

The Agudagram

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Kislev/Tevet 5785

Agudas Israel Congregation
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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 10- Parashat Vayechi- 4:37pm candlelighting

January 17- Parashat Shemot- 4:45pm candlelighting

January 24- Parashat Va'Eira- 4:54pm candlelighting

January 31- Parashat Bo- 5:02pm candlelighting

Unveiling for Albert Rosen will be held at the AIC Cemetery 1/26/25 at noon. All are welcome to attend. May his memory be a blessing.

Hebrew School is held Sunday mornings with Richard Kline at Agudas Israel Congregation. Please reach out for more details.

Look out for the next set of classes with Cantor Ramon coming soon!

If you know anyone looking for employment as a building maintenance person, the shul is looking. Please reach out to Christina or Debbie with any leads or questions.

The Tenth of Tevet by Rabbi Berel Wein from Aish

One day commemorates a variety of Jewish tragedies.

The Tenth of Tevet is one of the four fast days that commemorate dark times in Jewish history. The others are Tisha B'Av (the day of the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem), the 17th of Tammuz (the day of the breaching of the defensive wall of Jerusalem by Titus and the Roman legions in 70 CE), and the third of Tishrei (the day that marks the assassination of the Babylonian-appointed Jewish governor of Judah, Gedaliah ben Achikam. He was actually killed on Rosh Hashanah but the fast day was advanced to the day after Rosh Hashanah because of the holiday).



The Tenth of Tevet is viewed as such a severe and important fast day that it is observed even if it falls on a Friday.

The Tenth of Tevet marks the onset of the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylonia, and the beginning of the battle that ultimately destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple of Solomon, and sent the Jews into the 70-year Babylonian Exile. The date of the Tenth of Tevet is recorded for us by the prophet Yechezkel, who himself was already in Babylonia as part of the first group of Jews exiled there by Nebuchadnezzar, 11 years earlier than the actual destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem itself.

The Tenth of Tevet is viewed as such a severe and important fast day that it is observed even if it falls on a Friday (*erev Shabbat*), while our other fast days are so arranged by calendar adjustments as to never fall on a Friday, so as not to interfere with Shabbat preparations.

GREEK TRANSLATION

However, there are other commemorative days that fall immediately before the Tenth of Tevet and their memory has been silently incorporated in the fast day of the Tenth of Tevet as well. On the eighth of Tevet, King Ptolemy of Egypt forced 70 Jewish scholars to gather and translate the Hebrew Bible into Greek. Even though the Talmud relates to us that this project was blessed with a miracle ~ the 70 scholars were all placed in separate cubicles and yet they all came up with the same translation ~ the general view of the rabbis of the time towards this project was decidedly negative. The Talmud records that when this translation became public "darkness descended on the world."

The 'koshering' of the Greek language by its use in translating the Hebrew Bible had wide ramifications in Jewish society.

This translation ~ the Septuagint ~ eventually became the basis for the Old Testament section of the Christian bible a few centuries later. The Greek translation of the Bible also further aided the advance of the agenda of the Hellenist Jews to bring Greek culture into Jewish life, and to attempt to reform Judaism in the image of Greek values and lifestyle. The "koshering" of the Greek language by its use in translating the Hebrew Bible had wide ramifications in Jewish society and undermined some of the efforts of the rabbis in combating the allure of Greece in Israel of then.

DEATH OF EZRA THE SCRIBE

The ninth day of Tevet is held to be the day of the death of Ezra the Scribe. This great Jew is comparable even to Moses in the eyes of the Talmud. "If the Torah had not been granted through Moses, it could have been granted to Israel through Ezra." Ezra led the return of the Jews to Jerusalem from their Babylonian exile. It was under his direction and inspiration, together with the help of the court Jew, Nechemiah, that the Second Temple was built, albeit originally in a much more modest scale and style than the grandeur of Solomon's Temple.

Ezra also renewed the covenant of Moses between Israel and God, staunchly opposed the flow of intermarriage that afflicted the Jews returning to Jerusalem, strengthened public and private Sabbath observance, and created the necessary schools and intellectual tools for the furtherance of the knowledge and development of the Oral Law of Sinai within the Jewish people.

