

The Agudagram

October 2023 Volume 73, No. 3
Cheshvan/Kislev 5784

Agudas Israel Congregation
77 North Pine Street
Hazleton, PA 18201
570-455-2851

Officers:

Richard Kline, Ritual Leader
Debbie Walko, President
Marlene Leonard, Vice President
Richard Rockman, Secretary
Helene Kline, Treasurer
Richard Kline, Financial Officer



Shabbat Candlelighting

November 3- Parshat Vayera- 5:40pm candlelighting
November 5- Daylight Savings Time- CLOCKS BACK!
November 10- Parshat Chayai Sarah- 4:32pm candlelighting
November 11- Veteran's Day
November 17- Parshat Toldot- 4:26pm candlelighting
November 23- Thanksgiving
November 24- Parshat Vayitzei- 4:21pm candlelighting

NOTICE!!!!

CONGREGATION MEETING

NOVEMBER 8 @ 5:45PM in-person and on Zoom

AIC will hold a congregational meeting about those who are cremated being buried in our cemetery. Please plan to attend to provide your opinions and input this sensitive topic. Please RSVP to Christina.

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE MUST TEACH OUR CHILDREN WHO WE ARE AS A JEWISH NATION; WE WILL NEVER AGAIN BE PERSECUTED TO A GENOCIDE! OUR FAITH AND LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER IS OUR GREATEST STRENGTH!!! AM YISRAEL CHAI!!!

Sad, scared, proud, alone: How US Jewish teens are feeling amid the Israel-Hamas war

BY LYDIA ETTINGER, TY FAULKNER BRANUM, AMI GELMAN, ZOE KLEVENS, ELIZA LAMPERT, OLIVER MASON AND ABIGAIL RUBINSTEIN OCTOBER 27, 2023 4:02 PM

[\(JTA\)](#) – Hamas’ deadly attack on Israel on Oct. 7 was thousands of miles away for Jewish teens in the United States – yet they have found themselves caught in a crossfire of opinions, misinformation and anger about the situation ever since.

JTA Teen Journalism Fellows interviewed their peers about what they have been hearing and feeling over the last three weeks. Our reporters discovered that many high schoolers were afraid to go on the record, saying they feared aggravating tensions or didn’t want to get “canceled” within their community. The ones that did agree to talk, however, say they are doing their best to stay strong and feel united, not divided.

Some of the teens interviewed expressed their concerns about antisemitism while others offered insight into what’s happening in their social media circles. From Jewish day school students in the West to public school kids in the South, here’s what American Jewish teens have to say about the war between Israel and Hamas.



Jacob Abowitz, 17, *Parkway Central High School, St. Louis*
Abowitz, right, and a friend. (Ami Gelman)

I’m trying my best to show my pride at being Jewish. Just trying to wear my Star of David to school and in public and anywhere I go.

Nathan Arst, 17, *Parkway Central High School, St. Louis*

Being an American teen Jew, if there was one thing I wish adults would know about [us is that] sometimes it can be really hard. For me, I’m fortunate, being surrounded by a strong Jewish community at my school and at my temple, so my community is really supportive. But some of my friends go to schools with small Jewish populations and feel very isolated. People have to keep that in mind. Judaism – you can’t always see it from the outside, unless someone is wearing a form of identification like a necklace or a kippah. You can’t always see it and a lot of Jewish teens are going through a lot of different emotions right now.



Alissa Barnholtz, 17, *Parkway Central High School, St. Louis*



It's hard to understand the complexity of the situation on social media. Saying it's retaliation is kind of like justifying Hamas. Hamas is antisemitic. Their goal is to kill people and Jews. I deleted Instagram because it was a lot to see.

I haven't personally experienced any antisemitism from this situation but I know people who have. It's sad and it's scary because I love being Jewish. I'm so happy to be Jewish, but right now I'm so scared to be Jewish. Right now, I'm lighting Shabbat candles with my family every Friday night which makes me feel better and makes me

feel more connected to the community.

