

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 AND SERVICES

September 6- parshat Shoftim- 7:10pm candlelighting

September 13- Parshat Ki Teitzei- 6:58pm candlelighting

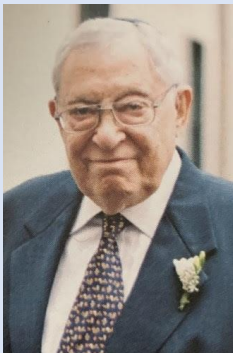
September 20- Parshat Ki Tavo- 6:46pm candlelighting

September 27- Parshat Nitzavim-Vayalech- 6:34pm candlelighting

Selichot is September 28.

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE AND SERVICE TIMES ENCLOSED!

Keep reading!



We regret to inform the congregation of the passing of past Agudas Israel Congregation President, Martin Cohn. We pray his family finds comfort at this difficult time and extend our deepest condolences.

May his memory be for a blessing!

Below please read the obituary for Martin Cohn.

Martin Cohn, a long-time resident of Hazleton, died Tuesday in Sarasota, Fla., three days after his 99th birthday.

Born and raised in Hazleton, Martin practiced law here for 57 years, as a founding partner of Laputka, Bayless, Ecker & Cohn. Mr. Cohn served on the boards of many community nonprofits, including Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, CAN-DO and the Hazleton Rotary club. He was president of Agudas Israel Synagogue, just as his father and grandfather were before him. He also served as president of the Jewish Publication Society. Martin was a man of keen intellect, unwavering integrity and strong faith, living both his personal and professional lives imbued with Jewish values. He was a proud graduate of Penn State and Harvard Law School.

He was always there for others, offering support, guidance and opportunity regardless of their background. As such, he was a model for all who sought to live a good and caring life.

In the language of his Jewish heritage, he was a mensch.

He was predeceased by his wife of 71½ years, Elsie; and daughter, Hanna. Martin is survived by five children, Larry (Robin Evans), Sandy (Rick Thua), Judy (David Gilberg), Joe (Amy Chosky) and Dave (Eve Collen); nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren, all of whom gave him immense pride.

May G-d comfort you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. Hamakom y'nachem etchem b'toch sh'ar availai tziyon ee yerushalayim - We offer our deepest condolences to the family.

May Martin's memory be for a blessing.



Elul: Now is the time to prepare for the High Holidays

Summer is coming to an end and the High Holidays are soon approaching! Thankfully, the Jewish tradition has a special way of easing into the High Holiday spirit: [Elul](#).



What is Elul?

Simply put, [Elul](#) is the last month of the Jewish calendar year. This year, it begins at sundown on **Wednesday, August 16**, and culminates in Rosh Hashanah.

Traditionally, Elul is meant to be used as a time for introspection and reflection. The point of Elul is to set the tone for the High Holiday period, so it's all about taking personal stock of the past year and thinking about the year ahead.

Leading up to Rosh Hashanah, Jews engage in *cheshbon hanefesh* (“an accounting of the soul”). The entire month is a ‘preparatory period’ to make repentance more meaningful, genuine and intentional.

What sort of customs are practiced?

There are a number of special observances in the month of *Elul*.

The shofar (a ram’s horn) is sounded every day of the month immediately following morning services as a call to repentance, and [Psalm 27](#) and *selichot* (prayers of repentance) are recited. Sephardic Jews begin reciting *selichot* on the second day of the Hebrew month of *Elul*, while Ashkenazi Jews start reciting them on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah.

Hidden meaning

There’s often a hidden meaning or significance that can be found behind Hebrew behind letters, words and sayings.

The four letters that make up the Hebrew word “Elul” are believed to be an acronym for the famous phrase from [Song of Songs](#): ‘*Ani L’dodi V’dodi Li*’ – I am my beloved and my beloved in mine.

“Like two lovers who may have become distanced, we yearn to be in stronger relationship with each other,” Rabbi Rachel Gurevitz [wrote](#) about her interpretation of this concept. This is also

the time to think about all the relationships in your life, she explained. Relationships with the divine, with loved ones, and with community. In Elul, “relationship is the key.”

“Connection is why we’re here. It is what gives purpose and meaning to our lives,” Gurevitz quoted of researcher Brené Brown.

Why do people say “the king is in the field”?

It is because of the unique relationship that is believed to exist with the Divine during the month of Elul that you may hear the phrase “the king is in the field.”

What king? What field?

Let me explain.

“The king is in the field” is a popular rabbinic teaching that describes the relationship between humans and God.

The teaching is an analogy to a great king who pays a visit to his ‘subjects’ while they are at work in their fields, [explained](#) Rabbi Chaim Richman.

“For the average man (or woman), the king is inaccessible, away in his palace, distant and removed,” he said.

