

The Agudagram

Winter 2023/2024 Volume 73, No. 4
Kislev/Tevet/Shevat 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

January 12- Parshat Va'Era- 4:39pm candlelighting

January 19- Parshat Bo- 4:47pm candlelighting

January 25- Tu B'Shevat

January 26- Parshat Beshalach- 4:55pm candlelighting

February 2- Parshat Yitro- 5:04pm candlelighting

It is a great mitzvah to plant trees in Eretz Yisrael especially during war times. Please consider donating through the shul so we can collectively purchase trees through JNF in time to celebrate Tu B'Shevat together. Jewish National Fund will plant the trees where needed in Israel and send us a beautiful certificate to display showing our support. Reach out by email or phone for more information!

Hebrew School is held on Sundays at the shul and on Zoom at 10am with Richard Kline. Interested in learning more Hebrew for children or for your family? Let us know and we can set up lessons with Sara.

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/ EVENTS

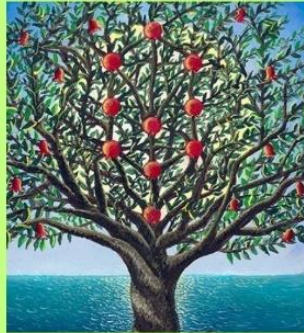


- Calendars will be mailed out in mid-January (expect to receive it by Tu B'Shevat). In the future, the AIC calendar will span Jan-Jan and will be mailed out in mid-January instead of trying to get it out by the end of the year during such a busy and hectic time.

- The Next JCC Leisure Lunch - Tuesday January 16th at the Hazleton Perkins at noon, weather permitting. RSVP to Christina by Sunday Jan 14th.

- Join us for a special Tu B'Shevat Kiddush January 20.
- Tu B'Shevat Seder Sunday, January 28 at 11am- view flyer on next page.

Join us **Sunday Jan 28th** for a
Tu B'Shvat Seder
at Agudas Israel at **11am**



The 15th of Sh'vat is the official "birthday" for trees in Israel. At this point, the days are getting longer, the strength of the cold lessens and the sap of the trees starts to rise, restarting growth. Join us to reconnect with nature's abundance, affirming our faith that spring will come again.

During this seder, we will enjoy the fruits of the trees, particularly those native to the Land of Israel, read passages appropriate to each and recite prayers and blessings. We will also plant seeds together symbolizing physical and spiritual growth for the new year.

RSVP by Jan 25th by contacting the AIC office at 570-455-2851 |
Agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com

The seder will also be streamed on Zoom. We will provide a shopping list and haggadah for those who would like to follow along virtually.

Winter (Kislev/Tevet/Shevat) Yahrzeits

May the memory of the righteous endure as a blessing.

The yahrzeit plaque lights are on in the sanctuary in memory of our departed loved ones.

*Numbers before each name correspond to the Hebrew date of their passing. The date after each name is the secular day of the yahrzeit. Yahrzeit candles should be lit the evening before this date burning through the day of their passing. Kaddish should be said the evening before and the day of the date of passing.

KISLEV

19 Leonard Narrow 12/2	12 Sol Goldberg 12/24	3 Barbara Marcus Kolton 1/13
21 Rachel Suess 12/4	12 Abraham Levy 12/24	3 Edward Albright 1/13
21 Hyman Gold 12/4	14 Larry Klemow 12/26	4 Benjamin Dubinsky 1/14
22 Howard Koller 12/5	14 Bernard H. Kline 12/26	4 Jacob Samuel Levin 1/14
22 Harry Rabinowitz 12/5	14 Howard Goldberg 12/26	6 Rebecca Sherman 1/16
23 Levi Bohard 12/6	15 Abe Bishop 12/27	7 David Gundling 1/17
23 Lester Rosenberg 12/6	15 Max Schwartz 12/27	7 Jess Kashinitz 1/17
24 Dora Jaffe 12/7	16 Betty Bohard 12/28	8 Esther Perkins 1/18
24 Elaine Linz 12/7	16 Israel Walkin 12/28	9 Reba Klemow 1/19
25 Alan Berg 12/8	17 Hope Gorin 12/29	10 Bernard Cohen 1/20
25 Evelyn Hollander 12/8	17 Beatrice Kline 12/29	11 David B. Levin 1/21
26 Albert Aronoff 12/9	17 Sondra Wells 1/2/29	11 Abraham Perkins 1/21
28 Dorothee Lande 12/11	18 Faye Director 12/30	11 Paul Spiegel 1/21
29 Nathan Adler 12/12	19 Pauline Frumkin 12/31	15 Morris Cohn 1/25
29 Henry Rockman 12/12	20 Arnold Sukenik 1/1	15 Sylvia Director 1/25