Davis Brown, 17, *Parkway Central High School, St. Louis*

For many adults, Zionism is a partisan issue. It falls along the lines of Republican or Democrats; depends whether you are pro-Israel or pro-Palestine and your thoughts on Zionism. With teens I don't see that as much. That might be because we don't vote the same way our parents do. Our ties to Zionism aren't driven by political parties. It comes from a personal belief or friends that are Jewish, our background. It makes the conversation a little bit different.



Elsie Cohen, 17, *Latin School of Chicago, Chicago*

Most people around me are not discussing the war, which feels really lonely. I understand that it is a difficult topic to talk about, but it has to be discussed, and ignoring it makes my Jewish peers and me feel alone.

I have never felt bad about being outwardly Jewish in the past, especially considering I attended a Jewish school up until high school. However, in recent weeks, I have felt uncomfortable displaying my identity, and uncomfortable talking about the

situation with those who are openly against my entire religion and people. I feel afraid to walk around wearing my Star of David necklace and I feel awkward being one of few Jewish people in my small school.



Holden Demain, 15, *Denver Jewish Day School, Denver*

I'm hearing a lot of fear from fellow Jewish teens. I think I'm also kind of feeling a little bit that some people are indifferent to what is going on and just generally don't care very much. The people that care are scared and the people that don't care, don't. A lot of people are scared for family and friends that they might have in the region. There's also fear of rising antisemitism in America, on college campuses. That definitely also plays a role.



There is this tendency to view [the attacks] as just happening to Israel and not to us, but people need to understand that Israel is just a manifestation of the Jewish people and I believe that an attack on Israel is an attack on the Jewish people. When people are indifferent to Israel, it makes me feel that they're indifferent about being Jewish.

Nate Friedman, 17, *Riverwood International Charter School, Atlanta*

From my Jewish friends, everyone's really informed, and they all know about it, and everyone discusses how they're disgusted by it. The main topic of discussion is just how there's a lot of propaganda and how [other] people are really misinformed about what's going on in Israel and the truth. We talk together, support each other and give each other a little pick-me-up to let each other know it's going to be okay. It really makes me feel comforted, and it gives me hope.

My non-Jewish friends have made jokes about it; they just don't understand the significance and seriousness of the situation. When I hear jokes from non-Jewish people, actually, it really upsets me. If you don't know about it, don't joke about it, don't say anything about it. You need to educate yourself before you speak up on a sensitive subject.



Deborah Haspel, 16, *Yeshivat Kadimah High School, University City, Missouri*

When talking about the whole situation in Israel with my peers, there has been a lot of frustration and sadness. Everyone is worried, really worried. We are making sure we are praying and donating to the IDF. It's a very difficult situation. It puts a strain on everything. Making sure we are contributing and praying — it's pretty much all we can do.



Rachel Katzke, 18, *The Masters School, Ardsley, New York*

I refuse to be ashamed of my Judaism. Once again this conflict is so complex and hard and depressing that, yes, there are some things I purely cannot defend, like videos of IDF soldiers putting cement in the water pipes in the West Bank, but there are other cases where people don't know context and that I can defend.

I feel on social media the words “colonizers” and “open-air prisons” just egg people on. When there is an infographic about how we are “colonizers” then everyone in the comments says “Free Palestine” it just feeds into the perspective that we are colonizers and that we have never lived in this land.

Lauren Elle Lavi, 15, *Edmond Memorial High School, Edmond, Oklahoma*

Even though I live so far from Israel, I still think it's such a scary situation. Misinformation is being spread quickly through social media, and it spreads easier through teens versus adults. They don't even realize what they're saying is antisemitic. I think I was more open about being Jewish, prior to what's going on in Israel. But now, I have more awareness of what other people think.



