

# The Agudagram

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April 2025 Volume 74, No. 7  
Nisan 5785

**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 & PASSOVER CANDLELIGHTING**

**April 11- Shabbat HaGadol- Parshat Tzav- 7:21pm** 🕯️

**April 12- Yom Tov Passover- 8:24pm** 🕯️

**April 13- Yom Tov Passover- 8:25pm** 🕯️

**April 18- Yom Tov Passover- 7:29pm** 🕯️

**April 19- Yom Tov Passover- 8:32pm** 🕯️

**\*\*Remember to light yahrzeit 🕯️ for Yizkor\*\***

**April 25- Shabbat- Parshat Shemini- 7:36pm** 🕯️

**Please join us for our Shabbaton May 2-3 with Cantor Ramón Tasast!**

**RSVP now for Shabbat dinner Friday night, May 2. A \$7 donation reserves your seat. We look forward to a beautiful & musical Shabbat together! More info inside!**

Get-well wishes are expressed to: **Shirley Berman, Paula Sokolowski, Carol Silver, Janet Keich, LeAnne Trattner, Shirley Brenner, Bonnie Yanuskiewicz, & Sara Friedman.** Should anyone have any news to share with the AIC family, please email it to [agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com](mailto:agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com) to run in the next Agudagram!



## WHAT IS PASSOVER? From Accidental Talmudist

Passover (Hebrew: Pesach) is an eight-day\* springtime holiday celebrated in the Hebrew month of Nissan, which falls in March or April. The festival commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery, when God brought us out of Egypt “with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, with signs and with wonders.” (Deut. 4:34) The highlight of Passover is the seder, a family-centered ritual and festive meal that takes place on the first and second nights of the holiday.

The miraculous exodus of the Jewish people is described in the Bible. The Jews were slaves in Egypt for 116 years, suffering under backbreaking labor and severe persecution. God heard their cries and sent Moses to deliver a message to Pharaoh: “Send forth My people, so that they may serve Me.” (Ex. 7:16) Pharaoh refused to let his Hebrew slaves leave, despite multiple warnings. God then afflicted Egypt with ten terrible plagues that destroyed their animals and crops and culminated with the killing of the firstborn. The holiday is called Passover because God passed over the Jewish homes when striking down the Egyptian firstborn on the eve of the exodus.

Finally Pharaoh was brought so low that he practically chased the Israelites out of the land. The former slaves left in such a hurry that there was no time for the bread they prepared for their journey to rise. 600,000 adult males left Egypt (Ex. 12:37) and including women and children, it is estimated that three million Jews were liberated. Moses told the people, “Remember this day, when you went out of Egypt, for with a mighty hand, the Lord took you out of here, and [therefore] no leaven shall be eaten.” (Ex. 13:3).

The first two days and last two days are full-fledged holidays. We light candles, recite kiddush (blessing over wine), and enjoy festival meals for both lunch and dinner. These days are similar to Shabbat, when we are prohibited from mundane activities like work, shopping, using a car or electronics. Unlike Shabbat however, we can cook on these days (from an existing flame.) The intermediate days (“chol hamoed”) are semi-holidays, when most forms of work are permitted. When possible it’s ideal to refrain from work even on these days but there are no restrictions on driving, electronics, or shopping. During the time of the Holy Temple, Passover was one of three pilgrimage festivals when all Jewish men were obligated to travel to Jerusalem with a sacrificial offering which was burnt on the altar by the Kohen (priest). \* Seven days in Israel

🧼 HOW DO WE GET READY? Washing dishes for Passover (1657) God commanded us to commemorate the exodus by eating only unleavened (flat) bread, just like we did on the way out of Egypt. For eight days we cannot consume or even own the slightest trace of “chametz” (leavened grain). This requires extensive preparation to rid our homes of every last

crumb! The deep-cleaning process usually starts at least two weeks before the holiday begins, as Jews frantically deep-clean their homes to remove any food or drink that contains even a tiny amount of leavened wheat, barley, oats, rye or spelt.

The night before Passover begins we do the final search by candlelight to make sure we've found all the chametz. The final step in the preparation process takes place on the morning before the holiday starts, when we burn our last remaining bits of chametz. If there is chametz we cannot dispose of, for example good scotch, we sell it to a non-Jew and purchase it back after Passover.

