Coxe family and the **Hagodas of Israel Congregation** came to an agreement for a second plot of land to be acquired for \$1, also to be used for a cemetery. We're grateful for this land that sparked the growth of a **multigenerational relationship** with the **Agudas Israel Congregation**.

Congratulations on celebrating **100 years** in your Synagogue!

To learn more about **MMI Preparatory School**,
visit **www.mmiprep.org**

Mazel tov. What a milestone! A significant accomplishment.

Our ancestors built the synagogue...physically and spiritually. Generations that followed grew the congregation, worshipped, and learned about Judaism.

My father, Jack Narrow, grew up in the shul. He told me many stories about lessons at cheder...learning and studying under Rebbe Rockoff.

My father and his friends founded TDS, a social and philanthropic fraternity. Their children became my friends. Names I recall are Greif, Abrams, Shupack, Block, Cohn, Rolnick, Druian, Hurwitz, Klapper, Levin, Berkowitz, Supowit, Levin...and perhaps some I don't remember.

I grew up in the Temple. But, as a youth, I would occasionally accompany my father to services at Agudas Israel. Many of my friends and relatives worshipped there.

I have fond memories of a football game we held on the grounds of the Hazleton State Hospital during the high holidays. Boys from Beth Israel and Agudas Israel played. We called it "*The Rosh Bowl*."

On a serious note, you can take the boy out of Hazleton, but you can't take the Hazleton out of the boy. (Same for girls.) Even over years and distance, there is a strong connection between Jewish people who grew up in the two congregations. That is the magic of growing up in a small Jewish community. We were so lucky.

The bonds have never been broken. May the traditions continue. It is my wish that the two congregations continue to serve future generations.

All the best,

Hank Narrow

hnarrow@aol.com

For 100 years
Throughout four generations
Agudas Israel has been there to:

ANCHOR OUR ROOTS
OPEN OUR MINDS
ENLIGHTEN OUR SPIRITS
REAFFIRM OUR FAITH

THE NARROW FAMILY
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RHONA & DAVID

**Congratulations on your
100th year celebration**

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IN MEMORY OF MY BELOVED PARENTS,

Mollie and Henry



Richard Rockman

*In loving memory of
Ida and Iz Rubin*



*Rosilynn Rubin and Donald Grose
David and Irene Rubin*

Cheers to 100 Years!



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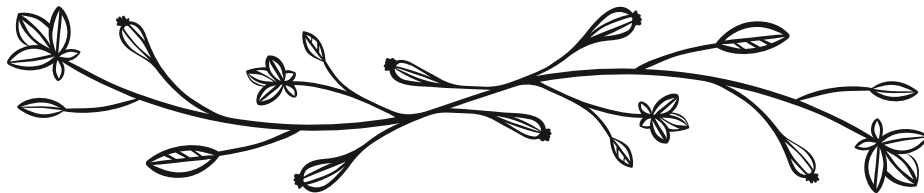
Congratulations on 100 years!

-Mike Sugarman & Scott Sugarman

**In memory of our beloved parents &
grandparents:**

Harold and Millie Sugarman

Daniel & Dora Sugarman



In honor of
Debbie Brenner Walko
&
Cindy Brenner Conahan

Richard & Mary
Schriebmaier

'L' Dor u'dor

*For generations of
spiritual life.*

*Sisterhood of Agudas
Israel Synagogue*

In memory of beloved

David Sugarman

Ben & Jeanette Mason

Cal & Jean Sugarman

Barry Sugarman

Lois Sugarman & Family

**Congratulations
on 100 years**

**Bob Supowit &
Linda Garber**

**In memory of
grandparents
Joseph & Miriam Soller
and Parents
Herbert & Carol Soller,

with love,
Jeff Soller, Debbie
Arthur & family**

**Congratulations on
100 years!**

**Ed & Debby
Telatovich**

Congratulations

*from the George
Waschko Family*

Mazel Tov on 100 years!

*In memory of our beloved parents,
David and Edith Wagner*

*Barbara Wagner and David Stern
Audrey Wagner and Craig Harris*



Mazal Tov Agudas Israel Congregation on your Centennial!