Kayla Minsk, 17, *Atlanta Jewish Academy, Atlanta*



I've been hearing from teens the pressure to perform what they're supposed to be saying, what they're supposed to be feeling. We get so caught up in what the 'perfect' reaction is, we watch the videos on social media, or we repost all of the flyers and the posters because we want others to know that we feel even if we don't. I think that can take away from the real action that you can do. People aren't being true about what they feel because of feeling judged, so the reaction is more performative rather than doing something like packing bags or writing letters to actually feel like they're making an impact.

Celia Pincus, 17, *Jones College Prep, Chicago*

Teens are very active on social media concerning the situation in Israel. I would say there is a combination of pro-Israel, pro-Palestinian, and somewhere in between – really something from every viewpoint. The quantity of posts on social media is insane and, personally, I'm not someone who has ever posted anything political on social media. I feel overwhelmed. The news follows me everywhere and it's not something I can forget about.



Just because I'm Jewish doesn't mean I support all actions the Israeli government takes. And that makes me frustrated, it makes me sad, and it makes me angry. I don't think that I feel less pride in being Jewish, or more afraid to show it. I've never been a person who has worn a Jewish star necklace or anything like that so I feel like I don't have an identifier. I don't think I'm concealing my identity, but I am definitely not broadcasting it to the world. And since I've never done that I don't really feel any different, but it does feel like slightly more of a conscious choice.



Sam Pressman, 16, *Sycamore High School, Cincinnati*

I see a lot of things on Instagram, talking about how many Israelis got killed, and the situation happening. And it's really making me feel like our world has gone horribly wrong. I was kind of in a crisis with all the events going on. I've always showed my Judaism. I'm not afraid to tell anyone and especially now you should have more pride in it being Jewish. Because if you try to hide it now, that gives

Hamas what they want.



Avi Askenazi, 14, *Denver Academy of Torah, Denver*

I'm hearing from adults that Israel is trying to do good things to help their citizens and destroy Hamas. [Teens] aren't taking it as seriously as adults, they think it's more of a joke than how serious it really is. Some of the jokes are that Hamas isn't killing innocent people because no Israelis are innocent. It makes me sad that students make jokes about something so serious and sad.

Ava Sherman, 17, *Marquette High School, Chesterfield, Missouri*

The main source of talk is about the false information and propaganda that is being posted on the internet and social media platforms that teens, who are always on social media, resort to. The best thing you can do is educate people on the correct facts. Be ready for somebody to ask you a question or come at you with an opposing view. The best thing you can do is defend yourself while also being neutral. There are no sides. It's, "Do you want peace or do you support terrorism?"



Noah Shurz, 17, *Denver East High School, Denver*

It feels like it's very divided. Some people on Instagram are pro-free Palestine, but some are pro-Israel. There's a lot more people in the center. Around me people are very supportive, but don't talk about it outside of social media most of the time. I never truly knew what side people were on until this. Someone that I had a lot of respect for, that I thought was very smart, I lost a little bit of respect for them because it was very blanket pro-Palestine, out of nowhere.

Ayalah Spratt, 15, *The Masters School, Hastings, New York*

I've been hearing people in America diluting this down to such basic opinions when, in reality, this is such a complicated issue, especially from people who have no idea of what they are talking about. I've heard people make this into a pro-Israel versus pro-Palestine issue which at its core I don't think it is — it's not a political war, it's terrorism, which is completely different. People are dying, people are being murdered and there is not a world in which that is OK.

I've been trying to stay off social media with all the things people are slapping onto their Instagram stories just like taglines, because it's not really helpful. Even things that are promoting the things that I believe in, I think the whole process of just mindlessly posting on your story and feeling that you've done something like "Help Israel" I don't think that does anything.



Andrew Wittenbaum, 17, *Sycamore High School, Cincinnati*

There have been multiple incidents at school. I believe someone drew a swastika on the stall in the bathroom. They haven't found out who it is, but they're trying their best so everybody can be safe in the school. I do feel like my school supports me as a Jewish person. Because I know that there have been many announcements with our principal and our dean of students, and our counselors that are offering so much help that we can go to if we ever need that. And I know that they're trying their best.