🥚 WHAT IS MATZOH? Matzoh is an unleavened large cracker that we eat instead of bread. It is made of just two ingredients, flour and water, which are rapidly mixed together and put in the oven before the dough has a chance to rise. Matzoh is the primary food we eat at the seder and is known as the "bread of affliction." Most matzoh is square and factory-made, but especially at the seder it is preferable to eat round, handmade "shmura" matzoh that is watched from the moment of harvesting the wheat. Shmura matzoh is most similar to the matzoh that the Israelites ate on their way out of Egypt.



🥂 WHAT'S A SEDER? Passover begins with the Seder, an extended recounting of the Exodus story followed by a festive meal. We read the Seder liturgy from a booklet called the Haggadah. Traditionally the Haggadah is recited in Hebrew by the head of the family, but today many diaspora Jews who don't know Hebrew conduct the seder in their mother tongue, often going around the table to give everyone a turn to read. We drink four cups of wine (or grape juice), celebrating our freedom. On the table is the Seder plate, containing special foods with ritual significance:

Maror, bitter horseradish to remind us of the bitterness of bondage. Chazeret, other bitter herbs (often romaine lettuce or green onion). Shankbone, to represent the lamb that was the special paschal sacrifice on the eve of the exodus. Roasted egg, to commemorate the preholiday offering that was brought in the time of the Holy Temple. Charoset, a sweet paste that resembles the mortar used to build bricks for the Egyptian taskmasters. Karpas, parsley (some use potato or another vegetable) that is dipped in saltwater, symbolizing the Jewish slaves' tears.

🥚 WHAT IS THERE TO EAT DURING PASSOVER?? Foods that are forbidden on Passover include bread, cake, cookies, pasta, cereal, and beer.





Ashkenazi Jews also refrain from eating kitniyot (lit. legumes) a category which includes beans, corn, rice, peas, green beans, sunflower seeds, peanuts and certain other foods, while Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews do not observe that stringency. Fruits, vegetables, meat, fish and potatoes are some foods that are permitted, as long as they are prepared in a kosher-for-Passover kitchen. Some families have the custom to eat only home-cooked food during the holiday. Each year the Orthodox Union and other organizations publish a comprehensive list of packaged foods that are kosher for Passover.

## MARCH DONATIONS RECEIVED

### Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

<b>From</b>	<b>In Memory of</b>
Susan Starker ....	<b>Abe Starker, father</b>
Alan & Karen Levy ....	<b>Abe Starker, uncle</b>
Bruce & Kate Miller ....	<b>Beatrice Miller, mother</b>
Florence Dmitrovsky ....	<b>Ben Singer, uncle</b>
Annie Fierman, Florence Dmitrovsky, Isaac Witkowski ....	<b>Ben Singer, uncle</b>
Sondra Levinson ....	<b>Benjamin Rabinowitz, uncle</b>
Maxine Yeager ....	<b>Charles Schlesinger, father</b>
Harriet & Jay Harowitz ....	<b>David Sugarman, brother-in-law</b>
Lois Sugarman ....	<b>David Sugarman, husband</b>
Elliot & Toby Eisenberg ....	<b>Dora Yust</b>
Carol Silver ....	<b>Douglas Silver, husband</b>
Miriam Weidenfeld ....	<b>Dov Weidenfeld, husband</b>
Janet L. Keich ....	<b>Dr. Leo Blumberg, uncle</b>
Herma Jaye Aiken ....	<b>Edward Gildenberg, grandfather</b>
Israel Miller ....	<b>Elaine Miller, wife</b>
Rhoda Wolff ....	<b>Esther Smulyan, mother</b>
Miriam Weidenfeld ....	<b>Faibish Weidenfeld, father-in-law</b>
Yanusiewicz & Kaplan Families ....	<b>Goldie Lande, grandmother</b>
Faye & Richard Bishop ....	<b>Grace Klemow, aunt</b>
Marion Klemow ....	<b>Grace Klemow, mother-in-law</b>
Helen Minkin ....	<b>Hannah Brown, grandmother</b>
Elliot & Toby Eisenberg ....	<b>Harold Eisenberg</b>
Sherri Klemow-Shevin ....	<b>Jacob Klemow, father</b>
Harriet & Jay Harowitz ....	<b>Jeanette Mason, mother</b>
Lois Sugarman ....	<b>Jeanette Mason, mother</b>
Jackie Matlow ....	<b>Jeffrey D. Bloch</b>
David Matlow ....	<b>Jeffrey D. Bloch, nephew</b>
David Matlow ....	<b>Jennie Maltow, mother</b>
Jackie Matlow ....	<b>Jennie Matlow, mother-in-law</b>
Israel Miller ....	<b>John Miller, father</b>
Carrie Wettstein ....	<b>Leila Shupeck, mother</b>
Jackie Matlow ....	<b>Lillian Cohn, mother</b>
Lee Glassberg ....	<b>Lorrie Glassberg, sister</b>
Rosanne Druian ....	<b>Louis Druian, father</b>
Charlotte & Mark Greenstein ....	<b>Louis Druian, father</b>