A man of incorruptible character, great compassion, deep vision and erudition and inspirational charisma, Ezra the Scribe is responsible for the survival of Judaism and the Jews till this very day. It is no wonder therefore that Jews marked the day of his death as a sad day on the Jewish calendar. Since fasting on the eighth, ninth and 10th days of Tevet consecutively would be

unreasonable, the events of the eighth and ninth were subsumed into the fast day of the Tenth of Tevet.

COMBINING DAYS

The rabbinic policy has been to attach other sad commemorations onto the established fast days, so as not to fill the calendar with so many days of sad remembrances. Thus the memorial for the destruction of the Jewish communities of Worms, Speyers and Mainz by the Crusaders in 1096 is marked on the fast day of Tisha B'Av, even though that destruction actually took place in other months.

This policy of minimizing the number of days of commemoration of sad events became accepted practice throughout the Jewish world until the Holocaust. However, the enormity of the tragedy of the Holocaust subsumed everything that preceded it in the story of the Jewish people in the Diaspora. Hence, it is understandable why the Knesset would look to designate a specific day alone for Holocaust remembrance. Nevertheless, the rabbinic policy of minimizing days of tragic remembrances played a role in assigning the Holocaust remembrance to the Tenth of Tevet for a large section of the Israeli population.

May we only commemorate days of goodness in our future.

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.

GET WELL WISHES ARE EXPRESSED TO: CAROL SILVER, JANET KEICH, LEANNE TRATTNER, SHIRLEY BRENNER, RABBI LARRY KAPLAN, BONNIE YANUSKIEWICZ, & SARA FRIEDMAN.

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



(Tevet) January 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.

TEVET

1 Rosa Brenner 1/1
1 Herman Schwabe 1/1
1 Samuel Trattner 1/1
2 Jacob Buchbinder 1/2
3 Ida Klemow 1/3
5 Joseph Smulyan 1/5
6 William Chaskin 1/6
6 Jean Skyken 1/6
6 Phillip Klemow 1/6
7 Samuel Gildenburg 1/7
7 Abe Dymond 1/7
8 Ruth Litwack 1/8
9 Ethel Baum 1/9
9 Morris Lefkowitz 1/9
9 Rose Steiner 1/9
10 Simon Faltz 1/10
10 Louis L. Steinhart 1/10
11 Rebecca Jaffe 1/11
12 Sol Goldberg 1/1
12 Abraham Levy 1/12
14 Larry Klemow 1/14
14 Bernard H. Kline 1/14
14 Howard Goldberg 1/14
15 Abe Bishop 1/15
15 Max Schwartz 12/27

16 Betty Bohard 1/16
16 Israel Walkin 1/16
17 Hope Gorin 1/17
17 Beatrice Kline 1/17
17 Sondra Wells 1/17
18 Faye Director 1/18
19 Pauline Frumkin 1/19
20 Arnold Sukenik 1/20
20 George Hoffman 1/20
21 Marion Feldman 1/21
21 Adele Cohn 1/21
21 Samuel L. Cohn 1/21
21 Sophie Levy 1/21
22 Fanny Rabinowitz Klemow 1/22
23 Jean Warshofsky 1/23
26 Ida Gildenberg Kline 1/26
27 Eli Becker 1/27
28 Bernard H. Cenower 1/28
28 Rita Levine 1/28
28 Joseph Frucht 1/28
29 Irving Abrams 1/29
29 Nathan Kline 1/29
29 Louis Kaminoff 1/30

