

The Agudagram

June 2024 Volume 73, No. 9
Iyar/Sivan 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 & SHAVUOT CANDLELIGHTING AND SERVICES

June 7- Parshat Bamidbar- 8:16pm candlelighting

June 11- Erev Shavuot- 8:18pm candlelighting

June 12- Shavuot Zoom Service- 9:30am, 9:27pm candlelighting from existing flame

June 13- Shavuot Zoom Service- 9:30am with Yizkor

June 14- Parshat Naso- 8:19pm candlelighting

June 21- Parshat Ba'ha'alotcha- 8:21pm candlelighting

June 28- Parshat Shalach- 8:22pm candlelighting

Estate Planning?

Call the AIC office to reserve your cemetery plot(s) for you and your beloved family. Active planning helps family tend to your afterlife needs and their mourning with less stress.

Consider joining the Cemetery Committee to help our members and congregation with this lasting legacy.

What Ruth Can Teach Us About Celebrating Shavuot

The Jewish people accepted the Torah in fear of God's overwhelming power. Ruth accepted it out of love and loyalty.

BY [RABBI SALEM PEARCE](#)



In preparation for God's appearance on Mount Sinai, Moses and the Israelite people "stood at the foot of the mountain" [Exodus 19:17](#) waiting to see and to hear what transpires.

The unusual preposition – *be-tachtit* ("at the foot of") – is understood in the Midrash to mean that the Jewish people were literally standing under the mountain. That is, at the moment God speaks the Ten Commandments, God also

uproots Mount Sinai from the ground and holds it over the people, as if to say, "If you accept the Torah, fine; if not, here shall be your grave." [Avodah Zarah 2b](#) The implication is that the Jewish people accepted Torah only through coercion.

The description of the ensuing events only reinforces that interpretation. The thunder, lightning, and thick clouds that accompany God's presence on Mount Sinai terrify the people [Exodus 20:14](#) and they beg Moses to be their intercessor.

Many Jewish communities will commemorate this moment during the holiday of [Shavuot](#). The event is often referred to as *z'man matan torateinu* ("the time of the giving of our Torah") and some celebrate its anniversary by [staying up all night](#) in study. But given both the biblical and rabbinic understanding of that moment, we may well wonder about the celebration of a "gift" both forced and fear-inducing.

Another Shavuot custom may provide some insight: the recitation of the [Book of Ruth](#), which many communities read on the second day of the holiday.

The short story revolves around the deep relationship between the heroine and her Bethlehemite mother-in-law, Naomi, forged after the death of the latter's husband and two sons. As she journeys back home, Naomi urges her daughter-in-law to stay in her native Moab, but Ruth refuses, speaking these iconic words: "For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God" [Ruth 1:16](#).

These words can be read in dialogue with the story in Exodus. They certainly show no less commitment than the joint affirmation of the Israelites at Sinai: "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and obey." [Exodus 24:7](#). Indeed, Ruth's declaration is understood as evidence of her taking the covenant upon herself. In the rabbinic imagination, she becomes the prototypical

convert. Just as the Jewish people all gathered together at the mountain in the desert in the presence of the God of Israel, so too does Ruth cling to Naomi on the road in Moab, invoking the God of Israel.

But the contexts are very different. The animating value in the book of Ruth is chesed (lovingkindness) and loyalty that surpass the simple duty implied in the Israelites' dispassionate response of *na'aseh v'nishma* ("we will do and obey"). After all, Ruth's pledge to Naomi ends with the ultimate vow: "Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried" Ruth 1:17. Later in the book, Naomi returns her daughter-in-law's care and concern, the wealthy landowner Boaz shows kindness and generosity to both women, and all three find joy in the birth of Obed.

Even God is different. In Exodus, God is a loud, physical force that moves mountains. In the book of Ruth, God is the quiet but inexorable activity that moves the characters from emptiness to fulfillment.

It is perhaps for this reason that there is a practice of saying Ruth's words each morning when laying tefillin, her credo of devotion and faithfulness recited as the boxes are placed between the eyes and on the arm – literally taking the words of Torah upon oneself. The ritual conjures the image of Ruth speaking to Naomi as they journey, each having lost her husband, two women cleaving to each other in hope for a better future together. It is an act of making oneself a partner in God's ongoing work in the world.

Ruth's relationship to Naomi and to Torah can be a model for our own orientation to the celebration of Shavuot. In Exodus, the Israelites experience an overwhelming display of power and might that leaves them shaking in fear and desiring to distance themselves from what may emerge from those clouds around the mountain. In the book of Ruth, she – no less in the dark – bravely and wholeheartedly faces what may come down the road.

Shavuot is called "the time of the giving of the Torah" rather than "the time of the receiving of the Torah." The sages point out that the giving took place on one day to one people, but the receiving takes place at all times and in all generations.

As we celebrate the giving of the Torah on Shavuot, may we act each day with the love and intimacy modeled by Ruth in the receiving of Torah.

GET WELL WISHES ARE EXPRESSED TO: CAROL SILVER, JANET KEICH, JIM LEONARD, LEANNE TRATTNER, SHIRLEY 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!



June (Iyar/Sivan) 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.