May we all continue to pray for Israel and peace in our world!

עֲשֵׂה שָׁלוֹם בְּמְרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

*Oseh shalom bim'romav. Hu ya'aseh shalomaleynu,
v'al kol Yisrael, v'al kol yoshvey teyveyl, v'imru: Amen!*

May the one who makes peace in
the heavens make peace upon us, all
Israel, and all who dwell on earth.

GET WELL WISHES ARE EXPRESSED TO: BRUCE MILLER, JIM
LEONARD, LEANNE TRATTNER, SHIRLEY BRENNER, EILEEN
BRENNER, & RABBI LARRY KAPLAN.

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. 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 320 A
Hazleton, PA 18201

**A special thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Irving Michlin, Rabbi Michlin's brother,
and family for planting a tree near his gravesite. May the tree grow in
everlasting memory of our beloved Rabbi Michael Michlin whose third
yahrzeit falls on November 14 this year. May his memory continue to serve
as a blessing for all of us.**

OCTOBER DONATIONS RECEIVED

Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Donation Received From:	In Memory of:
Richard & Faye Bishop	Altheda Ziff, Mother of friend
Lois Sugarman	Ben Mason, Father
Richard & Faye Bishop	Bernard Chaskin, Neighbor
Ruthie Goldstein	Henry Goldstein, Father
Ron & Nancy Feller	Hy Feller, Father
Helen Minkin	Irving Brown, Father
Richard & Faye Bishop	Irving Brown, Father of friend
Mable Brown & Melanie Koziol	Irving Brown, Husband
Kenneth Frumkin	Joseph B. Frumkin, Father
Janet L. Keich	Julia Blumberg, Aunt
Micki Auerbach	Milton Auerbach, Husband
Barry & Karen Chaskin	Minnie Chaskin, Mother
Richard & Faye Bishop	Minnie Chaskin, Neighbor
Beryl Brown	Morris Feller, Grandfather
Shirley Brenner, Cindy, Debbie & Family	Myron Brenner, Husband & Father
Ron & Nancy Feller	Pauline Lander, Grandmother
Terry Chercass	Rita Wiepert, Sister
Richard & Faye Bishop	Rochelle Spizer, Friend
Richard & Faye Bishop	Rose Bishop, Grandmother
Faye Klemow	Simon Klemow, Brother-in-law
Terry Chercass	Sophie Richter, Aunt
Jacqueline Matlow	Ted Matlow, Husband
Richard & Faye Bishop	Yale Schwartz, Friend & neighbor

Endowment Fund

Refuah Shleima to LeAnne Trattner

Richard Rockman

Refuah Shleima to Bonnie Yanuskiewicz

Richard Rockman

In Memory of Leonard Trattner

Lois Sugarman

Mark Levine

Michele Sukenik Banker

Richard & Faye Bishop

Richard Rockman

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.

November (Cheshvan/Kislev) 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.

CHESHVAN

17 Abe M. Bloch 11/1
17 Gary David Taub 11/1
19 Joseph Abramson 11/3
19 Milton Yust 11/3
19 David Rosen 11/3
20 Morris Levine 11/4
20 Esther Mednitsky 11/4
20 Rose Shamieh 11/4
23 Reuben Cohn 11/7
24 Hasia Burkat 11/8
26 Jan M. Levy 11/10
26 Rochelle Solomon 11/10
27 Betty Brenner 11/11
27 Etta Brownstein 11/11

27 Ruth Eisenberg 11/11
28 Lillian Bohorad 11/12
28 Milton Miller 11/12
29 Samuel Koplín 11/13

KISLEV

1 Rabbi Michael Michlin
11/14
3 Ethel Pegalis 11/16
3 Leroy Orkin 11/16
3 Selma Sebrans 11/16
6 Fannie Aranoff 11/19
6 Lena Levine 11/19
7 Ida Deitch 11/20
7 Miriam Chana Rosen 11/20