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

DECEMBER DONATIONS RECEIVED

Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Endowment Fund

<i>From</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	
Steven Klemow	Alan Berg, rebbe	
Carlos & Sharon Buchbinder	Alfred Buchbinder, father	<i>In Memory of Robert Klemow</i>
Edward Geller	Dora Jaffe, aunt	Sherri Klemow Shevlin
Carlos & Sharon Buchbinder	Ellen Bier, sister-in-law	Lee Glassberg
Faye & Richard Bishop	Esther Bea Quint, friend	Nadine Winkelstein
Gary Mednitsky	Esther Mednitsky, mother	Karen & Barry Chaskin
Richard Koller	Faye Director, mother	
Lisa Gordon Matyas & Gerard Matyas	George Gordon, grandfather	<i>In Memory of Shayna Geller</i>
Sondra Levinson	Harry Rabinowitz, uncle	Faye & Richard Bishop
Richard Koller	Howard Director, father	Richard Rockman
Beryl Brown	Irving Brown, father	
Robert Brown	Irving Brown, father	<i>In Memory of Beulah Bishop</i>
Carlos & Sharon Buchbinder	Jacob Buchbinder, grandfather	Barry & Karen Chaskin
Carlos & Sharon Buchbinder	Kurt Suess, uncle	Leonard & Ann Louise Brenner
Lisa Gordon Matyas & Gerard Matyas	Larry Chaskin, grandfather	Hank Narrow
Faye & Richard Bishop	Larry Klemow, cousin	
Wayne Orkin	Leroy Orkin, father	<i>In Memory of Martin Cohn</i>
Garry Orkin	Leroy Orkin, father	Micki Auerbach
Honey Minkin	Lillian Brown, mother	Lee Glassberg
Robert Brown	Lillian Brown, mother	
Faye & Richard Bishop	Lillian Brown, mother of friend	<i>In Memory of Michele Sukenik Banker</i>
Lisa Gordon Matyas & Gerard Matyas	Lillian Chaskin, grandmother	Lee Glassberg
Lisa Gordon Matyas & Gerard Matyas	Lizette Gordon, grandmother	
Steven Klemow	Manuel Klemow, grandfather	<i>In memory of Maurice & Sidell Burkat,</i>
Lisa Gordon Matyas & Gerard Matyas	Marilyn Gordon, mother	<i>Fred & Marilyn Small, Louis Small</i>
Irving Michlin	Michael Michlin, brother	<i>& Myer Small</i>
Micki Auerbach	Milton Auerbach, husband	William Small
Miriam Lefkowitz	Milton Miller, father	
Robert Brown	Morris Brown, grandfather	
Lisa Gordon Matyas & Gerard Matyas	Morton J. Gordon, father	
Thomas Kline	Paula Wolf Kline, wife	
Faye & Richard Bishop	Philip Klemow, uncle	
Carlos & Sharon Buchbinder	Rachel Suess, grandmother	
Karen Chaskin	Rita Baiderman, mother	
Faye & Richard Bishop	Rita Baiderman, mother of friend	
Bryna & Bradford Bass	Robert Kaufman, father	
Janet Kaufman	Robert Kaufman, husband	
David Matlow	Sidell Bloch, sister	

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.

AIC/ COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS



Calendar information is being sent out currently. Please keep an eye on your email and mailbox, and then send back any names or ads by December 25th. Calendars will be mailed out mid-January and will cover February 2025-January 2026.

Please enjoy these photos from the Hazleton Menorah Lighting and our Chanukah Celebration with Beth Israel!







JANUARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Shalom to all,

We were fortunate enough to have Chrismukkah this past month which is a unique experience. Hanukkah and Christmas have fallen on the same day ONLY five times since 1900: 1910, 1921, 1959, 2005, and 2024. Pretty special! On the afternoon of December 27th, we had a wonderful turnout for our joint Hanukkah candle lighting ceremony at City Hall with Chris Pavlick representing the Mayor's Office, Mary Malone from the Chamber of Commerce,

Senator Dave Argall and family, Representative Dane Watro and joint members from Beth Israel and Agudas Israel with Rabbi Yossi and Richard Kline leading us in the holiday tradition. The weather was beautiful this year, let's hope that continues next year. Thanks to all who participated and helped make this so successful. That evening we celebrated the Festival of Lights at Beth Israel Temple with a wonderful gathering of joint members, families and friends eating a wide variety of delicious ethnic food. Thanks to all who brought food, cooked, and cleaned. It was a very enjoyable evening which ended with a nice service led by Rabbi Yossi in the sanctuary.

Looking forward to more Jewish community joint events in the new year!

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year, peace in the Middle East and in the Ukraine, and the release of the hostages in Israel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Walker".