“He never dreams he will actually see the king, let alone speak with him. Then suddenly, one day, while this man is bent over his menial labor in the field, he feels a gentle tap on his shoulder, he turns around and to his shock, it is the great king himself who is standing over him.”

In Elul, the “king” can be understood to mean God, so the idea is that during the special month of Elul, the Divine comes down from a far-away place to join humans on earth in the ‘field.’

For that reason, many believe Elul presents a unique opportunity to connect with God and deepen their relationship with the divine.

How to make Elul meaningful

Other than hearing the shofar sound, reading [Psalm 27](#) and *selichot* (prayers of repentance), there are [many other ways to find meaning](#) in Elul.

For starters: meditating, taking time to pause and reflect on the past year, remembering the different moments, events and experiences you may have already forgotten, and beginning to picture yourself in the year ahead.

It might also be meaningful to put these thoughts onto paper by taking up a journaling practice during the month of Elul. Journaling, in general, can be a helpful tool for personal expression, honoring your emotions, and sorting through your thoughts.

Some things to journal about during this time:

- Things you would have done differently over the past year
- Challenges you overcame
- People from whom you may seek forgiveness
- Goals and intentions for the coming year

In fact, Jewish blogger, Rebekah Lowin created an entire Elul journaling challenge.

“Much like the secular New Year, Rosh Hashanah offers us a chance at a fresh start or reset. But it’s pretty much impossible to reap the benefits of a day like that without at least a little bit of forethought. If you were interested in making New Year’s resolutions, for instance, you likely wouldn’t whip out a pad of paper at 11:59 P.M. on December 31st. You’d give yourself some lead time—at least an hour, if not a full day or week,” Lowin [explained](#) in a blog post about why journaling has been meaningful for her during Elul.

Each day of Elul, she shares one journal prompt to inspire thoughtful reflections, culminating in an entire month’s worth of Elul-themed journal prompts! They can all be found [here on her blog](#).

Whether you follow each prompt, take inspiration to create your own, or simply use them as inspiration for reflection, this might be a way to start your own [Elul mindfulness practice](#).

GET WELL WISHES ARE EXPRESSED TO: CAROL SILVER,
JANET KEICH, 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!



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.

September (Av/Elul) 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.

AV

27 Evelyn H. Greif 8/31
28 Rose Dymond 9/1
28 Samuel Miller 9/1
30 Fannie Figlin 9/3
30 Samuel Mitchneck 9/3
30 Lena Trattner 9/3

ELUL

5 Jane Hurwitz 9/8
5 Max Bromberg 9/8
11 Birdie Richter 9/14
15 Bernard Chaskin 9/18
17 Anna Hoffman 9/20
17 Clara Cenower 9/20
18 Jacob Trattner 9/21

19 Dora Brenner Sukenik 9/22
19 Joshua Figlin 9/22
19 Rose Spector 9/22
20 Anna Aronoff 9/23
20 Max Brenner 9/23
21 Ruth Bayarsky 9/24
21 Isidore J. Kline 9/24
22 Morris Feller 9/25
22 Elaine Burkat 9/25
22 Bernard Cury 9/25
23 Max Lorbeer 9/26
24 Murray Director 9/27
26 Alfred Buchbinder 9/29
26 Samuel Bednitsky 9/29