### AIC Endowment Fund

Paula Sokolowski

#### **For the Recovery of Helene Kline**

Elliot & Toby Eisenberg  
Sherri Klemow Shevin

#### **Get Well to Lee Glassberg**

Faye & Richard Bishop

#### **In Memory of Marilyn Bergstein**

Aronovitz Family  
Betsy & Franklin Lewinson  
Bonnie Kanefsky  
Bruce & Kate Miller  
Cheryl & Avi Ben-David  
Cheryl & Joseph Baum  
Cindy & Russell Reisner  
Debbi & Michael Bass  
Dorene and Stephen Karasick  
Doris Izes  
Eileen Alva  
Faye & Richard Bishop  
Gladys Menaker  
Hannah S. & Samuel A. Cohn Memorial Foundation  
Henry Narrow  
Ilene & Arthur Blatman  
Jack L. Bergstein  
Jeffrey Miller  
Joan Rosenberg  
Joan Winokur  
Julie & Harris Miller  
Leonard & Ann Louise Brenner  
Lewis Grafman  
Lita Irdzel Cohen  
Marc & Jennifer Barrer  
Marilyn & Alan Fogel  
Marilyn & Steve Roth

## **Yahrzeit Memorial Fund**

<b>From</b>	<b>In Memory of</b>
Bob & Estelle Harris ....	<b>Marilyn Harris, mother</b>
Faye & Richard Bishop ....	<b>Marilyn Harris, mother of friends</b>
Carlos & Sharon Buchbinder ....	<b>Marta Buchbinder, grandmother</b>
Thelma & Marvin Chercass ....	<b>May Chercass, mother</b>
Herma Jaye Aiken ....	<b>Mildred Gildenberg Jaye, mother</b>
Elliot & Toby Eisenberg ....	<b>Milton Yust</b>
Lee & Marsha Glassberg ....	<b>Milton Ziff, father</b>
Faye & Richard Bishop ....	<b>Milton Ziff, father of friend</b>
Steven Klemow ....	<b>Reba Klemow, grandmother</b>
Barry & Karen Chaskin ....	<b>Rebecca Chaskin, aunt</b>
Alan & Karen Levy ....	<b>Robert Levy, father</b>
Elliot & Toby Eisenberg ....	<b>Ruth Eisenberg</b>
Sondra Levinson ....	<b>Sadie Rabinowitz, grandmother</b>
Richard Frumkin ....	<b>Sandra Palermo, sister</b>
Dorothy Markoff ....	<b>Stella Kaufman, mother</b>
Marion Klemow ....	<b>Theresa Rogers, sister</b>
Thelma & Marvin Chercass ....	<b>William Chercass, father</b>
Marilyn Hope Smulyan ....	<b>William Smulyan, grandfather</b>

## **AIC Endowment Fund**

### **In Memory of Marilyn Bergstein**

Mark & Sharon Ackerman  
Michael and Judith Rosenbaum  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Lucker  
Mrs. Inge B. Bass  
Ms. Faith Silver  
Nelson & Juan Zide  
Peggy & Joe Carver  
Ralph & Ellen Levin  
Renata Fisher  
Richard Rockman  
Roslyn Nadler  
Sara & Rob Wenger  
Sherri Klemow-Shevin  
Sherrie & Nelson Klein  
Sherrie Willner  
Steven Wiener  
Tama Lee Barsky  
Vivian & Barry Morrow  
Yonina & Jerry Schuchman

**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](mailto:agudasisraelhazleton@gmail.com) or call the shul office.**

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.