8 Gloria Tevlin 11/21
9 Lillian Brown 11/22
9 Martin Elkind 11/22
10 Sedell Bloch 11/23
10 Rita Baiderman 11/23
10 Aaron Kashnitz 11/23
10 Kurt Seuss 11/23
12 Frances H. Miller 11/25
13 Lottie Chenetz 11/26
14 Esther Bea Quint 11/27
15 Manuel Klemow 11/28
16 Isadore Rothbart 11/29
17 Jacob Sherman 11/30

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

AIC NEWS

"MUSIC & POETRY OF THE PSALMS" - interactive Zoom course with Cantor Ramón Tasat continues Fridays from 12-1pm Nov 3rd, Nov 10th, Nov 17th. Contact the AIC office to register. "We are all overwhelmed by the tragedy that has befallen our beloved State of Israel. During this difficult time, the Psalms provide us with moments of great inspiration, passion, introspection and beauty... Join us to discuss the ideas expressed in the text and sing beautiful musical settings that enlarge the already vibrant meaning of the poems." -Ramón"

NEW Zoom course with Cantor Ramón Tasat on "The Music and Poetry of the Psalms"

This course is presented by the Hazleton JCC.



4 Consecutive Fridays from 12-1PM on Zoom — Oct 27, Nov 3, Nov 10, Nov 17

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 4 WEEK COURSE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER
14 AT 7 PM
VIA ZOOM
CENTRAL PA
PRAYER VIGIL
FOR ISRAEL

REGISTER HERE (REQUIRED)

Please join us for a prayer and solidarity vigil on behalf of the people of Israel, hostages, injured, soldiers and their families, and those lost on October 7 and their families.

NOW AND ALWAYS, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF CENTRAL PA & JEWISH COMMUNITY LEGACY PROJECT STAND WITH THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

PARTICIPATING CLERGY:

Rabbi Carl Choper - Mechanicsburg
Student Rabbi Dov Gordon - Williamsport (Reform Shul)
Rabbi Herbert Horowitz - Williamsport (Traditional Shul)
Rabbi Marshall Klaven - Chambersburg
Rabbi Nina Mandel - Sunbury
Cantor Marilyn Okoshi - Lebanon
Rabbi David Ostrich - State College
Cantor Ramon Tasat - Hazleton (Conservative Shul)
Rabbi Yossi Zylberberg - Hazleton (Reform Shul)



Jewish Community Foundation
of Central Pennsylvania

JCLP
JEWISH COMMUNITY LEGACY PROJECT

Questions? Contact Rebecca Robinson:

rebecca@pajewishendowment.org or (484) 269-6732

ISRAEL RELIEF CONCERT

Featuring Cantors from Over 15 Local Congregations

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER **2** **7 pm**

Washington Hebrew Congregation
3935 Macomb St. NW
Washington, DC

ORDER TICKETS

SPONSORED BY

November 2nd @ 7PM in Washington, DC and virtually ~ Cantor Ramón will be performing in an Israel Relief Concert featuring 15 cantors from the DC Metro area. All proceeds benefit the Israel Crisis Fund. For tickets:

<https://www.whctemple.org/event/israel-relief-concert/>

November 8 @ noon- JCC Leisure Lunch at Tom's Kitchen- Contact Christina via email (hazleton.jcc@gmail.com) or phone (570-455-2851) to RSVP. We hope you will join us!

November 14 on Zoom- Prayer Vigil for Israel

November 30 @ 6:15PM- We're invited to Ohav Zedek, Wilkes-Barre to hear world-renowned Rabbi Mordechai Becher speak and to enjoy a Texas-style kosher BBQ. RSVP to Sara 5702390626

December 9- Shabbat Chanukah kiddush

December 10- Friedman JCC in Kingston Community Chanukah Dinner- Details TBD

December 12 at noon- JCC Chanukah party- Details TBD



NOVEMBER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sincerely,

Debbie Walko