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

SUMMER DONATIONS RECEIVED

Yahrzeit Memorial Fund		Endowment Fund	
From	In Memory of		
Shirley Brenner, Cindy, Debbie & Family Abraham Brownstein, father & grandfather	In Memory of Jimmy Leonard Adam & Mindy Staffin Bill & Christina Ferry Cindy Conahan Deborah Levin Eileen Brenner Harriet & David Douglas Howard & Marie Narrow Janice Schoem Lee & Marsha Glassberg Rabbi Yosef Zylberberg Richard Kline Richard Rockman Robert & Laurie Klemow Robert Steinberg Sherri Klemow-Shevin Walko & Brenner Families William J. Small	
Shayna & Edward Geller	.... Anna Stolboff, aunt	
Steven Klemow	.... Blossom Klemow, mother	
Shayna & Edward Geller	.... Carl J. Jaffee, father	
Alan & Karen Levy	.... Charles Warshofsky, grandfather	
Dr. Larry & Mrs. Sherry Kline	.... David Klemow, grandfather	
Marie & Howard Narrow and sons, Rhona Narrow	.... David Narrow, father	
Barbara Montague	.... Emanuel Greif, father	
Shelley Cohn Schmidt	.... Gerald L. Cohn, father	
Faye & Richard Bishop	.... Harold Baum, father of friend	
Lynn Greif	.... Irving Refowich, father	
Terry & Marvin Chercass	.... Jerome Syken, brother	
Richard & Helene Kline	.... Joanne Cherrin, sister	
Rosalind Burkat	.... Joseph Burkat, father	
Richard Rockman	.... Leonard & Harriet Walit	
Miriam Weidenfeld	.... Louis Moscovitz, father	
John, Dara & Matthew Belak	.... Mary Ann Belak, mother	
Kaplan & Yanuskiewics Families	.... Max Kaplan, father	
Israel Miller Minnie Miller, mother		In memory of Irving Geltzer Faye & Richard Bishop
Joyce Cutler	....	
Richard Rockman	.... Mollie Rockman, mother	
Tama Lee Barsky	.... Morris Barsky, husband	
Yanusiewicz & Kaplan Families	.... Morris Kaplan, grandfather	
William J Small Myer Small, uncle	AIC Endowment Fund Paula Sokolowski	
Maxine Yeager	.... Myra Griffith, sister	
Faye & Richard Bishop	.... Myra Schlesinger Griffith, classmate & friend	
Shayna & Ed Geller	.... Naomi S. Jaffe, mother	
Shirley Brenner, Cindy, Debbie & Family	.... Rebecca L. Brenner, mother-in-law & grandmother	
Lee & Marsha Glassberg	.... Renay Ziff Berman, sister	
Lee & Marsha Glassberg	.... Ruth Glassberg, mother	
Faye & Richard Bishop	.... Ruth Glassberg, mother of friend	
David Matlow	.... Ruth Schwartz, sister	
Jacqueline Matlow	.... Ruth Schwartz, sister-in-law	
Marilyn Bergstein	.... Samuel A. Cohn	
Jackie Matlow	.... Sara Cohn, grandmother	
Karen Chaskin	.... Saul Baiderman, father	
Alan & Karen Levy	.... Selma Levine, aunt	
Kaplan & Yanuskiewics Families	.... Simon Richard Lande, grandfather	

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.

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“Elul, Teshuva & the Days of Awe”

A 4-week Zoom course presented by **Hazzan Dr. Ramón Tasat**
Sponsored by Agudas Israel Congregation & the Hazleton JCC:



Friday Sept 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th @ noon on Zoom

Throughout the month of Elul, we blow the shofar every morning (except Shabbat) as a call to awaken and prepare for the High Holidays - the season of repentance.

In Hebrew, the 10 days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur are referred to as *Yamim Nora'im*, **the Days of Awe**. *Cheshbon Nefesh* (self reflection and accountability) is the process that enables us to reach new spiritual heights and experience the profound awe of this season.

Join us on Zoom the four Fridays leading up to Rosh Hashanah to discuss musical elements of the holiday that will maximize your experience where these elements come to life: in the synagogue during the Days of Awe.

Suggested donation: \$10 members, \$25 non members
RSVP to agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com to register and receive the Zoom link

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5785/2024 High Holiday Schedule

ROSH HASHANAH 5785

Wed. Oct. 2, 2024 - Erev Rosh Hashanah

6:15 PM Evening Service w/ Cantor Ramón Tasat
6:32 PM 🕯 Hazleton

Thurs. Oct. 3, 2024 - RH Day I

9:30 AM Morning Service w/ Cantor Ramón Tasat
6:15 PM Evening service w/ Cantor Ramón Tasat
7:22 PM 🕯 Hazleton

Fri. Oct. 4, 2024 - RH Day II

9:30 AM Morning Service w/ Cantor Ramón Tasat
6:28 PM Shabbat 🕯 Hazleton

YOM KIPPUR

Fri. Oct. 11, 2024 - Erev Yom Kippur

6:00 PM Kol Nidre Service w/ Cantor Ramón Tasat
6:17 PM 🕯 Hazleton

Sat. Oct. 12, 2024 - Yom Kippur Day

***9:30 AM** Shabbat Service w/ Cantor Ramón Tasat**Yizkor Service*
5:00 PM Evening Service w/ Cantor Ramón Tasat
5:00 PM - Minha, 6:30 PM - Neilah, 7:15 PM - Shofar
7:08 PM ✨ *Havdalah*

SUKKOT

Wed Oct. 16 Erev Sukkot - Wed Oct. 23, 2024 Sukkot VII

AIC Sukkot Service schedule TBA

6:51 PM 🕯 **Shemini Atzeret** - Thurs. Oct. 24, 2024

5:50 PM 🕯 **Simchat Torah** - Fri. Oct. 25, 2024

6:48 PM ✨ *Havdalah* **Sat. Oct. 26, 2024**

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5785 High Holidays / Yizkor Memorial Book

Dear Friends,

The High Holidays are fast approaching. We are in the process of putting together our congregation's annual Yizkor Memorial Book for the new year, 5785. Please review your family's Memorial Yizkor listing from last year (enclosed) and note any changes or updates if you would like to participate again this year.

The suggested donation is **\$7 per name memorialized**. Those who wish to give an additional **Thanksgiving Offering** will also be listed on a separate page of the memorial book. Memorial book donations can be made out to "Agudas Israel Congregation" & mailed to the shul, or done online via Zelle Transfer or PayPal. If you need assistance, please contact Christina in the office.