TEVET

1 Rosa Brenner 12/13	21 Marion Feldman 1/2	15 Ruth Feller 1/25
1 Herman Schwabe 12/13	21 Adele Cohn 1/2	15 Lazur Rabinowitz 1/25
1 Samuel Trattner 12/13	21 Samuel L. Cohn 1/2	16 Phyllis Putter 1/26
2 Jacob Buchbinder 12/14	21 Sophie Levy 1/2	16 Isadore Kaufman 1/26
3 Ida Klemow 12/15	22 Fanny Rabinowitz Klemow 1/3	17 Gussie Rutenberg 1/27
5 Joseph Smulyan 12/17	23 Jean Warshofsky 1/4	18 Kurt Adler 1/28
6 William Chaskin 12/18	26 Ida Gildenberg Kline 1/7	18 Hanna Sarah Cohn 1/28
6 Jean Skyken 12/18	27 Eli Becker 1/8	18 David Klapper 1/28
6 Phillip Klemow 12/18	28 Bernard H. Cenower 1/9	18 Libby Eklind 1/28
7 Samuel Gildenburg 12/19	28 Rita Levine 1/9	19 Shirley Berg 1/29
7 Abe Dymond 12/19	28 Joseph Frucht 1/9	19 Sarah Siegel 1/29
8 Ruth Litwack 12/20	29 Irving Abrams 1/10	20 Jennie Matlow 1/30
9 Ethel Baum 12/21	29 Nathan Kline 1/10	21 Max Aronoff 1/31
9 Morris Lefkowitz 12/21	29 Louis Kaminoff 1/10	21 Harold A. Taub 1/31
9 Rose Steiner 12/21		21 Isaac Weisman 1/31

SHEVAT

10 Simon Faltz 12/22	1 Henry Klapper 1/11
10 Louis L. Steinhart 12/22	1 Anna Moskowitz 1/11
11 Rebecca Jaffe 12/23	3 Florence Mitchneck 1/13

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER DONATIONS

Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Donation Received From	In Memory of
Richard Rockman	Aaron Kashnitz, uncle
Howard Rockman	
Faye & Richard Bishop	Abe Bishop, father
Harriet & Jay Harowitz	Ben Mason, father
Marie & Howard Narrow, Rhona Narrow	Benjamin Mullin, grandfather
Richard Kline	Bernard Kline, father
Shayna & Edward Geller	Dora Jaffe, aunt
Yanuskiewicz & Kaplan Families	Dorothee Landee Kaplan, mother
Gary Mednitsky	Esther Mednitsky, mother
Ida Ruth Citron	Ethel Baum, mother
Marilyn Bergstein	Ethyl Pegalis, aunt
Shirley Brenner, Cindy, Debbie & family	Etta Brownstein, mother
Jeffrey Cutler & Joyce Miller Cutler	Eva Cutler, mother
Nate & Laura Katz & Family	Faye Director, aunt
William J Small, LUTCF	Fred G Small, father
Faye Klemow	Harold Klemow, husband
Ruth Goldstein	Harry Phillips, uncle
Sondra Levinson	Harry Rabinowitz, uncle
Richard Rockman	Henry Rockman, father
William J Small, LUTCF	Henry Small, grandfather
Michele & James Banker	Hillel Sukenik, brother
Barry & Joan Gorin	Hope Gorin, mother
Richard Koller	Howard Koller, father
Nate & Laura Katz & Family	Howard Koller, uncle
Howard & Kathy Brown	Irving Brown, father
Beryl Brown	
Robert Brown	
Carlos Buchbinder	Jacob Buchbinder, grandfather
Terry & Marvin Chercass	Jean Syken, mother
Robert Brown	Joseph Brown, father
Carlos Buchbinder	Kurt Suess, uncle
Laura Klemow Wright & Kurt Wright	Larry Klemow, father
Marion Klemow	Larry Klemow, husband
Faye & Richard Bishop	Larry Klemow, cousin
Wayne Orkin	Leroy Orkin, father
Garry & Terrie Orkin	
Robert Brown	Lillian Brown, mother
Honey Minkin	
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Brown	
Richard & Faye Bishop	Lillian Brown, mother of friend