I would like to dedicate this page to the memory of some chosen members who are no longer with us but who are forever close to me in my heart:

In Memory of

My beloved grandfather, my zaide, Samuel Smulyan, one of the founders of Agudas Israel Congregation.

My beloved grandmother, my bubbie, Cecelia Smulyan, his wife and “ezer k'negdo,” his helpmate.

My beloved father, Louis Moskowitz, who filled our home and our Jewish community with his love of Torah, Mitzvot and Israel. The stories he told my sister Phyllis and me almost every night about his life in the Jewish community of Poland were and are priceless.

My beloved mother, Anna Moskowitz, who filled our home and all who entered it with her peace and tranquility.

My beloved husband, Dov Weidenfeld. We were the first couple Rabbi Burstein married in Agudas Israel Congregation, June 28, 1959.

My beloved Hebrew teacher and Principal of Agudas Israel in the 1940's, Mr. Philip Romanov. Mr. Romanov lovingly taught each and every one of us individually, all the children of Agudas Israel in the 1940's, to read, write and translate Siddur and Biblical Hebrew. Saturday mornings he led and taught us to lead Junior Congregation. I can still picture the pride on his face as he watched us lead. Before Pesach Mr. Romanov taught the entire school the songs from the Hagaddah. The vestry rooms were filled with music. He composed his own plays, and we performed them at various programs through out the year.

Nowhere else could one find such a rich, outstanding Jewish Education.

My beloved Rabbi, Rabbi Herbert Ribner, who served as Rabbi of Agudas Israel from 1946 to 1948. He filled the Shul and the school with his charisma. He taught us songs of Israel and songs that made us proud to be Jews.

My beloved Cantor, Cantor Herman Marx who taught us melodies from the Siddur. Phyllis and I still remember all the songs taught to us by Mr. Romanov, Rabbi Ribner and Cantor Marx.

Thank you Agudas Israel Congregation for providing your children with this great Jewish Education. Thank you for the beautiful Shul and all the Shabbat and Holiday services and all the beautiful memories. And thank you Agudas Israel for the courage and perseverance of the present generation, for working so hard to keep the synagogue open and able to celebrate a Centennial! There are cities the size of Hazleton who have not been able to have your success. “Pass on the torch your fathers left you. It is your precious heritage.” You have done this and are still doing it.

May you go from strength to strength!
Miriam Weidenfeld

IN LOVELY REMEMBRANCE OF:

REBECCA, ANNA AND ISADORE KAPLAN (PAST PRESIDENT OF AIC, 1929-1930)
MY GRANDPARENTS AND GREAT GRANDPARENTS

CECELIA AND SAMUEL SMULYAN (PAST PRESIDENT OF AIC, 1931-1932)
MY GRANDPARENTS AND GREAT GRANDPARENTS

ESTHER AND HARRY SMULYAN
MY PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

HARVEY MICHAEL WOLFF
MY HUSBAND AND FATHER OF BARRY AND JAY
AND GRANDPARENTS TO ETHAN, ABIGAIL, SAMANTHA AND ERIC

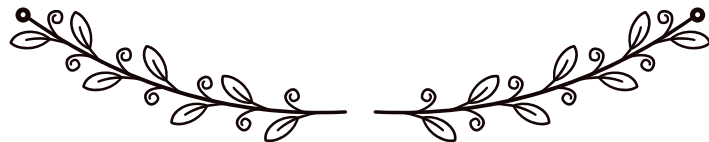
-RHODA SMULYAN WOLFF (CONFIRMATION 1951)



*Thank you, Agudas Israel, for making
us feel at home.*

Congratulations on 100 years!

Yanuszkiewicz and Kaplan Families



You're invited to a second Agudas Israel Centennial event

Centennial Gala at the Valley Country Club

79 Country Club Dr. Sugarloaf, PA

Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Join us for a night of live comedy & music, featuring...

NYC Stand-up Comedian CARIE KARAVAS: 7-8 PM

Carie Karavas is a tough, street smart, wise cracking stand-up comic who's been taking both the New York City and national comedy club scenes by storm. Appeared on Comedy Central, Kevin Can Wait, at Mohegan Sun & Montreal Comedy Festival.

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****No ticket sales at the door, reserve early!****

Tickets can be purchased on our website (www.agudaisrael.us/centennial) or by calling our office at (570) 455-2851