IYAR

24 Herbert Clark 1
24 Isaac Figlin 1
24 Joseph Soller 1
25 Hal Goldstein 2
28 Hannah Cohn 5
28 Stella Gold 5
28 Isaac Jaffe 5
29 Sidney Schwartz 6

11 Sidney Bauer 17
11 Aaron Lintz 17
12 Joseph Brown 18
12 Jakob Spanier 18
13 Bessie Brenner 19
13 Faye Orkin 19
13 Sarah Deitch 19
14 Elizabeth Gildenberg
20

SIVAN

3 Anna Fishman 9
4 David Bishop 10
4 Jonas Steiner 11
4 Samuel Jaffe 11
7 Stanley Brenner 13
7 Louis Matlow 13
7 Sylvia Narrow 13
8 Harry Goldberg 14
9 Gertrude Gordon 15
10 Eva Kahn Landy 16
10 Rabbi Joseph Miller 16
10 Rochelle Goldman 16
10 Blanche Schwartz 16
11 Benjamin Glass 17
11 Benjamin Levine 17

15 Sol Schmerin 21
15 Sandra Graylin 21
15 Bertha Schwartz 21
15 Lillian Keich 21
15 William Silverman 21
17 Helen Burkat 23
18 Anna Stolboff 24
18 Herbert Narrow 24
20 Edna Glass 26
20 Morris Bar 26
21 Max Figlin 27
23 Sgt. Harry Cohn 29
24 Louis Syken 30
24 Richard Lande 30
24 Fanny Kline 30
24 Simon Lande 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

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.

REMINDER!!!!!!

A Yahrzeit candle should be lit the second night of Shavuot as Yizkor will be said Shavuot morning Day 2.

MAY DONATIONS RECEIVED

Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

From	In Memory of
Alan & Karen Levy	Abe Levy, uncle
Lois Sugarman	Barry Sugarman, brother-in-law
Sherri Klemow Shevlin	Bessie Klemow, grandmother
Leonard & Ann Louise Brenner	Betty Brenner, mother
Bruce & Kate Miller	Cecelia Miller, mother
Faye & Richard Bishop	David Bishop, grandfather
Richard & Faye Bishop	Edith Wagner, friend
Eileen Brenner	Ellis Supowit, grandfather
Marilyn Bergstein	Elsie Cohn, sister-in-law
Prof. Gary Clark	Ethel Clark, mother
Eileen Brenner	Golda Brenner, grandmother
Florence Cohn	Hannah S. Cohn, mother-in-law
Prof. Gary Clark	Herbert Clark, father
Louise & David Goldberg	Ira Goldberg, husband
Lois Kline Bailey	Isadore J. Kline, father
Lois Sugarman	Jean Sugarman, mother-in-law
Lois Kline Bailey	Jeanne Kline, mother
Leonard & Ann Louise Brenner	Joseph Brenner, father
Ronald & Nancy Feller	Joseph Lander, grandfather
Lois Sugarman	Kalman Sugarman, father-in-law
David Matlow	Louis Matlow, father
Jackie Matlow	Louis Matlow, father-in-law
Honey Minkin	Mollie Feller, grandmother
Edward & Shayna Geller	Naomi Jaffe, aunt
The Katz Family	Nathan Gersteen, grandfather
Lee & Marsha Glassberg	Nathan Glassberg, uncle
Leonard & Ann Louise Brenner	Phyllis Kallick, aunt
Howard Narrow, Rhona Narrow	Rose Narrow, grandmother
Shelly Narrow	Rose Narrow, mother
Sherri Klemow Shevlin	Ruth Klemow, mother
Eileen Brenner	Ruth V Brenner, mother
Richard & Faye Bishop	Sam Gandell, grandfather

Endowment Donations

In memory of Jerry Burkat

Karen & Barry Chaskin
William J. Small

In memory of Ilene Katz

Karen & Barry Chaskin
Leonard & Anne Louise Brenner
Lisa & Gerard Matyas
Sherri Klemow Shevlin

In memory of Theresa Rogers

Karen & Barry Chaskin

In memory of Bonnie Klemow

David & Sharon Shafritz

In memory of Evalin Baldinger

Karen & Barry Chaskin

For the recovery of James Leonard

Richard Rockman

In honor of Roseanne Bishop Namm's special birthday

Faye & Richard Bishop

In honor of Beulah Bishop's 102 bday

Karen & Barry Chaskin



AIC NEWS/ EVENTS

June 12 & 13 Shavuot Services live on Zoom only at 9:30am. (6/13 Yizkor) Reminder will be sent in email.

June 13- Shavuot class with Cantor Ramon Tasat

Sunday, June 23rd @ 11am Leonard Trattner's Unveiling - officiated by Rabbi Larry Kaplan at Agudas Israel Cemetery

Sunday, June 30 @ 11am- the unveilings of Cecelia Narrow & David Narrow officiated by Richard Kline at Agudas Israel Cemetery

Rabbi Shalom Hammer

War & Resilience from Personal to National Perspectives



Shabbat, June 22, 2024

Congregation Ohav Zedek - 242 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre

Rabbi Hammer of Israel shares insights and reflections on our Nation's survival during the war.