Endowment Fund

In Memory of Phyllis Landau

Yosepha - David - Brianna & Jared Freeman

In Memory of Ida Miller

Richard Rockman

Karen & Barry Chaskin

In Memory of Leonard Trattner

Karen & Barry Chaskin

In Memory of Albert Rosen

Richard Rockman

Faye & Richard Bishop

Terry & Marvin Chercass

Sherri Klemow-Shevlin

Craig Bishop, grandson of Beulah Bishop, and son of Faye & Richard Bishop of Scranton married **Alex Woody** on October 31, 2023 near Seattle, Washington

Yahrzeit Memorial Fund Cont.'d

Donation Received From	In Memory of
Aleta & Ariel Grunberg	Max Schwartz, father
Carolyn Schwartz	
Terry & Marvin Chercass	Millie Syken
William J Small, LUTCF	Minnie Small, grandmother
Robert Brown	Morris Feller, grandfather
Faye & Richard Bishop	Philip Klemow, uncle
Leonard & Annie Brenner	Phyllis Kallick, aunt
Carlos Buchbinder	Rachel Suess, grandmother
Edward Geller for Shayna Geller	Rebecca Jaffe, aunt
Jackie Matlow	Reuben Cohn, father
Karen & Barry Chaskin	Rita Baiderman, mother
Richard & Faye Bishop	Rita Baiderman, mother of friend
Janet D. Kaufman	Robert Kaufman, husband
Karen & Barry Chaskin	Rochelle Spizer, sister
Honey Minkin	Ruth Litwack, aunt
Jeffrey Cutler & Joyce Miller Cutler	Samuel Cutler, father
Tama Lee Barsky	Samuel Koplin, father
David Matlow	Sedell Bloch, sister
Jacqueline Matlow	
William J Small, LUTCF	Sidell Burkat, grandmother
Steven Klemow	Simon Klemow, father
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Narrow; Rhona Narrow	Thelma Sebrans, aunt
Barry & Karen Chaskin	William Chaskin, uncle

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.



Fireworks explode over the Sydney Opera House and on the Harbour Bridge as part of New Year's Eve celebrations in Sydney, Monday, Jan. 1, 2024. (Dan Himbrechts/AAP Image via AP)

As wars loom large, world welcomes 2024 with celebration, hope and prayer

New year ushered in with traditional fireworks displays from Sydney to Rio; Ukraine, Israel and Muslim countries strike a more somber tone; heavy security as police confront threats
By TIMES OF ISRAEL January 1, 2024

New Year's Day arrived to cheers from thousands in New York's Times Square, where a sparkling crystal ball descended to start 2024 with hope for some even as the world's ongoing conflicts subdued celebrations and raised security concerns

across the globe. "It's beautiful," Corin Christian of Charlotte, North Carolina, said of the scene seconds past midnight as Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" blared from speakers in the square and many in the crowd held cellphones in the air, trying to capture the spectacle.

There were snapshots of joy from country to country as the new year was welcomed with optimism that its days will bring more joy than sorrow. In Times Square, Tyrell Jacobs, 27, and Sarah Crayton, 26, arrived from New Orleans 15 hours before midnight and got engaged in streets packed with tens of thousands of people counting first the hours and then the minutes until midnight. "It's definitely a must-see," Crayton said of the colorful cast of strangers nearby in tall hats blowing noisemakers even before the ball dropped. "At least go once, you know, just to experience the magic." A small army of thousands of police officers worked to keep New York City safe, just as heightened security had done in the cities midnight hit first. New York has seen near-daily protests sparked by the Israel-Hamas war.

The march of midnight from time zone to time zone brought 2024 first to places like Australia, where more than 1 million people watched a pyrotechnic display centered around Sydney's famous Opera House and harbor bridge — a number of spectators equivalent to 1 in 5 of the city's residents. It would be another 16 hours before New York finished 2023. Meanwhile, Palestinian terror organization Hamas fired a barrage of rockets toward central and southern Israel at midnight on New Year's Eve, as skyscrapers in Tel Aviv were lit up in yellow to call for the release of hostages held by Hamas terrorists in Gaza for the past 87 days. "While you are counting down until the new year, our time and our lives stopped," said Moran Betzer Tayar, the aunt of Yagev Buchshtab, a 34-year-old hostage.