### **REFLECTION 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 Veilohi Avoteinu, Shetehei Nishmat (insert name) Tzerurah betzeror hachayim, im nishmot Avraham Yitzchak ve'Ya'akov, Sarah, Rivkah, Rachel VeLeah. Tehi Menutchatah kavod, Selah*

### April (Nisan/Iyar) 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 the evening before and the day of the date of passing.

#### NISAN

3 Mark Burkat 4/1

4 Dora Yust 4/2

4 Bonnie Klemow 4/2

5 William Burkat 4/3

5 Ira Goldberg 4/3

6 Murray Glassberg 4/4

8 Bertha Rifkin 4/6

10 Louis Ruttenberg 4/8

11 Rabbi Haim Kemelman

4/9

12 Fannie Greisberg 4/10

13 Elaine Miller 4/11

15 Ruth V. Brenner 4/13

15 Mollie Feller 4/13

15 Henry Bayarsky 4/13

16 Sylvia Ann Gittleman

4/14

16 Herman Lintz 4/14

16 Louis D. Kanel 4/14

16 Golda Brenner 4/14

17 Frances Lande Trout

4/15

21 Isadore J. Kline 4/19

21 Nathan Rosen 4/19

23 Betty Cohen 4/21

23 Getha Edelstein 4/21

24 Rose Shapiro 4/22

25 Phyllis Rosen 4/23

25 Emmanuel Cimmet

4/23

28 Ellis Supowit 4/26

28 Emma Finkel 4/26

28 Rose Narrow 4/26

28 Jean Sugarman 4/26

29 Barry Klemow 4/27

#### IYAR

1 Elsie B. Cohn 4/29

1 Bessie Edelstein 4/29

1 Joseph Lander 4/29

1 Mollie Cohn 4/29

2 Joseph Brenner 4/2

## AIC AND COMMUNITY NEWS

### **AIC PASSOVER SERVICE SCHEDULE**

- Thurs, April 10th @ 9:30am: in-person & Zoom- Siyum Service for firstborn
- Sunday, April 13th @ 9:30am - in-person and Zoom service
  - Monday, April 14th @ 9:30am - Zoom only
- Sunday, April 20th @ 9:30am \*Yizkor service\* - Zoom only

**May 2-3 SHABBATON w/ Cantor Ramón:** RSVP as soon as possible so we may provide an accurate number to the caterer and for other planning purposes. We are so excited to share Shabbat together. **Please note:** Date change of last “**Jewish Rhythm & Shabbat**” class to the Monday before the Shabbaton, **April 28 at 5:30pm**, so we are all fresh and ready to pray together!

\*We are all invited to **Temple Beth Israel's Passover seder, Saturday, April 12,** at **Beth Israel**, 98 N Church St, Hazleton at **6:30pm**. It is a potluck, but all foods will be kosher for Pesach. To RSVP and discuss food contributions, please call Carl Frankel (570 454-2982) by **Thursday, April 10**.

Kosher for Passover food will be available at Price Chopper Edwardsville, Wegman's, Kingston Kosher, and Yeshiva Co-op in Scranton. Please note, the Co-op has moved across the street from Bakery Delite located at 1135 Capouse Ave. Looking for more options? Check out House of Kosher in Philadelphia!

## APRIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Shalom to all,

I am so very excited to announce that we are moving forward with our Shabbaton weekend May 2nd - 3rd. Christina Ferry, Sherri Klemow Shevlin, Sara Friedman and I have been working along with Cantor Ramón Tasat to come up with an amazing event. We are asking everyone to please join us for this very meaningful event. Cantor Ramón has been teaching participants in the last three "Jewish Rhythm & Shabbat" class sessions (recordings are available on our YouTube page); we are ready to move forward with this

knowledge in place. **Our final class, rescheduled for Monday April 28th**, will help refresh our davening abilities, so please join in **on zoom at 5:30 for one hour**.

Please help us get the word out to friends and family regarding this event! Our Friday night dinner will consist of a wonderful kosher menu provided by our friends from Around the Table Catering. We need to start now by securing reservations.

Please consider sponsoring some portion of the festivities for our Shabbaton as others have already committed to do! We thank those who are sponsoring this event, helping to defray individual costs, which so far include AI Sisterhood, Hazleton JCC Council, Sherri Klemow Shevlin, and the Estate of Robert Klemow.

We're invited to the Beth Israel Seder on the first night of Passover, Sat April 12th, please get your reservations in if you are planning to attend! We hope you have a very meaningful Passover.

Sincerely,