The famous *piyyut* (religious poem) *Unetannah tokef* says between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur there is an opportunity "to avert the severe decree" through three actions: repentance, prayer, and charity.

We hope you will join us either **in-person or virtually on Zoom**, for this year's High Holiday services led by our wonderful and talented Cantor, Hazzan Dr. Ramón Tasat, his lovely wife Roanne Pitluk and our very own Richard Kline. The complete High Holiday Services schedule is enclosed.

Please RSVP w/ the office if you plan to attend AIC's 5785 High Holiday services.

A YAHRZEIT MEDITATION

Eternal God, as we honor the memory of our dearly departed loved ones, we recall the trials and joys, happy moments and times of sorrow that we experienced together. These memories form a bond between us that time cannot erase. Grant that the memories evoked by Yahrzeit observance brings us solace in moments of loneliness, and that those memories inspire us to become more closely united with those who remain and face the years to come with courage. As we honor the bond between the living and those who no longer walk the earth, we pray that all their souls may be bound up in the bond of eternal life.

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5785/2024 Yom Kippur Memorial Book

NEW LISTING

1. Family Name/Listing Title

2. Names & relationships of your loved ones as you would like them memorialized:

The suggested donation is \$7 per name memorialized.

\$7 x # names = YK Book donation \$_____

3. Would you like to give an additional Thanksgiving offering? Your family will also be listed on a separate page of the memorial book.

Thanksgiving Offering \$_____

4. Will you be attending Yom Kippur services in person at AIC?

Attending: _____ Rosh Hashanah Oct 2-4, 2024

_____ Yom Kippur Oct 11-12, 2024

5. Would you like a paper copy of the booklet mailed? A digital version will be sent out to all.

___ Please mail me a paper copy to the address below:

___ I only need a digital copy sent via email address, below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



Rosh Hashanah Food Sale

All your favorites to enjoy for the High Holidays and Sukkot!



Please place your orders by September 25. All food will be available to pick up October 1. Email your order to admin@ohavzedek.org or call the shul to place your order.

****All food in this sale is under Rabbi Kaplan's hashgacha.**

Each item purchased will be noted pareve or meat on its packaging.**

Sandy Platsky's Sweet Noodle

Kugel- sweet noodle kugel topped with corn flakes **prepared on dairy equipment** \$12

Potato Kugel- Take home our classic pareve potato kugel served at our hot kiddushes- \$13

Kasha Varnishkes-

Bowtie pasta sauteed with mushrooms, onions, and buckwheat pareve Small \$7 Large \$13

Haluski- Cabbage and noodles- a wonderful treat! Pareve Small \$7 Large \$13

Piggies- Cabbage stuffed with ground beef and rice in a sweet tomato sauce- 2 for \$13

Turkey Chili- Ground turkey cooked with an array of beans, tomatoes, peppers, and onions Small \$8 Large \$15

Carolyn's Pareve Pea Soup-

split peas cooked with barley, carrots, potatoes, and earthy herbs-Small \$7 Large \$13

Autumn Squash Soup-

Squash, pumpkin, and apple with fragrant spices Small \$7 Large \$13

Potato, Corn, &

Leek Chowder-

Potato and leeks simmered in a luscious broth perfect for the start of fall- pareve Small \$7 Large \$13

Sweet Potatoes in

Orange Sauce- an excellent fall side dish perfect for the holidays! Pareve 2 halves for \$5

Apple Honey Cake- Apples with honey baked in a delicious batter- \$8

Pumpkin Pie- Pareve pumpkin pie with aromatic fall spices perfect for finishing your festive meal \$10

L' Shanah Tovah
Have a sweet year!



SEPTEMBER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear members and friends,
As the high holidays are approaching very soon, we look forward to praying in our beautiful sanctuary once again with Cantor Ramon and his lovely wife Roanne. Please join us for services! Notify Christina Ferry to be added to our security list. Also, Christina is currently preparing the Yom Kippur booklet. Please provide her with your information. Please note that we have some necessary ongoing exterior construction occurring that will

not interfere with our services.

I would like to extend our sincere condolences to the entire family of Martin Cohn. Marty and his wife Elsie were pillars of our Jewish community. This past week a beautiful funeral service was held at the shul and cemetery. I want to extend thanks to Christina and Marlene Leonard who worked so hard, together in a short amount of time, to make it happen. Also, thanks to Lee Glassberg for assisting with Sanctuary needs. If you missed the service, Christina can provide the online link to view it.

I recently returned from a Mediterranean cruise where my sister, Cindy and I toured the fascinating Synagogue Museum in Dubrovnik, Croatia dating back to the 1800's. Here is a picture of their unique ark that I wanted to share.



Sincerely,

Debbie Walker