In the Gaza Strip, displaced Palestinians huddled around fires in a makeshift refugee camp. "From the intensity of the pain we live, we do not feel that there is a new year," said Kamal al-Zeinaty, who has lost multiple family members in the conflict sparked by the October 7 massacre of 1,200 people in southern Israel by the Hamas terror group. "All the days are the same." In Iraq, a Christmas tree was decorated with Palestinian flags and symbolic bodies in funeral shrouds, placed beside a liberty monument in central Baghdad. Many Christians in Iraq have canceled this year's festivities in solidarity with Gaza, and have chosen to limit their celebrations to prayers and rituals. "We hope that the new year, 2024, will be a year of goodness, prosperity and joy," said Ahmed Ali, a Baghdad resident. In Muslim-majority Pakistan, the government banned all New Year's Eve celebrations in solidarity with the Palestinians.

Some 90,000 police and security officers were deployed around France including along Champs Elysees Avenue, where large crowds took in a multidimensional light show projected onto the Arc de Triomphe showcasing the history of Paris and sports on the menu for next year's Summer Olympics in the city. Stunning fireworks displays bloomed at iconic locations like the Acropolis in Athens, Greece; reflected in the sleek glass walls of the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates; and accompanied a

collective cheer filling the air in Nairobi, Kenya. China celebrated relatively quietly, with most major cities banning fireworks over safety and pollution concerns.

Still, people gathered and performers danced in colorful costumes in Beijing, while a crowd released wish balloons in Chongqing. During his New Year address, President Xi Jinping said the country would focus on building momentum for economic recovery in 2024 and pledged China would “surely be reunified” with Taiwan. In Taipei, Taiwan’s capital, the mood was upbeat as revelers gathered for a fireworks show at the bamboo-shaped Taipei 101 skyscraper and at concerts and other events citywide. In India, thousands of revelers from the financial hub of Mumbai watched the sun set over the Arabian Sea. Fireworks in New Delhi raised concerns that the capital — already infamous for its poor air quality — would be blanketed by a toxic haze on the first morning of the new year. Across Japan, people gathered at temples such as the Tsukiji Temple in Tokyo, where visitors were given free hot milk and corn soup as they stood in line to strike a massive bell.

About 2 million people gathered at Rio de Janeiro’s Copacabana beach under light drizzle to watch 12 minutes of fireworks in one of the world’s most popular locations for New Year’s Eve. At the Vatican, Pope Francis recalled 2023 as a year marked by wartime suffering. During his traditional Sunday blessing from a window overlooking St. Peter’s Square, he offered prayers for “the tormented Ukrainian people and the Palestinian and Israeli populations, the Sudanese people and many others.” “At the end of the year, we will have the courage to ask ourselves how many human lives have been shattered by armed conflict, how many dead and how much destruction, how much suffering, how much poverty,” the pontiff said.

In Russia, the country’s military actions in Ukraine overshadowed end-of-year celebrations, with the usual fireworks and concert on Moscow’s Red Square canceled, as they were last year. Even without the festivities, people gathered in the square, and some cheered and pointed their phones at a clock counting down the year’s final seconds. Celebrations under threat New York Mayor Eric Adams said there were “no specific threats” to his city’s annual bash. Nevertheless, police said they expanded the security perimeter around the party, creating a “buffer zone” to allow them to head off potential demonstrations. On New Year’s Eve 2022, a machetewielding man attacked three police officers a few blocks from Times Square.

The Las Vegas Strip was closed to vehicle traffic and there was a heavy law enforcement presence with armed officers lining the Strip as thousands of revelers gathered and street musicians played before midnight, when

fireworks launched simultaneously from multiple casinos. The city of Las Vegas said more than 400,000 people were expected at the celebration. German authorities said they detained three more people in connection with a reported threat of a New Year’s Eve attack by Islamic extremists on the world-famous Cologne Cathedral. In Berlin, some 4,500 police officers worked to keep order and avoid riots like those seen a year ago. They also banned a pro-Palestinian protest in the Neukoelln neighborhood of the German capital, which has seen several pro-Palestinian riots.