Gala Kiddush Luncheon - 11:30 AM
Rabbi Hammer - 12:15 PM

Presented by Ohav Zedek Sisterhood



JOIN US FOR AN ONLINE SHAVU'OT PROGRAM with HAZZAN DR. RAMÓN TASAT

THURSDAY JUNE 13, 2024 1-2.30 PM EST

Presented by Agudas Israel Congregation And Hazleton Jewish Community Council



RUTH AND SHAVU'OT

"Wherever you go, I will go;
Where you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people shall be my people,
Your G-d shall be my G-d"

PROGRAM

Ruth is the ideal convert. Her story continues to fascinate us. Shavu'ot, Mattan Torah, is a time for recommitment to the covenant of Sinai, an opportunity to start fresh in our relationship with the Creator of the universe.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Email agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com or Hazleton.jcc@gmail.com

Donations appreciated for the course but not required.

June 22- Agudas Israel and Temple Israel are invited to lunch at Ohav Zedek after our service on Shabbat, June 22 to hear Rabbi Shalom Hammer from Israel on the latest developments in Israel. You may choose to attend services at Temple Israel (conservative/egalitarian) or Ohav Zedek (Orthodox). All are invited for lunch and to hear this moving speaker.

Flyer following events.

Reach out to Sara if interested sararw531@gmail.com or 570-239-0626 or to organize a carpool.

June 23rd - JEWISH HERITAGE DAY at PNC Field - Scranton Wilkes-Barre Railriders vs Buffalo Bisons - Doors open at NOON, Game starts at 1pm

Join us for a day of cultural celebration and family fun at Jewish Heritage Day! Pregame message by **Rabbi Benny Rapoport** of the Jewish Discovery Center. Savor authentic flavors from our **Kosher Food Kiosk**, provided by Legends Hospitality. Bring the little ones to enjoy our Kids Zone, packed with entertainment suitable for all ages. Plus, test your batting skills in our high-tech HitTrax batting cage. Don't miss the exclusive opportunity for a pregame catch on the field from 12:00 to 12:20 - a memory in the making! After the game, watch your kids' excitement as they run the bases just like the pros. Get your tickets today and be a part of this special event!



Tickets available (\$11-\$16) online at <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Jewishheritage78> or call (570) 558-4543. PNC Field is located at 235 Montage Mountain Rd, Moosic, PA 18507.

JCC LEISURE LUNCH - 12:00 noon Thursday June 27 @ the Honeyhole Winery - Around the Table Catering Kosher Vegetarian Israeli Food Truck

Check out the menu here! RSVP to Christina by Tuesday June 25th! Via email or telephone - hazleton.jcc@gmail.com | 570-455-2851

You can also find the food truck this summer on Market Street in Kingston Sunday through Wednesday and on Wilkes-Barre's Public Square for the Farmer's Market on Thursdays.



AROUND THE TABLE CATERING, INC.

VEGETARIAN • KOSHER

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 570.954.3028

 Info@bestkosherfalafel.com



Main Dishes	Drinks
Falafel	Soda (Coca-Cola, Diet Coca-Cola, Coca-Cola Zero, Sprite) \$2
Veggie Gyro	Iced Tea \$3
Tofu Shawarma	Snapple \$3
Shakshuka Platter	Water \$2
Israeli Chocolate Spread in a Pita	Spring Nectar \$4
Vegan Nuggets and French Fries	
Vegan Buffalo Chicken Sandwich	
Schnitzel in a Pita (BBQ, Buffalo or Israeli) \$11	
Rice Bowl \$14	
****PLATTERS AVAILABLE FOR \$14****	
Sides	Shabbat Salads & Dips
French Fries \$5	(8oz or 16oz container)
Curly Fries \$6	Preorder by Tuesday at 7:00pm on Thursday pick-up
Seasoned Fries \$8	
Loaded Fries \$12	
	Choose from Red Cabbage, Moroccan Carrots, Beet Salad, Hummus, Tahini, Israeli Salad, Pickled Cucumber Salad, Eggplant Salad \$4.50/8oz \$8/16oz
	Olive Dip \$5/8oz \$9/16oz

JUNE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear members and friends,

We were so enthused to have Rabbi Larry Kaplan lead us for Shabbat Services last month. We had an awesome group on Zoom and in house with an excellent Kiddish prepared by Marlene afterwards. Rabbi Kaplan was very interesting as he explained the why's, how's and meanings during the service. We welcome him back for future gatherings. Also, the Holocaust Memorial Service at Beth Israel Temple was very meaningful. May we never forget! Thank you to all who attended!

Please come to services this Shabbat to chat with Jimmy Leonard, who is planning on joining us with Marlene. He is working hard with his physical therapy and is healing well since his recent surgery.

I really enjoyed eating at the Israeli food truck this past week at the Honey Hole Winery in Drums. Please join us there this month on Thursday, June 27 for a Leisure Lunch! The address for Honey Hole Winery is 2 Honey Hole Road in Drums. Get delicious Israeli food and some wine!

Enjoy the warmth of summer!

Sincerely,

Debbie Walker