Fireworks light up the sky over Munich, Germany, Jan. 1, 2024. (Lennart Preiss/dpa via AP)



Chanukah 2024



עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵיבֵל וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

*Oseh shalom bim'romav. Hu ya'aseh shalom aleynu,
v'al kol Yisrael, v'al kol yoshvvey teyvoeyl, v'imru: Amen!*

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

Psalm 23. A psalm of David.

The LORD is my shepherd; I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me to water in places of repose; He renews my life; He guides me in right paths as befits His name. Though I walk through a valley of deepest darkness, I fear no harm, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me. You spread a table for me in full view of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my drink is abundant. Only goodness and steadfast love shall pursue me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for many long years.

GET WELL WISHES ARE EXPRESSED TO: BRUCE
MILLER, JIM LEONARD, LEANNE TRATTNER, SHIRLEY
BRENNER, EILEEN BRENNER, & BONNIE
YANUSKIEWICZ.

SHOULD ANYONE HAVE ANY NEWS TO SHARE WITH
THE AIC FAMILY, PLEASE EMAIL IT TO
AGUDASISRAELHAZLETON@GMAIL.COM TO RUN IN
THE NEXT AGUDAGRAM!



Psalms for reflection in these difficult times
of uncertainty and loss.

Psalm 133. A song of ascents. Of David.

How good and how pleasant it is that brothers
dwell together. Like fine oil on the head running
down onto the beard, Aaron's beard running
down over the collar of his robe; like the dew of
Hermon that falls upon the mountains of Zion.
There Adonai ordained blessing, everlasting life.

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



WINTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the past my New Year's wishes were for peace, happiness, prosperity and blessings. This year we echo those wishes and add additional prayers for those fighting for peace and freedom in the land of Israel.

We never expected to experience the deadly attacks that occurred in Israel on Shemini Atzeret/October 7th. Now as we live with the pain and anguish of the difficult times of war, both in Israel and continuing in Ukraine, and as antisemitism is on the rise all over the world, we stand even more united with one another and the land of Israel. Also, positively, at this time we have received much comfort and support from our non-Jewish friends and community.

We will greatly miss those who we lost in the past year, members and friends including past presidents David Narrow, Leonard Trattner and Albert Rosen, active members Anita Deitch, Cecelia Narrow, and past members and friends of AIC: Lenore Levy, Phyllis Landau, Ida Miller, Shirley Klemow Shapiro, Mark Burkat, and Blossom Klemow.

In previous president's messages, my hopes were to see you all at future services, events, activities and programs, and we have succeeded tenfold. Along with our regularly scheduled holiday events for Tu B'Shvat, Purim, Passover, Shavuot, Lag B'Omer, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, Selichot, we also gathered for the following:

- Adult learning classes with Cantor Ramón Tasat
- Hebrew school with Richard Kline teaching 5 children in person and on Zoom
- AIC Centennial/75th Anniversary of Israel celebrations with a historical presentation in our sanctuary, commendations from the Mayor's office, City Council, Senate and House of Representatives, a commemorative centennial booklet, and deli luncheon with entertainment from Cantor Ramón Tasat and comedian Joel Chasnoff
- A Centennial Gala event at the Valley Country Club attended by 190 people featuring Carie Karavas and Epicsoul band
- Improvements to our tech and building including new flood lights and a new intercom system
- New members and people interested in our religion
- JCC leisure lunches including a farm-to-table event at Christina's Mountain Grove Community Farm with delicious food, a farm tour, and Hebrew school lessons and prayers with Sara Friedman
- Synagogue security and awareness training session with Dave Coffman
- Virtual concerts with Cantor Ramón
- City Hall Candle Lighting Ceremony for Hanukkah and JCC Hanukkah celebration at the Shul
- Tashlich service at Hazleton's Community Park with Cantor Ramon in September after our amazing High Holiday services

Thank you to all for your dedication and commitment to Agudas Israel. We have accomplished so much in one year's time and we have come a long way in a few short years since Covid stopped us in our tracks. May we carry on spreading light and brightness through acts of kindness in the world on the path to peace.

Sincerely,

Agudas Israel Congregation President